

YOU BE THE EDITOR: CASE STUDIES IN NEWS JUDGEMENT

You are the editor of the campus newspaper, *SBWorld*. From the following list of available stories, you have to plan your next edition. You do not have unlimited space. You have room to run one large story, or “lead” story, on the front page along with three smaller stories.

Rate each of the stories below on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the most important or interesting to your audience and 10 being the least interesting. Then choose your “lead” story, your three secondary stories and explain why you would give them more attention than the others.

One more thing: *SBWorld* is no longer free. You charge 50 cents a copy and have several competitors on campus. And, the campus TV station has started scooping you, as has FreeNews, a website run by students.

USB has announced that if *SBWorld* doesn’t at least break even, they’ll sell the equipment to the highest bidder.

1. Your reporter learns exclusively that Adele and Lady have chosen Stony Brook to be the kickoff site for a worldwide tour and learns that tickets will go on sale next week.

2. Female faculty members file a landmark sex discrimination suit against the university, alleging that they get paid significantly less than their male counterparts. As evidence, they present the first comparative list of salaries, department by department.

3. The 6-year-old daughter of a popular administrator is reported missing from the campus day-care facility. Police fear a kidnapping and put out an alert for the public’s help. The administrator currently is embroiled in a bitter custody battle with her husband.

4. Two dozen homeless people are arrested after they are discovered behind the campus power plant. Advocates say it points to the growing problem of the homeless this winter throughout Suffolk County.

5. A sophomore on campus, who is holding down two jobs, wins \$5 million in the New York State lottery and announces that she will treat her entire dorm floor to spring break in the Bahamas.

6. President Barack Obama proposes to balance the budget by, in part, raising interest rates on college loans next fall. Some in Stony Brook’s student senate have denounced the change, as has President Stanley.

7. Six students are arrested following a sit-in by several hundred students at the SAC cafeteria to protest what students say are high food prices and unusually long lines that prevent them from getting lunch.

8. The undefeated Stony Brook basketball team gets its first bid ever to the NCAA tournament.

9. Two students are killed by a drunk driver while walking along a stretch of unlit road on campus. Students have complained about the stretch for years.

10. A high-level campus administrator has been allowed to quietly retire after several male students reported that he made repeated and unwanted sexual advances. The students say they have complained for months and were told not to go to the police because the university was investigating the matter.