

## DIVIDED PUBLIC FOCUSED ON GULF NEWS; BRACED FOR BLOODY WAR

As the crisis in the Persian Gulf approaches its climax, the public remains riveted to the story, with 59 percent of survey respondents saying they are following developments very closely and 66 percent saying they have given a great deal of thought to the question of using military force against Iraq, according to a new Times Mirror survey released today.

CNN was the clear winner when the public was asked which TV network is doing the best job of covering the crisis in the Gulf. The Cable News Network was cited by 30 percent of survey respondents, followed by ABC (18 percent), CBS (17 percent) and NBC (13 percent).

Interest in Gulf news was far greater than in other stories receiving extensive coverage in the past month, such as US economic conditions (36 percent following such news very closely), the resignation of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher (20 percent), the resignation of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze (15 percent), the Education Department's controversial ruling on minority scholarships (13 percent), the *Keating Five* investigation (9 percent), the purchase of the giant entertainment company MCA by Japanese interests (9 percent), and the resignation of William Bennett as chairman of the Republican National Committee (6 percent).

The public gives the news media generally good grades for their coverage of the crisis, with 31 percent rating overall coverage *excellent*, 47 percent *good*, 15 percent *only fair* and 5 percent *poor*.

The press gets its best marks for providing up-to-date reports on Gulf developments (27 percent rate this coverage *excellent*, 47 percent *good*). But 46 percent of the public says the press has been *only fair* or *poor* in explaining the debate in Washington about U. S. policy in the Gulf, and 50 percent give similar negative grades to press coverage of how Americans feel about the crisis.

Eighty-two percent of those surveyed said they've been getting most of their Gulf news from television, 40 percent said newspapers (some respondents gave multiple answers), 15 percent radio, 4 percent magazines.

Sixty percent of respondents said news organizations are reporting the Gulf story fairly, compared with 15 percent who said press coverage has been too critical and 16 percent who say the coverage has not been critical enough.

Forty-two percent of those surveyed said they had heard too little about the views of Americans who oppose sending U. S. forces to the Gulf.

If combat erupts, 57 percent say press pools should be allowed to accompany troops to battle zones, while 34 percent say press access should be restricted, as it was in the 1983 deployment in Grenada.

Twenty-one percent believe the press has too much influence on President Bush's Persian Gulf policy, 18 percent say too little, and 44 percent say the *right amount*.

So preoccupied is the public with the Gulf story that only 10 percent of those surveyed could correctly identify new British Prime Minister John Major, and only 27 percent could name any of the *Keating Five* senators currently under investigation for misconduct in the savings-and-loan scandal. However, this is up from the 17% who could identify any of the five senators in May 1990.

As the January 15 diplomatic deadline approaches for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, most Americans expect a quick but grim war in the Persian Gulf.

By a 51-42 majority, survey respondents said they favor the immediate use of force against Saddam Hussein if he fails to withdraw his armies from Kuwait by the deadline day.

This slim majority has coalesced even though 77 percent also expect the Iraqi leader to respond with chemical weapons on the battlefield, 65 percent say there is a good chance Middle East terrorists will kill civilians here in the United States, and 47 percent say they have family members, neighbors or friends in military service in the Persian Gulf.

Asked what they consider the single best reason for using military force against Iraq, 38 percent of respondents said deterring aggression was the primary justification, while 17 percent said removing Saddam Hussein from power was the best reason for resorting to force.

Other reasons offered by the public included restoring the government of Kuwait (8 percent), protecting the oil supply (6 percent), asserting American authority (4 percent), standing by our allies (4 percent), removing the Iraqi nuclear threat (3 percent), making the Middle East stable (2 percent), protecting Saudi Arabia (1 percent), protecting Israel (1 percent), and removing the threat of Iraqi chemical and biological weapons (1 percent).

Fifty-seven percent of those surveyed said they expected the war to be a quick one, while 30 percent said it would be a long war. Eighty-six percent of respondents said they expect many civilian casualties, and only 9 percent said war casualties would be mainly military.

The public's ambivalence about going to war with Iraq appears to have less to do with a fear of these wartime horrors than with a conviction among many Americans that economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations against Iraq ought to be given more time to work before Iraq is attacked militarily.

Although fifty-one percent favor immediate military action if Iraq has not withdrawn from Kuwait by January 15, 42 percent think the sanctions should be given more time.

