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**NEWS** Release

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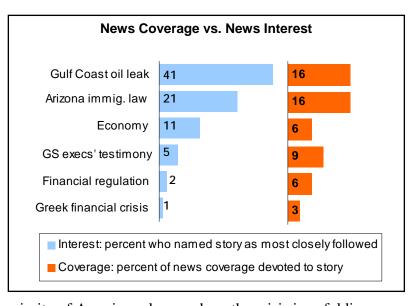
# FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Andrew Kohut, Director Michael Remez, Senior Writer

# Most Have Basic Knowledge About Spill, Arizona Immigration Law GULF COAST OIL SPILL GRABS PUBLIC ATTENTION

As a massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico spread toward the Louisiana coastline last week, the public focused on the unfolding story of a potential environmental disaster.

The spill dominated the public's consciousness. It was the story people were most likely to say they talked about with friends. The percentage following it very closely doubled



from one week earlier and a large majority of Americans know where the crisis is unfolding.

About four-in-ten (41%) say this was the story they followed *most* closely last week, much greater than the 21% that say they most closely followed news about Arizona's controversial new law targeting illegal immigrants. When asked what story they were talking about with friends, 26% mention the Gulf Coast oil spill, while 12% offer the debate over the new Arizona immigration law, according to the latest News Interest Index survey conducted April 30-May 3 among 1,011 adults by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

Large percentages also have basic knowledge of these heavily covered stories. In a separate survey, 82% correctly named Louisiana as the state off of whose coast the disaster occurred. About as many (79%) chose Arizona when asked which state recently passed a law that gives police more authority to question people they suspect might be illegal immigrants. By

contrast, just 44% identified Charlie Crist of Florida as the Republican governor who announced last week that he would run for a seat in the U.S. Senate as an independent.

For its part, the media devoted the bulk of coverage last week to these stories and the economy. The oil spill and the immigration debate each made up 16% of the newshole analyzed by the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism. Meanwhile, economic news totaled 24% of coverage, with the largest shares devoted to coverage of Goldman Sachs and allegations of fraud against the company (9%), the debate over strengthening Wall Street regulation (6%) and the economic crisis in Greece (3% of newshole). Other economic news made up another 6% of coverage.

#### **Growing Interest in the Gulf Crisis**

More than four-in-ten Americans (44%) say they very closely followed news last week about the large amount of oil leaking into the waters off the Louisiana coast. A week earlier, just 21% said they were very closely following news about the off-shore oil rig explosion on April 20 that left 11 dead. That accident triggered the underwater oil release. This week's number is the highest for an oil spill since May 4-7, 1989, when 52% said they were very closely following news about the Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska late that March.

Among partisans, Democrats are more likely to say they followed the current oil spill story very closely than Republicans (49% vs. 39%). Interest among independents falls in between (45%).

The rapidly expanding spill also had people talking: 26% say this was the news they talked about with friends. No other story comes close. Just more than one-in-ten (12%) say they talked with friends about Arizona's new law targeting illegal immigrants, 5% talked about sports or health care reform, while 4% each talked about the Times Square bomb scare – which took place on May 1 as the survey was in the field, crime or the weather.

## Many Talking With Friends About Oil Spill

% 26

- Oil leaking into ocean near Louisiana
- 12 Arizona's new anti-illegal immigration law
- 5 Sports
- 5 Health care/health care reform
- 4 Times Square bomb scare
- 4 Crime
- 4 Weather
- 3 Politics/President Obama/Congress
- 2 Local news (other than crime)
- 2 Icelandic volcano and ash over Europe

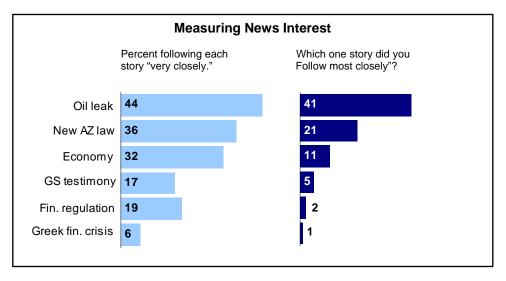
Pew Research Center April 30-May 3. Q.1: "What recent news story, if any, have you and your friends been talking about?" Percent offering most common answers shown.

More than a third (36%) say they very closely followed news about Arizona's new law giving police more authority to question people they suspect might be illegal immigrants. There are no significant differences among partisans. About two-in-ten (21%) say this was the news they followed most closely.

Interest in the debate over immigration policies is up to its highest levels since mid-2006. That May, as lawmakers considered immigration legislation in Washington and protests were held by immigrants and supporters in several American cities, 44% said they following the issue very closely.

