

UNEDITED REALTIME CLOSED CAPTIONING TEXT

"FLORIDA THIS WEEK"
JULY 13, 2007

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>> THE FOLLOWING IS A SPECIAL PRESENTATION OF WEDU, TAMPA, ST. PETERSBURG, SARASOTA.

>> COMING UP NEXT, IN THE WORLD OF 24-HOUR CABLE TELEVISION NEWS, GRETA VAN SUSTEREN KNOWS ABOUT THE COMPETITIVE DEMANDS.

SHE SHOULD. VAN SUSTEREN IS A BROADCAST VETERAN OF CNN AND NOW HOSTS FOX NEWS CHANNEL'S DAILY "ON THE RECORD" NEWS AND INTERVIEW PROGRAM.

JUST AHEAD, WE'LL ASK HER TO SHARE SOME INSIGHTS ON THIS "FLORIDA THIS WEEK SPECIAL INTERVIEW" WITH GRETA VAN SUSTEREN.

STAY TUNED.

>> FROM THE WEDU STUDIOS, THIS IS "FLORIDA THIS WEEK." AND NOW, MODERATOR ROB LOREI.

>>Rob Lorei: WELCOME TO THIS SPECIAL ONE-ON-ONE CONVERSATION.

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PRACTICING TRIAL ATTORNEY GRETA VAN SUSTEREN ENTERED
BROADCASTING IN 1991 AS A LEGAL ANALYST FOR CABLE NEWS
CHANNEL CNN.

IN ALL, SHE SPENT ANOTHER DECADE THERE GOING ON TO HOST HER
OWN NEWS PROGRAM BEFORE JOINING THE FOX NETWORK IN 2002,
WHERE SHE NOW HOSTS "ON THE RECORD" WEEK NIGHTS.

A GOOD PORTION OF THE TIME, GRETA CALLS CLEARWATER HER HOME.
IT'S GREAT TO HAVE YOU HERE.

THANK YOU FOR COMING.

>>Greta Van Susteren: IT'S WONDERFUL TO BE HERE.

AND GREAT STUDIO.

I LOVE YOUR STUDIO HERE.

>>Rob Lorei: BETTER THAN FOX'S?

>>Greta Van Susteren: I HOPE FOX IS WATCHING, BUT IT'S
PRETTY FANCY.

NICE, TALL CEILINGS.

I LIKE IT.

>>Rob Lorei: UNUSUAL FOR ANYBODY TO SAY THAT ABOUT PUBLIC
BROADCASTING.

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP?

>>Greta Van Susteren: I GREW UP IN APPLETON, WISCONSIN.

I'M THE YOUNGEST OF THREE CHILDREN.

ALTHOUGH SOME PEOPLE ASK ME IF MY SISTER IS OLDER, WHICH I
DON'T LIKE WHEN THEY ASK THAT.

SHE IS CLEARLY OLDER BY THREE YEARS.

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WENT TO COLLEGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN IN MADISON.
WENT OFF TO WASHINGTON, D.C. ON AN INTERNSHIP, COMMON
INTERNSHIPS EVERYBODY HAS, AFTER THE JUNIOR YEAR.
GOT A LITTLE BIT OF THAT THING CALLED POTOMAC FEVER AND
DECIDED I'D LIKE TO LIVE IN WASHINGTON -- AND I WANTED TO GO
TO LAW SCHOOL.

I WANTED TO GO TO LAW SCHOOL SINCE I WAS A KID.

I APPLIED TO LAW SCHOOL, WENT TO GEORGETOWN AND NEVER LEFT.

>>Rob Lorei: WAS YOUR FAMILY POLITICAL?

>>Greta Van Susteren: YES, AS A MATTER OF FACT, MY FAMILY
WAS -- MY FATHER WAS THE CAMPAIGN MANAGER IN 1946 TO SENATOR
JOE McCARTHY.

FORTUNATELY, FOR THE FAMILY, HE DID NOT GO ON TO WASHINGTON
WHEN SENATOR McCARTHY WENT ON.

HE STAYED HOME AND RAISED A FAMILY.

BUT, YES, MY FATHER WAS JOE McCARTHY'S CAMPAIGN MANAGER,
AND HE WAS THE BEST MAN IN MY PARENTS' WEDDING.

AND, YOU KNOW, IT CERTAINLY HAS NOT BEEN A SMALL PART OF OUR
HISTORY.

>>Rob Lorei: YOU'RE TOO YOUNG, BUT DO YOU HAVE ANY
RECOLLECTION OF JOE McCARTHY?

>>Greta Van Susteren: MY OLDER BROTHER DOES. HE'S EIGHT
YEARS OLDER.

I DON'T, EXCEPT I HAVE ONE VAGUE RECOLLECTION OF ONE TIME IN
OUR KITCHEN.

IT COULD HAVE BEEN ANY MAN IN SHIRTSLEEVES.
HE DIED IN 1957, AND I WAS THREE YEARS OLD.
I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING, BUT I CERTAINLY HAVE READ A LOT
AND I CERTAINLY HEARD A LOT OVER THE YEARS.
AND NOT VERY GOOD STUFF.

>>Rob Lorei: WERE THOSE YOUR DAD'S POLITICS.

>>Greta Van Susteren: MY FATHER WAS CONSERVATIVE. HE WAS
MORE OF A BARRY GOLDWATER.

LOOK, I IDOLIZE MY FATHER.

TO ME, MY FATHER WALKED ON WATER.

