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FLOODS AND GAYS IN MILITARY ENGAGE PUBLIC INTEREST
Jury Still Out On Clinton's Success

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PUBLIC DOUBTS CLINTON'S ABILITIES, BUT STILL RESERVES JUDGMENT

Most Americans say they still haven't made up their minds about Bill Clinton. But the President's personal image has been weakened by a belief that he can't get things done and a feeling that he breaks his promises. Six months into office few Americans can cite a Clinton achievement without prompting, and the only Administration action that has registered with the public is one that it disapproves of - easing the ban on gays in the military.

These are the findings of a nationwide Times Mirror telephone survey of 1,203 adults conducted July 29 - August 1, 1993 that found 54% of the public unable to cite any important thing that the Clinton administration has accomplished so far. At the same time, the poll revealed that attention to news about Clinton's decision regarding gays in the military was only surpassed this month by the amount of public interest in the Midwestern floods (65% followed news about the floods very closely, 44% Clinton's gays decision and 41% reports about the condition of the economy). The poll, taken as budget negotiations in Washington reached a feverish pitch, found interest in the budget debate more than twice as high as it was in June (30% vs. 12%).

Although Bill Clinton's overall approval ratings remained a weak 39% approve, 46% disapprove, most Times Mirror respondents continued to reserve judgment on how he will perform in the future. Sixty percent think it is still too early to tell if Clinton will be a successful President in the long run. Only 13% are prepared to say at this time that he will succeed, and somewhat more, 25%, are ready to say that he will fail. Those who believe the jury is still out on Clinton include a majority of people who voted for Perot (57%), as well as Clinton voters (67%). Most Bush voters (50%), on the other hand, have already concluded that the Clinton Presidency is doomed.

A Weakened Personal Image

In personal terms, the public overwhelmingly thinks that Bill Clinton is warm and friendly (87%) and well informed (63%). At the same time majorities do not think the President keeps his promises (53%) and do not feel he can get things done (54%). The public also gives Clinton low marks for organization: 47% think he is well organized, and 46% think he is not.

Although most describe the President as someone who breaks his promises, 56% nonetheless continue to think of him as trustworthy generally, a drop from the 63% who rated him trustworthy in a pre-inaugural Times Mirror poll in January. Clinton is seen as unable to get things done by a majority in all demographic and political groupings, except among core supporters such as non-whites, Democrats and Clinton voters. Regionally, the poll finds that people in the rain-drenched Midwest have a better view of Clinton's abilities and give him a higher overall approval score (46%) than do Americans in the rest of the country (37%).

Support for Clinton's economic program is somewhat greater now than it was in an early June Times Mirror poll. The new survey found 46% supporting and 37% opposing the Administration's economic plan. In June the division of opinion was 42% support, 41% oppose. Similarly, the public gave Clinton higher grades in this poll for handling foreign policy and international trade issues than it did in an early July Newsweek/PSRA poll. Fifty-two percent said they approved of Clinton's foreign policy (up from 49%), and 49% approved of the President's handling of trade issues (up from 36%).

Easing Gay Ban Disapproved

In sharp contrast, 50% disapproved of Clinton's decision to ease the ban on gays in the military, while only 42% said they approved. More generally, the public sees itself at odds with Bill Clinton's views on the central issue of whether homosexuality should be accepted by society. Only 41% of Americans think that the homosexual lifestyle should be accepted by society. Most (53%) believe that homosexuality should be discouraged. The President is seen by two-thirds of the public (68%) as favoring acceptance of gay lifestyles, while only 16% think that Clinton wants society to discourage homosexuality.

Acceptance of homosexuality generally, and easing the ban on gays in the military specifically, splits the American public as few issues do. Men oppose both strongly. Women are divided on the matter generally, but a narrow female plurality favors Clinton's military decision. Americans under 50 years of age split on the issue, while the pre-war generations overwhelmingly oppose societal acceptance of the gay lifestyle. College graduates lean to easing the ban on gays in the military, but those without high school diplomas reject the idea by a wide margin. Whites, Southerners and Republicans all express clear opposition to societal acceptance of homosexuality. Democrats, Easterners and Non-whites are considerably more open on this issues (SEE TABLE ON PAGE 11).

Clinton Achievements

Despite great interest in the issue of gays in the military and the public's familiarity with Clinton's position on the issue, few (6%) mentioned this when respondents were asked to cite the most important thing the President has accomplished so far. "Nothing" (34%) and "Don't know" (20%) were the answers given by a majority of survey participants. Specific programs and policies were mentioned by only a few: 10% cited Clinton's economic plan, 7% health care reform and 5% the bombing of Iraq.

When survey participants were presented with a list of Clinton administration actions, six out of eight policies were seen as important by pluralities of the public. The agreement about trade talks with Japan and the placement of further restrictions on foresting public lands were most often thought of as important things to do (by 65% and 64%, respectively). The missile attack on Baghdad was rated by 58% as an important initiative. The same percentage saw an end to the gag rule at federally funded clinics as important. Passage of the Family Leave Bill and ending the ban on fetal tissue research were seen as important by near majorities of respondents (49% and 48%, respectively). The public was divided on the importance of providing financial aid to Russia - 46% saw it as important and 46% as not an important thing to do. Easing the ban on gays in the military was the only action tested that was seen as not an important thing to do by most respondents (51%).

Washington More Partisan, More Nasty

A 57% majority of the public thinks there is more than the usual bickering and partisan antagonisms between Republicans and Democrats this year. However, most (57%) think Republicans oppose Clinton's economic plan because they don't think it will work, rather than because they want to be obstructionist. Among Republicans sampled, 80% held this view, as did 57% of Independents. Democrats were split evenly, with 42% thinking Republicans oppose the President because of real doubts about the program and 41% believing that the GOP opposes because it wants Clinton to fail.

Pluralities of both parties, as well as Independents, agreed however that Washington politics is meaner than the competition in other arenas. Forty-eight percent expressed that

opinion, compared to the 20% who thought competition and rivalries were meaner and nastier in the business world, 6% who cited the entertainment industry, 9% the news media and 7% professional sports.

