

Chris Birks
The Lisle Examiner

Lisle – A single vehicle accident Thursday afternoon caused the death of a Lisle teenager. Nicole Ping, a sophomore at Colonial High School was killed when a car driven by a friend went out of control and struck a tree.

- Who, what, where and when (I used a dateline too)
- Accident first (what happened) - name second (who did it happen to)
- She "caused the death of a Lisle teenage" then directly state her name.

"In a flash [the car] was over the curb and then hit my tree so hard I thought it was going to knock it over," said witness Ruth Herwarthe.

- Quote ties to last sentence of lead
- By her saying "my" I establish she is the home owner what having to write it myself
- Change "it" to [the car] so quote makes sense
- AP Style – "Blah," said Chris Birks.

Ping was not wearing her seatbelt and died from hitting the windshield, according to Lisle Police Chief Barry Kopperud. The driver, Anthony Gould, was driving with a suspended licenses and also received injuries; a back seat passenger was slightly injured. Gould was arrested and charged with manslaughter.

- More supporting details – safety belts – important, but not as much as the death
- Paraphrasing police chief and attributing facts to him
- Charges brought against Gould
- Maybe use Nicole instead of Ping since father (Ping too) quoted, pub style choice

Friends and family are stunned about the news of Nicole's death.

- Transition sentence into last quote

"The shock and emptiness are beyond words right now," said Louis Ping, Nicole's father. "I don't understand what has happened or why it has happened. I just know life will never be the same."

- Strong quote to end on
- Put attribution in-between two quotes, instead of at end.
- Story flow – Inverted Pyramid with solid transitions

