

FOR RELEASE: THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1994, A.M.

## **PUBLIC TUNES OUT RECENT NEWS**

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## PUBLIC TUNES OUT RECENT NEWS

The American public has not absorbed the basic facts of many major news stories of recent months. While most Americans know that Nelson Mandela was elected in South Africa, and that Richard Nixon was the President forced to resign over Watergate, a new nationwide survey by the Times Mirror Center found the public largely uninformed about major national and international news stories.

Only one-third of Americans knew that a presidential candidate in Mexico was recently assassinated (33%) and that the slaughter in Rwanda was in the hundreds of thousands (29%). Most striking, only one in five Americans (20%) knew that North Korea is threatening to withdraw from the nuclear non-proliferation agreement, a move that has again raised the specter of war on the Korean peninsula. Less than half of Americans knew that President Clinton has refused to rule out use of force against Haiti (45%) and that NATO's objective in Bosnia is to halt Serbian attacks on Muslims (39%). Even fewer (22%) knew that NATO air strikes against Serbs have actually occurred.

The exception to this broad lack of public knowledge was the election in South Africa. More than two-thirds of the public (68%) knew that Nelson Mandela and his African National Congress won the first multi-racial election there.

### *Who Was Vince Foster?*

Knowledge about domestic news stories was also spotty. Although most Americans (78%) knew that financing is the principal issue of the health care reform debate, only 39% knew that the stock market had been in decline in recent months. Merely 22% correctly identified Vince Foster, the Clinton aide who committed suicide last year unleashing a barrage of media attention that only recently has begun to subside.

The lack of *knowledge* about recent events was paralleled by a lack of *attention* to most current stories. At least one or two stories in a typical month will be followed "very closely" by between 40% and 60% of the public. None rose to that level in the current survey.

Although most Americans knew about the election that ended apartheid in South Africa, only 22% of the public said they followed the South African elections "very closely," and they were primarily African Americans (51%, vs. 18% of whites). The continued unrest in Haiti was followed "very closely" by merely 14% of the public, again mainly African Americans (30%, vs. 12% whites). Tribal massacres in Rwanda were followed "very closely" by only 12% of the public; in this case, no difference between black and white attentiveness was found.

### *No Story Tops 40%*

Domestic stories drew greater audiences although none broke the 40% level. These included reports about the U.S. economic conditions (33%), the death and funeral of former president Richard M. Nixon (36%), the Congressional ban on assault weapons (36%), the caning of the young American vandal in Singapore (32%), and the Administration's health care reform proposal (37%).

Men followed the gun ban story much more than women (43% vs. 30%). Americans over 65 years of age followed the Nixon funeral more closely than younger Americans. The suicide of rock star Kurt Cobain, despite extensive coverage, was followed "very closely" by merely 7% of the public; even among those under 30 years of age, only 16% were very attentive. Some 39% of Americans correctly knew that the stock market has been falling; college graduates were

about three times more likely to know this than were those with less than a high school education (60% vs. 22%).

*Clinton Still Dogged By Doubts*

President Clinton's personal and financial troubles are attracting increased public interest. In the current survey, 22% said they were paying very close attention to news about Whitewater, compared to 11% in Times Mirror's March survey.<sup>1</sup> But Clinton's approval rating (at 46%) has not declined significantly as a result, and the public believes him far more than Paula Jones regarding her charges of sexual harassment (54% to 23%).

The survey also found a fall-off in the percentage of the public thinking that the press is fair to Bill Clinton. Only 52% expressed that view, which is 15 to 30 percentage points below the ratings given to the press for its coverage of Ronald Reagan and George Bush during their terms. Respondents who complained the press was unfair to Clinton cited most often coverage of Whitewater, the Paula Jones' accusations, and other character stories.

Regular talk-radio listeners, who are more conservative and more Republican than average, were more than twice as likely to follow Whitewater "very closely" (41% vs. 18%) and the Paula Jones sexual harassment charges "very closely" (28% vs. 13%) than those who were not regular listeners. They were more knowledgeable in general on the issues about which they were asked, particularly the identity of Vince Foster (49% vs. 18% of non-listeners).

*Only 10% Of Women Believe Anita Hill AND Paula Jones*

In conjunction with the Paula Jones issue, the Times Mirror survey asked whether, in retrospect, Anita Hill or Clarence Thomas was most believable. In the celebrated 1991 confirmation hearings, the law school professor accused the Supreme Court nominee of sexual harassment a decade previously.

The public is still divided on Anita Hill. Looking back, 39% said they believed Hill more than Thomas and a statistically equal 41% said they believed Thomas more than Hill. More women believe Hill's story than do men (44% vs. 34%). No comparable gender difference exists toward Paula Jones; overall, men and women believe or disbelieve her in essentially the same proportion. One-in-three (34%) women believe Anita Hill but not Paula Jones; 12% believe Jones but not Hill; and 10% believe both of them. Men were slightly more supportive of Jones' story and less supportive of Hill's.

But partisanship, not gender, was the more important indicator of who one believes in both cases.

<i>Percent Who Believe:</i>	<i>PARTY ID:</i>			<i>GENDER:</i>	
	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
Bill Clinton	36	75	52	56	53
Paula Jones	41	12	22	25	22
Neither/Same	8	3	7	7	6
Don't Know	<u>15</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>19</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
Clarence Thomas	53	40	35	44	39
Anita Hill	33	46	39	34	44
Neither/Same	4	5	9	8	5
Don't Know	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100	100	100	100

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<sup>1</sup>This may be due in part to somewhat different question wording as the story changed.

*PAULA JONES VS. ANITA HILL*

<i>Percent Who Believe:</i>	<i>PARTY ID:</i>			<i>GENDER:</i>	
	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
Paula Jones <i>and</i> Anita Hill	12	7	11	8	10
Paula Jones but <i>not Hill</i>	29	4	11	16	12
Anita Hill but <i>not Jones</i>	21	39	28	25	34

# PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"

	<i>Clinton Admin.'s Healthcare Reform Proposal</i>	<i>Congress- ional Ban on Assault Weapons</i>	<i>Death And Funeral Of Richard Nixon</i>	<i>Condition Of the U.S. Economy</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>Total</i>	37	36	36	33	(1206)
<i>Sex</i>					
Male	36	43	31	35	(602)
Female	36	30	40	31	(604)
<i>Race</i>					
White	37	36	37	33	(1011)
Black	39	39	26	35	(112)
*Hispanic	29	38	41	30	(64)
<i>Age</i>					
Under 30	26	33	28	25	(242)
30-49	38	33	31	34	(527)
50+	40	41	46	38	(412)
<i>Education</i>					
College Grad.	46	31	35	38	(364)
Other College	35	37	33	37	(264)
High School Grad	35	38	35	33	(416)
< H. S. Grad.	30	37	40	25	(151)
<i>Region</i>					
East	36	36	38	36	(241)
Midwest	38	32	31	33	(290)
South	37	38	38	32	(421)
West	34	37	34	33	(254)
<i>Party ID</i>					
Republican	40	39	46	39	(356)
Democrat	36	37	32	30	(391)
Independent	35	35	32	35	(383)

