

CHANNEL ONE NEWS SHOW SCRIPT 1/3/08

TOPICS COVERED:

- Caucus Background
- Mock Caucus
- News of the Day

JESSICA: IT'S THURSDAY, JANUARY THIRD. I'M JESSICA KUMARI ON LOCATION IN IOWA, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE BUT SOON RESIDENTS HERE WILL BE GEARING UP TO GO INSIDE TO CAUCUS. WE'LL HAVE A LOT MORE FOR YOU ON THAT. CHANNEL ONE NEWS STARTS NOW.

JESSICA: WELCOME TO OUR SPECIAL SHOW FROM IOWA. IT'S A BIG DAY HERE AS RESIDENTS ARE ALL SET TO TAKE PART IN CAUCUSES AND HAVE A SAY IN WHO THEY WANT AS PRESIDENT.

JESSICA: WITH A LONGER THAN EVER CAMPAIGN SEASON, THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF BUILD UP AND YOU MIGHT BE THINKING GO ON AND VOTE ALREADY!

JESSICA: BUT IT'S NOT THAT EASY. STATES PICK THEIR PARTY'S NOMINEE EITHER USING A PRIMARY OR A CAUCUS. IOWANS USE THE CAUCUS. SO WHAT EXACTLY IS A CAUCUS? HERE'S A BREAKDOWN.

JESSICA: IT ALL STARTS HERE IN IOWA WHERE ALMOST 90 PERCENT OF THE LAND IS IN FARMS AND CORN. 3 MILLION PEOPLE CALL IT HOME, 95 PERCENT OF WHOM ARE WHITE, AND MORE THAN HALF ARE PROTESTANT.

JESSICA: NOT EXACTLY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES STILL EVERY 4 YEARS ALL EYES TURN HERE TO SEE WHO COMES OUT ON TOP AND WHO WILL SOON CALL IT QUILTS.

JESSICA: FOR SUCH A BIG DEAL, THE IOWA CAUCUSES ARE ACTUALLY LIKE OLD SCHOOL GRASSROOTS TOWN MEETINGS.

JESSICA: IN FACT CAUCUS IS A NATIVE AMERICAN WORD WHICH MEANS A GATHERING OF TRIBAL CHIEFS. TODAY THOUGH, IT'S NOT CHIEFS GATHERING, IT'S VOTERS. HERE'S HOW IT WORKS.

JESSICA: IOWA IS DIVIDED UP INTO ABOUT 18 HUNDRED PRECINCTS. IN EACH OF THESE PRECINCTS IOWANS GATHER BY POLITICAL PARTY USUALLY IN A PLACE LIKE A LIBRARY OR A SCHOOL. REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS DON'T DO IT THE SAME.

JESSICA: IN A REPUBLICAN CAUCUS VOTING IS DONE BY WHAT'S CALLED A STRAW VOTE. IOWA REPUBLICANS CHOOSE THEIR PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE THROUGH PAPER BALLOTS OR A SHOW OF HANDS.

JESSICA: THE PROCESS FOR DEMOCRATS CAN HAVE EVEN MORE STEPS. AT THEIR CAUCUS, VOTERS DIVIDE INTO PREFERENCE GROUPS, GATHERING IN DIFFERENT CORNERS OF THE ROOM TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR EACH CANDIDATE.

JESSICA: THERE'S EVEN A GROUP FOR THE UNDECIDED. A GROUP MUST HAVE A CERTAIN NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN IT TO BE CONSIDERED VIABLE. IF IT'S NOT, THEN IT DISPERSES AND ITS MEMBERS GO TO OTHER GROUPS.

JESSICA: THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS, PREFERENCE GROUPS ARE TRYING TO PERSUADE OTHERS TO JOIN. WHEN THE GROUPS ARE SET THE CHAIRMAN DETERMINES THE NUMBER OF DELEGATES EACH PREFERENCE GROUP IS ENTITLED TO ELECT BASED ON HOW MANY SUPPORTERS THE CANDIDATE HAS.