About a third of the public (32%) says they followed news about the economy very closely last week, while 11% say this was the news they followed most closely. Americans also kept a close watch on several elements of the economic story. About two-in-ten (19%) say they followed proposals for stricter regulation of banks and financial institutions very closely; 2% say this was the news they followed most closely.

Just fewer than two-in-ten (17%) say they followed news about the appearance of Goldman Sachs executives before Congress to face questioning about the company's role in the economic crisis; 5% say this was the story they followed most closely. Just 6% say they followed news about the financial crisis in Greece very closely. This was the most closely followed story for 1%.



#### Most Know Facts about Top Stories

In a separate survey conducted April 29-May 2, about eight-in-ten (82%) correctly choose Louisiana from four options as the state closest to the spill now threatening the coastline. A similar number (79%) know that it is Arizona that recently enacted the law dealing with when police can question people about their immigration status. Two-thirds (67%) know that Goldman Sachs is the Wall Street firm facing a fraud lawsuit brought by the government.

Smaller numbers pick Greece from four European nations as the government facing a severe financial crisis (49%) or know that Florida's Charlie Crist is the Republican governor who announced last week that he would run for the state's open U.S. senate seat as an independent. About four-in-ten (41%) say they did not know or did not answer the Crist question, while 35% say they did not know on the Greece question. About three-in-ten (29%) got all five questions correct.

| Well Known: Louisiana Spill, Arizona<br>Less Known: Greek Crisis, Crist Sv                   |                  |
|--|------------------|
| % who know State off of whose coast explosion/ oil leak occurred (Louisiana)                 | Total<br>%<br>82 |
| State that recently passed tough immigration law (Arizona)                                   | 79               |
| Financial institution being sued by government for fraud (Goldman Sachs)                     | 67               |
| European country facing financial crisis that might need bailout (Greece)                    | 49               |
| Governor running for Senate as independent rather than Republican (Charlie Crist of Florida) | 44               |
| Pew Research Center News Knowledge April 29-May 2.   | Q1-5.            |

As in previous Pew Research knowledge surveys, there are substantial demographic

differences in awareness of facts about current stories. Even so, large majorities across demographic categories identified Louisiana as the state near the oil spill and Arizona as state that recently passed the immigration law giving police greater powers. Goldman Sachs also is widely known as the firm being sued for fraud, although college graduates (89%) are far

| Who Kı          | nows Ba      | asic Fa    | icts abou    | t Curre       | nt News      | Stories? |          |
|-----------------|--------------|------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------|----------|
|                 |              |            |              |               |              |          |          |
|                 | Pe           | rcent ar   | nswering co  | rrectly       |              |          |          |
|                 | Oil          | ΑZ         | Goldman      | Greek         | Charlie      | All 5    |          |
|                 | <u>spill</u> | <u>law</u> | <u>Sachs</u> | <u>crisis</u> | <u>Crist</u> | correct  | <u>N</u> |
|                 | %            | %          | %            | %             | %            | %        |          |
| Total           | 82           | 79         | 67           | 49            | 44           | 29       | 1,009    |
| Men             | 84           | 85         | 73           | 59            | 51           | 37       | 503      |
| Women           | 79           | 75         | 60           | 39            | 36           | 22       | 506      |
| 18-39           | 75           | 74         | 63           | 43            | 34           | 23       | 158      |
| 40-64           | 83           | 80         | 66           | 48            | 44           | 28       | 508      |
| 65+             | 87           | 83         | 72           | 59            | 58           | 41       | 311      |
| Republican      | 83           | 84         | 72           | 51            | 50           | 35       | 276      |
| Democrat        | 83           | 76         | 64           | 41            | 38           | 20       | 306      |
| Independent     | 80           | 77         | 66           | 55            | 47           | 34       | 373      |
| College grad+   | 92           | 92         | 89           | 70            | 58           | 46       | 401      |
| Some college    | 86           | 82         | 73           | 49            | 45           | 31       | 239      |
| HS or less      | 72           | 68         | 47           | 34            | 33           | 17       | 349      |
| D D             |              | 00 14      | 04.5         |               |              |          |          |
| Pew Research Ce | nter April   | 29-May 2   | 2. Q1-5.     |               |              |          |          |
|                 |              |            |              |               |              |          |          |

more likely than those with a high school education (47%) to know this.

Differences among partisans are fairly small on the questions that most answered correctly, but they widen on the other two. Half of Republicans and nearly that many independents (47%) could name Crist as the independent Senate candidate from Florida, compared with 38% of Democrats. On the Greek financial crisis, 51% of Republicans and 55% of independents answered this question correctly, compared with 38% of Democrats.

### Sandra Bullock News Registers More Widely Than British Elections

About seven-in-ten Americans have heard at least a little about actress Sandra Bullock's plans to divorce her husband and her recent adoption of a baby boy: 31% say they have heard a lot about these developments and 40% say they have heard a little. Women are much more likely

to say they have heard a lot about developments in the actress's life than men (42% vs. 18%).

