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## Scandals highlight D.C. tour

### Fanne Foxe, Hart get full treatment

By AARON EPSTEIN  
Herald Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — "And here is the famous townhouse coming up right here," exclaims an excited guide as the tour bus halts on a Capitol Hill street. "Anybody want to go up and touch it? It's a moment in history."

The place belonged to Gary Hart, the onetime Democratic presidential front-runner whose overnight hospitality to part-time model Donna Rice was exposed by staked-out Miami Herald reporters last year. The disclosure ruined Hart's political career, but ensured his lasting fame, at least for a while.

"Now here is the famous alley in which Miami Herald reporters waited patiently for Donna to make her back door debut, so to speak," the guide says.

The townhouse and alley are highlights of a new, wacky, ribald and often silly tour of the sites of some of Washington's scandals, with the emphasis on mistresses, lovers and trysts. The tour makes no mention of the corruption of the Grant administration or the Teapot Dome scandal when Warren Harding was president.

"Those complicated money scandals take too long to explain," one of the tour's originators confides. "It's easier to understand sex."

The Scandals of D.C. tour is the creation of Gross National Product, a group of local actors who parody the foibles of public officials. Material is abundant.

For \$20, the tourist gets drinks, hors d'oeuvres and snippets of information, some of it accurate, at the places where a congressman

shot and killed his wife's indiscreet lover, where presidents had covert affairs, where exotic dancer Fanne Foxe's leap into the Tidal Basin tumbled Rep. Wilbur Mills from power and into Alcoholics Anonymous.

One of the guides is an actor who impersonates a forgetful President Reagan.

As the bus passes the Treasury Department, the Reagan imitator points to what he says is a statue of Alexander Hamilton and recalls Hamilton's death in a scandalous duel with Aaron Burr. Only it is a statue of Albert Gallatin, treasury secretary under Thomas Jefferson, as a passenger correctly points out.

"Like I said, I'm not up on the details," the unfazed, ersatz Reagan remarks. "I don't know much about this Gallatin fellow, but he makes fine California wine."

Another guide is a mock Fawn Hall, who is introduced as "one of the greatest secretaries in American history." She hands out souvenir paper shreds as the bus passes the Old Executive Office Building, where Hall and her boss, Oliver North, destroyed Iran-contra documents.

As the Watergate complex looms, a Richard Nixon imitator

appears, saying: "So here we are back again, back to the site of my ignominious defeat. . . . My administration and all the good that we did went right down the tubes because of some overzealous god-dam security guard. . . . We never really did anything wrong — other than getting caught."

Some of the Capitol scandals are captured on a kaleidoscopic tape recording, in which an imitation Rep. Wayne Hays tells Elizabeth Ray that it doesn't matter that she can't type, file or answer the phone, and a make-believe Paula Parkinson complains that her lobbying technique doesn't work on Dan Quayle.

And there, just to the left, are the Capitol steps where former Rep. John Jenrette and his ex-wife Rita, had an apres-session congress of their own. "I told you I liked the third step," a mock Rita says. "It's wider."

Another Gross National Product actor, striving for currency, impersonates a ceaselessly ebullient George Bush. He leads the tour passengers in the Pledge of Allegiance, remarking: "I know the words, but I bet Michael Dukakis doesn't."



Special to The Herald  
A Richard Nixon impersonator conducts a tour of Washington as the bus approaches the Watergate complex.