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Thomas narrowly wins seat on Supreme Court

WASHINGTON (AP) — Clarence Thomas won Senate confirmation for the Supreme Court Tuesday night on a 52-to-48 vote, overcoming explosive accusations of sexual harassment to become only the second black justice in history.

With crucial help from Southern Democrats, Thomas, a libertarian-leaning conservative, will succeed Thurgood Marshall, the first black justice and one of the court's last liberals.

Thomas won confirmation with support from 41 of the Senate's 43 Republicans and 11 Democrats: Sens. Sam Nunn, Wyche Fowler, Charles Robb, J. James Exon, Alan Dixon, Richard Shelby, John Breaux, J. Bennett Johnston, David Boren, Ernest Hollings and Dennis DeConcini.

Sens. James Jeffords and Bob Packwood cast the only Republican votes against him.

Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., joined the majority in voting to confirm Thomas as a member of the Supreme Court, while Packwood was one of only two Senate Republicans to vote against the nomination.

The vote ended one of the angriest, most emotionally charged confirmation battles ever.

Thomas said he wanted to put the ordeal behind him.

"This is more a time for healing, not a time for anger or for animus or animosity," Thomas said, standing outside his house with his wife, Virginia, under an umbrella in the rain.

"I guess in so many ways, as I say to my wife so many times, I'd like to thank America," said Thomas, who rose from rural poverty in Georgia to prominence in government.

Thomas had been accused by law professor Anita Hill of making unwanted advances and humiliating her with lewd remarks a decade ago when she worked for him at the Education Department. Her surprise charges brought an abrupt halt to the Senate's plans to vote on

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Students rally against sexual harassment

By Kirsten Lucas
Emerald Reporter

Minutes before the closest Supreme Court confirmation of this century, students rallied in the EMU Courtyard in opposition to nominee Judge Clarence Thomas and in support of Professor Anita Hill.

Hill alleged that Thomas, her former employer, sexually harassed her when they worked together in the early 1980s.

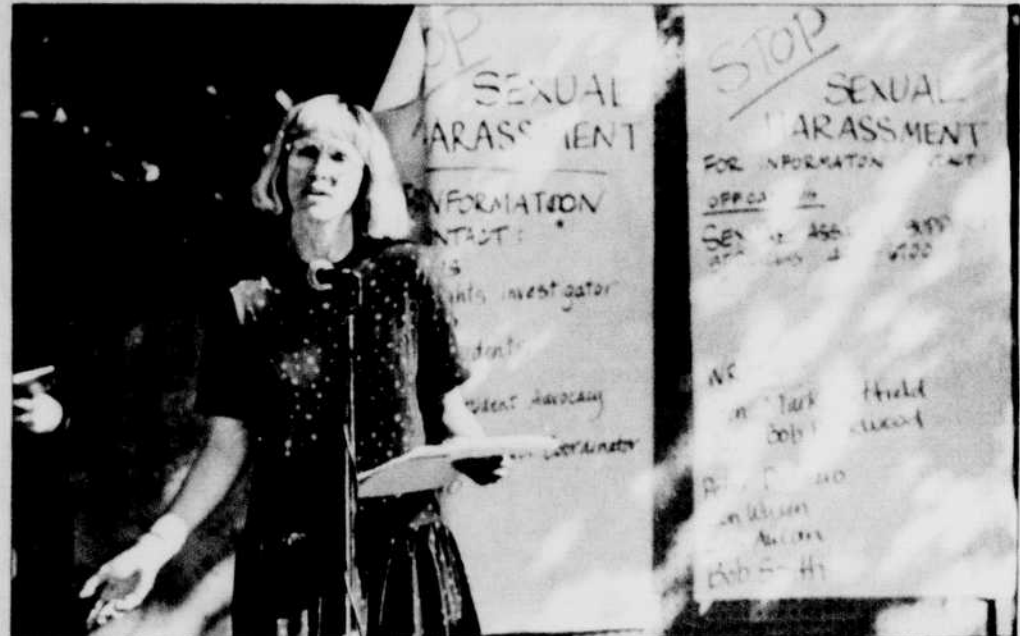
As news of Thomas' confirmation was broadcast into the courtyard, a couple of students broke into tears.

