

name:
form:

Textbook



TEXTBOOK 2

H/V 4



TEXT SHEET 7

Battered and bruised – by the city

By Alice Callaghan

1 A PERVASIVE FEAR occupies the corners
of Los Angeles' skid row¹, where it
seems the homeless are everywhere,
heaps of human despair sleeping in
5 doorways and on the public sidewalks.
However, it is not men wielding
baseball bats, as happened last week,
leaving one man near death, that
frightens the poor of skid row. Using
10 the bat assault as an excuse, police and
private security guards have escalated
efforts to clear the area, ordering the
homeless to move off city sidewalks for
their own good. The two 19-year-olds
15 allegedly responsible for the beating
are in custody, probably in the same
jail that houses the homeless who are
arrested for the high crime of being
homeless.

2 20 For more than a year now, police
have been enforcing a law against
sitting, sleeping or lying on public
sidewalks. Security guards hired by
property owners order people off
25 public sidewalks and take the
belongings of the homeless when they
go inside a mission to eat. It is, the
guards insist, abandoned property. The
homeless must choose between losing
30 their precious belongings and eating.
Street maintenance workers, in
violation of city policy, remove the
belongings of the homeless, insisting
that backpacks and rolled-up bedding
35 stashed against a wall are abandoned.
Shopping carts laden with belongings
are dumped in the street and scooped
into city trucks for disposal.

3 A self-appointed action group
40 walks the row once a month to "take
back the streets." The marchers hand
out leaflets that promote drug and
alcohol recovery programs and list
shelters for the homeless, as though
45 warm, safe beds await all who choose
to take advantage of the city's
generosity.

4 If a shelter does have empty beds,
it says more about the shelter than
50 about the person who refuses to sleep
there. In fact, few beds are available on
any given night. There may be an
appearance of a lot of space, but most
shelter beds in skid row have been
55 designated for use in long-term
programs. The police can lean on a
shelter on a particular night to take in
one or two more people, but that
doesn't begin to meet the need.

5 60 Every affordable permanent
housing unit on skid row has a waiting
list. A shabby hotel in the downtown
area rents for upward of \$750 a month.
The monthly general relief payment to
65 this city's poorest is \$223. Even if skid
row residents found employment at
minimum wage, they still would not be
able to afford housing.

6 Two men wielding baseball bats are
70 not nearly as frightening as a city that
fails to address the serious lack of
affordable housing for its poorest and
most vulnerable.

ALICE CALLAGHAN directs *Las Familias del Pueblo*, a nonprofit community center in downtown Los Angeles.

Los Angeles Times

noot 1 skid row: the poorest part of town, where homeless people live

TEXT SHEET 8

Bang bang you're banned

1 GUY FAWKES night is going out with
a bang. Britain's annual fireworks
festival on November 5th was the last
before tougher measures will be
5 introduced to restrict the size of
fireworks, regulate sales and institute a
curfew. Some police chiefs want to ban
private fireworks altogether.

2 It is a big market. Around 12 million
10 people attended organised displays alone.
Britain consumes around 10,000 tonnes of
fireworks every year.

3 Some of this is just jollity. But there is
a growing menace from firework
15 hooliganism too. British Telecom says
fireworks have been let off in 2,237
telephone boxes so far this year. Some 30
have been destroyed in Liverpool alone.
Royal Mail pillar boxes have also been
20 wrecked, and the letters inside destroyed.
Cars have been targets too. A particularly
nasty and dangerous habit is posting lit
fireworks through domestic letterboxes.

4 The new laws will establish regular
25 inspections of fireworks shops and
depots, financed by an increased licence
fee. Currently a fireworks sales licence
costs only £13 (\$21.70). The new one will
cost about £200. Other measures include
30 limiting the permitted bang to 120
decibels. This would rule out the Giant
Flash Report rocket, a new type of
projectile favoured by those who care
little for pretty coloured stars, but like a
35 really loud noise. And letting fireworks
off after 11pm will be illegal.

