

Exercise 1: Evaluating Good and Bad Leads

INSTRUCTIONS: Critically evaluate the following leads. Select the best leads and explain why they are effective. In addition, point out the flaws in the remaining leads. As you evaluate the leads, look for lessons—"do's and don'ts"—that you can apply to your own work.

1. A Baptist minister was convicted of drunken driving Tuesday and sentenced to 30 days in jail after a jury saw a police video of his failed sobriety test.
2. Police Chief Barry Kopperud is concerned about juvenile crime in the city.
3. During a press conference in her office at 8 a.m. today, Mayor Sabrina Datolli spoke about the city's need for more parks.
4. With no debate, the City Council passed an ordinance Thursday to help fight crime by installing more street lights in three neighborhoods.
5. Loans become popular way for students to conquer costs of college.
6. The campus is home to a variety of stray and wild animals.
7. Four years ago AIDS victim Edwin Jimenez, 22, learned he had only six months to live.
8. Do not cross off Dec. 1 in your countdown toward Christmas. Instead, make plans to attend World AIDS Day on the Campus Green.
9. A panel of seven local journalism professionals discussed important media issues, including the role of the press, at the university Tuesday.
10. The week of Homecoming will be filled with numerous activities and freebies for students.
11. The right to bear arms may soon be taken away from anyone who steps onto public school grounds in the city.
12. A teen-age driver lost control of her car Tuesday night, paralyzing herself and killing a passenger. A 16-year-old riding in the back seat walked away only scratched and bruised.
13. Around 3 p.m. Friday a bank on Hillcrest Avenue was the scene of a daring daylight robbery and shooting.
14. Courses taught online offer an alternative to the traditional college classroom learning experience.
15. One year ago an accrediting agency criticized the college for using too many adjuncts (part-time faculty members). Since then, the college has reduced its number of adjuncts from 769 to 749.
16. Fred's restaurant at 1550 W. Colonial Drive was the location of a burglary Monday afternoon.
17. A 15-year-old boy slipped off the trunk of a moving car. His head hit asphalt and left a stain of blood on the spot. The boy was dead.
18. Spray-painted pitch forks and crowns are appearing on walls throughout the city. The symbols are trademarks of the Crips, a Los Angeles-based gang with members across the nation.

Exercise 2: Writing Leads

INSTRUCTIONS: Follow the instructions for each of the sections below.

Condensing Lengthy Leads

Condense each of these leads to no more than two typed lines, or about 20 words.

1. Roger Datolli, 67, of 845 Conway Road, a retired attorney and husband of Mayor Sabrina Datolli, who is serving her fourth term as mayor, was injured in a three-vehicle accident Thursday afternoon around 3:20 p.m. at the intersection of Warren and Davidson avenues, suffering a broken leg and several broken ribs when the car he was driving was struck broadside by a pickup truck driven by Jerry R. Harris, 31, of 2245 Broadway Ave., and then was pushed into the path of another vehicle.
2. The city Planning and Zoning Commission met Thursday for its regularly scheduled meeting and voted 3-2 to approve a joint plan by the city's Council of Government and the local Chamber of Commerce to renovate the core downtown business district by building a convention center and sports arena complex that will serve as a site for business meetings and conferences as well as possibly host a minor league hockey team on the Olympic-size ice rink planned for the site.

Using The Proper Sentence Structure

Rewrite the following leads, using the normal word order: subject, verb, direct object. Avoid starting the leads with a long clause or phrase. You may want to divide some of the leads into several sentences or paragraphs. Correct all errors.

1. Wondering whether or not it was legally possible and if they could muster enough votes to support their desire to see changes implemented in the downtown historic section of the city, city council members Sandra Gandolf and Alice Cyler at the regular monthly city council meeting raised the issue of having the city's planning and zoning commission look into the possibility of creating a local board to oversee changes to buildings within the six-block downtown historic district.
2. Because the victim contributed in large measure to his own death by refusing medical attention that might have saved his life after the incident, James K. Arico, the 47-year-old man accused of stabbing him in the chest during an argument seven months ago, was allowed to plead guilty to assault today and was sentenced to six months in the county jail. He had been charged with murder.

Emphasizing The News

Rewrite the following leads, emphasizing the news, not the attribution. Limit the attributions to a few words and place them at the end, not the beginning, of the leads.

1. At a news conference held at the Department of Energy in Washington, D.C., Monday afternoon the head of the agency told reporters that the Senate's approval of a plan to dump nuclear waste material in the Nevada desert near Las Vegas will provide a safe haven for more than 77,000 tons of radioactive waste.
2. Tracy Tibitts, Lisa Drolshagen and Dorothy Brayton, all members of the Delta Delta Delta sorority at Iowa State University, appeared in a local courtroom this morning and testified that the defendant, Steven House, appeared drunk when he got into his car to leave the party moments before he struck and killed the pedestrian.

