

## Clinton hits fund-raising circuit

NEW YORK (AP) — President Clinton returned to the political money circuit Tuesday night, assuring patrons of a \$1.2 million dinner that the kind of fund raising that got Democrats in trouble last year "will never happen again. You can rest assured."

After delivering two speeches about welfare reform, Clinton was the star attraction at a fund-raiser in an elegant Upper East Side home for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

"This makes the White House look like public housing," he joked of the plush surroundings.

The Senate committee and its counterpart in the House say they will not follow Clinton's call for voluntary curbs on large donations unless Republicans follow suit. The GOP, outdistancing Democrats by better than a 2-to-1 margin in fund raising, has brushed off Clinton's proposal.

Referring to the uproar over fund-raising irregularities, Clinton told the 120 guests at the dinner: "I appreciate the fact that you came here knowing you might be targeted for the exercise of your constitutional right to stand up and support the people you believe in."

The president, who has acknowledged that mistakes were made, distanced himself from the controversy,

"Hey Mr. Clinton, coffee at Fairway is 65 cents. Coffee at the White House is \$200,000. And ours is so much better."

a highway billboard

laying the blame on the Democratic National Committee and ignoring criticism of his own entertainment of donors at the White House.

"For reasons I cannot explain or defend, our party did not check all the contributions that were given. Therefore less than 2 percent of the total have been returned, either because they were not lawful or because they raised questions even though they were clearly lawful."

The president said that more than 99.9 percent of the donors last year went unquestioned. As for the remainder, he said:

"But it was wrong not to check those contributions, and if your party had been doing its job, you wouldn't be hearing about all that today. That

is everybody's responsibility from me down, who didn't know about it and should have. But it will never happen again. You can rest assured."

A highway billboard on the president's motorcade route teased him about White House coffee klatches with donors: "Hey Mr. Clinton, coffee at Fairway is 65 cents. Coffee at the White House is \$200,000. And ours is so much better."

The president's appearance drew quick criticism from a political reform group.

"You are basically helping a group that is opposed to your views," said Ken Cooper, executive director of the Center for Responsive Politics. "It's a clear indication that he's not sincere or willing to put into practice what he preaches."

## The Lighter Side...

of The Associated Press



AARON STECKELBERG/DN

### Ham slam flies in face of decency

NORFOLK, Va. — A city councilman was convicted and fined \$250 Tuesday for smacking a store clerk in the head with a flying one-pound package of sliced ham.

A judge found Paul Riddick guilty of assault and battery in the Nov. 16 incident.

Lynda Doss testified that Riddick came to the store where she works to return ham that was spoiled. Doss said that when she put a package of fresh ham on the counter, Riddick shouted, "Don't throw that ham at me!"

The councilman then threw the package, hitting her in the side of the head, knocking off her glasses and bruising her nose, she said.

Riddick testified that the woman had "slung" the ham onto the counter, snarled, "Take your damn ham" and called him an "SOB."

## Critics ask if airfare sale is fair

NEW YORK (AP) — The strike that didn't quite happen has led to the fare sale that isn't quite what it seems.

There are some good deals to be found in the sale that American Airlines announced Saturday to lure back customers scared off by a threatened pilots strike.

True bargains were available for flights to Europe and the Caribbean, but for flights within the mainland United States, "This sale is an out-and-out joke," Terry Tripler, editor and publisher of the Airfare Report newsletter, said Tuesday.

The round-trip walk-up fare from New York to Los Angeles was \$388 under the sale announced by American. Last week, however, American had a walk-up fare of \$398 round-trip.

Tripler says the nation's largest domestic carrier is misleading the public with claims of up to 50 percent off.

"It's a vehicle to generate phone

"This sale is an out-and-out joke."

TERRY TRIPPLER  
Airfare Report editor

calls," he said. "How many people would pick up the phone if they said, 'New York to Los Angeles, \$10 off?'"

American Airlines spokesman Tim Smith said the sale is genuine.

"Specials come and specials go, and we make it very clear that it is a discount off the regular 21-day fare," he said.