And, among those favoring sanctions, more than half support eventual military action if the sanctions prove ineffective.

In all, 75 percent of Americans now say they will support military action against Iraq, later if not sooner.

Fifty-nine percent of the public currently approves of the way President Bush is handling his job, while 24 percent disapprove.

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## PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"

	Iraq's Occupation of Kuwait	American Hostages and Westerners detained in Iraq and Kuwait	Congressional Hearings About U.S. Persian Gulf Policy	Resignation of Eduard Shevardnadze	Reports About the Condition of U.S. Economy	N
Total	59	51	22	15	36	(1208)
<u>Sex</u>						
Male	67	52	23	19	40	(604)
Female	53	50	20	10	34	(604)
<u>Race</u>						
White	61	52	21	15	36	(1040)
*Non-white	51	47	27	14	36	(163)
Black	48	49	30	11	37	(95)
<u>Age</u>						
Under 30	51	40	18	9	20	(315)
30-49	60	49	18	12	36	(536)
50+	64	61	28	21	49	(352)
<u>Education</u>						
College graduate	65	48	21	23	44	(359)
Other college	65	54	25	14	40	(337)
High school grad.	56	50	20	10	30	(377)
Less than h.s. grad.	53	51	22	14	33	(131)
<u>Region</u>						
East	60	52	27	18	39	(279)
Midwest	59	48	18	12	34	(331)
South	56	53	21	14	36	(379)
West	65	51	20	14	36	(219)
<u>Party ID</u>						
Republican	63	53	21	16	35	(390)
Democrat	59	55	28	14	41	(377)
Independent	58	46	16	12	34	(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.*

\*Non-white include blacks

CONTINUED...

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	U.S. Dept. of Ed. Prohibition of Racially Based College Scholarships	Bennett's Change of Mind	Resignation of Margaret Thatcher	Keating Five Investigation	Purchase of MCA by Matsushita
Total	13	6	20	9	9
<u>Sex</u>					
Male	11	6	21	10	12
Female	14	6	19	9	8
<u>Race</u>					
White	10	6	21	9	9
*Non-white	24	10	18	11	12
Black	31	9	17	12	11
<u>Age</u>					
Under 30	10	3	11	3	7
30-49	12	3	16	5	7
50+	15	11	31	18	14
<u>Education</u>					
College graduate	16	8	26	9	11
Other college	12	4	21	10	11
High school grad.	8	4	18	7	6
Less than h.s. grad.	16	10	19	12	12
<u>Region</u>					
East	14	7	24	9	9
Midwest	13	7	19	11	10
South	12	6	21	9	8
West	10	4	16	8	12
<u>Party ID</u>					
Republican	9	6	21	7	8
Democrat	17	8	22	13	10
Independent	10	4	18	7	10

*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

	Iraq's Occupation of Kuwait
Excellent	31
Good	47
Only Fair	15
Poor	5
Don't know	2
	----
	100%

### PRESS PERFORMANCE

	JAN <u>1990</u>	FEB <u>1990</u>	MAR <u>1990</u>	APR <u>1990</u>	MAY <u>1990</u>	JUNE <u>1990</u>
Excellent	33	23	26	23	28	25
Good	48	50	48	54	49	51
Only Fair	14	19	20	16	17	18
Poor	3	5	4	4	5	4
Don't Know	2	3	2	3	1	2
	---	---	---	---	---	---
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

	JULY <u>1990</u>	AUG <u>1990</u>	SEPT <u>1990</u>	OCT. <u>1990</u>	NOV. <u>1990</u>
Excellent	21	30	33	24	23
Good	50	48	46	48	47
Only Fair	21	14	13	18	20
Poor	6	6	5	8	7
Don't Know	2	2	3	2	3
	---	---	---	---	--
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

	JAN <u>1991</u>
Excellent	27
Good	48
Only Fair	18
Poor	5
Don't Know	2
	---
	100%

*Question: In general, how would you rate the job the press has done in covering (STORY FOLLOWED MOST CLOSELY IN Q.10); 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 1,208 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period of January 3-6, 1991. 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**  
**JANUARY 1991 SURVEY**  
**January 3-6, 1991**  
**n=1,208**

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

59 Approve

24 Disapprove

$\frac{17}{100}$  Don't know

Q.2 Do you happen to read any daily newspaper or newspapers regularly?

