



**Afrocentricity:**

Conservative Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas just seems to have a gift for getting into newspapers in a big way.

Recently he was invited, then uninvited and then finally invited to speak at a school in Maryland. It seems that several school board members were against his visit.

Thomas has also been roundly criticized by many liberals, Blacks, white and otherwise, for his Supreme Court voting record. However even before this, I wrote a column on Justice Thomas that is worthy of reciting this week.

I am not a fan of Thomas, however, there are key points worth re-mentioning. Below are excerpts (with some updates) from an article that I wrote around the time he was appointed to the Supreme Court.

For some of us, it took the Clarence Thomas hearings to see that several traditional civil rights organizations and individuals were out of step in the community.

This is not to say that the Civil Rights-Human Rights Movement has died. Instead, recent events merely indicate that some major "Afrocentric" adjustments need to be made.

I am the kind of person who won't endorse someone because of similar ethnicity, including Clarence Thomas or (the late) Thurgood Marshall.

A few years ago, there was a popular saying that went like this, "All that glitters ain't gold and all that's Black ain't got soul."

In the case of Clarence Thomas and Supreme Court Power Politics, it seems only logical that most Africans (as in Black folks) would correctly express the opinion that the position is more important than the individual.

However, if Africans think that because Thomas is of the same ethnicity of Justice Marshall that that he is going to regularly come down squarely on the same side as Marshall would have, they've missed the boat.

I don't think Africans missed the boat. I repeat, the position is more important than the individual, in this case.

At the same time, those Africans with influence within the Democratic Party need to insure that a more liberal minded African will eventually take his or her place beside Clarence Thomas and not just in place of him.

A very clear message was sent around this nation and

perhaps the world with the Thomas appointment. And that message was re-sounded last year when over two million men went to Washington in October.

The message is that the African American giant is still a giant, even though some of its leadership (i.e., prominent personalities) began to take it for granted.

It is not surprising that political power brokers continue to be eager to "show us that we have two clear choices."

But in reality, there are more than two choices. Perhaps a very real side effect of the Clarence Thomas debate was the new awareness on the part of African Americans that "Afrocentricity" is more powerful than any modified One Party System (which is what we have, with the Reform Party).

And regarding the Reform Party, if political analysts are honest, they will admit that independent politics was primarily an abstract concept until the Black community held its own independent political convention in the 1970s.

To those young people who may now be giving the Republican Party a closer look, we say, "Look as closely as possible before casting down your buckets-permanently."

For those Africans who have decided to remain in the Democratic Party, we say, "Why - permanently?"

Hilton: Higher Education is an internationally syndicated column designed to dialogue with college and world readers. Education is ongoing and certainly not limited to classroom study.

**MAMA'S BOYZ by JERRY CRAFT**



**POSITIVELY BLACK**

**Use your talents or lose them**

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

"Your talents are not yours to keep," says Poet Kalamu Chache. Motivational speaker and trainer Les Brown tells us to, "Know your gifts and share them." Talent is defined as a special natural ability or aptitude; a capacity for achievement or success, natural ability; cleverness, a person or group of persons of ability. By that reckoning you are a person with natural ability, aptitude, a limitless capacity for achievement and success. You were born for success and accomplishment. What are your talents? Do you know? Take an inventory of your life. Have you discovered your gifts, abilities or your aptitude? Do you know just how clever, (meaning resourceful) creative and ingenious you really are? Do you really know?

One of the laws of life is the Law of Divergent Gifts. Every human on this planet has been endowed by the Creator with talents, gifts, genius and abilities that were designed to be expressed, demonstrated and shared. No one is bereft of endowment. No one has been short changed or left out. God is not stingy nor does he/she withhold good things from his/her children. To be sure, none of us are given the exact same or equal talents because that would

be boring and redundant (diversity is inherent in the Law of Life). The universe is a whole made up of many unique yet interrelated, interdependent parts. There are myriad stars of various sizes, vegetation, insects and animals of all kinds. We have all been graciously equipped with special talents and I emphasize the plural form of the word. Our responsibility in life is to discover what they are, cultivate them, develop them and share them with our fellow travelers on this big blue ball

suspended majestically in space. Once you discover what your talents are, you must set about giving them away. "Freely you have received now freely give." This is not to say you are not to accept compensation for what you do, design or create. Giving freely here refers to an attitude of unrestrictedness whole-hearted giving. Give your gifts enthusiastically without reservation or hesitation. Life is about sharing and exchanging. The great paradox of living is, we come into this world by ourselves

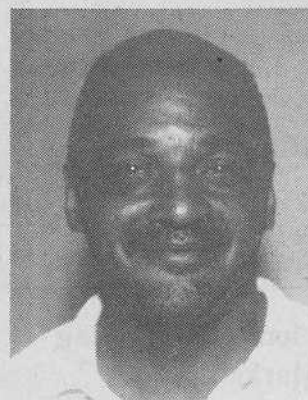
and we leave by ourselves but in between those two points, we are forced to interact and share with others. Interdependence and sharing are what makes the world go round. Reciprocity is a social obligation, we need each other. You do for me, I do for you, we work together. There is no place for selfishness, hoarding or holding back.

Your gifts are not yours, they belong to all of us. Your gifts are not yours to hide under a bushel or withhold. When you (See Talents, Page 16)



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**School district seminar teaches parenting skills**

Special to the Sentinel-Voice

Parents will have the opportunity to learn techniques to help them be more effective in their roles during a four-hour seminar Oct. 12th. The 12th annual Parent Pride seminar will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Valley High School, 2839 S. Burnham Ave. The event costs \$3, but the fee can be waived if necessary. Communication techniques, single parenting and parenting from zero to five are just three of the 21 offerings participants can choose from, said event organizer Candy Schneider. There will even be a class addressing special education issues.

"There are events (like this one) around town. This is an easy one," Schneider said. "It meets in the morning, and parents can pick the classes that best meet their needs."

Free child care will be available for children ages 3 and up, and some classes will be offered in Spanish. Parents can register anytime from now up until the day of the event.

For more information, call the Clark County School District Partnership Office at 799-5312.