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VOL. 30 - NO. 236

WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 10TH, 2018

75 CENTS

Defense Force On Alert

DAMES ASSURES BAHAMAS' COMMITMENT TO DEFENSE OF AMERICAS

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

The government has moved to strengthen the country's borders in the wake of Haiti's earthquake this past weekend that killed at least fifteen people and injured some 300 in that impoverished island nation.

The police, the defense force, immigration and all other border patrol agencies are on alert in the event there is an influx of Haitians leaving their home for the Bahamas.

Immigration Minister Brent Symonette said, "the government has been looking and it is guided by the Minister of National Security with the whole question of using drones as a way of assisting the border control and other security devices."

In 2010, a catastrophic

MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY, ATTENDS THE 13TH CONFERENCE OF DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THE AMERICAS



▶ Minister Dames (R) with General Terrance O'Shaughnessey, Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM). (BIS Photo)

The Minister of National Security Marvin Dames has reaffirmed The Bahamas' commitment to hemispheric defense and security cooperation.

Addressing the 13th Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas in Cancun Mexico on Monday, Mr. Dames noted the recent Trade-Winds 2018 Military Exercise in The Bahamas, in which the Mexican Military and other regional security forces participated.

As for emergency humanitarian assistance and search and rescue, the Minister highlighted the Royal Bahamas Defence Force's mission to Dominica after last year's hurricane. Further, he added that The Bahamas will provide assistance to Haiti after the recent earthquake.

On the issue of girls and women, Minister Dames

"The Bahamas has begun to broaden the training of its law enforcement agencies to focus on the vulnerable complexities facing women locally"

stated that The Bahamas has begun to broaden the training of its law enforcement agencies to focus on the vulnerable complexities facing women locally, regionally and hemispherically. He alluded that the country firmly believes that women enlarge the scope of safety

See DAMES / page 2...

Corrections Officer Jailed

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

A prison officer is the one behind bars after being arraigned on drug charges.

Antonio Harrison Cash, 27, was yesterday arraigned before Deputy Chief

Magistrate, Subusola Swain, on one count of possession of dangerous drugs, namely 11 ounces of Indian Hemp.

The Doyle Street resident pleaded guilty.

The court heard that while in the Bahamas

Department of Corrections, Cash was suspected of being in possession of marijuana.

He was searched and drugs were found in his socks.

Cash said he was bringing the drugs to someone at the prison.

The drugs were confiscated, and when his superiors questioned further, Cash opted to remain silent.

The expecting father has no previous convictions and is the sole breadwinner of

See CORRECTIONS / page 3...

Inagua Residents Request Earthquake Meeting

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

Town meetings are expected to be held in Inagua after that island experienced shocks from the 5.9 magnitude earthquake that rocked Haiti this weekend.

According to Island Administrator Julita Ingraham, there was very little infrastructural damage.

She said, "on Saturday shortly after 8pm, we just felt the tremble, then on Sunday again approximately after 4pm we felt the after-

shock from the earthquake that hit Haiti. After speaking to residents everybody seems to be apprehensive," Mrs. Ingraham said.

While there was little to no damage to the island or its infrastructure, Inagua's shaken-up residents requested

that they want to be educated on earthquakes.

"On one of the chats yesterday they were talking about us being able to give more information regarding tsunamis and all of that.

See INAGUA / page 4...

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

Another escape from the Simpson Penn School for Boys has left authorities stumped. They are mystified on how this latest group of juveniles escaped this past Saturday.

Social Services Minister Frankie Campbell said that it was around 8:00 Friday evening when a group of residents were under a pavilion watching TV under the

supervision of two staff members.

However, one staff member left to use the restroom, and upon returning, it was discovered that one of the boys was missing.

He added that further checks of the facility revealed that four residents were missing from the facility.

Since then, one boy has been returned by his parent

See MORE BOYS / page 2...



DONATE A DOLLAR FOR BREAST CANCER WITH BAF IN OCTOBER

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF DENIM DAY



Defense Force on Alert

Continued from / PAGE 1...

earthquake magnitude 7.0 struck Haiti's capital Port Au Prince, killing thousands.

