

CHANNEL ONE NEWS SHOW SCRIPT 9/17/07

Topics covered:

- News of the day
- Iraq war protest in D.C.
- Cell phone ban
- Pop quiz
- One Voice - Constitution Day

TONY: HEY GUYS, HAPPY CONSTITUTION DAY, I'M TONY ANDERSON AND IT IS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2007. WE'RE IN PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, WHERE THE CONSTITUTION WAS SIGNED. WE'RE GOING TO LET YOU KNOW WHY THIS WAS SUCH AN IMPORTANT DOCUMENT IN U.S. HISTORY. BUT FIRST WE'RE GOING TO CHECK OUT THE HEADLINES OF TODAY'S NEWS. CHANNEL ONE NEWS STARTS RIGHT NOW.

ANNOUNCER: IN CALIFORNIA, AN OUT-OF-CONTROL WILDFIRE RAGED THROUGH THE SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST ON SUNDAY, KEEPING ABOUT 5,000 PEOPLE FROM THEIR HOMES IN TWO MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES. FIREFIGHTERS BATTLED TO CONTAIN THE 18,000-ACRE BLAZE, WHICH BURNED JUST EAST OF LOS ANGELES. THE FIRE BEGAN FRIDAY AND WAS PUSHED BY 20-MPH WINDS THROUGH DENSE, DRY BRUSH.

A PLANE CARRYING 130 PEOPLE CRASHED SUNDAY WHILE TRYING TO LAND IN PHUKET, THAILAND, A POPULAR RESORT ISLAND IN ASIA, SOUTH OF JAPAN. OFFICIALS SAY AT LEAST 61 PEOPLE DIED AND 42 WERE INJURED IN THE FIERY CRASH. STILL OTHERS ARE MISSING. THE PLANE, OPERATED BY ONE-TWO-GO AIRLINES CRASHED WHILE TRYING TO LAND IN RAINY WEATHER. IT BROKE INTO TWO PIECES, THEN BURST INTO FLAMES.

FOR BARRY BONDS, BREAKING THE HOME RUN RECORD WAS PRICELESS. BUT FOR ONE FAN, THE HOME RUN BALL CAME WITH ONE HEFTY PRICE TAG. BOND'S RECORD-BREAKING 756TH HOME RUN BALL WAS AUCTIONED OFF SATURDAY FOR \$752,467. THAT'S THE BALL THAT SET A NEW HOME-RUN RECORD, BREAKING HANK AARON'S OLD RECORD OF 755 LIFETIME HOME RUNS.

PROTESTER: "These are my children, and they will never fight in George Bush's war."

THOUSANDS OF PROTESTERS MARCHED THROUGH THE STREETS OF WASHINGTON SATURDAY, FROM NEAR THE WHITE HOUSE TO THE CAPITOL, TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE WAR IN IRAQ. AT LEAST 150 PROTESTERS WERE ARRESTED, MOST TAKEN AWAY WITHOUT A STRUGGLE AFTER THEY CROSSED A POLICE LINE AROUND THE US CAPITOL. BUT A FEW GREW ANGRY AFTER POLICE USED SHIELDS AND CHEMICAL SPRAY TO PUSH BACK THE CROWD. A COUNTER-PROTEST SUPPORTING THE WAR WAS HELD JUST BLOCKS AWAY AT THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

THE GIANT PANDA IS A FAVORITE AROUND THE WORLD, AND THESE CUDDLY CREATURES HAVE ALSO BEEN USED AS AGENTS OF DIPLOMACY FOR YEARS. MOST FAMOUSLY WHEN CHINA PRESENTED A PAIR TO THEN U.S. PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON IN 1972, MARKING THE END OF 25 YEARS OF COMMUNIST CHINESE CLOSURE TO THE WEST. BUT ALL THINGS COME TO AN END. JUST THIS MONTH, WANGWANG AND FUNI WENT TO AUSTRALIA--THE CUTER SIDE OF A NEW 28-BILLION-DOLLAR GAS DEAL WITH CHINA. FROM NOW ON, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT SAYS, PANDAS WILL ONLY GO OUT ON LOAN FOR RESEARCH AND BREEDING.

ANDREW LEUNG, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ANALYST: "They are so precious now, so they are very, very careful now not to just give them away."

[COMMERCIAL BREAK]

BROWNE: FOUR YEARS IN, THE OUTLOOK FOR THE WAR IN IRAQ IS DEEPLY PESSIMISTIC. A RECENT NBC NEWS/WALL STREET JOURNAL POLL SHOWS THAT JUST 37 PERCENT THINK THE WAR IS WINNABLE. EVEN FEWER AGREE WITH THE WAY THE WAR HAS BEEN HANDLED, A FACT HIGHLIGHTED AT LAST WEEKEND'S PROTESTS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

[Iraq War Veterans for Peace chanting]

COUNTER-PROTESTER: "I think they're loony, left, and crazy! I think they ought to go find a country they can support and move there! And we'd be a lot better off."

