

CHANNEL ONE NEWS SHOW SCRIPT 12/12/07

TOPICS COVERED:

- News of the Day
- Finding Strength Seal Saver
- Teen Drug Use
- One More Thing

TONY: IT'S WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH. I'M TONY ANDERSON AND TODAY WE'RE GOING TO MEET A TEEN THAT IS MAKING IT HIS MISSION TO SAVE SOME THREATENED SEALS. BUT FIRST CHECK OUT THE HEADLINES, AT CHANNEL ONE NEWS.

CHRIS: HERE'S NEWS FOR COLLEGE-BOUND SENIORS FILLING OUT THOSE ENDLESS FINANCIAL AID FORMS.

CHRIS: THE COLLEGE LOAN INDUSTRY IS FACING SOME PROBLEMS. WHY?

CHRIS: BECAUSE TROUBLE IN THE HOUSING INDUSTRY IS SPREADING TO THE STUDENT LOAN BUSINESS. HIGHER HOME INTEREST RATES AND A SLOWING ECONOMY MEAN MORE FAMILIES ARE STRUGGLING TO REPAY THEIR STUDENT LOANS.

CHRIS: ADDED TO THAT, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CUT BACK MONEY IT PROVIDES TO THOSE WHO LEND TO COLLEGE STUDENTS.

CHRIS: SO WHAT DOES THIS ALL MEAN? THERE ARE STILL PLENTY OF LOANS TO GO AROUND FOR NOW. BUT SOME ANALYSTS SAY IF BORROWERS CONTINUE TO HAVE TROUBLE MAKING THEIR PAYMENTS, THE COLLEGE LOAN INDUSTRY WILL BE FORCED TO CUT BACK THE MONEY AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS.

ANNOUNCER: ICY ROADS, FLIGHT CANCELLATIONS AND DOWNED POWER LINES. ALL PART OF DEADLY WEATHER IN THE MIDWEST.

ANNOUNCER: AN ICE STORM HAS PARALYZED THE REGION, FROM ILLINOIS TO OKLAHOMA.

ANNOUNCER: THE STORM LEFT AT LEAST 22 PEOPLE DEAD. IT CAUSED HUNDREDS OF CAR ACCIDENTS AND LEFT HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF HOMES AND BUSINESS WITHOUT POWER. EVEN THE TULSA, OKLAHOMA AIRPORT LOST ELECTRICITY FOR AWHILE.

(SOT: Mick Cornett) "In some neighborhoods this is a horrific storm that these people are never going to forget."

CHRIS: THE SERBIAN PROVINCE OF KOSOVO MAY SOON BECOME AN INDEPENDENT STATE.

CHRIS: SERBIA IS A COUNTRY ROUGHLY THE SIZE OF MAINE LOCATED IN EASTERN EUROPE.

CHRIS: KOSOVO IS A PROVINCE IN THE MIDDLE OF SERBIA. MOST OF THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE ARE OF ALBANIAN DESCENT.

CHRIS: DURING THE 1990S, KOSOVO WAS INVOLVED IN A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS, FUELED BY ETHNIC DIVISIONS BETWEEN SERBS AND ALBANIANS.

CHRIS: KOSOVO'S ETHNIC ALBANIANS HAVE BEEN PUSHING FOR INDEPENDENCE FROM SERBIA FOR SOME TIME.

CHRIS: THIS YEAR, SERBIAN OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM KOSOVO BEGAN NEGOTIATING THE TERRITORY'S FUTURE.

CHRIS: THEY SET A DEADLINE OF DECEMBER 10TH FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS TO BE OVER, BUT THAT DATE CAME AND WENT.

CHRIS: NOW, KOSOVO IS EXPECTED TO DECLARE ITS INDEPENDENCE ANYWAY. SETTING UP A CONFLICT BETWEEN RUSSIA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION. THE RUSSIANS BACK SERBIA, WHILE THE EU FAVORS KOSOVO'S INDEPENDENCE.

CHRIS: THE NEXT STEP TO AN INDEPENDENT KOSOVO IS A VOTE BY THE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.

ANNOUNCER: AND NOW AN UPDATE ON A STORY WE TOLD YOU ABOUT AS PART OF OUR CONTINUING ONE VOICE SERIES ON THE FIRST AMENDMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE KNIGHT FOUNDATION.

ANNOUNCER: THE ATLANTA, GEORGIA BOARD OF EDUCATION HAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO BAN LOW-RIDING PANTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

ANNOUNCER: BOARD MEMBERS SAY IT'S IMPORTANT FOR STUDENTS TO LEARN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN APPROPRIATE CLOTHING AND INAPPROPRIATE CLOTHING.

ANNOUNCER: IT WILL BE UP TO SCHOOL PRINCIPALS TO DETERMINE WHICH PANTS VIOLATE THE NEW DRESS CODE.

CHRIS: TWO CAR BOMBS EXPLODED YESTERDAY IN THE ALGERIAN CAPITAL OF ALGIERS.

