

## Quayle says media give false advantage

COLUMBUS, Ind. (AP) — Vice President Dan Quayle backpedaled Thursday from an assertion that his public-school education put him at a disadvantage for a debate with private-school alumnus Al Gore.

Quayle told reporters that he was proud to be a product of public schools and claimed that it was the "media elite" — not he — that thinks his education would put him at a disadvantage.

"I grew up in a small town called Huntington. I went to public schools and I'm proud of it. I was raised with Mid-western values, and that, my friends, is the real advantage

in this campaign," Quayle told a crowd at the national Farm Progress Show.

On Wednesday, Quayle said the Democratic vice presidential candidate "went to the most expensive private schools in Washington, D.C., and I'm the product of the public schools. ... I'm at a big disadvantage, but we'll do all right."

But Thursday, he said, "The media elite will tell you Sen. Gore has a big advantage."

The Tennessee senator is an alumnus of St. Albans School for Boys and of Harvard University.

## Perot still threatens '92 election

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the heady days of May, Ross Perot was a potential president. Now, he may be no more than a potential spoiler, but nonetheless a wild card who could reshuffle the deck in the campaign's closing weeks.

The Perot Factor was reintroduced to presidential politics Thursday, 11 weeks to the day after the Texas billionaire abandoned plans to run, saying he had concluded he could not win.

Now, with just 33 days to Election Day, Perot is back in the race, with even slimmer odds of winning. Indeed, 72 percent of respondents in a new CNN-USA Today poll said there was "no chance" they would vote for Perot.

Many analysts view his re-entry as a selfish attempt at redemption by a political novice who failed to realize what he was getting into months ago and now wants to heal a wounded ego.

"The reasons he gave for withdrawing from the race are as valid now as they were then, so I see no other rationale for re-entering," said political science professor Emmett Buell Jr. of Ohio's Denison University. "It's obvious he would like to be crowned rather than go through an election."

Whatever his motivation — or chances — Perot

is back, and he has the potential to affect the race, even if he never leaves third place.

First, Perot could help President Bush in the short term just by shaking up a race that had been stagnant for more than a month, with Democrat Bill Clinton well ahead — by 17 points in the CNN-USA Today poll. Debates, still being negotiated, offer a second vehicle to stir the campaign dynamics.

"Anything that tosses this race up in the air and is an unknown is a good thing for Bush," said Republican pollster Bill McInturff.

It may take a while to assess Perot's broader impact, but there are obvious things to watch and both campaigns have reason to worry.

Perot has never disguised his disdain for Bush and already is preparing to launch television advertisements. With a personal fortune and no spending limits to worry about, Perot could easily affect the race if he decided to attack one candidate and leave the other alone.

"For all the uncertainty about Perot, we know one thing: he doesn't care for George Bush," said Andrew Kohut of Princeton Survey Research.

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