BROWNE: THE COUNTER-PROTESTERS LINING THE STREETS SATURDAY ARE JUST ONE EXAMPLE OF THE RE-VAMPED ARGUMENT TO STAY THE COURSE IN IRAQ. IN FACT, THAT SAME POLL LAST WEEK SHOWED THAT THIRTY PERCENT APPROVE OF PRESIDENT BUSH'S HANDLING OF THE WAR. AND AS THE WAR IRAQ CONTINUES TO GO UNDER THE MICROSCOPE THIS WEEK, SUPPORTERS SAY THAT REGARDLESS OF HOW WE GOT THERE, NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO LEAVE IRAQ.

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH: "The success of a free Iraq is critical to the security of the United States."

GEN. DAVID H. PETRAEUS: "The military objectives of the surge are in large measure being met."

BROWNE: PROTESTS. COUNTER-PROTESTS. POLL NUMBERS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ISSUE. IT'S ALL A GREAT EXAMPLE OF OUR FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS TO FREE SPEECH AND OUR RIGHT TO ASSEMBLE. BUT WHAT ARE THE FACTS BEHIND THE WAR IN IRAQ? NEARLY FOUR THOUSAND AMERICAN TROOPS HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES, AND ALMOST 28 THOUSAND HAVE BEEN INJURED. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BALANCE SHEET, SUPPORTERS POINT OUT, THE WAR IN IRAQ DID DEPOSE A BLOODY DICTATOR--SADDAM HUSSEIN--AND HAS KEPT THE U.S.' FIGHT AGAINST ISLAMIC MILITANTS IN IRAQ, RATHER THAN CLOSE TO HOME.

ANNOUNCER: FOR MORE, CHECK OUT OUR SPECIAL SECTION ON CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST AT CHANNELONE.COM.

TONY: ONE OF THE RIGHTS AMERICANS HOLD MOST DEAR IS THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH. BUT IN MORE AND MORE SCHOOLS, THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE RIGHT TO SPEAK FREELY ON YOUR CELL PHONES. BUT ARE BANS ON CELL PHONE BANS UNCONSTITUTIONAL, UNFAIR, AND EVEN, PERHAPS, DANGEROUS? OR ARE THEY JUST A COMMON-SENSE WAY TO MAKE SURE GABBING DOESN'T INTERFERE WITH LEARNING?

TONY: IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL, AND THE ONE THING STUDENTS CLAIM THEY NEED? A CELL PHONE.

CHAD TENNINGS, STUDENT: "If I did not have my cell phone, I would die."

TONY: YOUNG ADULTS OF ALL AGES, AND MANY OF THEIR PARENTS, ARGUE: CELL PHONES PROVIDE PEACE OF MIND.

UNIDENTIFIED STUDENT: "I just texted my mom to give me a ride home."

TONY: IN DECATUR, GEORGIA, LIKE MUCH OF THE COUNTRY...

UNIDENTIFIED MOTHER: "Hey Ben, it's Mom. I'm outside the high school right now."

TONY: IT'S THE KEY TO COORDINATING BETWEEN PARENTS AND STUDENTS. BUT IN SOME CITIES LIKE NEW YORK AND CLEVELAND, THERE'S AN OUTRIGHT BAN. TAYLOR GREENE'S MOTHER IS AMONG A GROUP OF PARENTS IN NEW YORK SUING TO CHANGE THAT POLICY.

CARMEN COLON: "It's absolutely unsafe nowadays for a child to travel in this city, without some backup for their safety."

VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS: "One, two, three!"

TONY: AT ST. MARK'S, A PRIVATE SCHOOL IN FORT LAUDERDALE...

UNIDENTIFIED SCHOOL OFFICIAL: "Blanket policy, kids cannot have cell phones in our school."

TONY: PARENTS ARE BANNED FROM PICKING UP STUDENTS IF THE DRIVER IS ON THE PHONE. THE NO-CELL PHONE POLICY HAS SUPPORTERS...

JAYNE MILLS: "We've heard that kids are so good at texting, they can do it in their pocket. They can do it thru their clothes. They can do it without looking at the phone. So, it would be going on if they could have their cell phones at school."

VALERIE MILLS [laughing]: "True, true."

TONY: WITH AN ESTIMATED 15 AND HALF MILLION TEENAGERS BETWEEN 13 AND 17 ALREADY WITH THEIR OWN CELL PHONES...

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: "I think it may be a loosing battle."

TONY: ONE THAT THIS YEAR IS SURE TO KEEP EVERYONE...BUSY. TONY ANDERSON, CHANNEL ONE NEWS.

