

# News Digest

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1998

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## Clinton denies sexual affair with intern

WASHINGTON (AP) — Shaking his finger at the TV cameras, President Clinton today angrily denied improper behavior with an intern. Investigators pressed ahead with plans to seek grand jury testimony from his aides and friends about the alleged sexual relationship.

"I did not have sexual relations with that woman," Clinton said, punching out each word. "I never told anybody to lie."

"These allegations are false."  
First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton stood at his side, nodding emphatically, her lips pursed.

Again, Clinton did not go into detail, and the question of when he would fully confront the swirl of allegations imperiling his presidency continued to hang over Washington.

Clinton raised and almost as quickly dropped the subject of the alleged affair with Monica Lewinsky at the end of a child-care event at the White House.

"I want to say one thing to the American people," he said, wagging his finger at almost every word. "I'm going to say this again. I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky. I never told anybody to lie. Not a single time. Never. These allegations are false, and I need to go back to work for the American people."

The president appeared to avoid eye contact with members of the news media during the official part of the Roosevelt Room program, but he looked cameras and reporters straight in the eye with a glare and thumped the podium as he denied the allegations.

Throughout the program, the president and Hillary Clinton stood nearer to each other than their assigned places. Underscoring the intense scrutiny focused on their relationship, a clatter of camera shutters drowned out the speaker at the podium as Mrs. Clinton leaned over to whisper in her husband's ear.

Clinton last spoke about the allegations on

Thursday during a meeting with Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat, and the controversy has only escalated since.

His appearance at today's event was part of an effort to conduct business as usual since allegations of having an affair with Lewinsky and encouraging her to cover it up became public last week.

Still ahead is Clinton's annual State of the Union speech to Congress and the nation Tuesday night, tricky timing in a capital fixated on the presidential crisis.

On the eve of the speech, Lewinsky's lawyer pressed for an immunity deal for his client, pledging to "remain in Washington as long as it takes to see that the truth in every detail, wherever it may fall, comes out."

Doing a Sunday media blitz of television talk shows on NBC, CBS and ABC, attorney William Ginsburg said he has talked to investigators about what Lewinsky, 24, will tell them in exchange for immunity from prosecution.

Ginsburg was seen entering the Watergate this morning, where Lewinsky has an apartment.

Clinton last week denied having any "improper sexual relationship" with the young woman or asking her to lie to investigators.

Lewinsky filed a sworn affidavit in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case denying an affair with Clinton — an assertion that is contradicted by secretly taped conversations now in the hands of Whitewater prosecutors.

Ginsburg said it would be unwise for the White House or Clinton's personal lawyers to attack Lewinsky as unstable, noting she was aided over a long period of time by people around the president.

"How could they have helped her get jobs, including with responsible companies, large companies, if she was so unstable?" Ginsburg said.

Clinton talked through the weekend with heavyweight advisers, including former Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor.

### News Briefs

#### Mock-trial team wins

The UNL mock-trial team won first place in their first-ever mock-trial competition Friday.

Ten schools, including Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, and Omaha's Creighton University, competed in the Washburn Law School Invitational held in Topeka, Kan.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln team's win qualified the team to compete in the mock-trial regional competition, which will be held Feb. 13 in Kansas City.

The regional winner will advance to the national competition later this year.

#### Study Abroad fair today

UNL International Affairs will hold its annual Study Abroad Extravaganza today starting at 7 p.m. in the Nebraska Union's Centennial Room.

Students will be able to meet and talk with faculty study abroad program leaders about semester and summer-long study abroad opportunities. They also will be eligible to win a \$250 Study Abroad scholarship and other door prizes.

Jeanine Niyonzima, a

Nebraska graduate who works in international marketing, will speak.

#### Award nominations available

Nominations are due soon for awards given at the April 3 Honors Convocation.

The Student Foundation/Builders Award for Outstanding Advising is due Jan. 30 in the Office of Student Involvement. Contact Connie Pejzar at the University Foundation, (402) 472-2151 or Andrea Lauenstein at (402) 436-6210 for more information.

The Scholarship in Teaching Award, Academy of Distinguished Teachers, Annis Chaikin Sorensen Award and College Distinguished Teaching Awards are due in the senior vice chancellor for academic affairs office Feb. 6. Contact your college dean's office for appropriate nomination procedures and college deadlines.

And the Distinguished Educational Service Award nominations are due Feb. 13 in the Chancellor's Office. Contact the Chancellor's Office at (402) 472-2116 for more information.

## President prepares address

WASHINGTON (AP) — In his State of the Union address, President Clinton will offer a balanced budget and an ambitious plan for America's immediate future — even as his own future twists in a hurricane of doubt over accusations he had an affair with a young White House intern.

