JOUR 200 News leads

INSTRUCTIONS: Write a lead for <u>five of the following six stories</u>.

- Write straight news leads of no more than 35 words OR feature leads followed by a nut graph.
- Use correct spelling, grammar and punctuation. Avoid the wordiness and deliberate errors we have built into these text blocks. Edit as you go. Be concise.
- Consider your audience to be people living in Champaign-Urbana.
- Turn in a Word file attachment so we can grade/edit with track changes and comments.

<u>Story 1</u>

There was an accident occurring in your city at 7:10 this morning at the intersection of Windsor Road and Prospect Avenue. Charles R. Lydon was driving north on Windsor 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 firefighters aboard the vehicle were hospitalized; however, their condition is not known at this point in time. Lydon 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.

Charles R. Lydon was killed, and two firefighters were injured, after Charles' truck crashed into their fire engine at the intersection of Windsor Road and Prospect Avenue.

<u>Story 2</u>

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.

Hot dogs are a major choking hazard for young children. Researchers also warned against choking hazards for other small editable items such as candy, nuts, grapes, apples, carrots and popcorn.

<u>Story 3</u>

Thomas C. Ahl appeared in Circuit Court today. He pleaded guilty last week to robbing and murdering two restaurant employees. In return for his guilty plea, 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 shoot the two employees to death with a shotgun. Ahl himself admitted that they had not resisted him in any way.

The longest prison sentence ever was given to Thomas C. Ahl, 24, for the murders of two restaurant employees. He will serve two life terms plus 300 years in return for his guilty plea.

Story 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 200 friends and relatives attended. Today, the family received an apologetic call from the county medical examiner. Mrs. Belcuore 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."

A funeral was held for Kristine Belcuore, 51, later discovered that the body has been misidentified. The county medical examiner apologized regarding the mistake.

Story 5

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 graduated 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 finished an advanced degree ended up divorced or separated. They seem more likely to find husbands supportive of their educational goals.

A sociologist discovered that women with graduate degrees are inclined to be graduated from their marriages. Married women before starting graduate school tend to establish family roles, which creates difficulties in going back.