*Question: Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely.*

\*The designation, hispanic, is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

**CONTINUED...**

# PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"

	<i>Young American Who was Caned in Singapore</i>	<i>Election In South Africa</i>	<i>Whitewater Case/Other Clinton Financial Issues</i>	<i>Civil War in Bosnia</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>Total</i>	32	22	22	18	(1206)
<i>Sex</i>					
Male	31	20	26	21	(602)
Female	33	23	18	16	(604)
<i>Race</i>					
White	32	18	23	19	(1011)
Black	35	51	14	14	(112)
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**CONTINUED...**

## PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"

	<i>Sexual Harassment Charges Against Clinton</i>	<i>Unrest And Violence In Haiti</i>	<i>Massacre In Rwanda</i>	<i>Suicide Of Kurt Cobain</i>	<i>N</i>
<hr/>					
<i>Total</i>	15	14	12	7	(1206)
<i>Sex</i>					
Male	15	13	14	7	(602)
Female	16	15	10	7	(604)
<i>Race</i>					
White	15	12	12	7	(1011)
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# **SURVEY METHODOLOGY**

## ABOUT THIS SURVEY

The survey results are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,206 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period May 12-15, 1994. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

## SURVEY METHODOLOGY IN DETAIL

The sample for this survey is a random digit sample of telephone numbers selected from telephone exchanges in the continental United States. The random digit aspect of the sample is used to avoid "listing" bias and provides representation of both listed and unlisted numbers (including not-yet-listed). The design of the sample ensures this representation by random generation of the last two digits of telephone numbers selected on the basis of their area code, telephone exchange, and bank number.

The telephone exchanges were selected with probabilities proportional to their size. The first eight digits of the sampled telephone numbers (area code, telephone exchange, bank number) were selected to be proportionally stratified by county and by telephone exchange within county. That is, the number of telephone numbers randomly sampled from within a given county is proportional to that county's share of telephone households in the U.S. Estimates of the number of telephone households within each county are derived from 1990 Census data on residential telephone incidence that have been updated with state-level information on new telephone installations and county-level projections of the number of households. Only working banks of telephone numbers are selected. A working bank is defined as 100 contiguous telephone numbers containing three or more residential listings.

The sample was released for interviewing in replicates. Using replicates to control the release of sample to the field ensures that the complete call procedures are followed for the entire sample.

At least three attempts were made to complete an interview at every sampled telephone number. The calls were staggered over times of day and days of the week to maximize the chances of making a contact with a potential respondent. All interview breakoffs and refusals were re-contacted at least once in order to attempt to convert them to completed interviews. In each contacted household, interviewers asked to speak with the "youngest male 18 or older who is at home". If there is no eligible man at home, interviewers asked to speak with "the oldest woman 18 or older who lives in the household". This systematic respondent selection technique has been shown empirically to produce samples that closely mirror the population in terms of age and gender.

Non-response in telephone interview surveys produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population, and these subgroups are likely to vary also on questions of substantive interest. In order to compensate for these known biases, the sample data are weighted in analysis.

The demographic weighting parameters are derived from a special analysis of the most recently available Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (March 1992). This analysis produced population parameters for the demographic characteristics of households with adults 18 or older, which are then compared with the sample characteristics to construct sample weights. The analysis only included households in the continental United States that contain a telephone.

The weights are derived using an iterative technique that simultaneously balances the distributions of all weighting parameters. After an optimum sample balancing solution is reached, the weights were constrained to fall within the range of 1 to 5. This constraint is useful to ensure that individual respondents do not exert an inordinate effect on the survey's overall results.

# **THE QUESTIONNAIRE**

**TIMES MIRROR CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS**  
**NEWS INTEREST INDEX**  
**May 12-15, 1994**  
**N=1,206**

INTRODUCTION: Hello, I am \_\_\_\_\_ calling from the Princeton Survey Research Associates from Princeton, New Jersey. We are conducting a telephone opinion survey for leading newspapers and tv stations around the country. I'd like to ask a few questions of the youngest male, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home (**IF NO MALE, ASK:** May I please speak with the oldest female, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home?)

**MY FIRST QUESTION IS ...**

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling his job as President?

		March 1994	Jan 1994	Early Jan 1994	Dec 1993	Oct 1993	Early Sept 1993	Sept 1993	Aug 1993	June 1993	May 1993	April 1993	Feb 1993
46	Approve	45	51	48	48	44	49	43	39	39	45	49	56
42	Disapprove	42	35	35	36	42	35	43	46	43	37	29	25
<u>12</u> 100	DK/Refused	<u>13</u> 100	<u>14</u> 100	<u>17</u> 100	<u>16</u> 100	<u>14</u> 100	<u>16</u> 100	<u>14</u> 100	<u>15</u> 100	<u>18</u> 100	<u>18</u> 100	<u>22</u> 100	<u>19</u> 100

Q.1a In the long run, do you think Bill Clinton will be a successful or unsuccessful President, or do you think it is too early to tell?

		Jan 1994	Oct 1993	Sept 1993	Aug 1993
21	Successful	21	18	22	13
26	Unsuccessful	19	25	22	25
52	Too early to tell	57	56	54	60
<u>1</u> 100	Can't say/Refused	<u>3</u> 100	<u>1</u> 100	<u>2</u> 100	<u>2</u> 100

Q.1b In your opinion, are the news organizations you are familiar with being fair or unfair to the Clinton administration?

		Clinton		Bush		Reagan		June <u>1985</u>
		Aug <u>1993</u>	June <u>1993</u>	Jan <u>1992</u>	Aug <u>1989</u>	Jan <u>1988</u>	Dec <u>1986</u>	
52	Fair	66	51	77	82	66	67	78
36	Unfair	21	43	15	12	21	25	12
<u>12</u> 100	Don't know/Refused	<u>13</u> 100	<u>6</u> 100	<u>8</u> 100	<u>6</u> 100	<u>13</u> 100	<u>8</u> 100	<u>10</u>

**IF UNFAIR, ASK:**

Q.1c In what ways is the press unfair?