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

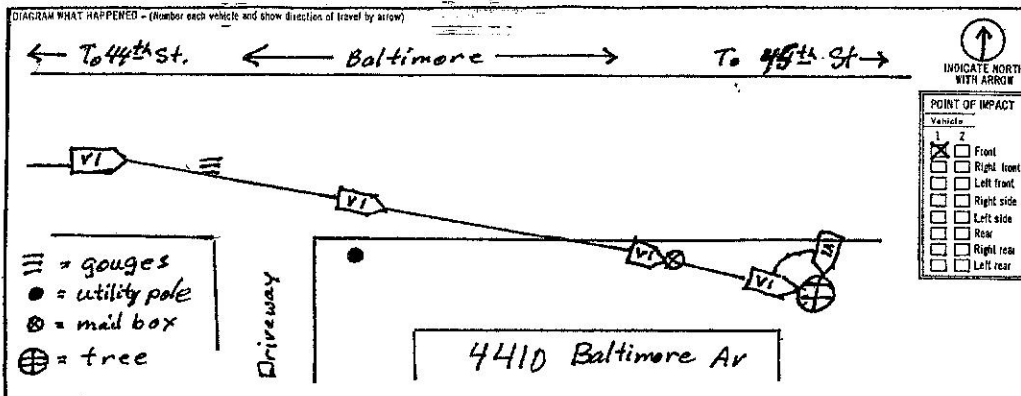
CHAPTER 18 • Exercise 4

PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORTING

Assume that the Police Department for your city released the following report of a traffic accident. Write a story that summarizes the accident. Following the report is an explanation of the codes used in the report and some additional information for follow-up or sidebar stories. Your instructor might ask that you write about only the accident or write follow-up or sidebar stories as well.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT												
MAIL TO: ACCIDENT RECORDS BUREAU, DEPT. OF HIGHWAY SAFETY & MOTOR VEHICLES												
TIME & LOCATION	DATE OF ACCIDENT: <u>Today</u> <u>Today</u>			TIME OF DAY: <u>3:25 PM</u>			CITY, TOWN OR COMMUNITY			LOCAL ACCIDENT REPORT NUMBER		
	IF ACCIDENT WAS OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS, INDICATE DISTANCE FROM NEAREST TOWN.			City, Village or Township			ROAD ON WHICH ACCIDENT OCCURRED: <u>Baltimore Av</u>			Highway Number or Name of Intersecting Street and Road		
	IF NOT AT INTERSECTION: <u>25</u> <u>45th Street</u>			IS ENGINEERING STUDY NEEDED (If so explain)			NAME OF INSURANCE (Liability or PIP)			POLICY NO.		
	TYPE MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT			OTHER NONCOLLISION			PEDESTRIAN			MV IN TRANSPORT		
VEHICLE 1	YEAR: <u>2000</u> MAKE: <u>Chrysler</u> TYPE: <u>sedan</u>			VEHICLE LICENSE PLATE NO.			STATE			YEAR		
	AREA OF VEHICLE DAMAGE: <u>01</u>			DAMAGE SCALE: <u>5</u>			AMOUNT (Approximate): <u>\$15,000</u>			SAFETY EQUIPMENT: <u>05</u>		
	OWNER (Print or type FULL name): <u>State Farm</u>			ADDRESS (Number and street): <u>7731-2XB-391</u>			CITY AND STATE / Zip Code			VEHICLE REMOVED BY: <u>Trendway Towing</u>		
	DRIVER (Exactly as on driver's license): <u>Savila & Darlene Gould</u>			ADDRESS (Number and street): <u>4178 N. 11th Av</u>			CITY AND STATE / Zip Code			OCCUPATION: <u>Student</u>		
	DRIVER (Exactly as on driver's license): <u>Anthony K. Gould</u>			ADDRESS (Number and street): <u>4178 N. 11th Av</u>			CITY AND STATE / Zip Code			DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER: <u>None</u>		
	OCCUPANTS			DATE (Month, Day, Year) OF BIRTH			RACE			SEX		
	Front center											
	Front right: <u>Kevin Shadgott</u>			<u>8472 Chestnut Dr</u>			<u>17</u>			<u>C M 05 01 05</u>		
	Rear left											
	Rear right: <u>Nicole Ping</u>			<u>348 Conroy Rd</u>			<u>16</u>			<u>C F 01 01 01</u>		
VEHICLE 2 or PEDESTRIAN	YEAR			MAKE			TYPE (Sedan, Truck, Bus, etc.)			VEHICLE LICENSE PLATE NO.		
	AREA OF VEHICLE DAMAGE			DAMAGE SCALE			DAMAGE SEVERITY			AMOUNT (Approximate)		
	NAME OF INSURANCE (Liability or PIP)			POLICY NO.			OWNER			VEHICLE REMOVED BY		
	OWNER (Print or type FULL name)			ADDRESS (Number and street)			CITY AND STATE / Zip Code			DRIVER		
	DRIVER (Exactly as on driver's license)			ADDRESS (Number and street)			CITY AND STATE / Zip Code			OCCUPATION		
	OCCUPANTS			DATE (Month, Day, Year) OF BIRTH			RACE			SEX		
	Front center											
	Front right											
	Rear left											
	Rear right											
PROPERTY DAMAGED—Other than vehicles			AMOUNT			OWNER — Name			ADDRESS — Number and Street			
<u>tree, mailbox</u>			<u>\$500</u>			<u>Ruth Herwarthe</u>			<u>4410 Baltimore Av</u>			
INVESTIGATOR — Name and rank (Signature)			BADGE NO.			I.D. NO.			DEPARTMENT			
<u>Ofc. Julius Tiller</u>			<u>Julius Tiller</u>			<u>468</u>			<u>70775</u>			
									<input type="checkbox"/> F.M.P. <input type="checkbox"/> C.P.D. <input type="checkbox"/> S.O. <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> DATE OF REPORT: <u>Today</u>			

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____



DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED - (Refer to vehicles by number)

VI was travelling eastbound on Baltimore at high rate of speed. After cresting a hill east of 44th VI bottomed out. VI then left the roadway striking the south curb of Baltimore before proceeding eastbound through yard of 4410 Baltimore, striking mailbox and tree. Witness Herwarth observed VI eastbound on Baltimore accelerating rapidly, squealing its tires and revving its engine before VI lost control and left roadway.