Sale or no, the phones are ringing again at American Airlines after a week of spooked travelers taking their business elsewhere for fear of a strike.

A call to the airline's toll-free number Tuesday was met with a recording that said agents were busy and to call

back later.

American took more than 2 million phone calls on Monday, about seven times the normal volume, Smith said. And of the people calling, the number of customers who bought tickets doubled.

Susan Gonzalez stopped by an American ticket office in Manhattan hoping to get a cheap weekend fare to St. Thomas — to no avail.

"They ran out of the lower airfares," she said. But she wasn't discouraged. "I've been checking with the other airlines and they're competitive."

## Threat to 'out' gay legislators withdrawn

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The head of the American Civil Liberties Union in the Dakotas withdrew a threat to expose gay lawmakers who vote to ban homosexual marriages after the national ACLU director refused to back him.

Earlier Tuesday, Keith Elston, who is gay, said he would "out" lawmakers he believes are gay if they supported a ban on gay marriages.

"If they're going to be hypocritical, then they need to have that hypocrisy exposed," he said.

Elston had said the national ACLU was "behind me 100 percent."

But after hearing about the threat from a state senator, national ACLU director Ira Glasser faxed a quick apology.

"Mr. Elston understands his mistake," Glasser wrote to state Sen. Wayne Stenehjem, who had complained to Glasser about Elston's "unprofessional behavior."

Legislation under consideration in North Dakota would deny recognition of same-sex marriages performed in

other states and define marriage as a union only between a man and a woman.

Elston said he knows of a couple of legislators who are homosexual. He initially made the threat in a column last week published in a Grand Forks weekly arts and entertainment guide.

Last year, after voting against federal recognition of same-sex marriages, Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., reluctantly acknowledged he is gay. He said a gay magazine was about to identify him as homosexual.

## Nation/World

from The Associated Press

### Ford recalling some cars in Nebraska

DETROIT — Ford Motor Co. is recalling about 138,000 cars in Nebraska and five other northern states to fix a problem with the engine cooling fan, which can overheat and catch fire in severe winter weather.

The recall affects owners of some 1992-94 Ford Tempos and Mercury Topazes, 1992-95 Ford Taurus and Mercury Sables and 1992-94 Lincoln Continentals in Alaska, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Ford said that in blowing, heavy snow, high winds and low temperatures, the engine cooling fan may stall. If either the defroster is turned on or the fan motor is automatically activated, the cooling fan may then overheat and damage the electrical wiring and other engine parts after prolonged idle. In some cases, fire could result.

The automaker has received about 40 reports of smoke or fires caused by the problem, Ford spokeswoman Karen Shaughnessy said.

Ford is notifying owners of the affected cars by letter and asking them to take the vehicles to their dealer for modifications at no cost.

### Joint NATO-Russia military brigade proposed

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Trying to ease concerns in Moscow, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright proposed Tuesday that NATO form a joint military brigade with Russia for peacekeeping operations in Europe.

Based on successful cooperation in implementing the Dayton peace accords in Bosnia, Albright said Russian and NATO troops could also train together under the concept she presented to allied foreign ministers in Brussels.

She will take the idea to Moscow on Thursday for meetings with President Boris Yeltsin, Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov and other Kremlin officials who take a skeptical and also anxious view of NATO's planned expansion to Russia's western border by 1999.

Albright, who is also working with the allies on a charter linking Russia to NATO, said in a speech, "We will be steadfast in offering Russia our respect, our friendship and an appropriate partnership."

"We cannot realize our shared vision of a united, secure and democratic Europe without Russia," she said.

## UNL will have final say on length of probation

PROBATION from page 1 regarding the cross-burning incident.

This honesty and the university's desire to assist the chapter were factors in the organization's decision to place the

fraternity on probation instead of revoking its charter, Hester said.

Anderson said he thought the chapter would continue to handle the matter seriously.

"If they didn't take this matter seriously, they'd lose their charter."

## Daily Nebraskan

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