

OTHER VOICES

Excerpts

On plagiarized papers:

"As many as nine out of ten students have plagiarized a paper sometime during their college careers, according to a survey conducted by Miami University of Ohio Professor Jerold Hale and two colleagues.

Of the 234 students surveyed, 91.2 percent admitted to having committed at least one of four academically dishonest practices in connection with written assignments: 74.2 percent failed to cite a reference for paraphrased or quoted material, 44.2 percent passed off another student's work for their own, 40.8 percent failed to note a word-for-word quote as a direct quotation and 38.9 percent used misleading references to hide plagiarism."

From the College Press Service

On how God is conceived:

"God is conceived differently in different traditions. But we find unity in these many conceptions, in that God is posed as an answer to the human condition, more or less satisfying, but in any case the best we can do. God reflects the deepest longings of the human soul and spirit. In God we find a more perfect reflection of the creativity, transcending personality and love which is the fruit of the human soul and spirit. In God the human soul and spirit find strength to move forward in love, even in the full face of human tragedy."

From Theology in Postliberal Perspective by Daniel Liechty

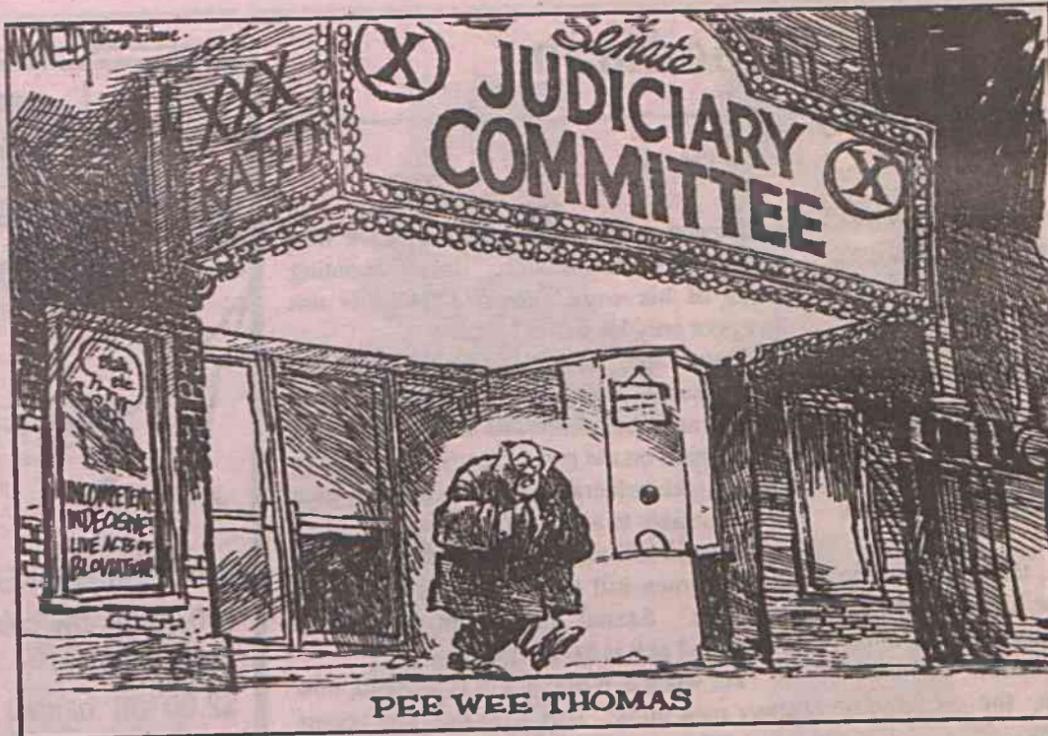
Quotables

An opinion on Clarence Thomas:

Thomas is not as articulate as Antonin Scalia, Anthony Kennedy and Sandra Day O'Connor. He is no match for the scholarly David Souter in his mastery of case law. But Thomas will bring other assets to the high court. He has known discrimination, and he has known poverty. These are good teachers. He has learned useful lessons from them.

The question is asked, will Thomas, an accredited conservative, make a difference on the court? For the near future we may expect Thomas to mind his manners on the bench. I would not look for anything eventful from Thomas in the coming term.