Combining Multisentence Leads

Rewrite each of the following leads in a single sentence, correcting errors if necessary.

1. Mildred Berg, the former president of City College, is a professor of economics at the college now. Berg got a call Monday from David DeBecker, president of the Harrison County Board of

Education. BeDecker offered Berg the job of superintendent of Harrison County Schools, a position Berg interviewed for two months ago.

2. At 10:41 a.m., two police detectives saw two men enter Barneys Liquor Mart in the Oak Hill Shopping Center. The shopping center is located in the 1300 block of Oak Hill Avenue. The men were acting suspiciously. When the detectives entered the store to investigate, they saw one of the men pointing a gun at the clerk and the other taking money from the register. The officers pulled their weapons and shot the man with the gun. There have been seven robberies at the shopping center in the past month.

Stressing The Unusual

Write only the lead for each of the following stories, correcting errors if necessary.

1. Daniel J. Silverbach is a policeman in your community. Last year, because of his heroic rescue of seven persons held at gunpoint during a robbery, Police Chief Barry Kopperud named him the departments Police Officer of the Year. Kopperud fired Silverbach when he reported for duty at 7 a.m. today. The department adopted certain grooming standards, and Kopperud said Silverbachs mustache was a quarter inch too long and his sideburns a half inch too long, and he refused to trim them. Kopperud added that he warned Silverbach a month ago to trim his hair, then ordered him to do so at the first of last week. He fired him for failing to obey the order of a superior officer.
2. Terri Snow of 3418 Hazel St. is a nurse at Mercy Hospital. She is married to Dale Snow, a former eighth-grade science teacher at Mays Junior High School. Snow was crippled after a diving accident three years ago, when his arms and legs were paralyzed. He met his wife at the hospital, where he was a patient, and they were married last month. Now state officials have suggested that they get a divorce. Before his marriage, Snow received \$345 a month from the states Department of Social Services and a monthly \$792 federal Supplemental Security Income payment. Because of his wife's income, he is no longer eligible for the payments, and the couple says without the payments they cannot afford to pay for Snows continuing medical treatments and special diet. State officials have advised them that Snow will again become eligible for the aid if they get a divorce. The officials refused to talk to reporters, however.
3. Cremation is rising in popularity. Nearly 30 percent of the people who die in your state are now cremated. The Funeral Directors Association in your state met at noon yesterday and discussed a growing problem. The ashes of nearly 50 percent of those people they cremate are never claimed by family members, friends or anyone else, so they are stored in the funeral homes, and the directors want to dispose of them but are uncertain of their legal right to do so. They voted to ask the state legislature to pass a bill that spells out disposal procedures. The bill they propose would require funeral homes to make every effort to settle with the family of the deceased the desired disposal method. Families would have up to 90 days to pick up the remains or to specify what they want done with them. After 90 days, the funeral homes would be free to get rid of them either by burying them, even in a common container (in a properly designated cemetery) or by scattering them at sea or in a garden, forest or pond.
4. A home at 2481 Santana Avenue was burglarized between the hours of 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. yesterday afternoon. The owner of the home is Dorothy R. Elam, a sixth-grade teacher at Madison Elementary School. She said no one was home at the time. Neighbors said they saw a truck parked in the driveway but thought some repairmen were working at the home. The total loss is estimated at in excess of \$8,000. The items stolen from the home include a color television, a videocassette recorder, stereo, sewing machine, computer, 2 pistols and many small kitchen appliances. Also, a stamp collection valued at about \$1,000, some clothes, silverware and lawn tools were taken. Roger A. Elam, Mrs. Elams husband, died 2 days ago. The robbery occurred while she was attending his funeral at 2:30 p.m. yesterday at the Powell Funeral Chapel, 620 North Park Avenue. Elam died of cancer after a long illness.
5. Gladys Anne Riggs is 81 years old. Her husband, George, died 10 years ago. She is retired and normally receives about \$800 a month in Social Security benefits. She complains she has not received her benefits for the past 4 months. When she inquired as to the reasons for the troubles, officials at a Social Security office in your city today explained that shes dead. Four months ago, her check was returned and marked "deceased," so all her benefits were canceled. Because of the error, Mrs. Riggs fears that her check for next month may also be

late, and she says she needs the money to buy food and to pay her rent. She lives alone in a one-bedroom apartment and says she has already fallen behind in her rent and is afraid she will be evicted. Social Security officials said that they will correct the problem as soon as possible and that she will receive a check for all the benefits she has missed during the past 4 months, but that it may take several weeks to issue the check. They suggested that she apply for welfare until the check arrives.

Localizing Your Lead

Write only the lead for each of the following stories, correcting errors if necessary.

