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**Times Mirror News Interest Index
May 1992**

**Public Interest and
Awareness of the News**

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Top Stories

While news about the Rodney King verdict and the Los Angeles riots clearly dominated the public's interest, reports about the condition of the economy were still very closely followed by four in ten Americans (39%). But attention to the economy dropped significantly since Times Mirror's March and February polls (47% and 47% respectively). The percentage of Americans following stories about the economy very closely is now at its lowest point since October 1991. This decrease in concern about the economy is especially pronounced among Americans ages 18-29, who are *half* as likely as those over 50 to follow these stories very closely (25% vs. 50%).

Despite the fact that both the Republican and Democratic nominations are all but locked up, interest in the Presidential campaign remained strong, with 32% following stories about the campaign very closely. Four years ago, when the Democratic nomination was still more of a contest, public interest in the campaign was lower than it is today; in May 1988, only 22% followed stories about the campaign very closely.

The Supreme Court's deliberations on a Pennsylvania law that would restrict a woman's right to abortion were very closely followed by 28% of Americans, which is comparable to the percent that very closely followed the Court's upholding of the "gag rule" in July 1991 (25%) and the *Webster* decision in May 1989 (25%). As with other stories about abortion, women under thirty were the most attentive (40%), but their male counterparts showed a strikingly low level of interest: only 19% of men under 30 followed this very closely.

The celebration of Earth Day received much less attention than it did two years ago when it celebrated its 20th anniversary. Only 13% followed Earth Day coverage very closely, compared with 31% who followed it very closely on its twentieth anniversary in May 1990.

Other stories that were very closely followed include: the execution in California of convicted killer Robert Alton Harris (21%), tennis star Arthur Ashe's announcement that he has AIDS (18%), the end of the UAW strike against Caterpillar Tractor (13%), the discovery of scientific evidence of the *Big Bang* theory (9%), and the stock market crash in Japan (6%).

Press Evaluations

The press got mixed ratings for its coverage of the King verdict and the riots that followed. Sixty-one percent thought it was excellent (23%) or good (38%), but nearly four in ten (37%) thought it was only fair (21%) or poor (16%). Blacks were much more critical of the media coverage than whites: 52% of blacks said the press did an *only fair* (24%) or *poor* job (28%), compared with 34% of whites who gave the media a negative assessment for this story.

The press coverage of the Presidential campaign received more negative ratings than it did in the last Times Mirror survey. In March, 63% gave the press an excellent or good rating for its coverage of the campaign, and 34% rated it as only fair or poor. The current survey found 54% saying the press did an excellent or good job, and 43% saying it did an only fair or poor job.

Forty percent named CNN as the network doing the best job covering the news, and the continuous coverage of the violence in Los Angeles may have helped boost CNN's ratings up slightly from March and February. After receiving ratings in the low forties throughout the last half of 1991, CNN, while still leading the pack, had slipped to 37% in the February poll and 36% in March.

Public Information

Most Americans did not know that both the Senate and the House of Representatives are currently controlled by Democrats. Forty-eight percent know that the Democrats have a majority in the House while 54% know that the Democrats control the Senate. However, only 38% knew that the Democrats have a majority in both houses.

Americans who were knowledgeable about the Congressional majorities were more likely than those who weren't to have said that it makes a difference if the White House and Congress are controlled by the same political party. A plurality (34%) of those who knew that the Democrats control Congress said that it was best for one political party to control the White House and the Congress, while 28% said it was better for one party to control each and 28% said it doesn't make much difference. A majority (53%) of those who were incorrect about both houses said it doesn't matter much one way or the other.

Most Americans (59%) knew that Ross Perot is still considering running for President. Seventeen percent believed he had already decided to run, and 24% were unsure or couldn't say.

Only 13% of Americans correctly identified Peru as the country whose President had suspended Parliament and closed the courts. Nearly three-quarters (73%) offered no answer, and 14% named a country other than Peru.

In contrast, 47% knew that France was the home of a new Disney park. Twenty-one percent named countries other than France, and 32% could not say.

Other Campaign News Sources

Although the regular audience for late night comedy shows is small, 58% of the public say they regularly or at least sometimes look in on one of the late night comedy shows such as "*The Tonight Show*," "*Arsenio Hall*," "*David Letterman*," or "*Saturday Night Live*."

For some Americans, particularly young people who generally don't follow politics closely, these shows are a source of information about the Presidential campaign. Twenty percent of the late night audience say they sometimes hear things about the election or the Presidential campaign on these programs that they hadn't heard before.

Young people are much more likely than older people to get new campaign information from comedians. One-third (32%) of the under 30 audience say that they hear things about campaign politics they hadn't heard before on comedy programs, compared with 20% of 30-49 year-olds and 13% of those over 50.