HE NEVER RAISED HIS VOICE TO ME.

NEVER YELLED AT ME.

HE DID EVERYTHING HE COULD FOR HIS CHILDREN.

HE WAS A VERY SIMPLE MAN.

RAISED IN THE DEPRESSION.

WORLD WAR II VET.

EVERY CENT HE EVER MADE WAS TO EDUCATE HIS CHILDREN.

HE WAS CONSERVATIVE.

HE WAS -- I MEAN, I NEVER REMEMBER HIM BEING, YOU KNOW, A
COMMUNIST RED-BAITER, WHATEVER.

SO I THINK JOE WENT OFF TO WASHINGTON AND FREELANCED ON
THAT.

BUT CERTAINLY, MY FATHER WAS CONSERVATIVE.

>>Rob Lorei: DID THOSE POLITICS RUB OFF ON YOU?

>>Greta Van Susteren: NO.

I WENT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN. MY BROTHER AND
SISTER WENT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

I GREW UP IN THE '60s AND EARLY '70s.

I'M STILL GROWING UP, ACTUALLY.

NO -- NO, NO.

I LIKE TO THINK OF MYSELF AS MODERATE AND REASONABLE.

>>Rob Lorei: HOW DID YOU MAKE THE TRANSITION FROM LAWYER TO
HAVING ONE OF THE TOP-RATED CABLE TELEVISION PROGRAMS?

>>Greta Van Susteren: DO YOU WANT THE REAL STORY ON THIS, OR
DO YOU WANT THE SORT OF POLITICALLY CORRECT STORY?

>>Rob Lorei: HERE ON PBS, WE WANT THE REAL STORY.

>>Greta Van Susteren: ALL RIGHT.

HERE IS THE STORY.

I -- BACK IN 1991, MARION BARRY GOT INTO A LITTLE BIT OF A
PROBLEM IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

HE GOT ARRESTED FOR COCAINE.

AND THE LOCAL MEDIA ASKED ME TO PROVIDE ANALYSIS ON THE
COURTHOUSE STEPS.

THERE ARE NO CAMERAS IN THE FEDERAL COURTHOUSE.

STILL AREN'T.

THE REASON THE LOCAL MEDIA KNEW ME IS BECAUSE IN THE
PREVIOUS DECADE I HAD BEEN TRYING A LOT OF RAPES AND MURDERS
IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND THEY WOULD COVER MINE. THE
LOCAL MEDIA WOULD COVER MY CASES, AND THEY WOULD CHASE ME
FROM THE COURTHOUSE DOOR OUT TO MY CAR, AND THEY KNEW ME.

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SO WHEN THEY NEEDED SOMEONE TO COVER THE MARION BARRY TRIAL,
THEY CALLED THE ONLY PERSON THEY KNEW, ME.

AND I WOULD ANSWER QUESTIONS LIKE, WHAT'S CROSS-EXAMINATION,
WHICH ANY LAWYER, ANYONE WHO HAS PRACTICED LAW CAN ANSWER.

ANYONE WHO HAD NOT PRACTICED LAW COULD ANSWER.

I SORT OF ANSWERED FOUR OR FIVE QUESTIONS A NIGHT FOR A
PERIOD OF A COUPLE OF WEEKS.

THEN IN NOVEMBER, CNN DECIDED FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT IT
WOULD GO GAVEL TO GAVEL ON A TRIAL, THE WILLIAM KENNEDY
SMITH DOWN IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE STATE.

FLORIDA HAS VERY, VERY GENEROUS RULES IN TERMS OF KEEPING
THINGS OPEN IN THE SUNSHINE STATE.

THEY HAVE CAMERAS IN THE COURTROOM, EVEN BACK THEN AND STILL
DO AND DID BEFORE.

SO CNN CALLED ME UP.

HERE'S A LITTLE BIT OF A PROBLEM.

THEY CALLED THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION FIRST.

AND THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, I WAS TOLD BY CNN,
RECOMMENDED ME.

NOW, I WAS SO FLATTERED.

BUT I FIGURED, WELL, IT SORT OF MAKES A LITTLE SENSE.

THEY PROBABLY WANTED A WOMAN.

I FIT THAT BILL.

I HAD TWO LAW DEGREES FROM GEORGETOWN AT THE TIME.

ONE WAS IN TRIAL ADVOCACY.

SO SOME EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND.

I WAS AN ADJUNCT PROFESSOR AT GEORGETOWN AT THE TIME.

I HAD TRIED RAPES AND MURDERS, AND I HAD, QUOTE, TV EXPERIENCE.

I HAD THOSE FEW MINUTES ANSWERING THOSE QUESTIONS.

I THOUGHT, MAKES SENSE TO ASK ME.

I FIGURED -- I SORT OF FANTASIZED, MAYBE THEY ALL SAT AROUND, WONDERED WHO'S THE BEST QUALIFIED, AND THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION DECIDED ON ME.

WELL, THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT FOR YEARS.

THEN IN ABOUT THE YEAR 2001, THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, WHICH I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER BEEN A MEMBER, ASKED ME TO GO TO LONDON TO BE ON A PANEL.

AND I DID.

WHEN I ARRIVED IN LONDON, THERE WAS A WOMAN SITTING AT A CARD TABLE HANDING OUT THE TAGS THAT SAY "HI, MY NAME IS ..." AND I WENT UP AND INTRODUCED MYSELF.

