

Chapter 5, pages 141-2

#### Regarding Ethics . . .

16. You are doing a package about the high costs to society of health treatment related to obesity. You remember some film footage of a weight control meeting and a picture of an overweight woman walking on a treadmill. You would like to use the shot. What potential *legal* issues are there?
17. A high-profile person in your community is on trial for rape. You have video of a group of people exiting the courtroom, including the victim. The victim has not been named in any media, but you would like to use the shot as general footage. You know who the victim is, and a few people may know her and see her in the shot, but many will not. What potential *legal* issues are there?
18. You are doing a story on the increased number of AIDS cases among heterosexual women, and you have pictures of women leaving the Health Department after an educational meeting on AIDS. The picture was taken from public property. What potential legal issues are involved? Are the legal issues different from ethical issues in this case?
19. You are covering a town council meeting. During the meeting a citizen tells the council that he's tired of the lousy way the city is run. He says the mayor is a poor manager, is running the town into the ground and is wasting taxpayer money. As luck would have it, the battery in your tape recorder died

during his comments, so you ask the angry citizen to give you an interview outside after the meeting is over. The comments are even more colorful this time: "The mayor is a scoundrel and a thief and is ruining our town—and on top of that, everyone knows he's a philanderer," says the citizen. What legal issues would you consider in deciding whether to run the comment? Are the legal issues different from the ethical issues in this case? If you run it and the mayor sues, what defenses could you offer?

19. Suppose you say the same thing the angry citizen in Activity 18 said, in a news segment clearly labeled as opinion. How would you defend your use of the words *scoundrel*, *thief* and *philanderer*?
20. You are editing a new opening for a daily segment in the five o'clock news, and you use five seconds of a new hit song while video shows various scenes in your city. Is this a fair use of the music? Why or why not?
21. You are covering an explosion at a local hotel. Police have put up yellow tape, and you are shooting from behind the tape. There are lots of people around you who have gathered to see what is happening. A police officer comes and tells you to take the camera and leave. She does not tell anyone else to leave. What do you do?
22. You are writing the story of a famous basketball player who is accused of assaulting a young woman. The charges have been made public, but the name of the woman has not. You discover her name, and three people tell you on camera that she has a history of depression. Do you write the story? Do you use her name? How do the legal and ethical issues compare and contrast?