

Exercise 1: Obituary Leads

WRITING LEADS FOR OBITUARIES

INSTRUCTIONS: Write an interesting lead from the following facts. Use your judgment, based on what you have read in this chapter, as to what should be remembered about the person. Correct all errors.

1. Carmen L. DeLaurent, 9, of Spencer, died of head injuries Sunday. She fell in gymnastic practice at the Riordan Studio at 5045 Grant Ave.

Was the daughter of Steven and Marie DeLaurent.

Fell while practicing for the Youth Gymnastic State Meet to be held here next month.

Studied gymnastics since age four at Riordan Studio and hoped to be in the Olympics one day.

Was a student at Ridgeville Elementary School.

2. William Robert Bailey of Westwood died of heart failure while mowing his lawn at home Thursday. He was 88.

Graduated from City Industrial College in 1951 with a B.S. degree in business management.

Was a bombardier in the U.S. Army Air Corps stationed at Harrington, England, in World War II and was shot down by the Germans over Belgium.

Owner and President of Bailey's Hardware in Westwood.

Started Bailey's Thanksgiving Table in 1953 to serve 35 hot dinners to people in need. The annual tradition now serves more than 600 dinners at the City Industrial College Auditorium and relies on 75 volunteers.

3. Eva M. Longworth, 37, was a fourth-grade teacher at Central Elementary School in Middlebrook. She died of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma on Monday in Mercy Hospital.

Was among the first group of patients to receive a bone marrow transplant at Mercy Hospital in Middlebrook 12 years ago.

Started the cancer survivors' park for teens at Mercy Hospital.

Accepted a teaching post at Central Elementary School after graduating from Lakeview College in 1991.

4. Ronald (Casey) H. Sikes, 62, of East Landon, a mechanic for T.K. Best Co. gasoline stations, died Saturday.

Restored 1960s-era Corvette convertibles and owned three—one in red, yellow, and blue.

Graduated from Landon High School in 1963 and worked for Truck & Motor Assembly until it closed in 1987.

Drove one of his Corvettes in the East Landon Labor Day Parade, beginning in 1966.

5. Elizabeth (Liza) Sasso, 20, of Middlebrook, died at Mercy Hospital on Friday after a brief illness. She was the daughter of Catherine and Thomas Sasso.

Was a sophomore at State University.

Loved hiking and exploring rivers and streams.

Joined SU's Environmental Group as a freshman.

Photographed her outdoor excursions and posted them on her website, and advocated against harmful pollutants in regional waterways.

Exercise 2: Obituary Notice

INSTRUCTIONS: Please supply the information asked for below and send to the newspaper office as quickly as possible after death. Relatives, friends and neighbors of the deceased will appreciate prompt reporting of this news so that they may attend funeral services or send messages of condolence.

Full Name of Deceased Kevin Barlow

Age 34

Address 3365 Andover

Date and Cause of Death Cycle accident yesterday

Place of Death In the city—the intersection of Cortez Av. and Alton Rd.

Time and Date of Funeral 2 p.m. Saturday afternoon with visitation at the funeral home from 7-9pm Friday evening and 10-12 noon Saturday

Place of Funeral Woodlawn Funeral Home

Place of Burial Body donated for transplants, with remains to be cremated & scattered.

Officiating Cleric Friends and fellow members of the Resurrection Life Center

Place of Birth Regional Medical Center in this city

Places and Length of Residences Mr. Barlow was a native of the city, attending Hawthorn elementary school and Kennedy high school then served 3 years in the marines. He attended college a year, didn't like it, and joined the police dept. 11 years ago.

Occupation City police officer

Did Deceased Ever Hold Public Office (When and What)? Elected Secretary, then Vice President, and was currently serving in the latter position of the local Police Officer's Benevolent Assn.

Name, Address of Surviving Spouse See below

Maiden Name (if Married Woman) _____

Marriage, When and to Whom See below

Names, Addresses of Surviving Children No children

Five years ago Mr. Barlow celebrated an "Eternal Commitment" ceremony at the Resurrection Life Center with Seth Bernaiche with whom he shared his home.

Names, Addresses of Surviving Brothers and Sisters 3 older sisters. Molly Palomino, 374 Douglass Rd. Jennifer Haself, 544 Beloit Rd. Dorothy Moravchek, 1487 14th St.

Number of Grandchildren (Great, etc.) None

Names, Addresses of Parents (if Living) Stephen and Harriot Barlow, retired to Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Other Information 3 years ago Mr. Barlow was named the police dept.'s "Officer of the Year". He was 2nd runnerup in the competition for the states "Officer of the Year" since that year he pulled a woman and her 4 children from a badly burning house he spotted while on routine patrol, saving their lives while himself receiving some painful 2nd and 3rd degree burns. For his action he received the dept's "Medal of Valor," its highest decoration. He was a member of the dept's Emergency Response Team and was also a Training Field Officer. He loved motorcycles and, while riding with friends yesterday, was hit by an apparently drunk driver who went through a stop sign. He idolized his grandfather, a policeman in the city, served as an MP in the marines, then returned to the city to become a police officer. Raised a Catholic, he left to join the Resurrection Life Center.

Reporter's Additional Notes—Interviews with Friends, Relatives and Co-Workers:

His sister Dorothy said, "It made perfect sense for him to become a police officer. When he was growing up he always like to see things done right. He expected everyone to do the right thing. He saw his job as a way of helping the community—putting the bad guys away, keeping the streets safe for children, mothers, and the good guys."

His mother said, "He was big, 6 feet 4 and 200 pounds, He always liked lifting weights and working out. He lived with us before we retired to Florida, and he'd come home with his uniform all torn and dirty after chasing someone. It scared me, but he always laughed and said there wasn't anyone who could get away from him. He liked tackling. To him it was a game, like when he played football in high school."