Across all age groups, Johnny Carson was singled out as the comedian with the best political jokes (18%), followed by Arsenio Hall (12%) and Saturday Night Live (10%). But 18-29 year-olds preferred the political humor of Arsenio (20%) and SNL (20%) to Carson (15%).

Forty-four percent of Americans say they sometimes listen to radio programs such as the Larry King Show or the Rush Limbaugh Show, which allow listeners to call in and discuss politics and other social issues. One-quarter (25%) of this audience said they had heard things on talk radio shows about candidates or the election that they hadn't heard before. Listeners with household incomes over \$50,000 (31%) and men over 30 (30%) were the most likely to get new information from talk radio, and women under 30 were the least likely (14%).

PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"

	<i>Arthur Ashe's Announce- ment He Has AIDS</i>	<i>Cele- bration of Earth Day</i>	<i>Supreme Courts Deliberations About the Legality of Restrictions on Abortion in PA</i>	<i>Reports About the Condition of the U.S Economy</i>	<i>Execution in Cal. of Robert Alton Harris</i>	N
<i>Total</i>	18	13	28	39	21	(1301)
<i>Sex</i>						
Male	18	12	21	41	22	(645)
Female	18	14	34	37	20	(656)
<i>Race</i>						
White	16	12	28	38	20	(1052)
*Hispanic	16	14	23	30	18	(86)
Black	36	17	30	49	24	(175)
<i>Age</i>						
Under 30	14	16	29	25	19	(328)
30-49	17	13	28	39	22	(524)
50+	22	10	26	50	21	(434)
<i>Education</i>						
College graduate	21	9	34	45	18	(363)
Other college	16	13	30	38	21	(363)
High school grad.	16	13	23	38	19	(424)
Less than h.s. grad.	21	18	28	37	28	(148)
<i>Region</i>						
East	23	13	38	42	18	(317)
Midwest	16	11	26	36	17	(351)
South	19	13	26	41	18	(456)
West	12	16	21	39	35	(177)
<i>Party ID</i>						
Republican	11	12	29	36	18	(350)
Democrat	22	14	31	48	27	(442)
Independent	18	13	25	35	19	(466)

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...

	<i>Stock Market Crash In Japan</i>	<i>Presiden- tial Election Campaign</i>	<i>Verdict in the Rodney King Case and the Riots That Followed</i>	<i>End of UAW Strike Against Caterpillar Tractor</i>	<i>Discovery of Scientific Evidence of the Beginning of the Universe</i>
<i>Total</i>	6	32	70	13	9
<i>Sex</i>					
Male	8	33	70	17	11
Female	4	30	71	9	6
<i>Race</i>					
White	5	31	69	13	8
*Hispanic	12	21	65	8	13
Black	9	38	83	13	8
<i>Age</i>					
Under 30	3	25	75	5	7
30-49	5	30	71	13	8
50+	9	38	67	18	10
<i>Education</i>					
College graduate	8	34	72	10	12
Other college	5	32	73	14	13
High school grad.	4	29	68	11	4
Less than h.s. grad.	9	34	69	18	8
<i>Region</i>					
East	5	34	72	11	9
Midwest	7	29	67	18	8
South	6	34	70	11	9
West	6	27	75	11	9
<i>Party ID</i>					
Republican	5	28	64	9	11
Democrat	8	40	78	17	7
Independent	5	28	70	13	8

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.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The survey results are based on telephone interviews conducted among a nationwide sample of 1,301 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period April 30 - May 3, 1992. 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 CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS
NATIONAL POLITICAL SURVEY #5
APRIL 30 - MAY 3, 1992
N=1,301

SEX: 1[]Male 2[]Female INTERVIEWER'S NAME: _____
TIME STARTED: _____ INTERVIEWER'S I. D. : _____
TIME FINISHED: _____ PAGE NUMBER: _____
LENGTH: _____ REPLICATE NUMBER: _____

REGION: 1 East STRATUM: 1 Stratum One
2 Midwest 2 Stratum Two
3 South 3 Remainder
4 West

DATE: _____

INTRODUCTION: Hello, 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...

