

Clinton encouraged night stays

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the worrisome days after the Democrats' 1994 election losses, President Clinton scrawled his personal approval on a plan to invite big party donors into the White House and suggested some be given overnight stays "right away."

For the first time, internal White House memos released Tuesday placed Clinton at the front-end planning of a Democratic fund-raising blitz that landed some major donors a night in the Lincoln Bedroom and eventually ensnared the party in controversy.

The White House also released the identities of 938 overnight guests during Clinton's first term, ranging from entertainer Barbra Streisand and evangelist Billy Graham to six-figure donors and obscure family friends.

"Ready to start overnights right away," the president wrote in a January 1995 note that specified he be given the names of the party's \$50,000 and \$100,000-plus supporters.

Clinton also sanctioned a top campaign fund-raiser's memo suggesting three ways to energize big supporters, including holding coffees or lunches at the White House. "Yes, pursue all 3 and promptly," Clinton penned.

The aide's memo identified "our top 10 supporters" — four of whom eventually spent the night at the White House. Among them was Ohio financier Carl Lindner, a major donor to both parties.

Hours before the release of the papers, Clinton acknowledged he encouraged the overnight stays but in-

sisted most of the guests were personal friends.

"I didn't have any strangers here. The Lincoln Bedroom was never sold," Clinton told reporters.

Republicans, who are gearing up investigations on Capitol Hill, pounced on the latest revelations.

"It's certainly an unseemly thing," Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott said, renewing his call for an independent counsel. The Justice Department has resisted such an appointment thus far.

Former Bush White House counsel C. Boyden Gray said that under his boss such open connection of White House visits with fund-raising interests was "the kind of thing we took great pains to avoid."

First lady calls for arts funding

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton endorsed a call for the president to lead a "Millennium Initiative" that would bring citizens, government and business together for promotion of America's arts and humanities.

"As we prepare for a new century and, yes, a new millennium," she said Tuesday, "the arts and humanities are more essential than ever to the endurance of our democratic values of tolerance, pluralism and freedom at a time when so much else is happening to change the way we work and live."

The first lady urged using the Internet to give isolated children in rural areas and inner cities the chance to "take a virtual tour of our finest museums and libraries."

"The arts and humanities can of-

"The arts and humanities can offer children safe and productive alternatives to crime, violence, gangs and drugs ..."

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

fer children safe and productive alternatives to crime, violence, gangs and drugs, transporting them beyond the bounds of their difficult circumstances," she said.

A committee report proposed an appropriation by 2000 of \$2 per citizen to support the national endow-

ments for the arts and humanities and for libraries and museums. That would mean about \$550 million instead of this year's \$385 million.

House Republican leaders have said they want to end all spending this year on the National Endowment for the Arts.

Du Pont guilty but mentally ill in wrestler's death

MEDIA, Pa. — A jury decided Tuesday that multimillionaire John E. du Pont was a murderer but spared him a life in prison, agreeing that mental illness played a role in his fatal shooting of an Olympic wrestler.

Du Pont was convicted of third-degree murder but also found mentally ill in the Jan. 26, 1996, shooting of David Schultz. The verdict means the chemical fortune heir will likely spend time in a mental hospital and go to prison, only if he is deemed cured.

Third-degree murder, or murder without premeditation, carries a maximum penalty of 20 to 40 years in prison, but du Pont could be free on parole after as little as five years.

Campus crime below national levels

WASHINGTON — Sixty-five students out of every 100,000 were victims of murder, rape, robbery or aggravated assaults in 1994, a government survey of university and college campuses says.

The Education Department report today also found that 257 students out of every 100,000 were victims of burglary and vehicle theft. The report is the first of its kind by the department, which was unable to say whether campus crime is on the rise. The report was required by the 1990 Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act, prompted by public concern over campus safety.

The Justice Department has reported that in the nation as a whole there were 716 violent crimes and 4,656 property crimes for every 100,000 residents in 1994.

Crime rates were higher at institutions with on-campus housing, the Education Department said. There were 113 violent crimes per 100,000 students at institutions with campus housing, compared with 29 for those without.

Internet leaders see threat in state, local taxes

WASHINGTON — To hear Internet and technology executives talk, new state and local taxes rank up there with computer viruses and 14-year-old hackers as a threat to the global computer future.

"It defeats the purpose of seamless interstate commerce," argues Scott Cooper, technology director at the American Electronics Association. A proliferation of state and local taxes will "degrade and demean the technology," he adds.

The Clinton administration opposes federal taxation of the Internet, where business dealings could rise to as much as \$150 billion in the next few years by some estimates. So the battleground is shifting to the state and local level, and the industry is working hard to halt piecemeal taxation.

Senators debate snake bounty

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton wants Congress to spend \$1 million to help attack brown tree snakes in Guam and keep them from spreading to Hawaii and the continental United States.

Alaska Sen. Frank Murkowski has another idea — a \$1 bounty per snake.

"If you paid kids \$1 a snake, wouldn't it do some good?" Murkowski asked Tuesday during a Senate budget hearing.

"No," answered Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt. He said the \$1 million is needed to pay for new research to combat the millions of non-poisonous snakes overrunning Guam and other parts of the Pacific.

"How do you know?" Murkowski countered.

"If I was out there with \$1 bills and a 12-year-old kid, I think I'd get some snakes," the Republican senator continued.

"I'll go out with my pile of dollar bills and you come out with your scientists and we'll see who gets more snakes," Murkowski told Babbitt.

Babbitt replied, "You'll get a lot of snakes, but you wouldn't solve the problem."

Murkowski, chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources



MATT HANEY/DN

Committee, brought the matter up in pointing at Hawaii and perhaps the accusing the Clinton administration southern United States," Babbitt said.

Population counts of the snake have risen as high as 2,000 to 3,000 snakes per acre in Guam, he said.

"The entire island has been overrun," Babbitt said. "Plant species are going extinct. They are everywhere, shorting out power lines, coming in through plumbing systems. It's a disaster looming across the Pacific, mess."

"The brown tree snake is a major disaster looming across the Pacific, mess."

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The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by calling 472-2588. The public has access to the Publications Board.

Subscription price is \$55 for one year.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, Neb.

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