SHE SAID TO ME, DO YOU RECOGNIZE ME?

AND BEING THE GOOD MIDWESTERNER I AM, I SAID, YOU LOOK FAMILIAR.

AND SHE SAID, I'M THE ONE WHO RECOMMENDED YOU TO CNN.

IN MY MIND I WAS HOPING IT WAS A PANEL DISCUSSION, A LOT OF RESEARCH AND DEPTH.

I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS ONE CALL, ONE PERSON.

SO I WAS A LITTLE BIT SURPRISED.

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I THANKED HER PROFUSELY.

I SAID, LOOK, YOU CHANGED THE DIRECTION OF MY LIFE.

I HAVE A GREAT JOB.

I LOVE THIS.

THIS IS FABULOUS.

SHE SAID, BUT, DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME?

I SAID, YES, YOU DO LOOK FAMILIAR.

AND THEN SHE TOLD ME HOW SHE KNEW ME.

BACK IN 1976, WHEN I ENTERED LAW SCHOOL AT GEORGETOWN, A FRIEND OF MINE WHO LIVED IN A GROUP HOUSE WITH A BUNCH OF LAWYERS AND THIS PERSON WHO WAS THEN A RECEPTIONIST AT THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION HAD A TOGA PARTY.

AND I WENT TO THE TOGA -- I SWEAR, IT'S THE ONLY TOGA PARTY I'VE EVER BEEN TO IN MY ENTIRE LIFE.

I WENT TO THE TOGA PARTY DRESSED IN A SHEET.

I THEN VAGUELY RECALL MEETING HER.

I REMEMBER THINKING TO MYSELF, I REMEMBER WHEN I WENT IN THERE, THERE WAS ONE PERSON WHO WASN'T ACTING LIKE A BIG SHOT FIRST-YEAR LAW STUDENT, AND THAT WAS THIS WOMAN.

I WENT OVER AND TALKED TO HER AND SPENT MOST OF THE NIGHT TALKING TO HER.

SHE REMEMBERED ME.

AND SO WHEN THE PHONE CALL CAME IN, SHE GAVE OUT MY NAME.

SO I'M ON TELEVISION BECAUSE I WORE A TOGA, ONE TIME.

THAT'S ALL.

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JUST ONE TIME.

>>Rob Lorei: SO YOU STAYED WITH CNN FOR ABOUT TEN YEARS.
YOU DID THE OJ SIMPSON TRIAL.

>>Greta Van Susteren: WILLIAM KENNEDY SMITH. I DID CLARENCE
THOMAS. AND THEN OJ SIMPSON, THE CRIMINAL CASE AND THE
CIVIL CASE.

AND I STAYED ON UNTIL SHORTLY AFTER 9/11.

I LEFT -- DECEMBER 31st, 2001 WAS THE LAST TIME I WAS AT
CNN.

>>Rob Lorei: WHY DID YOU LEAVE CNN AND GO TO FOX?

>>Greta Van Susteren: BECAUSE IN JANUARY OF 2001, AOL CAME
IN TO CNN, AND I ENJOYED MANY WONDERFUL YEARS AT CNN.
BUT WHEN AOL CAME IN, EVERYTHING CHANGED.

IT BECAME -- WHEN TED TURNER OWNED IT COMPLETELY, IT WAS
SORT OF MOM AND POPISH.

IT WAS INSPIRING.

TED WAS -- YOU KNOW, IF THERE WAS A GREAT STORY TO DO AND HE
DIDN'T HAVE THE MONEY, HE WOULD FIND THE MONEY.

TED WAS INSPIRATIONAL.

AOL CAME IN AND IT BECAME VERY CORPORATE.

ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS THEY DID WAS START FIRING PEOPLE.

IT WAS ABOUT 200 OR SOMETHING.

PHENOMENAL NUMBER IN JANUARY.

AND THESE ARE MY FRIENDS.

AND I DIDN'T LIKE IT.

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AND WHEN YOU HAD A QUESTION ABOUT YOUR SHOW, IT WOULD GO TO A COMMITTEE OR GO TO SOMEBODY AND THEN THREE DAYS LATER THAT PERSON WOULDN'T EVEN EXIST AT THE COMPANY ANYMORE.

YOU HAD THAT SORT OF HORRIBLE CORPORATE ENVIRONMENT THAT MAKES IT NO FUN TO WORK.

SPEND YOUR WHOLE DAY TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHO YOUR BOSS IS AND TRYING TO GET YOUR SHOW ON WHEN YOU REALLY JUST WANT TO WORK.

AND IT WENT ON FOR A YEAR.

AND FINALLY, ON DECEMBER 10th OF THAT YEAR, THEY FIRED ROGER COSSACK AND JOEY CHEN.

JOEY CHEN IS AT ABC AND ROGER IS AT ESPN.

I HAD JUST ABOUT HAD ENOUGH.

I'M AN OLD-LINE CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY, AND I'VE SEEN SO MANY PEOPLE WHO DEVOTED 20 YEARS OF THEIR LIVES TO CNN WHO LIVED IN ATLANTA.

THERE IS NO OTHER INDUSTRY IN ATLANTA.

THEY HAD MORTGAGES AND KIDS AND EVERYTHING ELSE.

THEY WERE REALLY IN TROUBLE WHEN THEY LOST THEIR JOBS.