5 Will it work? Experience so far
suggests that legal restrictions alone are
ineffective. There are tough constraints on
40 firework sales in Northern Ireland, but
nobody takes much notice. Making life
more expensive for retailers will create
incentives for illegal traders who already
benefit from selling at a lower price than
45 their law-abiding rivals. And the curfew
will be hard to enforce. "If you see a
firework explode 400 feet in the air it is
hard to know who let it off on the
ground," says Tom Smith of the British
50 Pyrotechnists Association.

6 A better approach would be more
confident and vigorous policing. There
are plenty of existing laws to deal with
people who create a public nuisance,
55 whether by letting off fireworks or other
means. Timid, deskbound police are often
loath to make arrests for fear of yet more
paperwork.

7 A second remedy would be to restrict
60 the illegal trade, which helps
irresponsible buyers to get hold of large
and dangerous products. Almost all
Britain's fireworks are imported from
China. At the ports, 10-20% leak out of
65 official distribution channels, and are sold
anywhere, such as in pubs or from car
boots. Liverpool's fire service recently
found 1.7 tonnes of fireworks illegally
stored in a private house.

8 70 Thirdly, enforcing better the existing
law that bans sales to anyone under 18
can make a difference: in Liverpool, the
authorities cut firework-related disorder
by 20% last year by using hidden cameras
75 to film shops that sold fireworks to
children and then fining them.

TEXT SHEET 9

Text 1 – Boxing - out for the final count

It must have been reassuring for many to see and hear our Henry Cooper, as high, wide and handsome as ever and obviously in full possession of his faculties, disagreeing on television with the decision of the British Medical Association (BMA) to campaign for the abolition of professional boxing. Given the universal tendency to generalize from the particular, some will
5 have argued from his obviously excellent form that there is nothing at all in the doctors' case: that the BMA is a conspiracy of killjoys bent on destroying yet another innocent pleasure of the masses (and quite a few of their betters) on grounds of interfering and misplaced do-goodery. Even Mr Cooper's celebrated eyebrows, which his opponents would aim for because they often exuded enough blood to cloud his vision, looked in fine shape. And, of course, we were shown
10 the immortal clip of film of Cooper flooring Cassius Clay, as Muhammed Ali was still known at the time.

All this overlooks the fact that Cooper, despite his defeat at the hands of Ali, was in boxing terms one of the winners, retiring with few defeats to remember, a string of trophies, and the lasting respect of the general public. The very fact that he was an exceptionally good fighter
15 meant that he took fewer of those dreadful punches that the doctors are worried about. He therefore emerged in apparently sound physical as well as financial condition, avoided the embarrassing and sometimes sickening error of the pathetic comeback (unlike Ali, who could well turn out to be one of the losers in this respect) and still appears to be the very model of the fighter that hungry boys in the slums used to be encouraged to imitate. And on the face of it,
20 there is no answer to Mr Cooper's point that professional boxers are volunteers to a man. So are those who are, for the moment, free not to wear seatbelts in their cars.

Boxing, though, is not in good shape. Sweden and Norway (where else?) have already banned it. Since the war 337 men have been killed by it. Those who saw them will not forget the sorry pictures of the all-time great, Joe Louis, in his dramatically declining years; nor the coast-to-coast
25 action relays of Benny Paret and Johnny Owen losing lives as well as world championship fights. Now the BMA wants to ban it on health grounds, trying to give the kind of lead they provided against smoking. This abolition campaign may have more muscle behind it than any of its predecessors, and it conforms with the trend towards prohibition, for a still simply defined general good, of other blood sports, tobacco, lead in petrol and nuclear power stations.

30 As a matter of fact, boxing is the only sport in which it is legitimate to seek to win by disabling your opponent. Some American states classify a professional boxer's fists by law as lethal weapons not to be used outside the ring. Boxing belongs in the same historical dustbin as cockfighting, if only because it can transform audiences into mobs baying for human blood.

TEXT SHEET 10

Text 1 – £1 Coin comes in as small change

The £1 coin went into circulation last week, challenging the durability of the existing note and adding to the weight in British pockets and purses. The new coin is slightly smaller in diameter than the 5p coin but thicker, and with a milled edge.

