

YOU ARE THE EDITOR: CASE STUDIES IN NEWS JUDGEMENT

From this list of available stories prepared by your staff, you will choose the top items for the news outlet your team runs. You do not have unlimited space or time. You have to emphasize one story, with three more secondary stories and decide how best to display them. What drivers are at work? How do you judge their relative newsworthiness? Which stories will attract the audience most? What are the trade-offs between journalism's mission and market realities?

Chris Brown and R. Kelley will launch a worldwide tour at LaValle Stadium. Your reporter learns that when tickets will go on sale next week, child safety advocates and activists for stronger legal protection of domestic violence victims will picket the ticket line. In solidarity with Brown, Rihanna announces she will make a special guest appearance at the concert.

Four female students and one male file a suit against the university, alleging they were raped by varsity athletes. In the complaint, they say the university took more care for the athletes than they did for the victims. As evidence, they present comparisons of the language of reports that were leaked to them by an assistant in the Provost's office.

The 26-year-old son of a popular biology professor is reported missing. The FBI claim he travelled to Turkey to cross the border into Syria to join ISIS and train for a terror attack on the Port Jefferson line of the MTA. The professor says his son is on a spiritual retreat with a religious scholar.

Three seniors are arrested at an off-campus fraternity house for selling heroin and ecstasy to high school students from high-income towns on the North Shore in Suffolk County.

A sophomore physics major who is working a campus job and a weekend job near her home in Astoria, Queens, 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.

Stony Brook's football team tops the Big South Conference, winning a berth in the Division 1 playoffs

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.

Six students are arrested following a sit-in at the SAC cafeteria to protest food prices they say are 25% higher for the same food offered at the five nearest state universities.

The Stony Brook women's soccer team gets its first bid ever to the NCAA tournament after winning the America East Conference.

Two students are killed by a drunk driver while walking along a stretch of unlit road on campus. It is the 2nd fatality in five years and the 5th injury accident this calendar year.

A high-level campus administrator has been allowed by President Stanley to quietly retire. An audit is then leaked that shows \$100,000 missing from the equipment fund in his department. The audit has been leaked along with copies of emails from the department book-keeper to State Treasurer Thomas diNapoli, reporting expense account irregularities.