President's Clinton's treatment by the press was judged as more fair than it had been in a mid-June Times Mirror survey. Sixty-six percent of respondents in the poll felt that news organizations are being fair to the Clinton Administration, while 21% judged the press as unfair. Six weeks ago Times Mirror found a much narrower 51% fair, 43% unfair margin on this question. Americans who think the press is unfair to the President most often fault the media for being too negative (31%), for not giving Clinton a chance to prove himself (29%) or for being biased against the Administration (22%).

A Flood of Interest

The Great Flood of '93 is the story that most interested the public this summer. Almost two out of three Americans (65%) said they followed the saga of rising waters and breached levees *very closely*, a level of interest that few stories attain. Attention to the devastating floods in the Midwest was on a par with attention to the Gulf War, the first Rodney King trial and the San Francisco earthquake.

Coverage of gays in the military also drew a very wide audience, with 44% of the public saying it followed very closely President Clinton's decision to ease the ban on homosexuals in the service. This was the highest level of public interest in any Administration action since 49% gave very close attention when Clinton unveiled his economic plan last March. But at the same time, the press was most criticized for its coverage of this story. Fully 24% of the public said the issue received "*too much coverage*," which was a complaint level three times higher than for any other story of the period.

The nation's younger people (18 to 29 years old) followed this socio-political story of the gay ban just as closely as their elders (all age groups well over 40%), in contrast to the usual pattern in which younger persons show less interest in policy news. For example, 57% of the under-30s followed the flood story very closely compared to 77% among those 65 and over.

Interest in economic issues continued high and rising. Reports on the condition of the U.S. economy were followed very closely by 41% of Americans, up from 37% in May. And attention to the budget fight between Congress and the Administration more than doubled in two months, from 12% in June to 30%. This new level of interest is still slightly below the 34% in October, 1990, who followed the same budget debate, then between Bush and the Congress, very closely.

But another economic matter of considerable importance, the July summit in Tokyo of the Group of Seven (G-7) economically strongest nations of the world, received minuscule public attention. Merely 7% followed those deliberations very closely, a yawn comparable to the release of Census Bureau figures (September, 1990) and Romanian elections (June, 1990). Cold War summits attract much more attention; 38% followed very closely a Bush meeting with former Soviet president Mikhail S. Gorbachev in June, 1990, and 26% did the same for a Bush-Gorbachev summit in Helsinki a few months later (September, 1990). But even Bush's "drug summit" of March 1990, drew 22%, and his "education summit" drew 15% in October, 1989, or twice the level for the G-7 meeting.

Americans continue to be mightily uninterested in the tragedy of Bosnia despite wide media coverage. Only 19% said they followed that ethnic conflict very closely, down from a peak interest level of 23% last May when U.S. airstrikes against Serbian forces were debated. This latest Times Mirror survey was conducted July 29 to Aug. 1 when the possibility of U.S.

action was again being discussed publicly, and the debate may have contributed to a marginally more attentive audience than the 15% level earlier in the year (January and February). There was barely more than average interest in Bosnia among Americans who had attended college, who are usually more concerned about foreign affairs, than among those less well educated (23% vs 16%).

A Steady Interest In Health Care Reform

Americans remain surprisingly attentive to health care reform, on the other hand, even when nothing much is occurring on the subject. Reports on the White House task force headed by Hillary Rodham Clinton were followed very closely by 27%, much as in June (28%) and May (30%) when the reports contained more new information.

Warnings of violent programs on television were followed very closely by a similar 26% of Americans, as was the story of Baby Jessica being returned to her natural parents by the courts.

Confirmation hearings on Ruth Bader Ginsburg to be a Supreme Court justice were followed very closely by 18% of the public, roughly half the level of public interest in the appointment of Clarence Thomas when it was announced two years earlier (33% followed it very closely) and in the subsequent harassment charges against Thomas by Anita Hill at Senate hearings (41% followed it very closely).

Embezzlement charges against Rep. Dan Rostenkowski (Democrat of Illinois) were followed very closely by 13%, roughly the same level of attentiveness which the ethics committee investigation of then Speaker of the House Jim Wright of Texas received (15%) four years earlier. Rostenkowski's spending and tax proposal in 1990, by comparison, was followed very closely by 10% of the public. The Congressional check bouncing scandal, on the other hand, was followed very closely by 36% in April, 1992. Of note here was the moderate rise in the standing of Congress: 52% of the public approved the way their Congressperson was handling his or her job, up from 45% in March, 1992, at the time of the check kiting disclosures, but still below the 60% level of December, 1991.

Gender Gaps

The Times Mirror Center's survey found women and men differed considerably in their news interests, and did so along mostly traditional lines. By significant numbers, women followed more than men the health care debate, Baby Jessica, TV violence, and the floods. Men followed more closely the economic, G-7 summit and budget issues, and Bosnia. There was no gender difference in interest level about gays in the military or toward Judge Ginsburg.

The sexes also relied on different concepts when they complained that the press was unfair to Clinton. Men said the media was being "*negative*" toward Clinton more often than did women (36% vs. 27%), while women most often said the press was not giving Clinton "*a chance*" (35% vs. 22%) and was being "*biased*" against him (25% vs. 19%). Younger Americans (18 to 29 year olds) differed even more from their elders in this respect; they complained that Clinton was not being given "a chance" much more often than the 30 and overs, 42% vs. 27%.

PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"

	<i>The Floods In the Midwest</i>	<i>Clinton's Decision To Ease Ban on Homosexuals In the Military</i>	<i>Reports About Condition Of the U.S. Economy</i>	<i>The Debate In Congress Over Bill Clinton Budget</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>Total</i>	65	44	41	30	1203
<i>Sex</i>					
Male	62	44	45	33	578
Female	68	45	37	27	625
<i>Race</i>					
White	66	44	40	29	1043
*Hispanic	62	47	44	37	96
Black	46	46	32	33	54
<i>Age</i>					
Under 30	57	42	27	23	254
30-49	62	43	44	29	522
50+	74	47	46	34	410
<i>Education</i>					
College Grad.	64	52	51	36	358
Other College	65	46	43	32	330
High School Grad.	65	40	37	26	389
< H. S. Grad.	67	42	32	26	119
<i>Region</i>					
East	58	37	41	26	238
Midwest	70	40	39	29	344
South	68	50	38	32	423
West	62	46	45	30	198
<i>Party ID</i>					
Republican	66	51	44	36	306
Democrat	63	43	42	31	370
Independent	66	41	40	26	467

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

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

CONTINUED...

PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"

	<i>Reports On the White House Task Force On Health Care Reform</i>	<i>Networks Decision to Broadcast Parental Warning Before Violent Programs</i>	<i>Court Ruling that Ordered Baby Jessica to Her Natural Parents</i>	<i>The Civil War in Bosnia</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>Total</i>	27	26	26	19	1203
<i>Sex</i>					
Male	23	20	15	24	578
Female	31	30	36	16	625
<i>Race</i>					
White	27	24	26	20	1043
*Hispanic	28	35	29	15	96
Black	24	32	23	19	54
<i>Age</i>					
Under 30	20	22	22	13	254
30-49	28	24	27	19	522
50+	32	30	28	24	410
<i>Education</i>					
College Grad.	37	22	23	23	358
Other College	28	24	25	23	330
H. S. Grad.	24	26	28	16	389
< H. S. Grad	21	30	29	16	119
<i>Region</i>					
East	26	23	21	16	238
Midwest	26	24	37	19	344
South	27	28	24	17	423
West	31	26	22	28	198
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CONTINUED...

PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"

	<i>Nomination Of Ruth Bader Ginsburg to The Supreme Court</i>	<i>Embezzlement Charges Made against Congressman Rostenkowski</i>	<i>Suicide of White House Aide Vincent Foster, Jr.</i>	<i>G 7 Summit Meeting in Tokyo</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>Total</i>	18	13	13	7	1203
<i>Sex</i>					
Male	18	15	12	10	578
Female	18	11	13	5	625
<i>Race</i>					
White	18	13	13	7	1043
*Hispanic	17	8	11	6	96
Black	20	8	17	10	54
<i>Age</i>					
Under 30	11	4	10	3	254
30-49	18	13	10	8	522
50+	23	18	10	18	410
<i>Education</i>					
College Grad.	27	15	13	12	358
Other College	18	14	15	8	330
H. S. Grad.	14	14	11	4	389
< H. S. Grad.	15	6	11	7	119
<i>Region</i>					
East	17	13	12	7	238
Midwest	15	14	12	5	344
South	20	10	13	7	423
West	19	17	14	10	198
<i>Party ID</i>					
Republican	19	18	14	8	306
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*The designation, hispanic, is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

CONTINUED...

CLINTON JOB APPROVAL

	<i>Approve</i> %	<i>Disapprove</i> %	<i>Don't Know</i> %	<i>N</i>
<i>Total</i>	39	46	15=100	(1203)
<i>Sex</i>				
Male	37	54	9=100	(578)
Female	40	40	20=100	(625)
<i>Race</i>				
White	36	49	15=100	(1043)
Non-white	60	28	12=100	(155)
<i>Age</i>				
Under 30	41	50	9=100	(254)
30-49	38	46	16=100	(522)
50+	38	45	17=100	(410)
<i>Education</i>				
College Grad.	42	47	11=100	(358)
Some College	38	47	15=100	(330)
High School Grad.	42	42	16=100	(389)
< H.S. grad.	30	55	15=100	(119)
<i>Family Income</i>				
\$50,000+	37	50	13=100	(287)
\$30,000-\$49,999	38	49	13=100	(298)
\$20,000-\$29,999	43	44	13=100	(206)
< \$20,000	41	44	15=100	(284)
<i>Region</i>				
East	36	46	18=100	(238)
Midwest	46	41	13=100	(344)
South	34	51	15=100	(423)
West	40	45	15=100	(198)
<i>Party ID</i>				
Republican	13	78	9=100	(306)
Democrat	62	22	16=100	(370)
Independent	37	48	15=100	(467)
<i>1992 Vote</i>				
Bush	13	77	10=100	(288)
Clinton	69	19	12=100	(385)
Perot	25	60	15=100	(159)

Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling his job as President?

CLINTON PERSONAL NEGATIVES

	<i>Clinton Not Able To Get Things Done</i> %	<i>Clinton Doesn't Keep His Promises</i> %
<i>Total</i>	54	53
<i>Sex</i>		
Male	60	59
Female	49	48
<i>Race</i>		
White	57	57
Non-white	35	32
<i>Age</i>		
Under 30	51	59
30-49	56	54
50+	53	48
<i>Education</i>		
College Grad.	59	57
Some College	53	54
High School Grad. < H.S. grad.	51 55	52 52
<i>Family Income</i>		
\$50,000+	63	64
\$30,000-\$49,999	58	57
\$20,000-\$29,999	56	53
< \$20,000	48	45
<i>Region</i>		
East	53	54
Midwest	50	51
South	57	53
West	55	55
<i>Party ID</i>		
Republican	81	77
Democrat	34	34
Independent	55	55
<i>1992 Vote</i>		
Bush	81	80
Clinton	30	29
Perot	64	70

Question:

I am going to read some opposite phrases. Tell me which one best reflects your impressions of Bill Clinton, so far? Does Bill Clinton impress you as ... c) Able to get things done or Not able to get things done? g) Keeps his promises or Doesn't keep his promises?

THE PUBLIC AND HOMOSEXUALS

	SOCIETY'S VIEW OF HOMOSEXUALITY AS A LIFESTYLE		OPINION OF CLINTON'S DECISION TO EASE THE BAN ON HOMOSEXUALS IN THE ARMED FORCES	
	<i>Accepted By Society</i> %	<i>Discouraged By Society</i> %	<i>Approve</i> %	<i>Disapprove</i> %
<i>Total</i>	41	53	42	50
<i>Sex</i>				
Male	34	61	35	58
Female	46	46	47	43
<i>Race</i>				
White	39	54	40	52
Non-white	47	50	53	38
<i>Age</i>				
Under 30	48	45	43	52
30-49	43	52	48	46
50+	34	59	33	54
<i>Education</i>				
College Grad.	49	44	49	46
Some College	41	51	44	47
High School Grad. < H.S. grad.	39 35	56 61	39 36	53 53
<i>Family Income</i>				
\$50,000+	49	46	45	49
\$30,000-\$49,999	40	54	48	46
\$20,000-\$29,999	39	57	36	56
< \$20,000	39	53	39	49
<i>Region</i>				
East	52	40	53	42
Midwest	42	50	42	46
South	30	65	33	59
West	46	48	44	49
<i>Party ID</i>				
Republican	28	66	27	67
Democrat	50	45	54	36
Independent	44	50	43	51
<i>1992 Vote</i>				
Bush	25	68	23	71
Clinton	55	39	60	31
Perot	42	54	37	58

Question: Some people feel that homosexuality is a lifestyle that should be accepted by society. Others feel that homosexuality is a lifestyle that should be discouraged by society. Which comes closer to your viewpoint, the first position or the second?