5 'The £1 note is now a unit of change, not of value,' according to the Banking Information Service. 'Shops are paying in larger notes when they bank and holding on to pound notes to use as change for their customers,' said its spokesman. The consequence has been a growing stock of ageing, tatty £1 notes in circulation.

10 Coinage - along with warm air central heating and shoe laces - is one of those things where there has been virtually no product development for 2,000 years. The new coin is a nice enough piece of mintpersonship to be sure, but something that anyone in the Roman Empire would have no difficulty in recognizing for what it is. Just like any coin of 2,000 years ago, it has someone's head on one side and a few squiggles on the other.

15 Why? The question is worth asking because it would be perfectly possible to devise a more convenient form of token that would be cheaper to produce, lighter to carry and easier to handle. No country does it, however. Instead, all use coins for small change and notes for larger transactions.

20 Yet it would not be very difficult for a competent advertising agency to devise a campaign to try to persuade us to switch to little plastic cards, or whatever, instead of coins. Look at the way the credit card companies try to get us to use their products. Aside from the usual appeal to snobbery, there would be the hygiene and safety angles: the little plastic somethings wouldn't harbour germs or stick in babies' throats.

Indeed, on any normal economic grounds there would be a great deal of sense in trying to wean people away from expensive metal coinage. But it is not going to happen for the very simple reason that metal coins have for so long been a symbol of civilization that no country is going to dare dump them.

25 There are other examples of human irrationality when it comes to ideas of value: diamonds and gold are both priced far above their present economic worth, and show little sign of being exposed. But metal coins stand out.

30 So when other newer inventions of the financial world, like the cheque (replaced by electronic transfers), and the overdraft (replaced by loans) wither away, metal coins will surely survive as the new £1 coin serves to remind us.

Paul Keel in *The Guardian Weekly*

TEXT SHEET 11

Text 1 – Here is the newscaster

Television news is not for the faint-hearted. In a random week I logged four wars, two kidnappings, a grisly murder trial, the deployment of missiles, breakdown of peace talks, violent picketing, a plane crash, sectarian killings, and a nuclear-waste cancer scare. Even the most optimistic of viewers must have felt pretty punch-drunk after that lot. But what about the news reporters who have to endure the world's horrors first hand?

I talked to Carol Barnes about how she copes with reporting for ITN and the traumatic events she has covered. 'You have to turn off to a certain extent: treat it as a job to be done and forgotten,' she says. 'The C. Barnes ITN reporter is a totally different person from me at home with my husband and two children. There's so much else to think about. The challenge of talking to the right people, getting the right stuff, getting it back to the studio on time, writing the commentary and editing the tape — you don't have time to get involved. Naturally some stories are more upsetting than others. The stories that bother me — probably because I'm a mum — are the ones connected with starving children, or child abuse. It's hard to forget those.'

What about the intrusiveness? I wondered. Isn't it distasteful to have to shove a microphone in someone's face when they're distraught with shock? 'Yes, I hate that, but we have to do it sometimes. There isn't a definite policy on this, you have to treat each individual event as it happens. If there's any doubt, I'll refer back to my news editor of the day. Of course, I could refuse point-blank to do an interview, but theoretically the editor has the final say.'

Apart from her role as a reporter, Carol is also a newsreader. 'A lot of people think that reading the news is a doddle, but there are tremendous strains. If anything goes wrong you're the person with egg on your face. Technical things are going on all around you when you're reading. You've got your earpiece in and you're hearing constant instructions which are changing all the time. Although I've got past the stage of being nervous there's always buckets of adrenalin * flowing when you're out there. I like that. It's something totally different from reporting — it's a performance.'

Although most of the political reporting is handled by political staff based at Westminster, when Carol is presenting *News At One* she will often be called upon to do a political interview herself in the studio. The questions will be left up to her with the odd suggestion thrown in, so she needs to keep herself well informed. 'When I'm doing *News At One* I read all the papers in the morning and if I know an interview is coming up I'll go and look through all the cuttings and research it extremely thoroughly. You could so easily make an absolute fool of yourself.'

Her worst boob so far, apart from the time she garbled the football results, was to announce cheerfully during the weather bulletin that we were in for some 'sunny smells'.