Fewer than two-in-ten (17%) say they heard a lot about Crist's announcement that he would run for Florida's open seat in the U.S. Senate as an independent instead of as a

| What the Public's Hea   | ring | Abou                                | t   |                                     |
|---|------|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Sandra Bullock divorce and adoption Fla's Crist to run as independent Upcoming elections in Great Britain Mayhem in Ukrainian Parliament  Pew Research Center April 30-May 3. Q4a-Figures may not add to 100% because of re |      | little<br>%<br>40<br>34<br>31<br>27 | Nothing<br><u>at all</u><br>%<br>29<br>49<br>63<br>68 | <u>DK</u> % *=100 *=100 *=100 *=100 |

Republican. About a third (34%) say they heard a little about this, while close to half (49%) say they had heard nothing at all. There was no significant difference among partisans in the numbers who say they heard a lot about this story.

Few of those surveyed had heard much about the upcoming elections in Great Britain. Just 6% say they heard a lot about the elections, while 31% say they heard a little. More than sixin-ten (63%) say they heard nothing at all about this.

The public also heard little about a large-scale brawl in the Ukrainian Parliament, widely viewed on television and the internet, that involved punching, hair pulling, egg throwing and smoke bombs. Just 5% say they heard a lot about the fight, 27% say they heard a little, but close to seven-in-ten (68%) say they heard nothing at all.

These findings are based on the most recent installment of the weekly News Interest Index, an ongoing project of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. The index, building on the Center's longstanding research into public attentiveness to major news stories, examines news interest as it relates to the news media's coverage. The weekly survey is

conducted in conjunction with The Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, which monitors the news reported by major newspaper, television, radio and online news outlets on an ongoing basis. In the most recent week, data relating to news coverage were collected April 26-May 2, and survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected April 30-May 3, from a nationally representative sample of 1,011 adults. A separate survey, conducted April 29-May 2 from a nationally representative sample of 1,009 adults, included the knowledge questions about recent news events.

#### **About the News Interest Index**

The *News Interest Index* is a weekly survey conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press aimed at gauging the public's interest in and reaction to major news events. This project has been undertaken in conjunction with the Project for Excellence in Journalism's *News Coverage Index*, an ongoing content analysis of the news. The News Coverage Index catalogues the news from top news organizations across five major sectors of the media: newspapers, network television, cable television, radio and the internet. Each week (from Monday through Sunday) PEJ compiles this data to identify the top stories for the week. (For more information about the Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, go to <a href="www.journalism.org">www.journalism.org</a>.) The News Interest Index survey collects data from Friday through Monday to gauge public interest in the most covered stories of the week.

Results for the weekly surveys are based on landline telephone interviews among a nationwide sample of approximately 1,000 adults, 18 years of age or older, under the direction of Infogroup/ORC (Opinion Research Corporation). The sample is produced by ORC from data provided by Marketing Systems Group. Interviews are conducted in English. Data are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race/ethnicity, region and population density to parameters from the March 2009 Census Bureau's Current Population survey. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the current survey, conducted April 30-May 3, 2010:

| Group        | Sample Size | Plus or minus         |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Total sample | 1,011       | 4.0 percentage points |
| Republicans  | 278         | 7.5 percentage points |
| Democrats    | 321         | 7.0 percentage points |
| Independents | 343         | 6.5 percentage points |

An additional survey was conducted April 29-May 2, which included the five questions concerning knowledge of current events. The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups for that survey:

| Group        | Sample Size | Plus or minus         |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Total sample | 1,009       | 4.0 percentage points |
| Republicans  | 276         | 7.5 percentage points |
| Democrats    | 306         | 7.0 percentage points |
| Independents | 373         | 6.5 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.

#### About the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge. All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

Andrew Kohut, Director
Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research
Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors
Michael Remez, Senior Writer
Robert Suls, Shawn Neidorf, Leah Christian, Jocelyn Kiley and Alec Tyson, Research Associates
Jacob Poushter, Research Analyst

For more information about the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press' weekly News Interest Index, go to www.people-press.org.

# PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS April 30-May 3, 2010 NEWS INTEREST INDEX OMNIBUS SURVEY FINAL TOPLINE $N{=}1{,}011$

Q.1 What recent news story, if any, have you and your friends been talking about? [OPEN END. PROBE FOR CLARITY ONLY. RECORD ONLY ONE RESPONSE. DO NOT READ PRECODE LIST. DO NOT SUGGEST ANSWERS]?

| April 30-May 3 |   |
|----------------|---|
| 2010           |   |
| 26             | Oil leaking into the ocean near Louisiana/Oil rig explosion |
| 12             | Arizona's new anti-illegal immigration law                  |
| 5              | Sports  |
| 5              | Health care/Health care reform                              |
| 4              | Times Square bomb scare                                     |
| 4              | Crime   |
| 4              | Weather   |
| 3              | Politics/President Obama/Congress                           |
| 2              | Local news (other than crime)                               |
| 2              | Iceland volcano/Volcanic ash over Europe                    |
| 1              | Goldman Sachs' congressional testimony                      |
| 1              | The economy   |
| 1              | Financial reform proposals/Wall Street reform proposals     |
| 1              | Sandra Bullock  |
| 1              | Charlie Crist/Florida governor running for U.S. Senate      |
| *              | 2010 elections  |
| *              | Financial crisis in Greece                                  |
| *              | Sex abuse scandal in the Catholic Church                    |
| 7              | Other   |
| 20             | Don't know/Refused  |

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Q.2 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] [IF NECESSARY "Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?"]

|  | Very <u>closely</u> | Fairly closely | Not too closely | Not at all closely | DK/<br>Refused |
|--|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| a. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy |                     |                |                 |                    |                |
| April 30-May 3, 2010                               | 32                  | 37             | 17              | 14                 | 1              |
| April 23-26, 2010                                  | 42                  | 31             | 13              | 14                 | *              |
| April 16-19, 2010                                  | 40                  | 32             | 14              | 14                 | 0              |
| April 9-12, 2010                                   | 40                  | 32             | 15              | 13                 | *              |
| April 1-5, 2010                                    | 33                  | 34             | 14              | 19                 | *              |
| March 19-22, 2010                                  | 41                  | 32             | 14              | 13                 | *              |
| March 12-15, 2010                                  | 41                  | 35             | 12              | 12                 | *              |
| March 5-8, 2010                                    | 40                  | 34             | 12              | 13                 | *              |
| February 26-March 1, 2010                          | 31                  | 33             | 17              | 19                 | *              |
| February 19-22, 2010                               | 38                  | 34             | 15              | 12                 | *              |
| February 12-15, 2010                               | 35                  | 34             | 15              | 16                 | *              |
| February 5-8, 2010                                 | 43                  | 36             | 13              | 9                  | *              |
| January 29-February 1, 2010                        | 45                  | 32             | 13              | 10                 | *              |
| January 22-25, 2010                                | 41                  | 34             | 14              | 10                 | *              |
| January 15-18, 2010                                | 37                  | 38             | 14              | 11                 | *              |
| January 8-11, 2010                                 | 39                  | 33             | 15              | 12                 | *              |
| December 18-21, 2009                               | 45                  | 31             | 14              | 10                 | 0              |
| December 11-14, 2009                               | 42                  | 31             | 14              | 13                 | *              |
| December 4-7, 2009                                 | 41                  | 36             | 13              | 9                  | 1              |
| November 13-16, 2009                               | 38                  | 33             | 14              | 15                 | *              |
| October 30-November 2, 2009                        | 34                  | 32             | 17              | 16                 | *              |
| October 23-26, 2009                                | 44                  | 30             | 15              | 10                 | 1              |
| October 9-12, 2009                                 | 41                  | 29             | 16              | 13                 | *              |
| October 2-5, 2009                                  | 44                  | 30             | 15              | 11                 | 0              |
| September 25-28, 2009                              | 44                  | 37             | 10              | 10                 | *              |
| September 18-21, 2009                              | 44                  | 34             | 15              | 7                  | *              |
| September 11-14, 2009                              | 45                  | 32             | 14              | 9                  | *              |
| September 3-6, 2009                                | 41                  | 31             | 15              | 13                 | *              |
| August 28-31, 2009                                 | 45                  | 30             | 13              | 12                 | 1              |
| August 21-24, 2009                                 | 50                  | 27             | 13              | 10                 | 1              |
| August 14-17, 2009                                 | 41                  | 37             | 11              | 12                 | *              |
| August 7-10, 2009                                  | 42                  | 34             | 13              | 10                 | *              |
| July 31-August 3, 2009                             | 46                  | 34             | 11              | 8                  | *              |
| July 24-27, 2009                                   | 45                  | 35             | 12              | 8                  | *              |
| July 17-20, 2009                                   | 43                  | 35             | 11              | 11                 | 1              |
| July 10-13, 2009                                   | 37                  | 38             | 13              | 11                 | *              |
| July 2-5, 2009                                     | 38                  | 35             | 15              | 12                 | *              |
| June 19-22, 2009                                   | 42                  | 33             | 15              | 10                 | *              |
| June 12-15, 2009                                   | 41                  | 35             | 12              | 12                 | *              |
| June 5-8, 2009                                     | 41                  | 34             | 11              | 14                 | *              |
| May 29-June 1, 2009                                | 43                  | 37             | 11              | 8                  | *              |
| May 21-24, 2009                                    | 44                  | 35             | 13              | 9                  | *              |
| May 15-18, 2009                                    | 44                  | 35             | 12              | 8                  | *              |
| May 8-11, 2009                                     | 42                  | 34             | 12              | 12                 | *              |
| May 1-4, 2009                                      | 47                  | 36             | 11              | 5                  | 1              |
| April 17-20, 2009                                  | 52                  | 30             | 10              | 7                  | 1              |
| April 9-13, 2009                                   | 48                  | 29             | 13              | 10                 | 0              |
| March 27-30, 2009                                  | 48                  | 32             | 10              | 10                 | *              |

