

CHANNEL ONE NEWS SHOW SCRIPT 11/21/07

TOPICS COVERED:

- News of the Day
- Economy
- Your Turn - Death Penalty
- Pop Quiz - Free Rice
- Thanksgiving

CHRIS: IT'S WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST. I'M CHRIS BROWNE AND TODAY YOU'LL FIND OUT JUST HOW MUCH 10 GRAINS OF RICE CAN DO. BUT FIRST, HERE ARE THE HEADLINES FROM CHANNEL ONE NEWS.

ANNOUNCER: A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH REPORTED IN STEM CELL RESEARCH.

ANNOUNCER: TWO GROUPS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHERS HAVE DISCOVERED IT'S POSSIBLE FOR ORDINARY HUMAN SKIN CELLS TO BEHAVE LIKE STEM CELLS.

ANNOUNCER: IT MEANS SKIN CELLS COULD BE TURNED INTO VIRTUALLY ANY KIND OF HUMAN TISSUE. SO THESE CELLS COULD POTENTIALLY BE USED TO HEAL A DAMAGED HEART, SPINAL CORD OR OTHER FAILING TISSUE.

ANNOUNCER: THE TECHNIQUE COULD EASE THE TENSE ETHICAL DEBATE OVER STEM CELL RESEARCH.

ANNOUNCER: IF THINGS PROGRESS AS THE SCIENTISTS HOPE, STEM CELL RESEARCH COULD BE DONE USING SKIN CELLS INSTEAD OF CELLS FROM EMBRYOS, WHICH ARE CONTROVERSIAL. IT HAD BEEN BELIEVED THAT ONLY EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS COULD BE CHANGED INTO OTHER TISSUES.

TONY: WITH COLLEGE JUST AROUND THE CORNER, YOU'RE PROBABLY WELL AWARE OF THE SKY-HIGH COSTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

TONY: IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, THE AVERAGE IN STATE TUITION HAS JUMPED 22 PERCENT.

TONY: NOW, DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS ALIKE ARE THROWING THEIR SUPPORT BEHIND MEASURES TO HELP CURB THE ESCALATING COST OF COLLEGE.

TONY: PROPOSED PLANS INCLUDE REWARDING SCHOOLS THAT KEEP COSTS DOWN, PUTTING SCHOOLS WITH ESPECIALLY BIG TUITION HIKES ON A WATCH LIST AND REQUIRING SCHOOLS WITH LARGE ENDOWMENTS TO PUT THAT MONEY TOWARDS LOWERING TUITION.

ANNOUNCER: YOU MAY REMEMBER THE MOVIE BLACK HAWK DOWN ABOUT THE BATTLE OF MOGADISHU IN SOMALIA.

ANNOUNCER: UNITED NATIONS OFFICIALS NOW SAY THE AREA SURROUNDING THE DANGEROUS CAPITAL OF MOGADISHU COULD BE HOME TO THE MOST DEVASTATING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN AFRICA.

ANNOUNCER: SOMALIA HAS RECEIVED RELATIVELY LITTLE INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION AND HUMANITARIAN AID COMPARED TO THE WESTERN SUDANESE REGION OF DARFUR.

ANNOUNCER: AN ESTIMATED 200 THOUSAND PEOPLE HAVE DIED IN DARFUR IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS AND IT'S OFTEN THOUGHT OF AS THE WORST HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN AFRICA.

ANNOUNCER: BUT NOW, UN OFFICIALS SAY SOMALIA HAS EVEN HIGHER RATES OF MALNUTRITION, MORE VIOLENCE AND FEWER AID WORKERS THAN DARFUR. THE OFFICIALS SAY THE COUNTRY IS ON THE VERGE OF FAMINE.

ANNOUNCER: IN 1991, A MILITIA OVERTHREW THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT. THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN IN CRISIS SINCE THEN. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS HAVE BEEN DISPLACED FROM THEIR HOMES AND LIVE ON THE STREETS, WHERE FOOD IS SCARCE, DISEASE IS RAMPANT AND THE MILITIA STILL RULES.

TONY: THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT SAYS IT'S RELEASED MORE THAN THREE THOUSAND OF THE FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE JAILED UNDER EMERGENCY RULE.

TONY: PRESIDENT PERVEZ MUSHARRAF INSTITUTED A STATE OF EMERGENCY RULE ON NOVEMBER THIRD, SUSPENDING THE CONSTITUTION AND BANNING THE MEDIA.

TONY: PEOPLE HAVE TAKEN TO THE STREETS TO PROTEST EMERGENCY RULE, INCLUDING STUDENTS, LAWYERS AND JOURNALISTS.

TONY: LEADERS AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING PRESIDENT BUSH, ARE PRESSURING MUSHARRAF TO END THE STATE OF EMERGENCY. THE RELEASE IS SEEN AS A SIGN OF PROGRESS.

ANNOUNCER: PAPER OR PLASTIC? IF YOU WORK AT A GROCERY STORE, IT'S A QUESTION YOU ASK COUNTLESS TIMES A DAY.