1. The state Department of Transportation today announced plans for next year. It will spend a total of \$418 million to build new roads and to improve old ones. The amount represents a \$14.5 million increase over last years total. The money comes from a state gasoline tax amounting to 4 cents per gallon sold. The department allocates the money on the basis of need, with the most congested and dangerous areas receiving the most help. Included in the allocations for next year are \$17.8 million, allocated to widen from two to four lanes state highway 17-92, which runs through the southeastern part of your city for a distance of approximately three miles. Construction work on the highway project is expected to begin in four months and to be completed within one and one-half years.
2. Three persons have been killed in the crash of a single-engine plane. Police have identified the victims as Mr. and Mrs. Joel Skurow of Atlanta, Georgia, and Melville Skurow of 4138 Hennessy Court in your community. Joel and Melville are brothers. The plane, flown by Joel, crashed on the outskirts of Atlanta at 7:30 a.m. today. Cause of the crash is unknown. No one on the ground was injured. Friends said Melville Skurow was visiting his brother, an attorney in Atlanta. Skurow is a carpenter and was thirty-seven years of age. The plane, valued at \$34,800, was fully insured.
3. The annual Conference of U.S. Mayors is being held in New York City this week. Mayors from throughout the United States hold an annual convention to discuss problems of mutual interest. At the closing session today they elected their officers for the forthcoming year, and they elected your mayor, Sabrina Datolli, first vice president. Approximately 1,460 mayors were in attendance at the convention, which next year will be held in Las Vegas.

Updating Your Lead

Write only the lead for each of the following stories, correcting errors if necessary.

1. William MacDowell, 28, a house painter who lives at 1429 Highland Drive, is being tried for the murder of a cocktail waitress, Ethel Shearer. His trial opened last Thursday, and witnesses last Friday said a ring found in MacDowells home belonged to the murder victim. MacDowell took the stand today and said he knew the victim and had bought the ring from her for \$60 for a girlfriend. If convicted, MacDowell could be sentenced to life in prison. He is currently on parole after spending 8 years in prison on an armed robbery charge.
2. There was a grinding head-on collision on Cheney Road yesterday. Two persons were killed: Rosemary Brennan, 27, and her infant daughter, Kelley, age 2, both of 1775 Nairn Dr. The driver of the second car involved in the accident, Anthony Murray, 17, of 1748 North 3 Street, was seriously injured, with multiple fractures. Police today announced that laboratory tests have confirmed the fact that Brennan was legally drunk at the time of the accident.
3. The state Legislature passed a law which prohibits doctors from performing abortions on girls under the age of 16 without the consent of their parents or guardians. The law specifies that doctors found guilty of violating the law can be fined up to \$5,000 and can lose their licenses to practice medicine in the state. The law, which was signed by the governor, will go into effect at midnight tonight. The Legislature adopted the law after news media in the state revealed that girls as young as the age of 11 were given abortions without their parents knowledge or consent. The law is intended to prevent that. The parents consent must be in writing. The law stipulates that the girl who is pregnant must also agree to the abortion so her parents cannot force her to have one unwillingly.

Exercise 3: Writing Basic News Leads

INSTRUCTIONS: Write only a lead for each of the following stories. As always, correct errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation and AP style if necessary. Consult the directory in your textbook for the correct spelling of names used in the scenarios.

1. There was an accident occurring in your city at 7:10 this morning at the intersection of Post Road and Rollins Avenue. Charles R. Lydon was driving north on Post Road and proceeded to enter the intersection in his van at a speed estimated at 40 mph. His van struck a fire engine responding to an emergency call, with its lights and siren in operation. Two firemen aboard the vehicle were hospitalized; however, their condition is not known at this point in time. Lyden was killed instantly in the serious and tragic accident. Authorities have not yet determined who was at fault. The truck was traveling an estimated 25 mph and responding to a report of a store fire. However, it was a false alarm. Lydon's van was totally destroyed. Damage to the truck was estimated at \$50,000.
2. There was a report issued in Washington, D.C. today. It came from the Highway Loss Data Institute, an affiliate of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. It shows that there are advantages to driving big cars. A study by the institute found that small two-door models and many small or midsize sport or specialty cars have the worst injury and repair records. Many of these small cars show injury claim frequencies and repair losses at least 30 percent higher than average, while many large cars, station wagons and vans show 40 percent to 50 percent better-than-average claim records. According to the analysis, a motorist in a four-door Oldsmobile Delta 88, for example, is 41 percent less likely than average to be hurt in an accident.
3. An article appeared today in the Journal of the American Medical Association. The article concerns the dangers of hot dogs. "If you were trying to design something that would be perfect to block a child's airway, it would be a bite-size piece of hot dog," says a researcher. He concluded that children under 4 should "never be given a whole hot dog to eat," and that hot dogs should never be cut crosswise. The hot dogs are so dangerous that every five days, it is estimated, someone, somewhere in the United States, chokes to death on them. Other risky foods for young kids up to 9 years of age include: candy, nuts, grapes, apples, carrots and popcorn.
4. The family of Kristine Belcuore was grief-stricken. She was 51 years old and died of a heart attack last week. She left a husband and four children. Because her death was so sudden and unexpected, an autopsy had to be performed before the funeral last Saturday. It was a big funeral, costing more than \$7,000. More than 100 friends and relatives were in attendance. Today, the family received an apologetic call from the county medical examiner. Mrs. Belcuore's body is still in the morgue. The body they buried was that of a woman whose corpse had been unclaimed for a month. The error was discovered after the medical examiner's office realized the month-old corpse had disappeared. Someone probably misread an identifying tag, they said. Also, the family never viewed the remains, they kept the casket closed throughout the proceedings. A relative said, "We went through all the pain and everything, all over the wrong body, and now we have to go through it again."
5. It's another statistical study, one that surprised researchers. For years, researchers thought that advanced education translated into greater marriage stability. Then they discovered that marital disruption is greater among more highly educated women than any other group (except those who haven't graduated from high school). Now a sociologist at The Ohio State University has conducted a new study which explains some of the reasons why women with graduate degrees are more likely to be divorced from their marriages as well. The key fact seems to be timing. Women who married early, before they began graduate school, are more likely to have established traditional family roles which they find difficult to change. When the wife goes back to school and no longer wants to handle most of the housework, it causes resentment on the part of the husband. If the husband refuses to pitch in and do his share, it creates tension. Such unhappiness on both sides often leads to divorce. Indeed, a third of the women who began graduate school after they were married ended up separated or divorced. By comparison, only 15.6 percent of those who married after they had finished an advanced degree ended up divorced or separated. They seem more likely to find husbands supportive of their educational goals.

