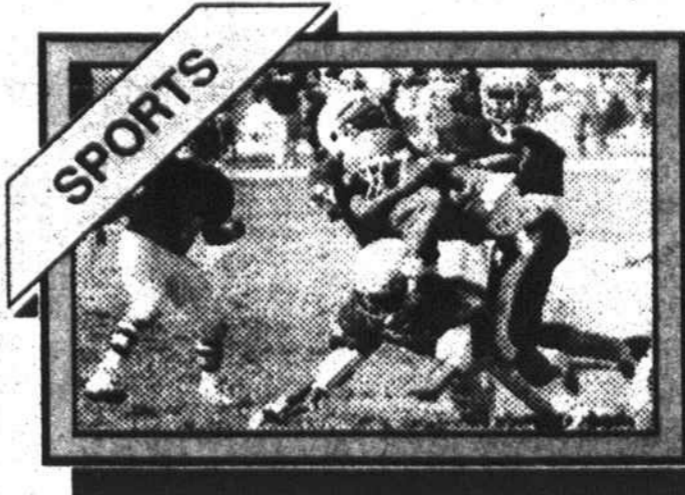




Starting Anew
Praise Assembly of God Church moves into its new home.
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Saturday duel
Grayhounds and Timy Indians squared off in Pop Warner football.
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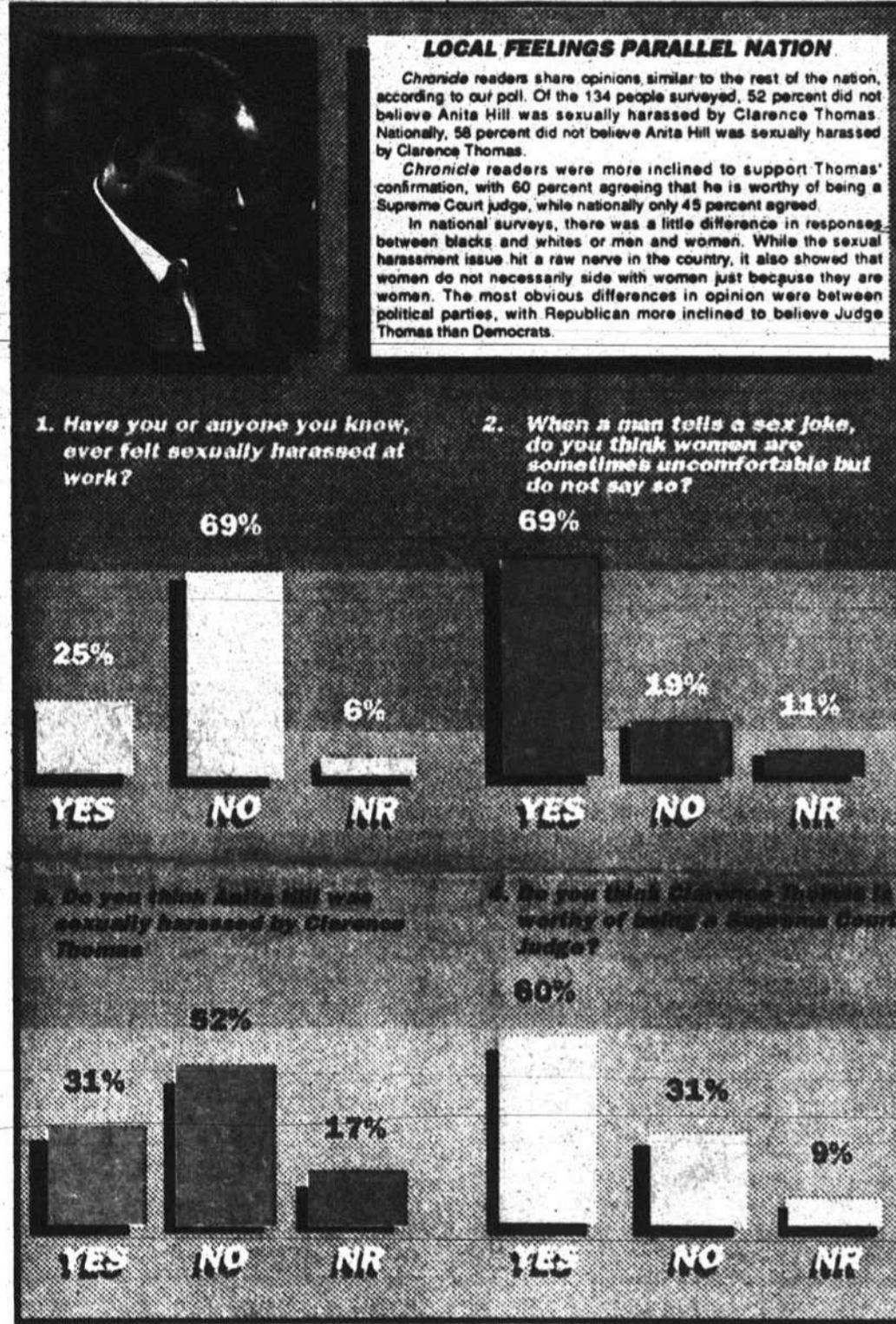
VOL. XVIII, No. 8

