

ISSUES PROGRAM REPORT

FOR 1st QUARTER 2003

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SUBMITTED BY:

ABC-KTRK TELEVISION, INC.
HOUSTON, TX

April 10, 2003

ABC-KTRK TV - LOCAL PROGRAMS
1st Quarter, 2003

PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS

KTRK-TV broadcasts four local public affairs programs under the umbrella banner *ABC13 COMMUNITY CLOSE UP*. The half-hour programs address a full range of community issues, interests and events, regularly scheduled for broadcast on Sundays, at 11:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., on an alternating schedule.

ABC13 Community Close Up programs broadcast in the first quarter of 2003 are as follows:

City View (aired Feb 2, 11:00-11:30 a.m.)

Covering general issues and subjects of concern to the community at large.

Crossroads (aired Jan 1 & 19, Feb 9 & 16; Mar 9, 23 & 30, 11-11:30am)

Spotlighting the issues, interests and needs of the African American community.

Visions (aired Feb 2, 11:30am-12pm)

Exploring the issues, interests and needs of the Asian Pacific American community.

Viva Houston (aired Jan 5 & 12, Feb 9, Mar 30, 11:30am-12pm)

Covering the issues, interests and needs of the Hispanic community.

NEWS PROGRAMS

ABC13's regularly-scheduled news programs are as follows:

EYEWITNESS NEWS AT 5:00-6:00 AM (WEEKDAYS 5:00 – 5:30 AM)

EYEWITNESS NEWS AT 5:30 AM (WEEKDAYS 5:30 – 6:00 AM)

EYEWITNESS NEWS AT 6:00 AM (WEEKDAYS 6:00 – 7:00 AM)

Tom Koch, Cheryl Keck, Don Nelson and meteorologist Doug Brown anchor these two hour-half and one-hour morning newscasts. These programs include the latest overnight news, weather, sports, traffic reports and "The People's Lawyer," a series of reports on legal issues.

EYEWITNESS NEWS AT 11:00 AM (WEEKDAYS 11:00 - 11:30 AM)

Melanie Lawson, Minerva Perez and meteorologist Doug Brown anchor this midday newscast. The program covers the latest news and weather as well as entertainment news.

EYEWITNESS NEWS AT 4:00 PM (WEEKDAYS 4:00 – 5:00 PM)

Gina Gaston, Tom Koch, Don Nelson and meteorologist Heidi Jones are the talent for this one-hour newscast. The program includes the latest news and weather, Don Nelson's entertainment news, plus a daily "Your Hometown" segment featuring live reports from different communities in the viewing area.

EYEWITNESS NEWS LIVE AT FIVE (WEEKDAYS 5:00 - 5:30 PM)

Art Rascon, Melanie Lawson and chief meteorologist Tim Heller anchor this half-hour evening newscast. The program features the latest news, weather, and medical reports with Christi Myers, Don Nelson's "Nelson Files" report.

EYEWITNESS NEWS AT 6 PM (WEEKDAYS 6:00-7:00 PM)

Shara Fryer, Dave Ward, meteorologist Ed Brandon, sports director Bob Allen, and Action 13's Marvin Zindler anchor this one-hour newscast. This program includes the latest news, weather, and sports. Anchor Marvin Zindler brings daily reports on consumer complaints regarding a wide range of matters that affect the community. Health reporter Christi Myers reports on current health issues and topics.

EYEWITNESS NEWS AT 10 PM (WEEKDAYS 10:00 - 10:30 PM)

Dave Ward, Gina Gaston, chief meteorologist Tim Heller, sports director Bob Allen, and Action 13's Marvin Zindler anchor this late evening half-hour newscast. This program includes the latest news, weather, and sports. The newscast features daily stories by Action 13's Marvin Zindler on consumer concerns that concern the community.

SATURDAYS:

EYEWITNESS NEWS AT 5:30 AM

EYEWITNESS NEWS AT 6:00 AM

News anchors Mark Garay, Elissa Rivas and weatherman David Tillman are the talent for these newscasts featuring the latest news, weather and sports.

EYEWITNESS NEWS AT 6:00 PM

EYEWITNESS NEWS AT 10PM

Stephanie Guadian and Tom Abrahams co-anchor this newscast, along with meteorologist David Tillman and sportscaster Tim Melton. The 30-minute newscasts feature the latest news, weather and sports.

SUNDAYS:

EYEWITNESS NEWS AT 6AM

EYEWITNESS NEWS AT 7AM

EYEWITNESS NEWS AT 8AM

Anchors Mark Garay and Elissa Rivas and meteorologist David Tillman and sportscaster Bob Slovak are the talent for these one-hour Saturday morning newscasts, reporting the latest news, weather, sports.

