

## CHANNEL ONE NEWS SHOW SCRIPT 9/25/07

### Topics Covered:

- Little Rock, AR, 50 years later
- News of the day
- Understanding Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of Iran

JESSICA: HEY EVERYBODY, IT'S TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2007. I'M JESSICA KUMARI, AND I JUST GOT BACK FROM VISITING CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL IN LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS. THEY'RE CELEBRATING A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY, WHICH CHANGED THE WAY WE DEAL WITH RACE IN SCHOOLS ACROSS OUR COUNTRY.

JESSICA: 50 YEARS AGO, THIS WAS THE SCENE AS 9 BLACK TEENS MADE THEIR WAY INTO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL IN LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, FOR THEIR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL THERE.

THIS WAS ATTEMPT AT DESEGREGATION. AT THE TIME CENTRAL HIGH WAS 100% WHITE. TODAY MORE THAN 50% OF THE STUDENT POPULATION IS AFRICAN AMERICAN. SO HAS INTEGRATION BEEN ACHIEVED? LET'S GO INSIDE TO FIND OUT. WE MET UP WITH STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT CYRUS BHRASSA WHO'S NEITHER BLACK NOR WHITE, BUT HALF INDIAN, HALF IRANIAN.

CYRUS BHRASSA, STUDENT: "It's a pretty weird feeling, but it feels pretty great, that I can be so different in a place where different wasn't once accepted and I can be leader of a school where once there was hatred and violence outside on the street I walk down every day now."

JESSICA: BHRASSA IS REFERRING BACK TO THE EVENTS OF 1957. THOSE SCARED BLACK TEENS, ARE ALSO KNOWN AS THE LITTLE ROCK 9, WERE DEFYING ARKANSAS GOVERNOR ORVAL FAUBUS. HE HAD ORDERED THE ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD TO PREVENT THE STUDENTS FROM ATTENDING SCHOOL. BUT THE STUDENTS HAD A POWERFUL ALLY—U.S. PRESIDENT DWIGHT EISENHOWER.

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER: "Directing the use of troops under Federal authority."

JESSICA: THE PRESIDENT SENT ARMY TROOPS TO PROTECT THE TEENS, AND THEY FINALLY MADE IT IN 50 YEARS AGO TODAY. BHRASSA AND THE OTHER STUDENTS ARE AWARE OF THEIR SCHOOL'S HISTORY AND THE PRESSURE TO BE THE ICON OF INTREGATION.

VIDIA ABRAMS, STUDENT: "They say you're supposed to be an example, but Central High is not perfect, nobody's perfect, and sometimes I think they forget because a historic event happened here, we're a normal high school."

JESSICA: A NORMAL HIGH SCHOOL WITH THE USUAL CLIQUES AND HANGOUT SPOTS. TAKE LUNCHTIME. INSIDE THE CAF, THE MAJORITY OF STUDENTS ARE BLACK— OUTSIDE, MOST ARE WHITE.

RICKEY HICKS, STUDENT: "Different hangout spots, it's very common that the white people go to this place, the black people go to this place."

JESSICA: RICKEY SAYS THAT SEPARATION EXTENDS INTO THE CLASSROOM, WHERE MOST OF THE STUDENTS IN HIS A.P. COURSES ARE WHITE.

RICKEY HICKS: "I kinda feel out of place...because I mean you're there and you almost feel like you're the only black person in the whole classroom."

JESSICA: THE STUDENTS SAY THERE'S NO QUESTION SEGREGATION STILL EXISTS HERE, BUT THEY INSIST IT'S NOT THE RACISM OF THE 50'S. THEY'RE JUST CHOOSING TO HANG OUT WITH THE PEOPLE THEY'RE MOST COMFORTABLE WITH.

PAIGE THOMPSON, STUDENT: "I grew up in pretty much an all-white neighborhood...it's hard for me to be outgoing when it comes to meeting new people."

JESSICA: THAT CHANGED ONCE PAIGE ENROLLED IN CENTRAL.

PAIGE THOMPSON: "Coming here my classes were more diverse...at first I was overwhelmed by the people of different cultures that were surrounding me, but then I adapted and made friends."

JESSICA: FRIENDS LIKE CYRUS. BUT THE TWO ADMIT MOST STUDENTS AREN'T LIKE THEM.

CYRUS BHRASSA: "So there needs to be a reason for getting out, and branching out and experiencing other cultures, uniting with other groups...what that is, I'm not sure."

JESSICA: SO THAT'S THE QUESTION BEING ASKED 50 YEARS AFTER DESEGREGATION AT CENTRAL HIGH. MANY STUDENTS HAVE HIGH HOPES THAT EVENTUALLY, IT WILL BE ANSWERED.

