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COMMUNICATIONS

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Governor's Office
State of Oregon
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OREGONIAN IN ARABIA

Channel 6 KOIN-TV 4/2/84

Mark Hendricks

During an earlier leg of the trade mission, our crew of Mike Donahue, Mark Sanchez and Dale Burkholtz discovered that you can find an Oregonian in just about anywhere.

Mark Sanchez reports from Saudi Arabia.

Mark Sanchez

Whether crammed into a van for a tour of Jeddah's waterfront or assembled on the 7th floor of a hotel, a very different set of rules apply in covering Governor Atiyeh.

Simply put, Saudi Arabia strongly manages the news coming out of the kingdom. Preferring to give the world a strictly positive emphasis on topics that range from politics to economic self-sufficiency.

Gov. Atiyeh

We found out that you not only have self-sufficiency but that you are storing wheat and we are beginning to wonder now if you are going to sell wheat to Oregon.

Mark Sanchez

In this atmosphere you will spot an occasional Western journalist but would you really expect to find Patrick Werr.

Five months ago Werr converted a degree from the University of Washington plus a Full Bright Scholarship and an ear for Arabic, he turned all that into a job at the Saudi Gazette.

He also grew up in Enterprise, Oregon.

Patrick Werr

What affect does your from being Arab decent have on the elections in Oregon?

Gov. Atiyeh

Actually it is who I am, what I can do, whether I represent Oregonians and it is more important than what my nationality is.

(more)

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OREGONIAN IN ARABIA, Channel 6, KOIN-TV, 4/2/84

Patrick Werr

Is it hard to think about going to the farm. It is such an incredible experience for me. People think differently and act differently.

Certain things in your culture no longer become important. For example like, holidays, Christmas you know I think that in America it is the most important thing. Here is doesn't exist.

Mark Sanchez

As a reporter, Patrick Werr earns about \$1,500 a month. Maybe that is not very much, but consider this, none of that money is taxed and his employer tosses in free housing.

Giving all the restrictions, Werr considers every day something of an education.

Patrick Werr

Its so undercovered that there really is no body else in Saudi Arabia. There are only a few of us journalists. And you have pretty good access to the businesses.

Mark Sanchez

Is government a different matter?

Patrick Werr

Yes, it is quite a bit different matter.

Mark Sanchez

American officials say that Western journalists don't often have a very long professional life in the middle-east. Just too much aggrevation.

And so we will be looking for Patrick Werr when the next Oregon trade mission comes calling.

In Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Mark Sanchez reporting for Newsroom 6.

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