**BASED: Respondents who said press is unfair to Clinton Administration**

- 41 **NET: Clinton character and morality issue**
- 19 Clinton's personal/Private affairs in general
- 13 Paula Jones/Sexual harassment case
- 9 Whitewater affair/Land deal
- 7 Sensationalism
- 16 Concentrate too much on the negative versus the positive
- 13 Very biased/One-sided/Don't tell both sides
- 12 Blow events out of proportion
- 11 Focus on minor events and not important issues
- 15 All other mentions
- 6 Nothing/Not sure/Don't know/Refused

Q.2 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. **(READ AND ROTATE LIST)** How closely did you follow news stories about ... **(READ SCALE IF NECESSARY)?**

		<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK</u>
a.	The civil war in Bosnia	18	37	26	18	1=100
	January, 1994	12	31	32	25	*=100
	Early January, 1994	15	38	30	17	*=100
	December, 1993	15	32	31	21	1=100
	October, 1993	16	36	30	17	1=100
	September, 1993	15	32	32	20	1=100
	Early September, 1993	17	38	26	19	*=100
	August, 1993	19	37	25	18	1=100
	May, 1993	23	34	28	13	2=100
	February, 1993	15	32	33	20	*=100
	January, 1993	15	33	30	22	*=100
	September, 1992	10	27	31	31	1=100
b.	Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	33	40	16	10	1=100
	January, 1994	34	39	16	10	1=100
	Early January, 1994	36	44	13	7	*=100
	December, 1993	35	41	15	8	1=100
	October, 1993	33	38	20	9	*=100
	September, 1993	37	40	14	8	1=100
	Early September, 1993	39	39	14	9	*=100
	August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*=100
	May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1=100
	February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*=100
	January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*=100
	September, 1992	43	37	13	6	*=100
	May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1=100
	March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*=100
	February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*=100
	January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*=100
	October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1=100
c.	The election in South Africa	22	36	24	18	*=100
d.	The young American who was caned in Singapore for vandalism	32	38	17	12	1=100
e.	Accusations by an Arkansas state worker, Paula Jones, that Bill Clinton sexually harassed her	15	29	27	27	2=100

Q.2 con't ...

		<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK</u>
f.	The Clinton Administration's health care reform proposals	37	37	16	9	1=100
	January, 1994	38	38	15	9	*=100
	Early January, 1994	40	40	14	6	*=100
	December, 1993	45	35	12	7	1=100
	October, 1993	44	32	17	6	1=100
	September, 1993	49	34	11	6	*=100
	August, 1993 <sup>2</sup>	27	32	25	15	1=100
	June, 1993	28	38	19	15	*=100
	May, 1993	30	30	25	14	1=100
g.	The death and funeral of Richard M. Nixon	36	37	17	10	*=100
h.	The Whitewater case and other issues about the personal finances of the Clinton's	22	36	23	18	*=100
	March, 1994 <sup>3</sup>	11	38	28	21	2=100
	January, 1994 <sup>4</sup>	14	25	28	32	1=100
	Early January, 1994	13	29	31	26	1=100
i.	The suicide of rock star Kurt Cobain	7	14	25	52	2=100
j.	The tribal massacre in Rwanda	12	22	28	36	2=100
k.	Continued unrest and violence in Haiti	14	30	34	21	1=100
l.	The Congressional ban on assault weapons	36	35	17	11	1=100

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<sup>2</sup> In previous months story was listed as "Reports about the White House task force on health care reform headed by Hillary Clinton."

<sup>3</sup> In previous month story was listed "News stories about the Whitewater case and White House handling of it".

<sup>4</sup> In previous months story was listed "Questions about Bill and Hillary Clinton's failed real estate investments in Arkansas".

Q.3 Which one of the stories I just mentioned, have you followed most closely? **(DO NOT READ LIST. ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.)**

		Story Followed <u>Most Closely</u>
a.	The civil war in Bosnia	7
b.	Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	7
c.	The election in South Africa	8
d.	The young American who was caned in Singapore for vandalism	12
e.	Accusations by an Arkansas state worker, Paula Jones, that Bill Clinton sexually harassed her	4
f.	The Clinton Administration's health care reform proposals	18
g.	The death and funeral of Richard M. Nixon	12
h.	The Whitewater case and other issues about the personal finances of the Clinton's	8
i.	The suicide of rock star Kurt Cobain	2
j.	The tribal massacre in Rwanda	1
k.	Continued unrest and violence in Haiti	2
l.	The Congressional ban on assault weapons	8
	Can't Say <b>(VOL)</b>	<u>11</u> 100

**NO Q.4**

**IF RESPONDENT SAID '13' CAN'T SAY in Q.3 SKIP TO Q.6**

**Q.5** In general, how would you rate the job the press has done in covering (STORY FOLLOWED MOST CLOSELY IN Q.3); excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

		<u>Civil War in Bosnia</u>	<u>Health Care Reform</u>	<u>Death and Funeral of Richard Nixon</u>	<u>Whitewater</u>	<u>Congressional Ban on Assault Weapons</u>
17	Excellent	21	4	46	16	7
43	Good	41	52	39	27	37
27	Only Fair	26	33	12	33	22
12	Poor	11	9	3	21	34
$\frac{1}{100}$	Don't know/Refused	$\frac{1}{100}$	$\frac{2}{100}$	$\frac{-}{100}$	$\frac{3}{100}$	$\frac{-}{100}$

**ON ANOTHER SUBJECT ...**

**Q.9f1/10f2** As you may recall, in 1991 professor Anita Hill accused Clarence Thomas of sexual harassment before the Senate Committee considering his confirmation as a Supreme Court justice. Looking back on the charges that Anita Hill made and Clarence Thomas' responses, who do you believe more, -- Clarence Thomas or Anita Hill?

<u>All Resp.</u>		<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
41	Clarence Thomas	44	39
39	Anita Hill	34	44
6	Neither/Same	8	5
$\frac{14}{100}$	Don't know/Refused	$\frac{14}{100}$	$\frac{12}{100}$
(N=1206)		(N=602)	(N=604)

Q.9f2/10f1 As you may have heard or read Paula Jones, an Arkansas state worker, claims Bill Clinton sexually harassed her when he was governor of Arkansas. He denies the charges. From what you may have heard or read who do you believe more, -- Bill Clinton or Paula Jones?