AND CNN OFFERED SEVERANCE PACKAGES THAT SEEMED ATTRACTIVE AT THE TIME, BUT I KNEW THEY WEREN'T GOING TO LAST FOREVER AND THESE PEOPLE NEED WORK.

SO I WAS UNHAPPY THERE.

AND SO AT THAT TIME, I HAD TWO SHOWS.

ONE AT 12:30, "BURDEN OF PROOF."

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AND ONE AT 8:00, "THE POINT."

THEY WERE THE SECOND AND THIRD HIGHEST RATED SHOWS AT THE NETWORK BEHIND "LARRY KING."

LARRY KING HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE INDUSTRY LEADER OVER THERE.

LARRY IS LARRY, AND I LOVE LARRY.

SO BECAUSE I HAD THE SECOND AND THIRD HIGHEST RATED SHOW, WHILE THEY WERE GETTING RID OF ALL MY FRIENDS, THEY WERE BEING WAY TOO NICE TO ME IN SOME WAYS.

WHEN I SAID I WAS GOING TO LEAVE, I CALLED ROGER AILES AT FOX, COLD CALLED HIM AND SAID, CAN I COME SEE YOU?

I WENT UP THERE AND MET HIM, AND WE PRETTY MUCH CUT A DEAL ON A HANDSHAKE.

HE WAS THAT STRAIGHTFORWARD.

ANYWAY, WHEN I WENT BACK AND TOLD CNN, MY CONTRACT WAS UP IN A COUPLE OF MONTHS AFTER THAT, CNN STARTED THROWING MORE MONEY AT ME AFTER THEY PLED POVERTY WITH ALL MY FRIENDS.

I FOUND IT ACTUALLY INSULTING.

AND WHEN YOU'RE AN ANCHOR AT A NETWORK, YOU MAKE SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF MONEY.

THEY ARE NOT GOING TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE BY CHANGING YOUR INCOME SIGNIFICANTLY.

I JUST DIDN'T LIKE IT.

AND OVER AT FOX, I KNEW WHO MY BOSS WAS GOING TO BE.

I KNEW IT WOULD BE ROGER AILES.

I KNEW THERE WOULD BE TIMES MAYBE WHEN ROGER AND I WE

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WOULDN'T AGREE, BUT AT LEAST I KNEW WHO HE WAS.

I LIKED IT.

I WENT BACK TO CNN -- I ACTUALLY LEFT FOR LESS MONEY WHEN I WENT TO FOX.

THEY TOLD ME AT CNN, SOME PEOPLE SAID I WAS GOING TO RUIN MY CAREER BY GOING TO FOX.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT WAS ALL ABOUT, BUT ANYWAY.

SO I JUMPED, AND I WENT TO FOX.

NEVER LOOKED BACK.

LEFT BEHIND VERY TALENTED JOURNALISTS AT CNN, STILL MY FRIENDS.

I LEFT BEHIND A CORPORATE ENVIRONMENT THAT JUST WASN'T FUN ANYMORE.

IT JUST WASN'T FUN.

SO I THINK THAT'S WHY I LEFT.

>>Rob Lorei: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ATTITUDE OR THE FEELING AT CNN AND WHAT GOES ON AT FOX?

A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK THAT FOX IS JUST AN ARM OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

>>Greta Van Susteren: WELL, IF YOU LOOK AT FOX -- A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK WE SIT IN SOME DARK ROOM AND DRINK THE KOOL-AID.

WE DON'T.

I THINK YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT FOX A LITTLE BIT LIKE THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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YOU HAVE YOUR EDITORIAL PAGE, AND WE HAVE THE SEAN HANNITYS
AND THE BILL O'REILLYS WHO ARE VERY LOUD IN TERMS OF THEY
ARE WELL KNOWN, AND THEN YOU HAVE OUR NEWS GATHERERS.

WE HAVE WORLD-CLASS JOURNALISTS.

JENNIFER GRIFFIN, HARVARD TRAINED, FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT,
NOW PENTAGON CORRESPONDENT.

WE'VE GOT BRET BARRETT.

WHEN YOU LOOK AT OUR NEWS GATHERERS, WE HAVE NEWS GATHERERS
WHO ARE STRAIGHT DOWN THE ROAD.

NO ONE IS COMPLAINING ABOUT THE NEWS GATHERING.

THESE ARE WORLD-CLASS -- AT LEAST IN MY VIEW -- REPORTERS.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CNN AND FOX IS MANAGEMENT.

AND, OF COURSE, OUR, QUOTE, EDITORIAL PAGE.

THE FACT THAT WE HAVE SEAN AND BILL O'REILLY.

PEOPLE SEEM TO IDENTIFY OUR ENTIRE NETWORK BY THOSE.

AND THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE WHO ALSO SKEW CONSERVATIVE ON THE
NETWORKS.

SO I THINK THAT'S SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT.

IN TERMS OF MY JOB, IT'S NO DIFFERENT, EXCEPT I KNOW WHO MY
BOSS IS.

WHEN I WAS AT CNN, NOT ONCE IN THOSE TEN YEARS DID ANYONE
EVER TELL ME WHAT TO DO OR NOT TO DO OR WHAT TO SAY OR WHAT
NOT TO SAY ON CNN.

AT FOX, IT'S HAPPENED ONCE.

YOU KNOW WHAT IT WAS?

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YOU'LL LIKE THIS.

ELECTION 2004, I WORKED PRIMARILY OUT OF D.C.

