

CHANNEL ONE NEWS SHOW SCRIPT 9/14/07

Topics covered:

- News of the day
- teens rebuilding New Orleans
- Gatorade Player of the year
- Glory Road
- Disappearing dolphins

BROWNE: IT'S FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2007. I'M CHRIS BROWNE. GET READY TO MEET A GROUP OF TEENS WHO ARE DOING SOMETHING AMAZING ON THE WEEKENDS BY HELPING REBUILD LIVES ONE HOUSE AT A TIME. BUT FIRST, A LOOK AT THE HEADLINES RIGHT NOW ON CHANNEL ONE NEWS.

PRESIDENT BUSH ADDRESSED THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ON THE IRAQ WAR LAST NIGHT. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF VICTORY TO BOTH THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ AND THE UNITED STATES.

PRES. BUSH: "WE MUST HELP IRAQ DEFEAT THOSE WHO THREATEN ITS FUTURE AND ALSO THREATEN OURS."

THE PRESIDENT APPEALED FOR PATIENCE ON THE WAR AND SAID THAT THE TROOP SURGE HAS SUCCEEDED IN CUTTING VIOLENCE. HE BACKED US IRAQ COMMANDER DAVID PATRAEUS' PLAN TO BRING SOME TROOPS HOME BY SUMMER.

LIFE EXPECTANCY RATES IN THE UNITED STATES ARE AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH. ACCORDING TO A NEW FEDERAL STUDY PEOPLE BORN IN 2005 ARE PROJECTED TO LIVE FOR NEARLY 78 YEARS. RESEARCHERS CREDIT BETTER PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF HEART DISEASE, CANCER AND STROKE. DESPITE THE UPWARD TREND, THE UNITED STATES STILL HAS A LOWER LIFE EXPECTANCY THAN 41 OTHER COUNTRIES, ACCORDING TO THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU. THE COUNTRY WITH THE LONGEST LIFE EXPECTANCY AT 83-AND-A-HALF YEARS IS ANDORRA, A SMALL EUROPEAN COUNTRY BETWEEN FRANCE AND SPAIN. JAPAN IS NUMBER TWO. ZIMBABWE, IN AFRICA, HAS THE LOWEST LIFE EXPECTANCY, AT 35-AND-A-HALF YEARS.

IT SEEMS YOU CAN SWEAT YOUR WAY TO A BIGGER BRAIN. NEW RESEARCH SHOWS THAT EXERCISE AFFECTS YOUR GENES, HELPS REVERSE THE AGING PROCESS AT A CELLULAR LEVEL, GIVES YOU MORE ENERGY, MAKES YOU SMARTER, AND MAY EVEN HELP YOU GROW NEW BRAIN CELLS. SO DOES IMPROVING NUTRITION. THE STUDY FOUND THAT A DIET HIGH IN SUGAR AND SATURATED FAT LESSENS NEW CELL GROWTH.

CONSERVATION GROUPS ISSUED THEIR SECOND ANNUAL "WORST POLLUTED PLACES" LIST, WITH CITIES IN CHINA, INDIA, RUSSIA AND AZERBAIJAN. OTHERS IN PERU, UKRAINE AND ZAMBIA ARE ALSO ON THE TOP-10 LIST. THE PROBLEMS RESULT FROM A LEGACY OF MINING, COLD WAR-ERA POLLUTION AND POORLY REGULATED INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION. THE POLLUTED SITES MAY CAUSE SOME 12 MILLION PEOPLE TO SUFFER HEALTH PROBLEMS RANGING FROM ASTHMA AND OTHER RESPIRATORY AILMENTS TO BIRTH DEFECTS AND PREMATURE DEATH, ACCORDING TO THE NEW YORK-BASED BLACKSMITH INSTITUTE.

THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN DYING WORLDWIDE HAS DROPPED BELOW 10 MILLION A YEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME UNICEF SAID THURSDAY. NEW DATA FROM THE U.N.

CHILDREN'S FUND SUGGESTS THAT THINGS LIKE VITAMIN A SUPPLEMENTS, INSECT NETS AND VACCINES ARE REACHING MORE CHILDREN IN POOR COUNTRIES. CHILD DEATHS FELL TO NINE-POINT-SEVEN MILLION IN 2005, DOWN FROM NEARLY 13-MILLION IN 1990.

FOR MORE, HEAD TO CHANNELONE.COM.