Do you approve or disapprove of Bill Clinton's decision to ease the ban on homosexuals in the armed forces?

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

The survey results are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,203 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period July 29 - August 1, 1993. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

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

SURVEY METHODOLOGY IN DETAIL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE QUESTIONNAIRE

TIMES MIRROR CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS
NEWS INTEREST INDEX
July 29 - August 1, 1993
N=1,203

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

MY FIRST QUESTION IS...

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

<u>Aug.</u> <u>1993</u>		<u>June</u> <u>1993</u>	<u>May</u> <u>1993</u>	<u>April</u> <u>1993</u>	<u>Feb</u> <u>1993</u>
39	Approve	39	45	49	56
46	Di sapprove	43	37	29	25
<u>15</u> 100	Don' t know/Refused	<u>18</u> 100	<u>18</u> 100	<u>22</u> 100	<u>19</u> 100

Q.1a Do you approve or disapprove of the way your own representative to the US House in Congress is handling his or her job?

<u>Aug.</u> <u>1993</u>		<u>Mar</u> <u>1992</u>	<u>*Dec</u> <u>1991</u>
52	Approve	45	60
26	Di sapprove	37	28
<u>22</u> 100	Don' t know/Refused	<u>18</u> 100	<u>12</u> 100

*Washington Post

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

13	Successful
25	Unsuccessful
60	Too early to tell
<u>2</u> 100	Don' t know/Refused

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

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not Too Closely</u>	<u>Not at All Closely</u>	<u>DK</u>
a. The civil war in Bosnia					
August, 1993	19	37	25	18	1=100
May, 1993	23	34	28	13	2=100
February, 1993	15	32	33	20	*=100
January, 1993	15	33	30	22	*=100
September, 1993	10	27	31	31	1=100
b. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*=100
May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1=100
February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*=100
January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*=100
September, 1992	43	37	13	6	*=100
May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1=100
March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*=100
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*=100
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*=100
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1=100
c. The floods in the Midwest					
August, 1993	65	27	6	2	*=100
d. The debate in Congress over Bill Clinton's budget					
August, 1993	30	36	21	13	*=100
June, 1993	12	38	31	18	1=100
e. The G 7 summit meeting in Tokyo					
August, 1993	7	20	31	41	1=100
f. Bill Clinton's decision to ease the ban on homosexuals in the military					
August, 1993	44	37	13	5	1=100
g. The embezzlement charges made against Illinois Congressman Dan Rostenkowski					
August, 1993	13	20	30	36	1=100
h. Reports about the White House task force on health care reform headed by Hillary Clinton					
August, 1993	27	32	25	15	1=100
June, 1993	28	38	19	15	*=100
May, 1993	30	30	25	14	1=100

		<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not Too Closely</u>	<u>Not at All Closely</u>	<u>DK</u>
i.	The nomination of Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the Supreme Court August, 1993	18	30	27	24	1=100
j.	The decision of the television networks to broadcast parental warnings before showing violent programs August, 1993	26	30	22	21	1=100
k.	The court ruling that ordered a Michigan family to return Baby Jessica to her natural parents August, 1993	26	31	24	17	2=100
l.	The suicide of White House aide, Vincent Foster Jr. August, 1993	13	25	30	30	2=100

Q.3 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. The civil war in Bosnia	5
b. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	9
c. The floods in the Midwest	38
d. The debate in Congress over Bill Clinton's budget	6
e. The G 7 summit meeting in Tokyo	*
f. Bill Clinton's decision to ease the ban on homosexuals in the military	14
g. The embezzlement charges made against Illinois Congressman Dan Rostenkowski	1
h. Reports about the White House task force on health care reform headed by Hillary Clinton	8
i. The nomination of Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the Supreme Court	2
j. The decision of the television networks to broadcast parental warnings before showing violent programs	1
k. The court ruling that ordered a Michigan family to return Baby Jessica to her natural parents	6
l. The suicide of White House aide, Vincent Foster Jr.	1
CAN'T SAY	9

Q.4 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". PROBE FOR WHICH BOSNIA ITEM, IF NEEDED).

	<u>TOO MUCH COVERAGE</u>
a. The civil war in Bosnia	7
b. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	1
c. The floods in the Midwest	8
d. The debate in Congress over Bill Clinton's budget	2
e. The G 7 summit meeting in Tokyo	1
f. Bill Clinton's decision to ease the ban on homosexuals in the military	24
g. The embezzlement charges made against Illinois Congressman Dan Rostenkowski	1
h. Reports about the White House task force on health care reform headed by Hillary Clinton	3
i. The nomination of Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the Supreme Court	3
j. The decision of the television networks to broadcast parental warnings before showing violent programs	1
k. The court ruling that ordered a Michigan family to return Baby Jessica to her natural Parents	6
l. The suicide of White House aide, Vincent Foster Jr.	5
CAN'T SAY	46

IF RESPONDENT SAID '99' CAN'T SAY IN Q.3, SKIP TO Q.6

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

		<u>STORY FOLLOWED MOST CLOSELY</u>			
<u>Total</u>		<u>Reports on</u>	<u>Floods</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Health</u>
<u>%</u>		<u>U. S. Economy</u>	<u>in Midwest</u>	<u>to ease</u>	<u>Care</u>
		<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Gay Ban</u>	<u>Task</u>
				<u>%</u>	<u>Force</u>
				<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
24	Excellent	8	38	18	12
43	Good	38	44	42	50
23	Only Fair	35	13	27	33
8	Poor	18	3	10	4
<u>2</u>	Don't Know	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100
		(113)	(454)	(149)	(105)

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?

