

LEDE EXERCISES HOMEWORK – JOU 3117 – PROF. DAN EVANS

Instructions: Write a one-sentence lede, adhering to AP style. Your lede should be no longer than 35 words.

1. 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 (Wednesday), 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 examiners 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."
2. The US 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.

3. Thomas C. Ahl appeared in Dade County District 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 Florida. 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.
4. 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.
5. A 19-year-old shoplifting suspect died last Saturday. Fort Lauderdale police identified him as Timothy Milan. He lived at 1112 Huron Avenue and was employed as a cook at a restaurant Fort Lauderdale. 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."

6. Several English teachers in Miami-Dade public 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.