Speaking today at a gathering on after-school child care, Clinton said he will propose an effort to limit to 18 the number of children in first-, second- and third-grade classes, based on a "quite controversial and enormously beneficial" policy he instituted as governor of Arkansas.

Clinton said he would offer a plan to build and renovate more schools and create after-school programs. "All these will help our children get the future they deserve," Clinton said.

Clinton's chief of staff, Erskine Bowles, consulted with congressional leaders to try to determine the mood of Congress and the type of reception Clinton might receive Tuesday night, White House spokesman Mike McCurry said today.

He denied Bowles was seeking to reschedule the speech, although Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott "may have had that impression," McCurry said. "There is not, to my knowledge, any serious consideration of moving it."

Clinton and a handful of aides spent several hours over the weekend in the White House theater, carefully rehearsing the speech he will deliver before a joint session of Congress

and a nationwide television audience at 8 p.m. CST Tuesday.

On Sunday, he also reviewed drafts with his speechwriters and advisers before watching the Super Bowl with his family and civil rights activist Jesse Jackson.

"His spirits are quite good," one adviser helping with the speech preparation said on the condition of anonymity. Asked whether Clinton was worried the sex allegations would detract from Tuesday's speech, the aide replied: "He didn't seem that way to me."

Along with the balanced budget, Clinton will propose big spending increases for schools, child care, medical research and the environment. He will advocate an expansion of the Peace Corps, a consumers' "bill of rights" for health care, an anti-smoking initiative for children and greater investment in federal efforts on food safety, medical research and AIDS treatments.

Clinton is seeking to expand Medicare to cover those under age 65, offer incentives for small businesses to set up pension plans, and carry out overhauls of Social Security and Medicare before retiring baby boomers begin to swell the systems' rolls.

Republicans, mindful of the legal and political drama encircling the president, plan to roll out their own agenda, which focuses on improving education, overhauling the Internal Revenue Service, reducing taxes and expanding the war against drugs.

Senate Majority Leader Trent

Lott, R-Miss., voiced doubt in a radio address Saturday whether Clinton could keep to his balanced-budget deal with Congress while expanding numerous government programs.

"... Our concern about what the president may propose in his speech isn't just a matter of money," Lott said. "It's a matter of honor and trust."

The big question is how much of the president's message will get through to Americans. Many are waiting for his explanation of allegations he carried on an affair with Monica Lewinsky, 24, and later tried to get her to lie about it.

"He's going to have a heck of a hard time making himself heard on the State of the Union," said Colgate University political scientist Michael Johnston. "People are eminently distracted."

Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill. and chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, who has counseled caution in considering possible impeachment of the president, told CNN's "Late Edition" on Sunday that Clinton could expect "civil, polite, restrained applause" from lawmakers.

Stunned by news leaks and accusations, White House officials are anxious about the atmosphere in which Clinton will speak. Before the Lewinsky furor, the administration expected up to 60 million TV viewers. Officials now anticipate even more as Americans seek clues on how Clinton will handle the most serious allegations of his five-year presidency.

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THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

## Officer indicted for shooting

OMAHA (AP) — A grand jury indicted an Omaha police officer Monday on a charge of manslaughter in the shooting death of an Army reservist who had served in the Gulf War.

A police department investigation earlier cleared officers Todd Sears and Troy Kister in the death of Marvin Ammons. Police said Ammons approached them with a gun and refused to drop his weapon before Sears shot him early Oct. 26, 1997, Ammons' 33rd birthday.

"The grand jury determined there was probable cause to believe Sears committed manslaughter when he shot Marvin Ammons," special pro-

secutor John Grant said. Ammons died of two gunshot wounds to the chest.

Sears will be allowed to turn himself in, Grant said. John Fahey, an attorney for the police union who represented Sears during the grand jury proceedings, said Sears was astounded at the indictment.

"His actions don't come within a mile of a criminal charge," Fahey said.

The indictment alleges Sears caused the death of Ammons "without malice, either upon a sudden quarrel, or unintentionally while in the commission of an unlawful act."

Sears did neither of those things,

Fahey said. The shooting was not the result of a sudden quarrel, nor did Sears unintentionally shoot Ammons, he said.

Members of the Ammons family were relieved when they heard about the indictment, said Julianne Dunn, an attorney for the family.

"Their immediate reaction was relief that this step of the process is over," said Dunn.

A manslaughter charge is punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

The Douglas County grand jury returned its indictment Monday afternoon after three weeks of testimony and deliberations. The FBI also has been investigating the shooting.