6. The Department of Justice, as it often does, conducted a crime-related survey. It questioned long-term prisoners. It found that new laws limiting the ownership of guns do not discourage handgun ownership by career criminals. The report concludes, however, that even though curbs on legitimate retail sales of guns have failed to attain the goal of keeping weapons out of the hands of criminals, the laws still may serve other useful functions. The report explains that criminals get their weapons most often by theft or under-the-counter deals. The department surveyed 1,874 men serving time for felonies in 11 state prisons and found that 75 percent said they would expect little or no trouble if they tried to get a handgun after their release from prison. Fifty-seven percent had owned a handgun at the time of their arrest. Thirty-two percent of their guns had been stolen, 26 percent acquired in black market deals, and others received as gifts from family and friends. Only 21 percent had been bought through legitimate retail outlets.
7. Thomas C. Ahl appeared in Circuit Court today. He pleaded guilty last week to robbing and murdering two restaurant employees. In return for pleading guilty prosecutors promised not to seek the death penalty. He was sentenced today. Ahl is 24 years old, and the judge sentenced him to two life terms, plus 300 years. It is the longest sentence ever given anyone in your state. Ahl will be 89 before he can be considered for parole. The judge explained that Ahl had a long history of violence and brutality, and that the public deserved to be protected from him. There had been no reason for him to shotgun the two employees to death. Ahl himself admitted that they had not resisted him in any way.
8. The International Standardization Organization, which is composed of acoustics experts, today opened its annual convention. The convention is meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. Delegates from 51 countries are attending the convention, which will continue through Sunday. An annual report issued by the organization warned that noise levels in the world are rising by one decibel a year. If the increase continues, the report warned, "everyone living in cities could be stone deaf by the year 2020." The report also said that long-term exposure to a noise level of 100 decibels can cause deafness, yet a riveting gun reaches a level of 130 decibels and a jet aircraft 150.
9. A 19-year-old shoplifting suspect died last Saturday. Police identified him as Timothy Milan. He lived at 1112 Huron Avenue and was employed as a cook at a restaurant in the city. A guard at Panzer's Department Store told police he saw Milan stuff 2 sweaters down his pants legs, then walk past a checkout line and out of the department store. The guard then began to chase Milan, who ran, and 3 bystanders joined in the pursuit. They caught up with Milan, and, when he resisted, one of the bystanders applied a headlock to him. A police officer who arrived at the scene reported that Milan collapsed as he put handcuffs on him. An autopsy conducted to determine the cause of death revealed that Milan died due to a lack of oxygen to the brain. Police today said they do not plan to charge anyone involved in the case with a crime because it "was a case of excusable homicide." The police said the bystanders did not mean to injure Milan or to kill him, but that he was fighting violently—punching and kicking at his captors and even trying to bite them—and that they were simply trying to restrain him and trying to help capture a suspected criminal, "which is just being a good citizen."
10. Several English teachers at your city's junior and senior high schools require their students to read the controversial book, "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." The book was written by Mark Twain. Critics, including some parents, said last week that the book should be banned from all schools in the city because it is racist. After considering their complaints and discussing them with his staff, the superintendent of schools, Gary Hubbard, announced today that teachers will be allowed to require reading the book in high school English classes but not in any junior high school classes. Furthermore, the superintendent said that it will be the responsibility of the high school teachers who assign the book to assist students in understanding the historical setting of the book, the characters being depicted and the social context, including the prejudices which existed at the time depicted in the book. Although the book can no longer be used in any junior high school classes, the school superintendent said it will remain available in junior and senior high school libraries for students who want to read it voluntarily. The book describes the adventures of runaway Huck Finn and a fugitive slave named Jim as they float on a raft down the Mississippi River.