<u>All Resp.</u>		<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
54	Bill Clinton	56	53
23	Paula Jones	25	22
7	Neither/Same	7	6
$\frac{16}{100}$	Don't know/Refused	$\frac{12}{100}$	$\frac{19}{100}$
(N=1206)		(N=602)	(N=604)

**NOW I WANT TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN IN THE NEWS .. YOU MAY NOT HAVE HEARD OF OR KNOW ABOUT SOME OF THESE THINGS ...**

Q.11 Over the past few months has the stock market been going up, going down, or not changing too much either way?

- 11 Going up
- 39 Going down
- 21 Staying the same
- $\frac{29}{100}$  Don't know

Q.12 Which of the following has been NATO'S objective in the civil war in Bosnia?

- 11 To halt Muslim attacks on the Serbian positions
- or
- 39 To halt Serbian attacks on Muslim positions
- $\frac{50}{100}$  Don't know\Not sure

**IF ANSWER "2"**

Q.12b To the best of your knowledge have there been NATO air strikes against Serbian positions, or has NATO only threatened air strikes?

22 Air strikes occurred

15 Just threats

$\frac{2}{39}$  Don't know/Not sure

Q.13 Do you happen to know who won the election in S. Africa?  
If Yes, who?

68 Nelson Mandela, ANC, or any reasonably close answer

2 Other answers

$\frac{30}{100}$  Don't know

Q.14 Do you happen to know the name of the country that is threatening to withdraw from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty?

Early  
Jan  
1994

20 North Korea 22

4 Other/Incorrect answer 6

$\frac{76}{100}$  Don't know/Refused  $\frac{72}{100}$

Q.15. Do you happen to know who Vince Foster was?  
Q.15b If yes, Who was Vince Foster?

22 Correct (Presidential aide, Clinton aide who committed suicide or White House staff member)

69 Incorrect

$\frac{9}{100}$  Don't know/Refused

- Q.16 Can you tell me which president had to resign because of the so-called Watergate scandal?
- 91 Richard Nixon
  - 1 Other
  - $\frac{8}{100}$  Don't know
- Q.17 About which Caribbean nation has President Clinton recently said he would not rule out sending (American) troops?
- 45 Haiti
  - 4 Other
  - $\frac{51}{100}$  Don't know/Refused
- Q.18 Do you happened to know in which Latin American country a major political leader was recently assassinated while campaigning to become president of that country?
- 33 Mexico
  - 6 Other
  - $\frac{61}{100}$  Don't know/Refused
- Q.19 About how many people have reputedly been killed in the recent tribal warfare in Rwanda? Would you say the number is
- 15 About 5,000 people
  - 23 About 50,000 people
  - 29 About 250,000 people
  - 8 About one million people
  - $\frac{25}{100}$  Don't know/Refused

Q.20 Which seems to be the bigger problem in the debate over health care reform right now: Is it more a question of what specific features and services will be covered by the plan? Or more a question of who will pay for the coverage?

14 What will be covered by the plan

78 Who will pay for the coverage

$\frac{8}{100}$  Don't know/Refused

**ASK ALL**

Q. 21 How often, if ever, do you listen to radio shows that invite listeners to call in to discuss current events, public issues and politics: regularly, sometimes, rarely or never?

15 Regularly

24 Sometimes

26 Rarely

35 Never

$\frac{*}{100}$  Don't know

Q.22 Have you ever called, or sent or faxed a letter to your Congressional representative or Senator to express your opinion on an issue?

36 Yes

64 No

$\frac{*}{100}$  Don't know/Refused

Q.23 Have you ever called or sent or faxed a letter to your Congressional representative or Senator to express your opinion on an issue just in the past 12 months?

57 Yes

42 No

$\frac{1}{100}$  Don't know/Refused

# TIMES MIRROR DATABASE

## PUBLIC ATTENTIVENESS TO MAJOR NEWS STORIES (1986 - 1994)

### PERCENT FOLLOWED VERY CLOSELY

- 80 Explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger (July 86)
- 73 Destruction caused by the San Francisco earthquake (Nov 89)
- 70 Verdict in Rodney King case and following riots and disturbances (May 92)
- 69 Little girl in Texas who was rescued after falling into a well (Oct 87)
- 67 War's end and the homecoming of U.S. forces from the Gulf (March 91)
- 66 Hurricane Andrew (Sept 92)
- 66 Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the deployment of U.S. forces to Saudi Arabia (Aug 90)
- 65 The Floods in the Midwest (Aug 93)
- 63 Earthquake in Southern California (Jan 94)
- 63 Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and the deployment of U.S. forces to the Persian Gulf (Oct 90)
- 63 Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and the deployment of U.S. forces to the Persian Gulf (Sept 90)
- 62 Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and the presence of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf (Nov 90)
- 62 Recent increases in the price of gasoline (Oct 90)
- 60 Invasion of Panama (Jan 90)
- 60 Destruction caused by Hurricane Hugo (Oct 89)
- 59 Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and the presence of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf (Jan 91)
- 58 U.S. air strikes against Libya (July 86)
- 57 The plight of the American hostages and other Westerners detained in Iraq (Sept 90)
- 57 Recent increase in the price of gasoline (Aug 90)
- 56 Recent increases in the price of gasoline (Sept 90)
- 53 Crash of a United Airlines DC-10 in Sioux City, Iowa (Aug 89)
- 52 Deployment of U.S. Forces to Somalia (Jan 93)
- 52 Alaska Oil Spill (May 89)
- 51 News about cold weather in Northeast and Midwest (Jan 94)
- 51 The release of American hostages and other westerners from Iraq and Kuwait (Jan 91)
- 51 Supreme Court decision of flag burning (July 89)
- 50 Waco, Texas Incident (May 93)
- 50 Opening of the Berlin Wall between East and West Germany (Nov 89)
- 50 Flight of the space shuttle (Oct 88)
- 49 Clinton Admin.'s health care reform proposal (Sept 93)
- 49 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Mar 93)
- 49 The plight of American hostages and other Westerners detained in Iraq and Kuwait (Nov 90)
- 49 Murder of Marine Lt. Col. Higgins in Lebanon, and negotiations to free the other hostages  
in the Mideast (Aug 89)
- 49 Drought and its effects on American farmers (Aug 88)
- 49 Bill Clinton's economic plan (Mar 93)
- 48 TWA hostage crisis that took place last summer in Beirut, Lebanon (July 86)
- 47 Rodney King trial and verdict in Los Angeles (May 93)
- 47 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Apr 92)
- 47 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Feb 92)