72 Yes

27 No

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

Q.3 Do you happen to watch any TV news programs regularly, or not?

88 Yes

12 No

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

Q.4 Do you listen to the news on the radio regularly or not?

55 Yes

45 No

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

**INTERVIEWER NOTE: PLEASE FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE RESPONSE CATEGORIES**

Q.5 What do you think is the most important news event that happened in the nation or in the world in the past 4 weeks? **(DO NOT READ)**

<u>International Stories</u>	81
Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and the presence of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf/General mentions of the Gulf crisis	78
The release of American hostages and other Westerners from Iraq and Kuwait	1
The resignation of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze	1
The resignation of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the election of her successor	0
<u>Domestic Stories</u>	2
Congressional hearings about U.S. Persian Gulf policy	*
Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	2
The U.S. Department of Education prohibition of racially based college scholarships	0
William Bennett's change of mind about heading the Republican National Committee	0
The investigation of five U.S. Senators for doing favors for Charles Keating in exchange for campaign contributions	*
The purchase of entertainment giant, MCA by the Japanese consumer electronics company, Matsushita ( <b>Matts-sue-she-ta</b> )	0
OTHER (SPECIFY)	3
DON'T KNOW	14
REFUSED	*
NONE	<u>1</u>
	100

**NOW I WANT TO ASK YOU JUST A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT PEOPLE IN THE NEWS - NOT EVERYONE WILL HAVE HEARD OF THEM.**

Q.6 Do you happen to know who John Major is?

10 Gave correct answer  
90 Could not give correct answer  
 100

Q.7 Can you name any of the five U.S. Senators who are being investigated in the Savings & Loan scandal, the so called, "Keating Five".

		<u>May 1990</u>
27	Named one or more Keating Five Senators	17
12	Cranston	8
3	Riegle	1
20	Glenn	11
6	DeConcini	2
3	McCain	1
63	Could not name any of the five Senators	83
10	Never heard of Keating five	3

Q.8 Can you name any national political leaders who have been critical of President Bush's Persian Gulf Policy?

2 Sam Nunn  
 3 Richard Gephardt  
 2 George Mitchell  
 \* Lee Hamilton  
 1 Robert Kerrey  
 12 Edward Kennedy  
 1 Bob Dole  
 1 Tom Foley  
 1 Jesse Jackson  
 8 Other - keep list  
 75 Could not name any/Don't know

Q.9 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. Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and the presence of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf	59	31	7	2	1
b. The release of American hostages and other Westerners from Iraq and Kuwait	51	37	8	3	1
c. Congressional hearings about U.S. Persian Gulf policy	22	36	26	15	1
d. The resignation of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze	15	28	28	28	1
e. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	36	40	16	7	1
f. The U.S. Department of Education prohibition of racially based college scholarships	13	25	27	34	1
g. William Bennett's change of mind about heading the Republican National Committee	6	9	25	58	2
h. The resignation of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the election of her successor	20	40	25	14	1
i. The investigation of five U.S. Senators for doing favors for Charles Keating in exchange for campaign contributions	9	21	34	34	2
j. The purchase of entertainment giant, MCA by the Japanese consumer electronics company, Matsushita ( <b>Matts-sue-she-ta</b> )	9	20	32	38	1

Q.10 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. Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and the presence of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf	70
b. The release of American hostages and other Westerners from Iraq and Kuwait	7
c. Congressional hearings about U.S. Persian Gulf policy	1
d. The resignation of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze	1
e. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	5
f. The U.S. Department of Education prohibition of racially based college scholarships	1
g. William Bennett's change of mind about heading the Republican National Committee	*
h. The resignation of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the election of her successor	3
i. The investigation of five U.S. Senators for doing favors for Charles Keating in exchange for campaign contributions	2
j. The purchase of entertainment giant, MCA by the Japanese consumer electronics company, Matsushita ( <b>Matts-sue-she-ta</b> )	1
CAN'T SAY	$\frac{9}{100}$