<u>Aug.</u>		<u>Jan</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Mar¹</u>
<u>1993</u>		<u>1993</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1991</u>
17	ABC	15	15	20	20	19	17	18	18	12
18	CBS	16	13	14	17	18	14	14	13	8
14	NBC	15	12	14	14	14	13	13	14	10
34	CNN	41	43	40	36	37	42	41	41	58
<u>17</u>	DK	<u>13</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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

Q.7 In your opinion, are the news organizations you are familiar with being fair or unfair to the Clinton administration?

Reagan Aug. 1993		Bush					
		June 1993	Jan 1992	Aug 1989	Jan 1988	Dec 1986	June 1985
66	Fair - (SKIP TO Q.8)	51	77	82	66	67	78
21	Unfair - (CONTINUE)	43	15	12	21	25	12
<u>13</u> 100	Can't say - (SKIP TO Q.8)	<u>6</u> 100	<u>8</u> 100	<u>6</u> 100	<u>13</u> 100	<u>8</u> 100	<u>10</u> 100

Q.7a In what ways are they being unfair? (PROBE FOR SPECIFICS. NO ONE WORD ANSWERS.)

Focusing on negative/ Usually negative	31
Not giving him a chance too soon	29
Biased/not truthful/ one-sided	22
Blow minor issues out of proportion	9
Attention to meaning less personal things	8
Press disagrees with him on budget	5
Sensational/just out for headlines	5
No focus on issues/ too much politics	2
Too easy on him/ not holding to promises	1
NET: Insignificant issues	16

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...

Q.8 This year have Republicans and Democrats in Washington been working together more to solve problems or have they been bickering and opposing one another more than usual?

20	Working together more
57	Opposing each other more
13	Same as in past (VOL)
<u>10</u> 100	Don't Know/Refused

SOME QUESTIONS NOW ABOUT PRESIDENT CLINTON...

Q.9 In your opinion, what has been the most important thing Bill Clinton has accomplished as President so far?

None/Hasn't accomplished anything	34
Economic plan/easing deficit/budget	10
Health care reform	7
Lifting ban on gays in military	6
Bombing of Iraq/not passive to hostility	5
Tries hard/attempts to do right thing	4
Handling of Midwest floods	4
Get people excited/stimulate enthusiasm	4
Help people get back to work	2
Cabinet appointments	2
Trade talks in Tokyo	2
Accomplishments limited by opposition	1
Ruth Bader Ginsburg appointment	1
Lifting ban on abortion counseling	1
Janet Reno appointment	1
Family leave bill	1
NET: Economy	12
NET: Appointments	3
Other	4
Don't know	20

Q. 10 I am going to read some things that the Clinton Administration has done so far. Please tell me if you think each is an important thing to do, or not an important thing to do. If you have not heard about this tell me that. First? (ROTATE)

(READ ITEM) Is this an important thing to do, or not an important thing to do?

		<u>Important Thing to Do</u>	<u>Not an Important Thing to Do</u>	<u>Never Heard Of</u>	<u>DK</u>
a.	Passage of the Family Leave bill	49	21	22	8=100
b.	Ending the ban on doctor's discussing abortion in federally funded clinics	58	33	4	5=100
c.	Providing financial aid to Russia	46	46	2	6=100
d.	Easing the ban on homosexuals in the military	43	51	*	6=100
e.	Ending the ban on fetal tissue research	48	30	13	9=100
f.	Putting further limits on cutting timber on public woodlands	64	25	6	5=100
g.	The June missile attack on Baghdad	58	24	8	10=100
h.	The agreements about trade talks with Japan reached at the G 7 summit meeting	65	15	12	8=100

Q. 11 Overall, do you support or oppose Bill Clinton's economic plan?

	<u>Aug. 1993</u>	<u>June 1993</u>	<u>May 1993</u>	<u>Feb 1993</u>
46 Support		42	46	58
37 Oppose		41	36	27
<u>17</u> 100 Don't know/Refused		<u>17</u> 100	<u>18</u> 100	<u>15</u> 100

Q. 12a As you may know, so far Bill Clinton has been unable to get his economic plan passed in Congress. Who do you think is most responsible for this ... the Clinton Administration itself, the Republicans in Congress or the Democrats in Congress?

18 Clinton administration
 37 Republicans
 15 Democrats
 17 **(DO NOT READ)** All/Combination
13 Don't know/Refused
 100

Q. 12b Why do you think the Republicans in Congress have opposed Clinton on many of his economic proposals ... because they want Bill Clinton to fail, OR because they don't think his programs will work?

26 Because they want Bill Clinton to fail OR
 57 Because they don't think his programs will work
 11 Other **(VOL)**
6 Don't know/Refused
 100

Q. 13 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling the nation's foreign policy?

	Newsweek June 30-July 1 1993
<u>Aug. 1993</u>	
52 Approve	49
25 Disapprove	35
<u>23</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>16</u>
100	100

Q. 14 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling international trade issues?

	Newsweek June 30-July 1 1993
<u>Aug. 1993</u>	
49 Approve	36
25 Disapprove	37
<u>26</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>27</u>
100	100

- Q. 15 Do you approve or disapprove of Bill Clinton's decision to ease the ban on homosexuals in the armed forces?
- 42 Approve
- 50 Disapprove
- $\frac{8}{100}$ Don't know/Refused
- Q. 16 To the best of your knowledge, in what way did Clinton ease the ban on homosexuals in the military? Did he **(READ STATEMENTS)**...
- 13 Allow them to serve openly in the military OR
- 77 Allow them to serve in the military as long as they kept their homosexuality a secret
- $\frac{10}{100}$ Don't know/Refused
- Q. 17 Some people feel that homosexuality is a lifestyle that should be accepted by society. Other feel that homosexuality is a lifestyle that should be discouraged by society. Which comes closer to your viewpoint, the first position or the second?
- 41 First - accepted
- 53 Second - discourage
- $\frac{6}{100}$ Don't know/Refused
- Q. 18 How do you think Bill Clinton feels about homosexuality, does he think that homosexuality is a lifestyle that should be accepted by society OR do you think that he feels that homosexuality should be discouraged by society?
- 68 First - accepted
- 16 Second - discourage
- $\frac{16}{100}$ Don't know/Refused

Q. 19 I am going to read some opposite phrases. Tell me which one best reflects your impressions of Bill Clinton, so far? (ROTATE)

Does Bill Clinton impress you as ...

