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Quake and Kerrigan Vie for Public Attention
Public Sympathetic To Inman Charges

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andrew Kohut, Director
Robert C. Toth, Senior Associate
Carol Bowman, Research Director
Times Mirror Center for The People & The Press
202/293-3126

PUBLIC SYMPATHETIC TO INMAN CHARGES

While very few Americans followed news of Bobby Ray Inman's abrupt withdrawal as nominee for secretary of defense, many agree with the criticisms he made of the press in explaining his departure from public life.

A growing number of Americans think that press coverage of the personal and ethical behavior of politicians is excessive. Few think it's "very responsible", and many see it as discouraging qualified people from going into public office. Americans also think the press plays a more powerful agenda-setting role than political leaders in Washington, or other leadership groups.

In a nationwide Times Mirror telephone survey conducted this past weekend, 59% said that press coverage of the personal lives and ethical behavior of political leaders is excessive. Fifty-two percent expressed that opinion in a 1989 nationwide poll.

Only 13% in the current survey rated this type of news coverage as *very* responsible. Most (56%) graded the press as only *fairly* responsible, or as *not* responsible (29%) in the way it covered such stories.

The poll found that although a large majority of the public (66%) continues to see the press as playing an important watchdog role, considerably fewer than five years ago think the media is helping to weed out the kind of politicians who should not be in office. Now, 45% feel that way, vs. 60% in 1989.

But by a two-to-one margin (64% vs. 31%), the public thinks that the bigger problem is that press coverage these days discourages qualified people from serving in public life, rather than fails to weed out unfit political leaders.

Three out of four Times Mirror respondents who followed news of Inman's withdrawal¹ saw some truth in the retired Admiral's charges that the news media is "constantly critical of, and hostile toward public figures." However, most in the poll (58%) felt that while his charges were true, they were an exaggeration. Only 17% thought they were completely true. Twenty-one percent of those polled thought his criticisms of the media were not true. But people who followed Inman's story *very* closely more often saw his charges as untrue (32%), than those who followed the controversy less closely (17%).

Democrats Sour

Mounting public criticism of press coverage of the personal lives and ethical behavior of political figures is apparent in all demographic and political groups. However, discontent with press performance in this area has risen most sharply among Democrats. In 1989, the first year of the Bush presidency, 47% of Democrats compared to 58% of Republicans thought that this type of news coverage was excessive. Five years later, Democrats lead Republicans (64% to 56%) in faulting the press for its obsession with scandal in high places.

In that regard, the poll finds the public divided along partisan lines as to who is most responsible for making an issue of Whitewater. Overall, 42% held the press responsible, while 47% blamed Clinton's political opponents for harping on Clinton's failed real estate investment in Arkansas. Republicans more often blamed the press (56%), while Democrats blamed Clinton's political enemies (61%).

¹ Twenty-six percent of the public said they followed news of Inman's decision very (7%) or fairly closely (19%).

Surprisingly, however, given the general view of the press' obsession with scandal, the attentive public² does not think the press is pushing too hard on Whitewater. Of those following news of the issue closely, 63% said it was important for the news media to push hard to learn the facts in this case, while only 34% thought the media is pushing too hard. Partisanship predictably colored respondent views on this question, but political independents were strongly of the view that the press was not overly covering Whitewater.

Agenda-Setting Media

Pluralities of Americans of all political persuasions, and in all major demographic groups, think the news media plays the most influential role in determining what issues and events are considered important in this country. Forty-three percent of those surveyed by Times Mirror named the press as the most important agenda-setting group, compared to 22% who cited political leadership in Washington. Other leadership groups named less often included business leaders (11%), Hollywood (10%) and religious leaders (7%).

The media's agenda setting power notwithstanding, the public does not think that the press is exaggerating the amount of violence in the country these days. A two-thirds majority (64%) thinks the press accurately reflects the level of crime, while only 28% thinks the level is exaggerated.

In fact, the poll finds that the public ranks crime just below improving the job situation as the problem to which President Clinton should give top priority. Improving the job situation was named by 26% of survey respondents in this regard. Reducing crime was named next most often (by 22%), followed by reducing the budget deficit (20%), reforming the welfare system (15%) and reforming health care (14%).

Opinions about the President's priorities in last weekend's survey are similar to those recorded in a December nationwide Times Mirror poll, except that welfare reform received somewhat more priority in the current survey than in the earlier one (33% named it as first or second priority, compared to 25% in December)

Health Care Reform Cools

It is noteworthy that in both polls reforming health care was given lower priority than most other issues tested. But in absolute terms, health care reform is still regarded as an important issue by most Americans. Three in four of those questioned said that the U.S. health care system should either be completely rebuilt (42%) or that it needs fundamental changes (33%). Only 21% characterized the system as working pretty well and requiring only minor changes.

However, on a trend basis, these figures represent some erosion of zeal for health care reform. In April 1993, as many as 55% thought the system should be rebuilt, and only 15% thought the system was working well. The lessened belief that the health care system requires radical re-structuring was more apparent among *Democrats* than among Republicans or Independents, falling from 70% to 44% among self-ascribed Democrats.

²Thirty-nine percent followed news about Whitewater very (14%) or fairly (25%) closely.

Changes Required In Health Care System

	Jan. 1994			Apr. 1993		
	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Ind.</i>
Only Minor	30	14	17	27	8	12
Fundamental	32	38	32	29	18	29
Completely						
Rebuild	33	44	48	41	70	55
Don't Know	5	4	3	3	4	4
	100	100	100	100	100	100

The News Interest Index

The attack on figure skater Nancy Kerrigan competed closely for public attention with natural disasters across the country last month, and far outdistanced interest in two melodramatic criminal stories: the trials of Lorena Bobbitt and the Menendez brothers.

Fully 45% of respondents said they paid *very close* attention to the Kerrigan story in which ex-husband and other associates of rival Tonya Harding are accused of maiming/bruising the graceful Kerrigan to insure a place for Harding on the Olympic team.

The earthquake in Southern California was followed very closely by 63% of the public, while the Big Chill in the Northeast and Midwest drew 51%. These audiences, although smaller, were roughly comparable to similar events in the past, including the San Francisco earthquake of November, 1989, followed very closely by 73%; and the Midwest floods last summer, by 65%.