Exercise 4: Writing Basic Leads for Campus Stories

INSTRUCTIONS: Write only a lead for each of the following stories. As always, correct errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation and AP style if necessary. Consult the directory in your textbook for the correct spelling of names used in the scenarios.

1. A journalism professor at your school has sparked a heated debate. She teaches a course titled "Communication Law." During her class last week Friday, she took her class outdoors and burned a small American flag. She said the flag was "a teaching tool." The class was discussing Supreme Court cases that defined flag-burning as protected speech. The teacher, assistant professor Denise Beall, said she hoped her action would spark debate in the classroom about free-speech issues. "It was not a personal act," she said. "It was a pedagogical one." This morning, about 250 students, led by veterans groups on your campus, gathered to protest the flag-burning. They marched to the building where Beall was teaching the course. The protesters entered the building, stood outside the room where the class was in session, and sang the national anthem. The students also said the Pledge of Allegiance and chanted "U.S.A." In a statement issued soon thereafter, the president of your school said Beall had used "extraordinarily bad judgment" in burning the flag. But, your president said, it would be inappropriate for the school to do anything further to question or punish her teaching techniques.
2. At first, it seemed like a wonderful idea! Your school's president learned the wife of the President of the United States was going to be in the area. He proceeded to invite her to deliver your school's commencement address for this spring's graduating class—and she accepted. Now, opposition is arising. About a week ago, a half-dozen senior women began circulating a petition opposing her delivering the commencement address and, thus far, more than 300 of their classmates have signed it. "To honor the First Lady as a commencement speaker," says the petition, "is to honor a woman who has gained recognition through the achievements of her husband, which contradicts what we have been taught over our years of study—that women should be honored for their achievements, not their husbands." The president of your institution has scheduled a meeting for late Friday to discuss the issue with members of the graduating class.
3. College students have an unusual problem that has gone largely unnoticed in the past. Some call it "freshman fat." Others call it "the Freshman 5," "the Freshman 10," "the Freshman 15" or even "the Freshman 20." Now, a specialist at your school is studying the issue and finding some truth to the folklore. Freshmen women, she found, are more than twice as likely to gain a significant amount of weight as similar women who don't go to college. Of your school's incoming freshmen last year, 26% gained weight. By comparison, 9% of a group of comparable young women in your community who did not enroll in college gained weight. Freshman Fat isn't considered a serious health threat. Five or 10 extra pounds don't make a big difference for most people. The best remedy, in fact, may be to ignore the extra weight: sooner or later, your eating habits are bound to settle down. A constellation of factors lies behind Freshman Fat: sudden freedom from parental rules; overabundance of choices; erratic, late hours; a more sedentary life; a social life that revolves around eating and drinking. And stress. Food is the age-old comforter. Linda Kasparov, a licensed dietitian at your school, conducted the study and released all the information about the results of it today.
4. There's a heated, controversial debate at your school. The school has a foundation that invests its money in various stocks, bonds and properties. A reporter for your student paper last week uncovered the fact that some of the money is invested in tobacco companies. Now some people want the foundation to eliminate those stocks from its investment portfolio. The editor of your student paper advocates the elimination of such stock and, in an interview with you today explained quite persuasively that, "Cigarettes have been responsible for millions of deaths, and owning shares in the companies that produce them sends a conflicting message to both students and the public. Furthermore, the foundation, and thus our school, is benefiting from those deaths: from the sale of a product known to kill its users." The Board of Regents met at 8 a.m. this morning, and the topic was one of several on its agenda. It voted 8-1 that the foundation not be ordered to sell any of its tobacco stocks.
5. Last week a group of medical researchers conducted an unusual survey of the women on your campus. As part of an effort to learn more about students' needs and ways of improving

student health care, doctors at your student clinic conducted an unusual survey, personally contacting and interviewing a random sample of 1,044 women on campus last week. The women were interviewed in person and were also asked to complete anonymous questionnaires developed by the researchers. The researchers found that almost 1 in 10 had had an abortion at some point in her life. "I was shocked, to be quite frank," said Robert Einhorn, the clinic's director. "We have some students who come to us, learn they're pregnant, and ask about their options. Some want a referral to a clinic that performs abortions, and there are a number of names that we give them. But I never thought we were talking about this number of students. Of course, some reported having their abortions years ago—as young as the age of 12." More specifically, 9.41 percent of the women students surveyed said they have had an abortion. 1.7% of the women students have had two abortions.