Aug.

1993

Jan.

1993

a.	56	Trustworthy or-	63
	37	Not trustworthy	29
	2	(DO NOT READ) Neither particularly	3
	5	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	5
	<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>
b.	87	Warm and friendly or	90
	8	Cold and aloof	7
	3	(DO NOT READ) Neither particularly	1
	2	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	2
	<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>
c.	36	Able to get things done or	
	54	Not able to get things done	
	6	(DO NOT READ) Neither particularly	
	4	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	
	<u>100</u>		
d.	63	Well informed or	79
	30	Not well informed	14
	2	(DO NOT READ) Neither particularly	2
	5	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	5
	<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>
e.	47	Well Organized or	
	46	Not well organized	
	2	(DO NOT READ) Neither particularly	
	5	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	
	<u>100</u>		
f.	38	Liberal,	
	44	Middle of the road or	
	11	Conservative	
	2	(DO NOT READ) Neither particularly	
	5	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	
	<u>100</u>		
g.	32	Keeps his promises or	
	53	Doesn't keep his promises	
	8	(DO NOT READ) Neither particularly	
	7	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	
	<u>100</u>		

ON A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SUBJECT

Q.20 In which of these areas do you think the competition and rivalries among people at the top is nastiest and meanest? (READ CHOICES 1-5)

- 20 Big business
- 6 The entertainment world
- 9 The news media
- 49 Politics in Washington
- 7 Professional sports
- $\frac{9}{100}$ Don't know/Refused

Q.21 In the Presidential election this past November, did things come up which kept you from voting, or did you happen to vote? (IF VOTED: Who did you vote for?)

- 22 Bush
- 33 Clinton
- 12 Perot
- 1 Voted, don't remember for whom
- 25 Did not vote
- $\frac{7}{100}$ No answer/Refused

TIMES MIRROR DATABASE

PUBLIC ATTENTIVENESS TO MAJOR NEWS STORIES (1986 - 1993)

PERCENT FOLLOWED VERY CLOSELY

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

PERCENT FOLLOWED
VERY CLOSELY

- 47 Political upheaval in China (July 89)
- 47 Supreme Court decision on abortion (July 89)
- 46 Videotaped beating by Los Angeles police of a suspect they apprehended in an auto chase (March 91)
- 46 Nuclear accident at Chernobyl in the Soviet Union (July 86)
- 46 Freeing of two Americans who had been held hostage in the Mideast (May 90)
- 45 Bill Clinton's attempts to lift the ban on gays in the military (Mar 93)
- 44 *BILL CLINTON'S DECISION TO EASE BAN ON HOMOSEXUALS IN THE MILITARY (AUG 93)*
- 44 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Jan 92)
- 44 The release of the last American hostages being held in Lebanon (Dec 91)
- 43 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Sept 92)
- 43 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Dec 91)
- 43 News about the presidential campaign in 1988 (Oct 88)
- 42 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Jan 93)
- 42 The presidential election campaign (Sept 92)
- 42 Hot weather this summer and the greenhouse effect (Aug 88)
- 42 Downing of an Iranian passenger plane by a U.S. Navy ship (Aug 88)
- 41 *REPORTS ABOUT THE CONDITION OF THE U.S. ECONOMY (AUG 93)*
- 41 News regarding harassment charges raised against supreme court nominee Clarence Thomas (Oct 91)
- 40 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 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (May 93)
- 37 U.S. Navy escort of Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Persian Gulf (Oct 87)
- 37 Stories about Dan Quayle, the Republican Vice-Presidential candidate (Aug 88)
- 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)

PERCENT FOLLOWED
VERY CLOSELY

- 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)
- 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 DEBATE IN CONGRESS OVER BILL CLINTON BUDGET (AUG 93)*
- 30 Reports about the White House task force on health care reform headed by Hillary Clinton (May 93)
- 30 The end of Mikhail Gorbachev's rule, as a new commonwealth was formed to replace the Soviet Union (Dec 91)
- 30 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Aug 90)
- 30 Freeing of jailed black South African leader Nelson Mandela (March 90)
- 30 Banishment of Pete Rose from baseball for life (Sept 89)
- 30 The Democratic convention (Aug 88)
- 30 President Bush's call for higher taxes to help reduce the federal deficit (July 90)

- 29 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Sept 90)
- 29 Reports about the fires in Southern California (July 90)
- 29 Lithuania's declaration of independence from the Soviet Union and Moscow's response (April 90)
- 29 Suicide in Boston of Charles Stuart who murdered his pregnant wife and blamed it on a black man (Feb 90)