ROGER AILES, WHO WORKS OUT OF NEW YORK WHO IS THE CEO, WAS COMING OUT OF THE FOX D.C. BUREAU AS I WAS ENTERING ONE AFTERNOON.

ROGER SAYS TO ME, DON'T REPORT THAT HOWARD DEAN'S SON WAS JUST ARRESTED FOR STEALING BEER OR SOMETHING FROM A COUNTRY CLUB IN VERMONT.

AND I SAID, I WASN'T PLANNING ON IT, BUT -- AND I SAID, BUT WHY?

HE SAID BECAUSE YOU'LL RUIN HIS LIFE.

EVERY KID DOES IT, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

SO THE ONLY, QUOTE, TIME I'VE EVER BEEN TOLD NOT TO DO SOMETHING WAS BY THE CEO, AND IT WAS TO PROTECT A KID WHO IS A DEMOCRAT.

SO IT'S LIKE, YOU KNOW, SO THE POINT OF THE STORY IS, NO ONE TELLS ME WHAT TO SAY OR DO, BUT -- AND THEY DIDN'T AT CNN EITHER, ALTHOUGH PEOPLE HAVE THIS FIXED IDEA THAT, YOU KNOW, THAT SOMEONE MIGHT BE.

BUT, I WILL CONCEDE THAT IT IS TRUE THAT MANY OF MY COLLEAGUES ARE CONSERVATIVE, AND THEY ARE MAKING THEIR OWN JUDGMENTS WHAT THEY SAY, THEIR CONSERVATIVE JUDGMENTS, NOT BASED ON ROGER AILES, BUT BASED ON WHAT THEY WANT TO DO.

>>Rob Lorei: YOU'RE THE -- I THINK IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT YOU ARE THE MOST PROMINENT LIBERAL OR MODERATE, WHAT DO YOU LIKE

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TO CALL YOURSELF, LIBERAL, MODERATE, ON FOX?

>>Greta Van Susteren: REASONABLE.

>>Rob Lorei: RUPERT MURDOCH, 2003, TESTIFYING BEFORE
CONGRESS NAMED YOU AS ONE OF TWO LIBERALS.

>>Greta Van Susteren: I THINK HE MISPRONOUNCED MY NAME I'M
TOLD.

DIDN'T GET MY NAME RIGHT.

YEAH, YOU KNOW.

BUT, YEAH, I WILL TELL YOU THIS, SOME TOPICS I'M
CONSERVATIVE ABOUT, WHICH -- CONSERVATIVE ON EDUCATION.

I MEAN, I'M VERY CONSERVATIVE WITH RESPECT TO READING,
WRITING AND ARITHMETIC, AND MAKE SURE THAT PEOPLE -- YOU
KNOW, YOUNG PEOPLE CAN COMPETE.

>>Rob Lorei: DEATH PENALTY?

>>Greta Van Susteren: OPPOSED TO IT EXCEPT -- EXCEPT I HAVE
NO PROBLEM WITH IT IN THE CASE OF TIMOTHY McVEIGH.

I WATCHED THAT TRIAL.

HE CASED THE JOINT SIX MONTHS EARLIER.

HE KNEW THAT THERE WERE A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THERE.

THERE WAS A DAY CARE CENTER IN THERE.

HE KILLED 168 PEOPLE.

THAT WAS PLANNED.

HE HAD A 12 MILLION-DOLLAR DEFENSE.

NOW, I'M A DEFENSE ATTORNEY.

MOST PEOPLE ON DEATH PENALTY CASES GET A 50-CENT DEFENSE.

AND IT IS APPALLING THAT WE GIVE PEOPLE TRIALS LIKE THAT.

APPALLING.

TO EXECUTE THEM IS SO OUTRAGEOUS.

BUT TIMOTHY McVEIGH DID THE MOST UNTHINKABLE CRIME.

PLANNED IT, KNEW IT, AND HE HAD A GREAT DEFENSE.

AND I THINK THAT HIS EXECUTION MAY HAVE SENT THE STATEMENT.

NOW IT'S LIKE A TREADMILL.

I MEAN, SO THEY DON'T MEAN ANYTHING TO ANYBODY.

AND OUR SYSTEM IS DEPLORABLE.

INNOCENT PEOPLE GET CONVICTED OFTEN.

WE KNOW THE DNA EXONERATIONS ARE OVER 120.

EXONERATIONS ON DEATH ROW.

SO THAT'S MY POSITION ON IT.

>>Rob Lorei: HOW DO YOU THINK THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION HAS

DONE ON THE FOURTH AMENDMENT AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

>>Greta Van Susteren: I MEAN, I'M IN FAVOR OF THE FOURTH

AMENDMENT.

I THINK THEY'VE RESTRICTED.

>>Rob Lorei: IS IT IN DANGER BECAUSE OF WHAT THE BUSH

ADMINISTRATION HAS DONE?

>>Greta Van Susteren: IN DANGER, LOOK, THINGS ARE VERY

CYCLICAL.

I DON'T AGREE, YOU KNOW, OF A LOT OF WIRETAPPING.

THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS -- NAME A SPECIFIC THING, AND I'LL

TELL YOU WHAT I THINK ABOUT IT.

>>Rob Lorei: SPYING ON QUAKERS IN SOUTH FLORIDA.

>>Greta Van Susteren: DON'T AGREE WITH THAT.

>>Rob Lorei: TAPPING PHONES.

>>Greta Van Susteren: WHAT PHONES?

