

CHANNEL ONE NEWS SHOW SCRIPT 9/20/07

Topics covered:

- News of the day
- Blackwater, U.S.A.
- Plastic bottle ban
- Crimes of fashion
- The Shot: Who was Mona Lisa?

TONY: HEY GUYS, THIS IS TONY ANDERSON. IT'S SEPTEMBER 20th. WE'RE IN PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA. CHANNEL ONE NEWS STARTS RIGHT NOW.

UNIDENTIFIED OFFICIAL: "It's time for us to sort of sit back and look at security procedures, and see how we want to move forward."

U.S. DIPLOMATS IN IRAQ ARE "LOCKED DOWN", PREVENTED FROM TRAVELING OUTSIDE THE HEAVILY FORTIFIED GREEN ZONE. THAT'S THE AREA OF BAGHDAD WHERE AMERICANS AND OTHER FOREIGNERS LIVE AND WORK. THE MOVE FOLLOWS PUBLIC OUTRAGE OVER THE KILLING OF IRAQI CIVILIANS, ALLEGEDLY BY GUARDS FROM THE SECURITY COMPANY, BLACKWATER USA, OVER THE WEEKEND. IRAQ'S DEFENSE MINISTRY SAYS 20 IRAQIS WERE KILLED IN THE GUNFIGHT. BLACKWATER SAYS THE GUARDS WERE RESPONDING TO MILITANTS WHO OPENED FIRE ON STATE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL.

UNIDENTIFIED OFFICIAL: "The motion is not agreed to."

SENATORS KILLED A BILL TUESDAY THAT WOULD HAVE GIVEN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESIDENTS THEIR FIRST-EVER MEMBER OF CONGRESS. THE BILL WOULD HAVE CREATED A NEW HOUSE SEAT FOR THE CITY OF ABOUT 600,000 PEOPLE. THE CITY HAS BEEN DENIED VOTING RIGHTS IN CONGRESS SINCE 1801 BECAUSE IT IS NOT A STATE, MAKING IT THE ONLY MAJOR CAPITAL CITY IN THE WORLD WHERE CITIZENS ARE DENIED A VOTE IN THE NATIONAL LEGISLATURE.

UNIDENTIFIED OFFICIAL: "Bringing college costs down for students and families was a priority."

THE PRESIDENT IS EXPECTED TO SIGN A \$20 BILLION COLLEGE AID BILL. THE MEASURE WILL GIVE MORE FEDERAL MONEY TO LOW-INCOME STUDENTS GOING TO COLLEGE, AND DECREASE INTEREST RATES ON MONEY STUDENTS BORROW FOR SCHOOL. IF APPROVED, IT WILL BE THE LARGEST INVESTMENT IN COLLEGE EDUCATION SINCE THE 1944 GI BILL PROVIDED TUITION AID TO MILLIONS OF WORLD WAR II VETERANS.

UNIDENTIFIED OFFICIAL: "Children face lead exposures from a far more innocuous source. From the toys they play with."

HEARINGS ARE UNDERWAY IN CONGRESS ABOUT RECENT RECALLS INVOLVING LEAD IN TOYS AND JEWELRY FROM CHINA. LEAD IS A TOXIC HEAVY METAL THAT CAN CAUSE BRAIN DAMAGE, ESPECIALLY IN YOUNG PEOPLE WHOSE BRAINS ARE STILL DEVELOPING. LEAD IN THE PAINT ON SOME OF THE TOYS MATTEL RECALLED THIS SUMMER WAS 180 TIMES THE AMOUNT ALLOWED BY LAW. ANOTHER COMPANY SOLD JEWELRY THAT WAS ALMOST 100 PERCENT LEAD.

RESEARCHERS ARE FINDING NOISE CAN HAVE MORE OF AN EFFECT ON LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM THAN INITIALLY THOUGHT. A STUDY OUT OF NEW YORK UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF MEDICINE LOOKS AT HOW NOISE IN AND OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM AFFECTS STUDENTS' ABILITIES TO HEAR AND UNDERSTAND SPEECH. YOUNGER STUDENTS CAN MISS MORE BECAUSE THEY OFTEN CAN'T USE CONTEXT TO FILL IN THE WORDS, AND FOR MOST, IT'S EASY TO LET ATTENTION DRIFT WHEN NOISE INTERRUPTS.