Thomas confirmed: Hearings a cruel joke

Winston-Salem Chronicle

By SHERIDAN HILL
Chronicle Staff Writer

READER'S POLL THE THOMAS CONFIRMATION HEARINGS



"My feelings are that the proceedings were a circus," muses Angela Carmon, assistant city attorney. "I hate that it reached the point it did. The end result is they don't know any more than they knew in the beginning."

In a 52-48 vote, the Senate confirmed Judge Clarence Thomas as an associate justice of the Supreme Court. Eleven Democrats joined 41 Republicans in the vote, which was heavily lobbied from President Bush through telephone calls and telegrams. Democrat Terry Sanford opposed the nomination, and Republican Jesse Helms favored it.

Democrats have not had a nominee to the Supreme Court in 24 years.

Allegations of sexual harassment from Judge Thomas' former co-worker, Professor Anita Hill, and the ensuing televised hearings dredged up a legacy of racial brutality and sexual harassment. Three days of dramatic, credible testimony from both sides brought to the forefront the worst kind of stereotypes about black men and disturbed the nation's conscience.

HARASSMENT CHARGES

Professor Hill's charges were backed up by four witnesses who said that she had told them of harassment by her boss. A former Winston-Salem Chronicle employee, Angela Wright, also testified through a telephoned statement.

"I feel that the Clarence Thomas that I know is quite capable of doing just what Anita Hill alleges," Wright said.

The committee also released an interview with Rose L. Jourdain, a speechwriter for Thomas from 1983 to 1985 and a friend of Wright's, who said Wright told her at the time of her increasing unease at Thomas' comments. She said Wright told her Thomas made comments about "her figure, her body, her breasts, her legs..."

Wright was director of public affairs for the
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Angela Wright



Anita Hill



Clarence Thomas

Confronting sexual harassment

As many as 90% of women will walk away from a dirty joke they find offensive, according to studies from the Council on the Status of Women. In the informal Chronicle poll conducted this week, 69% of respondents said they did not know anyone who had ever been sexually harassed at work, but 69 percent agreed that when men tell dirty jokes, women are offended but do not say so.

HOW'S A MAN TO KNOW?

Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act provides that workers cannot be treated differently because of race, sex, color, religion, or national origin. But like racism, sexual harassment can be difficult to determine.

Perhaps women and men don't understand each other as well as they thought. How's a man to know if he's sexually harass-

ing a woman? The landmark sexual harassment decisions state that the woman bears the responsibility of defining what makes them uncomfortable.

"Men are not mind readers. The woman must say: That makes me uncomfortable," says Marian Ackerman.

"One rule of thumb for men who like to tell dirty jokes is this: Don't tell any jokes you wouldn't tell your mother," advises Ackerman. She adds that sex jokes often erode the integrity of how the other human being is being perceived. "It has to do with power. If you erode that, then that person becomes less effective."

In a 1977 case, *Tompkins v. Public Service Electric and Gas Company*, the court of

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Anita Hill gets a hug from her mother, Erma, after making opening comments to the Senate last Friday.

The truth comes out

Sexual harassment spotlighted

By SHERIDAN HILL
Chronicle Staff Writer

Whether she is a liar or a victim, unbalanced or lion-hearted, Anita Hill has succeeded in bringing to the nation's eyes the issue of sexual harassment. This week, women of all ages and backgrounds were coming out with stories of being sexually harassed at work.