CHRIS: THE GOVERNMENT SAYS AT LEAST 22 ARE DEAD, THOUGH SOME ESTIMATES PUT THE DEATH TOLL AT DOUBLE THAT.

CHRIS: ONE OF THE BOMBS EXPLODED NEAR UNITED NATIONS OFFICES. THE UN SAYS AT LEAST 5 STAFF MEMBERS WERE KILLED.

CHRIS: THE OTHER BOMBING HAPPENED ABOUT TEN MINUTES LATER IN ANOTHER NEIGHBORHOOD.

CHRIS: THE NORTH AFRICAN BRANCH OF AL QAEDA CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY IN A WEBSITE POSTING AND SAID SUICIDE BOMBERS CARRIED OUT THE ATTACK.

CHRIS: ALGERIA HAS BEEN IN AN UNDECLARED CIVIL WAR SINCE THE EARLY 1990'S WHEN MILITANT ISLAMIC GROUPS TRIED TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT.

TONY: OK, SO YOU JUST HEARD ABOUT AN EXPLOSION AT A UN REFUGEE AGENCY BUILDING. BUT WE WANT TO TEST YOUR SKILLS AND ASK WHO'S THIS?

TONY: A NATIVE OF GHANA, HE WAS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS FROM JANUARY 1997 TO JANUARY 2007. HE WAS AWARDED THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE IN 2001 FOR HIS WORK TO BUILD PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. DO YOU KNOW WHO HE IS?

TONY: TAKE FIVE.

TONY: GIVE UP? IT'S KOFI ANNAN.

TONY: GO TO CHANNEL ONE DOT COM AND LEARN MORE ABOUT KOFI ANNAN AND WHAT HE DID DURING HIS TIME AT THE UNITED NATIONS.

COMMERCIAL

TONY: TODAY'S FINDING STRENGTH IS ABOUT A TEEN WHO IS TRYING TO CHANGE A CANADIAN WINTER TRADITION.

TONY: A BIG TASK, BUT AS JESSICA KUMARI TELLS US EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE WHEN YOU FIND OUT THAT HE'S TRYING TO SAVE A MARINE ANIMAL, HE'S NEVER EVEN SEEN IN PERSON.

JESSICA: 14-YEAR-OLD MARCELO HOYNOWSKI HAS NEVER SEEN THESE CREATURES FOR HIMSELF.

(SOT: Marcelo Hoynowski) "No, I haven't been to Canada ever in my life."

JESSICA: BUT TWO MONTHS AGO THIS JERSEY BOY WAS RECOGNIZED BY THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE, OR IFAW, FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO THE HARP SEAL.

(SOT: Marcelo Hoynowski) "I think that actually made me try even harder to save the seals."

JESSICA: MARCELO IS WORKING TO SAVE THE SEALS FROM A HUNT THAT TAKES PLACE IN CANADA EVERY YEAR. MORE THAN A MILLION YOUNG SEALS HAVE BEEN KILLED FOR THEIR FUR IN THE PAST THREE YEARS.

(SOT: Marcelo Hoynowski) "I thought wow, that's some intense stuff, these seals don't deserve that kind of treatment."

JESSICA: SUPPORTERS OF THE SEAL HUNT SAY IT'S A WAY OF LIFE FOR THE LOCAL POPULATION WITH BOTH HISTORIC AND ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE. OPPONENTS LIKE MARCELO, WHO REFER TO THE PRACTICE AS CLUBBING, SAY THAT'S NO EXCUSE.

(SOT: Marcelo Hoynowski) "You're not supposed to do that to an animal here or you'll go to jail, OK? You can do that there, you can hit a seal with a club, an ice pick, and they don't care, it's legal there."

(SOT: Marcelo Hoynowski) "I've never seen anybody wearing seal fur. I've never seen anybody advertising seal fur, I say it's just for vanity, you know?"

JESSICA: SO MARCELO RAISED OVER TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR IFAW'S WORK TO PROTECT THE SEALS, AND STARTED HIS OWN CAMPAIGN TO GET THE MESSAGE OUT ABOUT WHAT GOES ON, ON THE ICE.

(SOT: Marcelo Hoynowski) "My family said, you have a cause, you know, you should find some way to support that cause, to tell other people about it. Of course knowledge is power, you know, people know about it, people want to stop it. If nobody knows about it, nobody's going to care. If everybody knows about it, they'll be like what's wrong with you, that's horrible."

JESSICA: MARCELO DOES MOST OF HIS WORK THROUGH THE WEBSITE HE CREATED CALLED MYPOINTIS DOT NET. BUT DON'T THINK HE JUST SITS IN HIS BASEMENT ALL DAY.

JESSICA: THIS GUY IS TAKING HIS MESSAGE TO THE STREETS WITH A NEW JERSEY WALK FOR SEALS PLANNED FOR JANUARY 2008.

(SOT: Marcelo Hoynowski) "I'm trying to get IFAW, Sea Shepherd and the Humane Society of the United States to help sponsor. I mean, I've never thought of a walk for seals, I don't think there's ever been a walk for animals, you know? It will be a first."

(SOT: Marcelo Hoynowski) "Well in the next few years I see myself as a seal activist. Unless the seal hunt ends and still, I'll still support the seals."

JESSICA: JESSICA KUMARI, CHANNEL ONE NEWS

ANNOUNCER: GO ONLINE TO SEE STORIES OF OTHER TEENS MAKING A DIFFERENCE. YOU CAN EVEN NOMINATE SOME ONE YOU KNOW AND WE MIGHT TELL THEIR STORY ON THE AIR. CLICK ON FINDING STRENGTH AT CHANNEL ONE DOT COM.

COMMERCIAL

TONY: A NEW STUDY SAYS MOST ILLEGAL DRUG USE AMONG TEENS IS DOWN, BUT THE USE OF POWERFUL PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLERS STILL REMAIN A BIG PROBLEM CHRIS BROWNE BREAKS THE STUDY DOWN.

(SOT: President Bush) "You battle an unrelenting that ruins families, endangers neighborhoods, and stalks our children."

CHRIS: THAT WAS PRESIDENT BUSH ON TUESDAY, AND HE WASN'T TALKING ABOUT THE WAR ON TERRORISM, HE WAS TALKING ABOUT THE WAR ON DRUGS.

CHRIS: YESTERDAY, PRESIDENT BUSH PRAISED A NEW, GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED REPORT THAT SAYS TEEN DRUG USE HAS FALLEN FROM A DECADE AGO.

(SOT:) "It really shows that all of us teens have backbones and stuff and not giving into what other people are doing."

(SOT:) "I think it's a big deal because it means that we're not one person and we all have a different mindset."

CHRIS: WE ASKED SOME TEENS WHAT THEY THOUGHT ABOUT THE "MONITORING THE FUTURE" STUDY, WHICH ASKED SOME 48,000 TEENAGERS AROUND THE COUNTRY WHETHER THEY HAD USED ILLEGAL DRUGS IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS.

CHRIS: 13% OF EIGHTH GRADERS, 28% OF TENTH GRADERS AND 36% OF TWELFTH GRADERS SURVEYED, REPORTED USING AN ILLICIT DRUG. THAT'S DOWN FROM PEAK NUMBERS IN THE MID 1990S.

CHRIS: BUT ITS NOT ALL GOOD NEWS, THE REPORT SHOWED ABUSE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS HAS ACTUALLY CLIMBED.

(SOT:) "Prescription drugs are easier to find now."

(SOT:) "I think it's too easy now a days for kids to get drugs."

CHRIS: ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY, WHICH WAS CONDUCTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN'S INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH, PAINKILLERS WERE SECOND ONLY TO MARIJUANA IN POPULARITY.

CHRIS: AND THE NUMBER OF TEENS WHO REPORTED ABUSING THE PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLER OXYCONTIN HAS INCREASED 30% SINCE 2002.

(SOT: Dr. Nora Volkow) "What has happened is that kids get the sense that these prescription medications are safer than illicit substances because, after all, physicians are prescribing them."

CHRIS: STILL, THE TEENS WE SPOKE TO SAID THE STUDY AS A WHOLE SHOWS THEIR GENERATION IS MAKING MATURE DECISIONS.

(SOT:) "This study shows that we are doing a good job of being the people who are advocates for not doing drugs."

(SOT:) "Kids are the future and if we're doing drugs, that doesn't say much about our future."

(SOT:) "People are actually stepping up and their actually telling friends not to do this and not giving in to peer pressure."

CHRIS BROWNE, CHANNEL ONE NEWS.

ANNOUNCER: SEPARATE FACT FROM FICTION WHEN IT COMES TO TEENS AND DRUGS. GO TO CHANNEL ONE DOT COM AND CLICK ON DRUG MYTH BUSTERS.

TONY: ALRIGHT GUYS, THAT IS OUR SHOW FOR TODAY. I'M TONY ANDERSON FOR CHANNEL ONE NEWS, WE'LL SEE YOU HERE, SAME TIME, SAME PLACE TOMORROW AND HERE'S ONE MORE THING BEFORE WE GO.

TONY: GIANT SPIDER ATTACKS THE SPACE SHUTTLE ATLANTIS! SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A SCI-FI MOVIE BUT THAT'S WHAT THIS NASA VIDEO APPEARS TO BE SHOWING.

TONY: TURNS OUT, IT WAS A REGULAR OLD SPIDER THAT CRAWLED ACROSS THE LENS OF A NASA SHUTTLE CAMERA, CREATING THE OPTICAL ILLUSION THAT THE SHUTTLE WAS BEING EATEN BY A GIANT SPIDER.

TONY: ATLANTIS, WHICH IS GROUNDED BECAUSE OF A PROBLEM WITH ITS FUEL SENSORS IS SET TO LAUNCH IN JANUARY.