ANNOUNCER: BUT, IT'S A CHOICE PEOPLE FROM SAN FRANCISCO WILL NO LONGER FACE AT LARGE GROCERY STORES. A CITYWIDE BAN ON PLASTIC BAGS THAT AREN'T BIODEGRADABLE BEGAN YESTERDAY.

ANNOUNCER: STORES WILL REPLACE PLASTIC BAGS WITH BAGS MADE OF PAPER, CANVAS AND EVEN CORN STARCH. OTHER CITIES ARE CONSIDERING BAG BANS. BUT THE CITY OF ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND RECENTLY TURNED DOWN A SIMILAR MEASURE.

CHRIS: ON MONDAY WE SHOWED YOU SOME TEENS AT A NEW YORK SCHOOL WHO WERE DEBATING THE DEATH PENALTY.

CHRIS: WE ASKED YOU, DO YOU SUPPORT THE DEATH PENALTY? YES OR NO? ABOUT A THOUSAND OF YOU VOTED. 47 PERCENT SAID NO AND 53 PERCENT SAY YES YOU DO SUPPORT THE DEATH PENALTY. WE HAVE ALSO GOTTEN LOTS OF WRITTEN RESPONSES.

CHRIS: HERE IS WHAT A FEW OF YOU HAD TO SAY. SONIA FROM KANSAS WROTE, "I think that the death penalty is just as bad as the crime that the person committed, Murder is murder."

CHRIS: AND CODY FROM MICHIGAN SAYS, "I am for the death penalty because if you kill some one you should be killed."

CHRIS: AND KELLEY, ALSO FROM MICHIGAN SAYS, "It depends on the situation if a person should receive the death penalty."

CHRIS: AND FINALLY, CHRIS FROM VIRGINIA SAYS, "The punishment should fit the crime. If you kill somebody you should be killed the exact same way."

CHRIS: WE ALWAYS WANT TO HEAR WHAT IS ON YOUR MIND. SO, THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO WROTE IN, AND KEEP THOSE RESPONSES COMING.

ANNOUNCER: JUST GO TO CHANNEL ONE DOT COM AND CLICK ON YOUR TURN TO WEIGH IN ON THIS OR ANY STORY YOU SEE ON CHANNEL ONE.

CHRIS: IT MAY BE HARD TO BELIEVE BUT THE HOLIDAY SHOPPING SEASON STARTS THIS WEEK. AND BECAUSE OF SCARY ECONOMIC NEWS, STORES ARE WORKING OVERTIME TO GET YOU TO BUY.

CHRIS: WEAK HOME AND MORTGAGE MARKETS, RECORD OIL AND GAS PRICES, NEWS OF A STRUGGLING DOLLAR.

CHRIS: YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD OF THESE FACTORS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE U.S. ECONOMY. BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT THE SINGLE MOST POWERFUL FACTOR AFFECTING THE ECONOMY IS YOU?

CHRIS: AT THE END OF THE DAY, IT'S CONSUMERS THAT DRIVE THE U.S. ECONOMY. AND TEENS ARE A BIG PART OF THAT DRIVE, SPENDING BILLIONS OF DOLLARS EVERY YEAR.

CHRIS: AND WITH THE HOLIDAY SHOPPING SEASON STARTING THIS WEEK, RETAILERS ARE HOPING CONSUMERS LIKE YOU ARE GOING TO BE SPENDING A LOT

(SOT: Molly Sweeney) "For myself I want the new Ipod, the Ipod touch"

(SOT: Shannon Swanson) "I want the Ipod touch and a new digital camera because I broke mine"

(SOT:) "IPods, you know electronics."

CHRIS: BUT EVEN ELECTRONICS RETAILERS ARE SWEATING THE HOLIDAYS. THE ELECTRONICS GIANT BEST BUY, FOR EXAMPLE, IS HOLDING INVITE ONLY SALES.

(SOT: Julie Cab) "I really like this opportunity to shop for holiday gifts as well instead of black Friday. Avoid the crowds."

CHRIS: AND STORES ACROSS THE COUNTRY HAVE ALREADY STARTED DISCOUNTING. INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR THE TRADITIONAL "BLACK FRIDAY" SALES THAT BEGIN THE DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING.

(SOT:) "I usually don't go on Black Fridays because there are too many people."

CHRIS: YOU GUYS DON'T GET WORN OUT AFTER ALL THAT SHOPPING?

(SOT:) "I do!"

(SOT:) "Not me. If you come over here? You get worn out, it depends where you go."

CHRIS: BUT NO MATTER WHERE YOU SHOP, YOU'RE HELPING TO DRIVE THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC GROWTH.

CHRIS: IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, CONSUMERS ACCOUNTED FOR TWO-THIRDS OF THE U.S. ECONOMY. BUT THE LATEST NUMBERS SHOW A DROP IN CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IN THE LAST MONTH, MEANING BUYERS ARE LESS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE ECONOMY.

(SOT: Clarabel Gonell) "The taxes are going up on everything, and the gas prices are crazy."

