

# Book rekindles controversy

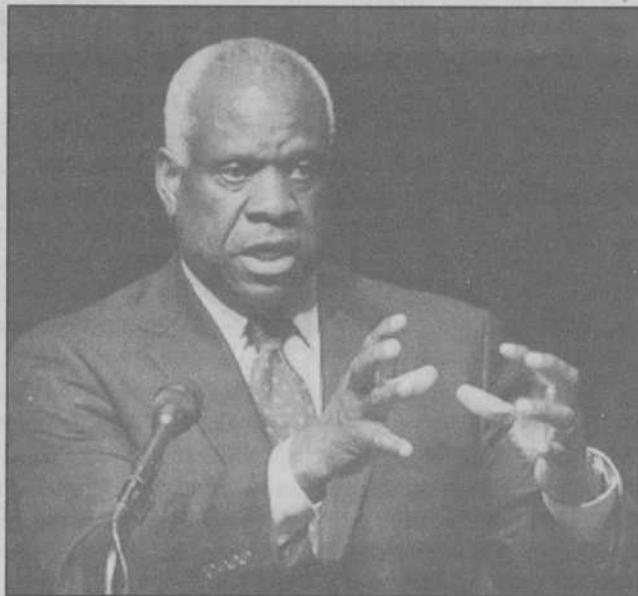
WASHINGTON (AP) - Breaking his 16-year public silence on his bitter confirmation hearings, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas says Anita Hill was a mediocre employee who was used by political opponents to make claims she had been sexually harassed.

Thomas writes about Hill, his former employee in two government agencies, and the allegations that nearly derailed his nomination to the high court in 1991 in his newly released autobiography, "My Grandfather's Son."

He writes with indignation of the nationally televised hearings that he memorably called a "high-tech lynching." A child of the segregated South, Thomas says he was being pursued "not by bigots in White robes but by left-wing zealots draped in flowing sanctimony."

Powerful interest groups were out to stop him at all costs and chose "the age-old blunt instrument of accusing a Black man of sexual misconduct," he writes.

Hill, who is also Black, had worked for Thomas at the Education Department and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.



Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas has a new book.

She first made her allegations, after Thomas had been nominated to the high court, 10 years after she began working for him and only after she was contacted by congressional investigators.

In the book, Thomas describes Hill as touchy and apt to overreact, not someone who would wait a decade to level a charge of harassment. She had complained to Thomas only about his refusal to promote her, the justice says.

"Her work at EEOC had been mediocre," he writes.

In 1991, Thomas adamantly denied Hill's accusations that he made inappropriate

sexual remarks, including references to pornographic movies. Thomas says he did talk about X-rated movies while at Yale Law School, adding that so did many other young people in the 1970s.

Thomas says now that he was "one of the least likely candidates imaginable" for a charge of harassment, having made clear his desire to run an agency staffed mainly by minorities and women as professionally as any other.

Thomas, 59, acknowledges that three other former EEOC employees backed Hill's version of events, but

he says that each either had been fired or had left the agency on bad terms.

Hill, now a professor at Brandeis University, initially declined to comment on the book but has now spoken publicly about it.

The 289-page book, for which Thomas has been paid more than \$1 million by publisher HarperCollins, is an account of his up-from-poverty story from his first home in tiny Pinpoint, Ga., through his swearing-in as a justice at the age of 43.

He recounts the brief period in which he lived with his mother and brother in a one-room apartment in Savannah. The building had no indoor plumbing, and one of Thomas' chores was emptying the chamber pot. He spent most of his childhood living with his grandparents and attending Catholic school.

Thomas is the second Black justice in the nation's history, having taken the seat of the first, Thurgood Marshall.

Thomas does not discuss his colleagues or his work on the court.

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## KCEP-FM 88 hosting first Blues festival

By Shirley Savage-Hampton  
Sentinel-Voice

The premiere Diamond In The Desert Blues Festival is Saturday at Hills Park at Summerlin at 9100 Hillpointe Rd.

Featured acts scheduled include recording artists Bobby Womack, Shirley Brown and Denise LaSalle among other R&B and blues notables. The event will also highlight food, arts and crafts and merchandise from more than 30 vendors, community groups and artists.

"This event is really about a celebration of culture and a chance for Las Vegas to enjoy some great blues artists," said Vanetta Pease, spokesperson for the Diamond in the Desert Blues Festival.