From an article by nationally syndicated columnist James Kilpatrick



Congress: Listen up It's wrong to silence 'her words'

It was her word versus his. Just a he-said, she-said sort of thing, as Sen. John Danforth had put it, dismissing the "October Surprise," the "smear campaign," the "eleventh hour" accusation of sexual harassment that had thrown Clarence Thomas' sure thing into full disarray.

Who was this "she" anyway? The senators who found her "credible" called her Professor Anita Hill. The others called her "the woman," or "this lady," or even, in the strange case of Sen. Alan Simpson, "the lady who was lured."

Before Anita Hill stepped into her televised Oklahoma classroom, measured and earnest, dignified and strained, the Senate's judiciary committee had simply dismissed her. Before Professor Hill said, "It is an unpleasant issue. It is an ugly issue," they had decided to deal with her charges the old-fashioned way. Among themselves.

Anyway you cut it, some of these men had known since mid-September that the former head of the civil rights enforcement agency was accused of violating a woman's civil rights. Anyway you run the sequence of events, they had known before the committee vote that a Supreme Court nominee had been accused of sexual harassment as defined by that court.

But like businessmen running a private corporation, they handled this "delicate matter" discreetly, among their own kind. Why, Arlen Specter, the very model of judiciousness had gone to Clarence Thomas in person, eyeball to eyeball, and gotten a forceful denial. Dennis DeConcini had "made the judgment, right or wrong, that he was credible to me."

It was her word versus his. They took his without hers. They didn't tell the rest of us.

Would it have been better if Hill had gone

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The Boston Globe



public earlier? Sure, although anyone who wonders why she was reluctant can listen to the messages on her telephone tape. Did the senators have any legitimate reason for protecting Thomas' privacy? Sure, FBI files are full of scurrilous attacks.

But anyone with half an investigative eye open could have discovered that Anita Hill was "no kook," as Sen. Paul Simon put it. And anyone doing his job, should have understood that this is a subject that deserved as much attention as Douglas Ginsburg's tokes of marijuana.

This portrait of men in power is not very pretty. Capitol Hill is not just a place where you can bounce checks with impunity and discriminate without fear of the law. (Civil-rights laws don't apply there.) It's a place where men can listen to Clarence Thomas' straight-faced claim that he had no opinion on abortion, and then question Anita Hill's credibility.

If these men kept the lid on the charges of sexual harassment, however, it was not just to protect Clarence Thomas. To many, Anita Hill is their worst nightmare. The woman who could come riding out of the past waving a charge. False, of course, or maybe true.

Women have always lived with a sense of vulnerability. They have been vulnerable to rape, to harassment, to abuse; on the street, at

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Individual liberty is rejected

The person who dies of Alzheimer's disease dies slowly. The mind goes; memory goes; the victim loses control of bodily functions. All terminal diseases

are bad, but some are worse than others. Alzheimer's ranks with AIDS and certain cancers as the most anguishing of all. Dr. David A. Kessler, commissioner of food and drugs,



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Universal Press

vividly described Alzheimer's in a talk on July 15. "Patients face the demeaning realization that they will become a burden to others. They face the terror of a relentless descent into oblivion." The disease is cruel and relentless, merciless and terrifying. "It robs its victims of their essential humanity."

The FDA commissioner was in Bethesda, Md., to talk to one of FDA's advisory committees. The committee had met to consider whether access should be expanded to a drug known as tacrine, or Cognex, developed by Warner-Lambert Co. Preliminary trials had indicated that tacrine appeared to benefit some victims of Alzheimer's. The company proposed a massive test, involving 50,000 subjects, to provide data on which a final decision on approval would be based.

The committee's answer, essentially, was no. Not now. Further preliminary studies would have to be made at higher dosages. Then the big study might be reconsidered. Dr. Kessler affirmed the committee's recommendation. "Above all," he said, "we must maintain our standards."

Above all? Really? Must the FDA's precious "standards" be maintained above any consideration of humanity or compassion? These "standards" are not carved in stone. We are talking about the lives of very sick people.

Under federal law, the FDA's responsibility is to approve only

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