

## CHANNEL ONE NEWS SHOW SCRIPT 4/01/08

### TOPICS COVERED:

- News of the Day
- Bush and the Economy
- Teen Drivers

CHRIS: HEY GUYS, IT'S TUESDAY APRIL FIRST. I'M CHRIS BROWNE AND COMING UP WHY POLICE IN SOME STATES CAN BUST YOU FOR DWT DRIVING WHILE TEXTING. BUT FIRST HERE ARE YOUR HEADLINES FROM CHANNEL ONE NEWS.

ANNOUNCER: THERE'S POTENTIAL PROGRESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WHERE ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS HAVE AGREED TO A SET OF CONDITIONS PAVING THE WAY FOR A FINAL PEACE AGREEMENT LATER THIS YEAR.

ANNOUNCER: ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR DECADES OVER RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES, AND THE WEST BANK THIS SMALL STRIP OF LAND BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN.

ANNOUNCER: THIS WEEK, ISRAEL AGREED TO REMOVE ABOUT 50 ROADBLOCKS AND TO UPGRADE CHECKPOINTS TO SPEED THE MOVEMENT OF PALESTINIANS THROUGH THE WEST BANK.

ANNOUNCER: U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE CONDOLEEZZA RICE, WHO IS VISITING THE REGION, SAID SHE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE AGREEMENT.

(SOT: Condoleezza Rice) "I know that your teams have a lot of hard work ahead of them but I have to say that I find very impressive the work that is being done and the seriousness of the process and I think it's all moving in the right direction."

CHRIS: AFTER HURRICANE KATRINA LEFT NEW ORLEANS IN SHAMBLES, MANY OF THE CITY'S RESIDENTS BEGAN THE LONG AND OFTEN FRUSTRATING PROCESS OF APPLYING FOR FEDERAL RECOVERY AID. NOW, TWO AND A HALF YEARS AFTER THE STORM, SOME KATRINA VICTIMS MAY BE ASKED TO REPAY SOME OF THAT MONEY.

CHRIS: THOUSANDS OF NEW ORLEANS RESIDENTS RECEIVED GRANTS AS PART OF A PROGRAM CALLED ROAD HOME, RUN BY A COMPANY CALLED ICF INTERNATIONAL.

CHRIS: THAT COMPANY SAYS IN THE RUSH TO GET AID MONEY TO VICTIMS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SOME PEOPLE RECEIVED TOO MUCH. NOW IT WANTS THAT MONEY BACK.

CHRIS: IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE AID, HOMEOWNERS HAD TO AGREE TO RETURN ANY MONEY RESULTING FROM AN OVERPAYMENT. ICF INTERNATIONAL MAY ASK FOR A TOTAL OF 175 MILLION DOLLARS BACK.

ANNOUNCER: HARRY POTTER HAS BEEN A POP CULTURE PHENOMENON SINCE YOU WERE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, BUT DID YOU EVER THINK THE BOY WIZARD WOULD FOLLOW YOU TO COLLEGE?

ANNOUNCER: WELL, JK ROWLING'S SEVEN BOOK HARRY POTTER SERIES HAS MADE ITS WAY INTO COLLEGE CLASSROOMS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

ANNOUNCER: STUDENTS IN POTTER THEMED COURSES ARE OFTEN ASKED TO ANALYZE THE BOOKS' THEOLOGICAL THEMES ALONGSIDE OTHER FAMOUS FANTASIES, LIKE WORKS BY CS LEWIS AND JRR TOLKEIN.

CHRIS: IN THE COMING YEAR, THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS RECEIVING FOOD STAMPS IS EXPECTED TO RISE TO RECORD LEVELS.

CHRIS: THE FEDERAL FOOD STAMPS PROGRAM, WHICH BEGAN IN THE 1960S HELPS LOW INCOME PEOPLE BUY FOOD. MOST RECIPIENTS RECEIVE ABOUT 100 DOLLARS A MONTH.