[COMMERCIAL BREAK]

BROWNE: ADMIT IT...FOR MOST OF US, SATURDAY MORNING MEANS SLEEPING IN AND TAKING IT EASY. BUT FOR ONE GROUP OF LOUISIANA TEENS, SATURDAY MORNINGS ARE THE PERFECT TIME TO HELP REBUILD THEIR COMMUNITY. FOR MANY IN NEW ORLEANS, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ESCAPE THIS TATTERED LANDSCAPE. BUT JUST AS THE LOCALS HAVE GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO THIS SIGHT, THEY'VE COME TO RECOGNIZE ANOTHER FAMILIAR IMAGE -- THAT OF THE STUDENTS IN BLUE WHO FAITHFULLY ARRIVE EVERY WEEKEND.

JASON: "Everybody comes out for about three hours and helps out on one house. I believe that we're making a difference, may be a tiny one, but it's still a difference."

BROWNE: ON THIS SATURDAY MORNING I VISITED THE VOLUNTEERS FROM YOUTH REBUILDING NEW ORLEANS, OR Y-R-N-O, AS THEY CONTINUE THEIR WORK ON A HOUSE IN THE UPPER NINTH WARD.

"HOPEFULLY WE'LL GET SOME NEW SIDING UP, SO WE CAN GET RID OF THE PAINFUL MEMORIES OF THE HURRICANE KATRINA."

BROWNE: HERE IN THE 9TH WARD, WHERE YOUTH REBUILDING NEW ORLEANS DO A LOT OF THEIR WORK, ON A LOT OF THE HOUSES, YOU'LL SEE SPRAY PAINT...THE NATIONAL GUARD CAME IN AND AS THEY ARE CHECKING THESE HOUSES, THEY PUT THE DATE THAT THEY CHECKED THE HOUSES UP THERE. AND DOWN HERE YOU SEE A NUMBER THAT INDICATES, WHETHER OR NOT THEY FOUND ANY BODY INSIDE THE HOUSE, IN THIS CASE IT WAS ZERO, BUT EACH OF THE HOUSES HERE ACTUALLY HAVE SIMLIAR PAINTINGS ON THE OUTSIDE AND AGAIN IT'S A REALLY STRANGE REMINDER OF WHAT WENT ON HERE TWO YEARS AGO. BUT WITH EACH NEW HOUSE, THESE TEENS ARE SLOWLY ERASING SIGNS OF HURRICANE KATRINA.

PAT: "Hi, I'm Patrick."

CHRIS: "And I'm Chris."

PAT: "And this is the house we've fixed up over the past year. The water in this house was probably up to here, we had to take all the windows out, along the sides, we came in, we had to pull out all the nails out of all these boards, the flooring we had to pull up as well."

BROWNE: ALL THIS IN THE OPPRESSIVE LOUISIANA HEAT...

Pat: "Basically it was over 100 degrees in here. We had to open up all the windows. There was no a/c in the middle of summer."

BROWNE: THE OWNER OF THIS HOUSE WAS AWAY, BUT HER REACTION TO HER NEWLY REBUILT HOME STAYS WITH THESE GUYS...

Pat: "The look on the owner's face, there's just nothing like it."

BROWNE: THE Y-R-N-O VOLUNTEERS WILL WORK ON A SECOND HOUSE BEFORE THE DAY ENDS, BUT NO ONE COMPLAINS.

Chris: "It's definitely worth giving up Saturday mornings, it's well worth it in the long run, because you get to help people and it's a great feeling, seeing somebody who went from nothing to actually having something."

REPORTING FROM NEW ORLEANS' NINTH WARD, CHRIS BROWNE, CHANNEL ONE NEWS.

ANNOUNCER: HURRICANE KATRINA HIT NEW ORLEANS MORE THAN 2 YEARS AGO, BUT THE CITY IS STILL RECOVERING. FOR MORE ON HOW THE REBUILDING PROCESS IS GOING, CLICK ON KATRINA'S IMPACT ON CHANNELONE.COM.

JESSICA: THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL SOCCER TEAM TAKES ON SWEDEN IN THE WORLD CUP TONIGHT. ABBY WOMBACH IS ONE OF THE TEAM'S STAR PLAYERS. YOU MIGHT REMEMBER HER FOR HER GOAL IN THE 2004 OLYMPICS THAT BROUGHT HOME GOLD, BUT SHE'S ALSO BEEN SCORING POINTS OFF THE FIELD.

