

## Thomas Begins Supreme Court Nov. 1 After Two Ceremonies

BY LARRY A. STILL

President George Bush and Republican supporters of new Supreme Court Associate Justice Clarence Thomas were so pleased at the final confirmation vote for the second black appointee to the nine-member top U.S. legal panel that two swearing in ceremonies were scheduled first in a packed Rose Garden ceremony last Friday (October 18th) at the White House and later at the High Court House by November 1.

Justice Thomas will assume his lifetime seat on the highest court in the land following the historic double ceremonies and the equally unprecedented 112 days of hearings finally climaxed by the tense 52-48 closest confirmation vote on record in the United State Senate. Also, he will succeed retired Justice Thurgood Marshall in joining his Associates after proceedings have already started on several key cases, including desegregation and abortion issues. Another case still pending is a complaint involving sexual harassment.

Approximately 1,000 witnesses packed the White House lawn at the brief 15 minutes ceremony as Judge Thomas took the oath of allegiance from Justice Byron White with President Bush standing at his side and Mrs. Thomas holding the bible. (He will take the oath of office at the court). The applauding crowd on the day included a host of friends and relatives from Pin Point, GA, Republican leaders and a few former Democratic opponents such as Sen. Joseph Biden, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Recalling "the many difficult days"

in his only reference to the past hearings, Justice Thomas quoted the 30th Psalm as he added "But on this sunny day in October at the White House, there is joy. Joy in the morning" later, after the ceremony, Thomas repeated the words he often declared when he was first appointed in Kennebunkport, ME, "Only in America could this happen."

In addition to Thomas' mother, sister, brother and cousins, and former co-workers and supporters such as John Doggett and Phyllis Berry, who appeared at the hearings, the guests included political leaders, movie stars and sports heroes such as Sylvester Stallone and Reggie Jackson. Thomas advocates Robert Woodson, Tony Brown and Roy Innis were also present.

The complete guest list will be released later White House officials announced after the ceremony was arranged within three days following the victorious confirmation battle at the other end of Pennsylvania avenue in the U.S. Capitol. Lawmakers, lobbyists and throngs of reporters occupied the seats usually reserved for tourists in the Senate gallery during the vote (Oct. 15). Even two members of the Congressional Black Caucus, Reps. John Lewis (D-Ga) and Maxine Waters (D-CA) chose to be part of the rare moment, Afro-American Newspapers correspondent Hamil R. Harris reported.

Earlier Tuesday, Caucus members, as well as Rev. Jesse Jackson, held two news conferences to reaffirm their opposition to the Judge and to focus attention on what Jackson said were "the

central issues surrounding the confirmation... The Bush strategy is to nominate a right-wing conservative to solidify such a majority on the Supreme Court, using the tactic of race as a decoy to divide and conquer the opposition," he stated.

The nomination and confirmation process truly appeared to have divided the community. Rep. Craig Washington (D-TX) who was flanked by several colleagues, told reporters "black leaders failed to get the message out to the people..." Others blamed feminist pressure groups and media exposure. In the end it appeared to be the White House assessment of Clarence Thomas the senators voted to confirm.

Justice Thomas, like Justice Marshall, the man he succeeded, won the nomination after a delayed vote. Marshall was confirmed in 1967 in a 69-11 vote following a delay of more than two months. This victory marks the fifth time the Republican conservative has been confirmed by the Democratic Senate for a federal position. The others were, 1981, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights; 1982 and 1986, Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and 1989, Judge, U.S. District Court of Appeals. He must be doing something right, say friends and associates.

At week's end black and white observers were hailing the outcome as political and community leaders were shifting their concern to the partisan, polarizing confirmation process and the "alleged" unfairness of many participants in the local and national arenas.

### Oregon Company Named One Of Top Ten Franchise Businesses In The Country By Success Magazine

In 1988 Oil Can Henry's sold 14 of its Portland quick lube centers to Jiffy Lube and Oil Can Henry's was almost destroyed. Not only did the company survive--it is now ranked one of the best franchise opportunities in the country.

