

Clinton: Country is Y2K-OK

WASHINGTON (AP) - After receiving the final report on the nation's Y2K-related repairs, President Clinton on Wednesday reassured Americans that there will be "no major national breakdowns" because of computer failures at the end of the year.

Clinton said he is confident the federal government is fully prepared for Year 2000 conversion.

"The American people can have full faith that everything from air traffic control systems to Social Security payment systems will work like they should," he said.

"I expect we will experience no major national breakdowns as a result of the year 2000 date change," Clinton told reporters on the White House South Lawn.

But with only 51 days remaining, Clinton noted there are local governments, schools, hospitals and small businesses that are lagging behind on repairs. He cautioned them against delaying any further and provided a toll-free telephone number - (888) USA-4Y2K - for information on becoming Y2K-compliant by the end of the year.

"If we work together and use this time well, we can ensure that this Y2K computer problem will be remembered as the last headache of the 20th century, not the first crisis of the 21st," Clinton said.

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PRESIDENT CLINTON

The report broke little new ground. It noted that the best-prepared sectors continue to be the federal government, power and water utilities, airlines and rail companies and telephone services. It predicted a "high degree of confidence" in those areas.

The new study also debunked worries about a misfired nuclear missile.

"Y2K problems will not cause nuclear weapons to launch themselves," the White House said. "Nuclear weapons launch requires human intervention."

But there are problems. The President's Council on the Year 2000 Conversion cited surveys showing more than one-fourth of small businesses don't plan to do anything to get ready for the New Year's rollover.

Only half of America's 911 call centers confirmed last month they were ready, and more than one-third of the country's elementary and secondary schools told the Education

Department they aren't yet prepared.

John Koskinen, the president's top Y2K adviser, previously warned that 911 computer failures probably wouldn't prevent police or fire departments from taking calls. But it could force employees to use manual systems, meaning it will take longer for rescue workers to respond.

"It is clear that a significant amount of work remains for all centers to be ready," the study said.

It also warned that failures in schools could affect heating, lighting, fire alarms, elevators, student records and teacher payroll.

The council said some health-care providers and medical organizations "exhibit troubling levels of readiness," which could cause headaches with billing systems and patient records.

The so-called Y2K problem exists because many older computers and software programs recognize only the last two digits of the year and could mistakenly interpret "00" as 1900.

Law & Order

Former football player cited on theft-of-services charge

University police arrested Leroy Etienne, a four-year Nebraska football letter winner between 1985 and 1988, Tuesday after he failed to pay for a hotel room he'd been sleeping in for six days, said University Police Sgt. Mylo Bushing.

Staff at the Clifford Hardin Nebraska Center for Continuing

Education had asked Etienne to pay for the room and phone calls made from the room, Bushing said. After Etienne's scheduled checkout at 1 p.m. Tuesday, staff called University Police.

Etienne told police another man would pay the bills. When contacted, the man refused to pay, Bushing said.

Police removed Etienne from the hotel and cited him on theft of services, Bushing said.

Etienne's hotel charges totaled \$367.

Police: Faulty fuel injectors caused car to catch fire

A car parked in the northeast corner of a parking lot near the University

of Nebraska Law College on East Campus caught fire Tuesday afternoon because of faulty fuel injectors, Bushing said.

The fire caused \$1,700 damage.

The driver of the maroon 1988 Chevy Beretta was trying to move the car to another spot when it stalled, Bushing said. While trying to restart the car, the driver told police, she heard a pop, then saw flames and smoke coming from the car's engine.

Fire inspectors blamed the fire on faulty fuel injectors, which, the driver told police, had been worked on recently, Bushing said.

Compiled by senior staff writer Jake Bleed

ASUN now owns NU on Wheels

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A model where NU on Wheels would run seven days a week from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. would cost an estimated \$47,646.56, according to statistics compiled by program co-coordinator Brett Stohs.

A second model, in which the program would run five days a week from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m., would cost an estimated \$37,810.40.

Schuerman said a program coordinator will be hired and an advisory council will be set up to talk with him about what model will work best for the program after this year.

Mello said the five-day-per-week model would be the most efficient, but the program needs to start earlier at night.

"I think this is a great, great thing," he said. "But 11 p.m. seems always to be a little late."

Government Liaison Committee Chairman Andy Faltin agreed this was a great program for ASUN.

"This is a great way to make the program more responsive and receptive to students," Faltin said. "It just has to happen."

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11:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.
Must present NU student ID

How to use NU on Wheels:

- 1) Call 475-RIDE.
- 2) Give your name, pick-up location and exact home address.
- 3) Wait at pick-up location. *Be watching for your taxi!*
- 4) Show your NU student ID to the taxi driver. **Your NU student ID is required!**
- 5) Tips are appreciated!

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?
E-mail NU on Wheels at:
nuonwheels@unl.edu
or call 472-7440

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