PERCENT FOLLOWED  
VERY CLOSELY

- 47 Breakup of the Soviet Union following the failed coup to depose of Mikhail Gorbachev (Oct 91)
- 47 The plight of American hostages and other Westerners detained in Iraq and Kuwait (Oct 90)
- 47 Political upheaval in China (July 89)
- 47 Supreme Court decision on abortion (July 89)
- 46 Videotaped beating by Los Angeles police of a suspect they apprehended in an auto chase (March 91)
- 46 Nuclear accident at Chernobyl in the Soviet Union (July 86)
- 46 Freeing of two Americans who had been held hostage in the Mideast (May 90)
- 45 Attack on figure skater Nancy Kerrigan (Jan 94)
- 45 The Clinton administration's health care reform proposals (Dec 93)
- 45 Bill Clinton's attempts to lift the ban on gays in the military (Mar 93)
- 44 The fires in southern California (Dec 93)
- 44 Clinton Administration's health care reform proposals (Oct 93)
- 44 Bill Clinton's decision to ease ban on homosexuals in the military (Aug 93)
- 44 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Jan 92)
- 44 The release of the last American hostages being held in Lebanon (Dec 91)
- 43 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Sept 92)
- 43 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Dec 91)
- 43 News about the presidential campaign in 1988 (Oct 88)
- 42 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Jan 93)
- 42 The presidential election campaign (Sept 92)
- 42 Hot weather this summer and the greenhouse effect (Aug 88)
- 42 Downing of an Iranian passenger plane by a U.S. Navy ship (Aug 88)
- 41 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Aug 93)
- 41 News regarding harassment charges raised against supreme court nominee Clarence Thomas (Oct 91)
- 40 Amtrack train wreck (Sept 93)
- 40 Bush administration's plan to deal with this country's drug problem (Sept 89)
- 40 The stock market crash (Oct 87)
  
- 39 Passage of NAFTA (Dec 93)
- 39 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (May 92)
- 39 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Nov 90)
- 39 News about the presidential campaign in 1988 (Aug 88)
- 38 Clinton administration's health care reform proposals (Jan 94)
- 38 President Bush's heart problem (May 91)
- 38 News about the candidates and elections in your state (Nov 90)
- 38 Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to the U.S. for a Summit meeting (June 90)
- 38 Drug use and efforts to combat it (Jan 90)
- 38 U.S. Navy escort of Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Persian Gulf (Sept 87)
- 37 *CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S HEALTH CARE REFORM PROPOSALS (MAY 94)*
- 37 Passage of Brady gun bill (Dec 93)
- 37 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Sept 93)
- 37 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (May 93)
- 37 U.S. Navy escort of Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Persian Gulf (Oct 87)
- 37 Stories about Dan Quayle, the Republican Vice-Presidential candidate (Aug 88)

PERCENT FOLLOWED  
VERY CLOSELY

- 37 Sentencing of Oliver North (July 89)
- 36 *CONGRESSIONAL BAN ON ASSAULT WEAPONS (MAY 94)*
- 36 *DEATH AND FUNERAL OF RICHARD M. NIXON (MAY 94)*
- 36 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Dec 93)
- 36 Tourists murders in Florida (Sept 93)
- 36 Congressional check bouncing scandal (Apr 92)
- 36 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Oct 91)
- 36 The situation of the Kurds in northern Iraq and allied attempts to help them (May 91)
- 36 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (March 91)
- 36 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Jan 91)
- 36 The murder of five people by a serial killer around the University of Florida campus in Gainesville (Sept 90)
- 35 Race for the Democratic presidential nomination (Apr 92)
- 35 Federal Reserve Bank's interest rate reduction (Jan 1992)
- 35 The major job cuts announced by General Motors (Jan 1992)
- 35 The Standoff in Baghdad between the Iraqis and UN weapons inspectors (Oct 91)
- 35 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (July 1991)
- 35 Attempts to change the abortion laws (Dec 89)
- 35 Hijacking of the Achille Lauro cruise ship in the Mediterranean (July 86)
- 35 Explosion and fire on the U.S. Battleship Iowa (May 89)
- 34 Reports about condition of the U.S. Economy (Jan 94)
- 34 Situation in Somalia (Oct 93)
- 34 Statements by Japanese leaders that American workers are lazy (Feb 92)
- 34 Civil war in Iraq between Shiite Iraqis and forces loyal to Saddam Hussein (March 91)
- 34 Congressional and administration efforts to reach a budget deficit agreement (Nov 90)
- 34 Attempts by Congress and the Administration to find ways to reduce the budget deficit (Oct 90)
- 34 Reports about flooding in Texas and other southwestern states (June 90)
- 34 The war between the Colombian government and the major drug traffickers (Sept 89)
- 33 *CONDITION OF THE U.S. ECONOMY (MAY 94)*
- 33 Condition of the U.S. economy (Oct 93)
- 33 The winter olympics (Feb 92)
- 33 The nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court of Clarence Thomas to replace retiring Justice Thurgood Marshall (July 1991)
- 33 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (May 91)
- 33 Crash of the Colombian airliner near Kennedy airport in New York (Feb 90)
- 33 Congressional hearings about the Iran-Contra affair (Sept 87)
- 33 Guilty verdict in the trial of televangelist Jim Bakker (Oct 89)
- 32 *CANING OF AMERICAN YOUTH IN SINGAPORE (MAY 94)*
- 32 The Presidential election campaign (May 92)
- 32 Mike Tyson's rape trial (Feb 92)
- 32 Criticisms of George Bush for being inconsistent in what he said about taxes and what he said about Persian Gulf policy (Nov 90)
- 31 Mikhail Gorbachev's resignation as the Soviet Union came to an official end (Jan 1992)

PERCENT FOLLOWED  
VERY CLOSELY

- 31 Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor (Dec 91)
- 31 President Bush's announcement of major nuclear arms reductions (Oct 91)
- 31 The closing of military bases around the country (July 1991)
- 31 Celebration of Earth Day (May 90)
- 31 The World Series (Oct 88)
- 31 Flight of East German refugees to West Germany (Oct 89)
- 31 Oliver North trial (May 89)
- 30 The debate in Congress over Bill Clinton's budget (Aug 93)
- 30 Reports about the White House task force on health care reform headed by Hillary Clinton (May 93)
- 30 The end of Mikhail Gorbachev's rule, as a new commonwealth was formed to replace the Soviet Union (Dec 91)
- 30 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Aug 90)
- 30 Freeing of jailed black South African leader Nelson Mandela (March 90)
- 30 Banishment of Pete Rose from baseball for life (Sept 89)
- 30 The Democratic convention (Aug 88)
- 30 President Bush's call for higher taxes to help reduce the federal deficit (July 90)
  