VIDIA ABRAMS: "Hopefully in the next 50 years, we won't have to be discussing oh, we still need progress. We'll be able to say, oh, you know, we've done our job."

ANNOUNCER: TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. GO TO CHANNELONE.COM AND PLAY OUR CIVIL RIGHTS TWISTED TIMELINE GAME.

**[COMMERCIAL BREAK]**

BROWNE: NOW HERE'S A LOOK AT THE REST OF TODAY'S HEADLINES.

FEDERAL AGENTS SAID MONDAY THAT THEY HAVE RAIDED MORE THAN FOUR DOZEN UNDERGROUND DRUG LABS AND ARRESTED AT LEAST 124 PEOPLE IN 27 STATES. THE ARRESTS WERE THE END RESULT OF AN 18-MONTH CRACKDOWN ON STEROIDS, HUMAN GROWTH HORMONES, AND OTHER PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS FROM CHINA THAT WERE SOLD AND ADVERTISED THROUGH THE INTERNET. FEDERAL OFFICIALS SAID CHINESE AUTHORITIES COOPERATED WITH THE PROBE. CHINA IS ALSO UNDER PRESSURE FROM OLYMPIC AND WORLD ANTI-DOPING OFFICIALS TO ADDRESS THE UNDERGROUND TRADE OF PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS, SINCE THE 2008 SUMMER GAMES IN BEIJING ARE JUST 11 MONTHS AWAY. STEROIDS AND OTHER PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS ARE BANNED BY THE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND MOST MAJOR SPORTS LEAGUES. SIDE EFFECTS OF ANABOLIC STEROIDS, WHICH

INCREASE MUSCLE MASS, INCLUDE INCREASED BODY HAIR, A DEEPENING OF THE VOICE, AND AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR.

OFFICIAL: "Operation Raw Deal is a great example of national and international cooperation because the nature of the Internet is such that the defendants and their criminal activities could be throughout the country."

BROWNE: NEW RESEARCH SHOWS THE MORE SMOKING SCENES YOU SEE IN A MOVIE, THE MORE LIKELY YOU CAN BECOME ADDICTED TO CIGARETTES. RESEARCHERS FROM DARTMOUTH MEDICAL SCHOOL FOUND A DIRECT LINK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN THE NUMBER OF SMOKING SCENES WATCHED AND THE CHANCES OF BECOMING A HABITUAL SMOKER. THOSE WHO HAD SEEN THE MOST SCENES WERE TWICE AS LIKELY TO END UP ADDICTED AS THOSE WHO HAD SEEN THE FEWEST.

GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER: "The consequences of global climate change are so pressing, that it doesn't matter who was responsible in the past. What matters is who is answerable for the future. And that means all of us."

BROWNE: MORE THAN 150 NATIONS PARTICIPATED IN AN INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE SUMMIT MONDAY AT THE UNITED NATIONS. THE SUMMIT WAS DESIGNED TO FIND WAYS TO COMBAT GLOBAL WARMING, AND TO BUILD POLITICAL MOMENTUM TO CREATE DEEP CUTBACKS IN EMISSIONS OF CARBON DIOXIDE AND OTHER MAN-MADE GASES BLAMED FOR GLOBAL WARMING. THE U.N. SCIENTIFIC NETWORK HAS WARNED OF TEMPERATURES RISING BY SEVERAL DEGREES FAHRENHEIT BY THE YEAR 2100 AND OF A DRASTICALLY CHANGED PLANET FROM RISING SEAS, DROUGHT AND OTHER FACTORS, UNLESS NATIONS REIN IN GREENHOUSE GASES. GREENHOUSE GASES TRAP THE HEAT OF THE SUN IN THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE, CAUSING A WARMER CLIMATE.

AMERICA'S BLOOD BANKS ARE LOOKING FOR YOUNG BLOOD. AN AGING DONOR POPULATION AND CHANGING RESTRICTIONS HAVE BLOOD BANKS NATIONWIDE TRYING TO FIND NEW WAYS TO LURE YOUNG DONORS. SOME, INCLUDING BLOOD BANKS IN WASHINGTON, KANSAS, AND GEORGIA, HAVE DROPPED THEIR MINIMUM AGE FOR DONORS FROM 17 TO 16. OTHERS ARE USING NETWORKING SITES LIKE MYSPACE AND FACEBOOK, RECRUITING AT ROCK CONCERTS, AND EVEN RAFFLING OFF I-PODS.

JESSICA: WE JUST TOLD YOU ABOUT A CRACKDOWN ON STEROIDS. TO SEE HOW YOU CAN STAY HEALTHY AND BUILD MUSCLES, GO TO "YOUR BODY IMAGE" AT CHANNELONE.COM.

