n the News

Top Stories

News Interest Index

Question: 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

	Very closely	Fairly closely
Cold winter weather and storms in the Northeast and Midwest	42%	31%
Reports about the condition of the US economy	32%	38%
George W. Bush's Cabinet choices and other high level appointments	26%	32%
Renewed efforts at reaching a peace agreement in the Middl e East	21% 32	2%

Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for the Pew Research Center, January 3-7, 2001.

Question: Here are a number of events that have happened in the past several months. For each one, please tell me how much this has affected you personally—a great deal, quite a bit, just some, or not at all.

	A great Quite deal a bit
The price of gasol ine	41% 21%
The rise in the price of heating oil and natural gas	39% 18%
The decline in the stock market	16% 13%
The sl owdown in the economy	12%

Health News Index

Question: ...I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely

	Very closely	Fairly closely
The escape and capture of seven convicts from a Texas Prison	38%	35%
The energy crisis in Cal ifornia	31%	34%
George W. Bush's Cabinet nominees and their Senate confirmation hearings	30%	32%
Bush's nomination of John Ashcroft to a Cabinet position	31%	27%
George W. Bush's executive order on US funding of international family pl anning groups	21% 21 12%	%
The ongoing concerns about the possible spread of mad cow disease	28%	6
The Supreme Court's decision to hear tobacco companies' case against a Massachusetts state I aw I imiting cigarette advertisements	13% 24%	
Bush's nomination of Tommy Thompson to a Cabinet position	14% 22%	•
The Clinton Administration's decision about a program to re-import US made prescription drugs	10% 20%	
Possibl e heal th risks to NATO peacekeepers in Kosovo and Bosnia from weapons containing depl eted uranium	7% 18%	
The government report on the effectiveness and safety of popular weight-loss diets	7% 17%	
Scientists create the first	5%	

Source: Survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public

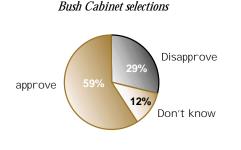
genetically altered monkey

Health, Health News Index, January 25-28, 2001.

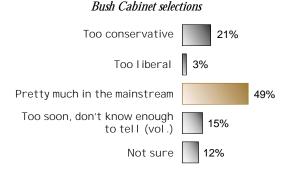
18%

Source: Survey by NBC News/ Wall Street Journal, January 13-15, 2001.

Question: In general, do you approve or disapprove of George W. Bush's choices to fill Cabinet-level positions in his new administration?

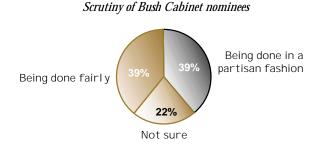


Question: Do you think President-elect George W. Bush's Cabinet selections are too conservative, too liberal, or pretty much in the mainstream?



Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for *Newsweek*, January 18-19, 2001.

Question: Do you think the scrutiny of President-elect George W. Bush's Cabinet nominees is being done fairly, and with sincere concern for the high level of office the nominees will hold, or is it being done in a partisan fashion in an effort to gain political advantage and harm Bush?

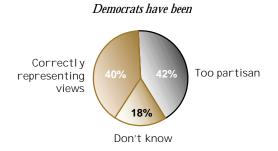


Note: Asked of registered voters. **Source:** Survey by Opinion Dynamics for Fox News, January 10-11, 2001.

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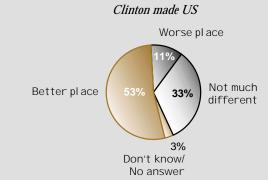
Question: Do you think the Democrats in Washington have been too partisan in their early opposition to Bush appointments or that they have been correctly representing the views of half the public that did not support Bush for president?



Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for *Newsweek*, January 10-12, 2001.

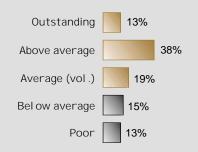
Hail and Farewell

Question: Do you think that as President, Bill Clinton has made the United States a better place, or a worse place, or didn't he make it much different?



Source: Survey by CBS News, January 15-17, 2001.

Question: How do you think Bill Clinton will go down in history—as an outstanding president, above average, below average, or poor?



Source: Survey by ABC News/Washington Post, January 11-15, 2001.