

Fandango Fit for Fun

BY J. HAMILTON
STAFF REPORTER

Something fun is always happening on the UNLV social scene, but it is not always for as good a cause as John and Dino's Fourth Annual Fandango, scheduled for Friday, March 3 at the Maxim Hotel Events Center.

Every year, UNLV students John Valentine, a pre-med major and roommate, business major Dean Lazarkis, rally support from the community and throw their fandango, with proceeds going to a local charity. They adopted a motto that states "You don't have to have made it to give back to the community."

Last year, their profits went to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. This year, their recipient is five-year-old Ashley Mickey, a young girl just recently diagnosed with leukemia, who is in need of a bone marrow transplant. Mickey's father, Jason, a UNLV senior

child psychology major, was forced to drop out in October due to his daughter's condition.

Valentine and Lazarkis have gotten support from many local merchants in presenting the annual bash, including the Maxim, which donated their ballroom, and various brewing companies who supply the liquor. Other hotels have given show tickets that will be offered as prizes on the night of the event.

The annual event began four years ago as a Halloween bash, with half of the proceeds going to a local charity. The next year, it was decided to find the right children's charity to donate to, and the organization was born.

An account has been set up in Mickey's name at Sun State Bank, #60007443. Anyone willing to contribute can directly deposit into that account, or call Joe and Mary Rendina at 228-6279 to make a phone donation to the Ashley Mickey trust fund.



Ashley Mickey, with her parent's Jason and Deborah, suffers from leukemia and is the recipient of this year's Fandango fundraiser.

Will Students Have a Balanced Budget or a Broken Contract?

BY GENA BERLETT
STAFF REPORTER

Sen. Harry Reid made a special visit to Las Vegas to let people know why he is trying to get Social Security exempted from the proposed Balanced Budget Amendment.

The talk, held at the Showboat Hotel Tuesday, was attended by representatives from the National Council of Senior Citizens (five million strong), the American Association of Retired Persons, the League of Women Voters, the American Legion, UNLV students and many others.

A balanced budget is a necessity for our country, many citizens agree. "I've been working for a week on exempting Social Security from the budget," Reid stated. "I am in favor of balancing the budget, but not on the backs of senior citizens."

He went on to discuss the GOP plan to eventually get rid of Social Security, leaving many Americans with no guaranteed retirement pension plan. "For the moment, everybody is willing to protect it," Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-KS) has said.

According to a separate statement (via World Wide Web) issued by Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle, "Social Security should be viewed as an indelible contract between the govern-

ment and the American people funded by a dedicated trust fund, and should be left out of budget calculations.

"As written, it is clear that the current proposal uses the Social Security trust fund to mask the true size of the deficit—something that is patently inconsistent with our goal to balance the budget. As a result, it is estimated that \$705 billion of Social Security trust fund surplus revenue will be used to hide the real size of our national deficits between now and the year 2002."

According to Reid, "Social Security is different from all other social programs because it is a trust fund. The original Social Security Act of 1935 is a Contract With America that guarantees all citizens who pay into the trust fund will be taken care of."

Reid went on to specify that the GOP is "violating a fiduciary relationship" to take money from the trust fund to apply to other debts, which are completely unrelated to Social Security, adding that "Social Security Trust Fund should not be the Social Security Slush Fund."

Reid said, "The reason I'm here is to get the facts straight. The Balanced Budget Amendment, unless changed, will rape Social Security. Social Security protects all people—old and young alike.

Social Security is the greatest social program in the history of the world. No other country has a program like it. It is not sound fiscal policy to rape Social Security in the name of balancing the budget. I'll make sure your voices are continuously heard."

In a letter to Reid, Martha A. McSteen (of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare) states "employers and state governments all over the country balance their budgets without counting retirement funds as revenues. These entities all recognize that these funds are collected for purposes of retirement, not general fund financing. The federal government should be held to the same standard of fiscal integrity."

According to Reid and other supporters, the federal government should not be allowed to use Social Security funds as part of general fund financing. The federal government should be held to the same standards that businesses and states are held to.