INTERVIEWER NOTE: PLEASE FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE RESPONSE CATEGORIES

Q.2 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)**

- 2 OTHER (SPECIFY)
- * DON'T KNOW
- * REFUSED
- 11 NONE

International Stories

The stock market crash in Japan 0

Domestic Stories

Tennis star Arthur Ashe's announcement that he has AIDS 87
*

The celebration of Earth Day *

The Supreme Court's deliberations about the legality of restrictions on abortion in Pennsylvania 1

Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy 1

The execution in California of convicted killer Robert Alton Harris 0

The Presidential election campaign 2

The verdict in the Rodney King case and the riots and disturbances that followed 81

The end of the UAW strike against Caterpillar Tractor *

The discovery of scientific evidence of the beginnings of the universe *

The California earthquake 2

The Chicago flood *

Q.3 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. Tennis star Arthur Ashe's announcement that he has AIDS	18	31	30	21	*=100
b. The celebration of Earth Day May/1990	13 31	25 37	35 20	26 12	1=100 *=100
c. The Supreme Court's deliberations about the legality of restrictions on abortion in Pennsylvania	28	34	24	13	1=100
d. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	39	39	15	6	1=100
Mar/1992	47	38	11	4	*=100
Feb/1992	47	37	10	6	*=100
Jan/1992	44	40	11	5	*=100
Oct/1991	36	38	16	9	1=100
e. The execution in California of convicted killer Robert Alton Harris	21	31	28	19	1=100
f. The stock market crash in Japan	6	16	33	43	2=100
g. The Presidential election campaign	32	44	16	8	*=100
i. The end of the UAW strike against Caterpillar Tractor	13	24	25	36	2=100
j. The discovery of scientific evidence of the beginnings of the universe	9	19	30	40	2=100

Q.4 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. Tennis star Arthur Ashe's announcement that he has AIDS	2
b. The celebration of Earth Day	2
c. The Supreme Court's deliberations about the legality of restrictions on abortion in Pennsylvania	5
d. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	4
e. The execution in California of convicted killer Robert Alton Harris	2
f. The stock market crash in Japan	1
g. The Presidential election campaign	12
h. The verdict in the Rodney King case and the riots and disturbances that followed	63
i. The end of the UAW strike against Caterpillar Tractor	2
j. The discovery of scientific evidence of the beginnings of the universe	1
Can't say	$\frac{6}{100}$

IF RESPONDENT SAID '99' CAN'T SAY IN Q.4, 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.4); excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

		Presidential Election <u>Campaign</u>	Verdict in the Rodney King Case <u>and the Riots</u>
19	Excellent	10	22
39	Good	44	38
24	Only Fair	33	22
16	Poor	10	16
<u>2</u> 100	Don't know	<u>3</u> 100 (166)	<u>2</u> 100 (814)

ASK ALL:

Q.6 In your opinion, which TV network has been doing the best job of covering the news lately - ABC, CBS, NBC or CNN?

May <u>1992</u>		Mar <u>1992</u>	Feb <u>1992</u>	Oct <u>1991</u>	July <u>1991</u>	May <u>1991</u>	Mar ¹ <u>1991</u>
20	ABC	20	19	17	18	18	12
14	CBS	17	18	14	14	13	8
14	NBC	14	14	13	13	14	10
40	CNN	36	37	42	41	41	58
<u>12</u> 100	Don't know	<u>13</u> 100	<u>12</u> 100	<u>14</u> 100	<u>14</u> 100	<u>14</u> 100	<u>12</u> 100

(NOTE: SKIP Q7 IF FOLLOWED PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN MOST CLOSELY IN Q4. MOVE ANSWER FROM Q5 INTO Q7)

¹ In March, 1991 respondents were asked which network was doing the best job of covering the "crisis in the Gulf".

THINKING ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN SPECIFICALLY...

Q.7 All in all, how would you rate the job the press has done in covering the presidential campaign so far; excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

<u>May</u> <u>1992</u>		<u>Mar</u> <u>1992</u>	<u>Feb</u> <u>1992</u>
10	Excellent	12	11
44	Good	51	45
33	Only Fair	28	32
10	Poor	6	7
<u>3</u> 100	Don't know	<u>3</u> 100	<u>5</u> 100

NOW I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT SOME THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN IN THE NEWS - NOT EVERYONE WILL HAVE HEARD ABOUT THEM

Q.9 In what country did the President recently suspend Parliament and curb the courts as a means of dealing with a rebel uprising and curtailing drug trafficking?

13	Peru
14	Other
<u>73</u> 100	Don't know

Q.10 How much have you heard lately about the third party candidacy of Ross Perot? **(READ CATEGORIES 1-4)**

20 A great deal

31 A fair amount

23 Not too much

25 Little or nothing S)))))))))
/GO TO Q.12

1 Don't Know S)))))))))
100

Q.11 Do you happen to know if Ross Perot decided to run as a third party candidate or is he still considering whether or not to run for President? **(DO NOT SUGGEST ANSWERS)**

17 Has decided to run

59 Still thinking about it

24 Can't say
100

Q.12 Do you happen to know in which country a new Disney park recently opened? **(DO NOT SUGGEST ANSWERS)**

47 France

21 Other

32 Can't say
100

Q.13 Do you happen to know which political party has a majority in the U.S. Senate? **(DO NOT SUGGEST ANSWERS)**

17 Republican

55 Democrat

28 Can't say
100

Q.14 Do you happen to know which political party has a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives? **(DO NOT SUGGEST ANSWERS)**

12 Republican
 49 Democrat
 $\frac{39}{100}$ Can't say

ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT...