Attention to the Kerrigan affair was extraordinary for a story of an individual, famous or otherwise, caught up in tragedy or criminal conspiracy. It ran counter to the typical pattern in which public interest wanes quickly after the initial expose, perhaps because of repulsion toward the crime.

The Kerrigan story attracted almost twice the audience of the trial of Mrs. Bobbitt, accused of sexually mutilating her husband, which was followed very closely by 26%. It was almost quadruple the 12% who followed very closely the trial of the two Menendez brothers who murdered their parents. Mike Tyson's rape trial in February, 1992, drew 32%; the lifetime banishment of Pete Rose from baseball in September, 1989, drew 30%; the William Kennedy Smith rape trial in December, 1991, 27%; and the death of Hank Gathers, a college basketball player on the court, during an April, 1990, game, 26%.

Bobbitt Backlash

Moreover, in the latest survey, when the public was asked which *single story* of the month it had followed *most* closely, Kerrigan was barely nosed out by the California earthquake, 23% to 21%. At the other extreme, the one story which received too much coverage, according to 51% of the public, was the Bobbitt case; no other story came close in this respect.

The Kerrigan story also eclipsed interest in various political stories, including the Clinton health care reform proposal, which was followed very closely by 38%; and in reports about the national economy, followed very closely by 34%. It also topped President Clinton's first State of the Union address, at 26%; this was precisely the same proportion of Americans who followed very closely the State of the Union message of former President George Bush two years earlier.

In terms of quality of coverage of the month's major stories, the public gave the lowest grade to health care reform, highest to the cold spell in the east and midwest. Asked to rate coverage of the story they had followed most closely, only 10% of respondents said excellent on health

care, compared to 48% who said excellent on the Big Chill. In between were the Los Angeles earthquake (33%), the attack on Kerrigan (31%), and the Lorena Bobbitt story (30%).

Demographically, young people aged 18 to 29, particularly young women in that age group, were much more interested in Kerrigan than the earthquake. Young women were also more interested in the Bobbitt case than in the earthquake. Not surprisingly, more Westerners paid most attention to the earthquake, but Easterners followed Kerrigan more closely than they did the big temblor and even their own record cold weather snap.

PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"

	<i>Earthquake In Southern California</i>	<i>Weather Conditions In Northeast And Midwest</i>	<i>Attack of Nancy Kerrigan</i>	<i>Clinton Admin.'s Health Care Reform Proposals</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>Total</i>	63	51	45	38	(1207)
<i>Sex</i>					
Male	57	47	42	36	(600)
Female	67	54	48	40	(607)
<i>Race</i>					
White	62	51	46	37	(1014)
*Hispanic	75	51	39	38	(73)
Black	65	50	44	47	(100)
<i>Age</i>					
Under 30	57	47	47	37	(243)
30-49	57	49	40	36	(529)
50+	72	55	50	45	(415)
<i>Education</i>					
College Grad.	58	50	41	45	(386)
Other College	60	52	47	43	(290)
High School Grad	62	50	46	36	(404)
< H. S. Grad.	73	51	47	29	(118)
<i>Region</i>					
East	67	74	48	42	(241)
Midwest	58	60	43	38	(288)
South	58	44	45	37	(422)
West	72	29	45	37	(256)
<i>Party ID</i>					
Republican	58	52	42	37	(363)
Democrat	68	52	45	40	(371)
Independent	62	49	49	38	(428)

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>Condition of the U. S. Economy</i>	<i>Clinton's State of The Union Address</i>	<i>Trial of Lorena Bobbitt</i>	<i>Bill & Hillary Failed Whitewater Investment</i>	N
<i>Total</i>	34	26	26	14	(1207)
<i>Sex</i>					
Male	38	25	23	16	(600)
Female	31	26	28	11	(607)
<i>Race</i>					
White	34	25	24	14	(1014)
*Hispanic	30	30	41	11	(73)
Black	41	31	37	12	(100)
<i>Age</i>					
Under 30	28	17	31	7	(243)
30-49	35	22	22	11	(529)
50+	37	36	27	20	(415)
<i>Education</i>					
College Grad.	44	36	14	14	(386)
Other College	38	21	24	14	(290)
High School Grad	31	24	29	12	(404)
< H. S. Grad.	26	24	34	13	(118)
<i>Region</i>					
East	37	25	29	13	(241)
Midwest	33	27	22	15	(288)
South	35	25	27	14	(422)
West	33	26	24	13	(256)
<i>Party ID</i>					
Republican	36	24	21	20	(363)
Democrat	34	31	32	9	(371)
Independent	35	23	24	13	(428)

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>Civil War in Bosnia</i>	<i>Trial Of Menendez Brothers</i>	<i>Clinton's Summit Meeting in Europe and Russia</i>	<i>Inman's Withdrawal As nominee For Secretary Of Defense</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>Total</i>	12	12	11	7	(1207)
<i>Sex</i>					
Male	13	11	13	7	(600)
Female	10	13	10	6	(607)
<i>Race</i>					
White	11	10	11	7	(1014)
*Hispanic	12	20	9	11	(73)
Black	21	26	14	8	(100)
<i>Age</i>					
Under 30	14	14	7	3	(243)
30-49	12	10	9	7	(529)
50+	10	13	15	8	(415)
<i>Education</i>					
College Grad.	12	6	16	11	(386)
Other College	11	10	11	9	(290)
High School Grad	12	13	10	6	(404)
< H. S. Grad.	10	17	9	2	(118)
<i>Region</i>					
East	13	15	14	7	(241)
Midwest	11	8	12	6	(288)
South	10	12	11	6	(422)
West	14	14	7	8	(256)
<i>Party ID</i>					
Republican	12	9	12	11	(363)
Democrat	10	15	12	6	(371)
Independent	13	11	10	5	(428)

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.

