

## Confirmation

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kicker here is that there is already a 5-4 conservative majority, so Clarence isn't likely to make much of a difference one way or another, anyway.

Another topic that keeps coming up is whether Thomas is a "genuine black person." The whole issue of whether or not Thomas represents blacks is the second insult towards the integrity of the Supreme Court.

There is no more a "genuine black experience" than there is a "genuine white experience" or "genuine Southeastern experience." To say that one man could represent the thoughts of an entire ethnic group is insulting to that ethnic group. It implies that members of that ethnic group are unable to formulate opinions of their own, which is simply racist.

Judge Thomas is a human being, endowed with his own brain and thought processes. Let's give him (and the entire black population) a little credit for some free thinking.

Also, to say that there must be a representative of a particular ethnic group on the Supreme Court is to ruin its integrity. Yes, it is a good idea politically to have a cross-section of American society on the Supreme Court, but by no means is anyone entitled to be a representative on the Supreme Court for their particular regional or racial group.

The Supreme Court is the living part of the Constitution, and to make it subject to political whimsy is a serious mistake. Choose people who are qualified, not who fit what-

ever profile is deemed politically correct at the moment.

Finally, we arrive at "natural law." This has become a buzzword. Everyone is talking about natural law, and few people seem to have any idea what it is.

Many people have assumed that it is some new Republican conspiracy to reverse every court decision for the past 50 years. Actually, it is neither new nor Republican. Natural rights has been around for centuries. It is the legal ideology under which our Declaration of Independence and Constitution were written.

Natural rights theory simply says that there are certain inalienable rights which we as human beings have by merit of being alive. This is something upon which our country was founded, and it is an idea that the vast majority of us accept and endorse. The whole discussion is really only academic, anyway, because judge Thomas' record in no way reflects a preoccupation with judicial activism under the guise of "natural law."

The sad part about the whole affair is really that it is doubtful that the Senators on the Judiciary Committee will see past all the petty politics to ask truly probing questions regarding Thomas' judicial temperament or to take a close look at his judicial record.

This lack of foresight could potentially lead to the loss of a quality Supreme Court justice.

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