

# Opinion

## Respect and equality

The debate between law professor Anita Hill and Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas not only grabbed the attention of the American public, but also of Canada and the rest of the world. It pointed out that this world has a lot of work to do in terms of human relationships.

Was Anita Hill lying? Was Clarence Thomas? In the end I don't think it really mattered.

The debate heightened an "us against them" mentality that took many forms. For many, it was "women vs. men," for others, it was "black vs. white" and for still others, it meant "the average person vs the massive political machine."

But the underlying theme is the search for respect and equality. They are twinned forever together. Without respect you cannot have equality; without equality you cannot have respect.

Mr. Thomas' actions, before and during this incident, demonstrated he has only contempt for this corollary.

Long before Anita Hill was a glimmer in the media's yellow eye, Thomas refused to answer any questions on his legal philosophy. Here was a man that would be a four decade appointment to the Supreme Court, yet he had no legal opinion on abortion laws — he had not read or even cared to read *Roe vs. Wade*. This man was in fact applying for a job, and yet had done no homework before applying. He acted like someone who already had the job, but merely required the rubberstamp of personnel to find his desk.

Thomas told us that he did not listen to the testimony of Anita Hill. But as a Supreme Court judge, is that not what his job is going to be — to listen to all sides of the debate, regardless of what or whom he believes, and to formulate his opinion based on law. What kind of Supreme Court judge will he be, if he listens now to only what he believes to be the correct viewpoint?

Watching Thomas in his first speech to the committee members last Friday night, he arrogantly dismissed Anita Hill and just as arrogantly told the committee members to confirm him or not. He laid down the gauntlet to the senators — they could deny a bench seat to a black man or they could overlook the rights of another individual (Anita Hill) to express her views.

He told the senators that confirmation hearings do not belong in the bedroom. But it was not what happened in the privacy of his bedroom, that was being questioned. It was his professional dealings with a colleague. As a Supreme Court judge, he would be expected to rule on the rights of human beings to live and to work with others and to do so without fear. That encompasses the rights of people of all races, genders and religious and political beliefs to live and work together — without fear.

Sexual harrasment is a symptom of this larger picture. It is a byproduct of the lack of respect human beings have for each other.

It holds then that a judge should not only understand the corollary of respect and equality, but practise it. Even more so, a judge aiming for a bench seat on the Supreme Court — America's highest judicial body. It makes far-reaching decisions on the social fabric of life that can reach even into Canadian spheres.

If Mr. Thomas can not respect that concept, then let's hope the rest of the members of the American Supreme Court do.

—CLG



BARB STEPHENS Halton Hills Weekend

On October 10, the gym at George Kennedy School rang with the happy sounds of the enrolment of Georgetown's 1st and 2nd East Sparks troops. The five year olds spent two orientation meetings prior

to the ceremony and received their certificates of participation from Judy Dayment, this year's organizer of Georgetown East Sparks. For information about the Sparks program call 877-0987.

## Our Readers Write

### Candidate Hyde admits error

Dear Editor:

Bill Hyde acknowledges an error in my campaign literature distributed in Moore Park and Ewing Street. The situation calls for an explanation because the error was blown out of all proportion by an incensed Council on Tuesday night.

Council were infuriated that Hyde's campaign literature criticized the process of government in town. The main issue hinged around a mistake Hyde made in calculating the average 1991 General Municipal Mill Rate. The average is a blending of the Urban and Rural rates according to the household mix. Hyde missed the blending completely and, as a result, Tables 1 and 2 of his literature are incorrect for the 1991 data. This in turn, meant much of the comparative data was wrong.

Hyde had submitted his tables to Treasurer Ray King on September 26 and acknowledged his error on being so informed by the Treasurer, October 11. Hyde corrected the tables according to the main objections raised. He acknowledged his error to Council, October 15, but they would have none of it. The focal point was the 1991 Municipal Rate which Hyde quoted as 16.1 per cent instead of the correct 5.2 per cent. Hyde maintained the 5.2 per

cent begged the question since the average rate increase since 1985 has been 9.7 per cent. Hyde was accused of maligning the good Treasurer and it was resolved to send his tables to the auditor, presumably to decide on a suitable penance.

Hyde stood down as the fury raged, to avoid a hanging. Was it that bad? Here are the numbers, decide for yourself. By the way, corrected tables will be distributed in Moore Park and the Ewing Street areas.

Year	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Rate \$/Mil	59.99	62.56	67.83	73.83	81.51	89.18	94.01
Error Line							103.58

The Error Line represents the unblended number paid by 60 per cent of the Town. Calculate the average increase per year since 1985 and the increase 1991 over 1992. Don't be surprised by the results.

Hyde is committed to managing by managing the information, not to frame, emote over or deify it. This remains his quest. Thank you for the opportunity of setting the record straight.

Yours very truly,  
Bill Hyde

### Home nurses clarify their role

Dear Editor:

In response to recent publicity concerning public health nurses' negotiations with Halton Region, the Home Care Case Managers of Ontario Nurses Association Local 001 wish to inform the community of their specific role in providing high quality community health care.

The delivery of health care is shifting from a hospital to a community based focus. Home Care's mandate is to meet the ever increasing demand for high quality, cost effective health care. This is achieved through the acute and chronic Home Care Programs, the Hospital in the Home Program and the School Health Support Services Program.

Home Care Case Managers develop and coordinate a plan of care for individual patients and their families utilizing the services of community nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, nutritionists, social workers, speech therapists and homemakers. When services outside of Home Care are required the case manager is the vital link to accessing additional community resources.

Presently the case managers in the four hospitals in Halton Region organize all health and support services required by approximately 250 patients per month allowing their safe transition from hospital to home. There are 20 case managers who coordinate services for approximately 1,200 community patients in Halton Region. Three case managers coordinate services to approximately 367 students attending Halton's publicly funded

schools which ensures that students with special needs are able to participate in school programs. One case manager coordinates services for the new Hospital in the Home Program which is designed to allow more acutely ill patients to be treated at home thereby freeing up additional hospital beds. A case manager is on call both evenings and weekends to provide increased access to services and continuity of care.

Case managers are nurses who possess a Bachelor of Science in nursing or are registered nurses with a Bachelor's degree in a health related field who have community based experience.

For the past six years, nurses of ONA Local 001 have bargained for and received parity with their hospital based counterparts. In these current negotiations we are asking only for a continuation of this previously achieved parity and recognition of our role as an equal partner in the health care delivery system.

As case managers, we are concerned that the quality of care for all Home Care patients could be seriously jeopardized should negotiations with Halton Region break down. We encourage the public to contact their regional councillors and their MPP regarding their concerns over a possible interruption in the delivery of quality community health care and the serious consequences that would ensue.

Sincerely,  
Halton Home Care Case Managers

Halton Hills

# WEEKEND

The Georgetown Independent and Acton Free Press

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