6. Five students on your campus, all members of a fraternity, Sigma Kappa Chi, have been arrested as the result of a hazing incident. The investigation began after one SKC pledge was hospitalized Saturday with serious internal injuries and another with a sprained back. Each of the five was charged with two counts of battery. The incident occurred during a fraternity meeting Friday at which members "beat pledges with wooden paddles and canes and subjected them to other forms of physical and verbal punishment," according to Detective Sgt. Albert Wei, who headed the investigation. One of the two injured students, sophomore Roland Dessaur, was hospitalized for kidney damage and dehydration. Another sophomore, Eddie Muldaur, was treated for a sprained back and bruised buttocks. State laws require hospital officials to report injuries that appear to be the result of a crime. Thus, hospital officials notified the police and, as the investigation continued, four other pledges were taken to the hospital and also examined, then released. Several suffered contusions, Wei said. A university spokesman said both university and national fraternity officials are investigating to determine what disciplinary action, if any, should be taken against the fraternity.

Exercise 5: City, State and National Leads

INSTRUCTIONS: Write only a lead for each of the following stories. As you write the leads, consult the checklist on Page 143. Correct errors if necessary. The first set of stories involves events in your city; the second set involves events in your state; and the third set involves events in the nation. A professional has been asked to write a lead for each of these stories, and the leads appear in a manual available to your instructor. However, you may find that you like some of your own and your classmates' leads better.

CITY BEAT

1. The restaurant is located at 480 Parkside Dr. and specializes in Chinese cuisine. It is owned by Fred Lee, who also does all the cooking. City health inspectors suspended its license late yesterday. They complained of poor food handling and storage. "The condition of the licensed premises was so serious that it was condemned as posing an immediate threat to public health," the city's emergency license suspension order states. Chester Garland, a city health inspector, said the city suspends licenses only when there are serious violations. "It has to be something that is a major problem," Garland said. "We don't just do it on minor stuff." Garland added that the restaurant has consistently failed to comply with city health codes. Violations cited yesterday by city inspectors include rodent and roach infestations. The inspectors found rodent droppings strewn about storage areas and on canned goods. Garland's report adds: "A mouse was seen running across the dining room. A live mouse was spotted in the pantry. Another mouse jumped on an inspector. Toxic materials were stored in food-preparation and dish-washing areas. Food was found improperly stored in a janitor's closet as well as in uncovered containers and in locations less than 6 inches off the floor."
2. Marlene Holland is a junior at Colonial High School. She was enrolled in a biology class there last term and objected when, as part of her class assignments, she was asked to dissect worms, frogs, and a fetal pig. She said the assignments violated her religious beliefs. The teacher then gave her a grade of "F" on the assignments, and she flunked the course as a result. Her parents sued the school district, and the trial was supposed to begin at 8 a.m. next Monday. The lawsuit charged that the Board of Education violated her freedom of religion by giving her failing grades for refusing to participate in dissection experiments. There was a settlement today. "I learned that it's worth it, in the end, to act on your convictions," the girl said when interviewed after the settlement. The board's attorney, Karen Bulnes, said the district decided to settle, giving her a passing grade based upon her other work, a grade of "B," because Marlene would have proven in a trial that her refusal to cut up dead animals stemmed from sincere religious beliefs. The district also agreed to pay \$12,500 in legal fees, which will go to the American Civil Liberties Union, which represented her. Marlene said her spiritual doctrine bars her from harming animals or cutting them up. They also keep her from wearing leather or wool, eating meat, or drinking milk. She also shuns makeup, which is often tested on animals.
3. Todd Leforge is an orthodontist who has been working in your community for 11 years. He is 36 years old and lives at 537 Peterson Place. He has a practice of about 750 current patients. He has treated approximately 5,000 more in the past. Today he announced that he has AIDS. He was diagnosed with AIDS three days ago. He immediately closed his practice. He also wrote a letter to all his patients, mostly children, and their parents. His letter, which parents began to receive today, says, "I am very sorry for any anxiety this may cause to anyone." The city's Department of Health has set up an emergency center at its downtown office where, starting today, his patients can be tested for the AIDS virus and counseled about their fears. Leforge, who decided to immediately close his practice, said he tried to be reassuring in his letter. "I have always followed the CDC [Centers for Disease Control] guidelines regarding infection and sterilization procedures," he wrote. "I feel no patients could have been infected by me." Dr. Cathleen Graham, M.D., head of the city's Health Department, agreed that: "The risk is minimal. But the long odds don't lessen the fears of a parent. Since we're dealing primarily with children, it's more emotional. It's going to be a traumatic time."
4. Your police department arrested a thief at 11 p.m. last night: Mark Johnsen, 43, of 2463 Pioneer Road. After his arrest, Johnson promptly confessed. Talking to a reporter, he said: "I