*WHAT VEHICLES WERE DOING BEFORE ACCIDENT

VEHICLE No. 1 was traveling On Baltimore Av at 70 M.P.H.

VEHICLE No. 2 was traveling On _____ at _____ M.P.H.

VEHICLE 1: Going straight ahead, Making right turn, Making left turn, Stopping or Stopping, Changing lanes, Starting from parked position, Stopped or parked, Other (explain above)

VEHICLE 2: Starting from parked position, Stopped or parked, Other (explain above)

*WHAT PEDESTRIAN WAS DOING

PEDESTRIAN was going Along _____ Access or into _____ from _____ to _____ Color of Clothing Dark Light

Crossing at intersection, Crossing not at intersection, Walking in roadway - with traffic, Walking in roadway - against traffic, Stepped into path of Vehicle, Standing in roadway, Standing in safety zone, Lying or Sitting on roadway, Getting on or off Vehicle, Hitching on Vehicle, Pushing or working on Vehicle, Other working in roadway, Playing in roadway, Other roadway, Not in roadway, Other (explain above)

ACCIDENT CHARACTERISTICS	LIGHTING CONDITION	01	ROAD DEFECTS	01	TRAFFICWAY CHARACTER	02	CLASS OF TRAFFICWAYS	01
	WEATHER	01	TRAFFIC CONTROL	01	TRAFFICWAY LANES	02	TYPE TRAFFICWAY	01
	ROAD SURFACE	02	TYPE LOCATION	03	VISION OBSCURED	01		

WITNESSES (other than occupants): NAME Ruth Herwarth ADDRESS - Number and street 4410 Baltimore Av City and State / Zip Code _____

FIRST AID GIVEN BY Bryan Best Doctor or Nurse Cert. First Aider Cert. First Aider (Police) Other (Explain)

INJURED TAKEN TO Sacred Heart Hosp BY: Priv. Ambulance Gov'l. Ambulance Other (Explain)

ARREST: NAME Anthony K. Gould CHARGE manslaughter Citation No. AD-17355 PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN Yes No Invest. Agency Other (Explain)

TIME NOTIFIED OF ACCIDENT 19 3:27p.m TIME ARRIVED AT SCENE 3:34p.m WAS INVESTIGATION MADE AT SCENE (if not where) Yes IS INVESTIGATION COMPLETE (if not why) Yes

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Weather

- 01-Fair
- 02-Cloudy
- 03-Fog, smog, smoke
- 04-Rain
- 05-Sleet, hail, freezing rain/
drizzle
- 06-Snow
- 07-Severe crosswinds
- 08-Blowing sand, soil, dirt,
snow
- 09-Other
- 10-Unknown

- 09-Shoulders (none, low, soft,
high)

Traffic control

- 01-None
- 02-Traffic control signal
- 03-Flashing traffic control
signal
- 04-School zone signal
- 05-Stop sign
- 06-Yield sign
- 07-Warning sign
- 08-Railroad crossing device
- 09-Unknown

- 02-Two lanes
- 03-Three lanes
- 04-Four lanes
- 05-Five lanes
- 06-Six or more lanes

Vision obscured

- 01-No obstruction
- 02-Obstruction in one or more
of the vehicles (passengers,
cargo, etc.)
- 03-Shrubs, trees
- 04-Walls, buildings
- 05-Roads intersect at odd
angle
- 06-Other vehicles

Road surface

- 01-Concrete
- 02-Asphalt
- 03-Brick
- 04-Gravel
- 05-Dirt
- 06-Other

Type location

- 01-Intersection (3-way)
- 02-Intersection (4-way)
- 03-Public street or highway
- 04-Private driveway or parking
lot

Class of trafficway

- 01-Residential street
- 02-Arterial street
- 03-Highway, uncontrolled ac-
cess
- 04-Highway, controlled access

Road defects

- 01-None
- 02-Oil, sand or gravel on
surface
- 03-Ruts, holes, bumps
- 04-Construction zone
- 05-Worn, polished surface
- 06-Obstruction in road
- 07-Traffic control device inop-
erative