PERCENT FOLLOWED
VERY CLOSELY

- 29 Political changes taking place in Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany (Jan 90)
- 29 Political changes in East Germany and the flight of refugees to West Germany (Nov 89)
- 29 Attack and sexual assault on a female jogger in Central Park, New York, by a group of youths (May 89)
- 29 Failed coup attempt against Panamanian strongman Noriega (Oct 89)
- 28 Reports about the White House task force on health care headed by Hilary Clinton (June 93)
- 28 Accounts about U.S. troops in Somalia (Mar 93)
- 28 Creation of White House task force on health care reform headed by Hillary Clinton (Mar 93)
- 28 Supreme Court deliberations re legality of PA abortion restrictions (May 92)
- 28 The death of 87 people in a fire at a social club in the Bronx, New York (April 90)
- 28 Political changes taking place in the Soviet Union (March 90)
- 28 Arrest of Washington's Mayor Barry on drug use charges (Feb 90)
- 28 The revolution in Romania (Jan 90)
- 28 Political changes taking place in Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany (Dec 89)
- 28 Problems at nuclear reactor plants (Oct 88)
- 28 The end of Gary Hart's candidacy and the Donna Rice allegations (Sept 87)
- 27 *REPORTS ABOUT THE WHITE HOUSE TASK FORCE ON HEALTH CARE REFORM HEADED BY HILLARY CLINTON (AUG 93)*
- 27 Republican opposition to Bill Clinton's economic stimulus package (May 93)
- 27 The Clinton administration's decision to allow women to serve in naval and air combat roles (May 93)
- 27 William Kennedy Smith rape trial (Dec 91)
- 27 Deployment of U.S. marines to Liberia to protect the lives of Americans caught in
t h e
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 *COURT RULING THAT ORDERED BABY JESSICA TO HER NATURAL PARENTS (AUG 93)*
- 26 *NETWORKS DECISION TO BROADCAST PARENTAL WARNING BEFORE VIOLENT PROGRAMS (AUG 93)*
- 26 The Clinton administration's policies about the situation in Bosnia (June 93)
- 26 Russia and the U.S. reach an agreement to sharply reduce their nuclear arsenals (Jan 93)
- 26 President Bush's state of the union address (Feb 92)
- 26 Charges that the White House Chief of Staff used military airplanes and government cars for personal trips (July 1991)
- 26 Concerns about Dan Quayle's ability to serve as President (May 91)
- 26 Bush/Gorbachev summit meeting in Helsinki (Sept 90)
- 26 The death of Hank Gathers, a college basketball player, during a game (April 90)
- 26 Political changes taking place in Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany (Feb 90)

PERCENT FOLLOWED
VERY CLOSELY

- 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 The debate about whether to use U.S. airstrikes against serbian forces in Bosnia (May 93)
- 24 Controversy over Zoe Baird and Kimba Wood hiring illegal aliens (Mar 93)
- 24 Bill Clinton's cabinet choices and other high level appointments (Jan 93)
- 24 Race for the Republican presidential nomination (Apr 92)
- 24 The breast implant controversy (Feb 92)
- 24 Charges that Reagan campaign officials made a deal with Iran to hold up release of the hostages until after the 1980 Presidential campaign (July 1991)
- 24 Charges that White House Chief of Staff used military airplanes for personal trips (May 91)
- 24 Supreme Court decision that found laws against flag burning unconstitutional and the attempt in Congress to amend the Constitution (July 90)
- 24 Nelson Mandela's visit to the U.S. (July 90)
- 24 Deployment of the Hubble Space Telescope (May 90)
- 24 Difficulties the government is having in getting people to fill out Census forms (May 90)
- 24 The NCAA Basketball playoffs (April 90)
- 24 Supreme Court decision regarding a person's right to die (July 90)
- 23 Civil war in Bosnia (May 93)
- 23 George Bush's presidential pardon of Weinberger and five others involved in Iran Contra affair (Jan 93)
- 23 Cyclone that devastated Bangladesh (May 91)
- 23 Attempt in Idaho to pass a bill that would severely restrict abortions (April 90)
- 23 Greyhound bus drivers' strike (April 90)
- 23 Discussion of the reunification of Germany (March 90)
- 23 The World Series (Nov 89)
- 22 Bill Clinton's economic conference in Little Rock with leading economists, policy experts and business leaders (Jan 93)
- 22 Protests and demonstrations at abortion clinics in Wichita, Kansas (Oct 91)
- 22 Congressional hearings about U.S. Persian Gulf policy (Jan 91)
- 22 Reunification of Germany (Oct 90)
- 22 Washington Mayor Barry's trial (July 90)
- 22 The 54 year old Oregon woman suffering from Alzheimers who ended her life by using a suicide machine (July 90)
- 22 President Bush's visit to Colombia to attend a drug summit (March 90)
- 22 The Super Bowl (Feb 90)
- 22 Letter bombings of federal judges (Jan 90)
- 22 Discoveries made by the spacecraft Voyager 2 (Sept 89)
- 22 Trial of televangelist Jim Bakker (Sept 89)
- 22 April hijacking of a Kuwaiti airplane by Shiite Moslems (May 88)
- 22 Cease fire in the war between Iran and Iraq (Aug 88)
- 22 News about the presidential campaign in 1988 (May 88)
- 22 Charges that Pete Rose has bet on baseball games (July 89)
- 21 Bill Clinton's nomination and then withdrawal of Lani Guinier as civil rights division head (June 93)

PERCENT FOLLOWED
VERY CLOSELY

- 21 U.S. and its allies establishing a no fly zone over the skies of southern Iraq (Sept 92)
- 21 Execution in CA of convicted killer Robert Alton Harris (May 92)
- 21 Alleged rape of a young woman at the Kennedy family's Palm Beach estate (May 91)
- 21 Controversy surrounding the way Roseanne Barr sang the National Anthem at a San Diego Padres baseball game (Aug 90)
- 21 Tensions between Moscow and the Baltic Republics of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania who wish to secede from the Soviet Union (June 90)
- 21 Discussions about German reunification (April 90)
- 21 Political changes taking place in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, East Germany and other countries of Eastern and Central Europe (March 90)
- 21 Scandal involving HUD (Aug 89)
- 20 Mikhail Gorbachev's political problems in the Soviet Union (March 91)
- 20 Resignation of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the election of her successor (Jan 91)
- 20 The murder on a New York subway platform of a Utah man attempting to protect his family from attack by teenage muggers (Sept 90)
- 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 CIVIL WAR IN BOSNIA (AUG 93)*
- 19 The Republican primary in New Hampshire (Feb 92)
- 19 The Democratic primary in New Hampshire (Feb 92)
- 19 Attempts by Congress and the Administration to find ways to reduce the budget deficit (Aug 90)
- 19 Elections in Nicaragua (March 90)
- 19 Coup attempt against the Filipino government (Dec 89)
- 19 Attempts in Congress to repeal the new catastrophic health insurance plan (Oct 89)
- 19 Incidents of racial violence in New York City and Virginia Beach (Sept 89)
- 19 Discussions of a U.S. Soviet arms agreement (Sept 87)
- 18 *NOMINATION OF RUTH BADER GINSBURG TO THE SUPREME COURT (AUG 93)*
- 18 The controversy over Bill Clinton's \$200 hair cut on the runway in Los Angeles (June 93)
- 18 Tennis star Arthur Ashe's announcement that he has AIDS (May 92)
- 18 News about the candidates and election campaigns in your state (Oct 90)
- 18 Special meetings between the Bush Administration and Congressional Leaders to find ways to reduce the federal deficit (June 90)
- 18 Continuing news about the Savings and Loan scandal (June 90)
- 18 Reports about renewed inflation and rising interest rates (May 90)
- 18 Senator Moynihan's proposal to cut social security taxes (Feb 90)
- 18 The stock market crash (May 88)
- 18 Conflict in the Middle East between Palestinians and the Israelis in the occupied territories (May 88)
- 17 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)

