

PUBLIC LISTENS AS BUSH'S LIPS MOVE

Americans paid a lot of attention to George Bush recently when he changed his mind about taxes, but few have changed their minds about him as a consequence.

Bush's reversal on taxes was the most closely followed story in June with 30% of the public saying they followed this story *very closely*. The same Times Mirror survey found 64% of the public approving of the way the President Bush has been handling his job -- a rating that is statistically equal to the results of a Times Mirror nationwide survey in late May - early June which measured the president's popularity.

This is only the second time in the past year that news out of the White House has been the top news event of the month. (The Bush plan to combat drugs was the number one story of August 1989 when it was followed very closely by 40%). One measure of the reach of the tax story is found in the fact that at the outset of the Times Mirror interview nearly seven in ten (68%) were able to volunteer that Bush had changed his mind about taxes recently.

All of this interest and penetration notwithstanding, it may be telling that only 2% of the public cited Bush's tax policy as the *most important* news event of the month. (Mandela's visit (12%), changes in the Soviet Union (9%), Eastern Europe (8%), and the earthquake in Iran (8%) were all mentioned more often.

The fires that raged across Southern California last month attracted almost as much public attention as the President's new position on taxes and significantly more attention than a number of important Supreme Court rulings and the visit of Nelson Mandela. Twenty-nine percent reported that they followed news accounts of this disaster very closely last month. Understandably, interest in this story was much higher in the West where it was the top story of the month with 45% saying they followed it very closely.

Nelson Mandela's widely celebrated visit to a number of major American cities attracted a modest amount of public attention. Twenty-four percent said they followed the story very closely. There are some signs of Mandela "burn out". More Americans paid closer attention to the news of his release from prison back in March (30%) and the current survey found one in four saying in a free response question that there was *too much* coverage of the Mandela visit.

Lack of interest in the Mandela story did not extend to blacks. No fewer than 58% of blacks said they followed news of the South African leader's visit to the U.S. very closely, while just 9% said the story was overcovered.

The Supreme Court ruling on anti-flag burning legislation and congressional efforts to amend the constitution evoked half as much interest as did news about the high court's 1989 flag burning decision. A year ago, 50% said they followed very closely news about the Court's flag burning decision. Only 24% said they paid close attention to news about the June 1990 ruling.

Americans 50 years of age and older were much more interested in the flag burning debate (35%) than younger Americans (18%) and flag burning news drew more attention in the South (30%).

One indication of the limits of interest in the flag burning story is seen in the fact that only half the public (52%) knew that the Court had ruled that anti-flag burning legislation was unconstitutional. Thirty-one percent thought the reverse was true and 17% said they did not know.

The nature of the high court's abortion ruling is much more widely known to Americans. Sixty-six percent of the Times Mirror sample knew of the parental notification ruling.

News about the Supreme Court's "right to die" ruling attracted as much interest as did the flag decision -- 24% said they followed this story very closely. The assisted suicide of (Janet) Adkins attracted about the same level of attention -- 22% said they followed the story very closely. The "right to die" issue appears to be of more interest to women and older people than to men and younger adults.

There is less interest in news of Mayor Barry's trial than there was in the initial story of his arrest. In the current survey, 22% said they were following news about the trial very closely. News about Barry's arrest in February attracted 30% of the American public. As was the case a few months ago, blacks expressed considerably more interest in this story. Forty percent of blacks said they were following news of the Mayor's trial very closely.

While only little more than one in five overall are keeping a close eye on the trial, the broadcast of the FBI's hidden camera video of the DC mayor has been seen, at least in part, by two-thirds of the public. The survey indicates that viewing the tapes has not made the public any more sympathetic to the mayor's position. Most (52%) viewers reported no change of sympathies and a plurality of the public (33% to 13%) reported that they have become *less*, not more, sympathetic to Barry's position as a result of having watched the tapes.

The devastating earthquake in Iran was closely followed by one in five Americans, but the Times Mirror survey indicates that many more are aware of the dimensions of this disaster. Four in ten (40%) were able to cite in a free response question the approximate number of reported deaths.

Clear majorities of the public were knowledgeable about other major stories in June. Fifty-eight percent of the public knew of the monetary unification of East and West Germany. Half of the public knew of the Hubble space telescope's problems and half were aware of Bush's veto of the worker leave bill.