Carol often finds it difficult to adjust to the peace of ordinary life after a stretch of hard work. 'I do get very tensed up,' says Carol, 'and it takes a bit of time to unwind. On the first day, I expect the place to run like a television studio, which of course it doesn't. But after a couple of days I calm down. Back on the job I have to psyche myself up to become more probing and forceful than I would ever dream of being in my private life. I don't even like arguing with shopkeepers. But all in all I don't think it has dulled my sensibilities, made me any more cynical, or any less compassionate than anyone else. There are after all, plenty of other jobs — nurse, doctor, policewoman - for which you have to harden yourself against some pretty grim sights.'

Hegra Tayler in *She*

When did ‘hanging around’ become a social problem?

By Josie Appleton

- 1 **Police are on high alert across the country. Councillors and police forces have racked their brains for new ways of dealing with the annual threat to national security. No, not terrorists in this instance, but kids hanging around on street corners.**
- 2 The summer holidays are cue for a raft of measures to tackle youths' bad behaviour. Police prepare for groups of young people out on the streets as if for a national emergency. This year, the Home Office minister announced £500,000 in grants for 10 local areas to take action against teenage criminal damage. Discipline measures range from the heavy-handed – including curfews and dispersal orders – to the frankly bizarre.
- 3 The Local Government Association (LGA) has compiled a list of naff songs, such as Lionel Richie's 'Hello', for councils to play in trouble spots in order to keep youths 15. This policy has been copied from Sydney, where it is known as the 'Manilow Method' (after the king of naff, Barry Manilow), and has precursors in what we might call the 'Mozart Method', which was first deployed in Canadian train stations and from 2004 onwards was adopted by British shops and train stations. Another new technique for dispersing youths is the Mosquito, a machine that emits a high-pitched noise only audible to teenage ears. Adults walk by unmolested, but youngsters apparently find the device unbearable and can't stand to be near it for long.
- 4 These bizarre attempts at crowd control provide a snapshot of adult unease about young people. Teenagers are treated almost as another species, 17 reasoning and social sanction. Just as cattle are directed with electric shocks, or cats are put off with pepper dust, so teenagers are prodded with Manilow, Mozart or the Mosquito with just one goal in mind.
- 5 18, bored teenagers do get up to no good and always have, but this isn't just about teenagers committing crimes: it's also about them just being there. The Home Secretary called on councils to tackle the national problem of 'teenagers hanging around street corners'. Apparently unsupervised young people are in themselves a social problem.
- 6 Councils across Britain are using curfews, dispersal orders, and the power to march a youth home if they suspect he or she is up to no good. In 2005, several British towns drafted in the army to patrol the streets at night – a senior Ministry of Defence official said the presence of troops would 'deter bad behaviour' from youths. Police in Weston-super-Mare have been shining bright halogen lights from helicopters on to youths gathered in parks and other public places. The

light temporarily blinds them, and is intended to 'move them on', in the words of one Weston police officer.

- 7 Some have said that these measures 20 young people in general. Certainly, curfews and dispersal orders are what you might normally expect from a country in a state of siege or under a dictatorship, rather than for summer nights in British towns and cities. But the Manilow Method is hardly dictatorial. Instead, these attempts at discipline speak of paranoid adults unable to talk to kids or win them over. Adults are behaving like social inadequates rather than strong-arm dictators.
- 8 Low-level misdemeanours, which in the past might have been sorted out with a few harsh words or a clip around the ear, now require battalions of 'anti-social behaviour coordinators', police officers and other assorted officials. Police authorities carry out 'special operations' against groups of young people who are engaged in such activities as hanging around drinking in the park. They then share intelligence with other authorities, giving each other tips on techniques for getting the cans of alcoholic drinks off the youngsters. Minor annoyances have become the focus for special campaigns. Even that wholesome game of hopscotch has become a concern. West Midlands Police Community support officers asked parents to remove chalk markings from the street, after receiving complaints and reports of 'anti-social behaviour'. A BBC News report noted gravely that 'Several children were involved in the games resulting in several markings on the pavement.'
- 9 As the schools prepare to reopen, no doubt police forces are breathing a collective sigh of relief. Crisis over – at least until next year. ■