CHRIS: AN ESTIMATED 28 MILLION PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO RECEIVE FOOD STAMPS THIS YEAR THE MOST EVER. EXPERTS SAY THE INCREASE IS LIKELY THE RESULT OF THE RECENT ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN AND THE RISING COSTS OF FOOD AND FUEL.

ANNOUNCER: FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, CATHOLICISM HAS BEEN OVERTAKEN AS THE MOST WIDELY PRACTICED RELIGION IN THE WORLD.

ANNOUNCER: ACCORDING TO THE VATICAN, WHICH OVERSEES THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, THERE ARE MORE MUSLIMS IN THE WORLD THAN CATHOLICS.

ANNOUNCER: THE VATICAN SAYS CATHOLICS MAKE UP ABOUT 17 AND A HALF PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION, WHILE MUSLIMS ACCOUNT FOR 19 PERCENT.

ANNOUNCER: THE CATHOLIC CHURCH SAYS ITS NUMBERS REMAIN CONSISTENT AND SAY THE SHIFT IS THE RESULT OF HIGHER BIRTH RATES IN MUSLIM FAMILIES.

ANNOUNCER: CHRISTIANITY HOWEVER, REMAINS THE LARGEST GROUP, IF YOU INCLUDE ORTHODOX, ANGLICANS AND PROTESTANTS ALONG WITH CATHOLICS THEY MAKE UP ABOUT 33 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION.

ANNOUNCER: HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT RELIGION IN THE UNITED STATES? CHECK OUT FAITH IN AMERICA AT CHANNEL ONE DOT COM.

COMMERCIAL

CHRIS: WE'VE BEEN TALKING A LOT LATELY ABOUT HOW WORRIED PEOPLE ARE ABOUT THE U.S. ECONOMY. BUT JUST HOW WORRIED IS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT?

CHRIS: WELL, YESTERDAY, THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCED ONE OF THE BIGGEST CHANGES TO THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM IN YEARS. TONY ANDERSON HAS MORE ON THE AMERICAN ECONOMY'S NEW LOOK.

TONY: WHEN YOU DO SOMETHING WRONG OR BREAK THE RULES, DO YOU GET MORE RESTRICTIONS PUT ON YOU? LIKE AN EARLY CURFEW OR YOUR CAR KEYS TAKEN AWAY?

TONY: WELL, ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT, WALL STREET HAS BEEN MISBEHAVING, AND NOW IT'S STEPPING IN AND CRACKING DOWN.

(SOT: Steve Liesman) "The message to Wall Street from Washington is no more free ride. If you guys are going to pose big risks to the system

we're going to oversee. You're going to act like kids, we're going to treat you like kids."

TONY: ACTING LIKE KIDS, THE GOVERNMENT SAYS, HAS CAUSED THE RECENT CRAZINESS. STOCKS ARE UP. NO, WAIT THEY'RE DOWN. MANY PEOPLE CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY BACK LOANS THEY TOOK TO BUY THEIR HOUSES AND EVEN BIG TIME BANKS ARE GOING UNDER.

TONY: NOW THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT WANTS TO GIVE NEW POWERS TO THE FEDERAL RESERVE. THE CENTRAL BANK FOR THE U.S. IT'S THE FED'S JOB TO CONTROL THINGS LIKE INTEREST RATES AND THE MONEY SUPPLY.

TONY: THE PROPOSAL RELEASED YESTERDAY WOULD GIVE THE FED MORE POWERS AND WOULD ORGANIZE AND COMBINE A BUNCH OF FEDERAL AGENCIES THAT ALREADY WATCH OVER THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM

TONY: IT WOULD ALSO CREATE A COMMISSION THAT WOULD WATCH OVER THE MORTGAGE MARKET TO AVOID ANOTHER HOUSING CRISIS WHEN PEOPLE LOSE THEIR HOMES BECAUSE THEY CAN'T PAY BACK LOANS

TONY: ITS NOT THE FIRST TIME WASHINGTON HAS STEPPED IN DURING AN ECONOMIC CRISES.

