EXERCISE 67  NAME ________________________

Assignment 1. If you were the assignment editor, what comments might you make to reporters about the fairness of these stories? What specific advice would you give them?

Assignment 2. Edit the stories for grammar, style, awkwardness and so on. Assume that they’re for a small daily in Northern City, where NSU is, and that Springdale is a nearby city.

STORY 1

Police Tuesday night charged a 35-year-old mother with distributing child pornography, including pictures of her own teen-aged daughters and several of their friends from Southview Middle School engaged in sex acts with adult men.

Doris Slocum, 3265 W. 32nd Avenue, was taken into custody after police found hundreds of pictures of young girls stored in her computer.

Sgt. Jackie Gray said police had received a tip that Slocum was operating an Internet site, called Young Lovers. For a fee, users of the site could download the pictures into their own computers.

STORY 2

A man with three small sons was robbed by a black man Tuesday night as they were leaving a basketball game at Northern State University’s Barr Arena.

Charles Nelson, 31, 321 S. East Street, told police that a man demanded that he hand over his wallet. When Nelson hesitated, the gunman pulled out a gun and aimed it at Nelson’s 8 year old son Justin and threatened to kill Jamie, 6, and Jerome, 5.

After Nelson gave him his wallet, the gunman ordered Nelson and his sons to lay on the ground and told them to count to 10. He then ran from the parking lot.

Nelson said the man was wearing blue jeans and a dark hooded suit shirt with a scarf over his face. He could not give police a description of the robber’s face, but he said he was black, medium build and athletic.
Police later took a man into custody. According to witnesses, they questioned Xavier Williams outside the arena and then took him to police headquarters. Police records indicate that Xavier, 18, 5412 Brook Ridge Apts., was later released and police gave him a ride home. Witness said his clothing and general description matched the robbers.

STORY 3

A former meat cutter at a Northern Starlight Food Store said he plans to file a class action lawsuit against the food chain accusing it of selling tainted meat.

“We were told to take old meat, soak it in Clorox bleach, douse it in barbeque sauce and turn it over to the deli,” Bob Gross, 41, told reporters at a press conference in his home. “If it was too bad for the deli, we’d grind it up with some fresh meat and sell it as hamburger. I’d never eat anything from Northern Starlight myself.”

Gross said he hopes a class action suit will stop the practice and get refunds for people who may have purchased spoiled meat. “I’m sure lots of people have gotten sick eating the meat I was forced to sell, and that hangs heavy on my conscience,” he said.

He says his attorney will file the suit as soon as the labor relations board settles his complaint charging Northern Starlight dismissed him unfairly.