| 0011111022                                 | Very     | Fairly   | Not too        | Not at all     | DK/     |
|--|----------|----------|----------------|----------------|---------|
|  | closely  | closely  | <u>closely</u> | <u>closely</u> | Refused |
| March 20-23, 2009                          | 52       | 34       | 8              | 6              | *       |
| March 13-16, 2009                          | 48       | 33       | 9              | 10             | *       |
| February 27-March 2, 2009                  | 56       | 30       | 8              | 6              | *       |
| February 13-16, 2009                       | 55       | 29       | 10             | 6              | *       |
| January 30-February 2, 2009                | 52       | 31       | 12             | 5              | *       |
| January 23-26, 2009                        | 57       | 30       | 8              | 5              | 0       |
| January 16-19, 2009                        | 43       | 35       | 13             | 9              | *       |
| January 2-4, 2009                          | 42       | 36       | 15             | 7              | *       |
| December 12-15, 2008                       | 51       | 33       | 9              | 7              | *       |
| December 5-8, 2008                         | 42       | 38       | 13             | 7              | *       |
| November 21-24, 2008                       | 59       | 24       | 9              | 8              | *       |
| November 14-17, 2008                       | 56       | 29       | 9              | 6              | *       |
| November 7-10, 2008                        | 54       | 31       | 8              | 7              | *       |
| October 31-November 3, 2008                | 63       | 27       | 6              | 4              | *       |
| October 24-27, 2008                        | 52       | 35       | 7              | 5              | 1       |
| October 17-20, 2008                        | 62       | 29       | 6              | 3              | *       |
| October 10-13, 2008                        | 65       | 25       | 7              | 3              | *       |
| October 3-6, 2008                          | 69       | 23       | 5              | 3              | *       |
| September 26-29, 2008                      | 70       | 22       | 5              | 3              | *       |
| September 19-22, 2008                      | 56       | 27       | 12             | 5              | *       |
| September 5-8, 2008                        | 44       | 33       | 16             | 7              | *       |
| August 29-31, 2008                         | 41       | 34       | 13             | 11             | 1       |
| August 15-18, 2008                         | 39       | 36       | 15             | 10             | *       |
| August 8-11, 2008                          | 39       | 35       | 16             | 10             | *       |
| August 1-4, 2008                           | 47       | 34       | 11             | 8              | 0       |
| July 25-28, 2008                           | 46       | 32       | 10             | 12             | *       |
| July 18-21, 2008                           | 45       | 33       | 13             | 9              | *       |
| July 11-14, 2008                           | 44       | 33       | 12             | 10             | 1       |
| June 27-30, 2008                           | 49       | 31       | 12             | 7              | 1       |
| June 13-16, 2008                           | 42       | 33       | 14             | 11             | *       |
| May 9-12, 2008                             | 45       | 31       | 13             | 11             | *       |
| May 2-5, 2008                              | 43       | 31       | 15             | 10             | 1       |
| April 18-21, 2008                          | 41       | 35       | 13             | 10             | 1<br>*  |
| April 4-7, 2008                            | 39       | 37       | 12             | 12             | *       |
| March 28-31, 2008                          | 42       | 36       | 14             | 8              | *       |
| March 20-24, 2008                          | 45       | 33       | 13             | 9              |         |
| February 29-March 3, 2008                  | 38       | 35<br>36 | 15             | 11             | 1       |
| February 15-18, 2008<br>February 1-4, 2008 | 37<br>40 | 36<br>37 | 11<br>14       | 16<br>8        | 8       |
|  | 40       | 31       | 14<br>16       | o<br>11        | 1<br>*  |
| January 18-21, 2008                        | 36       | 32       | 15             | 16             | 1       |
| January 11-14, 2008<br>November 2-5, 2007  | 27       | 32<br>37 | 16             | 19             | 1       |
| October 19-22, 2007                        | 25       | 34       | 20             | 21             | *       |
| August 10-13, 2007                         | 28       | 36       | 18             | 18             | *       |
| Mid-November, 2006                         | 31       | 40       | 17             | 11             | 1       |
| December, 2005                             | 35       | 35       | 18             | 11             | 1       |
| Early November, 2005                       | 35       | 39       | 17             | 9              | *       |
| Mid-May, 2005                              | 30       | 39       | 19             | 11             | 1       |
| January, 2005                              | 35       | 41       | 17             | 7              | *       |
| Mid-October, 2004                          | 30       | 43       | 16             | 10             | 1       |
| Early September, 2004                      | 39       | 34       | 15             | 11             | 1       |
| Mid-January, 2004                          | 37       | 41       | 15             | 7              | *       |
| December, 2003                             | 35       | 38       | 14             | 11             | 2       |
|  | 55       | 50       |                |                | _       |

b.