EYEWITNESS NEWS AT 5:30PM

EYEWITNESS NEWS AT 10PM

Stephanie Guadian and Tom Abrahams co-anchored this news broadcast, along with meteorologist David Tillman and sportscaster Tim Melton. The 30-minute evening newscasts feature the latest news, weather and sports.

OTHER PROGRAM:

SATURDAY EXTRA (Broadcast Jan 17, Feb 1, Mar 29, 5-5:30pm)

Produced by the Programming Department and hosted by news anchor Stephanie Guadian, this program airs on selected Saturday evenings. It features Eyewitness News stories in-review and six human-interest topics, including money management, proper nutrition and technology matters. In the nutrition segment, a registered dietitian offers advice on maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

ABC13 regularly promotes the efforts of charitable organizations and social service agencies through news stories, announcements and public affairs program features. The station regularly airs Public Service Announcements submitted by nonprofit local, regional and local nonprofit entities. In addition, under its “Community Spotlight” banner, the station produces PSAs by local nonprofit groups for broadcast during afternoon weekday prime time and other times. The station also provides a calendar venue for community groups on its website.

PUBLIC SERVICE CAMPAIGNS

The station sponsored the following on-air campaigns:

HP Houston Marathon, promoting Houston’s premier running event, held on January 19. The station aired a schedule of promotional spots from January 1 – 19. On the date of the event, the station provided a half-hour of live coverage of the marathon and aired a post-race half-hour special, “The Finish Line,” at 10:35pm. This major event benefited 50 social service agencies and charitable organizations.

ABC13 Spring Blood Drive, held March 20-22, sponsored in partnership with five medical partners, which helped address blood supply shortages. The drives collected more than 800 units of blood, which helped meet blood supply shortages reported by area blood banks at the time.

BP Children’s Festival, held March 29 & 30, a major event benefiting Child Advocates, Inc., which provides services for abused and neglected children.

Rodeo Houston Specials, promoting public attendance of Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo events, proceeds of which benefit scholarships and educational programs for youth. This year, Rodeo Houston is providing over \$7 million in educational support for Texas youth.

In addition to these on-air promotions, these charitable events were also promoted on the station’s website.

ABC TELEVISION NETWORK NEWS

The station broadcast all ABC Television Network news programs. The network’s report entitled, “ABC-TV Network First Quarter 2003 Program Information,” is filed separately by the network.

ABC-KTRK TV - COVERAGE OF CORE ISSUES
1st Quarter, 2003

CORE ISSUES

ABC13's gave significant coverage to the following community issues and concerns arising in the first quarter of 2003 through the station's regularly-scheduled news programs, public affairs shows and locally-produced specials.

- 1) War with Iraq
- 2) Colombia Disaster
- 3) Clara Harris Trial
- 4) Youth Scholarships
- 5) Budget Woes
- 6) TAKS Test
- 7) Blood Supply Shortage

Coverage of these core issues and concerns is detailed in the next section of this report.

**ABC-ABC-KTRK Channel 13 Channel 13 - CORE ISSUES COVERAGE
1st Quarter, 2003**

WAR WITH IRAQ

***Eyewitness News* reports, Jan 1 – Mar 31, all shows, 450 minutes of coverage.**

Reports on the buildup to war with Iraq. The UN debate on whether the U.S. should have been given UN permission to invade Iraq. The start of battle. The unprecedented use of some 800 embedded reporters with the military. The anti-war protests around the world. The unsuccessful effort by two Houston City Council members to put forth a measure that would have opposed any unilateral military action by the United States. And another resolution that would support the U.S. declaring war, only as a last resort. Reports on the battle conditions in the Iraqi Desert. The backlash against individuals of Arab descent in the Houston area. The new high-tech military. Reports from Kuwait and Iraq. And reports from the military medical facility in Landstuhl, Germany where many of the wounded are being treated.

COLOMBIA DISASTER

***Eyewitness News* reports, COLUMBIA DISASTER – Feb 1 – March 31; all shows, 350 minutes of coverage.**

The shuttle Columbia disintegrates over several states, including Texas. Reports on the investigation of why it happened. The search for shuttle debris and evidence. Profiles of the fallen astronauts. Interviews with family, friends, and colleagues. Memorial service featuring President Bush. Future of the space program. Special half-hour memorial program in tribute to Columbia crew aired Feb 1. at 10:30pm

CLARA HARRIS TRIAL

***Eyewitness News* reports, Jan 28 - Feb 20, Feb 23, Mar 9, all shows, 63 minutes of coverage.**

Murder trial of Clara Harris. Harris was accused of running down her unfaithful husband with her car at a Webster hotel. The trial received national attention. The jury eventually convicted her and sentenced her to prison. The case sparked two copycat incidents. The first one in February in Liberty County and a second one in Webster in March. No one died in either case. The case stirred controversy and strong public opinion, including moral issues concerning criminal justice, insanity plea, criminal intent, and societal attitudes toward men and women in a case such as this one, involving spousal infidelity and a criminal act of rage.

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

***Eyewitness News* reports, Feb 16 – Mar 17, all shows, 35 minutes of coverage; Jan 27, Feb 24; Mar 3, 19, 21, 26, 27, 30 minutes of coverage.**

Scholarship programs for youth gained monetary support through livestock auctions and other event proceeds at Rodeo Houston. This year's event set new attendance records as the rodeo moved to the new Reliant Center. The "Go Tejano" night had the highest attendance at this year's rodeo. The event profiled several trail rides, including the Prairie View, Los Vaqueros, and the first trail ride featuring a female trail boss.

Crossroads, Jan 12, 11:00 am, 4:30 minutes of coverage.

Hosted by Melanie Lawson, this show segment featured a talk with Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo “Black Go Texan” Committee representatives Ozell Price and Hilda Riley. The Committee promoted its annual gala, which raises scholarship funds as part of HLSR’s regional scholarship drive.

Viva Houston, Feb 9, 11:30am, 4:55 minutes of coverage.

Hosted by Minerva Perez, this show segment featured a talk promoting Houston Association of Hispanic Media Professionals’ annual scholarship fund raiser, with guests David Medina and Marissa Lopez. The association awards scholarships to students interested in pursuing careers in journalism and communications.

Rodeo Houston Specials, 7:30 hours of air time

ABC13 produced and broadcast several specials (listed below), which helped generate public interest in and attendance of Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo events. Proceeds from these events benefit youth scholarships and education programs. For the current year, Rodeo Houston is providing over \$7 million in educational support for Texas youth.

Eyewitness News Rodeo Parade Preview, Feb 22, 9-9:30am

Rodeo Houston Pre-Parade, Feb 22, 9:30-10am

Rodeo Houston Parade, Feb 22, 10am-12pm

Rodeo Houston Cook-off Special, Feb. 22, 6:30-7pm

Rodeo Houston Parade, repeat, Feb 22, 10:30-12:00am

Grease Paint Heroes, Mar 1, 6:30-7pm

Rodeo Houston Special, Mar 8, 6:30-7pm

Rodeo Houston Steer Auction, Mar 15, 12-12:30pm

Rodeo Houston Finals, Mar 15, 5-5:30pm

Rodeo Houston School Art Auction, Mar 16, 12-12:30pm

BUDGET WOES

Eyewitness News, Feb 28; Mar 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 28, all shows, 35 minutes of coverage.

National budget crunch is felt in Texas. City of Houston battles a budget shortfall of \$59 million. The deficit leads to furloughs and a cutback in city services. City looks for ways to cut without costing workers their jobs. The state faces a \$9.9 billion budget shortfall. As a result, Houston Independent School District faces deep state funding cuts, along with other districts across the state. HISD takes measures to reduce costs. The district’s budget woes eventually seep into the classroom as several teachers are given pink slips to help cut costs.

Viva Houston, Mar 30, 11:30am, 5 minutes of coverage.

Host Minerva Perez interviewed Dr. Kaye Stripling, Superintendent of Schools with Houston Independent School District. A portion of this 9-minute talk focused on the District’s budget crisis brought on state funding cuts due to \$9.9 billion state budget shortfall. The talk touched on the potential impact of budget cuts on all aspects of the district’s operations.

TAKS TEST

***Eyewitness News* reports, Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 3, 19, 21, 26, 27, 30, all shows, 30 minutes of coverage.**

New TAKS standardized test comes under fire. Hundreds of parents and educators descend on State Capitol to call for broader evaluations of student progress. In March, the TAKS tests were given to students for the first time. With it, students are measured at higher standards than previous tests.

***Viva Houston*, Mar 30, 11:30am, 3 minutes of coverage.**

Host Minerva Perez interviewed Dr. Kaye Stripling, Superintendent of Schools for Houston Independent School District. A portion of this 9-minute talk addressed questions and concerns regarding TAKS, a new standardized test, which was administered for the first time, to third-graders, in March.

BLOOD SUPPLY SHORTAGE

***Eyewitness News* reports, Mar 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 18, all shows, 18 minutes of coverage.**

Effects of low blood supply in the Houston area. It can lead to problems for patients who need blood fast. Also needed because of terrorism concerns. ABC13 holds a blood drive to help replenish low blood supply reported by area blood banks.

Public Service Spots

ABC13 aired a two-week schedule of public service announcements encouraging public participation its annual Spring Blood Drive, held March 20, 21 and 22. The drive was sponsored in partnership with medical partners Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Methodist Hospital, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and UTMB Blood Center. More than 800 units of blood were collected, helping address blood supply shortages reported by the Blood Bank at the time.