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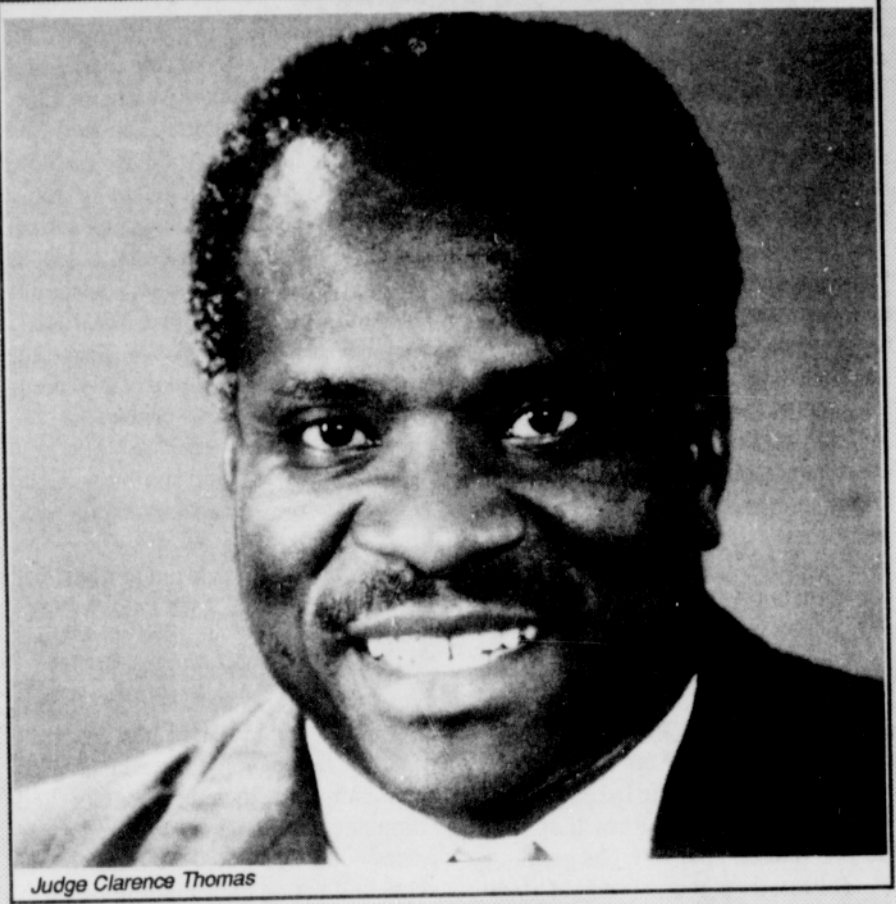
Judge Clarence Thomas Confirmed As Supreme Court Justice

BY THE OBSERVER STAFF

The main issue has been decided. Judge Thomas has won Senate approval as the ninth member of the U.S. Supreme Court, becoming only the second African American to serve as associate justice of the highest tribunal in the land. But what has not been resolved is the validity of the sexual harassment charge brought by Professor Anita Hill -- and also unresolved are the allegations that the very process of Senate confirmation of presidential appointees is seriously flawed.

The entire affair has alternately been described as "ugly, distressing, as revealing the American system at work, and as a political circus." What is evident is that the televised proceedings have engrossed the nation to a point of obsession, with the concentration of interest escalating to a fever pitch with the FRIDAY SURPRISE presented by Professor Hill. It was this unsubstantiated recital of an aggressive, raw and obscene solicitation of sexual favors that shocked America. As the scenario took on the characteristics of a rather kinky soap opera in the "Dallas" or "Peyton Place" vein, there was a visible recoil and air of disbelief throughout the hearing room. The sense of shock was palpable.

It was this mortifying attack and grotesque characterization that brought forth from Judge Thomas the following moving comment: "I have been harmed. I've been harmed worse than I've ever been harmed in my life. I wasn't harmed by the Klan.



Judge Clarence Thomas

I wasn't harmed by the Knights of Camelia. I wasn't harmed by the Aryan Race. I wasn't harmed by a racist group. I WAS HARMED BY THIS PROCESS -- this process which accommodated these attacks on me." At this point the two opposing camps, for and against confirmation, seemed to become polarized to a frenzied level, the national debate not only pitting republicans against democrats and conservatives versus liberals, but men against women and generation against

generation. The state of mind and the viewpoint of African Americans is all this has proved to be as interesting (and unpredictable) as the senate process itself. Many have departed their earlier "firm" positions. There has not been a stampede to realign but we do find that some who earlier were saying they could not support a naive black who had first benefited from Affirmative Action and then rejected it -- now opining that "the man has more cour-

age and integrity than we thought." But we have other African Americans who are asserting "We knew he was a rascal all along." This latter observation being more of an opposition to Thomas' conservative agenda than a valid assessment of Professor Hill's charges.

If there seems to be one universal concern on the matter among blacks, it is given the ten year lapse between the alleged incidents of harassment and these hearings. "THE PRESENTATION OF SUCH UGLY, SHOCKING AND UNSUBSTANTIATED ACCUSATIONS BEFORE THE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF A WORLD WIDE AUDIENCE SERVED NO GOOD PURPOSE--NOT FOR THE CONFIRMATION PROCESS, NOT FOR THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE, AND ESPECIALLY NOT FOR MAINTAINING THE DIGNITY AND INTEGRITY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN AND WOMEN WHATEVER THEIR STATURE, POSITION, OR OPINIONS."