PERCENT FOLLOWED
VERY CLOSELY

- 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 gay march on Washington (May 93)
- 16 David Duke's announcement that he will run for the Republican presidential nomination (Dec 91)
- 16 Nomination of David Souter to the U.S. Supreme Court to replace Justice William Brennan (Aug 90)
- 16 Washington DC Mayor Marion Barry's trial ending in a mistrial (Aug 90)
- 16 Financial troubles of Donald Trump (July 90)
- 16 Dispute between the President and Congress over allowing Chinese students to remain in America (Feb 90)
- 15 The civil war in Bosnia (Mar 93)
- 15 The civil war in Bosnia (Jan 93)
- 15 Charges that Ark. Governor Clinton has had extra-marital affairs (Feb 92)
- 15 President Bush's decision to postpone loan guarantees to Israel (Oct 91)
- 15 Resignation of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze (Jan 91)
- 15 Senate confirmation of Supreme Court Justice David Souter (Oct 90)
- 15 Controversy over the exclusion of blacks from membership in many country clubs at which national golf championship matches are played (Aug 90)
- 15 Education Summit held by Bush and the nation's Governors (Oct 89)
- 15 Ethics committee's investigation of Speaker of the House Jim Wright (May 89)
- 15 News about the Democratic candidates for the presidential nomination (Oct 87)
- 15 Conflict of interest allegations about Attorney General Ed Meese (May 88)
- 15 Scandal involving HUD (July 89)
- 14 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 *EMBEZZLEMENT CHARGES MADE AGAINST CONGRESSMAN ROSTENKOWSKI (AUG 93)*
- 13 *SUICIDE OF WHITE HOUSE AIDE VINCENT FOSTER, JR. (AUG 93)*
- 13 The controversy over the management of the White House travel office (June 93)
- 13 Attacks on foreigners in Germany by neo-nazis (Jan 93)
- 13 Debate and discussion about the free trade agreement between the U.S., Mexico and Canada (Sept 92)
- 13 Referendum on ending white rule in South Africa (Apr 92)
- 13 Celebration of Earth Day (May 92)
- 13 End of UAW strike against Caterpillar Tractor (May 92)
- 13 The BCCI international banking scandal (Oct 91)
- 13 U.S. Department of Education prohibition of racially based college scholarships (Jan 91)
- 13 Worsening economic conditions in the Soviet Union (Sept 90)
- 13 Civil unrest and ethnic violence in Soviet Azerbaijan (Feb 90)
- 13 Resumption of fighting in Nicaragua between the Contras and government forces (Nov 89)
- 13 Elections in Virginia, New Jersey, New York City and other localities (Nov 89)
- 13 News about the Republican candidates for the Presidential nomination (Oct 88)
- 12 The debate in Congress over Bill Clinton's budget (June 93)

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VERY CLOSELY

- 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 Announcement from London that marriage between Prince Charles and Diana is over (Jan 93)
- 11 Civil War and famine in Somalia (Sept 92)
- 11 The controversy re Governor Clinton's joining ROTC to avoid the draft in 1969 (Feb 92)
- 11 The outbreak of civil war in the former Soviet Republic of Georgia (Jan 1992)
- 11 News about the Democratic candidates for the presidential nomination (Jan 1992)
- 11 Debate in Washington about a new civil rights bill (July 1991)
- 11 Conflict between the Yugoslavian Republics (July 1991)
- 11 The incident in Gaza in which a deranged Israeli killed seven Palestinians and the West bank riots that followed (June 90)
- 11 Legalization of banned black opposition groups in South Africa and the promise to free Nelson Mandela (Feb 90)
- 10 The voter referendum in Russia (May 93)
- 10 Israel's expulsion of 400 muslim fundamentalists following the murder of an Israeli soldier in the West Bank (Jan 93)
- 10 Civil war in Bosnia (Sept 92)
- 10 Mario Cuomo's decision not to seek the Democratic presidential nomination (Jan 1992)
- 10 News about the Democratic candidates for the presidential nomination (Dec 91)
- 10 Japanese purchase of Rockefeller center in New York City (Dec 89)
- 10 The spending and tax proposals made by Congressman Dan Rostenkowski to help reduce the budget deficit (April 90)
- 10 Academy Awards (April 90)

- 9 Discovery of scientific evidence of the beginnings of the universe (May 92)
- 9 Purchase of entertainment giant, MCA by the Japanese consumer electronics company, Matsushita (Jan 91)
- 9 The investigation of five U.S. Senators for doing favors for Charles Keating in exchange for campaign contributions (Jan 91)
- 9 Aids conference in San Francisco (July 90)
- 9 May day protests in Moscow (May 90)
- 9 Bankruptcy of Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc. (March 90)
- 9 Trial of Hotel owner Leona Helmsley for tax evasion (Sept 89)
- 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)

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- 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 *G 7 SUMMIT MEETING IN TOKYO (AUG 93)*
- 7 Trial of alleged 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 Scandals in the British royal family involving the Duchess of York - Fergie and Princess Diana (Sept 92)
- 5 The conflict between the Yugoslavian Republics (Dec 91)
- 4 Marital break-up of Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson (Apr 92)
- 4 Dismissal of Pakistan's Prime Minister Bhutto by Pakistan's President (Aug 90)
- 4 Civil war in Cambodia (May 90)
- 3 Woody Allen and Mia Farrow's family breakup (Sept 92)
- 2 Tom Cruise's separation from his wife (April 90)