Trafficway character

- 01-Straight and level
- 02-Straight and on slope
- 03-Straight and on hilltop
- 04-Curved and level
- 05-Curved and on slope
- 06-Curved and on hilltop

Trafficway lanes

- 01-One lane

Type of trafficway

- 01-Undivided two-way traffic
- 02-Two-way traffic separated
by yellow line
- 03-Two-way traffic separated
by median
- 04-One way traffic
- 05-One-way traffic with two or
more lanes

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ruth Herwarthe, witness: "The car seemed came over the hill just this side of 44th Street and for a moment it seemed to be airborne. Then when it hit ground, that's when it seemed to go out of control. In a flash it was over the curb and then it hit my tree so hard I thought it was going to knock it over. Two of the kids in the car were hurt pretty bad. I think the girl hit the windshield with her head. Her face was all bloody and she wasn't moving. One of the boys was hurt bad enough he couldn't walk. The other boy—I don't know if he was the driver—seemed just fine."

Barry Kopperud, police chief: "Nicole Ping was in the back seat and was not wearing a seat belt. The force of the impact propelled her into the windshield, which she struck head first. She was not responsive at the scene of the accident and was taken to Sacred Heart Hospital at 3:45 p.m. She was pronounced dead about an hour later. The driver, Anthony Gould, was also taken to the hospital. I understand he's been released but did receive serious injuries. Gould wasn't wearing a seat belt or shoulder harness, but his airbag did deploy. The third person in the car was Kevin Shadgott. He was the only person wearing a seat belt. Gould had his license revoked two months ago after two previous incidents of

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

negligent and reckless driving. Neither of those incidents resulted in injuries, but one did involve his losing control of the vehicle, leaving the roadway and striking a mailbox.”

INFORMATION ABOUT NICOLE PING

Nicole Ping was a sophomore at Colonial High School. Hundreds of students and teachers participated in a memorial for her three days after the accident. After playing some of Nicole’s favorite songs, her friends, teachers and relatives gave brief remembrances of her. Sara Shepard, the daughter of Frank and Helen Shepard and a close friend of Nicole’s said, “I just started screaming when I heard Nicole had died. I can’t believe she’s gone. We both loved music and science and math. We helped each other and cared for each other. Now she won’t be there anymore.” Jeanette Weinstein, a teacher at Colonial, said Nicole was a 4.0 student and was especially strong in mathematics. “She was so bright that there was no topic she could not master. She was just one of the best,” Weinstein said. Louis Ping, Nicole’s father, said, “For Nicole’s mother and me, the light of our lives has just gone out. The shock and emptiness are beyond words right now. I don’t understand what has happened or why it has happened. I just know that life will never be the same.”

ANTHONY GOULD’S FIRST COURT APPEARANCE

Two weeks after the accident that killed Nicole Ping, Anthony Gould appeared in the courtroom of Judge Marci Hall for first appearance on charges of manslaughter and driving without a license. Hall set bond at \$25,000. Helen Wehr, assistant county attorney, has asked that bond be set at \$40,000 because Gould had failed to appear at an earlier hearing and because he had been cited again since the accident that killed Nicole Ping for driving without a license. Hall said she was concerned about Gould’s continuing to drive without a license but the failure to appear had been because Gould had fractured his hip in the accident. When he appeared in court, he was in a wheelchair. Hall asked Gould if he had anything to say in his behalf. Gould said, “The other guys in the car were talking about taking the hill on Baltimore. We had gone over it the night before, so we went in that direction. When I got to 44th and Baltimore I built up speed to go over the hill. I guess I was going about 60. I slowed down a little bit before I jumped it. I jumped the hill, and there was this truck in front of me that I would have crashed into—but I swerved out of the way. I must have blacked out because I don’t remember what happened next. I woke up in the ambulance. I had no idea. No one wanted it to happen. It wasn’t something that someone saw coming. I don’t like hurting people or anything like that. Nobody knew it was going to happen. I don’t think I should be put away for it, ‘cause technically I didn’t kill anybody.”