

Editorials

The Kitchen's Too Hot

Like the race conference now going on in Durban, South Africa to a hot kitchen. Remember the adage: "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen."
Well, a sure bet is that the race conference is one hot kitchen in which the United States, Israel and any other nations that turn thumbs down on or walk out of because they can't stand the heat.

In this case, the "heat" is a combination of the truth and their guilt. Their complicity in wrongdoings against people of color everywhere is well known around the globe. But that heat has brought their wrongdoings to center stage and the challenge is too much for them to bear. Their meanness and shortsightedness leaves them unwilling to face that truth, admit their wrongs and do whatever is necessary to try to make amends. Rather than trying to do what they know their wrongs justify, they try to promote any weak claim they think will bamboozle the public — especially the white public — then tuck their heads and run, to get out of the kitchen.

The position United States President George W. Bush is currently invoking should be a message to every person of color in this nation and all over the world. That message is clear: We don't care how you are being or have been mistreated. We don't care how much you have suffered and continue to suffer. We don't care what the residual effects of that mistreatment (slavery) on succeeding generations are or have been. Don't ever expect equal, unbiased treatment. In other words, we intend to keep you down as long as we possibly can. We are going to continue to refuse to apologize and/or pay for the free labor of your ancestors that enabled this to become the richest nation in the world (ill-gotten gains). We are going to deny you every single thing we can deny you to keep you at the bottom of the economic level.

Oh, how noble it could have been for President Bush to allow Secretary of State Colin Powell and staff to attend that conference to bring confession and admission of United States wrongs, and, if not apologize, at least express the nation's determination to henceforth attempt to live up to its creed. It could have immediately eliminated the "kitchen heat." Such a performance would have elevated this nation to heights heretofore unknown in the world. But he "blew it." Instead, he is willing to sacrifice the soul of the nation for his political future with the "don't intend to do right" crowd.

The Word Gets Around

You may have watched the recent Oprah Winfrey show when her guest was Tommy Hilfiger. If you did not, here is what transpired:
On the show, Oprah asked Tommy Hilfiger if the statements about race he was accused of making were true. Such as "...if I'd known African Americans, Hispanics, Jewish and Asians would buy my clothes, I would not have made them so nice. I wish these people would 'NOT' buy my clothes, as they are made for upper class white people."
His answer to Oprah was a simple "YES."
Oprah immediately asked him to leave her show.
Now, what are YOU going to do about buying his clothes?

**Still Considered a Sell-Out to Black Community
Decade After Bitter Confirmation Fight,
Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas
Marches to Conservative Tune**

WASHINGTON (AP and Staff Reports) - Most workdays, Clarence Thomas beats his eight Supreme Court colleagues to the office. He drives his black Corvette through the suburban Virginia dawn and scoots into the court's guarded garage by 6 a.m.

After a decade on the nation's high court, Thomas has settled into a comfortable routine that balances the court's heavy workload of reading and writing with a busy life of travel, lecturing and raising a young grandnephew.

He has also found a comfortable home on the court's far right. He remains in the shadow of ideological bunkmate Antonin Scalia but is willing to write separate manifestos that stake a more absolutist position on cases involving religion, free speech and other issues.

The court term that begins this fall offers Thomas, the second black to serve on the court, another chance to rule against affirmative action. He steadfastly opposes it as an insult to the values of hard work and self-reliance. Yet, he enters Yale Law School under an affirmative action program.

"Justice Thomas enjoys marching to his own drummer," said Clint Bolick, vice president of the conservative law firm Institute for Justice. Bolick has known Thomas since they worked together in the 1980s. Bolick has been anti-affirmative action since its inception.

Comfort has not come cheaply for the man whose searingly public job interview in the fall of 1991 featured naughty words, allegations of lewd office come-ons and Thomas' famous, furious charge that he was the victim of a "high-tech lynching."

An array of liberal and civil rights groups had opposed Thomas from the start and described him as a potentially dangerous, far-right extremist. But 10 years later is it probably the surprise allegations of Thomas' young accuser, Anita Hill, that linger in most Americans' minds.

Thomas denied Hill's allegations. President Bush stuck by him, and Thomas was confirmed by a 52-48 vote. He took his seat in October 1991.

"He has been every bit as conservative and more as his critics thought he would be," said Earl Maltz, a constitutional law professor and Supreme Court specialist at Rutgers University's law school. "I think he has also been more of an intellectual force to be reckoned with than people thought he would be."

Thomas is still haunted and aggrieved by the fight over his nomination, associates say, and the whispers of tokenism and intellectual inadequacy that persisted when he took the bench.

He rarely speaks in court, is gun-shy with the press and has cut off at least one former friend who spoke too candidly about him. He declined a request for an interview for this story.

Yet he is also willing to speak more freely outside the court than most of his colleagues, and is the only current justice known to cry during a speech; in May, he broke down while talking about how he came to have custody of his grandnephew.

Around the court Thomas is known as a friendly, even jovial fellow with a booming laugh that startles timid new law clerks.

Although darker and grayer than he was during the hearings, Thomas at 53 is still the youngest of the nine justices. He is also the only one with a school-age child at home, an experience that associates say delights him.

Part of the reason for his early hours is that Thomas tries to be home to help his grandnephew, Mark, with homework after school. Like Thomas, Mark was born to less than promising circumstances in Georgia. Thomas sought custody of the boy four years ago, when the boy was 6, much as his own, strict grandfather took in the young Thomas at about the same age.

