select

```
<select> ... </select>
```

Attributes

Core (id, class, style, title), *Internationalization, Events*, onfocus, onblur, onchange
disabled="disabled"
multiple="multiple"
name="text" *(Required)*
size="*number*"
tabindex="*number*"

option

```
<option> ... </option>
```

Attributes

Core (id, class, style, title), *Internationalization, Events*
disabled="disabled"
label="*text*"
selected="selected"
value="*text*"

optgroup

```
<optgroup>...</optgroup>
```

Attributes

Core (id, class, style, title), *Internationalization, Events*
disabled="*disabled*"
label="*text*" *(Required)*

Pull-down menus

The select element displays as a pull-down menu of options when no size specification is listed (the default) or when size="1". In a pull-down menu, only one item may be selected at a time. (Note that adding the multiple attribute turns the menu into a scrolling list, as described in the next section.) Clicking on the arrows or bar pops up the full menu, as shown in Figure 15-12.

```
<p>What is your favorite ice cream flavor?</p>
<select name="ice_cream">
<option>Rocky Road</option>
<option>Mint Chocolate Chip</option>
<option>Pistachio</option>
<option selected="selected">Vanilla</option>
<option>Chocolate</option>
<option value="swirl">Fudge Ripple</option>
<option label="Praline Pecan">Super-duper Praline Pecan Smashup</option>
<option>Bubblegum</option>
</select>
```
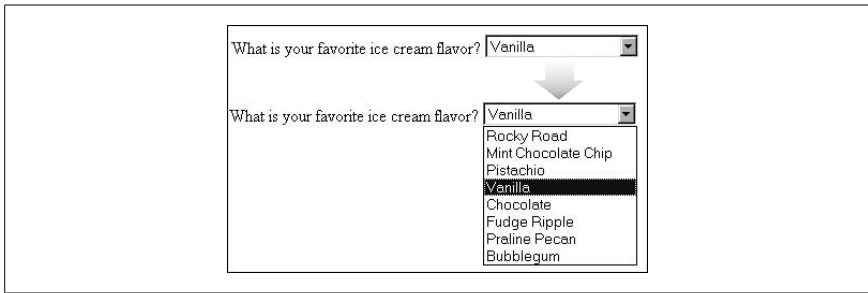
Figure 15-12. Items in a select menu can be set to display after the menu is collapsed

By default, the first option element in the list displays when the form loads. Use the selected attribute in an option element to make it the default value for the menu (the option will be highlighted when the form loads).

The text within each option element is the value that is sent to the server. If you want to send a value for that choice that is not displayed in the list, provide it with the value attribute in the option element. In the sixth option element in the example, users will see "Fudge Ripple," but the value "swirl" will be sent to the form processing agent.

The label attribute, when provided, is displayed instead of the option element content. In the seventh option in the example, users will see "Praline Pecan," but the form will send the data "Super-duper Praline Pecan Smashup," because it is the default value provided in the option element.

Scrolling menus

To make the menu display as a scrolling list, simply specify the number of lines you'd like to be visible in the list using the size attribute, or add the multiple attribute to the select element, as shown in the following markup and in Figure 15-13. The multiple attribute makes it possible for users to select more than one option from the list.

```
<p>What are your favorite ice cream flavors?</p>
<select name="ice_cream" size="6" multiple="multiple">
<option>Rocky Road</option>
<option>Mint Chocolate Chip</option>
<option>Pistachio</option>
<option selected="selected">Vanilla</option>
<option selected="selected">Chocolate</option>
<option value="swirl">Fudge Ripple</option>
<option>Super-duper Praline Pecan Smashup</option>
<option>Bubblegum</option>
</select>
```

This example also uses the selected attribute to preselect options and the value attribute for providing a value for the option that is different from the displayed text.
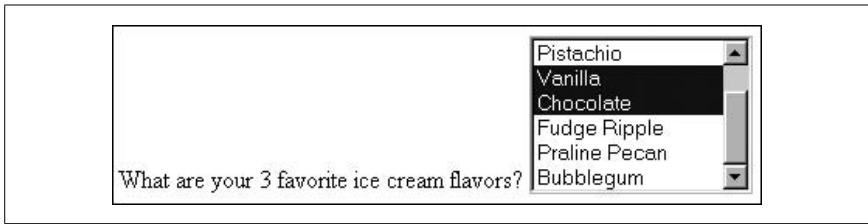
Figure 15-13. Use the size attribute to display a select menu as a scrolling list

Option groups

Conceptual groups of options may be organized into option groups, indicated with the optgroup element. This could be used by browsers to display hierarchical cascading menus. The value of the required label attribute is displayed as a heading for the following options.

The content of the optgroup element is one or more option elements. An optgroup element may not contain other optgroup elements. This example shows how the optgroup element could be used to structure a list of ice cream flavors similar to those in the previous examples. The label attribute provides a name for the group of options.

```
<p>What are your favorite ice cream flavors?</p>
<select name="ice_cream" size="6" multiple="multiple">
<optgroup label="traditional">
    <option>Vanilla</option>
    <option>Chocolate</option>
    <option>Mint Chocolate Chip</option>
    <option>Pistachio</option>
    <option>Fudge Ripple</option>
</optgroup>
<optgroup label="specialty">
    <option>Inside-out Rocky Road</option>
    <option>Super-duper Praline Pecan Smashup</option>
    <option>Bubblegum</option>
</optgroup>
</select>
```

When a user selects an option from the list (such as "Pistachio" from the example), the content of that option is passed on with the variable name specified in the select element:

```
ice_cream=Pistachio
```