

# 30-70-ON sale aimed at fliers hit by strike fiasco

By Keith L. **THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN**  
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## College is off-limits in welfare plan

By John Ritter  
USA TODAY

States rushing to get welfare recipients off the rolls and into jobs are telling some college students on public assistance to drop out and find work.

Under the old welfare system, recipients of cash grants could go to school full time. The new law, with its emphasis on moving welfare recipients quickly into jobs, restricts educational options.

Short-term job training and a year of vocational education are approved "work activities" under the new federal law, passed last year, but regular college and community college study are not.

So even as President Clinton preaches education as the route to prosperity, welfare reform is forcing recipients — predominantly single mothers — to forsake school for low-paying jobs.

States must put bigger proportions of their welfare case-loads to work — 25% this year, 50% by 2002 — or lose funds.

"The emphasis has shifted from how can we retrain people or pick up where their education left off to how can we move them into work," says Elaine Ryan of the American Public Welfare Association.

By one estimate, as many as 700,000 single parents on welfare are enrolled in higher education and training.

In California, 125,000 welfare recipients attend community colleges. The City University of New York system has 20,500 welfare students.

Schools already are lobbying state legislatures to find ways to keep these students and their tuition reimbursements.

But prospects are not bright. Work-first proponents argue that welfare isn't a scholarship program. Many low-wage earners juggle work, school and child care, and students who drop welfare can get loans, they say.

► Students in the middle, 3A

American Airlines fare sale, aimed at winning back disgruntled travelers with prices cut up to 50%, has sparked an industry-wide fare war. American started the sale minutes after President Clinton halted a strike by its pilots Saturday and implemented a 60-day review.

As part of the sale, American also removed advance purchase conditions, doubled frequent flier miles on flights through March 14, and offered free upgrades to its frequent fliers through Feb. 23.

Continental, United, Northwest and TWA are matching American's fares on competing routes. United and TWA said Sunday they were also offering double miles. Delta and USAir were still reviewing the sale.

The tickets must be purchased by March 3. Travel dates and destinations vary.

► Up to 50% off fares for trips within the USA must be used by March 14 and by May 31 on European trips.

► Up to 45% off fares on domestic trips must be completed by May 31.

► Up to 30% off fares to the Caribbean and the Bahamas on trips must be used by May 31.

American's John Hotard says calls to reservations lines are running nine times more than normal — 500,000 since the sale started. "This is our way to express our concern that we had upset their travel plans. This is our way of making up for the frustration."

Examples of round-trip sale fares vs. 21-day advance fares:

► Dallas to Seattle \$358, compared to \$798.

► New York to London \$238, compared to \$464.

► Los Angeles to New York \$388, compared to \$889.

But not all the fares are the lowest in the market. For example, American's new fare of \$358 roundtrip between L.A. and Columbus, Ohio, good through March 14, is still higher than a \$224 fare launched in early February and effective through July 22, says Best Fares' Tom Parsons.

A Saturday night stay is still required, but business travelers may find attractive fares. With no advance purchased required, last-minute, walk-up fares are up to 90% cheaper.

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