| 2 001(12 (022 W                               | Very closely | Fairly closely | Not too closely | Not at all closely | DK/<br>Refused |
|---|--------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| November, 2003                                | 40           | 34             | 15              | 10                 | 1              |
| October, 2003                                 | 32           | 39             | 16              | 12                 | 1              |
| September, 2003                               | 39           | 30             | 18              | 12                 | 1              |
| March, 2003                                   | 40           | 35             | 16              | 8                  | 1              |
| February, 2003                                | 42           | 33             | 15              | 10                 | *              |
| December, 2002                                | 38           | 34             | 17              | 10                 | 1              |
| February, 2002                                | 35           | 40             | 15              | 9                  | 1              |
|   | 30           | 44             |                 | 9                  |                |
| January, 2002                                 |              |                | 16              |                    | 1              |
| December, 2001                                | 37           | 40             | 13              | 8<br>7             | 2              |
| Mid-November, 2001                            | 41           | 36             | 15              |                    | 1              |
| June, 2001                                    | 24           | 41             | 18              | 16                 | 1              |
| May, 2001                                     | 34           | 36             | 15              | 15                 | 0              |
| April, 2001                                   | 36           | 34             | 16              | 13                 | 1              |
| February, 2001                                | 30           | 39             | 18              | 12                 | 1              |
| January, 2001                                 | 32           | 38             | 17              | 11                 | 2              |
| June, 1995                                    | 26           | 41             | 22              | 11                 | *              |
| March, 1995                                   | 27           | 45             | 19              | 9                  | *              |
| February, 1995                                | 23           | 41             | 22              | 13                 | 1              |
| December, 1994                                | 28           | 43             | 20              | 9                  | *              |
| October, 1994                                 | 27           | 40             | 20              | 12                 | 1              |
| June, 1994                                    | 25           | 42             | 23              | 10                 | *              |
| May, 1994                                     | 33           | 40             | 16              | 10                 | 1              |
| January, 1994                                 | 34           | 39             | 16              | 10                 | 1              |
| Early January, 1994                           | 36           | 44             | 13              | 7                  | *              |
| December, 1993                                | 35           | 41             | 15              | 8                  | 1              |
| October, 1993                                 | 33           | 38             | 20              | 9                  | *              |
| September, 1993                               | 37           | 40             | 14              | 8                  | 1              |
| Early September, 1993                         | 39           | 39             | 14              | 9                  | *              |
| August, 1993                                  | 41           | 36             | 14              | 9                  | *              |
| May, 1993                                     | 37           | 38             | 18              | 6                  | 1              |
| February, 1993                                | 49           | 36             | 10              | 5                  | *              |
| January, 1993                                 | 42           | 39             | 12              | 7                  | *              |
| September, 1992                               | 43           | 37             | 13              | 6                  | 1              |
| May, 1992                                     | 39           | 39             | 15              | 6                  | 1              |
| March, 1992                                   | 47           | 38             | 11              | 4                  | *              |
|   |              |                |                 |                    | *              |
| February, 1992                                | 47           | 37             | 10              | 6<br>5             | *              |
| January, 1992                                 | 44           | 40             | 11              |                    |                |
| October, 1991                                 | 36           | 38             | 16              | 9                  | 1              |
| Oil leaking into the ocean near the Louisiana |              |                |                 |                    |                |
| coast after an off-shore oil rig explosion    |              |                |                 |                    |                |
| April 30-May 3, 2010                          | 44           | 35             | 11              | 10                 | *              |
| April 23-26, 2010: An explosion on an off-    |              |                |                 |                    |                |
| shore oil rig near the coast of Louisiana     | 21           | 35             | 22              | 23                 | *              |
| TREND FOR COMPARISON:                         |              |                |                 |                    |                |
| April 1-5, 2010: President Obama's proposal   |              |                |                 |                    |                |
| to allow offshore oil and gas drilling        | 20           | 24             | 21              | 33                 | 1              |
| July 25-28, 2008: A major oil spill into the  | 20           | 24             | 21              | 33                 | 1              |
| Mississippi River                             | 14           | 19             | 25              | 41                 | 1              |
|   | 14           | 17             | 43              | 71                 | 1              |
| December 4-8, 2002: The large oil spill       | 15           | 20             | 20              | 27                 | 1              |
| polluting the coast of Spain                  | 15<br>52     | 29             | 28              | 27                 | 1              |
| May 4-7, 1989: The Alaska oil spill           | 52           | 37             | 7               | 4                  |                |