[COMMERCIAL BREAK]

BROWNE: THERE IS ANGER IN IRAQ TODAY AFTER ARMED AMERICANS ALLEGEDLY SHOT AND KILLED A GROUP OF IRAQI CIVILLIANS OVER THE WEEKEND. BUT IN THIS CASE, THE SHOOTERS WEREN'T AMERICAN TROOPS. THEY WERE EMPLOYEES OF BLACKWATER USA, A PRIVATE SECURITY FIRM THAT PROTECTS AMERICAN DIPLOMATS WORKING IN IRAQ. FIRMS LIKE BLACKWATER PROVIDE HEAVILY ARMED SECURITY PERSONNEL, FOR A PRICE. BUT WHO ARE THESE "MILITARY CONTRACTORS," AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING IN IRAQ?

BROWNE: THEY DRESS IN MILITARY GEAR. THEY CARRY GUNS. THEY EVEN USE HELICOPTERS AND TANKS. BUT THE ESTIMATED 20,000 PRIVATE SECURITY CONTRACTORS EMPLOYED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN IRAQ ARE NOT SOLDIERS. MILITARY CONTRACTORS DO EVERYTHING FROM PROTECTING U.S. GOVERNMENT STAFF, TO GUARDING BUILDINGS AND CONVOYS. AND AS LAST WEEKEND'S FIREFIGHT BETWEEN A PRIVATE SECURITY FIRM'S GUARDS AND ALLEGED IRAQI MILITANTS SHOWS, IT'S DANGEROUS AND CONTROVERSIAL WORK.

BROWNE: BLACKWATER U.S.A., THE COMPANY WHOSE GUARDS WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEADLY SHOOTOUT, EMPLOYS ABOUT 1000 ARMED PERSONNEL IN IRAQ.

COL. JACK JACOBS, U.S. ARMY (RET.): "Their job is to protect everybody who is not a military personnel in places like Iraq."

BROWNE: PRIVATE SECURITY CONTRACTORS FIRST ARRIVED IN IRAQ SHORTLY AFTER THE U.S.-LED INVASION IN MARCH 2003. SINCE THEN, THEIR PRESENCE HAS DRAWN CRITICISM FROM POLITICIANS, THE MEDIA AND NOW, FROM THE IRAQIS THEMSELVES. ON WEDNESDAY, IRAQI PRIME MINISTER NURI AL-MALIKI DEMANDED THAT U.S. AUTHORITIES REMOVE BLACKWATER FROM IRAQ AFTER THE GUNFIGHT INVOLVING THE FIRM'S GUARDS LEFT 10 PEOPLE DEAD. BLACKWATER SAYS ITS CONTRACTORS WERE JUST DOING THEIR JOBS.

COL. JACK JACOBS, U.S. ARMY (RET.): "They're allowed to carry weapons because their job is to protect people and so they have to carry weapons in an environment where, in which EVERYBODY'S got weapons."

BROWNE: MANY OF THE ARMED CONTRACTORS THAT PROVIDE SECURITY IN IRAQ ARE FORMER SOLDIERS AND MARINES. THEY ARE TRAINED TO USE THOSE WEAPONS AND ARE EVEN PERMITTED TO USE DEADLY FORCE IF THEY, OR THE PEOPLE THEY ARE PROTECTING, ARE ATTACKED. BUT THERE'S AN IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN U.S. FORCES IN IRAQ, AND THESE PRIVATE CONTRACTORS.

COL. JACK JACOBS, U.S. ARMY (RET.): "Soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines HAVE to be disciplined. Uh, they're schooled in discipline, they're subject to the uniform code of military justice. If they don't do what they're supposed to do, they're prosecuted. This is not necessarily true with the Blackwater people as we've seen now."

BROWNE: CHRIS BROWNE, CHANNEL ONE NEWS.

JAMES BLUNT: "I'm James Blunt and you're watching Channel One News!"

TONY: WE ALL KNOW THAT WATER'S GOOD FOR US, BUT WHAT'S NOT GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT ARE THE DISPOSABLE BOTTLES THEY COME IN WE'RE GOING TO LOOK AT SOME HIGH SCHOOLERS IN ST LOUIS WHO ARE TRYING TO HAVE THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS.

LAUREN MACDONALD, STUDENT: "This year in our cafeteria we don't have any machines for bottled water anymore. We were given these plastic bottles by our school and we're supposed to fill them up everyday."

SISTER BARBARA, SCHOOL PRESIDENT: "We have a new policy this semester that we're not selling bottled water in our cafeteria. It uses a lot less of non-renewable energy resources. Economic reasons, people are paying almost 4 dollars a gallon for bottles of water, and you can get it for free out of the water fountain."