Chief Barry Koperud said, "Officer Barlow was very committed to the community. All in all, he was an excellent officer. A better person you'll never meet."

His partner Manual Cortez said, "It was hard for Kevin, especially at first, being a gay cop. He never tried to hide it, and some officers, even today, gave him a hard time, were real asses about it. But most of us admired him, his courage and all. When you needed help Kevin was always the first one there, always."

Exercise 3: Roundups

SPECIALIZED TYPES OF STORIES

Roundups—Multiple Events

INSTRUCTIONS: Write a single roundup story that summarizes all three of the fires described below. Correct all errors.

FIRE 1

Two police officers patrolling Main St. reported a fire at Frishe's Bowling Alley, 4113 Main St., at 3:32 a.m. today. They smelled smoke, got out of their squad car and traced the smoke to the bowling alley. Firefighters said the fire was confined to an office, where it caused an estimated \$10,000 in damage. Firefighters found evidence of arson and notified police that the office apparently had been set on fire after it was burglarized. Two cigarette machines, a soft-drink machine and a door leading to the office had been pried open. Police said the thieves probably set the fire to hide the robbery. Art Mahew, manager of the bowling alley, estimated that \$20 was missing from the three machines and \$50 was taken from a cash box in the office. He added: "That's all the money we keep in the building at night. Except for some change for the next day's business, we just don't keep any money in the building at night. It's too risky. This is the third robbery we've had since I started working here four years ago."

FIRE 2

Firefighters were called to 1314 Griese Drive at 8:23 a.m. today. They found a fire in progress on the second floor of the two-story home. The home is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Keele. Mr. and Mrs. Keel and their four children escaped from the home before firemen arrived. Firefighters extinguished the blaze within 20 minutes. The fire was confined to two upstairs bedrooms and the attic. Smoke and water damage were reported throughout the house. No one was injured. Damage was estimated at \$20,000. Mrs. Keel told firemen she had punished one of her children for playing with matches in an upstairs closet earlier in the morning. Fire marshals said the blaze started in that closet and attributed the fire to the child playing with matches. Mrs. Keel added that she was not aware of the fire until a telephone repairman working across the street noticed smoke, came over and rang her doorbell. When she answered, he asked, "Do you know your house is on fire?"

FIRE 3

Firefighters responded to a call at the Quality Trailer Court at 10:31 a.m. today after neighbors were alerted by screams from a trailer occupied by Mrs. Susan Kopp, age 71. Flames had spread throughout the trailer by the time firefighters arrived at the scene. The firefighters had to extinguish the blaze, then wait for the embers to cool before they were able to enter the trailer. They found Mrs. Kopp's body in her bedroom in the trailer. A spokesman for the Fire Department said she had apparently been smoking in bed, then awoke when her bedding caught fire. She died of suffocation before she could get out. Neighbors who heard her screams were unable to enter the trailer because of the flames, smoke and heat.

Exercise 4: Brights

INSTRUCTIONS: Use the following information to write "brights," a series of short, humorous stories. Write some brights that have a summary lead and others that have a surprise ending.

1. BANK REGULATIONS

Abraham Burmeister is president of the First National Bank, the largest bank in your community. Each year, in accordance with new federal laws, the bank is required to send all its customers copies of some complex new federal rules concerning the regulation of banks and the procedures followed for money transfers by means of electronic banking. Consequently, the First National Bank prepared a 4,500-word pamphlet describing and summarizing those new federal rules and then sent copies of the rules to all its 40,000 regular depositors and customers. Like many other bankers, Burmeister objected to the federal law, saying it imposed a needless burden and needless expense on bankers since the federal laws that banks are being forced to explain are too complicated for the average person to understand and too dull and uninteresting for people to spend time trying to read. To prove his point, on the last page of 100 of the 40,000 copies of the rules he took a gamble and inserted a special extra sentence. The sentence said, "If you return this pamphlet to any of the banks tellers within the next 30 days, they will give you \$50." The 30 days passed yesterday and not one person turned in a single copy of the 100 special pamphlets and requested the \$50 due on demand, apparently because no one read the pamphlets. Bank officials calculated that it cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$25,000 to prepare, print, address and mail the pamphlets to the 40,000 bank customers, and they said that is a waste of money, yet they must do it every year, even though obviously no one reads the things, as they have just proven with their interesting little experiment.

2. DRUNKEN RIDER

Lynita L. Sharp admits she was intoxicated last night but says she should not be charged with drunk driving. Sharp, 5836 Bolling Dr., was riding her 2-year-old filly horse along a state highway when Scott Forsyth, a corporal in the sheriff's department, came along. Forsyth said he saw Sharp sitting on her horse in the middle of the road. He said the rider looked to be sick or asleep. He turned on the blue lights on his cruiser, and the horse bolted off. Sharp said she was spending the weekend with her friends who own the farm where her horse is stabled. She had spent part of the evening at the local tavern and was riding home. Sharp said the cruiser's light spooked the horse and caused her to lose control of it. Forsyth issued Sharp a ticket for operating a vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicating substance. Sharp said her horse, Frosty, is not a vehicle. "Vehicles can't think, but Frosty can think for herself," Sharp said. "I've fallen asleep in the saddle before, but it doesn't matter because Frosty knows the way home." Donald Hendricks, the assistant county attorney, said the state law does not require that a person be operating a motorized vehicle in order to be cited for drunk driving. The law was changed in 1991, he said, and since then 23 people who were not operating motorized vehicles, including a bicyclist and a man in a wheelchair, have been arrested for driving while intoxicated.