The GOP plan, under the auspices of the Contract With America, is supposed to make the federal government be accountable under the same standards as businesses and state governments. It is clear to Reid, Daschle and many others that the GOP is not intending to make the fed-

eral government accountable to the same standards as businesses and state governments at all.

The GOP defeat of the Right to Know Amendment, according to a statement issued by Daschle, makes clear that the GOP is dodging its Contract With America and "abdication of its responsibility."

Daschle said the "Republican majority refusal to tell the American people, up front, how they plan to balance the budget is a serious abdication of responsibility. What this vote says is that the Republican majority is unwilling to level with the American people." Government needs to "make a distinction between the government's day-to-day operating budget and its long-term investment budget."

"Continuing to use Social Security surpluses to mask the deficit only allows the continuation of deficit spending in the general fund. The Republican policy paper notes that excluding Social Security would 'make it hard to achieve a balanced budget'... Although it is a more difficult path, it is the only fiscally responsible path toward balancing the federal budget. A balanced budget which does not rely on borrowing from Social Security is a budget which will foster the savings necessary to create jobs and increase productivity. This is ultimately what is necessary to finance the retirement of baby boomers."

All concerned are urged to contact Sen. Reid's office at 474-0041 for more information.

Women in Science

A recognition night for women in science and engineering is set for Feb. 28 at the Desert Research Institute, 755 E. Flamingo Road. A reception will begin at 7 p.m., with the keynote address at 7:30 p.m. The event's free and open to the public.

Hosted by Bechtel National, Inc., the evening will honor participants in the National Science Foundation EPSCoR Women in

Science and Engineering Program, including UNLV graduate students who have received NSF and NASA research assistantships.

Speakers Irene Findikaki, an environmental scientist, and her husband, Angelos Findikakis, an engineer, will talk on "The great Balancing Act of Two-Career Families." For more information, please call 895-1593.

Autotalk

'95 Toyota Corolla DX

It's difficult to fault Toyota's marketing strategy. Their cars carry premium prices, but they only sell premium quality cars. A perfect example is the fifth-generation Corolla, an econobox that's nothing less than a scaled-down luxury vehicle. Its ride, handling, and quality "feel" approach the genre's best.

Inside, the Corolla DX, the midline model, is handsome. It's front buckets are cloth covered, well padded, and extremely comfortable. Around the fold-down rear bench, legroom's plentiful, including space under the front buckets for toes. The car's filled with such thoughtful touches, and they make the difference between the best and also-rans. The luggage compartment's huge with a low liftover height. Inspect this relatively quiet

car from the driver's perspective and you'll find a paucity of analog gauges. A well-designed cupholder is standard, as is a center storage console and large glovebox. Other features on this front-driver are dual airbags, a padded steering wheel, power rack and pinion steering, power front disc brakes, and a rear defogger.

Under the hood is a revised for '95 1.8 liter, twin cam four valve per cylinder fuel-injected "4". It produces 105 HP, and it moves the Corolla from 0-60 in 11 seconds. It's a smooth, quiet powerplant, with plenty of low-end torque due to its recent update. Fuel efficiency in this 2,458-pound vehicle was observed at 30 city and 35 highway (EPA 28/34).

The test DX utilized a five-speed manual transmission and a light clutch. It was a pleasure to operate, though sometimes it made a "clunking" noise.

The Corolla's ride may be its strongest point. It has the stability of a much larger car, and road irregularities are negotiated with surprising ease. The four-wheel

independent suspension works extremely well.

Handling was far better than most competitors. Though the suspension's tuned for family softness, corners are taken with relatively minimal lean. The 32-foot turning circle shows this vehicle's nimble in heavy traffic. Only the Corolla's skinny all-season radial tires can be faulted—and should be.

The Corolla DX's base price is near \$13,500. With a "civilizing" option package that includes a fine AM/FM stereo with a tape player, a fair air conditioner, power windows, tilt steering, and much more, it's out the door price is just under \$16,000.

Overall, the Corolla rates as the class's best vehicle. It's top quality and, subjectively if not always objectively, it performs perceptibly better than its competitors. Remember, there's nothing wrong with paying for quality!

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