TONY: THE GREAT DEPRESSION. IT STARTED WITH THE STOCK MARKET CRASH OF 1929 AND LASTED UNTIL THE EARLY 1940S.

TONY: BUSINESSES AND BANKS CLOSED THEIR DOORS, PEOPLE LOST THEIR JOBS, HOMES, AND SAVINGS, AND MANY DEPENDED ON CHARITY TO SURVIVE. AT ITS WORST, UP TO A QUARTER OF THE NATION'S WORKFORCE WAS UNEMPLOYED.

TONY: PEOPLE LOST FAITH IN THE BANKS AND PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT STEPPED IN WITH THE "NEW DEAL" A GOVERNMENT PROGRAM THAT EXPANDED THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE AND PROVIDED FOR PROGRAMS LIKE BANKING REFORM LAWS, AND EMERGENCY RELIEF.

TONY: SUPPORTERS SAY THE NEW DEAL HELPED GET THE ECONOMY BACK ON ITS FEET. BUT CRITICS SAY THIS NEW PROPOSAL DOESN'T DO ENOUGH TO BOOST THE ECONOMY.

(SOT: Joseph Mason) "Many of the reforms that are proposed are necessary in the long run but they do nothing to address the current crisis and the problems that we're in right now."

TONY: AND THE TREASURY SECRETARY AGREES. HE SAYS THE PLAN IS MEANT TO PREVENT THE NEXT CRISIS, NOT A QUICK FIX FOR WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

(SOT: Henry Paulson) "This blueprint addresses complex, long-term issues that should not be decided in the midst of stressful situations and should not be implemented to add greater burden to a market already under strain."

TONY: CONGRESS WOULD NEED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL BEFORE ANYTHING GOES INTO EFFECT. TONY ANDERSON, CHANNEL ONE NEWS.

COMMERCIAL

CHRIS: IT'S THE NUMBER ONE KILLER OF TEENS IN THE U.S. CAR CRASHES. BUT DID YOU KNOW ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS FOR THESE DEADLY ACCIDENTS IS YOUNG PEOPLE WHO DON'T PAY ENOUGH ATTENTION WHEN THEY'RE ON THE ROAD.

CHRIS: RECENT STUDIES SHOW THAT NEARLY HALF OF ALL TEENS TEXT OR TALK ON CELL PHONES WHILE DRIVING. SO WHAT ABOUT YOU? THINK YOU CAN DRIVE AND CHAT WITH FRIENDS AT THE SAME TIME? WE PUT SOME YOUNG DRIVERS TO THE TEST.

CHRIS: 16 YEAR OLD HANNAH FISHMAN AND 17 YEAR OLD SALOMON MORENO LOVE CHATTING WITH FRIENDS, EVEN WHEN IT'S TIME TO DRIVE HOME.

(SOT: Hannah Fishman) "Hello?"

CHRIS: THEIR MOUTHS AND FINGERS KEEP ON TALKING

(SOT: Hannah Fishman) "I don't want to be cut off from the social network if I'm driving. I don't think it's too much of a distraction to read a text message, get a voicemail, answer a phone call."

(SOT: Salomon Moreno) "If I'm just trying to send a quick message, what I'll quickly do is just text them."

CHRIS: A QUICK WAY TO COMMUNICATE, BUT ALSO A DANGEROUS ONE. ACCORDING TO TRIPLE A, CELL PHONES ARE TO BLAME FOR AN ESTIMATED 300 HUNDRED THOUSAND CAR ACCIDENTS EACH YEAR.

(SOT: Don Fisher) "The probability of their being in a crash increases dramatically when they're using these devices."

CHRIS: UMASS AMHERST ENGINEER PROFESSOR DON FISHER STUDIES TEEN DRIVERS USING THIS SIMULATOR. IT'S A SEDAN THAT TRAVELS DOWN A VIRTUAL ROAD ACCELERATING, TURNING, AND BRAKING JUST LIKE A REAL CAR.