| Q.2 | CONTINUED   |                        |                          |                 |                       |                       |
|-----|---|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|     |   | Very<br><u>closely</u> | Fairly<br><u>closely</u> | Not too closely | Not at all<br>closely | DK/<br><u>Refused</u> |
| c.  | Proposals for stricter regulation of banks and financial institutions                         |                        |                          |                 |                       |                       |
|     | April 30-May 3, 2010  | 19                     | 28                       | 19              | 33                    | 1                     |
|     | April 23-26, 2010   | 27                     | 26                       | 20              | 27                    | *                     |
|     | TREND FOR COMPARISON:   |                        |                          |                 |                       |                       |
|     | June 19-22, 2009: The Obama administration's  |                        |                          |                 |                       |                       |
|     | plans to expand regulations of financial  |                        |                          |                 |                       |                       |
|     | institutions  | 27                     | 28                       | 26              | 19                    | *                     |
|     | March 27-30, 2009: The Obama  |                        |                          |                 |                       |                       |
|     | administration's plans to expand regulations  |                        |                          |                 |                       |                       |
|     | over financial institutions   | 36                     | 29                       | 19              | 16                    | *                     |
| d.  | Goldman Sachs executives testifying before Congress   |                        |                          |                 |                       |                       |
|     | April 30-May 3, 2010  | 17                     | 25                       | 22              | 36                    | 1                     |
|     | TREND FOR COMPARISON:   | 17                     | 23                       | 22              | 30                    | 1                     |
|     | March 25-29, 1998: Bill Gates' testimony  |                        |                          |                 |                       |                       |
|     | before Congress and the debate over the   |                        |                          |                 |                       |                       |
|     | growing power of Microsoft  | 8                      | 19                       | 31              | 41                    | 1                     |
|     |   | Ü                      | 27                       | 01              |                       | -                     |
| e.  | A new Arizona law that gives police more  |                        |                          |                 |                       |                       |
|     | authority to question people they suspect might be  |                        |                          |                 |                       |                       |
|     | illegal immigrants  | 2.5                    | 0.4                      | 10              | 20                    | .i.                   |
|     | April 30-May 3, 2010  | 36                     | 31                       | 13              | 20                    | *                     |
|     | TREND FOR COMPARISON:   | 22                     | 20                       | 10              | 20                    | *                     |
|     | October 12-15, 2007: The issue of immigration   | 23                     | 29                       | 19              | 29                    | Ψ.                    |
|     | June 29-July 2, 2007: The debate in Congress  | 26                     | 30                       | 21              | 23                    | *                     |
|     | over new immigration policy June 22-25, 2007  | 24                     | 28                       | 22              | 26                    | *                     |
|     | June 15-18, 2007  | 22                     | 32                       | 21              | 25                    | *                     |
|     | June 8-11, 2007   | 24                     | 29                       | 20              | 26                    | 1                     |
|     | May 24-27, 2007   | 27                     | 31                       | 22              | 19                    | 1                     |
|     | April 12-16, 2007: The issue of immigration   | 21                     | 29                       | 24              | 26                    | *                     |
|     | August, 2006  | 34                     | 40                       | 16              | 9                     | 1                     |
|     | June, 2006  | 36                     | 41                       | 15              | 7                     | 1                     |
|     | May, 2006   | 44                     | 33                       | 13              | 9                     | 1                     |
|     | April, 2006   | 39                     | 34                       | 16              | 10                    | 1                     |
|     | December, 1994: Passage of Proposition 187,<br>the California law that bars education, health |                        |                          |                 |                       |                       |
|     | and welfare benefits from illegal immigrants  |                        |                          |                 |                       |                       |
|     | and their children  | 26                     | 32                       | 22              | 20                    | *                     |
| f.  | The financial crisis in Greece  |                        |                          |                 |                       |                       |
|     | April 30-May 3, 2010  | 6                      | 15                       | 28              | 51                    | 1                     |
|     | TREND FOR COMPARISON:   | O                      | 10                       | 20              | 01                    | •                     |
|     | October, 1998: Financial instability around the   |                        |                          |                 |                       |                       |
|     | world   | 32                     | 40                       | 19              | 9                     | *                     |
|     | September, 1998: Economic and political   | -                      |                          |                 |                       |                       |
|     | instability in Russia   | 18                     | 30                       | 28              | 24                    | *                     |
|     | Late August, 1998: Economic problems in   |                        |                          |                 |                       |                       |
|     | Russia  | 8                      | 22                       | 29              | 41                    | *                     |
|     | January, 1998: The deepening financial crisis in  |                        |                          |                 |                       |                       |
|     | many Asian countries  | 15                     | 25                       | 27              | 33                    | *                     |
|     |   |                        |                          |                 |                       |                       |

|  | Very    | Fairly  | Not too | Not at all     | DK/     |
|--|---------|---------|---------|----------------|---------|
|  | closely | closely | closely | <u>closely</u> | Refused |
| March, 1995: The financial and political |         |         |         |                |         |
| instability in Mexico                    | 12      | 28      | 30      | 29             | 1       |