In a humanitarian effort, the Bahamas government, at the time, relaxed the country's borders.

However, the Immigration Minister said considering the circumstances, he would

imagine that this time around, the response would be different.

He said, "the earthquake in Haiti this time is not of the same magnitude; if my memory serves me correct, as the one before. Neither has it caused the same amount of destruction.

"That was a particularly strong earthquake that left

thousands of people homeless, dead, and caused damage to the infrastructure. This one is not of that magnitude," he added.

Among the victims of this Saturday's earthquake was a five year-old boy, who was killed when his home collapsed.

Haiti's President Jovenel Moise has made an urgent appeal for blood.

MORE BOYS ESCAPE SIMPSON PENN SCHOOL

Continued from / PAGE 1...

or guardian, the minister said.

Three residents are left from this latest group of escapees added to the one still on the run from months back.

The Minister was unable to say exactly how this latest group of boys escaped, but did say that the method used this time around was different from the last.

He said, "they were not in a cell or in a room or dormitory. They were out under a pavilion that's open, and they were being supervised. Somebody is going to have to give an account."

Minister Campbell in turn issued a stern warning to the public or anyone that knows of the escapees' whereabouts.

He said, "it is an offense to harbour the boys. In addition to that, we've been man-

dated by various courts to have them there and keeping with that, we're asking for assistance to return them to the school."

Min. Campbell assured that the school has made corrections to the building since the first incident.

The incident on Saturday, he said, seems to be a "procedural issue" which will be reviewed and the necessary stipulations made.

DAMES ASSURES BAHAMAS' COMMITMENT TO DEFENSE OF AMERICAS

Continued from / PAGE 1...

and security to include the broader set of critical societal priorities and needs required not only for lasting peace, but for mutual respect.

On the issues of environmental conservation, the Minister stated that the Royal Bahamas Defence Force has expanded its role with a focus on environmental conservation by partnering with local government and non-governmental agencies to promote sustainable conservation and build capacity

within the agency so as to sustain the terrestrial and marine flora and fauna of The Bahamas.

The Minister concluded by stating that over the past several years countries of the Americas and Caribbean, both big and small, have come together in new ways – diplomatically, economically, intelligence, politically, and militarily both unilaterally and multilaterally and the partnerships they have built among their defense establishments will be the continued foundation of shared safety and security for the

hemisphere.

The CDMA was formed in 1995 and it is comprised of 34 Member States inclusive of countries in North America, the Caribbean, and Latin America. The CDMA is an international hemispheric multilateral political forum directed and integrated by the respective Defense Ministers of the Americas along with the respective leaders of their security forces.

The organization seeks to promote mutual knowledge and exchange of ideas at the Ministerial level in the scope

of hemispheric defense and security.

The Americas and the Caribbean are inextricable bound and this hemispheric body which meets every two years has brought together Ministers of Defense to address the constantly evolving and increasingly complex nature of safety and security. In this 21st century, it is extremely important for security forces to engage in structured dialogue so as to better understand the diverse and multifaceted safety and security challenges on individual countries and the

region, collectively. The main objective is to develop feasible and effective national and regional strategies.

There are six principles which govern CDMA and they are inclusive of Member States preserving democracy as the basis for ensuring mutual security in the hemisphere; acknowledging that the military and security forces play a critical role in supporting and defending the legitimate interests of sovereign democratic states; affirming the commitments of Member States that their respective armed forces will

be subordinate to democratically controlled authority; increasing transparency in defense matters through exchanges of information and greater civilian-military dialogue; resolving hemispheric disputes by negotiated settlements and widespread adoption of confidence building measures; and promoting greater defense cooperation in support of voluntary participation in the UN- peacekeeping operations and the fight against narco-terrorism.



