

## Flip-flops

### Thomas paradoxes assure confirmation

Robert Bork was arrogant. David Souter was inscrutable. But of all the Supreme Court nominees to go before the Senate Judiciary Committee in the last few years, Clarence Thomas is perhaps the most perplexing.

His nomination is filled with paradoxes:

Thomas is black; he is also conservative. He is a fierce opponent of affirmative action but was admitted to Yale because of it. Democratic senators can't afford to vote for a Republican nominee; they also can't afford to vote against a black. Thomas was nominated to replace another black — Thurgood Marshall — on the high court by a president who says he opposes quotas.

Further confusing the issue, Thomas has emulated President Bush by making some flip-flops.

Throughout the summer, political observers speculated that Thomas would use the philosophy of natural law — which he supposedly espoused — to try to justify opposing a woman's right to an abortion.

Natural law is mentioned in the Declaration of Independence and the French Declaration of the Rights of Man. It states that human beings have certain inherent rights above those that any government can determine for them.

Sounds like an argument for abortion rights, right?

Perhaps not when applied by Thomas. On Tuesday, Judiciary Committee Chairman Joseph Biden asked Thomas why he once praised an anti-abortion article by a conservative businessman as an excellent example of natural law.

Thomas responded by backing down on his natural law stance, saying he wanted the theory used to gain support for the civil rights movement.

What issue is Thomas criticizing the most for by liberals? You guessed it. His views on civil rights.



Brian Shellito/DN

Still, questions through two days of hearings on Thomas' nomination have focused primarily on his abortion views. Or, his lack thereof.

On Wednesday, senators got their man to open up a bit. He admitted that he was "very, very pained" by the prospect of back-alley abortions. He said the Constitution contains the right to privacy. And he said he would keep an open mind about keeping abortion legal.

Was this another flip-flop? Did Thomas come to the hearings bearing a pro-choice banner?

Of course not. He adamantly refused to comment specifically on Roe vs. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court case that made abortion legal. Thomas was merely displaying his political savvy. He probably remembers senators asking Souter during his confirmation hearings to let them see into his heart.

Thomas has offered plenty of heartbreaking glimpses into the past when speaking on the issues has gotten too tough.

Pushed hard on abortion, he spoke of the time before Roe vs. Wade made it a right: "You heard the hushed whispers about illegal abortions and the individuals who performed them in a less-than-safe-environment."

When questioned on civil rights issues, Thomas has fought tears in recalling the racist environment he grew up in in Pin Point, Ga. But he wavered on affirmative action.

There is one further paradox. Despite the opposition to Thomas' nomination and senators' persistent questioning, his confirmation is virtually assured.

—E.F.P.

## Women still have unequal treatment

Hey Chuck Green ("Double Standards need burial," DN Sept. 11), let's talk about real issues. Feminine hygiene ads just don't demonstrate to me that you as a male are suffering at the hands of your sisters.

Let's get to the real issue. Women in 1991 are still making about 69 cents to every man's dollar. Sixty percent of women and children in the world live in abject poverty. Women are consistently brutalized by their male counterparts (bride burning, beatings by husbands, rape, female infanticide, etc.).

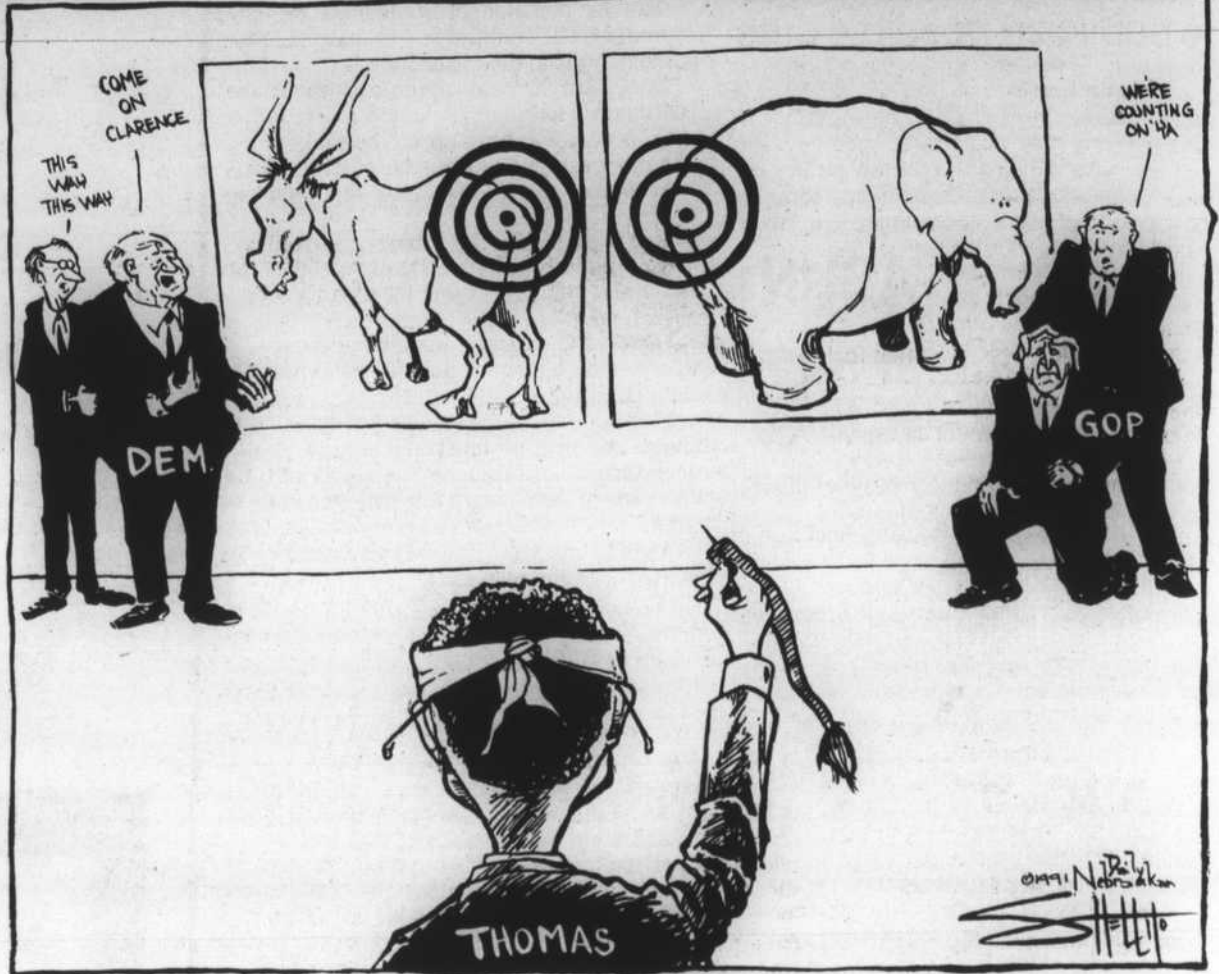
Men have complete control over their bodies and are often excused when they claim they don't, while we are struggling daily to maintain our