SELECTED TABLES

NEWS ORGANIZATIONS COVERAGE OF PERSONAL/ETHICAL BEHAVIOR OF POLITICIANS

	<i>Very Responsibly</i>	<i>Fairly Responsibly</i>	<i>Not Responsibly</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>	<i>(N)</i>
<i>Total</i>	13	56	29	2=100	(1207)
<i>Sex</i>					
Male	12	54	32	2=100	(600)
Female	13	58	26	3=100	(607)
<i>Race</i>					
White	12	58	28	2=100	(1014)
Non-white	19	45	34	2=100	(184)
<i>Age</i>					
Under 30	12	58	30	0=100	(243)
30-49	10	59	29	2=100	(529)
50+	16	52	27	5=100	(415)
<i>Education</i>					
College Grad.	6	57	36	1=100	(386)
Some College	10	60	29	1=100	(290)
High School Grad.	13	58	28	1=100	(404)
< H.S. grad.	23	47	23	7=100	(118)
<i>Family Income</i>					
\$50,000+	7	62	30	1=100	(280)
\$30,000-\$49,999	13	57	28	2=100	(296)
\$20,000-\$29,999	10	61	28	1=100	(213)
< \$20,000	18	51	27	4=100	(301)
<i>Region</i>					
East	15	60	22	3=100	(241)
Midwest	15	52	32	1=100	(288)
South	13	56	28	3=100	(422)
West	9	57	32	2=100	(256)
<i>Party ID</i>					
Republican	10	64	24	2=100	(363)
Democrat	13	54	30	3=100	(371)
Independent	15	52	33	*=100	(428)

Question: How responsibly do you think news organizations cover stories about the personal and ethical behavior of politicians? Do you think they cover them very responsibly, fairly responsibly, not very responsibly, or not at all responsibly?

PRESS COVERAGE OF PERSONAL/ETHICAL BEHAVIOR OF POLITICIANS EXCESSIVE?

	<i>Excessive</i>		<i>Not</i> <i>Excessive</i>		<i>Don't Know</i>	
	<u>1989</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1994</u>
<i>Total</i>	52	59	43	38	5	3
<i>Sex</i>						
Male	53	57	44	41	3	2
Female	52	61	41	35	7	4
<i>Race</i>						
White	53	60	43	37	4	3
Non-white	48	58	45	39	7	3
<i>Age</i>						
Under 30	55	61	41	38	4	1
30-49	53	62	45	37	2	1
50+	51	56	42	38	7	6
<i>Education</i>						
College Grad.	49	65	48	34	3	1
Some College	53	57	45	42	2	1
High School Grad.	56	59	40	38	4	3
< H.S. grad.	50	58	38	34	12	8
<i>Family Income</i>						
\$50,000+	50	62	49	37	1	1
\$30,000-\$49,999 ³	54	63	43	36	3	1
\$20,000-\$29,999		60		39		1
<\$20,000	50	56	42	39	8	5
<i>Region</i>						
East	58	56	39	40	3	4
Midwest	49	61	46	36	5	3
South	49	62	45	35	6	3
West	54	56	41	42	5	2
<i>Party ID</i>						
Republican	58	56	38	42	4	2
Democrat	47	64	48	32	5	4
Independent	51	59	45	39	4	2

Question: Do you think press coverage of the personal and ethical behavior of politicians is excessive or not?

³In 1989, the income categories, \$20,000-\$29,999 and \$30,000-\$49,999, were combined.

PRESS COVERAGE WEEDS OUT UNFIT POLITICIANS?

	<i>Weeds Out</i>		<i>Doesn't Weed Out</i>		<i>Don't Know</i>	
	<u>1989</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1994</u>
<i>Total</i>	60	45	37	51	3	4
<i>Sex</i>						
Male	62	45	35	53	3	2
Female	59	45	38	49	3	6
<i>Race</i>						
White	60	44	37	52	3	4
Non-white	62	48	35	49	3	3
<i>Age</i>						
Under 30	54	36	44	60	2	4
30-49	59	45	39	54	2	1
50+	67	50	29	43	4	7
<i>Education</i>						
College Grad.	58	42	38	57	4	1
Some College	58	43	40	53	2	4
High School Grad.	60	44	38	52	2	4
< H.S. grad.	66	52	30	41	4	7
<i>Family Income</i>						
\$50,000+	57	44	40	55	3	1
\$30,000-\$49,999 ⁴	60	44	38	54	2	2
\$20,000-\$29,999		42		55		3
< \$20,000	64	49	33	44	3	7
<i>Region</i>						
East	62	45	36	49	2	6
Midwest	56	44	41	53	3	3
South	61	47	35	48	4	5
West	61	42	36	56	3	2
<i>Party ID</i>						
Republican	57	44	41	51	2	5
Democrat	66	48	32	49	2	3
Independent	59	44	36	52	5	4

Question: Do you think press coverage of the personal and ethical behavior of politicians helps weed out the kind of people who should not be in office, or don't you think that?

⁴In 1989, the income categories, \$20,000-\$29,999 and \$30,000-\$49,999, were combined.

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 1,207 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period January 27-30, 1994. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

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

SURVEY METHODOLOGY IN DETAIL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE QUESTIONNAIRE

TIMES MIRROR CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS
NEWS INTEREST INDEX
January 27-30, 1994
N=1,207

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?

		Early Jan <u>1994</u>	Dec <u>1993</u>	Early Oct <u>1993</u>	Sept <u>1993</u>	Sept <u>1993</u>	Aug <u>1993</u>	June <u>1993</u>	May <u>1993</u>	April <u>1993</u>	Feb <u>1993</u>
51	Approve	48	48	44	49	43	39	39	45	49	56
35	Disapprove	35	36	42	35	43	46	43	37	29	25
<u>14</u> 100	Don't know/Refused	<u>17</u> 100	<u>16</u> 100	<u>14</u> 100	<u>16</u> 100	<u>14</u> 100	<u>15</u> 100	<u>18</u> 100	<u>18</u> 100	<u>22</u> 100	<u>19</u> 100