- 29 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Sept 90)
- 29 Reports about the fires in Southern California (July 90)
- 29 Lithuania's declaration of independence from the Soviet Union and Moscow's response (April 90)
- 29 Suicide in Boston of Charles Stuart who murdered his pregnant wife and blamed it on a black man (Feb 90)
- 29 Political changes taking place in Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany (Jan 90)
- 29 Political changes in East Germany and the flight of refugees to West Germany (Nov 89)
- 29 Attack and sexual assault on a female jogger in Central Park, New York, by a group of youths (May 89)
- 29 Failed coup attempt against Panamanian strongman Noriega (Oct 89)
- 28 Reports about the White House task force on health care headed by Hillary Clinton (June 93)
- 28 Accounts about U.S. troops in Somalia (Mar 93)
- 28 Creation of White House task force on health care reform headed by Hillary Clinton (Mar 93)
- 28 Supreme Court deliberations re legality of PA abortion restrictions (May 92)
- 28 The death of 87 people in a fire at a social club in the Bronx, New York (April 90)
- 28 Political changes taking place in the Soviet Union (March 90)
- 28 Arrest of Washington's Mayor Barry on drug use charges (Feb 90)
- 28 The revolution in Romania (Jan 90)
- 28 Political changes taking place in Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany (Dec 89)
- 28 Problems at nuclear reactor plants (Oct 88)
- 28 The end of Gary Hart's candidacy and the Donna Rice allegations (Sept 87)
- 27 Reports about the White House task force on health care reform headed by Hillary Clinton (Aug 93)
- 27 Republican opposition to Bill Clinton's economic stimulus package (May 93)
- 27 The Clinton administration's decision to allow women to serve in naval and air combat roles (May 93)
- 27 William Kennedy Smith rape trial (Dec 91)

PERCENT FOLLOWED  
VERY CLOSELY

- 27 Deployment of U.S. marines to Liberia to protect the lives of Americans caught in the civil war (Aug 90)
- 27 Lithuania's declaration of independence from the Soviet Union and Moscow's response (May 90)
- 27 Acquittal of the owners of the McMartin Day Care Center in California who were charged with sexually abusing children (Feb 90)
- 27 The NFL playoffs (Jan 90)
- 27 The Republican convention (Aug 88)
- 26 Bill Clinton's State of the Union address (Jan 94)
- 26 Trial of Lorena Bobbitt for sexual mutilation of husband (Jan 94)
- 26 Court ruling that ordered baby Jessica to her natural parents (Aug 93)
- 26 Networks decision to broadcast parental warning before violent programs (Aug 93)
- 26 The Clinton administration's policies about the situation in Bosnia (June 93)
- 26 Russia and the U.S. reach an agreement to sharply reduce their nuclear arsenals (Jan 93)
- 26 President Bush's state of the union address (Feb 92)
- 26 Charges that the White House Chief of Staff used military airplanes and government cars for personal trips (July 1991)
- 26 Concerns about Dan Quayle's ability to serve as President (May 91)
- 26 Bush/Gorbachev summit meeting in Helsinki (Sept 90)
- 26 The death of Hank Gathers, a college basketball player, during a game (April 90)
- 26 Political changes taking place in Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany (Feb 90)
- 26 Passage in Congress of a bill to bail out ailing savings and loan institutions (Aug 89)
- 25 Case of Virginia woman accused of sexually mutilating her husband (Dec 93)
- 25 Supreme court decision allowing laws that bar federally funded agencies from discussing abortion (July 1991)
- 25 Supreme Court's hearing of arguments in a Missouri abortion case (May 89)
- 24 The debate about whether to use U.S. airstrikes against serbian forces in Bosnia (May 93)
- 24 Controversy over Zoe Baird and Kimba Wood hiring illegal aliens (Mar 93)
- 24 Bill Clinton's cabinet choices and other high level appointments (Jan 93)
- 24 Race for the Republican presidential nomination (Apr 92)
- 24 The breast implant controversy (Feb 92)
- 24 Charges that Reagan campaign officials made a deal with Iran to hold up release of the hostages until after the 1980 Presidential campaign (July 1991)
- 24 Charges that White House Chief of Staff used military airplanes for personal trips (May 91)
- 24 Supreme Court decision that found laws against flag burning unconstitutional and the attempt in Congress to amend the Constitution (July 90)
- 24 Nelson Mandela's visit to the U.S. (July 90)
- 24 Deployment of the Hubble Space Telescope (May 90)
- 24 Difficulties the government is having in getting people to fill out Census forms (May 90)
- 24 The NCAA Basketball playoffs (April 90)
- 24 Supreme Court decision regarding a person's right to die (July 90)
- 23 Peace accords between Israel & PLO (Sept 93)
- 23 Civil war in Bosnia (May 93)

PERCENT FOLLOWED  
VERY CLOSELY

- 23 George Bush's presidential pardon of Weinberger and five others involved in Iran Contra affair (Jan 93)
- 23 Cyclone that devastated Bangladesh (May 91)
- 23 Attempt in Idaho to pass a bill that would severely restrict abortions (April 90)
- 23 Greyhound bus drivers' strike (April 90)
- 23 Discussion of the reunification of Germany (March 90)
- 23 The World Series (Nov 89)
- 22 *QUESTIONS ABOUT BILL AND HILLARY CLINTON'S FAILED WHITEWATER REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT IN ARKANSAS (MAY 94)*
- 22 *ELECTION IN SOUTH AFRICA (MAY 94)*
- 22 Bill Clinton's economic conference in Little Rock with leading economists, policy experts and business leaders (Jan 93)
- 22 Protests and demonstrations at abortion clinics in Wichita, Kansas (Oct 91)
- 22 Congressional hearings about U.S. Persian Gulf policy (Jan 91)
- 22 Reunification of Germany (Oct 90)
- 22 Washington Mayor Barry's trial (July 90)
- 22 The 54 year old Oregon woman suffering from Alzheimers who ended her life by using a suicide machine (July 90)
- 22 President Bush's visit to Colombia to attend a drug summit (March 90)
- 22 The Super Bowl (Feb 90)
- 22 Letter bombings of federal judges (Jan 90)
- 22 Discoveries made by the spacecraft Voyager 2 (Sept 89)
- 22 Trial of televangelist Jim Bakker (Sept 89)
- 22 April hijacking of a Kuwaiti airplane by Shiite Moslems (May 88)
- 22 Cease fire in the war between Iran and Iraq (Aug 88)
- 22 News about the presidential campaign in 1988 (May 88)
- 22 Charges that Pete Rose has bet on baseball games (July 89)
- 21 Debate about NAFTA (Oct 93)
- 21 Debate about NAFTA (Sept 93)
- 21 Bill Clinton's nomination and then withdrawal of Lani Guinier as civil rights division head (June 93)
- 21 U.S. and its allies establishing a no fly zone over the skies of southern Iraq (Sept 92)
- 21 Execution in CA of convicted killer Robert Alton Harris (May 92)
- 21 Alleged rape of a young woman at the Kennedy family's Palm Beach estate (May 91)
- 21 Controversy surrounding the way Roseanne Barr sang the National Anthem at a San Diego Padres baseball game (Aug 90)
- 21 Tensions between Moscow and the Baltic Republics of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania who wish to secede from the Soviet Union (June 90)
- 21 Discussions about German reunification (April 90)
- 21 Political changes taking place in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, East Germany and other countries of Eastern and Central Europe (March 90)
- 21 Scandal involving HUD (Aug 89)
- 20 Mikhail Gorbachev's political problems in the Soviet Union (March 91)
- 20 Resignation of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the election of her successor (Jan 91)
- 20 The murder on a New York subway platform of a Utah man attempting to protect his family from attack by teenage muggers (Sept 90)

