

## TOP AIDE'S ACCOUNT CONTRADICTS HART'S

*TOM FIEDLER And JIM McGEE Herald Staff Writers*

Gary Hart's campaign manager has offered an account of Hart's weekend meetings with aspiring Miami actress Donna Rice that flatly contradicts explanations from Hart and another campaign adviser. William Dixon attacked a Miami Herald report about Hart's relationship with Rice as "preposterous" and "inaccurate in every way."

The newspaper reported observing Hart alone with Rice on at least three separate occasions between Friday night and Saturday night. Hart did not challenge those facts when he was confronted late Saturday.

And campaign adviser William Broadhurst, while insisting the situation was "innocent," gave a lengthy interview with Hart's concurrence in which he admitted that the pair was alone, although briefly, over the weekend.

The Dixon account, reported Monday in The New York Times and The Washington Post, suggested that Hart and Rice were never alone. In addition to contradicting both Broadhurst and Hart, it conflicted with events as witnessed and reported by The Herald.

In one key discrepancy, Dixon said Hart, Rice, Broadhurst and Lynn Armandt -- a friend of Rice's from Miami -- had dinner Friday night at Broadhurst's townhouse, then walked together the 10 blocks to Hart's townhouse.

After a brief visit, Broadhurst and the two women left Hart alone and returned to Broadhurst's home, according to Dixon.

But Broadhurst was adamant in saying that Hart and Rice drove together in Hart's car both to and from the dinner at his house. A Herald reporter witnessed the pair parking the car, then entering Hart's townhouse. The reporter did not see anyone else with Hart and Rice, although Broadhurst said he drove in through a back entrance, opening the garage door with a remote-control device.

Hart, confronted late Saturday, did not challenge the reporter's account when asked about it. He asserted, however, that Rice didn't spend the night and he was innocent of impropriety.

Dixon failed to respond to several telephone calls from The Herald seeking an explanation for the apparent contradictions. The campaign press office in Denver said he had received the request.

During the late Saturday interview, Hart confirmed having met Rice -- a pharmaceutical saleswoman and part-time actress with credits that include Miami Vice and Dallas -- "several months" before. But he said he could not recall precisely where or when. Asked if it could have been on a yacht in Miami, he said, "I am not denying anything."

He also confirmed information obtained independently by the newspaper that he had telephoned the actress regularly from campaign stops around the country.

At the time of the interview, which was conducted in an

alley driveway leading to a rear entrance to his townhouse, he adamantly refused to name the woman, who he said was simply "a friend of a friend."

He also refused to identify the friend who could back up his claim that the woman was not Hart's houseguest. Hart's wife Lee was in Denver during the weekend.

Four hours later, at about 2 a.m., Broadhurst telephoned Herald reporters and consented to an interview. He said his explanation would show that Hart's relationship with the woman was "innocent."

Three Herald reporters interviewed Broadhurst in detail for nearly three hours early Sunday.

Later Sunday, campaign manager Dixon provided still another account of Hart's movements to other media, calling the story in the Herald "preposterous" and "inaccurate."

What follows are the differing accounts that the Hart campaign has provided, as well as what The Herald reported:

The Herald's account:

Investigative reporter **Jim McGee** acts on a tip that Hart had invited Miami actress Donna Rice to spend the weekend with him in Washington at his house. **McGee** travels on the same plane with Rice early Friday evening.

He later observes Rice and Hart emerge from Hart's Capitol Hill townhouse shortly after 9:30 p.m., get into Hart's car and drive away.

About 11:17 p.m., Hart and Rice return, park the car and walk together through the front door. In the meantime, **McGee** calls Herald Washington Bureau News Editor Doug Clifton to assist him in watching the townhouse.

The two remain in the neighborhood until about 3 a.m., circling the block and attempting to watch both front and rear doors. They return at 5 a.m. and took up positions where both entrances were visible.

About 11 a.m. Saturday, The Herald's **Jim Savage**, Tom Fiedler and Brian Smith, a photographer, arrive. They park so both entrances can be watched constantly. Nobody is seen entering or leaving the townhouse throughout the day.

At about 8:40 p.m., shortly after dark, Hart and Rice emerge through the alley, circle the block toward Hart's car. Two Herald reporters identify them from separate vantage points.

Rice holds onto Hart's right arm as they walk. Hart looks about furtively. Just as they reach the car, Hart and Rice turn abruptly and go back into the townhouse by the front door.

About 30 minutes later, Hart emerges alone. He gets into his car and drives evasively down the street. He parks several blocks away, then walks up and down neighboring streets.

**Savage** and **McGee** approach Hart as he nears his alley driveway, introduce themselves and begin an interview. Fiedler joins them.

Hart's account:

When confronted by reporters, Hart insists that he has done nothing improper. He is told in detail when the reporters saw him with Rice. He doesn't challenge the statements but asserts that Rice did not spend Friday night with him, but rather was staying with friends.

He describes Rice as a "friend of a friend." He doesn't know what she does for a living or even where she lives. Asked if they met on a Miami yacht, he says he does not remember.

He confirms the telephone calls and characterizes them as "casual . . . innocent."

Hart refuses to say if Rice was in his townhouse at that time. He refuses to identify her or the friends who could vouch for her whereabouts.

Hart explains her presence with him that evening by saying she came to his townhouse to "pick up some things" she had left the day before. He didn't remember what those were.

Broadhurst's account:

Broadhurst, a Washington-based lawyer and friend of Hart's, telephones Herald reporter Fiedler and insists that Hart is "innocent" of wrongdoing. He agrees to be interviewed in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Broadhurst says Rice and her companion, Lynn Armandt, were his houseguests and both women slept at his townhouse the previous night. He says he made dinner for the four Friday night.

He agrees that the reporter saw Hart and Rice leave Hart's townhouse about 9:30 to drive to his townhouse for the dinner.

He says he also left Hart's townhouse with Armandt at the same time, but through a back alley not visible from the front street.

When dinner ended about 11:30, he says Hart and Rice went back to Hart's townhouse and entered through the front; he and Armandt again used the back entrance.

About midnight, he says he and the two women left from that back entrance to go back to his townhouse for the rest of the night.

Broadhurst says Rice walked alone to Hart's townhouse about midday Saturday. He and Armandt came minutes later in his car, double-parking by the front door waiting for Hart and Rice to come out and get into the car with them. They went to suburban Alexandria and looked for an apartment for the rest of the afternoon.

They return about dusk via the back entrance to leave Hart off.

Dixon's account:

Dixon, the campaign manager, confirms to The New York Times and The Washington Post that the four -- Hart, Rice, Armandt and Broadhurst -- ate at Broadhurst's Friday night. He doesn't say how Hart and Rice arrived.

Dixon says that after dinner the four walk the 10 blocks together to Hart's townhouse. He does not say when they arrive or which entrance they use. The rear entrance is unlighted and accessible through a darkened alley.

He says Broadhurst and the two women leave shortly after they arrived but does not say how they left the townhouse or returned to Broadhurst's.

Dixon says on Saturday the four spend the afternoon in Broadhurst's car on a sightseeing tour along the Potomac River.

He says Hart is later brought back to his house alone, although the time is not offered.

Rice returns to Hart's townhouse after dark to retrieve a book of hers he says Hart inadvertently took with him when he was dropped off.

That is when The Herald's reporters saw the two together. Dixon refuses numerous calls seeking clarification on the discrepancies between his account and the others.