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

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

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	12	31	32	25	*=100
	Early January, 1994	15	38	30	17	*=100
	December, 1993	15	32	31	21	1=100
	October, 1993	16	36	30	17	1=100
	September, 1993	15	32	32	20	1=100
	Early September, 1993	17	38	26	19	*=100
	August, 1993	19	37	25	18	1=100
	May, 1993	23	34	28	13	2=100
	February, 1993	15	32	33	20	*=100
	January, 1993	15	33	30	22	*=100
	September, 1992	10	27	31	31	1=100
b.	Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	34	39	16	10	1=100
	Early January, 1994	36	44	13	7	*=100
	December, 1993	35	41	15	8	1=100
	October, 1993	33	38	20	9	*=100
	September, 1993	37	40	14	8	1=100
	Early September, 1993	39	39	14	9	*=100
	August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*=100
	May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1=100
	February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*=100
	January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*=100
	September, 1992	43	37	13	6	*=100
	May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1=100
	March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*=100
	February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*=100
	January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*=100
	October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1=100
c.	The earthquake in Southern California	63	31	5	1	0=100
d.	Bill Clinton's summit meetings in Europe and Russia	11	32	30	27	*=100
e.	The trial of the Menendez brothers for the murder of their parents	12	28	34	25	1=100

Q.2 con't ...

		<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK</u>
f.	Bill Clinton's state of the union address February, 1992 ⁵	26 26	25 26	18 20	31 27	*=100 1=100
g.	The Clinton Admin.'s health care reform proposals	38	38	15	9	*=100
	Early January, 1994	40	40	14	6	*=100
	December, 1993	45	35	12	7	1=100
	October, 1993	44	32	17	6	1=100
	September, 1993	49	34	11	6	*=100
	August, 1993 ⁶	27	32	25	15	1=100
	June, 1993	28	38	19	15	*=100
	May, 1993	30	30	25	14	1=100
h.	The trial of Lorena Bobbitt who was accused of sexually mutilating her husband because he reportedly raped her	26	35	24	15	*=100
i.	Questions about Bill and Hillary Clinton's failed Whitewater real estate investment in Arkansas Early January, 1994	14 13	25 29	28 31	32 26	1=100 1=100
j.	The attack on figure skater Nancy Kerrigan	45	37	12	6	*=100
k.	Bobby Inman's withdrawal as the nominee for secretary of defense	7	19	29	44	1=100
l.	News about cold weather conditions in the North- east and Midwest	51	30	12	7	*=100

⁵ Trend for President Bush's state of the union address.

⁶ In previous months story was listed as "Reports about the White House task force on health care reform headed by Hillary Clinton.

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	2
b.	Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	5
c.	The earthquake in Southern California	23
d.	Bill Clinton's summit meetings in Europe and Russia	1
e.	The trial of the Menendez brothers for the murder of their parents	2
f.	Bill Clinton's state of the union address	5
g.	The Clinton Administration's health care reform proposals	14
h.	The trial of Lorena Bobbitt who was accused of sexually mutilating her husband because he reportedly raped her	10
i.	Questions about Bill and Hillary Clinton's failed Whitewater real estate investment in Arkansas	2
j.	The attack on figure skater Nancy Kerrigan	21
k.	Bobby Inman's withdrawal as the nominee for secretary of defense	*
l.	News about cold weather conditions in the Northeast and Midwest	9
	Can't Say (VOL)	$\frac{6}{100}$

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"**).

	<u>Too Much Coverage</u>
a. The civil war in Bosnia	1
b. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	*
c. The earthquake in Southern California	4
d. Bill Clinton's summit meetings in Europe and Russia	*
e. The trial of the Menendez brothers for the murder of their parents	12
f. Bill Clinton's state of the union address	1
g. The Clinton Administration's health care reform proposals	1
h. The trial of Lorena Bobbitt who was accused of sexually mutilating her husband because he reportedly raped her	51
i. Questions about Bill and Hillary Clinton's failed Whitewater real estate investment in Arkansas	5
j. The attack on figure skater Nancy Kerrigan	27
k. Bobby Inman's withdrawal as the nominee for secretary of defense	*
l. News about cold weather conditions in the Northeast and Midwest	*
Can't Say (VOL)	11
None (VOL)	7

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

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

		<u>Earthquake</u>	<u>Health Care Reform</u>	<u>Lorena Bobbitt</u>	<u>Attack on Nancy Kerrigan</u>	<u>Cold Weather In Northeast</u>
27	Excellent	33	11	31	31	45
46	Good	53	43	41	47	44
19	Only Fair	11	36	17	14	6
7	Poor	3	10	11	6	2
$\frac{1}{100}$ (1145)	Don't know/Refused	$\frac{*}{100}$ (279)	$\frac{0}{100}$ (173)	$\frac{0}{100}$ (105)	$\frac{2}{100}$ (245)	$\frac{3}{100}$ (112)

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>Dec 1993</u>	<u>Aug 1993</u>	<u>Jan 1993</u>	<u>Sept 1992</u>	<u>May 1992</u>	<u>Mar 1992</u>	<u>Feb 1992</u>	<u>Oct 1991</u>	<u>July 1991</u>	<u>May 1991</u>	<u>Mar⁷ 1991</u>
20	ABC	17	17	15	15	20	20	19	17	18	18	12
17	CBS	14	18	16	13	14	17	18	14	14	13	8
15	NBC	17	14	15	12	14	14	14	13	13	14	10
34	CNN	35	34	41	43	40	36	37	42	41	41	58
$\frac{14}{100}$	DK	$\frac{17}{100}$	$\frac{17}{100}$	$\frac{13}{100}$	$\frac{17}{100}$	$\frac{12}{100}$	$\frac{13}{100}$	$\frac{12}{100}$	$\frac{14}{100}$	$\frac{14}{100}$	$\frac{14}{100}$	$\frac{12}{100}$

Q.6a Do you think the press exaggerates the amount of crime there is in the country these days, or do you think the press accurately reflects how much crime there is?

28	Exaggerates
64	Accurate
$\frac{8}{100}$	Don't know/Refused

⁷In March, 1991 respondents were asked which network was doing the best job of covering the "crisis in the Gulf".

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT ...