PERCENT FOLLOWED  
VERY CLOSELY

- 20 Earthquake in Iran (July 90)
- 20 Gorbachev/Bush summit (Dec 89)
- 20 Attempts by the U.S. government to depose General Noriega in Panama (May 88)
- 20 Post-season baseball playoffs (Oct 89)
  
- 19 Yeltsin's conflict with the Russian Parliament (Oct 93)
- 19 Confrontation between Haitian military leaders and the U.S. and UN (Oct 93)
- 19 The civil war in Bosnia (Aug 93)
- 19 The Republican primary in New Hampshire (Feb 92)
- 19 The Democratic primary in New Hampshire (Feb 92)
- 19 Attempts by Congress and the Administration to find ways to reduce the budget deficit (Aug 90)
- 19 Elections in Nicaragua (March 90)
- 19 Coup attempt against the Filipino government (Dec 89)
- 19 Attempts in Congress to repeal the new catastrophic health insurance plan (Oct 89)
- 19 Incidents of racial violence in New York City and Virginia Beach (Sept 89)
- 19 Discussions of a U.S. Soviet arms agreement (Sept 87)
- 18 *THE CIVIL WAR IN BOSNIA (MAY 94)*
- 18 Reports of sexual abuses by Catholic priests (Dec 93)
- 18 Yeltsin's decision to dissolve Russian Parliament (Sept 93)
- 18 Nomination of Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the Supreme Court (Aug 93)
- 18 The controversy over Bill Clinton's \$200 haircut on the runway in Los Angeles (June 93)
- 18 Tennis star Arthur Ashe's announcement that he has AIDS (May 92)
- 18 News about the candidates and election campaigns in your state (Oct 90)
- 18 Special meetings between the Bush Administration and Congressional Leaders to find ways to reduce the federal deficit (June 90)
- 18 Continuing news about the Savings and Loan scandal (June 90)
- 18 Reports about renewed inflation and rising interest rates (May 90)
- 18 Senator Moynihan's proposal to cut social security taxes (Feb 90)
- 18 The stock market crash (May 88)
- 18 Conflict in the Middle East between Palestinians and the Israelis in the occupied territories (May 88)
- 17 Retirement of Michael Jordan (Oct 93)
- 17 President Bush's decision to lift the trade embargo on South Africa (July 1991)
- 17 Racial tension in New York City resulting from the Bensonhurst trial verdict and the black boycott of Korean grocers (June 90)
- 17 Discussions between the American and Japanese governments about trade issues (April 90)
- 17 A custody case involving a mother who went to jail and a little child taken to New Zealand by her grandparents (March 90)
- 17 Nomination of Robert Bork to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court (Sept 87)
- 16 Civil war in Bosnia (Oct 93)
- 16 The gay march on Washington (May 93)
- 16 David Duke's announcement that he will run for the Republican presidential nomination (Dec 91)
- 16 Nomination of David Souter to the U.S. Supreme Court to replace Justice William Brennan (Aug 90)
- 16 Washington DC Mayor Marion Barry's trial ending in a mistrial (Aug 90)
- 16 Financial troubles of Donald Trump (July 90)

PERCENT FOLLOWED  
VERY CLOSELY

- 16 Dispute between the President and Congress over allowing Chinese students to remain in America (Feb 90)
- 15 *PAULA JONES' SEXUAL HARASSMENT CHARGES AGAINST BILL CLINTON (MAY 94)*
- 15 Civil war in Bosnia (Dec 93)
- 15 Michael Jackson's personal problems (Dec 93)
- 15 Civil war in Bosnia (Sept 93)
- 15 The civil war in Bosnia (Mar 93)
- 15 The civil war in Bosnia (Jan 93)
- 15 Charges that Ark. Governor Clinton has had extra-marital affairs (Feb 92)
- 15 President Bush's decision to postpone loan guarantees to Israel (Oct 91)
- 15 Resignation of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze (Jan 91)
- 15 Senate confirmation of Supreme Court Justice David Souter (Oct 90)
- 15 Controversy over the exclusion of blacks from membership in many country clubs at which national golf championship matches are played (Aug 90)
- 15 Education Summit held by Bush and the nation's Governors (Oct 89)
- 15 Ethics committee's investigation of Speaker of the House Jim Wright (May 89)
- 15 News about the Democratic candidates for the presidential nomination (Oct 87)
- 15 Conflict of interest allegations about Attorney General Ed Meese (May 88)
- 15 Scandal involving HUD (July 89)
- 14 *CONTINUED UNREST AND VIOLENCE IN HAITI (MAY 94)*
- 14 Questions about Bill and Hillary Clinton's failed Whitewater real estate  
Investment in Arkansas (Jan 94)
- 14 Resignation of head of national United Way on charges of financial wrong-doing (Apr 92)
- 14 President Bush's educational reform plan (May 91)
- 14 Political unrest and the worsening economic situation in the Soviet Union (May 91)
- 14 Renewed fighting between government and the rebels in El Salvador (Dec 89)
- 14 House approval of a cut in the capital gains tax (Oct 89)
- 14 Spy scandal involving a U.S. Diplomat in Vienna (Aug 89)
- 14 Coverage of Democratic and Republican candidates for the Presidential nomination (Sept 87)
- 14 Pending divorce between Mike Tyson and Robin Givens (Oct 88)
- 13 Gore's program to reform federal government (Sept 93)
- 13 Embezzlement charges made against Congressman Rostenkowski (Aug 93)
- 13 Suicide of White House aide Vincent Foster, Jr. (Aug 93)
- 13 The controversy over the management of the White House travel office (June 93)
- 13 Attacks on foreigners in Germany by neo-nazis (Jan 93)
- 13 Debate and discussion about the free trade agreement between the U.S., Mexico and Canada (Sept 92)
- 13 Referendum on ending white rule in South Africa (Apr 92)
- 13 Celebration of Earth Day (May 92)
- 13 End of UAW strike against Caterpillar Tractor (May 92)
- 13 The BCCI international banking scandal (Oct 91)
- 13 U.S. Department of Education prohibition of racially based college scholarships (Jan 91)
- 13 Worsening economic conditions in the Soviet Union (Sept 90)
- 13 Civil unrest and ethnic violence in Soviet Azerbaijan (Feb 90)
- 13 Resumption of fighting in Nicaragua between the Contras and government forces (Nov 89)
- 13 Elections in Virginia, New Jersey, New York City and other localities (Nov 89)
- 13 News about the Republican candidates for the Presidential nomination (Oct 88)
- 12 *TRIBAL MASSACRE IN RWANDA (MAY 94)*
- 12 Trial of Menendez brothers for murder of their parents (Jan 94)