Respondents under 30 years of age were less likely to give the correct answers in response to each of these questions. Only 41% knew of Bush's veto (vs. 53% among those 30 & older). Thirty-eight percent of young adults knew why Hubble was in the news and 49% knew what occurred recently in Germany (compared to 56% and 60%, respectively, among those over 30 years of age).

The financial woes of Donald Trump attracted little interest among young and old with just 16% saying they followed this story closely. However, this represents something of an increase in public interest in affairs of the New York developer whose marital problems drew the close attention of 12% of the public in February.

Now, as then, the public complains of media overkill with regard to Trump. Twenty-seven percent volunteered that he had received too much coverage last month. But, this is down from the 55% who complained that Ivana and Donald got too much attention when the break up of their marriage was unfolding daily in the tabloids.

News about the AIDS conference in San Francisco drew the smallest audience (9%) of each of the major stories monitored this month. Yet, the Times Mirror Center's monitor of the content of the network evening news finds that the AIDS conference story received more air time in June than any other story save the Mandela visit. News about the conference in San Francisco accounted for 2.4% of the combined air time of the three networks and CNN evening news programming. Mandela received 3.3%, the Iran earthquake 2%, and the flag burning debate 1.9%. The networks spent 1.6% of their air time on this month's top News Interest Index story, the Bush tax increase.

Other issues...

The banning of 2 Live Crew received significant public notice. Forty percent of the Times Mirror sample reported hearing *a lot* about the controversy. By way of comparison, only 14% had heard a lot about the Quebec independence movement. One in four said they heard a lot about World Cup soccer and the spotted owl controversy attracted the attention of 22%.

PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"

	Nelson Mandela's Visit to the U.S.	Financial Troubles for Trump	AIDS Conference in San Francisco	Earthquake in Iran	Flag Burning Decision	N
Total	24	16	9	20	24	(1,231)
<u>Sex</u>						
Male	24	17	9	19	29	(611)
Female	24	16	10	21	21	(620)
<u>Race</u>						
White	20	16	9	19	25	(1,060)
*Non-white	51	20	12	22	20	(158)
Black	58	23	13	21	17(97)	
<u>Age</u>						
Under 30	25	16	9	16	16	(297)
30-49	22	12	9	14	20	(507)
50+	25	20	10	28	35	(411)
<u>Education</u>						
College graduate	33	17	12	16	25	(324)
Other college	22	15	8	19	24	(310)
High school grad.	24	16	9	21	23	(444)
Less than h.s. grad.	17	15	8	22	26	(139)
<u>Region</u>						
East	30	19	12	19	22	(302)
Midwest	22	12	6	17	21	(303)
South	24	20	10	26	30	(367)
West	20	12	9	15	23	(258)
<u>Party ID</u>						
Republican	20	16	8	19	25	(405)
Democrat	30	20	13	26	28	(396)
Independent	25	13	8	14	22	(339)
<u>Serious News</u>						
Consumers	39	18	21	32	37	(189)
All Others	22	16	8	18	22	(1,042)

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.

*Non-white include blacks

CONTINUED...

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	Right to Die Decision	President Bush's Call for Higher Taxes	Fires in Southern California	Mayor Barry's Trial	Suicide Machine
Total	24	30	29	22	22
<u>Sex</u>					
Male	22	34	28	26	18
Female	25	27	30	20	26
<u>Race</u>					
White	23	31	29	20	22
*Non-white	27	30	30	35	22
Black	29	34	26	41	22
<u>Age</u>					
Under 30	15	22	18	23	16
30-49	20	27	23	19	20
50+	34	39	43	25	29
<u>Education</u>					
College graduate	23	37	28	23	23
Other college	26	26	26	23	26
High school grad.	23	29	30	22	20
Less than h.s. grad.	22	33	34	22	22
<u>Region</u>					
East	24	36	27	25	23
Midwest	21	25	25	18	22
South	25	34	25	27	20
West	24	26	45	17	24
<u>Party ID</u>					
Republican	19	31	29	23	20
Democrat	30	34	33	24	24
Independent	22	29	26	23	23
<u>Serious News</u>					
Consumers	36	46	42	33	36
All Others	22	28	27	21	20

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.