FORM 1

Q.7f1 In the future, which one of the following items should President Clinton give the highest priority to? [**READ LIST**]

Which would you name second? [**READ LIST IF NECESSARY**]

		<u>Jan 1994</u>	<u>Dec 1993</u>
a.	Improving the job situation		
	First	26	28
	Second	17	18
b.	Reforming health care		
	First	14	14
	Second	25	23
c.	Reducing Crime		
	First	22	20
	Second	23	19
d.	Reforming the welfare system, OR		
	First	15	11
	Second	18	14
e.	Reducing the budget deficit		
	First	20	22
	Second	15	16
f.	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused		
	First	3	5
	Second	2	*
		(N=630)	(N=1,479)

FORM 2

NEXT I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A QUESTION ABOUT HEALTH CARE ...

Q.7f2 Do you think the health care system in this country works pretty well and requires only minor changes, do you think it needs fundamental changes, or do you think it needs to be completely rebuilt?

		<u>April 1993</u>
21	Only minor changes	15
33	Fundamental changes	26
42	Completely rebuilt	55
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>
100		100
(N=577)		

IF WHITEWATER FOLLOWED VERY OR FAIRLY CLOSELY IN Q.2:

Q.7a Who do you think is most responsible for making an issue of Bill and Hillary Clinton's failed Whitewater real estate investment ..the press or Bill Clinton's political opponents?

42 Press

47 Political opponents

$\frac{11}{100}$ Don't know/Refused

(N=493)

ASK ALL:

Q.7b Did you happen to watch all or part of President Clinton's State of the Union speech Wednesday night or not?

23 Yes, all

33 Yes, part

44 No

$\frac{0}{100}$ Don't know/Refused

IF YES:

Q.7c What grade would you give to President Clinton for his speech: A, B, C, D or Fail?

24 A

45 B

21 C

5 D

3 F

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

(N=692)

**ASK ALL
ON A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SUBJECT ...**

Q.18 Which one of the following groups plays the most influential role in determining which issues and events are considered important these days? (**READ LIST**)

- 11 Business leaders
- 22 Political leaders in Washington
- 43 The press
- 7 Religious leaders
- 10 Hollywood
- $\frac{7}{100}$ Don't know/Refused

Q.19 Some people think that by criticizing political leaders, news organizations keep political leaders from doing their job. Others think that such criticism is worth it because it keeps political leaders from doing things that should not be done. Which position is closer to your opinion?

		Early Jan <u>1994</u>	Aug <u>1989</u>	Dec <u>1986</u>	June <u>1985</u>
24	Criticism by the press keeps political leaders from doing their job	18	23	26	17
66	Criticism keeps political leaders from doing things that should not be done	69	68	60	67
$\frac{10}{100}$	Don't Know	$\frac{13}{100}$	$\frac{9}{100}$	$\frac{14}{100}$	$\frac{16}{100}$

Q.20 How responsibly do you think news organizations cover stories about the personal and ethical behavior of politicians? Do you think they cover them very responsibly, fairly responsibly, not very responsibly, or not at all responsibly?

	<u>Aug 1989</u>
13 Very responsibly	12
56 Fairly responsibly	56
22 Not very responsibly	23
7 Not at all responsibly	7
$\frac{2}{100}$ Don't know	$\frac{2}{100}$

Q.21 Do you think press coverage of the personal and ethical behavior of politicians is excessive or not?

	<u>Aug 1989</u>
59 Yes, press coverage of personal and ethical behavior of politicians is excessive	52
38 No, it is not excessive	43
$\frac{3}{100}$ Don't know	$\frac{5}{100}$

Q.22 Do you think press coverage of the personal and ethical behavior of politicians helps weed out the kind of people who should not be in office, or don't you think that?

	<u>Aug 1989</u>
45 Yes, press coverage of personal and ethical behavior of politicians weeds out the kind who should not be in office	60
51 No, it does not weed out	37
$\frac{4}{100}$ Don't know	$\frac{3}{100}$

Q.23 What's the bigger problem these days that corrupt politicians are not being weeded out, or that too many well qualified people are reluctant to go into public office?

31 Corrupt politicians not being weeded out

64 Qualified people are reluctant

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

IF WHITEWATER FOLLOWED VERY OR FAIRLY CLOSELY IN Q.2, ASK:

Q.24 Do you think the press is pushing too hard on questions about Bill and Hillary Clinton's failed real estate investments in Arkansas, or is it important that the press try hard to learn the facts in this case?

34 Pushing too hard

63 Important to try hard

$\frac{3}{100}$ Don't know

(N=493)

IF INMAN FOLLOWED VERY OR FAIRLY CLOSELY IN Q.2, ASK:

Q.25 In withdrawing as the nominee for secretary of defense Bobby Inman accused the news media of being constantly critical of and hostile toward public figures. Do you think this is completely true, true but an exaggeration, or not true?

17 Completely true

58 True - but an exaggeration

21 Not true

$\frac{4}{100}$ Don't know/Refused

(N=351)

ASK ALL:

Q.26 How often, if ever, do you listen to radio shows that invite listeners to call in to discuss current events, public issues and politics: regularly, sometimes, rarely or never?

18 Regularly

26 Sometimes

27 Rarely

29 Never

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

Q.27 Have you ever called, or sent or faxed a letter to your Congressional representative or Senator to express your opinion on an issue?

40 Yes

60 No - **SKIP TO Q.D2**

$\frac{*}{100}$ Don't know/Refused - **SKIP TO Q.D2**

Q.28 Have you called, or sent or faxed a letter to your Congressional representative or Senator to express your opinion on an issue just in the past 12 months?