It is almost certain that it will be revealed how the breakdown in the system came about--and who was the deep throat who leaked the FBI report. Perhaps, it is too much to hope that some apparently very deep and grievous wounds will quickly heal. But we can hope that those responsible for staging a political circus without precedent in the annals of the senate's "advise and consent" role will be so ashamed of the spectacle they have staged that immediate remedies will be instituted.

United Negro College Fund's Campaign 2000 Kicks Off Regional Fund-Raising In Dallas

The Honorable William H. Gray III concludes first week as UNCF President & CEO celebrating in the Metropolis

There were a host of celebrations in the Dallas area last week as former Congressman William H. Gray, III concluded his first week as the United Negro College Fund President and CEO. Making his first stop in the Metroplex during UNCF's regional efforts to announce CAMPAIGN 2000, and to celebrate an anniversary for Dallas' Paul Quinn College, Mr. Gray's two-day mission was to meet with local dignitaries. His goal was to raise awareness of the UNCF's CAMPAIGN 2000: An Investment in America's Future, a \$250 million fund raising drive for the organization's 41 member schools.

Mr. Gray's visit was kicked-off at a reception hosted by President Dr. Warren Morgan on the campus of Paul Quinn College. There, Mr. Gray told corporate donors and local dignitaries that he left Congress to join the UNCF in hope of improving the education of the next generation of African-Americans.

"We're facing a major task," he said. "We must reach a whole new level. Do I have my work cut out for me? Yes. But, I'm excited and looking forward."

"By the year 2000, one third of new entrants into the workforce will be minorities," Mr. Gray told the group. And, two-thirds of that group will consist of African Americans."

The final phase of Gray's visit to Dallas was a cake-cutting ceremony on the campus of Paul Quinn College. Celebrating the school's first year in

Dallas, where its enrollment has doubled, since its move from Waco, Texas, Mr. Gray presented a four-foot cake to President Warren Morgan.

In exchange, a critical needs list was presented to Mr. Gary Dr. Morgan said, "This critical needs list may serve as sufficient motivation to you to do all that you possibly can to ensure that more and more Americans make supporting the United Negro College Fund and Paul Quinn College a habit," Dr. Morgan stated. "A good habit that you repeat again and again."

CAMPAIGN 2000, the most ambitious effort ever mounted in the history of the UNCF, was launched by its honorary chairman, President George Bush, and UNCF officials at an April 1990 ceremony during which Ambassador Walter H. Annenberg set forth a \$50 million challenge. According to the terms of the challenge, UNCF must raise an additional \$146 million in order to qualify for the full \$50 million.

The United Negro College Fund was founded by the presidents of private, historically black colleges and universities in 1944 to encourage support for their institutions. UNCF does this by making one collective appeal, thus simplifying the process for donors and reducing competition. Since its founding, UNCF has raised more than \$700 million for its member colleges and universities, and has come to be known by its motto, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste."

Center Again up For Certification

Kicks Off Fall Fund Drive "Operation Boot Strap"

Grace Collins Memorial Center, after a long struggle with Children's Services Division to remain in operation, is up for an annual certification inspection. The two organizations continue to work together to make improvements throughout the Center and efforts appear to be successful.

As the Board of Directors have worked hard to comply with CSD and County health regulations, they have also been working to bring much needed financial strength to Grace Collins. The Fall Fund Drive is a major step toward the financial rebuild the center is in

need of. "Operation Boot Strap" is the kick off for several fund raising activities and strategies and promises to have a way for any and all interested persons to participate. The Board, Miss Collins, staff and our Center Family asks everyone to become involved in this undertaking.

"Operation Boot Strap" began with the assistance of the Xerox Corporation. Through the efforts of Derek Warren and several Xerox employees, their children and friends, the Center received a painting and wall papering facelift on Saturday, September 21, and September 28, 1991. The classroom area and

the gymnasium got some much needed attention.

Throughout the month of October the Center and Board of Directors will be soliciting various organizations to follow Xerox's head and bring resources into the Center. These needs include electrical, masonry, carpentry and landscaping skills and abilities. Assistance in setting up a computerized accounting, bookkeeping and Center records system is necessary for the Center to successfully manage into the future. The Center is in need of educational material for children and teachers, supplies, toys, kitchen utensils, clean-

ing supplies, materials and equipment, new phone system (the present one is over thirty years old and unable to be repaired according to US West Communications) and playground equipment.

Other fund raising activities will include a dinner, stay-at-home-tea, phone-a-thone, direct mail campaign and several personal solicitations by Board Members to key citizens. It is hoped that some \$75,000 in funds and in-kind donations will be collected by the end of the year. The Center has an operating budget of about \$350,000 per year.



Xerox Corporation Volunteers



Perspectives



Make Us Your Clearing House by McKinley Burt Page 2

Prince

DARKCompelling Electrifying EnchantingEnlightening IlluminatingLIGHT Page 5

Religion

Witness For Christ In The Tough Places by Michael Lindsey Page 4

News

Transitional Homes To Be Opened For Use By 'Project Network' Page 6

EDITORIAL 2

NEWS 2

RELIGION 4

ENTERTAINMENT 5

CLASSIFIEDS 7

BIDS/SUB-BIDS 9