



# Five lessons from “Eyebrow Girl”

Tammy Edwards or “Eyebrow Girl”, as she has been dubbed, could not have imagined one Tuesday recently that overnight she would be a household name in Barbados. She could not have imagined that the very next day that she would be losing her job of five years due to what she termed in the October 15, **Saturday Sun** as a “joke.”

Her graphic **Instagram** post following a fire drill at her workplace, however, went viral and the joke was on Edwards as for the entire weekend, the question on everyone’s lips was, did you see the “Eyebrow Girl” video?

If Edwards had known the name Justine Sacco, she probably would have thought twice about her post. But she too like Sacco fell victim to a flippant distasteful post. We could probably forgive the cashier Edwards, though, for being naive and spontaneous, but Sacco was a senior PR executive who should have understood full well the implications of her distasteful racist comment.

Justine Sacco was boarding a flight to Africa in 2013 when she tweeted “Going to Africa. Hope I don’t get AIDS. Just Kidding. I’m White”. By the time she landed in Africa

12 hours later, the post was reportedly retweeted over 3,000 times and was picked up by media outlets around the world.

The **Daily Mail** reported that “The blonde publicist was pictured arriving in Cape Town looking shocked and talking on her phone. Moments later, the offending Tweet and Sacco’s **Twitter** account disappeared - and IAC announced it had fired her.”

Her shocked expression probably matched that of Edwards at being summarily dismissed. But there are some valuable lessons to learn from Edwards’ faux pas.

1. What you post on social media personally, matter professionally. The world is judging you so you should be cognizant of this fact.
2. Profanity and racism will not be tolerated at any level online.
3. Social media is not a joke. Your reputation is on the line every time you post.
4. The world is watching you. Some people only think about reaching friends in their immediate circle when they post. However, remember your friends have friends not just in your country but around the world. The Internet has no borders.

5. We can be our own worst enemy on social media, so think before you post.

Edwards is making the most of her incident. At first “cruel” with the persons who were laughing at her misfortune, she is now thanking her supporters and has a song out in just a few days allegedly penned by Peter Ram.

I would caution against careless posting, but sometimes there can be a silver lining looming after a foul up.

**Pamala Proverbs, APR, ABC Communications Consultant.**

## Our G-G’s visits to schools

I look forward to seeing our Governor General talking, in grandfatherly fashion, to primary school children and not reading prepared speeches.

That way, he would replace the pronoun “they” with “you”.

**Carl Moore**

## Ganja use already legal?

Most discussions surrounding marijuana in Barbados appear to be centred on the complete legalization of its usage. Its usage under **regulation 4 of the Abuse, Prevention and Control Act** calls for its legalization by high-profile persons in the society particularly within the medical and legal professions.

It has now been stated in parts of the Press that for some time now, there were laws on the statute books of Barbados for the usage of marijuana for medicinal purposes. If this is indeed a reality, then we are likely to see wider usage of this plant that is reported to be useful in pain therapy but also contains the mind-altering chemical delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

It should be stated that the relevant section of the law mentions the words “controlled drugs” while other terms used in conventions to which Barbados is a signatory are “narcotic drugs”, “psychotropic substances” and “controlled substances”.

However, this latest development reminds of an unrelated occasion when a legally trained individual said, “I do not break the law, I only bend the law”. When asked to explain, the person said: “When you break the law, it is like an egg; you cannot put it back together. When you bend the law, you can always straighten it out”.

**Michael Ray**

# Shame on BWA employee!

Sometimes in life, we see things that are wrong and we say/do nothing much to our own peril. Other times, we pretend we did not see or do not know and refuse to express our views and state the truth.

It is as a result of this non-action that I firmly believe the decay in morals, good manners and an alarming environment of disrespect for each other have wildly escalated in this beautiful island of ours. The old idiom, “the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing” is still very relevant.

Allow me to state that I was compelled to write this letter after hearing the cries, pain, and indeed hopelessness of an elderly lady on the CBC radio call in programme of Tuesday October 18. All that senior citizen was seeking, was to have her water tank topped up in a rural district, where there has been a serious water shortage.

She claimed on national radio (and I have no reason to doubt her truthfulness) that during her conversation with an employee at the Water Authority, she was rudely asked if she wanted him to have his urine sent to her to compensate for the absence of water. It should also be noted that she has a physical challenge as she walks with a stick.

As a people, we have tolerated this type of disrespect, shoddy service and downright bad manners from public workers for too long. And in most cases, it is because there are not any enforced serious consequences for

indiscipline.

I would hasten to interject that there are some excellent workers in the service but the deviant few are tarnishing the quality of the others who are in the majority.

No society can productively thrive whether politically, religiously or even economically unless the basic tenets of discipline are observed and there are consequences when the accepted codes are breached. So here I am calling for supervisors / managers / and persons at the Administrative level to do the job they are paid to do.

Stop worrying about your pension and “lil pick,” and who would or would not be your friend at the end of the day. Stop worrying about who might not do you a favor anymore. Stop worrying about who would not give you that “big mout” drink at Christmas and who would no longer drop school the children. Let us turn around this country and be fair, courteous and respectful to all.

In closing, I must say that recently there have been many lofty and public pronouncements about what to expect from the Water Authority. This situation is an excellent opportunity for us to draw our conclusions.

Society should be looking on to see if there is any in-depth investigation into that dastardly and uncalled for comment by that employee, and if there will be consequences, as long as the evidence suggests there was an infraction.

**David Morris**



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