54 Yes

45 No

$\frac{1}{100}$ Don't know/Refused
(N=533)

TIMES MIRROR DATABASE

PUBLIC ATTENTIVENESS TO MAJOR NEWS STORIES (1986 - 1994)

PERCENT FOLLOWED VERY CLOSELY

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

PERCENT FOLLOWED
VERY CLOSELY

- 47 Breakup of the Soviet Union following the failed coup to depose of Mikhail Gorbachev (Oct 91)
- 47 The plight of American hostages and other Westerners detained in Iraq and Kuwait (Oct 90)
- 47 Political upheaval in China (July 89)
- 47 Supreme Court decision on abortion (July 89)
- 46 Videotaped beating by Los Angeles police of a suspect they apprehended in an auto chase (March 91)
- 46 Nuclear accident at Chernobyl in the Soviet Union (July 86)
- 46 Freeing of two Americans who had been held hostage in the Mideast (May 90)
- 45 *ATTACK ON FIGURE SKATER NANCY KERRIGAN (JAN 94)*
- 45 The Clinton administration's health care reform proposals (Dec 93)
- 45 Bill Clinton's attempts to lift the ban on gays in the military (Mar 93)
- 44 The fires in southern California (Dec 93)
- 44 Clinton Administration's health care reform proposals (Oct 93)
- 44 Bill Clinton's decision to ease ban on homosexuals in the military (Aug 93)
- 44 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Jan 92)
- 44 The release of the last American hostages being held in Lebanon (Dec 91)
- 43 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Sept 92)
- 43 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Dec 91)
- 43 News about the presidential campaign in 1988 (Oct 88)
- 42 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Jan 93)
- 42 The presidential election campaign (Sept 92)
- 42 Hot weather this summer and the greenhouse effect (Aug 88)
- 42 Downing of an Iranian passenger plane by a U.S. Navy ship (Aug 88)
- 41 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Aug 93)
- 41 News regarding harassment charges raised against supreme court nominee Clarence Thomas (Oct 91)
- 40 Amtrack train wreck (Sept 93)
- 40 Bush administration's plan to deal with this country's drug problem (Sept 89)
- 40 The stock market crash (Oct 87)

- 39 Passage of NAFTA (Dec 93)
- 39 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (May 92)
- 39 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Nov 90)
- 39 News about the presidential campaign in 1988 (Aug 88)
- 38 *CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S HEALTH CARE REFORM PROPOSALS (JAN 94)*
- 38 President Bush's heart problem (May 91)
- 38 News about the candidates and elections in your state (Nov 90)
- 38 Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to the U.S. for a Summit meeting (June 90)
- 38 Drug use and efforts to combat it (Jan 90)
- 38 U.S. Navy escort of Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Persian Gulf (Sept 87)
- 37 Passage of Brady gun bill (Dec 93)
- 37 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Sept 93)
- 37 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (May 93)
- 37 U.S. Navy escort of Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Persian Gulf (Oct 87)
- 37 Stories about Dan Quayle, the Republican Vice-Presidential candidate (Aug 88)
- 37 Sentencing of Oliver North (July 89)
- 36 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Dec 93)

PERCENT FOLLOWED
VERY CLOSELY

- 36 Tourists murders in Florida (Sept 93)
- 36 Congressional check bouncing scandal (Apr 92)
- 36 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Oct 91)
- 36 The situation of the Kurds in northern Iraq and allied attempts to help them (May 91)
- 36 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (March 91)
- 36 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Jan 91)
- 36 The murder of five people by a serial killer around the University of Florida campus in Gainesville (Sept 90)
- 35 Race for the Democratic presidential nomination (Apr 92)
- 35 Federal Reserve Bank's interest rate reduction (Jan 1992)
- 35 The major job cuts announced by General Motors (Jan 1992)
- 35 The Standoff in Baghdad between the Iraqis and UN weapons inspectors (Oct 91)
- 35 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (July 1991)
- 35 Attempts to change the abortion laws (Dec 89)
- 35 Hijacking of the Achille Lauro cruise ship in the Mediterranean (July 86)
- 35 Explosion and fire on the U.S. Battleship Iowa (May 89)
- 34 *REPORTS ABOUT CONDITION OF THE U.S. ECONOMY (JAN 94)*
- 34 Situation in Somalia (Oct 93)
- 34 Statements by Japanese leaders that American workers are lazy (Feb 92)
- 34 Civil war in Iraq between Shiite Iraqis and forces loyal to Saddam Hussein (March 91)
- 34 Congressional and administration efforts to reach a budget deficit agreement (Nov 90)
- 34 Attempts by Congress and the Administration to find ways to reduce the budget deficit (Oct 90)
- 34 Reports about flooding in Texas and other southwestern states (June 90)
- 34 The war between the Colombian government and the major drug traffickers (Sept 89)
- 33 Condition of the U.S. economy (Oct 93)
- 33 The winter olympics (Feb 92)
- 33 The nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court of Clarence Thomas to replace retiring Justice Thurgood Marshall (July 1991)
- 33 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (May 91)
- 33 Crash of the Colombian airliner near Kennedy airport in New York (Feb 90)
- 33 Congressional hearings about the Iran-Contra affair (Sept 87)
- 33 Guilty verdict in the trial of televangelist Jim Bakker (Oct 89)
- 32 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's budget (Aug 93)

PERCENT FOLLOWED
VERY CLOSELY

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

- 29 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy (Sept 90)
- 29 Reports about the fires in Southern California (July 90)
- 29 Lithuania's declaration of independence from the Soviet Union and Moscow's response (April 90)
- 29 Suicide in Boston of Charles Stuart who murdered his pregnant wife and blamed it on a black man (Feb 90)
- 29 Political changes taking place in Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany (Jan 90)
- 29 Political changes in East Germany and the flight of refugees to West Germany (Nov 89)
- 29 Attack and sexual assault on a female jogger in Central Park, New York, by a group of youths (May 89)
- 29 Failed coup attempt against Panamanian strongman Noriega (Oct 89)
- 28 Reports about the White House task force on health care headed by Hillary Clinton (June 93)
- 28 Accounts about U.S. troops in Somalia (Mar 93)
- 28 Creation of White House task force on health care reform headed by Hillary Clinton (Mar 93)
- 28 Supreme Court deliberations re legality of PA abortion restrictions (May 92)
- 28 The death of 87 people in a fire at a social club in the Bronx, New York (April 90)
- 28 Political changes taking place in the Soviet Union (March 90)
- 28 Arrest of Washington's Mayor Barry on drug use charges (Feb 90)
- 28 The revolution in Romania (Jan 90)
- 28 Political changes taking place in Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany (Dec 89)
- 28 Problems at nuclear reactor plants (Oct 88)
- 28 The end of Gary Hart's candidacy and the Donna Rice allegations (Sept 87)
- 27 Reports about the White House task force on health care reform headed by Hillary Clinton (Aug 93)
- 27 Republican opposition to Bill Clinton's economic stimulus package (May 93)
- 27 The Clinton administration's decision to allow women to serve in naval and air combat roles (May 93)
- 27 William Kennedy Smith rape trial (Dec 91)
- 27 Deployment of U.S. marines to Liberia to protect the lives of Americans caught in the civil war (Aug 90)
- 27 Lithuania's declaration of independence from the Soviet Union and Moscow's response (May 90)
- 27 Acquittal of the owners of the McMartin Day Care Center in California who were charged with sexually abusing children (Feb 90)
- 27 The NFL playoffs (Jan 90)
- 27 The Republican convention (Aug 88)
- 26 *BILL CLINTON'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS (JAN 94)*
- 26 *TRIAL OF LORENA BOBBITT FOR SEXUAL MUTILATION OF HUSBAND (JAN 94)*