(SOT: Fisher) "We find in scenario after scenario after scenario, where newly licensed drivers need to anticipate hazards, that they do so much less well than do experienced drivers."

CHRIS: ONE REASON FISHER FOUND IS THAT TEENS LOOK AWAY FROM THE ROAD FOUR TIMES LONGER THAN ADULTS WHEN DISTRACTED.

(SOT: Salomon) "I haven't had any close calls, I haven't had any near-accidents."

(SOT: Hannah) "When I'm on the phone, I feel confident enough to be driving and I feel safe."

CHRIS: THEY MAY FEEL SAFE, BUT ARE THEY? TO SEE HOW DISTRACTIONS AFFECT HANNAH AND SALOMON'S DRIVING, DR. FISHER PUT THEM TO THE TEST IN HIS SIMULATOR.

CHRIS: WITH THEIR PARENTS WATCHING, SALOMON AND HANNAH EACH TOOK A 20 MINUTE DRIVE.

CHRIS: ALONG THE WAY, THEY WERE TOLD TO DO SPECIFIC THINGS LIKE DIALING A PHONE, SHUFFLING AN IPOD, AND SENDING A TEXT. THESE HI-TECH GLASSES MONITORED HOW LONG THEY LOOKED AWAY FROM THE ROAD.

(SOT: Fisher) "When you're driving, if you have your eyes off the road for more than two seconds, you are at increased risk of crashing."

CHRIS: TWO SECONDS MAY NOT SEEM THAT LONG BUT WATCH THIS. WHEN HANNAH LOOKS DOWN TO MAKE A CALL SHE SWERVES ALL OVER THE ROAD. AND WHEN SHE WRITES A TEXT SHE'S SO DISTRACTED, SHE SLAMS INTO THE CAR IN FRONT OF HER.

(SOT: Fisher) "You killed several pedestrians."

CHRIS: HANNAH WAS SHOCKED AND SO WAS HER DAD. HE SAID HE CALLS HANNAH WHILE SHE'S DRIVING ALL THE TIME.

(SOT: Jeff Fishman) "I have to come up with a system as a parent whereby she can hold off on checking messages or using the phone, picking up the phone until she's parked."

CHRIS: SALOMON HELD STEADY MAKING PHONE CALLS BUT WHEN HE STARTS SENDING TEXTS, HE NEARLY COLLIDES WITH THIS TRUCK!

CHRIS: SHUFFLING THROUGH HIS IPOD, HE NEVER SEES THE TRAFFIC STOPPED AT THIS CROSSWALK. INSTEAD, HE BLOWS RIGHT THROUGH POSSIBLY KILLING A PEDESTRIAN.

(SOT: Salomon) "It's definitely a wakeup call for me, it's definitely gonna really change my behavior."

CHRIS: IN THE END, FISHER SAYS THESE DEVICES LEFT THE TEENS DANGEROUSLY DISTRACTED UP TO 80 PERCENT OF THE TIME! HIS ADVICE? KEEP THEM OFF WHEN YOU'RE ON THE ROAD.

CHRIS: CURRENTLY, SIX STATES AND WASHINGTON D.C. DON'T ALLOW DRIVERS TO USE WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES WHILE DRIVING. AND 20 MORE STATES ARE CONSIDERING SIMILAR BANS THIS YEAR.

CHRIS: NOW WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK. DO YOU FEEL IT'S DANGEROUS TO TEXT WHILE YOU ARE BEHIND THE WHEEL? OR DO YOU FEEL TEXTING HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE WAY YOU DRIVE? HEAD TO CHANNEL ONE DOT COM AND CLICK ON YOUR TURN TO WEIGH IN.

CHRIS: THAT DOES IT FOR CHANNEL ONE NEWS FOR TODAY. I'M CHRIS BROWNE, WE'LL SEE YOU RIGHT BACK HERE TOMORROW.