While the Thomas confirmation was the news of the day, the rally focused on the issue of sexual harassment.

"Anita Hill represents the millions of women that are being sexually harassed in the work force every day," said Therese DuBravac, rally co-organizer.

"What happened this weekend is a visible public symbol of women fighting back," said Ellen Furstner, former president of Lane County National Organization for Women. Furstner spoke along with University law Professor Caroline Forell at the afternoon rally.

Forell, who teaches a seminar on women and the law and has researched the issue of sexual harassment, said she listened to the testimonies of both Thomas and Hill.



University Law Professor Caroline Forell, speaking at a rally Tuesday, said women need to be taken seriously when they are sexually harassed.

"We need to believe women," Forell said. "Time and time again ... we believe men over women when it's his word against hers."

Not only did Forell empathize with Hill's experience, she pointed out that conduct that creates a "hostile work environment" was not recognized by the Supreme Court until 1986 — about five years after Hill claims she was harassed.

"Today it is still tremendously difficult, painful and risky to seek a legal remedy (to sexual harassment)," Forell said.

Rally participant Alicia Swaringen understood exactly what Forell and Hill were talking about.

"I'm here in support of Anita Hill because I believed her story," Swaringen said. "I've been sexually harassed and the way she responded is exactly the way I responded."

"I never reported the sexual harassment because I knew I would be put on the spot ... I knew people probably wouldn't believe me."

Women are speaking and we have to listen and support them because it is diffi-

cult and painful, Furstner said.

"Why do we live in a society where sexual harassment is even an issue? It doesn't have to be, but as long as it is, we can't ignore it ... and we cannot be ladies anymore," she said.

Furstner also said she believes that all men should be concerned about the issue of sexual harassment.

"This is about people struggling honestly with issues between men and women that have no easy answers," she said.

Familiar Oregon rains to return this week

By Gerrit Koepping
Emerald Reporter

It was sunny, it was pleasant, it seemed like California — obviously it couldn't last. Forecasters say the oh-so-familiar Oregon rain clouds will be back before the week is over.

Normally at this time of year, storms from the Gulf of Alaska flow down the jet stream and into the Northwest, but this year a high pressure ridge has forced those storms into Canada.

Joseph Calbreath, a climatologist and weatherman for KMTR-TV, said the presence of such a high pressure ridge is not unusual. What is unusual is the length in which it has stayed. This ridge has been here for two months, whereas normally such ridges only last for a few days.

But rain clouds will probably return by today or Thursday, Calbreath said. The storm should break up the high pressure ridge and give the area some moisture, he said.

John Fischer, meteorologist and weatherman for KEZI-TV, said he expects about one-tenth of an inch of drizzle by Thursday.

By the weekend, still more drizzle should fall, insuring that the high pressure ridge does not re-form, Calbreath said. Fischer said the weekend sprinkles "should be just enough to turn the dust into a fine layer of mud."

The news is a comfort to local fire fighters who have become increasingly concerned about the dry conditions. Spencer Butte, Skinner Butte and the Ridgeline trail have all been closed by the city of Eugene because of fire danger.

Tim Birr, public information officer for the Eugene Police Department, said the area will need at least two inches of rain



The unusually dry weather of the last two months has caused fire fighters in Oakridge some concern. Forecasters are predicting that rain will return by Thursday.

before the buttes can be re-opened. Fischer said it is unlikely that that much rain will fall by the weekend.

The current period of pleasant, dry, comfortable weather will soon be over, Fischer said, and "we won't have this kind of weather for another six to eight months."

One thing that has not presented a problem has been water levels at the local reservoir's that supply the Eugene area. Ron Henry, a power plant operator for the Army Corps of Engineers, said water levels are not abnormal for this time of year

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A library wronged

Despite the discovery of several boxes of rare materials stolen from the University's Knight Library, and the conviction of the man who stole them, it is uncertain when the books and documents will return home.

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Beat it, Columbus

Christopher Columbus was a sick man from a sick culture, so said Kirkpatrick Sale, an activist and author of *Columbus and the Conquest of Paradise*.

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The Beet goes on

The Sugar Beets, a band composed of University students, describe their sound as a mixture of bluegrass, originals and freeform jazz.

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