Minister Marvin Dames (R) with Canada's Minister of National Defence, Harjit Singh Sajjan (L) and Canada's Attache to The Region (The Americas), Capt. Paul Dempsey (C). (Journal file photo)



Commodore Tellis Bethel (L), General Terrance O'Shaughnessey (LC), General James Mattis (LR) and Minister Marvin Dames (R) at the reception for XIII Ministers of Defense of The Americas held in Cancun, Mexico. (Journal file photo)



NOTICE Addendum

The Royal Bahamas Defence Force invites bids to the Tenders Board for insurance coverage for The Royal Bahamas Defence Force's Patrol Crafts. In addition, the coverage must include the vessels transiting the Caribbean and the East Coast of the United States.

- Specifications and schedules of assets can be obtained from the Ministry of Finance, Monday through Friday between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.
- The quotes must be itemized to show the following:
 - The Hull and Machinery
 - War Risk
 - Increased Value
 - Protection and Indemnity
- In providing quotations, in respect to the Patrol Crafts for the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, the date for commencing coverage is the 31 October 2018 to 30 31 2020. The final date for submission is Tuesday 16 October, 2018.
- All submissions are to reach the Ministry of Finance by 10:00 am on or before the above-mentioned date and to be addressed to the:

Financial Secretary
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Bahamas First Host Hurricane Preparedness Event

Bahamas First General Insurance Company recently facilitated its 2nd annual Hurricane Prep 101, a free public education event. The event took place at The University of The Bahamas and featured an information session and trade show.

Event partners included the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and some of its national disaster consultative committee, Bahamas Power and Light Company and The Department of Social Services. The Bahamas Red Cross, Bahamian Contractors Association, We Buy, U Sell Group and NUA Insurance Agents and Brokers also provided attendees with information and resources to effectively prepare for the hurricane season.

The Hurricane Prep 101 Information Session was broadcast live on Guardian Radio and Star FM and streamed on Facebook. It was an interactive session with viewers and listeners posing questions to the panel of subject matter experts comprised of Captain Stephen M. Russell, Director, NEMA; Jerome Knowles, Managing Director, Confidence

Insurance Bahamas Agency Limited; Patrick Ward, President, Bahamas First General Insurance Company; Leonard Sands, Former President, Bahamian Contractors Association; Caroline Turnquest, Director General, Bahamas Red Cross.

The importance of early preparation and following the advice of the authorities in the event of a hurricane threat were reinforced during the session. The knowledgeable panel shared valuable information and advice on how to maintain one's home and property to prepare for the possibility of and recover from a storm. Stressing the importance of regular building maintenance, the panel encouraged property owners to conduct regular assessments, carry out repairs where needed and plan for more extensive projects, especially window and roof repairs.

The insurance executives also spoke to underinsurance, encouraging persons to confirm that they are adequately insured, that is, for the actual replacement cost of their homes, especially considering the effects of the increase in VAT. This

will best positioned one to fully recover in the event of a loss. There was also advice provided for renters, who were encouraged to insure their contents and consider coverage for alternate accommodation.

Reflecting on lessons learned past hurricanes, president and CEO for the leading general insurer, Patrick Ward noted, "We want to do our part to ensure that our clients are in the best state possible to protect their families and homes and minimize their risk in the event of a hurricane. This forum brought together subject matter experts to create an opportunity for persons to get solutions to not only insurance issues but also advice on home maintenance, disaster relief and social services.

Following the success of last year's Hurricane Prep 101, we thought it important to expand this event to ensure that our clients and the public have access to information, are well-informed, have adequate coverage and are best positioned to recover and move on with their lives in the unfortunate event of a loss."



► Bahamas First's Hurricane Prep 101 Panel L-R Captain Stephen M. Russell, Director, NEMA; Patrick Ward, President, Bahamas First General Insurance Company; Caroline Turnquest, Director General, Bahamas Red Cross; Leah Davis, moderator and Group Marketing and Communications Manager; Leonard Sands, Former President, Bahamian Contractors Association; Jerome Knowles, Managing Director, Confidence Insurance Bahamas Agency Limited.



► Team NEMA at Hurricane Prep 101 at UB

Corrections Officer Jailed

Continued from / PAGE 1...

his family.

His attorney, Ian Cargill, asked that his client not to be punished with a custodial sentence, as he has already lost his job, and other bene-

fits.