>>Rob Lorei: WHOLESALE TAPPING OUT OF SAN FRANCISCO AT THE AT&T OFFICE.

>>Greta Van Susteren: I THINK THAT ALL WIRETAPS SHOULD GO THROUGH COURTS AND BE AUTHORIZED BY WARRANTS SO THAT WE HAVE AN INTERVENTION BY A JUDICIAL AUTHORITY, WHICH IS THE WAY THAT MOST -- I DON'T THINK THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO WITHOUT GOING THROUGH IT.

NOW, THERE HAVE BEEN COMPLAINTS BY SOME THAT THE FEDERAL COURTS WOULD SOMEHOW INHIBIT WIRETAPPING THAT WOULD ENDANGER OUR NATIONAL SECURITY, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT.

I THINK YOU CAN GO TO A FEDERAL JUDGE IN A SECOND AND GET A WARRANT SIGNED.

IT'S BEEN DONE AGAINST MY CLIENTS MANY TIMES.

SO I'M IN FAVOR OF GETTING WARRANTS TO DO THAT.

>>Rob Lorei: THESE MILITARY TRIBUNALS AT GUANTANAMO.

>>Greta Van Susteren: THAT'S A MORE DIFFICULT QUESTION, BUT I THINK THEY OUGHT TO HAVE PROMPT DUE PROCESS.

>>Rob Lorei: DOES THAT INCLUDE LAWYERS OR --

>>Greta Van Susteren: ABSOLUTELY.

ARE YOU KIDDING?

I ADMIRE MILITARY LAWYERS, THE ONES THAT REPRESENT DEFENDANTS.

BECAUSE THEY ARE PUTTING THEIR CAREERS ON THE LINE.

YOU REPRESENT SOMEONE WHO IS CONSIDERED AN ENEMY OF THE NATION, AND YOU DO THAT BECAUSE THAT'S YOUR JOB AS A LAWYER, AS AN OFFICER IN THE MILITARY, AND YOU ARE ALSO PUTTING YOUR CAREER AT RISK.

I ADMIRE THOSE PEOPLE.

I ADMIRE THOSE DEFENSE LAWYERS PROBABLY MORE THAN ANY OTHER DEFENSE LAWYERS.

>>Rob Lorei: ONE MORE QUESTION ON THAT. EXTRAORDINARY RENDITIONS.

KIDNAPPING PEOPLE FROM THEIR HOME COMPANIES, FLYING THEM SOMEWHERE ELSE MAYBE TO BE TORTURED IN SYRIA, OR SOME OTHER COUNTRY.

>>Greta Van Susteren: LET'S MAKE SOMETHING VERY PLAIN.

I'M VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.

VERY MUCH IN FAVOR.

I'M LIKE SENATOR JOHN McCAIN IN THAT I DON'T BELIEVE IN TORTURE, AND I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD TRY TO BYPASS ANY OF OUR FINE TRADITIONS.

I THINK THAT WE CAN GET OUR ENEMIES.

I THINK WE CAN PROTECT OUR COUNTRY BY BEING VERY AGGRESSIVE WITH DOING THINGS WITH DUE PROCESS.

DUE PROCESS IS IN THE CONSTITUTION.

DUE PROCESS IS WHAT WE'VE DONE FOR CENTURIES.

AND I'M IN FAVOR OF THAT.

YOU KNOW WHAT, IT'S GOING TO BE USED AGAINST US.

SENATOR JOHN McCAIN, A CONSERVATIVE, A REPUBLICAN, IS, YOU
KNOW -- THAT'S WHAT HE THINKS.

SO WHEN I TELL YOU THAT I'M CONSERVATIVE IN SOME WAYS AND
LIBERAL IN OTHERS, THAT MIGHT BE A GOOD EXAMPLE.

I ACTUALLY -- I'M -- I BELIEVE IN THE CONSTITUTION.

AND I THINK WE CAN WIN.

I THINK WE CAN BE SAFE USING THE CONSTITUTION.

>>Rob Lorei: AT 10:00 AT NIGHT IN THE EASTERN TIME ZONE, YOU
HAVE THE NUMBER ONE RATED SHOW.

>>Greta Van Susteren: YEAH, ISN'T THAT FUN?

THAT'S FUN, ISN'T IT?

>>Rob Lorei: AND YOUR SHOW CONSISTS A LOT OF TIMES --
FORGIVE ME FOR SAYING THIS -- NATALEE HOLLOWAY, HORRIBLE
CASE, YOUNG WOMAN DISAPPEARS IN ARUBA.

WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.

YOU'VE BEEN COVERING THAT STORY PERHAPS MORE THAN ANY OTHER
JOURNALIST IN THE COUNTRY.

>>Greta Van Susteren: I'M NOT GIVING UP.

>>Rob Lorei: WHY?

>>Greta Van Susteren: WHY?