self-determination.

Finally, racism, sexism and homophobia are all institutionalized forms of prejudice. That means they are ingrained in our culture, created by those who have power. You guessed it — white, male heterosexuals. It's so ingrained we often fail to recognize it, just as you have demonstrated.

Your article diminishes the suffering that women and people of color face in this culture. Please think the next time you write, or better yet, go back to the sports page.

Cindy Douglas  
graduate student  
sociology



PAUL DOMEIER

## Devaney gives hope to parking

When Nebraska athletic director Bob Devaney retires to become a full-time fundraiser in January 1993, he will get to keep his salary, it has been announced.

One crucial point has been omitted:

Is he going to keep his parking space?

This could be a vital question for any hopes of improving the parking situation on campus.

Let me explain. Devaney has a space next to the front door of South Stadium, the building tucked away under the south stands of Memorial Stadium. Walking from the door of his car to the door of his office takes about 15 seconds.

For him, campus parking problems are theory. That's too bad, since Devaney, more than any other person on campus, has the ability to get things done.

Sure, President Martin Massengale, newly appointed Chancellor Graham Spanier and the vice chancellors are Devaney's superiors, but they don't have his freedom, his clout or his resources.

If Massengale or Spanier want to do something, studies are commissioned and committees meet. Students, two or three of them, protest. Some large group of administrators must vote on it. The money may or may not come from the Nebraska Legislature.

Parking is even more of a mess. As Doug Oxley explained Wednesday, parking has a hierarchy consisting of a director of parking services, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln business manager and the vice chancellor for business and finance. The Parking Advisory Committee floats out there somewhere.

Fifty thousand dollars for paving improvements is out of the question, but \$50,000 for a consultant is no problem.

Just to say "hierarchy" and "committee" implies problems. Too many cooks spoil the broth. No one really has responsibility.

And no one gets anything done. Devaney has much more freedom. He can create or kill a project. If he has a new idea, he might ask Tom Osborne, football coach and assistant



**That looks like the only way to get things done for students anymore: Build football parking that also can be used for students. Eliminate the training table and improve the residence hall food. Put up a stadium that has chemistry laboratories under the stands.**

athletic director. He might tell Massengale and Spanier. But his word is darn close to law, and he has fewer committees to worry about.

For funds, all Devaney has to say is, "This will help our football program," and the money is there.

I hope that when Devaney changes positions, he loses that parking spot. I hope he doesn't get a different reserved spot. I hope he has to get a simple staff parking sticker.

I hope he will have to sit for infinity minus three hours at his Sports Center on the first day of class with all of the students, waiting to get his permit. It would be even better if he could only purchase a commuter sticker.

If Bob Devaney had to park north of the power station and walk to South Stadium, the university would have better parking within two years.

Instead of razing buildings for more lots, we're building buildings (the Beadle Center) on lots. The distances between parking lots and buildings

are getting ridiculous. The shuttle buses and the shelters put up over the summer are the only nice aspects of a bad situation. The only close parking would have to be parking garages.

I can see the athletic department pushing for parking garages north and west of the stadium. Upward expansion certainly wouldn't ruin the view, because the only things out there is an interstate highway, overpasses and more parking lots. On Saturdays, those expanded lots would become profitable the same way they become profitable now: as reserved lots for rich boosters.

I don't care about any flow charts showing how the university is supposed to work, and how improvements are supposed to work, because they don't work.

This is a simple lesson, from recent history. Parking has gotten worse and worse, with no significant improvements. In the meantime, the athletic department has pushed for and received its indoor practice facility.

And with the indoor practice facility came the wonderful new recreation center. Students get to use the rec center and the practice field. Without the athletic department, without Devaney, we wouldn't have the nice new basketball courts, the jogging track or the meat-market weight room.

That looks like the only way to get things done for students anymore: Build football parking that also can be used for students. Eliminate the training table and improve the residence hall food. Put up a stadium that has chemistry laboratories under the stands.

This is, of course, the position of surrender. It means that the parking situation cannot be saved by anything but UNL's version of divine intervention. It means that the university bureaucracy has ground completely to a halt.

Let's hope we're not there yet. Let's hope the parking ills are cured without having to bring in Devaney.

Domeier is a senior news-editorial major, the Daily Nebraskan copy desk chief and a columnist.