The 2-year prison officer was subsequently remanded for 3 months.

This along with a \$2,000 fine or an additional 3 months' imprisonment.

As for the drugs – they

were to be destroyed and Cash is to have counseling with the prison chaplain.

Meantime, in another court, two young men were formally charged before Magistrate Derece Rolle-Davis for stealing, house

breaking, attempted house breaking and receiving.

The accused – Kendrick Miller and Corey Sweeting – eventually pleaded not guilty to all.

With charges of their own, the pair allege that they were

abused while in custody and were forced to sign statements against their will.

The duo racked up 61 counts of stealing, house breaking, attempted house breaking and receiving, so much so that the matters had

to be heard in different courtrooms.

The young men were remanded to custody and will return to court October 29, November 1 and 2.

They can apply to the supreme court for bail.

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INVITATION FOR BIDS: SALE OF TUGBOATS

The Government of The Bahamas is inviting bids on the following vessels owned by the Port Department, Ministry of Transport & Local Government.

-Sale of the Tugboat "Snapper" and Tugboat "Amberjack"
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Interested parties may view the said vessels at the following location from 24 September 2018 to 5 October 2018 between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday thru Friday:

Port Department
Prince George Dock
Nassau, The Bahamas
Telephone No. (242) 322-8832

Bids are to be submitted in triplicate (3) in a sealed envelope marked "Bid for the Sale of Tug Snapper and Tug Amberjack, addressed to:

The Chairman
Tenders Board
Ministry of Finance
Cecil V. Wallace Whitfield Building
Cable Beach
P. O. Box N-3017
Nassau, The Bahamas
Telephone No. (242) 372-1530

No later than 5:00 pm on the 12th day of October, 2018.

Bids will be opened at 10:00 am on the 16th October 2018 at the office of the Tender's Board, Ministry of Finance.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS.

E. Raymond King, EdD
Commander, RBDF
Port Controller (Acting)
Port Department

BAHAMAS BRAND EXPOSED TO SOUTH FLORIDA'S HISPANIC COMMUNITY

Hundreds of Hispanics from the South Florida community were recently exposed to The Islands Of The Bahamas brand as a result of the Florida marketing team of The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism's sponsorship of the La Mano Hispana 2018 Art Gallery Opening Night at the Milander Center for Arts and Entertainment, Hialeah (Miami), Florida.

The Bahamas' sponsorship of the event came about through its partnership with the City of Hialeah Florida's Communications and Special Events Department. "October is 'Hispanic Heritage Month' and participating as a title sponsor at La Mano Hispana Art Gallery Event enabled us to tap into the Hispanic market and reach the hundreds of attendees," said Tina Lee, District Marketing Manager of the Bahamas Tourist Office, Florida.

Large crowds attended the event, and Lee said that many of them seemed "gen-



▶ Teaming up at the Bahamas display are Veronica Bolanos and Macarena Berrocoso representing FRS Caribbean, Phylia Shivers, Sr. Marketing Representative, Bahamas Tourist Office, (Florida), Tina Lee, Marketing Manager of the Bahamas Tourist Office, (Florida) and Adrian Kemp, Sr. Marketing Representative, (BTO) (Florida). (Journal file photo)

uinely surprised to see us there." The Hialeah, Miami area is home to some 224,000 Hispanics. Lee said

that "Our primary goal is to connect with the Hispanic community and expose our brand to them."

The Bahamas is the nearest international neighbor to the U. S. and South Florida, and Bimini Island in The

Bahamas is known as the gateway Island to the country. FRS Caribbean, a ferry service that transports pas-

sengers between South Florida and Bimini Island partnered with The Bahamas at the booth during the Art Gallery's opening and provided a prize - a day trip to the Island of Bimini (for two). The drawing was open to all in attendance.

"Having a booth at the event served as a platform for our brand presence and allowed us to begin developing relationships within the Hispanic community in Miami," District Manager, Lee said.

