General Information

Source: NBC Today Show  
Creator: Katie Couric/Anne Thompson  
Event Date: 07/21/1999  
Air/Publish Date: 07/21/1999

Resource Type: Video News Report  
Copyright: NBCUniversal Media, LLC.  
Copyright Date: 1999  
Clip Length: 00:02:54

Description

NBC's Anne Thompson reports on the relentless press coverage after the death of John F. Kennedy, Jr., and how it's affecting the residents of Hyannisport, Massachusetts.

Keywords

John F. Kennedy Jr., JFK Jr., Media Frenzy, Generating Ratings, Privacy, Kennedys, Cameras, Network Coverage, International Media, Plane Crash, Accident, National Transportation Safety Board, NTSB, Jim Hall, Ted Kennedy, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, Edward Schlossberg, Hyannisport, Cindy Walker

Citation

MLA
"Media Frenzy Over the Sudden Death of JFK Jr." Anne Thompson, correspondent. NBC Today Show.
KATIE COURIC, co-host:
The tragedy that began to unfold last Saturday has attracted an enormous amount of media attention. John F. Kennedy, Jr. was no stranger to the spotlight, but is the frenzy at the Kennedy compound over the top? Here's NBC's Anne Thompson.
ANNE THOMPSON reporting:
Hyannisport, a small village on Nantucket Sound. From some vantage points, reminiscent of Ireland. There's one store, a tiny little post office. It's a peaceful place. But not this week.

Unidentified Man: We don't have an accurate count about the line of cameras.
THOMPSON: They are everywhere--reporters and cameras broadcasting to America and the world, tethered to giant, whirring satellite trucks. Locals say--and believe me, they are counting--there are at least 35 of these mechanical monsters lining this village that likes its 1950s character.

Ms. CINDY WALKER: You catapulted us to the 21st century. Generators at our front door, cell phones in our faces, cameras every time you look around. We didn't have this kind of devastation when Hurricane Bob hit.

THOMPSON: Even the water is no safe harbor. Photographers follow their prey by boat, lurk on the beach and on the jetties. Like sea gulls, sometimes shooed away by police.
Unidentified Police Officer: I think they've been very good. They've been--everything we've asked them to do, they've complied with all our requests.

THOMPSON: The hardest to control, police say, still photographers with long lenses and aggressive attitudes. After five days of relentless coverage, everybody from neighbors to investigators have opinions about the press.
Mr. JIM HALL (NTSB Chairman): I know that the competition in the news business is fierce. We see that from the number of individuals that are represented here and the number of cameras that we are looking out at.
Unidentified Woman: I think the press coverage is--has been very tasteful and respectful. And there's a--there's a quietness.

Unidentified Girl: We're trying to do a hike and we can't even get around because there's too many news cameras.

THOMPSON: Even at night, there's no escape. The trucks drown out the sound of the ocean and cars still have a tough time getting through. And it's not any better on Long Island at Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg's home. But media attention is not new to Hyannisport. It's endured it for nearly 40 years, from the election of President Kennedy to the death of Michael Kennedy. But locals say they've never seen anything like this. And Cindy Walker is out of patience.

Ms. WALKER: And when is enough enough? Enough was two days ago.

THOMPSON: Most people here just want the press to leave them and the Kennedys alone. For TODAY, Anne Thompson, NBC News, Hyannisport.