JESSICA: FOR CONSTITUTION DAY, YOUR POP QUIZ IS ABOUT, WHAT ELSE, THE CONSTITUTION. WHEN IT WAS WRITTEN IN 1787, PEOPLE WERE CONCERNED THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD BE TOO POWERFUL. THE BILL OF RIGHTS WAS ADDED IN 1791 TO PUT A CHECK ON THE POWER OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND PROTECT THE INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS OF AMERICANS. YOUR QUESTION:

WHAT IS THE BILL OF RIGHTS?

- A. ALL THE AMMENDMENTS
- B. THE FIRST 10 AMMENDMENTS
- C. THE CONSTITUTION
- D. THE 18TH AMMENDMENT

JESSICA: YOU HAVE TEN SECONDS. THE ANSWER IS B: THE FIRST 10 AMMENDMENTS. THEY GIVE AMERICANS THE RIGHT TO DO EVEYTHING FROM WORSHIP THE RELIGION OF THEIR CHOICE, TO OWN FIREARMS.

[COMMERCIAL BREAK]

UNIDENTIFIED STUDENT: "My favorite amendment is the First Amendment, because freedom of speech, it gives everybody the right to voice their opinion, and say whatever they feel."

BROWNE: FREEDOM OF SPEECH. FREEDOM OF RELIGION. FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. MANY SAY THESE ARE THE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH OUR COUNTRY WAS BUILT. NOW, JESSICA KUMARI TAKES A LOOK AT THOSE FREEDOMS AND WHAT THEY MEAN TO YOU. IT'S A SPECIAL CONSTITUTION DAY EDITION OF ONE VOICE.

CHANDLIER LAVOY, STUDENT: "Freedom of speech is everything to every individual."

JESSICA: SAYING WHAT WE WANT IS PERHAPS THE MOST BASIC OF AMERICAN RIGHTS. BUT OVER A THIRD OF STUDENTS SAY IT GOES TOO FAR. DOES WEARING A UNIFORM LIMIT YOUR FREEDOM OF SPEECH?

CAMERON JONES, STUDENT: "I don't like uniforms! They're horrible!"

JESSICA: THINK THE FIRST AMENDMENT DOESN'T AFFECT YOU? THINK AGAIN. ACCORDING TO THE KNIGHT FOUNDATION, A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT WORKS TO ADVANCE JOURNALISM AND FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, ALSO A SPONSOR OF CHANNEL ONE, ALMOST 40 PERCENT OF STUDENTS SAY THEY TAKE THE FIRST AMENDMENT FOR GRANTED. LESS THAN HALF SAY THEY'VE HEARD OF CONSTITUTION DAY. SEPTEMBER 17TH CELEBRATES WHEN OUR CONSTITUTION WAS SIGNED INTO LAW. JUST IN TIME FOR THE 220TH ANNIVERSARY OF THIS HISTORIC EVENT, THE KNIGHT FOUNDATION IS RELEASING AN IN-DEPTH STUDY LOOKING AT OUR FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS. BEFORE WE GO INTO THE OTHER FINDINGS, LET'S TAKE A REFRESHER COURSE ON WHAT THE FIRST AMENDMENT IS ALL ABOUT. BASICALLY, IT LETS US PRACTICE WHATEVER RELIGION WE'D LIKE, ENJOY FREE PRESS, AND RALLY FOR CAUSES WE SUPPORT. THAT EVEN INCLUDES BURNING THE AMERICAN FLAG AS A POLITICAL STATEMENT. THE KNIGHT FOUNDATION FOUND 72 PERCENT OF TEENS SAY THAT SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED. WELL, WHAT ABOUT ARTISTS SINGING OFFENSIVE LYRICS? 63 PERCENT THINK THAT'S OK. AND RELIGION?

ALICIA, STUDENT: "It's very important, I don't know what I'd do if I wasn't able to go to church whenever I want to and pray and read my bible everyday. So it's very important."

JESSICA: DOES THAT INCLUDE RELIGION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

GILLANI ALADIN, STUDENT: "I think that religion shouldn't really be in the schools. I think it should be studied at home or a private sanctuary."

JESSICA: WHETHER YOU REALIZE IT OR NOT, THE FIRST AMENDMENT AFFECTS YOU IN A NUMBER OF WAYS. EVEN AT HOME, FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IS IN ACTION WHENEVER YOU WATCH TV OR GO ONLINE. LATER ON IN THE YEAR WE'LL BE DIGGING DEEPER INTO SOME FIRST AMENDMENT ISSUES. JESSICA KUMARI, CHANNEL ONE NEWS.

ANNOUNCER: FOR A COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE CONSTITUTION, HEAD TO CHANNELONE.COM. AND WHILE YOU'RE THERE, TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT WITH OUR NEW ONE VOICE FEATURE.

TONY: ALL RIGHT GUYS, THAT'S OUR SHOW FOR TODAY. WE'RE HERE IN PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, I'M TONY ANDERSON. AND THAT'S IT FOR CHANNEL ONE NEWS.