PERCENT FOLLOWED
VERY CLOSELY

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

PERCENT FOLLOWED
VERY CLOSELY

- 22 Reunification of Germany (Oct 90)
- 22 Washington Mayor Barry's trial (July 90)
- 22 The 54 year old Oregon woman suffering from Alzheimers who ended her life by using a suicide machine (July 90)
- 22 President Bush's visit to Colombia to attend a drug summit (March 90)
- 22 The Super Bowl (Feb 90)
- 22 Letter bombings of federal judges (Jan 90)
- 22 Discoveries made by the spacecraft Voyager 2 (Sept 89)
- 22 Trial of televangelist Jim Bakker (Sept 89)
- 22 April hijacking of a Kuwaiti airplane by Shiite Moslems (May 88)
- 22 Cease fire in the war between Iran and Iraq (Aug 88)
- 22 News about the presidential campaign in 1988 (May 88)
- 22 Charges that Pete Rose has bet on baseball games (July 89)
- 21 Debate about NAFTA (Oct 93)
- 21 Debate about NAFTA (Sept 93)
- 21 Bill Clinton's nomination and then withdrawal of Lani Guinier as civil rights division head (June 93)
- 21 U.S. and its allies establishing a no fly zone over the skies of southern Iraq (Sept 92)
- 21 Execution in CA of convicted killer Robert Alton Harris (May 92)
- 21 Alleged rape of a young woman at the Kennedy family's Palm Beach estate (May 91)
- 21 Controversy surrounding the way Roseanne Barr sang the National Anthem at a San Diego Padres baseball game (Aug 90)
- 21 Tensions between Moscow and the Baltic Republics of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania who wish to secede from the Soviet Union (June 90)
- 21 Discussions about German reunification (April 90)
- 21 Political changes taking place in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, East Germany and other countries of Eastern and Central Europe (March 90)
- 21 Scandal involving HUD (Aug 89)
- 20 Mikhail Gorbachev's political problems in the Soviet Union (March 91)
- 20 Resignation of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the election of her successor (Jan 91)
- 20 The murder on a New York subway platform of a Utah man attempting to protect his family from attack by teenage muggers (Sept 90)
- 20 Earthquake in Iran (July 90)
- 20 Gorbachev/Bush summit (Dec 89)
- 20 Attempts by the U.S. government to depose General Noriega in Panama (May 88)
- 20 Post-season baseball playoffs (Oct 89)

- 19 Yeltsin's conflict with the Russian Parliament (Oct 93)
- 19 Confrontation between Haitian military leaders and the U.S. and UN (Oct 93)
- 19 The civil war in Bosnia (Aug 93)
- 19 The Republican primary in New Hampshire (Feb 92)
- 19 The Democratic primary in New Hampshire (Feb 92)
- 19 Attempts by Congress and the Administration to find ways to reduce the budget deficit (Aug 90)
- 19 Elections in Nicaragua (March 90)
- 19 Coup attempt against the Filipino government (Dec 89)
- 19 Attempts in Congress to repeal the new catastrophic health insurance plan (Oct 89)

PERCENT FOLLOWED
VERY CLOSELY

- 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 Reports of sexual abuses by Catholic priests (Dec 93)
- 18 Yeltsin's decision to dissolve Russian Parliament (Sept 93)
- 18 Nomination of Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the Supreme Court (Aug 93)
- 18 The controversy over Bill Clinton's \$200 haircut on the runway in Los Angeles (June 93)
- 18 Tennis star Arthur Ashe's announcement that he has AIDS (May 92)
- 18 News about the candidates and election campaigns in your state (Oct 90)
- 18 Special meetings between the Bush Administration and Congressional Leaders to find ways to reduce the federal deficit (June 90)
- 18 Continuing news about the Savings and Loan scandal (June 90)
- 18 Reports about renewed inflation and rising interest rates (May 90)
- 18 Senator Moynihan's proposal to cut social security taxes (Feb 90)
- 18 The stock market crash (May 88)
- 18 Conflict in the Middle East between Palestinians and the Israelis in the occupied territories (May 88)
- 17 Retirement of Michael Jordan (Oct 93)
- 17 President Bush's decision to lift the trade embargo on South Africa (July 1991)
- 17 Racial tension in New York City resulting from the Bensonhurst trial verdict and the black boycott of Korean grocers (June 90)
- 17 Discussions between the American and Japanese governments about trade issues (April 90)
- 17 A custody case involving a mother who went to jail and a little child taken to New Zealand by her grandparents (March 90)
- 17 Nomination of Robert Bork to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court (Sept 87)
- 16 Civil war in Bosnia (Oct 93)
- 16 The gay march on Washington (May 93)
- 16 David Duke's announcement that he will run for the Republican presidential nomination (Dec 91)
- 16 Nomination of David Souter to the U.S. Supreme Court to replace Justice William Brennan (Aug 90)
- 16 Washington DC Mayor Marion Barry's trial ending in a mistrial (Aug 90)
- 16 Financial troubles of Donald Trump (July 90)
- 16 Dispute between the President and Congress over allowing Chinese students to remain in America (Feb 90)
- 15 Civil war in Bosnia (Dec 93)
- 15 Michael Jackson's personal problems (Dec 93)
- 15 Civil war in Bosnia (Sept 93)
- 15 The civil war in Bosnia (Mar 93)
- 15 The civil war in Bosnia (Jan 93)
- 15 Charges that Ark. Governor Clinton has had extra-marital affairs (Feb 92)
- 15 President Bush's decision to postpone loan guarantees to Israel (Oct 91)
- 15 Resignation of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze (Jan 91)
- 15 Senate confirmation of Supreme Court Justice David Souter (Oct 90)
- 15 Controversy over the exclusion of blacks from membership in many country clubs at which national golf championship matches are played (Aug 90)
- 15 Education Summit held by Bush and the nation's Governors (Oct 89)
- 15 Ethics committee's investigation of Speaker of the House Jim Wright (May 89)
- 15 News about the Democratic candidates for the presidential nomination (Oct 87)
- 15 Conflict of interest allegations about Attorney General Ed Meese (May 88)