According to the November, 1991 issue of Success Magazine, Oil Can Henry's has moved up from #84 in 1990 to #9 in 1991 in their Success Gold 100 ranking of top franchise companies nationwide.

In the past, business magazines have touted the biggest and flashiest chains who sold the most units in the least amount of time. Success Magazine, instead, hired Arthur Anderson & Co. to create the first credible franchise ranking, rating franchisors by the quality of their management, not the quantity of their stores. This year, over 2,800 franchise companies were surveyed to determine which select few would be ranked in the Gold 100.

A Department of Commerce Study showed that from 1971 to 1987 fewer than 5 percent of new franchises failed each year, compared to 65 percent failure rate reported for all business startups by the Small Business Administration.

John E. Shepanek, President, C.E.O. of Oil Can Henry's, guided the local company through near disaster to its success today. It is a family-owned, Oregon company that to-date has sold 70 franchises nationally, with 20 quick lube centers currently in operation in Oregon, Washington, California, Arizona and Florida.

### Doernbecher Kids Get A Look At "Beauty And The Beast"

L'Estrange and Associates, the Walt Disney Pictures agent in Portland, hosted an exclusive presentation entitled "Beauty and the Beast; a behind the scenes Look," for the kids at Doernbecher Children's Hospital, Wednesday, October 30, at 4:00 pm. The presentation began with a view from the history of Disney animation using slides from several of Walt Disney's classic films. This unique audio visual presentation, sponsored by Walt Disney Pictures then took the audience behind-the-scenes of Walt Disney's 30th full-length animated feature "Beauty and the Beast"; the most beautiful love story ever told.

"Beauty and the Beast" will be at theatres in November.

## Welcome to Los Angeles!



Actress Marla Gibbs, second from left, welcomes visitors to the Marla Gibbs Crossroads National Education Arts Center and Theatre during the recent West Coast Black Publishers Association's Annual Convention in Los Angeles. With the actress, who starred in "The Jeffersons" and in "227," are, from left, Clovis Campbell, Immediate Past President of the publishers organization and publisher of the "Arizona Informant," Virgis Colbert, Vice President, Plant Operations, Miller Brewing Company and Mark V. Monteverdi, Specialist, Public Programs, Philip Morris Companies Inc. The gathering of Black newspaper publishers at the Stouffer Concourse Hotel marked the 20th Anniversary of the Association. Philip Morris Companies Inc. and three of its subsidiaries, Kraft General Foods, Miller Brewing Co. and Philip Morris U.S.A., sponsored the President's Reception at the Center and two convention luncheons.

### PCC Presents One Performance of "Transitions" At Cascade Campus

The Women's Center at the Cascade Campus of Portland Community College will present a new play, "Transitions," on Saturday, November 9, at 7 p.m.

The one-time-only performance will be in Cascade Hall in the Cascade Campus Auditorium at 705 N. Killingsworth Street. General admission is \$5; students, \$2.50.

The two-hour play includes two musical numbers and is about the impact Project Independence has had on the lives of students. The innovative Cascade Campus program works with

women in transition to give focus and direction to their lives. Many women have made significant changes as a result of their participation.

The play was written by Joan Knight and produced by Julie Darling. Both women are graduates of Project Independence. Other program students in the production are Pattie Jones and Kimberli Johnson, program graduate Paula Robertson, PSU student Paige Williams, and PCC students Rosa Mason and Lonnie Nettles.

For further information, contact the Women's Resource Center, 244-6111, ext. 5249.

### Cascade AIDS Project Announces New HIV Testing Workshop

Cascade AIDS project will be offering a new workshop for gay and bisexual men dealing with issues around taking the HIV antibody test. The "Taking The Test" workshop helps to address the question, "Should I take the HIV Antibody Test?" This five hour workshop will be presented Saturday, November 23 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. with a break for lunch. Paul Irrabim from Multnomah County will co-facilitate the workshop with CAP staff.

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