JESSICA: YEP THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT FOR BOTH PARTIES, TO ELECT DELEGATES. ULTIMATELY, DELEGATES GO ON TO THE CONVENTIONS AND VOTE TO NOMINATE THEIR PARTY'S CANDIDATE.

JESSICA: SO WHY CARE ABOUT THE WINNER? WELL DOING WELL IN IOWA CAN GIVE A CANDIDATE MORE ATTENTION FROM THE MEDIA, AND MAY CONVINCED VOTERS FROM OTHER STATES TO CHOOSE THE FRONTRUNNER. IN A WORD MOMENTUM.

JESSICA: FOR EXAMPLE, IN 2004, EVERYONE THOUGHT HOWARD DEAN, AN EARLY LEADER IN THE POLLS LEADING UP TO IOWA, WOULD BE THE DEMOCRAT'S CHOICE TO CHALLENGE GEORGE W BUSH.

JESSICA: BUT AFTER GETTING BEATEN THERE AND LETTING OUT THIS NOW FAMOUS POST CAUCUS SCREAM, DEAN STARTED FALLING BEHIND.

JESSICA: JOHN KERRY GOT IOWA'S VOTES AND EVENTUALLY THE NOMINATION. IOWA DOESN'T ALWAYS PREDICT SUCCESS. BILL CLINTON LOST HERE IN 1992 AND WENT ON TO BECOME A TWO TERM PRESIDENT.

JESSICA: THIS TIME AROUND, JOHN EDWARDS HAS TREATED IOWA AS A MUST WIN. WHILE RUDY GUILIANI HAS VIRTUALLY IGNORED IOWA, CONCENTRATING INSTEAD ON OTHER STATES WITH LOTS OF DELEGATES LIKE FLORIDA AND NEW YORK.

JESSICA: WHATEVER THE STRATEGY, THE WINNER FOR EACH PARTY WILL HAVE A CHANCE AT MOVING INTO THE WHITE HOUSE AND BECOMING THE NEXT COMMANDER IN CHIEF.

JESSICA: JESSICA KUMARI CHANNEL ONE NEWS.

JESSICA: COMING UP, WE MEET SOME TEENS PUTTING THE CAUCUS PROCESS INTO ACTION. BUT FIRST, THROUGHOUT THE SHOW CHRIS BROWNE WILL BE GIVING US SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THE LEADING CANDIDATES YOU MAY NOT KNOW. HERE ARE SOME FAST FACTS ABOUT HUCKABEE AND OBAMA.

CHRIS: BEFORE MIKE HUCKABEE WAS ARKANSAS' GOVERNOR, HE COMPLETED COLLEGE IN JUST TWO AND A HALF YEARS. HE'S A SOUTHERN BAPTIST MINISTER AND RECENTLY LOST A BUNCH OF WEIGHT. HE NOW PROMOTES A HEALTHY AND ACTIVE LIFESTYLE. HIS HIGH PRIORITY ISSUES INCLUDE EDUCATION AND FAMILY VALUES.

CHRIS: ILLINOIS SENATOR BARACK OBAMA WAS BORN IN HAWAII, AND HIS FRIENDS IN HIGH SCHOOL USED TO CALL HIM BARRY. HE'S A FORMER LAW PROFESSOR WHO TAUGHT AT HARVARD, AND HE FAVORS A NEW DIRECTION IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, INCLUDING TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM IRAQ BY 2009, AND A TOUGH STANCE ON IRAN.

COMMERCIAL

CHRIS: HILLARY CLINTON WAS A POLITICIAN FROM VERY EARLY ON, SHE WAS HER HIGH SCHOOL CLASS PRESIDENT, AND WAS ACTUALLY A MEMBER OF THE YOUNG REPUBLICANS WHILE IN COLLEGE.

CHRIS: IN 2001, SHE WAS ELECTED SENATOR IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK. SHE'S ALREADY LIVED IN THE WHITE HOUSE WITH HER HUSBAND, FORMER PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON AND SHE'S A MAJOR SUPPORTER OF HEALTH CARE REFORM.