IT'S FUNNY THESE STORIES, PEOPLE BEING CRITICAL OF ME FOR
DOING IT. BUT WHEN WE DO THESE STORIES, AND LET'S TAKE --

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IT'S A PERFECT EXAMPLE. THE FIRST TIME I DID NATALEE HOLLOWAY, I REALLY BELIEVED THAT WAS A ONE-NIGHT STORY. I THOUGHT SHE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK, HANGING OUT WITH HER FRIENDS, SHOW UP ON THE ISLAND, CALL HOME FOR ANOTHER TICKET BECAUSE SHE MISSED HER FLIGHT. I THOUGHT THAT'S WHAT IT WAS. WELL, SHE DIDN'T. WE THEN WENT OVER THERE, AND WE STARTED LOOKING AT IT. I GOT TO KNOW THE FAMILY. I GOT TO KNOW HER FRIENDS. YOU BEGIN TO -- WHAT -- YOU DO YOUR JOB AS A JOURNALIST, YOU BEGIN TO FEEL THE PAIN OF PARENTS MISSING A CHILD. BESIDES THE FACT THAT I GENUINELY WANTED TO GET THE ANSWERS, AND I'M CURIOUS, AND I LIKE HER PARENTS. AND I THOUGHT I HAD THE -- YOU KNOW, THE POWER OF THE MEDIA TO HELP FACILITATE THAT. I ALSO FOUND IT FASCINATING. I LEARNED ABOUT DUTCH LAW. I JUST LEARNED A TON OF THINGS. ACTUALLY, I FOUND IT FASCINATING. MORE THAN THAT, I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO FIND SOME ANSWERS FOR THEM.

>>Rob Lorei: I WAS IN LONDON RECENTLY, AND THE FOX NEWS VERSION OVER THERE, SKY NEWS, LED EVERY ONE OF ITS NEWSCAST WITH THIS TRAGIC CASE OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF A

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FOUR-YEAR-OLD GIRL IN PORTUGAL.

SHE WAS WITH HER PARENTS.

YOU'RE COVERING THAT STORY AS WELL.

WHAT I WONDER IS, DOES FOX TELL YOU THIS IS GOOD FOR RATINGS, YOU SHOULD LEAD WITH THESE STORIES?

I GO TO LONDON, I SEE THE SAME KIND OF STORIES I SEE HERE IN THE U.S. ON FOX.

>>Greta Van Susteren: I'M TELLING YOU, FOX HAS NEVER, EVER TOLD ME ANYTHING TO DO.

THEY GIVE US A BUDGET AND -- IF YOU'RE CRITICAL OF OUR 10:00 SHOW, BLAME ME.

BECAUSE YOU KNOW WHAT, THE BUCK STOPS WITH ME, YOU KNOW, WITH MY SENIOR PRODUCER. AND ALSO, WE'RE ACTUALLY -- WE'RE MORE OF A TEAM EFFORT, AND WE DON'T HAVE ANY DICTATORS ON OUR STAFF. WE BLAME THE TEN OF US.

WE CHOOSE OUR OWN STORIES, AND WE DO THEM HOW WE WANT.

I'M GRATEFUL TO FOX THAT FOX HAS NEVER SAID NO TO ME ON BUDGETS.

IN THIS BUSINESS OF, YOU KNOW, SATELLITE COSTS ARE EXPENSIVE.

TRAVEL, EVERYTHING.

FOX HAS NEVER SAID NO.

BUT IN TERMS OF THE CONTENT, THAT'S MINE.

NOW, I WILL TELL YOU ONE LITTLE TRICK OF THE TRADE IS THAT I KNOW WHAT STORIES ARE LIKELY TO BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTING

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TO VIEWERS.

I KNOW WHAT THE NUMBERS ARE.

I KNOW WHAT THE RATINGS ARE.

AND IF THERE'S SOMETHING THAT I REALLY WANT TO DO, LIKE
THERE WAS AN INTERESTING STORY ABOUT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF
THE UNITED STATES GONZALES, WHEN HE WAS WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL
MAKING A LATE-NIGHT TRIP TO GEORGE WASHINGTON HOSPITAL WHEN
ATTORNEY GENERAL ASHCROFT -- THEN ATTORNEY GENERAL ASHCROFT
WAS IN INTENSIVE CARE.

I KNEW THAT WAS A STORY THAT MIGHT NOT -- THERE'S NO VIDEO
FOR IT.

IT'S HARD TO KEEP PEOPLE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THAT.
SO YOU PUT, LIKE, SOME STORIES ON EITHER SIDE OF IT THAT YOU
KNOW WILL -- PEOPLE WILL STICK AROUND FOR SO THEY HEAR THE
ONE IN THE MIDDLE.

THERE ARE LITTLE TRICKS OF THE TRADE.

FOR THE MOST PART -- I MEAN, THAT WAS MY DECISION.

BUT SO -- I MEAN, PEOPLE HAVE THIS IDEA THAT -- YOU KNOW,
I'M -- YOU KNOW, IT'S PECULIAR TO ME, BECAUSE I'M ON THE
INSIDE.

BUT PEOPLE HAVE THIS IDEA, BECAUSE A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T
LIKE FOX THAT -- WE'RE GETTING ALL THIS COMMAND INFLUENCE,
SWEAR -- NOBODY HAS TOLD ME ANYTHING.

>>Rob Lorei: ONE MORE QUESTION ABOUT THAT, THOUGH, IS OUR
SOCIETY IN DANGER OF FOCUSING SO MUCH ON CELEBRITIES AND

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SENSATIONAL DISAPPEARANCES THAT WE'VE GOT AN ADDICTION TO CELEBRITY THAT PUSHES OUT STORIES ON HEALTH CARE, THE ENVIRONMENT, PUSHES OUT STORIES ON THE IRAQ WAR, THE OTHER BIG STORIES THAT WE SHOULD BE PAYING ATTENTION TO?

>>Greta Van Susteren: I THINK THAT'S PROBABLY TRUE IN PART. I MEAN, I THINK THAT'S A FAIR STATEMENT.

