**CMN130 Task 2**

**Writing a news story**

**Main point of the story: Drunken violence.**

**News value: Conflict and proximity.**

Police and hospital staff are fed up with drunken violence following a violent 40-person altercation outside Mooloolaba surf club late Friday night.

Six officers were called to the local surf club last night to break up the 40-person brawl that had started inside the club, before spilling into the surrounding area. One police officer was struck in the face with a closed fist by a brawling man. The incident resulted in multiple arrests for assault and minor injuries to participants in the fight. This incident follows a growing trend of alcohol and drug related incidences in the area. Due to incidents like this, Sunshine Coast clubs have had warnings issued for the danger of tourists from the wild behaviour.

Queensland Police Sergeant Bryan Thomsen said,

“Yeah, we worry, really. There is blood in the streets. There are people being hurt and others being affected because these things are spilling into the streets”

Police are not the only ones worried for safety related to these events. Hospital staff that assist with victims of these disputes, alike last night, are often attacked while helping. A 23-year-old university student, Scott Johnson, was knocked unconscious during the brawl which resulted in head lacerations, nose fracture and a trip to the Nambour Hospital. The student lashed out at the officers once he had regained consciousness however no officers were harmed.

The Queensland Ambulance Service spokesman, Graeme Greene, remarked that it’s not that unusual for violent acts to happen to their officers and that they have learnt to deal with it.

Johnson remains in hospital for his injuries while the three people who were arrested in relation to the brawl are held in police custody. They will face court on Monday with charges of public nuisance and assault.

**Interviews:**

In addition to the interviews I’ve already received, I would interview the owner of the Mooloolaba surf club as the cameras inside the club may have recorded the start of this fight to disclose the underlying cause. Furthermore, investigating into how the club manages alcohol in relation to violent acts may assist in prevention. An additional valuable source of information would come from the City Council to assess how drunken street fights could be avoided, such as additional security on the streets and if any cameras could be installed to catch further altercations from taking place.

**Due date:** Friday, September 9, midnight (Week 7)  **Worth:** 35%

This assignment has two parts: the news story itself and additional source ideas.

For this assignment you are given information, direct quotations and other source material.

**PART 1**

Using correct spelling, grammar, house style and news writing style, you will write a news story suitable for publication in a newspaper.

**PART 2**

At the end, you will also suggest:

a) one further interview you would seek with a new, specific person and

b) one other specific information source you would use to strengthen the story.

This is the first time this incident will have been reported (that is, there have been no other stories on this in the media).

For the purpose of the assignment, your story is to appear in a Sunshine Coast daily newspaper tomorrow.

Word limit for the story: 300 words (For the story only - not including the suggestions of further interviewees and sources).

**Assessment criteria:**

* Effectiveness and impact of intro (5 marks)
* Effectiveness of news angle and correct structure of news story (8 marks)
* Effective use and correct presentation of direct and indirect quotes (10 marks)
* Correct use of house style, spelling, grammar and punctuation (10 marks)
* Relevant, specific suggestions of further interviews and sources (2 marks)

**The facts:**

* Today is Saturday.
* There was a brawl last night at Mooloolaba outside the surf club on Mooloolaba Esplanade.
* About 40 men and women were involved. They came from inside the club after a scuffle erupted in there and the security officers moved them outside.
* Other people were affected including drivers on the road because the fight spilled onto the street.
* Four people suffered minor injuries, including cuts and bruises. One person was knocked unconscious, and sustained a deep cut to the back of his head and a broken nose.
* Ambulance officers took that man to Nambour Hospital.

**Sergeant Bryan Thomsen, Queensland Police, tells you**:

* Six officers attended the incident
* Police arrested three people, who were held overnight in the watch house on Friday night and will face court on Monday on charges of public nuisance and assault.
* Police are tired of attending incidents as a result of the weekend cycle of binge drinking and violence.
* One police officer was hit in the face with a closed fist by a brawling man.
* The violence is getting worse.
* *Direct quote* – Frankly, our officers are sick of it. These people need to take responsibility for themselves. If they won’t we will make them by breaking these incidents up and arresting the troublemakers … yeah, it’s bad now, worse than any time I can remember.
* *Direct quote* – Yeah, we worry, really. There is blood in the streets. There are people being hurt and others being affected because these things are spilling into the streets and there is a ripple effect. It’s bad, mate, really bad.
* Police are too often seen as the enemy in situations like this. Inebriated and high people make their job more difficult because of the lack of coherence and ability to follow police directions.
* The coast licensed venues are particularly bad for trouble caused by binge drinking on “Uni Night” (Thursdays), and Friday and Saturday nights.

**A check of the respected travel advisory website tripadvisor.com.au reveals:**

* Warnings have been issued about the Sunshine Coast clubs as places of potential danger for tourists over the past five years.
* There is a culture of wild behaviour, drug taking and binge drinking in the restaurant strip at Mooloolaba.
* In a list of the 2015 most violent Australian tourist spots, Mooloolaba ranked sixth.

**Queensland Ambulance Service spokesman Graeme Greene tells you:**

* A male person, aged 23, was transported to Nambour Hospital.
* His name was Scott Johnson and he lives at Buderim. He is a student at the University of the Sunshine Coast.
* He had been knocked unconscious and had a deep cut to his head and a compound fracture of his nose.
* *Direct quote* – The patient was transported to hospital but the journey was not incident-free. He came to in the ambulance, and became very distressed, lashing out at ambulance officers.
* No officer was injured.
* *Direct quote* – It is not unusual for that to happen to our officers. They have learnt to deal with it. It is a fairly typical thing for us have to handle in the course of a Friday and Saturday night on the coast. Drugs are usually the culprit. They make people lose their heads.
* Nambour Hospital admitted Johnson and he remains in hospital.