LAUREN MACDONALD: "I especially think, when I'm like at the grocery store and I see like a huge like box of like bottled water, and like I'm like oh, someone's going to buy that."

KATY, STUDENT: "I was kind of shocked. But like once we got used to it, I thought it was very a good idea."

UNIDENTIFIED STUDENT: "It might seem troubling because you don't get like a fresh cold water out of the vending machine but it's worth it because I mean you're not spending that money."

LAUREN MACDONALD: "Definitely just think about what you're doing. Just those little steps can really make a difference, whether you think it can or not."

TONY: TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR SCHOOL OR YOUR FAMILY CUT DOWN ON TRASH, HEAD TO CHANNEL ONE.COM AND CHECK OUT OUR WASTE CALCULATOR.

[COMMERCIAL BREAK]

JESSICA: WHAT YOU WEAR. IT SAYS A LOT ABOUT YOU. AND SOMETIMES IT SAYS, OR RATHER, SHOWS, TOO MUCH. NOW SOME ATLANTA OFFICIALS WANT TO USE THE LAW TO MAKE SURE PEOPLE DON'T GO TOO FAR. AS PART OF OUR ONE VOICE SERIES ON THE FIRST AMENDMENT, WE EXAMINE IF BANNING CERTAIN CLOTHES LIMITS YOUR FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

JESSICA: EXACTLY WHEN DOES A FASHION STATEMENT BECOME AN OFFENSIVE STATEMENT? SOMEWHERE WELL BEFORE YOUR BELT SLIDES DOWN TO YOUR KNEES, MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE SAYING. FOR TEENS, LOW-RIDING PANTS ARE A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF SELF-EXPRESSION AND FREE SPEECH IN ACTION. ATLANTA CITY COUNCILMAN C.T. MARTIN SAYS OK, TO A POINT. HE'S DRAWN UP A NEW LAW THAT WOULD FINE PEOPLE FOR INDECENT EXPOSURE OF HIS OR HER UNDERGARMENTS.

C.T. MARTIN, Councilman sponsoring amendment to ban underwear exposing pants: "I don't think women should have to see that. I don't think young girls should have to see that. I don't think children should have to see that."

JESSICA: SOME PEOPLE AGREE WITH THE NEW LAW.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN #2: "For young men, especially young girls that walk around town with their pants hanging off their behind."

JESSICA: BUT DO WE NEED TO START CRIMINALIZING STYLE?

UNIDENTIFIED MAN #1: "We just wear our pants like this."

JESSICA: LAST YEAR, A DALLAS CITY OFFICIAL TRIED TO CRACK DOWN.

RON PRICE, Dallas School Board Trustee: "Will you pull up them pants, man?"

RON PRICE: "It's not about race. It's not about gender. It's an issue of respect and honor."

JESSICA: BUT HIS LAW WENT OUT OF STYLE.

UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: "Why you wearing your pants like this, man?"

UNIDENTIFIED MAN #3: "If you're going to an interview, you're not going with your pants sagging. All your spare time, you can dress the way you want to dress."

JESSICA: SO WHO'S CROSSING THE LINE--THE FASHION POLICE, OR KIDS WHO WANT TO WEAR THEIR PANTS TOO LOW? JESSICA KUMARI, CHANNEL ONE NEWS.

TONY: ARE YOUR FIRST ADMENMENT RIGHTS PROTECTED IN THE CLASSROOM? LOG ON TO ONE VOICE AT CHANNELONE.COM AND TAKE THE STUDENT RIGHTS QUIZ.

TONY: OKAY GUYS, NOW YOU ARE UP-TO-DATE. I'M TONY ANDERSON SIGNING OFF FOR CHANNEL ONE NEWS, AND WE LEAVE YOU WITH THE SHOT.

ANNOUNCER: SHE'S GOT SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST RECOGNIZABLE EYES AND A SMILE THAT BECAME A MOVIE TITLE, BUT JUST WHO WAS MONA LISA? MANY HISTORIANS HAVE LONG BELIEVED THE MONA LISA TO BE A PORTRAIT OF LISA GHERARDINI, THE WIFE OF A WEALTHY BUSINESSMAN IN 16TH CENTURY FLORENCE, NOW A CITY IN NORTHERN ITALY. RESEARCHERS HAVE BEGUN A NEW DEBATE ABOUT IDENTITY OF THE PERSON IN LEONARDO DA VINCI'S FAMOUS PAINTING, CLAIMING THAT IT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE THE PAINTER HIMSELF!