worked construction, but it was hard and I didn't like it, so I quit. I could make better money stealing, and it only took an hour or two a day." Johnson estimates that he broke into about 300 homes during the last 12 months. "I'd make \$2,000, maybe \$3,000, a week," he said. He sold his loot, mostly jewelry, to fences, pawnshops, and flea markets. He was arrested shortly after 11 p.m. after leaving a house with a VCR and jewelry, Detective Karen Sweers said. Neighbors called the police after seeing him enter the house. Detectives later found about \$10,000 in rings, watches, coins and other jewelry in his car and at his girlfriends apartment. Johnsen was released from prison about two years ago after being convicted of strong-armed rape, robbery and kidnapping. "He's a career criminal," Sweers said. "He has spent 15 of the last 17 years in the prison system." He is being held without bail on charges of burglary and grand theft. Investigators are trying to track down the owners of dozens of stolen coins, rings and necklaces.

5. The accident occurred yesterday at your city's airport. A plane crashed on takeoff. Gusty crosswinds were at least partly to blame, said airport officials. The plane was a single-engine Cessna 172 Skyhawk. It crashed shortly after 4 p.m. yesterday afternoon. The Federal Aviation Administration has been notified and is investigating the crash. The pilot was Joel Fowler, age 23, of 2606 Hillcrest Street. The identity of his 3 passengers was not immediately available. All survived the crash. "It was a miracle we only got scratches," said Fowler, who added that they were "out cruising" in the rented plane, and that he was practicing a few touch-and-go landings. A touch and go is where the plane hits the runway for a split second and then goes airborne again. As the craft touched the runway it was going about 70 mph and being tossed by the wind. Fowler said, "It was real tough." He gave it full throttle to climb back into the air, but in an instant the plane veered right, a wing struck the pavement and it turned upside down, "spewing pieces everywhere." The four, stunned but otherwise not seriously hurt, unbuckled their seat belts and piled out of the plane immediately. The passengers were taken to Regional Medical Center for examination and treatment of cuts, bruises and shock.

State Beat

1. It was an interesting little idea proposed today by a state senator from your city: Neil Iacobi. Today Iacobi made a proposal that would affect most newspapers in your state, or at least those that publish editorials. Iacobi said he is drafting legislation that would require newspapermen to sign the editorials they write so people know the writers identity. "Its one of the most blatant attempts at press-bashing in recent memory," responded Tony DiLorento, executive director of the State Press Association. Iacobi said he has already found 32 co-sponsors for his bill. Violations would be punishable as second-degree misdemeanors. "It doesn't say you can't write something-only that you have to sign what you write," Iacobi said. "Editorialists should be accountable to their readers. They can attack you and tear you apart and do anything to you, and no one even knows who they are. That's not right or fair. Only cowards would do something like that."
2. State Senator Karen Simmons proposed another new law today. She introduced it in the state senate. To protect the environment she wants to ban disposable diapers but expects strong opposition among working mothers and day-care centers. "We're running out of landfill space," Simmons, a Democrat, said. "But there are young mothers who are going to scream and holler." Many day-care centers will not accept children who wear cloth diapers instead of disposable diapers. "You just cannot handle cloth diapers as sanitarilly," said Denise Abdondanzio, a spokesman for the states day care centers. Simmens filed her bill (SB 1244) to ban disposable diapers effective Jan. 1. Without a ban, she said, disposable diapers will fill up landfills, "causing problems long after the babies have babies."
3. Richard Clair, head of your states Department of Corrections, testified before a legislative committee in your state capital today. He reported that, 10 years ago, 4.5% of the people in the states prisons were women. Five years ago it was 6.4%. Today women are 8.7% of the inmates in state prisons "and the percentage seems certain to continue to increase." There are also more older inmates: inmates age 51 and older. The percentage has jumped from 3.8% to 4.6% during the last 10 years, Clair said. Women and the elderly present special problems for a prison system historically geared toward young men. Medical costs for women and older inmates are higher than for young men. And because there are fewer women in the system,

there are fewer facilities for them, prompting charges of unequal treatment. Women tend to commit drug-related and economic crimes rather than crimes of violence. Yet in prison they have less access than men to programs that could help them, such as drug treatment, education, and job training programs.

