

1.12 WRITING A CUTLINE

A photo without a caption is like television without the sound. It is the cutline’s job to tell the story behind every picture — who’s involved, what’s happening, when and where the event took place. Tell the reader why the photo — and the story — are important. Normally newspaper cutlines are only one or two sentences long. However, a cutline for a wild art photo, a photo that stands alone and does not accompany a story, could be five or six sentences long and might include a direct quotation from a source. The first sentence is written in present tense and describes the action as it is happening. Any subsequent sentences are written in past tense.

DIRECTIONS: Below are two photos and basic information regarding each one. Using that information, write a cutline for each photo in the space provided.



Who: Matt Middleton
What: Waits to be hit by a pie
When: March 25
Where: Courtyard

Additional information: Middleton, a candidate for student government president, volunteered to be hit in the face as part of a Greek fundraising effort. Greek life on the local college campus has been struggling for the past few years with membership in the Greek fraternities and sororities down by more than 10 percent. The pie in the face was part of a week-long campaign to raise money for local charities and to increase awareness of Greek life on campus. “It stung every time I got hit,” Middleton said. “And I got hit at least six times.”

YOUR CAPTION



Who: Eric Garrett and Paul Zarsky
What: Play the school fight song
When: Aug. 17
Where: Basketball arena

Additional information: The two were playing at the convocation, a pep rally and educational opportunity created largely for incoming students. About 3,200 people attended. This was the first convocation in the school’s history. Talk show host Phil Donahue was the keynote speaker. “It’s important for people to realize that they’re not like everyone else,” Donahue told the crowd. “Be open-minded. You may be conservative in your beliefs, but that doesn’t mean everyone else is. Be adventurous. Take a liberal to lunch.”

YOUR CAPTION