PERCENT FOLLOWED  
VERY CLOSELY

- 12 Civil war in Bosnia (Jan 94)
- 12 The debate in Congress over Bill Clinton's budget (June 93)
- 12 Nomination of Robert Gates to head the CIA (Oct 91)
- 12 News about the democratic candidates for the presidential nomination (Oct 91)
- 12 Russian President Boris Yeltsin's election victory and visit to the U.S. (July 1991)
- 12 The findings of the committee that investigated five senators for doing favors for Charles Keating in exchange for campaign contributions (March 91)
- 12 Major League Baseball's decision to force George Steinbrenner to give up active control of the New York Yankees (Aug 90)
- 12 Pledge of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress to end the armed struggle in South Africa (Aug 90)
- 12 Marital breakup of Donald and Ivana Trump (March 90)
- 12 Solidarity's role in governing Poland (July 89)
- 11 Bill Clinton's summit meetings in Europe and Russia(JAN 94)
- 11 Announcement from London that marriage between Prince Charles and Diana is over (Jan 93)
- 11 Civil War and famine in Somalia (Sept 92)
- 11 The controversy re Governor Clinton's joining ROTC to avoid the draft in 1969 (Feb 92)
- 11 The outbreak of civil war in the former Soviet Republic of Georgia (Jan 1992)
- 11 News about the Democratic candidates for the presidential nomination (Jan 1992)
- 11 Debate in Washington about a new civil rights bill (July 1991)
- 11 Conflict between the Yugoslavian Republics (July 1991)
- 11 The incident in Gaza in which a deranged Israeli killed seven Palestinians and the West bank riots that followed (June 90)
- 11 Legalization of banned black opposition groups in South Africa and the promise to free Nelson Mandela (Feb 90)
- 10 The voter referendum in Russia (May 93)
- 10 Israel's expulsion of 400 muslim fundamentalists following the murder of an Israeli soldier in the West Bank (Jan 93)
- 10 Civil war in Bosnia (Sept 92)
- 10 Mario Cuomo's decision not to seek the Democratic presidential nomination (Jan 1992)
- 10 News about the Democratic candidates for the presidential nomination (Dec 91)
- 10 Japanese purchase of Rockefeller center in New York City (Dec 89)
- 10 The spending and tax proposals made by Congressman Dan Rostenkowski to help reduce the budget deficit (April 90)
- 10 Academy Awards (April 90)
  
- 9 Discovery of scientific evidence of the beginnings of the universe (May 92)
- 9 Purchase of entertainment giant, MCA by the Japanese consumer electronics company, Matsushita (Jan 91)
- 9 The investigation of five U.S. Senators for doing favors for Charles Keating in exchange for campaign contributions (Jan 91)
- 9 Aids conference in San Francisco (July 90)
- 9 May day protests in Moscow (May 90)
- 9 Bankruptcy of Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc. (March 90)
- 9 Trial of Hotel owner Leona Helmsley for tax evasion (Sept 89)

PERCENT FOLLOWED  
VERY CLOSELY

- 9 Stories about the 20th anniversary of the Woodstock Music Festival (Aug 89)
- 8 The resignation of White House Chief of Staff John Sununu (Dec 91)
- 8 Conflict between the Yugoslavian Republics (Oct 91)
- 8 The release of the Kitty Kelley biography of Nancy Reagan (May 91)
- 8 The murder in New York city of Jewish militant rabbi Meir Kahane (Nov 90)
- 7 *SUICIDE OF ROCK STAR KURT COBAIN (MAY 94)*
- 7 Bobby Inman's withdrawal as nominee for Secretary of Defense (Jan 94)
- 7 Summit meeting in Seattle between Bill Clinton and leaders of Asian nations (Dec 93)
- 7 G7 Summit meeting in Tokyo (Aug 93)
- 7 Trial of allege N.Y. mafia boss John Gotti (Apr 92)
- 7 First reports from the 1990 U.S. census (Sept 90)
- 7 Pat Buchanan's announcement that he will run for the Republican presidential nomination (Dec 91)
- 6 Stock market crash in Japan (May 92)
- 6 William Bennett's change of mind about heading the Republican National Committee (Jan 91)
- 6 Continuing political unrest in the Ukraine and in other republics of the Soviet Union (Nov 90)
- 6 United Nations Children's Summit held in New York (Oct 90)
- 6 Elections in Romania (June 90)
- 6 The visit to the United States of Vaclav Havel, the new president of Czechoslovakia (March 90)
- 6 Trip of high ranking officials to China (Jan 90)
- 6 Scandal involving the Japanese Prime Minister and other high ranking officials (May 89)
- 6 The scandal involving Congressman Barney Frank and a male prostitute (Oct 89)
- 5 Passage of the National Service Act (Sept 93)
- 5 Scandals in the British royal family involving the Duchess of York - Fergie and Princess Diana (Sept 92)
- 5 The conflict between the Yugoslavian Republics (Dec 91)
- 4 Marital break-up of Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson (Apr 92)
- 4 Dismissal of Pakistan's Prime Minister Bhutto by Pakistan's President (Aug 90)
- 4 Civil war in Cambodia (May 90)
- 3 Woody Allen and Mia Farrow's family breakup (Sept 92)
- 2 Tom Cruise's separation from his wife (April 90)