

# 20 The Nature of Things, 1990–1998: The Scientific and the Sordid

### Chapter 20 Discussion

1. Reading about how Gilbert Gaul got his idea for a Philadelphia Inquirer story (p. 332) notice some other Pulitzer-winning projects started with a reporter's observation made on a beat. Discuss.
2. How would you deal with an interview subject who said to you—as one told Gilbert Gaul—"We don't have to tell you that"?
3. In 1988, rape victims rarely were identified by name in the media. Do you think that has changed in the decades since? What do you think of the practice in the newsroom of withholding a victim's name?
4. Discuss the ways that the Miami Herald's coverage of Hurricane Andrew became a business story—having to do with codes affecting the construction industry—when it started out as a disaster story. What are some other examples of the business angle of a story developing?
5. Discuss the Raleigh News & Observer's lead paragraphs on p. 352. What are its strengths? Do you see any weaknesses in that approach?

### Chapter 20 Quiz

1. What do the Philadelphia Inquirer and North Carolina's Washington Daily Star have in common?  
A Both won the public service Pulitzer in the same year  
B Both were owned by Gannett  
C Both were Pulitzer finalists, not winners  
D They collaborated on a Pulitzer-winning story
2. Gilbert Gaul got an idea for a Philadelphia Inquirer story while  
A Interviewing the mayor  
B Witnessing a murder  
C Recovering from AIDS  
D Giving blood
3. Stories about the crime of rape usually name the victim:  
True  
False
4. "Parachute journalism" refers to covering a story in an area unfamiliar to the reporter:  
True  
False
5. The Times-Picayune's "Oceans of Trouble" series was about  
A Immigration  
B A hurricane  
C The fishing industry  
D Shark attacks