CHRIS: MITT ROMNEY, ANOTHER FORMER GOVERNOR, WAS A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN BEFORE ENTERING POLITICS. A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS, ROMNEY RECENTLY ADDRESSED THE IMPACT OF FAITH ON HIS CANDIDACY. OF THE REPUBLICANS, HE IS CONSIDERED THE TOUGHEST ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.

JESSICA: LATER TODAY, IOWA VOTERS WILL GET TOGETHER AND CAUCUS. SOME TEENS HERE KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT PROCESS AND HAVE ALREADY DECIDED WHO THEY WANT FOR PRESIDENT.

JESSICA: HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS IN A PACKED SCHOOL GYM BUT IT'S NOT A PEP RALLY. IT'S A CAUCUS.

JESSICA: AT INDIANOLA HIGH SCHOOL IN IOWA, STUDENTS GATHERED FOR A MOCK OR FAKE CAUCUS. IN A REAL CAUCUS, REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS DIVIDE UP.

JESSICA: BUT THE STUDENTS AT INDIANOLA CAUCUSED ALL TOGETHER. IT STARTED WITH A SELECT GROUP OF TEENS SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THEIR CANDIDATE.

(SOT:) "Hilary Clinton."

(SOT:) "I want to talk to you about Ron Paul, first and foremost Ron Paul is a champion of the constitution."

(SOT:) "McCain believes health care should be."

(SOT:) "I believe that Barak Obama is the candidate that can bring change to."

JESSICA: THEN THEY BREAK OUT INTO GROUPS AND TRY TO CONVINCED OTHERS TO VOTE FOR THEIR CANDIDATE. IT'S A GLIMPSE AT HOW THE REAL CAUCUSES ARE WORKING TODAY.

(SOT: Allisa Campbell) "I'm voting for John McCain. He's had more experience and I'm a very strong military family, so I just think he has more experience to deal with military concerns."

(SOT:) "Hilary Clinton has the experience to lead from the first day in office, there is no need for on the job training."

JESSICA: MTV'S ROCK THE VOTE COORDINATED THE EVENT, WHICH IS THE LARGEST MOCK CAUCUS IN THE NATION.

(SOT: Heather Smith) "Our mission is to build the political clout and engagement of young voters."

JESSICA: YOUNG VOTERS CAN MAKE A MAJOR DIFFERENCE IN THIS YEAR'S CAUCUS. ALTHOUGH THE VOTING AGE IN THE U.S. IS 18, IN IOWA IF YOU TURN 18 BY NOVEMBER 4, 2008 YOU CAN TAKE PART. MEANING SOME 17-YEAR-OLDS ARE HAVING THEIR SAY TODAY.

(SOT:) "I like Mike Huckabee because he is pro-life, pro-family, he supports the war in Iraq."

JESSICA: THE WINNERS AT THIS MOCK CAUCUS.

(SOT:) "Huckabee pretty much won the landslide."

(SOT:) "Barak Obama had 136."

JESSICA: BUT WHETHER THESE RESULTS WILL PREDICT TODAY'S OUTCOME IS STILL ANYBODY'S GUESS WITH THE FAVORITES ON BOTH SIDES RUNNING NECK IN NECK.

JESSICA: JESSICA KUMARI CHANNEL ONE NEWS

JESSICA: FOR MORE ON HOW A CAUCUS WORKS, HEAD TO CHANNEL ONE DOT COM AND LOOK FOR THE ELECTION PLAYBOOK.

COMMERCIAL

CHRIS: JOHN EDWARDS, A SENATOR FROM NORTH CAROLINA, WAS THE FIRST IN HIS FAMILY TO ATTEND COLLEGE. HE LISTENS TO BRUCE SPRINGSTEIN, AND WAS THE 2004 VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE, RUNNING ON THE SAME TICKET AS SENATOR JOHN KERRY.

