

SUNDAY POST OPINION

Who would attack the good guys?

AMBULANCE crews should be regarded as above any conflict. Like medics in wartime they should be granted safe passage at all times.

They don't make judgments, they don't represent any political view. They just save lives.

They aren't always paid a huge amount of money and aren't given enough credit for doing what can be, at times, an incredibly difficult job.

That they are subject to violence is absolutely baffling. Who would try to hurt someone who is helping them?

Our report today tells of them being stabbed, punched, kicked and spat on. It is almost beyond comprehension.

These are the good guys and girls, they do nothing but help us.

What has happened to our society that such a lack of respect is shown to people who really deserve medals?

Anyone who attacks an ambulance crew should feel the full force of the law.

Rest assured that if someone attempted to attack an ambulance crew, but injured themselves in the process, the crew would still try to help them.

They wouldn't think to do anything else.

But then, that's what heroes do.

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PHOTOGRAPHY



Close encounters of the wildest kind

By Stuart Findlay sfindlay@sundaypost.com

Scots snapper's astonishing images capture nature at its most dramatic

AS a great white shark leapt out of the water and sank its teeth into a seal right in front of him, David Yarrow could hardly believe his eyes.

The photographer was tired and hungry after more than 28 hours spent face-down on a boat deck off the coast of South Africa, but suddenly it was all worth it.

Five years on from capturing that

shot, Scot David is the world's best-selling wildlife photographer.

Now based in London, he spends 75 days a year capturing lions, tigers, bears and a wide variety of other creatures.

Just last year in Alaska, he was stared out by a polar bear from just

two feet away. He survived the encounter and his picture went around the world.

"If you're photographing a beautiful woman, you've got to get up close.

"It's the same situation with a lion," said 50-year-old David.

"People worry about their safety but I've found ways around that using remote controls or cages.

"As a result, your photography is far more immersive.

"With the polar bear, it wasn't scary at the time, maybe in retrospect. It stared at me and it was

almost as if it said to the other one, 'It's OK, I trust this one!'

It was not a straightforward road that led David to capturing some of the world's most magnificent animals.

Born in Glasgow, he grew up in nearby Kilmacollm and started out as a sports photographer, working with The Times.

He won acclaim at the age of 20 for capturing the best shot of Diego Maradona holding the World Cup aloft in Mexico in 1986.

But he was concerned about

■ Proud Scot: photographer David Yarrow.



being unable to get anything different from other sports photographers and decided to pack it in to follow a career in finance, moving to London, then New York.

His interest in sharks led to him exploring wildlife photography seriously in 2008 and after snapping his famous great white and seal image, he was hooked.

When he's not confronting gorillas or giraffes, David - whose great-grandfather started Yarrow Shipbuilders - still finds the time to regularly return to Scotland.

He said: "I'm a patriotic Scot, my dad still lives in Kilmacollm and I love coming back.

"I'm very lucky to see the things I do and part of my job is to build awareness of the diversity of our planet. I'm in a position of responsibility to show people."

His latest work is showcased in a book, Wild Encounters, which is released on October 25.

All the royalties from the book, which features a foreword from Prince William, will go towards wildlife conservation charity Tusk.

SNP 'bus betrayal' petition

By Andrew Picken apicken@sundaypost.com

A PETITION is calling for a shake-up of Scotland's crisis-hit bus services.

The country's largest union, Unite, is about to launch a campaign to preserve vital bus services.

It has accused SNP ministers of doing less to support bus regulation than the Tories in England.

A Bill is going through Westminster which will give English councils similar controls over local services as Transport for London.

The SNP dropped a commitment to bus re-regulation just before it first took office in 2007 and is now under pressure to take action.

The Sunday Post revealed in August that a fifth of Scotland's bus routes have been axed over the last decade.

Unite Scottish secretary, Pat Rafferty, said: "We're in a bizarre situation where the Tories in England are doing more on bus regulation than the Scottish Government.

"We believe regulation has the support of the majority in Scotland and will call on the Scottish Parliament to bring forward re-regulation legislation and to look at ways of bringing services in to common ownership."

He added: "The Sunday Post has done great work showing the extent of the problems with bus services.

"Now is the time for our parliament to take action."

Unite's "Haud the Bus" campaign has been battling against service cuts in North Lanarkshire and Glasgow. The union will now take this work nationwide as well as submitting a petition to Holyrood in the coming weeks.

Labour's transport spokesman, Neil Bibby, accused the SNP of missing the bus.

He said: "Having been so vocal in opposition, they have overseen a decade of decline in services."

A Transport Scotland spokeswoman said: "Transport Minister Humza Yousaf has outlined plans for a bill with a focus on the bus sector.

"We have invested nearly a quarter of a billion pounds every year in support of services, concessionary travel and incentives for the take-up of greener vehicles.

"We also provide £200m through the national concessionary travel scheme to give 1.3 million older and disabled people free bus travel, while providing funding for local authorities to deliver £60m a year to support services."

Drugs combination could tackle cancer

A COMBINATION treatment of two immunotherapy drugs may prove an effective new weapon against advanced kidney cancer, a trial has shown.

Scientists found that 40% of patients treated with nivolumab and ipilimumab experienced a significant reduction in the size of their tumours.

In a tenth of these patients the cancer

appeared to have vanished - as there was no detectable sign of the disease.

Dr Hans Hammers, from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre in the US, said the results were "encouraging and warrant further study".

The same combination of drugs has already been approved for NHS patients with advanced melanoma skin cancer.