Q.3 Which ONE of the stories I just mentioned have you followed most closely, or is there another story you've been following MORE closely? [DO NOT READ LIST. ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.]

| Apr 30-May 3 |   |
|--------------|---|
| <u>2010</u>  |   |
| 41           | Oil leaking into the ocean near the Louisiana coast after an off-shore oil rig explosion    |
|              | A new Arizona law that gives police more authority to question people they suspect might be |
| 21           | illegal immigrants  |
| 11           | Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy   |
| 5            | Goldman Sachs executives testifying before Congress   |
| 2            | Proposals for stricter regulation of banks and financial institutions                       |
| 1            | The financial crisis in Greece  |
| 8            | Some other story (VOL.)   |
| 10           | Don't know/Refused (VOL.)   |
|              |   |

Q.4 How much if anything, have you heard about each of the following? Have you heard a lot, a little or nothing at all? [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

|    |   |          |                    |                | (VOL.)     |
|----|---|----------|--------------------|----------------|------------|
|    |   | A lot    | A<br><u>little</u> | Nothing at all | Don't know |
| a. | Upcoming elections in Britain<br>April 30-May 3, 2010   | 6        | 31                 | 63             | *          |
| b. | Florida Governor Charlie Crist's decision<br>to run for the U.S. Senate as an independent<br>April 30-May 3, 2010   | 17       | 34                 | 49             | *          |
| c. | Sandra Bullock filing for divorce and adopting a baby<br>April 30-May 3, 2010<br><b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b><br>March 19-22, 2010 <sup>1</sup> : <i>Sandra Bullock</i> | 31<br>33 | 40<br>42           | 29<br>24       | *          |
| d. | A fight that broke out in the Ukrainian parliament involving punching, hair pulling, egg throwing and smoke bombs April 30-May 3, 2010                                  | 5        | 27                 | 68             | *          |

Question wording was: "In the news recently, how much if anything, have you heard about each of the following people?"

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#### PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS April 29-May 2, 2010 NEWS KNOWLEDGE OMNIBUS SURVEY FINAL TOPLINE N=1,009

**READ TO ALL:** Next I'd like to ask about some things that have been in the news. Please answer as best you can. If you don't know the answer just tell me and we'll move to the next question.

#### **RANDOMIZE PEW1-PEW5**

PEW1 Which financial institution is being sued by the government for fraud? [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

| Apr 29-May 2 |                           |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| <u>2010</u>  |                           |
| 67           | Goldman Sachs {Correct}   |
| 3            | Citigroup                 |
| 4            | Bank of America           |
| 4            | JPMorgan Chase            |
| 22           | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

#### **RANDOMIZE PEW1-PEW5**

PEW2 Which state recently passed a law that gives police more authority to question people they suspect might be illegal immigrants? [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

| Apr 29-May 2 |                           |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| 2010         |                           |
| 79           | Arizona {Correct}         |
| 6            | California                |
| 2            | Florida                   |
| 2            | Alabama                   |
| 11           | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

#### **RANDOMIZE PEW1-PEW5**

PEW3 After a recent explosion on an oil drilling platform, oil is leaking into the ocean off the coast of what state? [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

| Louisiana {Correct}       |
|---------------------------|
| California                |
| North Carolina            |
| Maine                     |
| Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
|                           |

#### **RANDOMIZE PEW1-PEW5**

PEW4 Which of the following European countries is facing a financial crisis that might require a bailout from other European countries? [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

| Apr 29-May 2 |                           |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| <u>2010</u>  |                           |
| 49           | Greece {Correct}          |
| 6            | Germany                   |
| 3            | Sweden                    |
| 7            | France                    |
| 35           | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

#### **RANDOMIZE PEW1-PEW5**

PEW5 A governor who is currently running for a seat in the U.S. Senate recently announced a plan to run as an independent candidate rather than as a Republican? Was this... [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

| Apr 29-May 2<br>2010 |                                    |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 44                   | Charlie Crist in Florida {Correct} |
| 7                    | Sarah Palin in Alaska              |
| 6                    | Tim Pawlenty in Minnesota          |
| 2                    | Haley Barbour in Mississippi       |
| 41                   | Don't know/Refused (VOL.)          |
|                      |                                    |