The Bahamas booth was manned by District Manager, Lee; Phylia Shivers, Sr. Marketing Representative, Bahamas Tourist Office (BTO) Florida; Adrian Kemp, Sr. Marketing Representative, BTO Florida and Veronica Bolanos and Macarena Berrocoso representing FRS Caribbean.

The current La Mano Hispana 2018 exhibition will continue at the Gallery through December 4th.

Inagua Residents Request Earthquake Meeting

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"I guess it's scary considering it's the first time we would have experienced something like that," she said.

Mrs. Ingraham said she will visit schools to speak

to students about natural disasters.

She added that only one or two houses received cracks and assured that all government buildings were intact.

The administrator added that while there has been no communication

with the government, Island's Member of Parliament communicated effectively with residents.

To date, she said she has received no information as to who in the government will travel to make any assessments of the islands.

GOT NEWS?
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WARNING SHOT



By Jerry Hutchinson

Remember You Too Are Mortal!

"Ancient societies had anthropomorphic gods: a huge pantheon expanding into centuries of dynastic drama; fathers and sons, martyred heroes, star-crossed lovers, the deaths of kings - stories that taught us of the danger of hubris and the primacy of humility."

-- Tom Hiddleston --

It is sometimes easy to get something wrong. Not because you are mistaken but because you believe that despite indication to the contrary, your success is due solely to your own efforts. Perhaps the passage below will explain what I mean:

"After every major military victory in ancient Rome, a "triumph," as it was called, was celebrated in Rome. It was a ceremonial procession granted to victorious generals who drove in a chariot drawn by four horses. One of the most interesting parts of the triumph was that behind the victorious general in the chariot stood a slave, holding a golden crown over his head, and whispering to him throughout the procession, 'Remember you are mortal' in the ears of the victorious generals as they were paraded through the streets, reminding him that he is a man even when he is triumphing". (Jan 23, 2017 Goran Blazeski).

In a democracy, voters have a dual role. They are the employers of the persons elected and they are also their customers. The voter is therefore able to judge first-hand how their employees are performing. However, it appears that over the years politicians either through hubris or ignorance have forgotten how much power the voters hold over their continued employment.

This hubris or ignorance or both, might explain why after an election the views of voters are disregarded and any suggestion from them for a change or rethink a policy change is given short shrift. We Bahamians tend to have a love hate relationship with our politicians. We hardly ever treat them as our employees. Rather they are treated like our friends and family. Thus, we are prepared to overlook their faults.

After all, they are human and have faults just like the rest of us. This ability to forgive but probably not forget has been extended to politicians of all parties. Even the UBP was cut some slack, although they finally overstepped the mark and had to be punished.

The power and ability to punish politicians for their errant ways is and has always been within the power of taxpayers who employ them. However, it is an accumulation of slights, disrespectful behaviour, incompetence and affectations which finally moves the electorate to action. In our system of government, these grievances tend to fester during a government's term in office. The current system does not allow the electorate to sack poor employees until their five-year contract is up.

However in between, these employees are being assessed for performance, demeanour and trustworthiness. We want to fire them; then we don't want to fire them; we vacillate between anger, hope and hopefulness.

After all, we elected them; our choices cannot possibly be that wrong! We will them to do better like we would with our own children and family. We give them the benefit of the doubt even though their behaviour and our experience tell us that we are wasting our time. But when Bahamians have had enough of the nonsense, we have had enough! Once we have decided after much prayer and meditation that our employees are useless, we wait in the proverbial weeds for election day to pounce.

Ironically, if we could fire them earlier we would and save ourselves and the nation a lot of grief. But since we can't we wait. But during that waiting period, we never miss the opportunity to let our employees know that they have upset us and will have to go. Indeed, as with the previous government, a decision to fire them came very early; some estimate within the first eighteen months of the administration. But, their Bahamian employers had to wait for the expiration of their employees' five-year contract to act.

So, what moves Bahamians from praising their political employees to cursing them? The answers are complex but can be distilled into a simple admonition which is drilled into anyone who provides personal protection for wealthy persons; "never dress better than the

boss". Put another way, we don't mind you being as good as us because that is a favourable reflection on employers. But don't you ever, ever act as if you are better than us, that gets you fired.

