

Clarence Thomas news hearings helped NBC to its first win of the season.

NBC was boosted by the season premiere of *L.A. Law*, which finished fourth, its highest-rated season premiere ever. But real-life law also helped.

The hearings on sexual harassment charges leveled against Supreme Court nominee Thomas gave NBC its best Friday night ratings of the 4-week-old season, as the network scrapped its low-rated lineup to cover them. NBC's coverage tied for 53rd; ABC's two-hour prime-time coverage — pre-empting

offs. On Sunday, CBS' baseball playoffs knocked top-10 perennial *60 Minutes* off the air, and CBS fell from first place last week to third.

The Thomas coverage, which also ran in daytime Friday and Saturday, cost the three networks upwards of \$18 million in lost ad revenue. It was the second major blow for the networks this year, already reeling from a soft economy and gulf war pre-emptions.

NBC, whose daytime lineup is in third place anyway, was the only broadcast

which people have become more interested," says NBC News executive vice president Don Browne. "It is at a time like this a news division has to act like a news division."

As usual, ABC was first in the news race last week, followed by NBC and CBS.

The Thomas hearings boosted viewership on the evening news, too. In Monday's overnight ratings, NBC's viewership was up 29% over last Monday, ABC up 19% and CBS up 9%.

► Thomas index, 3A

Using this chart

- Ratings information comes from the A.C. Nielsen Co.
- A ratings point represents 921,000 TV households; shares are the percentage of sets in use; number of viewers is in millions.
- (*) indicates a Nielsen ratings tie.
- (r) indicates a repeat episode.
- (s) indicates a special broadcast.

Monday, October 7, 1991

	Viewers	Rating	Share	Rank
8:00 Evening Shade (CBS)	24.6	17.4	28	10
Fresh Prince of Bel-Air (NBC)	20.6	13.6	22	*29
MacGyver (ABC)	13.4	9.0	15	*65
8:30 Major Dad (CBS)	26.5	18.4	28	7
Blossom (NBC)	18.5	12.5	19	*39
9:00 Murphy Brown (CBS)	28.3	20.1	30	2
Monday Night Football (ABC)	23.9	17.7	30	9
I'll Fly Away (NBC)	21.0	15.4	24	*17
9:30 Designing Women (CBS)	25.6	18.7	28	5
10:00 Northern Exposure (CBS)	22.2	16.4	27	13

Tuesday, October 8, 1991

	Viewers	Rating	Share	Rank
8:00 Full House (ABC)	25.4	17.0	27	11
I'll Fly Away (NBC)	18.5	13.4	21	*31
Rescue 911 (CBS)	17.4	11.6	19	*44
8:30 Home Improvement (ABC)	27.7	18.0	28	8
AL Playoff Game 1 (CBS)	15.9	11.6	20	*44
9:00 Roseanne (ABC)	32.0	21.4	32	1
In the Heat of the Night (NBC)	20.8	14.8	22	23
9:30 Coach (ABC)	27.1	18.6	29	6
10:00 Law and Order (NBC)	20.8	15.0	26	21
Homefront (ABC)	17.9	12.7	22	*37

Wednesday, October 9, 1991

	Viewers	Rating	Share	Rank
8:00 Unsolved Mysteries (NBC)	22.7	16.0	26	14
Dinosaurs (ABC)	20.7	12.4	21	41
Royal Family (CBS)	12.9	9.6	16	60
8:30 Wonder Years (ABC)	23.4	15.2	24	20
NL Playoff Game 1 (CBS)	18.9	14.0	24	28
9:00 Doogie Howser, M.D. (ABC)	22.8	15.4	24	*17
Night Court (NBC)	18.6	12.9	20	*35
9:30 Seinfeld (NBC)	17.2	12.3	20	42
Sibs (ABC)	15.2	10.6	17	*49
10:00 Quantum Leap (NBC)	15.4	10.9	19	48
Anything but Love (ABC)	14.1	10.5	18	51
10:30 Good & Evil (ABC)	10.8	8.3	15	*71

Thursday, October 10, 1991

	Viewers	Rating	Share	Rank
8:00 The Cosby Show (NBC)	21.8	15.4	25	*17
The Simpsons (Fox)	20.8	13.4	22	*31
Top Cops (CBS)	14.6	10.1	17	*53
Pros and Cons (ABC)	12.4	9.2	15	*61
8:30 A Different World (NBC)	23.8	16.5	26	12
NL Playoff Game 2 (CBS)	19.6	14.5	24	*25
Drexell's Class (Fox)	14.2	9.2	15	*61
9:00 Cheers (NBC)	27.8	19.5	29	3
Beverly Hills, 90210 (Fox)	15.9	10.4	16	52
FBI: The Untold Story (ABC)	12.8	9.2	14	*61
9:30 Wings (NBC)	22.5	15.9	24	15
American Detectives (ABC)	13.4	9.7	15	*58
10:00 L.A. Law (NBC)	26.0	18.9	32	4
PrimeTime Live (ABC)	13.6	10.0	17	56