**Non-white include blacks*

PRESS COVERAGE RATINGS OF NEWS STORIES

STORY FOLLOWED MOST CLOSELY

	Nelson Mandela's Visit to U.S.	Earth- quake in Iran	Flag Burning Decision	Pres. Bush's Call for Higher Taxes	Fires in Southern California	Suicide Machine
Excellent	33	23	16	13	26	21
Good	53	51	50	45	60	54
Only Fair	10	20	21	32	12	18
Poor	4	3	13	9	1	4
Don't know	0	3	0	1	1	3
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	100	100	100	100	100	100

PRESS PERFORMANCE

	MAY <u>1989</u>	JUL <u>1989</u>	AUG <u>1989</u>	SEP <u>1989</u>	OCT <u>1989</u>	NOV <u>1989</u>
Excellent	19	26	25	19	32	41
Good	43	42	45	50	45	41
Only Fair	24	21	21	22	18	13
Poor	10	10	8	7	3	3
Don't Know	4	1	1	2	2	2
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	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

	DEC <u>1989</u>	JAN <u>1990</u>	FEB <u>1990</u>	MAR <u>1990</u>	APR <u>1990</u>	MAY <u>1990</u>
Excellent	22	33	23	26	23	28
Good	45	48	50	48	54	49
Only Fair	25	14	19	20	16	17
Poor	6	3	5	4	4	5
Don't Know	2	2	3	2	3	1
	----	----	----	----	----	----
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

	JUNE <u>1990</u>	JULY <u>1990</u>
Excellent	25	21
Good	51	50
Only Fair	18	21
Poor	4	6
Don't Know	2	2
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	100%	100%

Question: *In general, how would you rate the job the press has done in covering (STORY FOLLOWED MOST CLOSELY IN Q.8); excellent, good, only fair, or poor?*

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The survey results are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among 1,231 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period of July 5-8, 1990. Interviewing services were provided by The Gallup Organization in Lincoln, Nebraska. 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.

THE QUESTIONNAIRE

TIMES MIRROR NEWS INTEREST INDEX
 JULY 1990
 July 5-8, 1990
 n = 1,231

INTERVIEWER NOTE: PLEASE FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE RESPONSE CATEGORIES

Q.1 What do you think is the most important news event that happened in the nation or in the world last month - in June? (DO NOT READ)

<u>International Stories</u>	40
Nelson Mandela's visit to the U.S.	12
The earthquake in Iran	8
The violent protests in Romania	*
Political changes taking place in the Soviet Union	9
Political changes taking place in Eastern Europe	8
The monetary changes in Germany	3
NATO Conference/Meeting in Europe	1
Gorbachev's visit to U.S. or Minnesota/Summit Meeting	5
<u>Domestic Stories</u>	5
<u>Environment</u>	5
The financial troubles of Donald Trump	*
The AIDS conference in San Francisco	1
The Supreme Court decision that found laws against flag burning unconstitutional and the attempt in Congress to amend the constitution	1
The Supreme Court decision regarding a person's right to die	*
President Bush's call for higher taxes to help reduce the federal deficit	2
Reports about the fires in Southern California	1
Washington Mayor Barry's trial	1
The 54 year old Oregon woman suffering from Alzheimers who ended her life by using a suicide machine	0
Problems with the Hubble space telescope	*
OTHER SPECIFY	8
None	3
Don't know	32
Refused	*
	<u>100</u>

- Q. 2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George Bush is handling his job as President?
- 64 Approve
 - 24 Disapprove
 - $\frac{12}{100}$ Don't know

NOW I WANT TO ASK YOU JUST A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT SOME THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN IN THE NEWS - NOT EVERYONE WILL HAVE HEARD OF THEM.

- Q. 3 President Bush changed his mind about something recently - Can you tell me what it is?
- 68 Correct answer - Said higher taxes needed
 - 8 Other answer
 - $\frac{24}{100}$ Don't know

- Q. 4 Do you happen to know... did the Supreme Court rule that laws banning flag burning are constitutional or did they rule that such laws are unconstitutional?
- 31 Constitutional
 - 52 Unconstitutional
 - $\frac{17}{100}$ Don't know

- Q. 5 The Congress recently passed a bill that would compel companies to give workers up to three months of unpaid leave for birth, adoptions or during family medical emergencies. Do you happen to know, did President Bush sign the bill or veto the bill?
- 9 Sign the bill
 - 50 Veto the bill
 - $\frac{41}{100}$ Don't know

- Q. 6 Can you tell me why the Hubble space telescope has been in the news lately?
- 51 Because of problem with its mirrors - problem related answers
 - 10 Other answers
 - $\frac{39}{100}$ Don't know

Q.7 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)