Q.11 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. Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and the presence of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf	15
b. The release of American hostages and other Westerners from Iraq and Kuwait	2
c. Congressional hearings about U.S. Persian Gulf policy	1
d. The resignation of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze	2
e. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	2
f. The U.S. Department of Education prohibition of racially based college scholarships	2
g. William Bennett's change of mind about heading the Republican National Committee	2
h. The resignation of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the election of her successor	4
i. The investigation of five U.S. Senators for doing favors for Charles Keating in exchange for campaign contributions	8
j. The purchase of entertainment giant, MCA by the Japanese consumer electronics company, Matsushita ( <b>Matts-sue-she-ta</b> )	2
None	40
CAN'T SAY	27

**IF RESPONDENT SAID '99' CAN'T SAY IN Q.10, SKIP TO Q.13**

Q.12 In general, how would you rate the job the press has done in covering **(STORY FOLLOWED MOST CLOSELY IN Q.10)**; excellent, good, only fair, or poor?  
STORY FOLLOWED MOST CLOSELY:

		<u>Iraq's Occupation of Kuwait</u>
27	Excellent	31
48	Good	47
18	Only Fair	15
5	Poor	5
<u>2</u> 100	Don't know	<u>2</u> 100
Sample Size		(850)

Q.13 In general how would you rate the job the press is doing in - **(READ ITEMS BELOW)** - excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
a. Reporting how U.S. forces are making out in the Persian Gulf	17	44	28	8	3
b. Explaining how the Persian Gulf crisis developed	14	38	31	12	5
c. Providing up to date reports on the latest developments	27	47	18	4	4
d. Explaining the debate in Washington about U.S. policy	8	37	34	12	9
e. Reporting about how the American public feels about the crisis	9	36	35	15	5

Q.14 Where have you been getting most of your news about the latest developments in the Persian Gulf - from tv, radio, newspapers or magazines?

- 82 TV
- 15 Radio
- 40 Newspapers
- 4 Magazines
- 1 No particular source (**VOLUNTEERED**)
- \* Can't say

Q.15 Where have you been getting most of your news about what's likely to happen in the future in the Persian Gulf - from tv, radio, newspapers or magazines?

- 76 TV
- 13 Radio
- 32 Newspapers
- 6 Magazines
- 2 No particular source (**VOLUNTEERED**)
- 2 Can't say

**ON ANOTHER SUBJECT..**

Q.16 In your opinion, which TV network is doing the best job of covering the crisis in the Gulf - ABC, CBS, NBC or CNN?

		Sept. <u>1990</u>
18	ABC	21
17	CBS	14
13	NBC	13
30	CNN	27
<u>22</u>	Don't know	<u>25</u>
100		100

Q.17 How do you feel about news coverage of the crisis in the Gulf - *overall* are news organizations being *too critical* of U.S. policy, *not critical* enough of U.S. policy, or are they reporting it *fairly*?

		Sept. <u>1990</u>
15	Too critical	10
16	Not critical enough	11
60	Reporting it fairly	68
$\frac{9}{100}$	Don't know	$\frac{11}{100}$

Q.18 Have you heard too much, too little, or the right amount about the views of Americans who oppose sending U.S. forces to the Gulf?

		Sept. <u>1990</u>
18	Too much	15
42	Too little	40
31	Right amount	35
$\frac{9}{100}$	Don't know	$\frac{10}{100}$

Q.19 If there is an American invasion of Kuwait or Iraq do you think a pool of American reporters should be allowed to accompany American forces into combat zones or do you think the press should be restricted the way they were in Grenada?

		<u>1984</u>
57	Allow reporters	59
34	Restrict them	31
$\frac{9}{100}$	Don't know	$\frac{10}{100}$

- Q.20 Do you think that news organizations are having too great an influence on President Bush's Persian Gulf policy, too little influence on President Bush's Persian Gulf policy or the right amount of influence?
- 21 Too great
- 18 Too little
- 44 Right amount
- 17 Don't know  
100
- Q.21 What's your impression of the way the Saudis are reacting to American forces stationed in their country are they..
- 28 Acting grateful and welcoming to U.S. forces
- OR ARE THEY:
- 50 Acting distant and distrustful of U.S. forces
- 22 Don't know  
100
- Q.22 How much thought have you given to the question of whether the U.S. should use military force against Iraq if it does not withdraw its forces from Kuwait? A great deal, some, only a little or none?
- 66 Great deal
- 24 Some
- 6 Only a little
- 2 None
- 2 Don't know  
100
- Q.23 Do you favor U.S. military action against Iraq if it does not withdraw its forces from Kuwait by the January 15 United Nations deadline or do you think we should give economic sanctions more time to work?
- 51 Favor military action - **SKIP TO Q.25**
- 42 Wait and see
- 7 Don't know  
100

**IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '2' WAIT AND SEE OR '9' DON'T KNOW IN Q.23  
ASK:**

Q.24 If eventually economic sanctions do not succeed in getting Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait do you favor or oppose using U.S. military action against Iraq?