"We used to take bets on how long he would be in the office before he mentioned sex," said one woman, speaking of her supervisor. "It was usually about five minutes."

"My phone is coming off the hook," says Marian Ackerman, executive director for the local Council on the Status of

Women. "We've had more calls in the past week than we've had in a year."

In 1981, the council conducted a needs assessment in Forsyth County to determine the incidence of sexual harassment. Hour long interviews were conducted face-to-face with 1,000 women, 45% of whom attended that they had experienced sexual harassment on the job from their supervisor.

"There seems to be a repressed outrage," said Ackerman, "and now that someone stood up and said something, other women are standing up and saying, this happened to me. Sexual harassment does happen with regularity in Winston-Salem."

Ackerman notes that Anita Hill fits

the classic pattern of a victim of sexual abuse, despite her Yale law school training. "Typically, the woman feels demoralized and does not tell anyone," said Ackerman.

Dr. Deborah Winfrey, associate professor and director of institutional effectiveness at Winston-Salem State University, points out that we, as a society, tend to blame victims.

"How do you prove someone said something dirty to you? They don't usually say it in front of other people. It becomes her word against his. We don't know who is right or wrong, but we as groups don't identify with the victim. It

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Teachers try to bring black history into focus

By JESSICA SAUNDERS
Associated Press Writer

The assignment was to read the autobiography of Malcolm X, and Willis Jackson was worried about his gifted students' reaction.

Jackson, a history teacher at Ramsey High School in Birmingham, said some of his white students told him "their parents were asking why they had to read this."

It was not an unusual reaction. About 40 percent of the students in the gifted program are black and Jackson says the white students are "very conscious" of affirmative action.

"It has come out of the scoring on tests," including how some black students are able to win full college scholarships despite having lower test scores than some white classmates, he said.

In addition to Malcolm X, Jackson's students study Martin Luther King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" and Henry David Thoreau's essay "Civil Disobedience." His students use a 42-chapter college textbook "that does a pretty good job of dealing with the United States as a nation of immigrants," Jackson said.

"I try in all courses to make sure there's a real emphasis on diversity," he said. In teaching black history, "I have

yet to have a black parent object to the (reading assignments), saying I didn't do this enough. I have yet to have a white parent say I'm doing it too much, although some of the white students say that."

Jacqueline Matte, who teaches post-World War II Alabama history at predominantly white Mountain Brook Junior High School, uses speakers, videotapes and writing assignments to make black history come alive in her classroom.

"We don't just deal with Martin Luther King," she said.

Matte's students keep civil rights journals in which they respond to videos

such as "Eyes on the Prize" and "King: Montgomery to Memphis." They interview their parents about their recollections of desegregation and also interview a black person at least a generation older than themselves.

Speakers have included Jefferson County Sheriff Mel Bailey, who is white, and a black teacher, who described segregation for the mostly white class. Among 220 students in a recent 9th grade, one was black.

"They feel shocked by some of the materials," Matte said. "They knew nothing of the separate facilities. They knew nothing about people going to that."

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ON THE AVANT-GARDE

By TANG NIVRI

Friday morning mourning

I don't mind telling you that this past Friday morning, I cried hard tears. It was the only thing that I could do.

I was alone and that was the way I wanted it to be. I wanted to be alone so I could feel the pain of a brother and a sister who had somehow found themselves pitted against each other in the mouth of the lion's den.

Perhaps it was the overwhelming symbolism that many of us associate with that day of the week that led me to think of the Bible verse that speaks of there being no redemption without the shedding of blood.

Perhaps it was my recall of the childhood images of the pain and suffering associated with my own understanding, my own soul's salvation — the miracle and the tragedy of Good Friday — that made me hurt so much.

I was prepared for the blood that would flow that Friday morning but I was not prepared for the pain — for the anguish.

Last Friday morning, I heard black folks all around this world mourning as if the only two children they ever had were being snatched away from their very arms while they sat there, powerless to do anything about it.

We mourned not just for Judge Thomas and Prof. Anita Hill but we mourned for all that we ever knew about who we are and where we came from, knowing full well just how very far we would yet have to travel.

We mourned for ourselves and for our children.
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