As one of the few high-ranking black people in government, Thomas remains a polarizing figure and persona non grata for many civil rights groups. He also has avoided, almost religiously, black groups that have questioned his positions. He refuses to take questions at almost any forum not dominated by children and young adults and white conservatives.

Thomas has been a mentor and tutor for black students, but has hired just one as a law clerk. Supreme Court clerks are the cream of the cream of the crop at the nation's top law schools, Thomas has said, and any black students in that select group are welcome to apply. Thomas finished Yale Law School in the lower middle of his class and was not considered an exceptional student.

Thomas seems to accept the lot of a junior justice without complaint. He leaves the courtroom showboating to Scalia and tells audiences he does not mind writing so many opinions in dull bankruptcy and insurance cases.

As he was in the Bush v. Gore decision that ended presidential ballot counting in Florida last year, Thomas is typically among the five-member moderate-to-conservative bloc that usually prevails in disputed cases.

Even when he agrees with the majority, Thomas is the justice most likely to file a separate, solo opinion.

The traditional goal of the court is unanimity or at least a minimum number of overlapping opinions, but Thomas is content to state his individual views even when he cannot persuade anyone else to join him.

He is also a prolific dissenter. Only Justice John Paul Stevens, the liberal justice with whom Thomas least agrees, has dissented more often since Thomas joined the court.

"His influence is growing and will grow increasingly over time," Bolick said. "Thomas is more willing than any other justice to return to the original text of the Constitution and to urge the court to correct past mistakes."

Ironically, the programs he has assailed against, are the same ones he used to enter elite undergraduate and law school.

**Register
To
Vote**

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

I NEED HELP
WORK FROM HOME
Earn \$500-\$1500/pt-\$2000-\$4000/ft
www.work2excel.com
1-888-518-3718

**FSU Alumni
Board to Meet
September 15**

The Fayetteville State University National Alumni Association Board of Directors will meet Saturday, September 15, at 11 a.m. in the Chancellor's Dining Room, Jones Student Center, on the campus of Fayetteville State University.

**AARP Meeting
Set for
Wed., Sept. 19**

The AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) will convene its first meeting of the fiscal year on Wednesday, September 19, at 2 p.m. The meetings are held every third Wednesday at the Duke Senior Center, 807 S. Duke Street. Membership is open to all races, both males and females, and new members are invited to join.

BUILDING MATERIALS

Steel Buildings, new, must sell
30 x 40 x 12 was \$10,200 now \$6,990
40 x 60 x 12 was \$16,400 now \$10,971
50 x 100 x 16 was \$27,590 now \$19,990
60 x 200 x 16 was \$58,760 now \$42,990
1-800-406-5126

It is not the strength but the duration of great sentiments that makes great men.

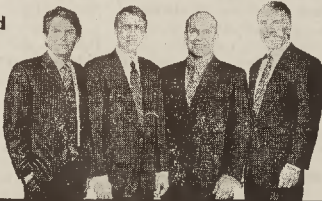
—Friedrich Nietzsche

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

60 Years Combined Experience

In North Carolina, Workers' Compensation laws are very complex. Put our 15 lawyer firm on your side to be sure you receive everything you rightfully deserve. Call us for a free evaluation of your claim.

SERVICIO EN ESPAÑOL



Martin & Jones
TRIAL LAWYERS

Toll Free
1-800-662-1234

Offices in:
Raleigh, Durham,
Wilmington & Atlanta

www.MartinandJones.com

THE CAROLINA TIMES
L.E. AUSTIN
Editor-Publisher 1927-1971

(USPS 091-380)

(Mrs.) Vivian Austin Edmonds
Editor-Publisher

Kenneth W. Edmonds
General Manager

Published every Thursday (dated Saturday) (except the week of Thanksgiving, incorporated. Mailing address: P.O. Box 3825, Durham, N.C. 27702-3825. Periodicals Postage paid at Durham, North Carolina. Volume 79, Number 34

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE CAROLINA TIMES, P.O. Box 3825, Durham, N.C. 27702-3825. SUBSCRIPTION RATES: One year, Durham County, \$18.00 (plus \$21.00 plus \$1.32 sales tax; one year, out of state, \$22.00. Single copies 50¢. Payment on subscriptions: Address all communications and make all payments to THE CAROLINA TIMES, P.O. Box 3825, Durham, N.C. 27702-3825. NATIONAL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE: Amalgamated Advertising, Inc., 21 West 38th Street, Suite 800, New York, New York 10018.

Member: United Press International Photo Service, North Carolina Black Publishers Association, Associated Press. Opinions expressed by columnists in this newspaper do not necessarily represent the policy of this newspaper. We reserve the right to edit for brevity and clarity. This newspaper WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE for the return of pictures or manuscripts.

Credo of The Black Press

The Black Press believes that America can best lead the way away from racial and national antagonisms when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color or creed, full human and legal rights. Having no person, leaving no person, the Black Press strives to help every person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

COUPON COUPON COUPON COUPON COUPON COUPON COUPON COUPON

The Carolina Times
THE TRUTH UNBENT

PLEASE ENTER MY SUBSCRIPTION FOR

1 year - Durham County - \$19.08
 1 year - North Carolina - \$22.32
 1 year - Out of State - \$22.00

Mr. _____
Mrs. _____
Ms. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Check or Money Order Enclosed
 Bill me within thirty days

THE CAROLINA TIMES
P.O. Box 3825
Durham, North Carolina 27702