CHRIS: EDWARDS HIGH PRIORITY ISSUES INCLUDE THE WAR ON POVERTY, A STRONG MIDDLE CLASS AND EDUCATION REFORM.

CHRIS: JOHN MCCAIN'S RESUME INCLUDES AMATEUR MUSICIAN, SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE HOST, AND VIETNAM VETERAN.

CHRIS: THE SENATOR FROM ARIZONA WAS INFLUENTIAL IN REFORMING THE WAY POLITICAL CANDIDATES RAISE MONEY, AND HIS MILITARY EXPERIENCE LEADS MANY TO BELIEVE HE IS THE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE FOREIGN AFFAIRS CANDIDATE.

ANNOUNCER: DO YOU KNOW WHICH PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL WORKED IN A FACTORY BEFORE ENTERING THE POLITICAL SCENE? GO TO CHANNEL ONE DOT COM AND CLICK ON CANDIDATE CONFIDENTIAL TO FIND OUT THE ANSWER AND TO GET OTHER FUN FACTS ABOUT THE CANDIDATES.

JESSICA: WELCOME BACK, HERE'S A LOOK AT THE OTHER HEADLINES MAKING NEWS TODAY.

TONY: YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE LLAIMA VOLCANO WHICH ERUPTED YESTERDAY ABOUT 400 MILES SOUTH OF CHILE'S CAPITAL, SANTIAGO.

TONY: OFFICIALS EVACUATED DOZENS OF TOURISTS STAYING AT A NEARBY PARK, BUT THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF INJURIES OR DEATHS.

TONY: VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS OCCUR WHEN PRESSURE BUILDS UP ON THE EARTH'S MANTLE AND FORCES MAGMA TO THE SURFACE.

TONY: THE LAST TIME THE LLAIMA VOLCANO ERUPTED WAS IN 1994.

ANNOUNCER: AT THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT ON NEW YEARS DAY, NEW LAWS WENT INTO EFFECT ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

ANNOUNCER: AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS, CHICAGO BECAME THE FIRST CITY TO TAX BOTTLED WATER BECAUSE OF CONCERNS OF PLASTIC IN THE ENVIRONMENT. CHICAGOANS WILL NOW PAY AN EXTRA AT 5 CENTS A BOTTLE.

ANNOUNCER: IN CALIFORNIA, IT'S NOW AGAINST THE LAW TO LIGHT A CIGARETTE IN A CAR WHEN ANYONE UNDER 18 IS PRESENT.

ANNOUNCER: NEW HAMPSHIRE BECAME THE FOURTH STATE TO ALLOW CIVIL UNIONS BETWEEN SAME SEX COUPLES.

ANNOUNCER: A NEW LAW IN WASHINGTON STATE MAKES TEXTING WHILE DRIVING ILLEGAL.

ANNOUNCER: AND IN ARIZONA, A CONTROVERSIAL NEW LAW WILL PUNISH BUSINESS OWNERS WHO HIRE UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS.

ANNOUNCER: SURGE, SWEET, ORGANIC, RANDOM, WHAT DO THESE WORDS HAVE IN COMMON?

ANNOUNCER: THEY ALL MADE THIS YEAR'S LIST OF WORDS TO BE BANISHED.

ANNOUNCER: MICHIGAN'S LAKE SUPERIOR STATE UNIVERSITY PUTS TOGETHER THE LIST OF THE MOST MISUSED, OVERUSED AND GENERALLY USELESS WORDS FROM EACH YEAR. THE WORDS ARE PULLED FROM NOMINATIONS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY.

ANNOUNCER: 19 WORDS AND SAYINGS MADE THE LIST INCLUDING 'BACK IN THE DAY' AND 'IT IS WHAT IT IS'.

JESSICA: THANKS FOR WATCHING OUR SPECIAL SHOW FROM IOWA TODAY. I'M JESSICA KUMARI AND I'LL BE BACK HERE TOMORROW WITH THE RESULTS.