Q.16 How have you been getting most of your news about the Presidential election campaign? From television, from newspapers, from radio or from magazines? **(ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS)**

Q.17 Do you get most of your news about the presidential campaign from network tv news, from local tv news, or from CNN? **(ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS)**

<u>May</u> <u>1992</u>		<u>Mar</u> <u>1992</u>	<u>Feb</u> <u>1992</u>
86	Television	83	80
	46 Network	41	40
	40 Local	32	37
	34 CNN	30	29
	4 (DO NOT READ) Other	2	2
	<u>1</u> Can't say	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>125*</u>	<u>107*</u>	<u>109*</u>
51	Newspapers	48	49
17	Radio	14	18
6	Magazines	4	4
3	Other	3	3
	<u>1</u> Can't say	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>164*</u>	<u>152**</u>	<u>155**</u>

*Total exceeds the % who mentioned tv due to multiple responses

**Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses

ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT...

Q.34 Generally, what's the better situation: that a President's political party also have a controlling majority in Congress or is it better that one party control the White House, while the other party controls the Congress... or don't you think it matters too much one way or the other?

26 President's party also control Congress

23 One party control each

40 Doesn't matter

11 Can't say
100

Q.902 I'd like to know how often, if ever, you watch any of these late-night comedians or comedy programs. For each one, tell me if you watch regularly, sometimes, hardly ever, or never:

	<u>Regularly</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Hardly Ever</u>	<u>Never</u>	<u>DK</u>
a. Johnny Carson	6	24	29	41	*=100
b. Jay Leno	4	17	23	55	1=100
c. David Letterman	3	20	25	52	*=100
d. Arsenio Hall	9	26	20	45	*=100
e. Saturday Night Live	9	24	21	46	*=100
f. Dennis Miller	2	7	13	73	5=100

(NOTE: IF 4 OR 5 IN ALL ITEMS IN Q902 A-F, SKIP TO Q905)

Q.903 Do you ever hear things about the candidates or the Presidential election campaign on these shows that you haven't heard before?

21 Yes

53 No

5 Don't know

21 Never watch
100

Q. 904 Which one of the late-night comedians or comedy shows has the best political humor this year - the best jokes about the Presidential candidates and the campaign:

18 Johnny Carson
7 Jay Leno
4 David Letterman
12 Arsenio Hall
10 Saturday Night Live
3 Dennis Miller
1 Other (VOL)
2 None (VOL)
22 Don't know
21 Never watch
100

Q. 905 Do you ever listen to talk radio programs such as the Larry King Show or the Rush Limbaugh Show, where listeners can call in and give their opinions about politics and other issues?

44 Yes - GO TO Q. 906
54 No
2 Don't know
100

IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '1' YES IN Q. 905 ASK:

Q. 906 Do you ever hear things on talk radio about the candidates or the Presidential election campaign that you haven't heard before?

25 Yes
19 No
* Don't know
56 Never listen
100

TIMES MIRROR DATABASE

PUBLIC ATTENTIVENESS TO MAJOR NEWS STORIES (1986 - 1992)

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 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 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Apr 92)
- 47 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Feb 92)
- 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)

PERCENT FOLLOWED
VERY CLOSELY

- 44 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Jan 1992)
- 44 The release of the last American hostages being held in Lebanon (Dec 91)
- 43 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Dec 91)
- 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)
- 41 News regarding harassment charges raised against supreme court nominee Clarence Thomas (Oct 91)
- 40 Bush administration's plan to deal with this country's drug problem (Sept 89)
- 40 The stock market crash (Oct 87)

- 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 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 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 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 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 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)

PERCENT FOLLOWED
VERY CLOSELY

- 33 Congressional hearings about the Iran-Contra affair (Sept 87)
- 33 Guilty verdict in the trial of televangelist Jim Bakker (Oct 89)
- 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)
- 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 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 *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 the William Kennedy Smith rape trial (Dec 91)
- 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)

PERCENT FOLLOWED
VERY CLOSELY

- 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 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 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 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 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 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 *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)

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 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)
- 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 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 *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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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)

PERCENT FOLLOWED
VERY CLOSELY

- 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 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)
- 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 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 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)
- 2 Tom Cruise's separation from his wife (April 90)