THE CELEBRITIES, YOU KNOW, AND CABLE NEWS IS NOT THE ONLY ONE.

TAKE ANNA NICOLE SMITH ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE NEW YORK TIMES, WASHINGTON POST, PROBABLY THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES AND TAMPA TRIBUNE MIGHT HAVE DONE STUFF, TOO, THE WAY I SORT OF JUSTIFY IT IN MY OWN MIND, ONE WAY, BESIDE THE FACT THAT I HAPPEN TO FIND THE LEGAL STORIES INTERESTING.

THAT'S MY TRAINING AND MY BACKGROUND, IS I BET THERE ARE A FEW PEOPLE OUT THERE AFTER WATCHING ANNA NICOLE SMITH THINK, YOU KNOW, I'M GOING TO PLAN FOR WHAT HAPPENS TO MY REMAINS AFTER I DIE SO THAT MY FAMILY IS NOT FIGHTING OVER IT.

I SUSPECT THOSE LITTLE THINGS DO -- SO I DON'T THINK IT'S WITHOUT ANY SOCIAL MERIT AT ALL.

AS FOR THE WAR, I DON'T KNOW WHAT MORE WE CAN SAY ABOUT THIS WAR.

YOU KNOW, YOU CAN SEE THE NUMBERS, THE POLL NUMBERS.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE NOT BEHIND THIS WAR ANYMORE.

I MEAN, I DON'T THINK -- I DON'T KNOW WHAT MORE WE COULD DO TO SORT OF RAISE THE ISSUE.

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IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T THINK IT'S IMPORTANT.

IF, FOR INSTANCE, THERE WAS NO ONE REPORTING ON IT IN THE 23
HOURS LEADING UP TO MY SHOW AT 10:00, I MIGHT PROGRAM
DIFFERENTLY.

ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT, YOU KNOW, IS
WHAT HAS PRECEDED US.

AND IF PEOPLE WEREN'T REPORTING ON THESE OTHER STORIES, I
WOULD REPORT ON THEM.

BUT THEY ARE CERTAINLY IMPORTANT STORIES.

HEALTH CARE, I CAN'T THINK OF A MORE IMPORTANT STORY.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

HOW DO WE POUND OUR GOVERNMENT INTO SAYING THIS IS A CRISIS?

YOU LISTEN TO WHAT THE CANDIDATES ARE SAYING IN THIS NEXT
ELECTION TERM.

WE'VE ALREADY SEEN SOME OF THE DEBATES.

THEY AT LEAST SAY THEY RECOGNIZE IT.

THEY ARE THE ONES IN A POSITION TO DO IT.

I HOPE THEY DO DO SOMETHING.

IF THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN DO TO PROD THEM, I'LL BE HAPPY
TO.

>>Rob Lorei: WE HAVE A MINUTE LEFT.

I WANTED TO ASK YOU THIS QUESTION EARLIER.

YOU ARE ONE OF THE FEW WOMEN IN PRIME TIME.

>>Greta Van Susteren: YES, I AM ONE OF THE WOMEN.

AND WHY AM I STILL -- I SET OUT TO BE A LAWYER.

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I WATCHED PERRY MASON AS A KID.

I WANTED TO BE A LAWYER.

WHEN I GRADUATED LAW SCHOOL, I HUNG OUT A SHINGLE LIKE YOU DO IN APPLETON, WISCONSIN. I DIDN'T GO TO ONE OF THE WALL STREET FIRMS LIKE MY FRIENDS. AND HOW I ENDED UP ON TV, GO FIGURE.

AND WHY AM I STILL STANDING?

I DIDN'T KNOW MY SHELF LIFE -- IN FACT, WHEN I WAS AT CNN WHEN I FIRST STARTED, I THOUGHT MY SHELF LIFE, SIX WEEKS, I'M NOT THE GLAMOROUS TYPE.

I HAVE NO EXPLANATION.

>>Rob Lorei: WHY ARE THERE SO FEW WOMEN IN PRIME TIME ON CABLE?

>>Greta Van Susteren: I HAVE NO IDEA.

WHY ARE THERE ONLY 16% MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS OR SOMETHING THAT ARE WOMEN?

I DON'T KNOW.

I HAVE NO IDEA.

I'M ALL FOR MORE WOMEN.

YOU KNOW, AND I THINK WE COULD USE MORE.

SO I'D LOVE TO SEE MORE.

BUT YOU'RE RIGHT.

AND THERE ARE RUMORS THAT THE OTHER NETWORKS ARE GOING TO, YOU KNOW, THAT THERE WILL BE ANOTHER WOMAN WHO WILL BE CHANGING JOBS SOON, SO IT WILL BE EVEN LESS.

>>Rob Lorei: GRETA, THANK YOU SO MUCH.

THANKS FOR COMING BY.

>>Greta Van Susteren: THANK YOU.

IT WAS FUN.

>>Rob Lorei: GREAT TO HAVE YOU HERE.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US, FOX NEWS CHANNEL HOST GRETA VAN
SUSTEREN HAS BEEN OUR GUEST FOR THIS "FLORIDA THIS WEEK
SPECIAL INTERVIEW."

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON THIS PROGRAM, YOU CAN WRITE
US AT FTW@WEDU.ORG OR CALL OUR TOLL FREE LINE, WHICH IS
800-335-9338.

FOR WEDU, I'M ROB LOREI.

THANKS A LOT FOR WATCHING.

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