WOMBACH: "I thought I would have a better opportunity to make it in soccer, because i'm only 5'10", 5'11", small in the standards of basketball. My greatest accomplishment in soccer is by far winning a gold medal. The minute I was on the podium, I wanted another gold medal. That's what I wanted. You're standing there, getting crowned with a gold medal, and I thought, I want to do this again. They gave me an opportunity to fly down to africa, it changed me, I mean it for sure changed me forever. There was 20 african kids, 20 rwandans and they were playing soccer. They were all barefoot. I said stop the car, I want to play with these kids. It was really cool to be able to be apart of that because you don't have to have words. A great part about playing the sport of soccer is that you don't have to talk to one another to accomplish what you want to do and have fun. For me the thing that I think about most is that I don't want to let the pioneers, I don't want to let the people before me down. I need to keep the tradition alive."

[COMMERCIAL BREAK]

JESSICA: NOT ONLY DOES GATORADE CONSIDER RICK PORCELLO THE BEST PLAYER IN THE COUNTRY, HE'S ALSO ACCOMPLISHED IN HIS CLASSROOM AT SETON HALL PREP AND IN THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY. HE WAS THE TWENTY-SEVENTH PICK IN THE MAJOR LEAGUE DRAFT, BUT BEFORE HE COULD SIGN HIS CONTRACT, HE HAD TO TAKE CARE OF SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS -- HIS HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP.

RICK PORCELLO: "I'm still kind of focused on my high school season and winning a state championship and we're going to try to practice hard for that."

JESSICA: THEY WON THE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW, AND RICK GOT HIS FINAL VICTORY BEFORE HIS DEBUT IN THE MAJORS THIS FALL WITH THE DETROIT TIGERS.

ANNOUNCER: MEET MORE ATHLETES...LOOK FOR THE GATORADE PLAYER OF THE YEAR AT CHANNEL ONE DOT COM.

CULTURECAST: FEARLESS SKATEBOARDERS AND BMX RIDERS WILL BE HITTING THE RAMPS IN SAN DIEGO THIS WEEKEND FOR THE ACTION SPORTS COMPETITION. IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE IN SAN ANTONIO ON SATURDAY YOU MIGHT FIND YOURSELF ENJOYING SOME MARIACHI MUSIC TO KICK OFF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH. ON SUNDAY RYAN SEACREST TAKES A BREAK FROM AMERICAN IDOL TO HOST THE 59TH PRIMETIME EMMY AWARDS IN LOS ANGELES. ALSO ON SUNDAY DON'T FORGET TO PUT ON THAT SUNSCREEN AND RECYCLE IN SUPPORT OF WORLD OZONE DAY.

BROWNE: NOW, IN JUST 50 YEARS AN ANIMAL THAT LIVED ON EARTH FOR 20 MILLION YEARS...HAS VANISHED. WIPED OUT BY HUMANS.

THEY SAY WHEN THE LAST YANGTZE RIVER DOLPHIN DIES SO DOES A PART OF CHINA'S SOUL. KNOWN THERE AS THE GODDESS, THIS PEACEFUL MAMMAL HAS SWUM IN THE WARM WATERS OF THE YANGTZE FOR THE PAST 20 MILLION YEARS. BUT AFTER A SIX WEEK-LONG SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION COULD FIND NO EVIDENCE OF THE ANCIENT SPECIES, SCIENTISTS CONCLUDED IT HAS BEEN DRIVEN TO EXTINCTION BECAUSE MANKIND AND THE INCREASING NUMBER OF CONTAINER SHIPS PLOWING UP AND DOWN THE RIVER ALONG WITH FISHERMEN'S NETS ARE RESPONSIBLE. NOW ALL THAT REMAINS OF THIS GRACEFUL CREATURE ARE VIDEO IMAGES.

DR. SAMUEL TURVEY, ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON: "The region is now home to over ten percent of the world's human population so there's a tremendous amount of human-wildlife conflict there."

THE YANGTZE DOLPHIN IS THE FIRST LARGE ANIMAL TO BE WIPED FROM THE PLANET IN THE LAST 50 YEARS. BUT AS MANKIND EXERTS A MAJOR INFLUENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT OTHER CREATURES FACE EXTINCTION TOO...LIKE THE ARCTIC POLAR BEAR AND MAJESTIC GRAY WHALE . THE WORLD CONSERVATION UNION ESTIMATES ABOUT SIXTEEN THOUSAND SPECIES ARE IN DANGER OF EXTINCTION.

BROWNE: THAT'S IT FOR THIS WEEK. I'M CHRIS BROWNE. WE'LL SEE YOU BACK HERE ON MONDAY.