So, you may ask, what are those behaviours and affectations which are guaranteed to get employees fired. Let's explore them in the following paragraphs.

- **I know what's best for you:** Mr or Mrs know it all, having struggled through high school and being minimally employed if at all, are now experts on every conceivable subject. So, expert that they are now publicly lecturing highly trained professionals on procedures which they haven't a clue about. Bahamians across the years have always expressed amazement at the rapidity with which some persons, especially those selected as Ministers progress from abject dunce to astrophysicist. This transformation causes consternation amongst employers who know that this is impossible.
- **Cool dude:** Nothing wrong with being presentable and well dressed. Just remember that the salary that we pay dresses and feeds you and, it is unlikely that you can maintain your lifestyle if you become unemployed unless you are corrupt or inherit assets. And stop grinning; we paid for your braces too. There are numerous other examples of the behaviours which invariably lead to a political fall from grace but, no reason to belabour this point.
- **Mr/Ms Half -Moon Reading glasses:** Employers usually express alarm over the sudden deterioration of their employee's eyesight. Employees who always enjoyed perfect 20/20 vision now peer imperiously at them over reading glasses perched on their noses. Employers often wonder how HR missed that. They are also suspicious that the employee is playing a prank on them. This suspicion is deepened when, despite the scholarly looking half moon glasses, the employees still spout the same rubbish.
- **Poor customer service:** This is the ultimate show of disrespect by our employees. After begging and pleading for a job one of the first things they do is change their contact numbers; they are hard to find; and run away when you approach them. Maybe they think that their new positions and prestige are unassailable. They are wrong on this. All it takes to correct a job recruitment mistake is an indelible pencil. Just think about it. We don't continue to buy chicken in the bag from a place with poor service and rude staff. Why should we put up with this from our highly paid employees whose continued employment by us is existential to them?
- **No financial accountability:** One of the perks of the job is an expenses account, car and a phone. Employers are therefore astounded when an employee who had a reputation for his/her frugality is now a profligate spender. The reality is that Bahamians, whilst loathe to spend their own money have no problem wasting yours. Critically, employees do not like to account for their spending binges! Expense accounts when finally submitted are so obviously contrived that they might as well have been completed in crayon.

Bahamian politicians I have observed since the time of UBP, and this includes the FNM and PLP are a peculiar lot. Humility has always been in short supply amongst them no matter how humble their beginnings. Indeed, humility seems to have been deliberately substituted by them with hubris.

So, I conclude with what I said previously. Bahamians don't mind their employees being as good as them; but never, ever, let them suspect that you think you are better than them!

The Bahama Journal Is An Independent Newspaper - Published Week Days
By The Communicators & Associates In Affiliation With Jones Communications Ltd.

East St. North - P.O. Box N-8610
Telephone: 242-325-3082 - Fax: 242 -356-7256

The Bahama
Journal
Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Wendall K. Jones
Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

Kimalee P. Jones
Vice President/Operations

E D I T O R I A L

No Hiding Place

The really grim news continues throughout some of this country's hard-scrabble communities; and clearly, much of the newest information now coming our way is both witness and testimony as regards the ubiquity of gun-violence!

Thus whether shot dead by police officers [allegedly] in fear of losing their own lives to such means of sudden death, or to the depredations of the punk with the gun, the fact remains that the bloodshed continues.

It is with this set of facts [as background to today's commentary] we note that Karo Bullard, 24, is dead.

As the report of his demise notes: "...Karo Bullard, 24, and was shot on his grandmother's porch, where he also lived..."

Where he lived was where he died.

As we now recite: "...ONE MAN is dead and a woman injured following a double shooting off Taylor Street, Nassau Village, Friday afternoon.

"According to police, the incident took place shortly after 12pm. The victims were part of a group engaged in a "social gathering" on a porch when three men emerged from the lot next door and opened fire, shooting two people..."

There we have it: a social gathering, a gunman, gunfire and when it was all said and done: Death was to be found right there in the midst of a so-called 'social' gathering, riding high on the hoof, breathing and snorting hot lead and the rudest of exits!