24 Favor

18 Oppose

$\frac{7}{49}$  Don't know

**ASK ALL:**

Q.25 Are any members of your family, neighbors or close friends serving in the Persian Gulf?

47 Yes

52 No

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

Q.26 From what you have heard or read what's your impression of what a war with Iraq would be like?

a. Do you think it would be a long war or a quick one?

30 Long

57 Quick

$\frac{13}{100}$  Don't know

b. Do you think there would be mainly just military casualties or would there also be many civilian casualties in the Persian Gulf?

9 Mainly military

86 Also many civilian

$\frac{5}{100}$  Don't know

- c. Do you think chemical or biological weapons would be used or don't you think that's likely?
- |           |                     |
|-----------|---------------------|
| 77        | Chemical/biological |
| 13        | Not likely          |
| <u>10</u> | Don't know          |
| 100       |                     |
- d. Do you think there is a good chance that Mideastern terrorists would kill civilians here in the U.S. or don't you think that's likely?
- |          |                    |
|----------|--------------------|
| 65       | Casualties in U.S. |
| 27       | Not likely         |
| <u>8</u> | Don't know         |
| 100      |                    |

Q.24b In your opinion what is the single best reason for using military force against Iraq? (**DO NOT READ**)

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 38 | Deter aggression (in general)/stop Hussein      |
| 17 | Get rid of Hussein/take Hussein out of power    |
| 3  | Remove Iraqi nuclear threat                     |
| 1  | Remove Iraqi chemical/biological warfare threat |
| 6  | Protect oil supply                              |
| 1  | Protect Israel                                  |
| 8  | Restore government of Kuwait                    |
| 2  | Make mideast stable                             |
| 4  | Stand by/commitment to our allies               |
| 1  | Protect Saudi Arabia                            |
| 4  | Assert authority                                |
| 2  | Only option/no other way                        |
| 18 | Other ( <b>SPECIFY</b> )                        |
| 13 | Can't say                                       |

# TIMES MIRROR DATABASE

## PUBLIC ATTENTIVENESS TO MAJOR NEWS STORIES (1986 - 1991)

### 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)
- 66 Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the deployment of U.S. forces to Saudi Arabia (Aug 90)
- 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 Alaska Oil Spill (May 89)
- 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 Opening of the Berlin Wall between East and West Germany (Nov 89)
- 50 Flight of the space shuttle (Oct 88)
  
- 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)
- 48 TWA hostage crisis that took place last summer in Beirut, Lebanon (July 86)
- 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 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)
- 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)

**PERCENT FOLLOWED  
VERY CLOSELY**

- 39 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Nov 90)
- 39 News about the presidential campaign in 1988 (Aug 88)
- 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 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)
- 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 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 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 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 Criticisms of George Bush for being inconsistent in what he said about taxes and what he said about Persian Gulf policy (Nov 90)
- 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 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)

**PERCENT FOLLOWED  
VERY CLOSELY**

- 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 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 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 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 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 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 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)

**PERCENT FOLLOWED  
VERY CLOSELY**

- 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 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)
- 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 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 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 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 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)
- 16 Dispute between the President and Congress over allowing Chinese students to remain in America (Feb 90)

**PERCENT FOLLOWED  
VERY CLOSELY**

- 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 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 **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 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 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 Academy Awards (April 90)
  
- 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)
- 9 Stories about the 20th anniversary of the Woodstock Music Festival (Aug 89)
- 8 The murder in New York city of Jewish militant rabbi Meir Kahane (Nov 90)
- 7 First reports from the 1990 U.S. census (Sept 90)

**PERCENT FOLLOWED  
VERY CLOSELY**

- 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)
- 4 Dismissal of Pakistan's Prime Minister Bhutto by Pakistan's President (Aug 90)
- 4 Civil war in Cambodia (May 90)
- 2 Tom Cruise's separation from his wife (April 90)