**[COMMERCIAL BREAK]**

BROWNE: MANY CONSIDER HIM A SWORN ENEMY OF THE UNITED STATES. HIS COUNTRY IS AT ODDS WITH OUR GOVERNMENT OVER EVERYTHING FROM NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT TO TERRORISM. BUT ON MONDAY, IRANIAN PRESIDENT MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD CAME HERE, TO COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN NEW YORK. A SPEECH THAT HAS GENERATED WAVES OF PROTEST AND CONTROVERSY. COLUMBIA'S PRESIDENT SAYS IT'S THE FIRST AMMENDMENT THAT GIVES AHMADINEJAD THE RIGHT TO BE HERE. TODAY, WE'LL TAKE A LOOK AT THIS CONTROVERSIAL LEADER AND A LOOK AT THE ROLE THAT FREE SPEECH PLAYS, IN OUR "ONE VOICE" REPORT.

BROWNE: MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD. YOU HEAR HIS NAME A LOT IN THE NEWS, BUT WHO IS THIS MAN FROM IRAN? AND WHAT IS GOING ON BETWEEN HIS COUNTRY AND OURS? MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD IS THE PRESIDENT OF IRAN. IRAN USED TO BE CALLED PERSIA. IT IS ALSO A MOSTLY MUSLIM COUNTRY. AHMADINEJAD HAS BEEN

IN OFFICE FOR TWO YEARS. DURING HIS PRESIDENCY, HE HAS SAID SOME CONTROVERSIAL THINGS. TOUTING HIS COUNTRY'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM, DENYING THE HOLOCAUST EVER HAPPENED, AND CALLING FOR AN END TO THE ISRAELI STATE.

KENNETH POLLACK, IRAN EXPERT: "Mr. Ahmadinejad is his own worst enemy. He says things that are outrageous, that frighten the rest of the world, and typically leave Iran worse off than before he opened his mouth."

BROWNE: SOME HAVE CALLED HIM A MADMAN, BUT EXPERTS SAY HE'S CRAZY LIKE A FOX. A SHREWD POLITICIAN WHOSE STATEMENTS HAVE CAUSED IRE FROM THE WEST, BUT HAVE BOLSTERED SUPPORT AT HOME.

MARTIN INDYK, THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION: "He is not a madman. He is a carefully calculating politician who has found a formula that is working for him."

BROWNE: THIS WEEK, HE IS IN NEW YORK. AND HIS VISIT HAS ALREADY CAUSED CONTROVERSY. HE WAS DENIED ACCESS TO THE WORLD TRADE CENTER SITE. AND YESTERDAY'S TALK AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY BROUGHT THROGS OF PROTESTERS.

CHRIS, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY STUDENT: "I'm protesting him as an individual. I believe he's an evil person and I think he's a dangerous threat to the world and world peace."

MODERATOR: "The first question is..."

BROWNE: COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WERE ABLE TO CHALLENGE HIM ON HIS PAST STATEMENTS, EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH.

AHMADINEJAD (THROUGH TRANSLATOR): "We love all nations. We are friends with the Jewish people."

BROWNE: AHMADINEJAD PRESIDES OVER A COUNTRY RUN BY STRICT ISLAMIC LAW.

BRUCE RIEDEL, THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION: "This man is a true believer. He has been a supporter of the Islamic revolution since he first got into politics."

BROWNE: AHMADINEJAD WAS RAISED NEAR TEHRAN, IRAN'S CAPITAL. HE WENT TO IRAN'S UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WHERE HE STUDIED ENGINEERING. IN 2005, AHMADINEJAD ROCKETED FROM BEING MAYOR OF TEHRAN TO PRESIDENT OF THE COUNTRY, MAKING HIM THE SECOND-MOST POWERFUL MAN IN IRAN AFTER THE SUPREME LEADER, THE AYATOLLAH KHAMENEI.

BROWNE: THE IRANIAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO NEW YORK CITY COULD BE A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HIS COUNTRY AND OURS. HIS SPEECH AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY COULD BE A FIRST STEP TOWARD AN OPEN DIALOGUE. CHRIS BROWNE, CHANNEL ONE NEWS.

ANNOUNCER: NOW THAT YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT IRAN, DO YOU KNOW WHERE OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION ARE LOCATED? PLAY THE GEO-MASTERS GAME AT CHANNELONE.COM AND FIND OUT.

JESSICA: THAT'S IT FOR CHANNEL ONE NEWS. I'M JESSICA KUMARI. AND HERE'S THE FINAL WORD.

GLORIA RAY KARLMARK: "What a difference 50 years makes."

MELBA PATTILLO BEALS: "For us, this is inspirational, joyous, a time to celebrate."