And yet again, we see how it now arises that hate is now endemic, men and women are angry at each other and making matters all the worse, damage is also being done any and all [inclusive of children] who are obliged to play their parts as witnesses to mayhem and murder.

Sad to say: This is some of the reality which now suffuses places like Nassau Village.

This is a crying shame.

In sum, then: We now live in a time and in a place where violence in a myriad of guises and disguises is pervasive.

What is so very interesting in this regard has to do with the extent to which anger, greed, contempt and resentment are now so commingled that encounter after social encounter between so very many Bahamians seem set on getting set to blow out of control!

And when, we describe things this way, we feel obliged to search for some thread or the other that might help us understand what is really going on!

Here we note that: When you think of violence and how to control it, often the first thing that comes to mind is security. However, violence control is no longer seen as the exclusive domain of the police and the criminal justice system.

In truth, then, new thinking leads to the suggestion that: "...Violence has become a public health issue..."

And thus, no metaphorical way of thinking is needed as we join in with a raft of people who suggest that: "...Violence began to be seen as a public health issue in the modern world only recently..."

As recent research reveals: "...In 1992, U.S. Surgeon General Everett Koop declared violence a public health emergency. In 1993, health ministers throughout the Americas adopted a joint resolution declaring violence prevention a public health priority..."

And thus: "...Both in the United States and Latin America, violence was beginning to be understood as an outcome of experience, rather than predominantly genetic factors. Perhaps the most important general insight of recent years has been the recognition that life experience can shape brain chemistry in significant ways, and that experience and neurophysiology (nurture and nature) form a seamless web..."

And thus this key conclusion: "... Children exposed to family violence have a higher risk of violent behaviour during adolescent life..."

So sad; so true and for sure, how very costly this sickness is to and for all of us in a situation where there is [obviously] no hiding place for any of us!

Letter to the Editor

HEROES DAY?

Dear Editor:

I am sad that the criteria used to select our so called heroes was political. The accolades bestowed on some were self imposed and therefore dilutes the value of the intent, as I understand it to be.

To my best knowledge, a hero is a person who is admired for their courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities. Few politicians would fit that description.

Politicians for the most part are paid out of the country's coffers and little sacrifice is given. Most politicians are selfish in nature, because they use their position to enrich themselves and their families. Where is the heroic act?

But there are some, and I dare say unsung heroes who have sacrifice much, their families, livelihood and the like to help others. I know of one of the many who should have been considered.

Captain Simpson C. Penn is a true example of a hero in the first order. No one, in recent memory have contributed toward building a nation, by helping boys become men, real men, than he.

Captain Penn's blueprint was the object of the Boys Brigade, "The advancement among boys, and the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence discipline, self respect and all that tends toward a try Christian manliness.

He sacrificed his family, by giving his time, efforts, energies, expertise toward molding young men.

Captain Penn, was responsible for creating many of the leaders of this country, some who have not returned to help the organisation, but

none the less, they are the beneficiary.

How come people like Mrs. Sheila Culmer who championed the cause for the physically disable for decades not be awarded and rewarded. Anyone with one eye and half of a brain knows that she gave selflessly and from the heart.

A hero is someone who selflessly gave, not who selfishly receive from the people for the benefit of their family.

How could a sitting Prime Minister, who has just been in office for a few months, who has fired real Bahamians, wreaking havoc on many families, humiliating and destroying the dignity of others, give himself an award. How could people, supposedly with integrity, agree to it. How could someone who historically suppress the people also be rewarded.

We have no shame!

We are some jokey people. We would find a way to contaminate everything.

Personally I don't think no award anyone can give me would raise my self esteem any higher than it has always been. So people who try to "hustle" accolades are always people who's self esteem is considerably low.

Time to stop the masquerading and pontificating and taking Bahamians for fools.

Wrong is wrong, even if everyone is doing it. Right is right even if nobody is doing it - Buddha

It is as simple as that.

Signed
Ivoine Ingraham