4. Merchants in the state say they are delighted with a new law the governor signed today. It will go into effect on the 1st of next month. Basically, it stiffens check-bouncing penalties. Amy Woods, director of the State Federation of Independent Businesses, said the bill will send a stern message to the writers of bad checks. "We're delighted," Wood said. "SFIB has 15,000 members in the state, and we've lobbied hard for a bill like this." The bill makes check-bouncers liable for paying three times the face value of each bad check if they fail to make good on their bills within 30 days after receiving a written demand for payment. It also requires the writer of a bad check to pay all service charges, court costs and attorney fees incurred in the collection effort. Damage awards are limited to a total of \$2,500 per check.
5. Last spring, Rachel Young was named the state's "Outstanding Teacher." She is a high school economics teacher. She was invited to give a speech today at the annual convention of the National Education Assn. in the state capital. The main thrust of her speech was to criticize the fact that many high school students hold part-time jobs. She called minimum wage jobs "the silent killers of quality education," and explained that too many teens jeopardize their futures by working part time in high school. She continued in her speech: "Flipping burgers and running a cash register teach youngsters next to nothing and leave them scant time to study, keep up on current events, or participate in extra curricular activities. If you look at these students, few have to work to help support their families, put food on the table, or save up for college. Instead, most working teens are middle class students who labor to buy themselves flashy cars, pay car insurance premiums or clothe themselves in the latest fashions. They are trapped in seeking material goods, and they come to school truly tired, truly burned out. They're sacrificing their future earnings and career satisfaction because these jobs compromise their ability to make the most of their high school years."

National Beat

1. The Census Bureau issued a report today concerning the problem of illiteracy. The Census Bureau set out to determine how many people currently living in the United States are literate or illiterate in the English language. It administered literacy tests to 3,400 adults in the United States. It found the illiteracy rate for adult Americans whose native language is English is 9%. For adults whose native language is not English, the illiteracy rate climbed to 48%. A large portion of those people are, by their own account, probably literate in their native language, according to the study. Of the native English speakers who failed the test, 70% had not finished high school. The test has a sampling error of 1 to 2 percentage points.
2. The Centers for Disease Control issued a report Friday that, for many, will be pleasing. It concerns Americans consumption of hard liquor. That consumption has fallen to its lowest level since 1959. The average American drank 0.85 gallons of spirits last year, compared with 0.84 gallons in 1959, according to the Alcohol Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration. Distilled spirits are hard liquors such as whiskey, rum, vodka, or gin. Beer and wine, which are fermented but not distilled, are considered separately. CDC statistics, however, show that consumption of alcoholic beverages as a whole is on the decline. The statistics indicate that some drinkers are switching to lower-alcohol drinks such as wine coolers and light beers as a result of their concern for physical fitness, nutrition and alcohol abuse. Two out of three American adults drink. But just 10 percent of those adults drink half of all the alcohol consumed in the nation.
3. The President lost a battle in Congress today. Congress decided against spending \$12 million for a cause the president favored. The project involved huge dish-shaped antennas which listened for radio signals from outer space. It was cut from NASA's budget. The House today approved a \$14.29 billion budget for NASA in a 355-48 vote. If the Senate agrees with the House, the space agency budget for next fiscal year will be \$2 billion above current spending levels but \$800 million below what the president requested. The president wanted included in the budget \$12 million for the alien-search project. NASA's search for extraterrestrial intelligence, a project known as SETI, was to cost \$100 million over 10 years. Its sophisticated radio antennas have picked up only static since the program began last year. "Our country

can't afford this," said Rep. Ronald Machtley, R-R.I., who suggested that the money be spent on education. "I'd rather see a search for terrestrial intelligence in our schools," he said.

4. The Department of Veterans Affairs today admitted that its made a little mistake. The mistake cost an estimated \$5.7 million a year. Each year, the Veterans Affairs Department pays more than \$14.7 billion in disability compensation and pension benefits to more than 2.8 million veterans and to nearly 1 million surviving spouses and other dependents. An audit of those payments revealed that the Department of Veterans Affairs has been paying benefits to more than 1,200 veterans who are dead. The exact total was 1,212 veterans who were reported dead. About 100 of the veterans have been dead a decade or more. Auditors said the department could have reduced the erroneous payments by matching VA benefit payment files with death information maintained by the Social Security Administration. In the past, the department relied on voluntary reporting of deaths as a basis for ending benefits.
5. The nations homebuilders are concerned about a problem that affects young adults—but also the entire nation (and its economy as well). The problem is affordable housing. At its annual convention, currently being held in Las Vegas, Nevada, the National Homebuilders Association revealed that a survey it commissioned shows a drop in homeownership rates over the last 10 years among young families—and a rapidly dwindling stock of low-cost rental housing. The associations members expect the problems to continue. The homeownership rate among families in the 25-to-34 age group has fallen to 45%, largely because they don't have the cash for a down payment or the income to qualify for a loan. At the same time, rents are at record high rates in much of the country, making it harder for young families to accumulate the money needed for a down payment. Wayne Doyle, the associations President, offered no concrete solutions to the problem, which has sent the homebuilding industry into the doldrums, with fewer sales and higher unemployment rates. "Young families face a difficult situation," Doyle concluded. "They must accumulate enough savings to make a down payment but they are finding it harder to obtain good jobs, and also find that more and more of their money is going for rent, so its harder to save anything for a house." By comparison, the homeownership rate for 65-to-74 year olds is 78.2%.