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK</u>
a. Nelson Mandela's visit to the U.S.	24	33	25	17	1=100
b. The financial troubles of Donald Trump	16	26	30	27	1=100
c. The AIDS conference in San Francisco	9	23	31	36	1=100
d. The earthquake in Iran	20	36	28	16	*=100
e. The Supreme Court decision that found laws against flag burning unconstitutional and the attempt in Congress to amend the constitution	24	39	25	11	1=100
f. The Supreme Court decision regarding a person's right to die	24	32	24	19	1=100
g. President Bush's call for higher taxes to help reduce the federal deficit	30	34	22	14	*=100
h. Reports about the fires in Southern California	29	35	24	12	0=100
i. Washington Mayor Barry's trial	22	31	27	20	*=100
j. The 54 year old Oregon woman suffering from Alzheimers who ended her life by using a suicide machine	22	33	20	24	1=100

Q.8 Which one of the stories I just mentioned, have you followed most closely? (DO NOT READ LIST. ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.)

	<u>Story Followed Most Closely</u>
a. Nelson Mandela's visit to the U.S.	14
b. The financial troubles of Donald Trump	5
c. The AIDS conference in San Francisco	2
d. The earthquake in Iran	8
e. The Supreme Court decision that found laws against flag burning unconstitutional and the attempt in Congress to amend the constitution	11
f. The Supreme Court decision regarding a person's right to die	4
g. President Bush's call for higher taxes to help reduce the federal deficit	15
h. Reports about the fires in Southern California	11
i. Washington Mayor Barry's trial	7
j. The 54 year old Oregon woman suffering from Alzheimers who ended her life by using a suicide machine	8
CAN'T SAY	<u>15</u> 100

Q.9 Of all the stories mentioned, which of them, if any, received too much coverage? (DO NOT READ LIST, ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES, BE SURE TO PROMPT FOR "ANY OTHERS")

	<u>Received Too Much Coverage</u>
a. Nelson Mandela's visit to the U.S.	25
b. The financial troubles of Donald Trump	27
c. The AIDS conference in San Francisco	4
d. The earthquake in Iran	2
e. The Supreme Court decision that found laws against flag burning unconstitutional and the attempt in Congress to amend the constitution	6
f. The Supreme Court decision regarding a person's right to die	*
g. President Bush's call for higher taxes to help reduce the federal deficit	2
h. Reports about the fires in Southern California	1
i. Washington Mayor Barry's trial	9
j. The 54 year old Oregon woman suffering from Alzheimers who ended her life by using a suicide machine	3
None	13
CAN'T SAY	13

IF RESPONDENT SAID '0' CAN'T SAY IN Q. 8, SKIP TO Q. 11

Q. 10 In general, how would you rate the job the press has done in covering (STORY FOLLOWED MOST CLOSELY IN Q. 8); excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

		Nelson Mandela's Visit to U.S.	Earthquake in Iran	Flag Burning Decision	Pres. Bush's Call for Higher Taxes	Fires in Southern California	Suicide Machine
21	Excellent	33	23	16	13	26	21
50	Good	53	51	50	45	60	54
21	Only Fair	10	20	21	32	12	18
6	Poor	4	3	13	9	1	4
<u>2</u> 100	Don't know	<u>0</u> 100 (163)	<u>3</u> 100 (99)	<u>0</u> 100 (143)	<u>1</u> 100 (186)	<u>1</u> 100 (132)	<u>3</u> 100 (107)

NOW I WANT TO ASK YOU JUST A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT SOME THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN IN THE NEWS - NOT EVERYONE WILL HAVE HEARD OF THEM.

Q. 11 As I read a list of names, places or events tell me if you have heard a lot about it, something about it or never heard of it?

	Heard A Lot About	Heard Something About	Never Heard of	Don't Know
a. The banning of the rap group 2 Live Crew for obscenity	40	35	25	* = 100
b. The Quebec independence movement	14	32	53	1 = 100
c. The spotted owl controversy	22	30	47	1 = 100
d. World cup soccer	25	43	32	* = 100

Q. 12 Which one of the following recently occurred in Germany?

- 20 East and West Germany became completely unified
- 4 East and West Germany have decided to remain separate countries
- 58 East and West Germany have merged their monetary systems

18
100 Don't know

Q.13 Did you happen to see on television any of the FBI's hidden camera videotapes of Mayor Barry in a hotel room?