PERCENT FOLLOWED
VERY CLOSELY

- 15 Scandal involving HUD (July 89)
- 14 *QUESTIONS ABOUT BILL AND HILLARY CLINTONS' FAILED WHITEWATER REAL ESTATE*
- INVESTMENT IN ARKANSAS (JAN 94)*
- 14 Resignation of head of national United Way on charges of financial wrong-doing (Apr 92)
- 14 President Bush's educational reform plan (May 91)
- 14 Political unrest and the worsening economic situation in the Soviet Union (May 91)
- 14 Renewed fighting between government and the rebels in El Salvador (Dec 89)
- 14 House approval of a cut in the capital gains tax (Oct 89)
- 14 Spy scandal involving a U.S. Diplomat in Vienna (Aug 89)
- 14 Coverage of Democratic and Republican candidates for the Presidential nomination (Sept 87)
- 14 Pending divorce between Mike Tyson and Robin Givens (Oct 88)
- 13 Gore's program to reform federal government (Sept 93)
- 13 Embezzlement charges made against Congressman Rostenkowski (Aug 93)
- 13 Suicide of White House aide Vincent Foster, Jr. (Aug 93)
- 13 The controversy over the management of the White House travel office (June 93)
- 13 Attacks on foreigners in Germany by neo-nazis (Jan 93)
- 13 Debate and discussion about the free trade agreement between the U.S., Mexico and Canada (Sept 92)
- 13 Referendum on ending white rule in South Africa (Apr 92)
- 13 Celebration of Earth Day (May 92)
- 13 End of UAW strike against Caterpillar Tractor (May 92)
- 13 The BCCI international banking scandal (Oct 91)
- 13 U.S. Department of Education prohibition of racially based college scholarships (Jan 91)
- 13 Worsening economic conditions in the Soviet Union (Sept 90)
- 13 Civil unrest and ethnic violence in Soviet Azerbaijan (Feb 90)
- 13 Resumption of fighting in Nicaragua between the Contras and government forces (Nov 89)
- 13 Elections in Virginia, New Jersey, New York City and other localities (Nov 89)
- 13 News about the Republican candidates for the Presidential nomination (Oct 88)
- 12 *TRIAL OF MENENDEZ BROTHERS FOR MURDER OF THEIR PARENTS (JAN 94)*
- 12 *CIVIL WAR IN BOSNIA (JAN 94)*
- 12 The debate in Congress over Bill Clinton's budget (June 93)
- 12 Nomination of Robert Gates to head the CIA (Oct 91)
- 12 News about the democratic candidates for the presidential nomination (Oct 91)
- 12 Russian President Boris Yeltsin's election victory and visit to the U.S. (July 1991)
- 12 The findings of the committee that investigated five senators for doing favors for Charles Keating in exchange for campaign contributions (March 91)
- 12 Major League Baseball's decision to force George Steinbrenner to give up active control of the New York Yankees (Aug 90)
- 12 Pledge of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress to end the armed struggle in South Africa (Aug 90)
- 12 Marital breakup of Donald and Ivana Trump (March 90)
- 12 Solidarity's role in governing Poland (July 89)
- 11 *BILL CLINTON'S SUMMIT MEETINGS IN EUROPE AND RUSSIA (JAN 94)*
- 11 Announcement from London that marriage between Prince Charles and Diana is over (Jan 93)
- 11 Civil War and famine in Somalia (Sept 92)
- 11 The controversy re Governor Clinton's joining ROTC to avoid the draft in 1969 (Feb 92)

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- 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)
- 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 *BOBBY INMAN'S WITHDRAWAL AS NOMINEE FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (JAN 94)*
- 7 Summit meeting in Seattle between Bill Clinton and leaders of Asian nations (Dec 93)
- 7 G7 Summit meeting in Tokyo (Aug 93)
- 7 Trial of allege N.Y. mafia boss John Gotti (Apr 92)
- 7 First reports from the 1990 U.S. census (Sept 90)
- 7 Pat Buchanan's announcement that he will run for the Republican presidential nomination (Dec 91)
- 6 Stock market crash in Japan (May 92)
- 6 William Bennett's change of mind about heading the Republican National Committee (Jan 91)
- 6 Continuing political unrest in the Ukraine and in other republics of the Soviet Union (Nov 90)
- 6 United Nations Children's Summit held in New York (Oct 90)
- 6 Elections in Romania (June 90)
- 6 The visit to the United States of Vaclav Havel, the new president of Czechoslovakia (March 90)

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- 6 Trip of high ranking officials to China (Jan 90)
- 6 Scandal involving the Japanese Prime Minister and other high ranking officials (May 89)
- 6 The scandal involving Congressman Barney Frank and a male prostitute (Oct 89)
- 5 Passage of the National Service Act (Sept 93)
- 5 Scandals in the British royal family involving the Duchess of York - Fergie and Princess Diana (Sept 92)
- 5 The conflict between the Yugoslavian Republics (Dec 91)
- 4 Marital break-up of Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson (Apr 92)
- 4 Dismissal of Pakistan's Prime Minister Bhutto by Pakistan's President (Aug 90)
- 4 Civil war in Cambodia (May 90)
- 3 Woody Allen and Mia Farrow's family breakup (Sept 92)
- 2 Tom Cruise's separation from his wife (April 90)