"As with all festivals of this kind, people will be coming to the festival from out of town, as well, so we really look to provide everyone with first-class, Las Vegas-style hospitality," she added.

Artist Shirley Brown is best known for her "Woman to Woman" track in the album of the same name. She later released a subsequent hit, "It Ain't No Fun."

Few careers in American popular music have been as consistently productive and influential as those of this singer/songwriter and guitarist Bobby Womack. Sam Cooke, for whom Womack was playing guitar, financed his first recordings in the early 60s.

Additional acts include Sir Charles Jones, who is known as "The King of Southern Soul" for his hits "Hang On" and "Better Call Jody," and longtime recording artist Marvin Sease, who recorded "Hoochie Mama" and various versions on his established "Candy Licker" theme title.

"Denise is one of our most creative songwriters — male or female. She has carried the torch for soul blues artist for a long time. To a great extent, she has become

(See Blues, Page 4)

## Sixteen years later, Hill's adamant on Thomas claim

WASHINGTON (AP) - Anita Hill, whose sexual harassment allegations against Clarence Thomas nearly derailed his Supreme Court nomination 16 years ago, says she stands by her account of his behavior, disputing Thomas' assertion in a new book that the charges were politically motivated.

"I stand by my testimony" at a 1991 Senate Judiciary hearing on the nomination, Hill wrote in an op-ed piece in *The New York Times*.

"I will not stand by silently and allow him, in his anger, to reinvent me."

In his book, "My Grandfather's Son," Thomas says Hill, his former employee at the Education

Department and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, was a mediocre employee who was used by political opponents to make claims she had been sexually harassed.

overreact and said she complained to him only about his refusal to promote her.

Hill, who is also Black, disputed Thomas' assertions. "I was truthful. What I described happened actually did happen, and what I've learned is that it's happened to many women in the workplace," Hill said in an interview Tuesday on ABC's "Good Morning America."

She said she believes the workplace environment is better now for women, but added that Thomas' approach "is really so typical of people accused of wrongdoing. They trash their accusers."

In the 1991 hearings, Thomas adamantly denied Hill's accusations that he made inappropriate sexual remarks, including references to pornographic movies. Thomas says he did talk about X-rated movies while at Yale Law School, adding that so did many other young people in the 1970s.

Hill is now a professor of social policy, law and women's studies at Brandeis University.

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— Anita Hill



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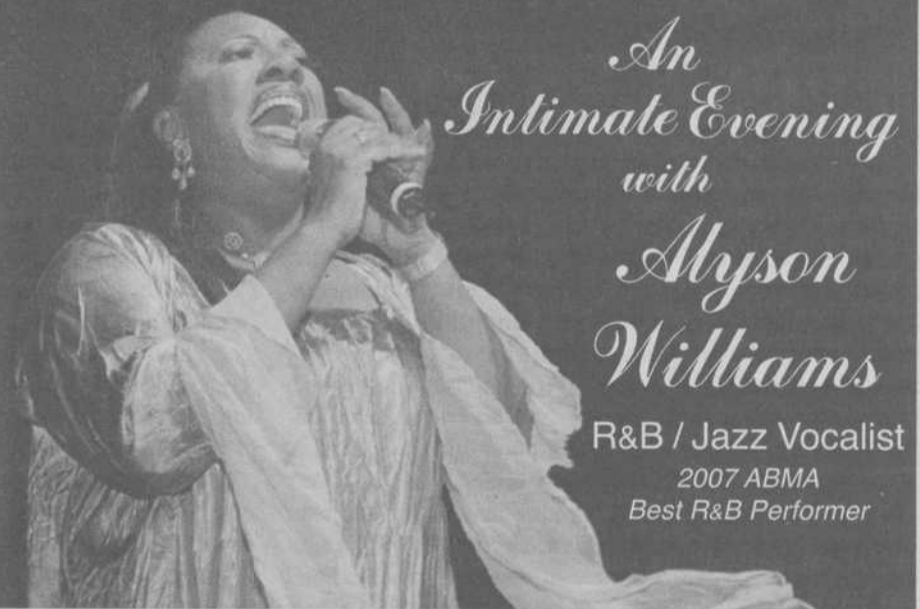
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