63 Yes

36 NoS)))))))))
/) Q GO TO Q.15

$\frac{1}{100}$ Don't knowS))-

ASK ONLY IF ANSWERED "1" - YES TO Q.13

Q.14 After having seen the tape, are you more sympathetic to Mayor Barry's position, less sympathetic to Mayor Barry's position or didn't it change your opinion?

13 More sympathetic

33 Less sympathetic

52 Didn't change opinion

$\frac{2}{100}$ Don't know

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...

Q.15 Just your impression how many people are reported to have died in the earthquake in Iran?

3 Around 500

9 Around 1,000

14 Around 10,000

40 Around 50,000

7 Around 100,000

$\frac{27}{100}$ Don't know

Q.16 Some people are hoping Donald Trump solves his financial problems, others are hoping he goes bankrupt. Which best describes you?

58 Hope he solves his problem

16 Hope he goes bankrupt

$\frac{26}{100}$ Don't know

- Q.17 The Supreme Court recently ruled on abortion. Just your impression, which of the following comes closest to their most recent ruling?
- 10 That states cannot further restrict a woman's right to have an abortion
 - 66 That states can make a requirement that minors seeking an abortion notify their parents
 - 13 That states can outlaw abortion clinics
 - 5 Hadn't heard about decision (**VOLUNTEERED**)
 - 6 Don't know
 - 100

TIMES MIRROR DATABASE

PUBLIC ATTENTIVENESS TO MAJOR NEWS STORIES (1986 - 1990)

PERCENT FOLLOWED VERY CLOSELY

80	Explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger (July 86)
73	Destruction caused by the San Francisco earthquake (Nov 89)
69	Little girl in Texas who was rescued after falling into a well (Oct 87)
60	Invasion of Panama (Jan 90)
60	Destruction caused by Hurricane Hugo (Oct 89)
58	U.S. air strikes against Libya (July 86)
53	Crash of a United Airlines DC-10 in Sioux City, Iowa (Aug 89)
52	Alaska Oil Spill (May 89)
51	Supreme Court decision of flag burning (July 89)
50	Opening of the Berlin Wall between East and West Germany (Nov 89)
50	Flight of the space shuttle (Oct 88)
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)
48	TWA hostage crisis that took place last summer in Beirut, Lebanon (July 86)
47	Political upheaval in China (July 89)
47	Supreme Court decision on abortion (July 89)
46	Nuclear accident at Chernobyl in the Soviet Union (July 86)
46	The freeing of two Americans who had been held hostage in the Mideast (May 90)
43	News about the presidential campaign in 1988 (Oct 88)
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)
40	Bush administration's plan to deal with this country's drug problem (Sept 89)
40	The stock market crash (Oct 87)
39	News about the presidential campaign in 1988 (Aug 88)
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	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)
37	Sentencing of Oliver North (July 89)
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 flooding in Texas and other southwestern states (June 90)

**PERCENT FOLLOWED
VERY CLOSELY**

- 34 The war between the Colombian government and the major drug traffickers (Sept 89)
- 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)
- 31 The 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 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 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 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 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 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 Supreme Court's hearing of arguments in a Missouri abortion case (May 89)
- 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 The deployment of the Hubble Space Telescope (May 90)
- 24 The difficulties the government is having in getting people to fill out Census forms (May 90)

**PERCENT FOLLOWED
VERY CLOSELY**

- 24 The NCAA Basketball playoffs (April 90)
- 24 SUPREME COURT DECISION REGARDING A PERSON'S RIGHT TO DIE (JULY 90)**
- 23 The attempt in Idaho to pass a bill that would severely restrict abortions (April 90)
- 23 The Greyhound bus drivers' strike (April 90)
- 23 Discussion of the reunification of Germany (March 90)
- 23 The World Series (Nov 89)
- 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 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 The scandal involving HUD (Aug 89)
- 20 THE EARTHQUAKE IN IRAN (JULY 90)**
- 20 The 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 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 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 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 THE 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 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 The scandal involving HUD (July 89)
- 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 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 Marital breakup of Donald and Ivana Trump (March 90)
- 12 Solidarity's role in governing Poland (July 89)
- 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 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 The Academy Awards (April 90)

- 9 THE 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)
- 9 Stories about the 20th anniversary of the Woodstock Music Festival (Aug 89)
- 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 The 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)
- 4 The civil war in Cambodia (May 90)
- 2 Tom Cruise's separation from his wife (April 90)