Top 10

- 1 Roseanne (ABC)
- 2 Murphy Brown (CBS)
- 3 Cheers (NBC)
- 4 L.A. Law (NBC)
- 5 Designing Women (CBS)
- 6 Coach (ABC)
- 7 Major Dad (CBS)
- 8 Home Improvement (ABC)
- 9 Monday Football (ABC)
- 10 Evening Shade (CBS)

Network ratings

For the week:
 NBC: 13.2
 ABC: 12.5
 CBS: 12.3
 Fox: 7.6

Season to date:
 CBS: 13.4
 NBC: 12.5
 ABC: 11.9
 Fox: 7.9

Bottom 5

- 62 Baseball Playoffs preview (CBS)
- Princesses (CBS)
- 84 Totally Hidden Video (Fox)
- 85 Ultimate Challenge (Fox)
- 86 Sunday Comics (Fox)
- 87 Parker Lewis Can't Lose! (Fox)

Evening news

For the week:
 ABC: 10.7
 NBC: 8.4
 CBS: 7.7

Last week:
 ABC: 9.5
 CBS: 8.1
 NBC: 8.0

Friday, October 11, 1991

	Viewers	Rating	Share	Rank
8:00 Family Matters (ABC)	21.0	13.6	25	*29
Thomas Hearings (NBC)	13.8	10.1	18	*53
America's Most Wanted (Fox)	10.2	7.0	13	78
Princesses (CBS)	7.0	5.6	11	*82
8:30 Step by Step (ABC)	21.6	14.2	25	27
AL Playoff Game 3 (CBS)	13.8	10.1	19	*53
9:00 Thomas Hearings (ABC)	17.5	12.5	22	*39
Ultimate Challenge (Fox)	7.4	4.7	8	85

Saturday, October 12, 1991

	Viewers	Rating	Share	Rank
8:00 The Golden Girls (NBC)	19.2	13.2	25	33
Who's the Boss (ABC)	11.8	8.0	15	73
Cops (Fox)	10.8	7.1	13	77
AL Playoff Pregame 4 (CBS)	8.0	5.6	11	*82
8:24 AL Playoff Game 4 (CBS)	12.6	9.0	17	*65
8:30 The Torkelsons (NBC)	15.1	9.9	18	57
Growing Pains (ABC)	13.0	8.6	16	68
Cops 2 (Fox) (r)	12.2	7.9	14	74
9:00 Empty Nest (NBC)	21.7	14.6	26	24
Young Riders (ABC)	11.2	7.5	14	76
Totally Hidden Video (Fox)	7.5	5.1	9	84
9:30 Nurses (NBC)	19.4	13.1	24	34
Parker Lewis (Fox) (r)	5.5	3.6	7	87
10:00 Sisters (NBC)	14.9	10.6	21	*49
Commish (ABC)	13.7	9.2	18	*61

Sunday, October 13, 1991

	Viewers	Rating	Share	Rank
7:00 AL Playoff Game 5 (CBS)	16.3	11.6	20	*44
Life Goes On (ABC)	14.4	9.7	16	*58
NFL Football (NBC)	12.6	8.8	16	67
True Colors (Fox) (r)	8.4	5.7	10	81
7:30 Parker Lewis (Fox)	9.4	6.2	10	80
8:00 Home Videos (ABC)	25.3	14.9	23	22
In Living Color (Fox)	18.1	11.0	17	47
NL Playoff Pregame 4 (CBS)	11.1	8.3	13	*71
Man of the People (NBC)	9.3	6.5	10	79
8:30 Funniest People (ABC)	24.4	14.5	22	*25
NL Playoff Game 4 (CBS)	17.4	12.7	21	*37
Roc (Fox)	13.9	8.5	13	*69
Pacific Station (NBC)	11.0	7.8	12	75
9:00 Woman Named Jackie, Pt. 1 (NBC)	21.4	15.5	23	16
Captive (ABC)	19.5	12.9	20	*35
Married With Children (Fox)	19.7	12.1	17	43
9:30 Herman's Head (Fox)	13.1	8.5	13	*69
10:00 Sunday Comics (Fox)	6.6	4.5	7	86