CHRIS: AND THAT WORRIES RETAILERS, WHO ALREADY KNOW NOT TO EXPECT A REPEAT OF LAST YEAR'S BLOCKBUSTER CHRISTMAS.

CHRIS: AND IT'S NOT JUST SALE SIGNS GOING UP EARLY THIS YEAR. IN A MOVE TO ATTRACT MORE SHOPPERS, MANY STORES PUT THEIR HOLIDAY DECORATIONS UP WEEKS BEFORE THANKSGIVING.

(SOT: Shannon Swanson) "I don't like the stores being decorated before Thanksgiving because that Christmas season doesn't start until after Thanksgiving."

(SOT: Gonell) "I find it strange. Yeah next year there's gonna be Christmas decorations up in July."

(SOT: Molly Sweeney) "I like that the decorations up early because it gets me in the holiday spirit and then I'm ready to go holiday shopping and buy everyone presents."

CHRIS BROWNE, CHANNEL ONE NEWS

CHRIS: IF YOU THINK PLASTIC IS THE ANSWER TO YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING WOES, HEAD ONLINE TO CHANNEL ONE DOT COM AND USE THE CREDIT CARD SIMULATOR TO FIND OUT THE HIGH PRICE OF CHARGING.

CHRIS: HEY GUYS WELCOME BACK. SO FOR TODAY'S POP QUIZ JESSICA KUMARI TELLS US WHY RICE IS NICE.

KUMARI: THAT'S RIGHT CHRIS I'VE GOT YOUR POP QUIZ TODAY WHICH IS ACTUALLY BASED ON THIS GAME I'M PLAYING. IT'S CALLED FREE RICE.

KUMARI: NOW I KNOW YOU'RE GETTING READY TO FILL YOUR STOMACHS THIS THANKSGIVING, BUT THE GOAL OF THIS COMPUTER GAME IS TO HELP PEOPLE ALL AROUND THE WORLD DO THE SAME THING.

KUMARI: IT'S REALLY SIMPLE. SEE, IT GIVES ME THE WORD SNOOP AND I HAVE TO PICK WHICH ONE OF THESE WORDS MEANS THE SAME THING. SO FOR SNOOP, I'M GOING TO CLICK ON SPY.

KUMARI: FOR EVERY ONE I GET RIGHT, THE SITE DONATES MONEY FOR TEN GRAINS OF RICE TO THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAM.

KUMARI: FREERICE.COM GETS THE MONEY FROM ADVERTISERS ON THE SITE. THE U.N. CONFIRMS IT'S ALREADY RECEIVED A CHECK FROM THE FOUNDER AND THEY ARE PLANNING TO SEND RICE TO BANGLADESH.

KUMARI: IT'S ESTIMATED ABOUT 25,000 PEOPLE EACH DAY DIE FROM HUNGER, BUT SO FAR THE GAMES GENERATED MORE THAN A BILLION GRAINS OF RICE OR ENOUGH TO FEED 50,000 PEOPLE FOR A DAY.

KUMARI: SO FOR YOUR POP QUIZ TODAY, LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN GET ONE OF THE VOCABULARY QUESTIONS RIGHT.

KUMARI: SO WHAT IS A SYNONYM FOR DROLL?

- A. JUICY
- B. LOWERED IN VALUE
- C. MUGGY
- D. COMICAL

KUMARI: YOU'VE GOT TEN SECONDS.

KUMARI: OKAY AND THE ANSWER IS D - COMICAL

KUMARI: ALRIGHT SINCE I GOT IT CORRECT I HAVE TO GO TO THE NEXT ONE. WARNING THIS GAME IS KIND OF ADDICTIVE.

ANNOUNCER: FOR MORE ON FREE RICE, AND SITES LIKE IT, HEAD TO THE VOLUNTEERING GUIDE AT CHANNELONE.COM

CHRIS: THANKS FOR WATCHING CHANNEL ONE NEWS, I'M CHRIS BROWNE AND BEFORE WE GO HERE'S PRESIDENT BUSH WITH THE FINAL WORD.

CHRIS: A PRESIDENTIAL PARDON IN THE SPIRIT OF THANKSGIVING.

(SOT: President Bush) "And I'm pleased to announce the winning names. They are May and Flower. They're certainly better than the names the Vice President suggested which was lunch and dinner."

CHRIS: PRESIDENT BUSH PARDONED THE NATIONAL THANKSGIVING TURKEYS YESTERDAY, SPARING THE TWO BIRDS FROM AN APPEARANCE AT THANKSGIVING DINNER.

(SOT: President Bush) "May they live the rest of their lives in blissful gobbling and may all Americans enjoy the holiday. Full of love and peace."

CHRIS: AFTER THE PARDONING CEREMONY, THE BIRDS WILL BOARD A FIRST CLASS FLIGHT TO ORLANDO, FLORIDA. WHERE THEY'LL GET THE VIP TREATMENT AT DISNEY WORLD AND SERVE AS THE GRAND MARSHALS OF THE THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE.