

PRE/POST PANEL 2.21.7  
AUDIO

DON COHEN,  
MY NAME IS DON COHEN, C-O-H-E-N, IM A REPORTER AND WRITER  
FOR THE DETROIT JEWISH NEWS AS WELL AS I HAVE A CONSULTING  
FIRM WORKING ADVOCACY ISSUES.

WELL I WANNA HEAR WHAT OTHERS HAVE TO SAY IT'S A CRITICAL  
OIMP ISSUE THAT WE NEED TO LOOK AT THAT NOT ONL EFFECTS  
THE ARAB AMERICAN COMMUNITY BUT ALL OF US, WHICH IS WHY I  
APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE APART OF IT. AS A MEMBER  
OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, IT OFTEN EFFECTS US IN SPECIAL  
WAYS ALSO, SO IM GLAD TO BE INCLUDED.

I THINK OVERALL MEDIA COVERAGE IS LACKING IN A LO OF  
DIFFERENT AREAS. I THINK THERE IS A LOT LESS NEWS, A LOT MORE  
FEATURES AND I KNOW THAT TRANSPORTS NEWS YOU CAN USE  
AND WE READ ABOUT CELEBRITIES SO MUCH AND ITS REALLY HARD  
TO GET A GOOD VIEW OF THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES AND THE  
DIVERSITY THAT WE HAVE. WE TALKED A LOT ABOUT THE  
IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSITY BUT YOU CAN KNOW DIFFERENT  
COMMUNITIES AND WE GET TO KNOW DIFFERENT PEOPLES AND  
LIFESTYLES, BUT POLITICS IS A BIG PART OF THINGS, PARTICLUARLY  
AS IT RELATES TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE COMMUNITIES AND A  
LOT OF THOSE ISSUES ARE BY DESIGN ....IM GLAD YOUR GOING TO  
EDIT THIS....A LOT OF THESE ISSUES ARE ALMOST BY DESIGN I  
WOULDN'T SAY IGNORED, BUT PUT OFF TO THE SIDE BC THEY ARE  
DIFFUCLT ISSUE. THEY ARE ISSUES THAT REALLY REQUIRE SOME  
INVESTIGATION AND SOME FOLLOW THROUGH AND SOME  
CONSISTENCY OF REPORTING OVER TIME AND THAT REALLY IS NOT  
THE TREND IN MOST LOCAL NEWS. I SEE A LOT OF THE PRINT  
MEDIA GOING THE WAY OF THE BROADCAST MEDIA JUST SHORT 1  
AND A HALF MIN STORIES THAT REALLY GIVE YOU LITTLE DEPTH  
AND ON ISSUE OF IMPORTANCE LIKE OUR VARIOUS COMMUNITIES  
AND OUR POLITICS AND OUR NATIONAL POLITICS RELATED TO IT, I  
DON'T SEE THE MEDIA DOING SUCH A GREAT JOB.

THE ARAB AMERICAN NEWS, IVE BEEN READING IT NOW FOR A  
NUMBER OF YEARS, IT PROVIDES A DIVERSITY OF OPINION, I THINK

AT OTHER TIMES I THINK IT TRIES TO PUT ITSELF UP THERE AS THE ARAB AMERICAN COMMUNITY ITSELF. AS A JOURNALIST, IVE BEEN CRITICAL OF SOME THINGS INVOLVED WITH SOME OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ARAB AMERICAN NEWS, AND THEY SEE THOSE TYPES OF CHALLENGES RATHER THAN DIFFERENCES IN OPINION, OFTEN TIMES ATTACKS ON THE ARAB COMMUNITY. I THINK WE HAVE TO HAVE OPEN AND FREE AND FREE DISCUSSION ON THESE ISSUES, I THINK THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THERE IS ETHNIC MEDIA AND I THINK IT NEEDS TO BE READ BY MORE THAN THE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES AND I THINK THERE NEEDS TO BE A DIVERSITY OF OPINION ON IT.

I THINK,... I THINK THAT THEY...I THINK WHAT YOUNG JOURNALISTS NEED TO DO IS IMERSE THEMSELVES IN A LOT OF THINGS IT'S A DIFFICULT POSITION THE HUMAN RELTIONS POSITION IMPORTANCE, ITS CRITICAL, GETTING TO KNOW PPL, EXTENDING YOURSELVES, HOME HOSPITATLITY, ALL OF THESE SORTS OF THINGS, BUT AT THE SAME TIME YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO COVER THEM AS A PROFESSIONAL JOURNALIST. OFTEN TIMES I THINK, I'VE SEEN IN DIFFERENT INSTANCES WHERE JOURNALISTS IN ORDER TO DEVELOP THEIR CONTACTS AND DEVLOP THE TRUST WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT STEP ON STORIES WHICH ARE IMPORTANT TO THE LARGER COMMUNITY IN ORDER TO NOT OFFEND A LOCAL COMMUNITY, A LOCAL ETHNIC COMMUNITY, RACIAL COMMUNITY RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY WHATEVER IT MAY BE IN ORDER TO SAY YOU CAN TRUST ME. BUT IN DOING SO, THEY DO A DISSERVICE TO THE LARGER COMMUNITY. IT'S A BALANCING ACT, LIKE ANY IMPORTANT POSITION AND I THINK IT IS A MATTER OF KNOWING THE PERSONALITIES, KNOWING THE LAY OF THE LAND, KNOWING THE HISTORY IN CONTEXT AND BEING ABLE TO BUILD THE BRIDGE OF RESPECT WITH A PARTICULAR COMMUNITY WHILE UPHOLDING THE BROAD JOURNALISTIC VALUES OF REPORTING TE TRUTH IN CONTEXT TO THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

AFTER THE PANEL  
BLOND WOMAN INTERVIEW:

FINE, I THOUGHT IT WENT VERY WELL EXCEPT WHEN I FLUBBED THE FIRST LINE. AFRICA-ARAB AMERICANS. SO WE DID DO THE INTRO AGAIN. SO SPLICE THIS IN: ARAB AMERICANS, ARAB ARMERICANS, ARAB AMERICANS. THE OTHER THING I FLUBBED IS I THOUGHT SHE WAS CHALDEON BC I DIDN'T KNOW SHE HAS GRADUATED BUT DIDN'T TAKE THE BAR YET, SO THAT WAS AN ISSUE.

MAGENTA SHIRT GIRL:  
...EVEN IF THEIR NOT WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY ARAB AMERICANS I THINK ITS VERY IMPORTANT TO INVOLVE THEM AND THEN OBVIOUSLY, YOU KNOW GET THE GROUP OF PPL THAT DO, YOUR INITIALLY THINKING OF, BUT TO ALSO INVOLVE THE ARAB AMERICANS I THINK IS VERY IMPORTANT BC YOU HAVE BOTH SIDES OF THAT POINT.

THAT'S RIGHT...

ITS UNFORTUNATE, BUT LIKE I SAID ITS BECOME A BIG ACCEPTABLE NORM, THE LABEL IS THERE I DON'T KNOW HOW ITS GOING TO BE REMOVED, I DON'T KNOW WHAT ITS GOING TO TAKE, ITS THERE, I THINK ITS GOING TO BE MANY YEARS BEFORE THINGS START TO CHANGE. THERE AREN'T THERE REALLY ARENT, I MEAN I KNOW OF SOME VERY IMPORTANT ARAB AMERICAN ROLE MODELS I KNOW OF SOME GREAT THINGS GOING ON AND I KNOW A LOT OF WONDERFUL THINGS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, ITS NOT IN THE MEDIA. MAYBE SOME OF IT DOESN'T MAKE HEADLINES, AND EVEN IF IT IS HEADLINE WORTHY I DON'T SEE IT. AND THAT'S UNFORTUNATE BC IT'S THE LABEL AND LET'S GO WITH THAT, IT SELLS ITS EXCITING AND LIKE I SAID, A LOT OF IT IS PR.

I WILL, ABSOLUTELY, SO IT'S LITTLE MOSQUE ON THE PRAIRE.  
THANK YOU.

MAGENTA AND DON

MAGENTA

... WHO'S THE PRESIDENT OF AWARE WHICH IS THE WOMAN'S PROGRAM, SHE'S PREPARING A WOMAN'S SUMMIT, FROM WOMEN ALL OVER THE MIDDLE EAST TO CONJUGATE HERE NEXT YR TO HAVE A SUMMIT IN EMPOWERING ARAB AMERICAN WOMEN

DON

AHMAD AND I HAVE BEEN PUTTING OFF LUNCH FOR A WHILE, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE ONE WHEN HE GETS BACK.

MAGENTA

A LOT OF PPL HAVE BEEN CALLING THE OFFICE, WHERE'S AHMAD, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO MEET. HE'LL BE BACK WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE WKS. THERE'S A LOT TO DO. IT WAS VERY NICE TO MEET YOU BY THE WAY.

DON

NICE MEETING YOU

MAGENTA

I KIND OF WAS A REPLACEMENT FOR RANASHI? SO

DON

SOMEBODY SENT OUT THE UPDATE ON HER WEBSITE THAT, THAT WAS YOU? YOU PUT THAT OUT TODAY? WELL YOU'RE A GOOD FILL IN THERE. NO ONE WOULD KNOW

MAGENTA

I WAS GOING TO SAY, DON'T TELL ANYBODY, BUT THEY GOT THE CAMERA

OSAMA:

....YOU WOULD GO OUT TO THIS STORY AND WRITE THE STORY

HE CAME IN AT FOUR O CLOCK AND HE LEFT 10:30. YES THEY WERE TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT. THE QUOTES WERE ACCURATE BUT THEY WERE OUT OF CONTEXT. IF YOU SAY IF YOU SAY I WENT HOME, THAT'S FINE, THIE REFLECTS THE TRUTH. BUT WHEN YOU CONNECT AND YOU SAY I WENT HOME AND THEN I KILLED SOMEBODY, THEN YOU TIE IT TO SOMETHING THAT MAY NOT BE REFLECTIVE OF THE TRUTH. AND WHAT HAPPENED IS, WHEN HE GOT THE STORY IN HIS MIND, HE CAME IN PICKED CODES AFTER TALKING FOR ME FOR 6 HRS OTHER 3 HRS, AND HOUR AND A HALF HE PICKED SOME CODES, THOSE CODES WERE ACCURATE, HOWEVER THEY CONTEXT OF THE STORY IS NO AND DOES NOT REFLECT THE TRUTH. THAT IS A VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM. RIGHT NOW I AM VERY CRITICAL OF NEIMEN FAULKER? AND I PROBABLY WILL NOT WELCOME HIM (NOISE) , I WILL TALK TO HIM I WILL WELCOME HIM IN MY OFFICE, BUT NOT FOR 6 HRS, BC I WILL TELL HIM WHAT'S THE USE? I MEAN WHAT'S THE USE. I AM VERY SHOCKED THAT HE DID THIS. ...

THE REASON THAT I BROUGHT THIS UP IS BC IN THE INTRODUCTION, MODERATOR TALKED ABOUT THIS AND THE NY TIMES TALKING ABOUT DEARBORN AND THE ETHNIC DIVIDE, BUT ACTUALLY THE ETHNIC DIVIDE HE'S TALKING ABOUT WITHIN THE ARAB COMMUNITY WHICH DOES NOT REFLECT THE TRUTH. HE SAID IN THE ARTICLES FOR EX THAT THE YEMENE COMMUNITY, WHICH IS PART OF THE ARAB COMMUNITY, YEMENE.. FROM YEMEN. THE YEMENE COMMUNITY THE MADE SEPARATE AGREEMENT BEHIND OUR COMMUNITY, ARAB AMERICAN COMMUNITY AT LARGE WITH THE MAYOR TO BE THE LEADING CANDIDATE IN THE MAYOR POSITION. THE TRUTH IS THAT NOBODY MADE THAT DEAL NODOBODY MADE A DEAL NOBODY MADE THE DEAL. THERE WAS NO MTG BETWEEN THE MAYOR AND THE YEMENE COMMUNITY. THE YEMENE COMMUNITY WERE WORKING IN CONJUNCTION, IN COOPERATION COORDINATION WITH LOCK STEP, WITH THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY THE WERE INCLUDED IN THE TOWN HALL MTG DISCUSSION THAT WE'VE HAD FOR ONE MONTH. AND IT'S NOT TRUE, IT'S SIMPLY NOT TRUE. AND THE PPL WHO YOU TALK TO ON

THE RECORD AND OFF THE RECORD, I AM THE ONE THAT GAVE THEM THE NUMBERS AND THE NAMES AND WHEN I TALK TO THEM THEY SAY, NOTHING LIKE THIS CAME UP IN THE CONVERSTAION I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE CAME UP WITH THIS, IT IS A CONCLUSION THAT HE DREW. IT WAS NOT SOMETHING... WHEN YOU READ THE ARTICLE REMEMBER THIS QUOTE, HE QUOTES A YEMENE GUY SAYS THAT, WE DO NOT WANT THE ARAB AMERICAN COMING IN AND SAYING IN ARABIC SLAM ALAKUM, AND THEN THEY WILL GET OUR VOTE. WHAT IS THIS CONTACT? WHAT IS THIS QUOTE HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING? OF COURSE NOT, OF COURSE YOU WILL NOT VOTE FOR AN ARAB AMERICAN JUST BC HE SAYS SLAM ALAKUM OR BC HE EATS HUMMUS OR TABOULI OR KIPPI OR YOU KNOW THE ARABIC FOOD. IT HAS TO BE SUBSTANCE. SO THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT THEY WILL NOT VOTE FOR AN ARAB IF HE IS NOT QUALIFIED YA KNOW AND THERE WAS NO ARAB RUNNING (NOISE) ANYWHERE. SO WHAT IS THE DIVIDE IN HERE, WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT? THE STORY WAS TOTALLY TOTALLY OUT OF CONTEXT AND IT DOES NOT REFLECT THE TRUTH WHATSOEVER. EVEN THE LEADING MAYOR CANDIDATE, THE LEADING MAYOR CANDIDATE HIS NAME IS JACK O RILEY, U WILL READ ABOUT HIM IN THE ARTICLE. HE CALLED ME SURPRISED, WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT? I HAVE EMAILS, IF YOU EMAIL ME I WILL FWD YOU SOME OF THE EMAILS, SAYING PPL VERY SURPRSED SAY WHAT DID THIS COME FROM? WHY IS HE PUTTING THE COMMUNITY AGAINST EACH OTHER BUT THE WROST THING THAT HAPPENED IN THIS WAS THAT THE ARTICLE WAS TRANSLATED TO ARABIC AND IT WAS PUBLISHED IN THE ARAB MEDIA AND PPL WERE CALLING AND WORRYING ABOUT THE COMMUNITY WHY ARE YOU GUYS FIGHTING? WHAT ARE YOU FIGHTING ABOUT? YOU SEE HOW THINGS GO OUT OF PROPORTION? THEY ARE OUT OF CONTEXT AND LATER THEY BECOME DAMAGING AND WORRISOME TO THE REST OF THE WORLD BC WE LIVE IN A GLOBAL VILLAGE TODAY . WHATEVER PUBLISHED HERE IT COULD BE ...YEH (NOISE) ..... (NOISE)

INTERVIEWER: WHAT DO YOU WANT TO GET BY BRINGING THIS TO LIGHT?

OSAMA:

THE ONLY REASON THAT I BROUGHT IT IS TO REFELECT THE ACCURACY OF REPORTING IN SUCH A PERSTIGE PUBLICATION LIKE

THE NYTIMES. IF THE NYTIMES CAN DO THIS AND GET AWAY WITH IT, HOW ABOUT OTHER PUBLICATIONS LIKE THE FREE PRESS, THE SMALLER PUBLICATIONS OR MAYBE SMALLER THAN THAT. WE NEED TO DO THIS. NOT EVERYTHING IS WRITTEN IN THE MEDIA IS NECESSARILY THE TRUTH. AND HOW COULD A REPORTER SPEND TWO DAYS, HE SPENT 2 DAYS IN DEARBORN, AND GET IT WRONG. GET IT WRONG. SOME PPL TOLD ME THAT THEY TALKED TO HIM, THAT THEY HAD AN IDEA THAT HE CAME IN WITH AN IDEA AND HE WANTED TO PROVE THAT HIS IDEA IS TRUE AND EXISTS AND THEREFORE HE PICKED QUOTES IN ORDER TO PUT IT IN. THIS IS VERY BAD JOURNALISM. NOW I RESPECT THE GUY THE ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN AND PUBLISHED, I DID NOT THINK THAT HE WAS A BAD JOURNALIST, TO BE HONEST WITH YOU I AM VERY DISAPPOINTED WITH NEIL MCFAULKER, IM TOTALLY SHOCKED THAT HE DID THIS.

INTERVIEWER: NOW YOU SAY THAT IN THE LEAD UP TO THE IRAQ WAR IT WAS 75% ...

OSAMA:

YEH, IF YOU GO INTO THE DETROIT FREE PRESS ARCHIVES, CHECK TWO WKS OR MAYBE ONE WK BEFORE THE WAR STARTED IN APRIL, IN MARCH, IF YOU LOOK AT THE FIRST WK OF MARCH OR THE SECOND WEEK OF MARCH THERE WAS ON THE FRONT PGE, 6 COLUMNS, THERE WAS A POLL THAT WAS CONDUCTED BY THE DETROIT FREE PRESS AND IT WAS PUBLISHED ON THE FRONT PG SUGGESTING THAT THE WAR WAS POPULAR AMONG THE AMERICAN MASSES AT 73% 75% I DON'T REMEMBER THE ALL THE..MORE OR LESS 75% AND THEY GO AND DO DETAILS WHEN THEY BREAK DOWN THE POLL. THEY SAY WHEN ASKING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, ARE YOU WILLING TO GO TO WAR WITHOUT THE UNITED NATION APPROVAL IT DROPS TO 60% OR 62% AND THEN THEY SAY IF THE UNITED NATIONS SUPPORTS APPROVES IT, WOULD YOU STILL SUPPORT THE WAR AND HOW FAR, 73-75% SUPPORT THE WAR. NOW WHEN YOU GO TO PEOPLE THAT ARE EDUCATED ABOUT THE ISSUES THAT THEY KNOW THAT THE UNITED STATES STATE DEPT IS NOT DISHING THE TRUTH, THAT THE CIA IS FABRICATING THE NEWS AND THEY DON'T BELIEVE THAT SADAAM HUSSEIN HAS WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION THAT THERE IS A HIDDEN AGENDA THAT THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION IS DRIVING THE WAR BC WHEN YOU GO TO

THE MOST EDUCATED PPL ABOUT THE ISSUES, THEN THE POPULARITY OF THE WAR BECOMES PPL WHO ARE OPPOSED TO THE WAR AT 80% OR MORE, THOSE THAT ARE OPPOSED TO THE WAR, WHEN THEY ARE EDUCATED. SO THE PROBLEM IS WHEN YOU EDUCATE PPL, I MEAN NOT THE PROBLEM, THE PROBLEM IS PPL ARE NOT EDUCATED ON ISSUES AND THEY ARE SUPPORTING THE WAR BC THEY TRUST WHAT THE STATE DEPT IS DISHING OUT AND WHAT THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION WAS DISHING OUT AND TRYING TO DISSEMINATE IN THE MEDIA. NOT BEING CHECKED FOR ACCURACY, THE AMERICAN PUBLIC BELIEVED THE MEDIA, BELIEVED THE PRESIDENT AND THEREFORE THEY RALLIED BEHIND THE WAR.

INTERVIEWER:...

(NOISE AUDIO)

OSAMA:

.. THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SADAAM HISTORY AND BEHAVIOR HE WAS A DICTATOR WHEN WE WERE IN BED WITH HIM. HE KILLED THE KURDS AND THE SHII'A IN 82 AND 86 WHEN WE WERE GIVING THEM WEAPONS AND GIVIING THEM MONEY AND GIVING THEM INTELLEGENCE, YA KNOW AGAINST IRAN, HE DID NOT OVER NIGHT BECOME A DICTATOR, (BAD AUDIO) WE KNOW HE WAS A DICTATOR WHEN HE COMMITTED THESE ATROSITIES ..I CAME OUT WITH AN EDITORIAL. SAYING PUNISH HIM, BOYCOTT HIM. RIGHT NOW THIS, OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM WITHDRAW AMBASSDOR, PUNISH HIM FOR WHAT HE'S DOING, PUT SANCTIONS AGAINST HIM BC HE WAS KILLING PPL. BUT THEN TO GO TO WAR AND REMOVE HIM AND DESTROY SO MANY PPL AND GET INVOLVED IN A WAR THAT WE DON'T KNOW HOW ITS GOING TO END, YA KNOW, THIS IS SOMETHING I DON'T REALLY GET. BC WE HAD MORE CONTROL AT THAT TIME IN THE SKY OVER IRAQ THAN WE HAD WHEN WE ARE THERE.

INTERVIEWER:

YOU BELIEVE THE PROBLEM WAS THERE BEFORE THE WAR?..

OSAMA:

YOU SEE THE PROBLEM IS THIS. MOST OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC BELIEVE THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE SEPT 11 AND IRAQ.

WHY? BC THE PRESIDENT AND THE VP KEPT SAYING IT FOR THE LAST, YA KNOW, SEVERAL YRS. NOW THEY DON'T SAY IT RIGHT NOW, BUT ITS STUCK IN THE MIND OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC SO WE ARE AT WAR RIGHT NOW BC THE WAR WAS POPULAR. HOW THE WAR WAS POPULAR? THEY ORGANIZED IT. THEY ORGANIZED IT. THEY SOLD IT TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. THEY HAD A VERY GOOD PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN MARKETING CAMPAIGN PACKAGING IT TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND SELLING IT TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. TODAY WHEN THE AMERICAN PUBLIC OPENS THE PACKAGE, THEY WERE CHEATED. BUT, WHILE THEY WERE PACKAGING AND MARKETING THIS WAR, WHERE WAS THE MEDIA TO CHECK THE ACCURACY OF ALL THESE STATEMENTS. WHEN THE SEC OF STATE COLIN POWELL, STOOD IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND MADE THIS PRESENTATION, HOW COME THERE WAS NO ACCOUNTABILITY THAT ALL THIS WAS WRONG? WHAT HEADS ROLLED IN HERE? I WANT THEM TO SEE, WHO'S HEADS HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT FOR THESE MISTAKES. ACTUALLY WHAT THE BUSH ADMIN DID WAS HONOR AND GIVE A PRESTIGIOUS MEDAL TO THE CIA DIRECTOR. THIS IS HOW YOU PUNISH SOMEONE THAT HAS GIVEN YOU BAD INTELLIGENCE? WHO IS ACCOUNTABLE TO THE FIASCO THAT WE HAVE RIGHT NOW. I WANTED TO SEE ONE SMALL GUY IN THE BUSH ADMIN THAT SAYS THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS . THIS IS HOW THE AMERICAN PUBLIC SHOULD BE REWARDED FOR THERE TRUST? WHERE IS THE MEDIA? HOW COME THE MEDIA DOES NOT MAKE THESE PPL ACCOUNTABLE? AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HAS TRUSTED THE MEDIA. IT IS GOING TO TAKE TIME WHEN THE AMERICAN PUBLIC SAYS, LOOK, I CANT TRUST THE MEDIA ANYMORE. AND THAT'S GOING TO BE VERY BAD FOR THE MEDIA. BC WE LIVE IN A GLOBAL VILLAGE, WE LIVE IN AN AGE WHERE PPL CAN GO OUT ON THE INTERNET TO VISIT, LIKE I SAID, BRITISH SITES, BRITISH NEWSPAPER, OTHER NEWSPAPERS AROUND THE WORLD WHERE THEY HAVE MORE CREDIBILITY AND THEY HAVE MORE DEPTH ANALYSIS AND THEY HAVE MORE ANSWERS THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC IS LOOKING FOR.

INTERVIEWER:

WHAT I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT TODAY IS MORE OR LESS THE PITFALLS AND EVEN THE SUCCESSES, WILL THEY GET IT RIGHT, WILL THEY GET IT RIGHT TO INFORM THE PUBLIC, AND HOW MUCH OF IT IS ACTUALLY MAINSTREAM AND HOW MUCH OF IT IS

OVERLOOKED? AND IT GOES TO TALKING ABOUT ... WHEN YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT ...THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ENTERTAINMENT AND NEWS

OSAMA:

ENTERTAINMENT PAYS BETTER. I THINK MORE PPL SEE THE OSCAR OF THE GOLDEN GLOBE OR THE ROSE BOWL OR THE ORANGE BOWL, WHATEVER, THEY SEE A NEWSCAST, OR AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS ON 60 MINS OR ABC 20-20. EVEN THOSE SHOWS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS THEY ARE TURNING TO BE MORE OF A SHOW AND DRAMATIZATION OF EVENTS RATHER THAN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS AND IN-DEPTH LOOK AT AN IMPORTANT ISSUE THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC IS CONCERNED ABOUT. AND ITS OBVIOUS WE DON'T NEED TO PROVE THIS. IT IS OBVIOUS IN THE RATINGS ITS OBVIOUS IN THE BUSINESS THAT WE SEE TODAY. JUST NAME ME ONE SHOW THAT WE HAVE IN DETROIT OR IN LANSING YOU CAN TURN THE TV ON FOR HALFAN HR AND THEN LATER DISCUSS (NOISE) SUBSTANCE IN DEPTH, ON MAINSTREAM, NOT PBS I DON'T WANT TO GO TO CSPAN AND STUFF LIKE THAT, IM TALKING ABOUT THE NETWORKS WHERE YOU HAVE MILLIONS OF PPL TUNED IN. WHEN YOU ARE CAPTURING THEM, WHAT ARE YOU GIVING THEM? THE GARBAGE, THE ENTERTAINMENT, THE ADVERTISING AND GET MORE MONEY. THIS IS WHERE WE'RE GOING WRONG. AND I THINK THIS IS WHERE THE TREND OF JOURNALISM IS GOING INTO A VERY DEVASTATING DIRECTION. UNLESS WE MAKE A CHANGE, AN IMMEDIATE CHANFGE TO THIS DIRECTION, I THINK WE'RE GOING TO BE IN A CRISIS AS FAR AS JOURNALISM IN AMERICA BC WHAT IS THE IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS THAT WE SEE IN THE.. EVEN MAINSTREAM MEDIA, NOT ANY MORE. SOUND BYTES, CODES ARE NOT GOING TO SUFFICE NO MORE. BC THE SITUATION IS SO COMPLEX WE DON'T NEED TO TAKE A HUGE BITE OUT OF THIS AT ONE TIME, BUT WHAT WE CAN DO IS, WE CAN TAKE IT BY PIECEMEAL . WE CAN TAKE, OF COURSE YOU TELL ME THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS IS VERY COMPLEX WELL IRAQ (NOISE) .....ON THE AMERICAN AGENDA WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LAST 10 YRS, HOW COME PPL DON'T EVEN KNOW IRAQ, WHAT IRAQ IS? (NOISE) ABOUT THE ISSUE WE ARE DEALING WITH IN IRAQ, WHY ARE WE POSED TO IRAQ? WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO IN IRAQ? WHY WE FAILED IN IRAQ? WHOS ACCOUNTABLE TO THE FAILURE? WHY DO WE NEED TO SEND MORE TROOPS? WHY ARE TROOPS BEING KILLED? WHY DID WE PICK THE ALLIES THAT WE

PICKED? THESE QUESTION NEED TO BE ANSWERED, THE MEDIA NEEDS TO ASK THESE QUESTIONS. THEY ARE NOT VERY POPULAR. THEY MAY UPSET ANGRY PPL, WAVING THE FLAG ALL THE TIME DOES NOT HELP US. WHAT WE NEED TO DO SEOMTIMES IS WAVE SOME QUESTIONS, SERIOUS IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS AND WE DEMAND ANSWERS AND THOSE ARE NOT BE TAKEN FROM THE ADMINISTRATION WITHOUT THE HELP OF THE MEDIA THAT IS SOPHISTICATED, THAT IS COMMITTED TO BRINGING THE NEWS TO US. IF YOU TAKE WHAT THE STATE DEPT SAYS AND WHAT THE WHITE HOUSE SAYS WHAT THE PENTAGON SAYS AND YOU TRANSFER THIS TO THE PUBLIC WITHOUT CHALLENGING IT WITHOUT CHECKING IT. RONALD REAGON USED TO SAY, TURST IT VERIFY IT . WE TRUST, WHERE'S THE VERIFICATION? HAVE WE VERIFIED THE ALLEGATION THAT THE STATE DEPT HAS MADE WHEN COLIN POWELL SAID THE UNITED NATIONS HAS MADE THESE ACCUSATIONS. HAVE WE MADE DONALD RUMSFELD ACCOUNTABLE TO THE MISTAKES THAT HE MADE? NOT BY REMOVING HIM ONLY BUT SOMEBODY HAS TO GET THE RESPONSIBILITY TO AND PLUS WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS GO FURTHER THAN THAT. NOW THEY ARE GOING AGAINST IRAN AND THEY ARE USING THE SAME METHODS THAT THEY USED AGAINST IRAQ. SO ARE WE THAT STUPID OR NAÏVE? WE HAVENT LEARNED FROM OUR MISTAKES, AND THEY ARE FRESH. VIETNAM ISNT ALL THERE, BUT IRAQ IS HERE. (HAND GESTURE) SO WHERE IS THE AMERICAN PUBLIC RIGHT NOW TO QUESTION ALL THESE FABRICATED STORIES THAT WE HEAR IN THE MEDIA?

(NOISE AND VISUALS ARE ON THE FLOOR AND DOWN)

...THEY ARE SPEAKING OFF THE RECORD AND THEY ARE NOT GOING TO BE IDENTIFIED ALL THESE THINGS ARE IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW. WE CAN NOT CONTINUE TO CONDUCT BUSINESS THE SAME OLD WAY

(VISUAL ANOTHER INTERVIEW IN THE BACKGROUND)

THERE IS NEW DEVELOPMENT, ITS CALLED IRAQ, ITS HUGE. WE WENT AFTER CLINTON BC HE WAS FOOLING AROUND WITH AN INTERN, GEORGE BUSH IS FOOLING AROUND WITH A COUNTRY AND THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD, AND IT NEEDS MORE ATTENTION AND

THE ONLY DEPT THAT CAN BE CHALLENGING GEORGE BUSH OR  
CHECKING HIM IS MEDIA.

(VISUAL MAN IN SUIT)

FREE WORLD, MEDIA. MEDIA SHOULD NOT BE INTIMIDATED,  
BOUGHT OR MANIPULATED BY GOVERNMENT

SWITCHED TO DIFFERENT INTERVIEW

## FRONT VIEW INTERVIEW WITH OSAMA (GERI'S QUESTIONS) :

VERY WELL IT WENT VERY WELL I THINK THIS IS A VERY COMPLICATED ISSUE AND THERE HAVE BEEN MANY ISSUES THAT HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN HERE BUT THERE ARE MANY MANYISSUES THAT HAVE NOT BEEN DISCUSSED, THAT HAVE NOT BEEN BROUGHT UP BC OF THE TIME LIMITATION BUT IN GENERAL IT WAS PRETTY GOOD.

THAT WERE NOT BROUGHT UP? I THINK HOW DO WE THE ROAD MAP FOR BETTER JOURNALISM, THE CONSEQUENCES OF US NOT REALLY LEADING IN THE WORLD OF JOURNALISM. I THINK WE ARE LAGGING IN THE WORLD. IF YOU WANTED TO KNOW THE TRUTH, IF YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT A SUBJECT IN DEPTH, YOU GO AND SEARCH FOR IT SOMEWHERE ELSE, NOT IN THE AMERICAN MEDIA ANYMORE. THE EUROPEAN MEDIA HAS TAKEN OVER, ASIAN MEDIA HAS TAKEN OVER. I THINK WE ARE LOSING OUR EDGE HERE AS FAR AS THE EDGE IN JOURNALISM AND THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS ISSUE, VERY SERIOUS ISSUE, BC TODAY WE ARE LEADING THE WAR. AND EVERYTHING TECHNOLOGY, MANUFACTURING, AND YET IN JOURNALISM WE ARE LAGGING BEHIND. BC OUR PUBLIC, WE ARE MAKING MORE IGNORANCE FABRICATING MORE AND PRODUCING MORE IGNORANT PPL RATHER THAN MORE INFORMATIVE PPL AND INFORMATION IS NOT ABUNDANT HERE. ITS VERY LACKING IN ALL TERMS. EVEN ON THE LOCAL ISSUES. THE PRES RACE IS NO LONGER AN ISSUE IT IS A BEAUTY CONTEST-SOUND BYTES, CODES, WHO CAN SPEAK BETTER, WHO CAN LIE AND HIDE BEHIND THE LIES. WE TALKED ABOUT ACCOUNTABILITY IN HERE WHEN THE IRAQ FIASCO BLEW UP IN OUR FACE AFTER ALL THIS PPL VERY ANXIOUS TO GO INTO IRAQ TURNING IRAQ INTO A UTOPIA. WHEN IT BLEW UP WHO WAS, WHOS HEAD IS HELD? NO ONE. WHAT IS ACCOUNTABILITY? WHAT HAPPENED? I THINK OUR MEDIA NEEDS TO RE-VISIT ITS EXPERIENCE IN IRAQ AND BE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. SOME HAVE EDITORIALIZED ON THIS, LIKE THE WASHINGTON POST AND NYT, THEY HAVE REALLY TURNED IT INWARD AND THEY CAN DECIDE THEMSELVES HOW THEY HANDLE THE WAR.

WELL I THINK THE BROADCAST MEDIA IS GOING DOWN HILL FARTHER, BETTER, FASTER IM SORRY THAN THE PRINT JOURNALISM

BC ITS TURNING TO BE MORE OF AN ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY RATHER THAN INFORMATION SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND I THINK IT IS VERY EVIDENT IN THE KINDS OF PROGRAMS THAT WE ARE SEEING ON TV TAKING THE SOAP OPERAS, TAKING THE ENTERTAINMENT SHOWS THAT WE HAVE TELEVISION ON THE MAJOR NETWORKS IN AMERICA. THEY ARE SHOWING THAT THERE IS MORE EMPHASIS ON ENTERTAINMENT AND LESS ON INFORMATION. I THINK WE CAN BRING BOTH TOGETHER. I THINK WE SHOULD HAVE AN INFORMATIVE, FUNNY, CRITICAL SHOWS ON TELEVISION THAT PPL CAN LISTEN TO AND INFORM GET INFORMED ABOUT ISSUES.

GERI: MOST OF THE CRITIQUE HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON WHAT JOURNALISTS CAN DO, BUT I THINK CITIZENS AND SOURCES HAVE THEIR PART TO DO AS WELL. WOULD YOU AGREE WITH THAT IN IMPROVING COVERAGE?

OSAMA:

WELL THE, HOW COULD YOU BLAME THE CITIZEN? THE CITIZEN IS REALLY ON THE RECEIVING END. I THINK US, THE JOURNALISTS, ARE SUPPOSED TO BE BLAMED. WE ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO BLAME OFFICIALS THAT ARE MANIPULATING JOURNALISM AND THE JOURNALIST INDUSTRY. I THINK THE.. THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A STRUGGLE BETWEEN THOSE PPL IN POWER AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATED TO THOSE PPL THAT ARE BEING GOVERNED A THE PUBLIC IS IN CONSTANT STRUGGLE WITH THE TRUTH. WHAT THE LEADERS ARE SAYING AND ALWAYS CHECKING THE ACCRUACY OF THEIR STATEMENTS AND THEIR REMARKS AND THE MEDIA IS THE ONLY SOURCE OR PLACE THAT THE PUBLIC CAN GO TO CHECK THE REALITY OF THE TRUTHNESS OF SUCH STATEMENTS. NOW WHEN THE PRESIDENT MADE REMARKS, TYING AL-QUEDA TO IRAQ, OUR MEDIA SHOULD HAVE REALLY EXAMINED THIS AND TOLD THE AMERICAN PUB THAT OUR PRES MADE THESE STATEMENTS, BUT THIS IS WHAT WE FOUND OUT FOR YOU. IT'S NOT TRUE, OR IT'S TRUE. I THINK THIS IS THE MISSING LINK. I THINK THE JOURNALISTS, JOURNALISM INDUSTRY, THE MEDIA INDUSTRY IN GENERAL WHETHER IT IS PRINT, WHETHER ITS RADIO, OR WHETHER IT IS ELECTRONIC MEDIA, WHETHER IT IS TELEVISION I BELIEVE THEY HAVE RESPONSIBILITY IN HERE HUGE RESPONSIBILITY. AND AS WE GROW AND DIVERSIFY THE RESPONSIBILITIES ARE GRWOING

WITH US TO INFORM OUR PUBLIC AND TO GIVE THE AMERICAN PPL THE TOOLS NECESSARY TO MAKE THE RIGHT DEC AND SO FAR WE HAVE FAILED WE HAVE FAILED AS JOURNALISTS. I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD TAKE THE BLAME AND SPREAD IT AROUND, I THINK WE SHOULD TAKE IT CONSUME, TRY TO DIGEST IT AND TRY TO CORRECT IT

GERI: U HAVE BEEN SPEAKING TERMS OF THE NATIONAL MEDIA ..(NOISE) I WANT TO BRING IN THE DETROIT.. WHICH NEWSPAPER COVERS THE ARAB AMERICAN COMMUNITY BETTER, THE DET NEWS OR THE FREE PRESS?

OSAMA:

I THINK BOTH THEY DO A PRETTY GOOD JOB. THEY BOTH HAVE VERY GOOD WRITERS THA HAVE BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE ARAB AMERICAN COMMUNITY. THE ISSUE IN HERE IS NOT IN COVERING INDIVIDUALS OR A COMMUNITY, ITS COVERING THE ISSUES. AND THOSE PPL WHO CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES OVERSEAS ARE GOING TO BE EXTREMELY CONFUSED TRYING TO UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES IN HERE BC TODAY WE ARE LIVING IN A GLOBAL VILLAGE. WHAT IS HAPPENING IN LEBANON IS AFFECTING US TODAY. WHAT IS HAPPENING IN IRAQ, IT BECOMES A DOMESTIC ISSUE IN HERE SO HOW DO ARAB AMERICANS FEEL ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN IRAQ? DO THEY FEEL THE SAME WAY AS AVG AMERICANS? HAVE THEY CHECKED IT? HAVE THEY TALKED TO THE COMMUNITY? ONE THING WE NEED TO START THINKING OF AND THE MEDIA TO START PRACTICING IS TO TAKE THIS COMMUNITY AND NOT TO TREAT IT AS AN ISLAND, IN THE AMERICAN HEMISPHERE, NO, THEY ARE PART OF THIS GREAT NATION, THEY HAVE DOC'S LAWYERS, ENGINEERS, JOURNALISTS AND BUSINESSES. THEY HAVE GOOD AND BAD IN BETWEEN, YA KNOW. THEREFORE THEY NEED TO DEAL WITH THEM ON ISSUES ON A LARGER SCALE, A MASSIVE SCALE. LIKE FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN WE TALK ABOUT ENVIRONMENT, ARAB AMERICNAS MUST BE INCLUDED, NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE AMERICANS, BC THEY ARE EXPERTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MEDICINE, WE NEED TO BRING ARAB AMERICANS IN TO TALK ABOUT MEDICINE. NOT ONLY TO TALK ABOUT VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM AND THE MID EAST AND IRAQ AND ISREAL, WE NEED TO TALK TO THEM ABOUT ISSUES THAT

CONCERNS THEM IN HERE BC THEY ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS AND THEY ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE SOCIETY AT LARGE. THIS IS HOW WE INCORPORATE THEM IN OUR LIVES.

GERI: I THINK THEY WANT TO GET US OUT OF HERE.. BUT I DO HAVE A COUPLE OF MORE QUESTIONS. ..

## OSAMA IN HALLWAY:

IN THE DETROIT AREA THE COVERAGE HAS IMPORVED A LOT, SINCE I STARTED THE NEWSPAPER IN 1984, MY NEWSPAPER. AND I HAVE SEEN IMPROVEMENTS HOWEVE THE SITUTAION IS DEVELOPING IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE CLIMATE OF THE CONFLICT AND THE DYNAMIC OF THE CONFLICT OVERSEAS THAT'S AFFECTING US IN HERE IT IS CHANGING. THEREFORE WE NEED TO ADAPT TO IT AND WE NEED TO WRITE MORE AND INTERVIEW THE COMMUNITY MORE AND TALK ABOUT THESE ISSUES, AND I THINK IF YOU ASK ME TODAY ABOT THE MEDIA IN DETROIT VS TWO DECADES (NOISE) WHETHER THEY IMPROVED? YES THEY HAVE IMPROVED. HHAVE THEY IMPROVED A LOT? YES, BUT NOT TO THE LIMIT THAT THEY WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO US RIGHT NOW. I THINK THERE IS ROOM FOR IMPORVEMENT, AND I THINK THERE IS ROOM FOR IMPORVEMENT IN GENERAL. BC LIKE I SAID AND I WILL CONTINUE TO SAY YOU CAN NOT ISOLATE THE ARAB AMERICAN COMMUNITY FROM THE LARGER COMMUNITY THEY ARE A PART OF THE LARGER COMMUNITY. TODAY WE ARE DEALING WITH ISSUES THAT WE WERE NOT DEALING WITH 10 YRS AGO OR 20 YRS AGO. SO THE MEDIA HAS TO ADAPT TO THE REALITY. I GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE, CAN I? AN EX IN HERE IS WHEN YOU BROADCAST ON THE NEWS THAT 3 ARABS, ARAB AMERICANS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED BC THEY WERE TAKING PICTURES OF THE BRIDGE AND THEY HAVE CELL PHONES AND THEY ARE BEING CHARGED WITH TERRORISM YOU ARE ACTUALLY DRIVING ALL THE NEIGHBORS TO SUSP THEIR NEIGHBOR THAT'S AN ARAB IS ONE OF THEM (NOISE) OR COULD DO THE SAME, SO WE NEED TO REALLY SLOW DOWN ON THE SENSATIONAL NEWS, BC THE CIRCUMSTANCE DOES NOT ALLOW US TO DO IT. WE DO NOT WANT TO HAVE A SHOW HERE, WE WANT TO HAVE WE NEED TO HAVE REAL NEWS. AND HERE IS WHAT WE HAVE A PROBLEM WITH, WE ARE HAVING PROBLEM WITH THE STORIES ON THE FRONT PAGE SAYING 3 ARABS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN MACKINAW ISLE FOR THIS, BUT WHEN THEY ARE DECLARED INNOCENT, IT'S A SMALL BREIF ON PG 17 BUT WHEN THEY ARE CHARGED AND CAUGHT, THEY ARE ON THE FRONT PAGE ON 6 COLUMNS SO WHAT STICKS IN THE READERS MIND, OR THE VIEWERS MIND? THE HEADLINES, THE FLASHES AND WE NEED THEM TO BE MORE SENSITIVE AND TO GIVE

TIME FOR JUSTICE TO TAKE ITS PLACE NOT TO RUSH TO JUDGE MENT.

GERI ASKS QUESTION: WHAT STATION.....??

OSAMA:

I CANT TELL YOU THAT A PARTICULAR STATION HAS DONE A BETTER JOB THAN THE OTHER STATION I THINK IN GENERAL THEY ALL IMPROVED AND (NOISE) IN GENERAL THEY ALL NEED TO IMPROVE MORE. THERE'S LOTS OF ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT. I DO NOT WANT TO GO INTO DETAILS BC IN THE NEWSCAST THIS EVENING, WE MAY HAVE A BETTER COVERAGE OF ARAB AMERICAN OR MUSLIM ISSUES ON CHANNEL 7 THEN WE HAVE ON CHANNEL 4 BUT WE HAVE, BUT ONE WK LATER OR ONE WK BEFORE WE HAD IT BETTER ON CHANNEL 4 THAN ON CHANNEL 7. IT REALLY DEPENDS ON WHOSE THE REPORTER THE EDITOR THAT DAY, HOW MUCH TIME THEY GIVE THE REPORTER, AND HOW MUCH THEY ALLOW THEM TO GIVE THE REPORT. THIS IS SOMETHING WITHIN THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE. SO I WOULD SAY IN GENERAL I THINK THEY ARE SOME GOOD GRADES FOR SOME OF THEM AND THERE ARE SOME FAILING GRADES FOR SOME OF THEM.

GERI: NOW YOU'VE MENTIONED THE NYT ARTICLE SEVERAL TIMES THROUGHOUT THE EVENING, WHAT IF YOU COULD RE WRITE THAT, WHAT WOULD THAT STORY BE?

OSAMA:

I WOULD NOT, FIRST OF ALL THE HEADLINES DOES NOT REFLECT THE TRUTH. THE HEADLINE IS THE BIGGEST MISTAKE IN THE WHOLE ARTICLE, IT IS THE BIGGEST PROBLEM IN THE ARTICLE. NOW AS YOU GO IN THE ARTICLE THERE ARE SOME CONCLUSIONS THE WRITER HAS WRITTEN AS HIS OWN CONCLUSION, HE DOES NOT QUOTE ANYBODY, THESE CONS ARE WRONG. NOW BASED ON THE QUOTES THAT HE PICKED HE MAY BUILD THE STORY AS CORRECT, HE BUILD IT AS A CORRECT STORY. CUZ THESE ARE THE QUOTES, BC THE QUOTES, IF YOU TAKE THEM OUT OF CONTEXT THEY ARE CORRECT QUOTES, THE CONCLUSION HOWEVER, HAS BEEN BASED ON FALSE PRETENSE. AND THIS IS WHERE THE PROBLEM IS. IF I HAD TO WRITE IT, I WOULD NOT PUT WORDS IN PPL'S MOUTH, I WOULD NOT MAKE MY OWN CONCLUSION. I WOULD TRY TO BE AS

TRANSPARENT AS I CAN BC I BELIEVE AND I STRONGLY BELIEVE, NEIL MCFAULKER, THE PERSON WHO WROTE THE STORY, WHICH I RESPECT, I THINK HE CAME IN W/ AN IDEA AND WAS PUTTING QUOTES IN ORDER TO SUPPORT AN IDEA AND WRITE. THIS IS A STORY THAT APPEARED IN SO MANY OTHER PUBLICATIONS THAT IT WAS NOT TRUE, IT WAS NOT THE TRUTH, AND EVERYONE QUOTED IN THE ARTICLE HAS CHALLENGED THE AUTHENTICITY OF IT.

GERI: I READ THAT ARTICLE, I HAVE IT UPSTAIRS IN MY OFFICE, SO WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

OSAMA:

THE TRUTH IS THAT THERE IS NO, FIRST OF ALL, THERE IS NO DIVIDE, BTW THE COMMUNITY. THE COMMUNITY FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, IN THE HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY, HAVE AGREED TO AGREE AND WORK WITH EA OTHER. FOR THE FIRST TIME! AND HE WAS TOLD, TIME AND TIME AGAIN, THAT WE HAD SEVERAL TOWN MTGS EVERY MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY EVERY ORGANIZATION WAS INVOLVED AND WE ALL MADE THE DECISIONS TOGETHER THERE WERE NO DEALS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS. IT WAS VERY OBVIOUS, HE WAS TOLD THE WHOLE STORY THAT DETAILS OF THE STORY, THE BORING DETAILS OF THE STORY, AND YET HE INSISTED ON A CONCLUSION THAT WAS FALSE. IT WAS NOT TRUE. AND I CALLED EVERY SINGLE PERSON WHO WAS QUOTED IN THE ARTICLE AND EVERY SINGLE PERSON THAT WAS QUOTED IN THE ARTICLE WAS VERY ANGRY ABOUT THE CONCLUSION THAT MR MCFAULKER MADE.

GERI: WHO DOES A BETTER JOB? THE DET NEWS OR DET FREE PRESS?

OSAMA:

WELL THE DETROIT NEWS AND THE DET FREE PRESS ARE REALLY DOING GREAT JOBS COVERING THE COMMUNITY. IF I HAVE TO FAVOR SOMEONE THAT GIVE IT A LITTLE EDGE, I WOULD GIVE IT TO THE DETROIT FREE PRESS. THE DET FREE PRESS HAVE BEEN DOING MORE ARTICLES, MORE IN -DEPTH ARTICLES. I'LL GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE, THE DET NEWS AND THE DET FREE PRESS SENT TWO REPORTERS W PHOTOGRAPHERS TO LEBANON FOLLOW THE WAR IN THE SUMMER. SO BOTH OF THEM ARE DOING A GOOD JOB, AND YES,

THEY NEED TO IMPROVE, BUT THEY HAVE DONE A TREMENDOUS  
JOB SINCE TWO DECADES AGO.

DON:

PARDON? HOW DID IT GO? UMM.. IT WAS GOOD TO BE APART OF IT. I THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD DISCUSSION, I THOUGHT WE RAISED A NUMBER OF ISSUES, PUT THEM OUT ON THE TABLE, I DON'T THINK WE HAD ENOUGH TIME, AS ALWAYS, TO DIG INTO THEM. BUT I THINK, I HOPE, IT HELPED THE STUDENTS, AND HELPED THE PANELISTS TO KNOCK THESE THINGS AROUND. THERE'S THINGS WE'RE STRUGGLING WITH, AS JOURNALISTS. ITS ALWAYS EASIER TO IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM INSTEAD OF THE SOLUTION, BUT I THINK WE WERE ABLE TO DEAL WITH AT LEAST SOME AREAS OF HOW TO ADDRESS SOME OF THE ISSUES. SO THAT WAS VERY POSITIVE.

GERI: AND IF OU WERE GIVEN ANOTHER 5 MINS TO TALK, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

DON:

UHH, OK LETS SEE. WHAT WAS ON MY NOTE PAD? (LAUGHS) .....IF WE HAD MORE TIME I WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS MOE OF WHAT OSAMA BROUGHT UP, IN TERMS OF THE ISSUES AS WELL AS THE COMMUNITIES AND HOW DO YOU COVER A COMMUNITY AND BE RESPECTFUL OF THE ISSUES, BUT NOT MAKE A COMMUNITY SIMPLY A POLITICAL COMMUNITY HOW DO YOU TAKE THE VARIOUS IDENTITES INDIVIDUALS OF A COMMUNITY AND GIVE THE ATTENTION THAT THEY NEED AS HUMANS AND ALL THE DIFFERENT IDENTITES THAT THEY HAVE. YOU CAN'T IGNORE, I REMEMBER, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO USE THIS, I REMEMBER SOMEONE THAT WAS ASIAN WHO SAID TO HIS ANGLO WIFE, THEW WIFE SAID ACTUALLY, I DON'T SEE YOU AS AN ASIAN, AND THE ASIAN MAN SAID, WELL YOU DON'T REALLY SEE ME. THERE'S THAT TENSION WITH SEEING EVERYONE WITHOUT THEIR ETHNIC OR RELGIOS IDENTITY, AS JUST GENERAL PERSPECTIVE, BUT IF YOU DON'T LOOK AT THEIR PARTICULAR BACKGROUNDS, AND WHAT THE INFLUENCE ARE IN THE CULTURES, THEN YOU DON'T REALLY SEE THEM, SO HOW IS A JOURNALIST TRY TO BALANCE THE IDEAS THAT THIS IS MY NEIGHBOR NEXT DOOR AND THIS IS MY ARAB AMERICAN NEIGHBOR NEXT DOOR? HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH THOSE ISSUES AND HOW DO YOU PRESENT IT TO A LARGER COMMUNITY? I THINK WE COULD HAVE TALKED ABOUT IT MORE. I THINK PPL WILL BE TALKING ABOUT IT FOR A LONG TIME.

GERI: WOULD YOU ADVOCATE A CLASS FOR BEGINING REPORTERS TO TACKLE THESE TYPES OF ISSUES BEFORE THEY GO ON THE BEAT OR DO YOU THINK ON THE JOB TRAINING IS BETTER?

DON:

WELL I THINK ON THE JOB TRAINING IS VERY GOOD TO REALLY DEAL WITH IT, BUT THERE REALLY NEEDS TO BE DISCUSSION. IM NOT SURE IF YOU CAN TAKE A COURE AND DEVOTE IT TO A PARTICULAR ETHNICITY OR RELIGION, I DON'T THINK THAT WOULD BE THAT USEFUL, TOUGH WHEN YOU'RE COVERING A BEAT ITS NOT SIMPLY ON THE JOB, I WOULD EXPECT JOURNALISTS WOULD DO THE RESEARCH AND DO THE BACKGROUND. WHEN THE QUESTIONS CAME AROUND WHAT'S THE ONE WORD YOU WOULD USE TO SUGGEST TO JOURNALISTS, I SAID INFORM. I THINK THERE IS A LOT OF SELF INFORMATION ISNT NOT JUST BOOK READING BEYOND ON THE JOB IS GETTING INTO THE COMMUNITY AND THAT'S REAL IMPORTANT. BUT YOU ALSO HAVE TO LOOK AT WHERE THE PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY IN THE LARGER SOCIETY, WHEN WE TALK ABOUT ARAB AMERICANS, I MEAN I AM GLAD TO BE INVITED, BUT A LOT OF THESE ISSUES, PARTICULARLY IN THE POLITICAL SPHERES AFFECT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY. WHEN YOU HAVE PPL WHO ARE LOOKING AT RANGE OF ISSUES OR MAKING IN THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY, VARIOUS PRONOUNCEMENTS, THEY HAVE A PARTICULAR VIEW OF JEWS AND CHRISTIANS, OR AMERICANS, AND HOW THAT MIGHT BE, AND I THINK, SOMETIMES, THAT PERSPECTIVE, ISNT ADDRESSED. BC JOURNALISTS ARENT SERVING THE LARGER GENERAL COMMUNITY, THEY'RE SERVING THAT PARTICULAR COMMUNITY THEY ARE REPORTING ON. AND THEY ALSO HAVE TO BE LOOKING AT SERVING THE COMMUNITY THAT'S INFLUENCIED BY THE ISSUES THEY'RE REPORTING ON IN PARTICULAR IN THE INSTANCE OF THE MIDDLE EAST, THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, THE LEBONESE COMMUNITY ARE ALSO AFFECTED BY THE DISCUSSION OF THE ARAB AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

GERI: ....WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE 2 PUBLICATIONS, IF THERE IS ONE?

DON:

THERE ISNT MUCH OF A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE 2 PUBLICATIONS THESE DAYS. IM NOT SURE AT DIFFERENT TIMES

HOW MUCH CLOSER IT WAS I MEAN I HAVE BEEN IN COMMUNICATION WITH DIFFERENT PPL ON DIFFERENT STORIES AT DIFFERENT TIMES, BUT WAT WE SAW PARTICULARLY WITH THE ISREAL LEBANON WAR OF LAST SUMMER IS THE PULLING APART OF THE TWO COMMUNITIES AND THAT HAPPENED IN JOURNALISM AS WELL AS AMONG A RANGE OF DIFFERENT GROUPS. THRE'S TIMES TO TRY TO PROCESS WHAT HAPPENED AND LOOK AT WHAT CONNECTIONS CAN BE. BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO FOCUS ON POLITICS, ITS NOT WE'RE GONNA MAKE THE CONNECTIONS, UNFORTUNATELY.

GERI: SO WHAT WAS YOUR REACTION WHEN YOU SAW OSAMA WENT FOR PANELIST ...

DON:

I THINK OSAMA SPEAKS FOR A VERY IMPORTANT AND RELEVANT SEGMENT OF THE ARAB AMERICAN COMMUNITY SO I THINK HIS PARTICPATION IS IMPORTANT TO DEAL WITH THESE ISSUES.

GERI: NEXT STEP. WHAT WOULD U LIKE THIS DOCUMENTARY TO TACKLE?

DON:

IM NOT SURE EXACTLY WHAT IT IS TACKLING. (LAUGHS...)

GERI: ....HOW CAN WE COVER THIS ISSUE?

DON:

WHAT ELSE TO BE INCLUDED?..UHH..

I THINK AN ISSUE WHICH WAS ALLUDED TO BUT NEEDS TO BE LOOKED AT IS THE DIVERSITY OF THE ARAB AMERICAN COMMUNITY. IT IS VERY DIVERSE. THERE ARE A LOT OF..OFTEN TIMES IT'S A SQUEAKY WHEEL THAT GETS THE ATTENTION. THERE'S A LOT OF FOLKS THAT ARE NOT SPEAKING UP ON A VARIETY OF ISSUES, WHO ARE LEBANOESE CHRISTIANS AND VARIOUS OTHER MINORITIES, IN DIFFERENT SEGMENTS. PPL WHO HAVE FAMILY BACK HOME, WHAT THEY SAY HERE CAN BE AFFECTED THEM. AND HOW DOES A JOURNALIST DEAL WITH THOSE ISSUES TO MAKE SURE THEY GET THE FULL PICTURE. CUZ THERE WILL BE PPL WHO JUMP UP TO SPEAK TO YOU ON IT BUT OFTEN TIMES, I THIN PARTICULARLY IN THIS ISSUE IN TERMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST,

FOLKS WHO ARE VERY MEDIA SHY BUT HAVE A PARTICULAR PERSPECTIVE AND NOT ONLY A PARTICULAR PERSPECTIVE, CAN HELP FRAME THE ISSUE THE ENTIRE ISSUE AND IF THEY'RE NOT APART OF IT, THE ENTIRE ISSUE CAN GET DISTORTED.

GERI: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.