

Noel Pearson a false prophet the Murdoch press blindly follows



Outrageous slur: Noel Pearson has attacked the ABC as a racist organisation.

- by Joe Aston Nov 25 2016

I've been a salaried columnist for five years. Even in that time, the decline of public discourse has been extraordinary. Blind, puerile tribalism – among other things – is rotting our debate.

Since the Wednesday morning after the first Monday of November, progressive media outlets have been castigating Mark Zuckerberg for his passive proliferation of "fake news" (at least 19 trillion voters in Wisconsin believe Hillary Clinton is really Dennis Hopper) rather than the risible ignorance of Facebook's users, while Lachlan Murdoch's duteous choir of elite polemicists, in their cosmically tedious rage, are slugging the elitism of other elites they don't agree with.

Just whose news is fake? An extravagantly wrong article in *The Australian* this week claimed that PricewaterhouseCoopers' boss Luke Sayers had written to 6000 employees offering counselling to any "worried by Donald Trump's US election win". His memo, it claimed, "implied that Mr Trump held values contrary to the company's". Know many companies (News Corp included) to whose stated values uninvited pussy-grabbing would not be contrary?

Even so, 'twas daylight bullshit. I've seen the letter and Sayers was addressing his staff's expressed anxiety at unfolding news of "women being denigrated on the

streets in the US or Muslims being told to go home", assuring them that similar abuse wouldn't be tolerated in their workplace.



*Unfairly maligned: PwC Australia chief executive Luke Sayers. **Darrian Traynor***

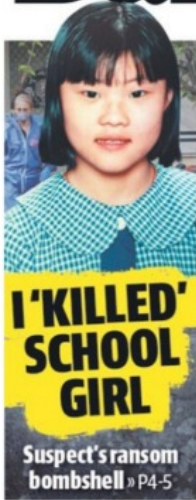
Yet, presumably too exalted to examine primary sources (let alone summon primary ideas), Nick Cater perpetuated the falsehood that Sayers had said "Trump represents a danger to [PwC's] values". Janet Albrechtsen mocked him for "offering them counselling" (he did no such thing). Bill Leak joined in, naturally, and Pearson fanboy Chris Mitchell won't be far behind. If this is "mainstream" journalism, there's little point agonising about the fringes.

Since Rupert gave up solids, slavishness to his eldest son's desperately estimated politics is first, second and third priority for News' columnists and editors.

Posturing between editors

Sydney's *Daily Telegraph* devoted its front page on Tuesday to accusing the national broadcaster of racism because Noel Pearson said so. *The Oz* kept pace. Nothing but posturing between two editors desperate to be first with their chins on Lachlan's carpet.

Besides its freedom from accuracy, the yarn worshipped before two shibboleths of The Firm: that Aunty can do no right and Pearson is the sole prophet of an otherwise hopeless race.



I 'KILLED' SCHOOL GIRL
 Suspect's ransom bombshell » P4-5



STARS & SWIPES
 Shock gridiron raid on NRL » SPORT

'Aussie Obama' savages 'miserable, perverse and racist' broadcaster



ABC OF RACISM

SHARRI MARSON
 AUSTRALIA'S most respected indigenous leader Noel Pearson has condemned the ABC as a "miserable racist" broadcaster, which needs Aborigines to "lead short lives" so it can revel in reporting their despair. In a breathtaking take-down Mr Pearson, lauded by Paul Keating as "Australia's Obama", said the ABC was "a spittoon's worth of perverse people willing the wretched to fall" and had helped wreck promising reforms to address indigenous disadvantage. "They need blacks to remain alien from mothers' bosoms ... leading short lives of grief and tribulation because if it were not so against whom could they direct their soft bigotry of low expectations." Mr Pearson told a book launch yesterday. **» FULL REPORT PAGE 9**

REVEALED
Weeds of Clover in your yard
 LORD Mayor Clover Moore has launched a Big Brother-style crackdown, dictating how inner-Sydney homeowners keep their front gardens, position barbecues and even the type of letterbox they have. City of Sydney's new landscape code, which has been slammed as "Orwellian", orders residents to plant trees if they don't have them, make sure their front yards are clutter-free and explore "innovative, well-considered methods for storage and screening". **» WILLY GOODEY REPORTS PAGE 3**

EXCLUSIVE
Light rail to Harry's doorstep
 DEVELOPER Harry Triguboff is offering the Board government tens of millions of dollars to extend the CBD-Eastern suburbs light rail out to Westfield Eastgardens, at Pagewood, where he is building a large apartment development. Mr Triguboff confirmed yesterday that he is offering extra funds to facilitate the extension. At present the \$2 billion light rail project from the city, due to be completed in late 2018, finishes at Kingsford Junction. **» ANDREW CLENELL REPORTS PAGE 2**

The front page of Sydney's Daily Telegraph on November 21 accused the national broadcaster of racism.

Wholesale hero-worship of Pearson is emblematic of the miserable dilettantism (if not the truancy) of what passes for this country's conservative intellectual movement, which apes nothing thoughtful of London's *The Spectator* but everything fatuous of America's Fox News.

To borrow his own borrowed, and burdensomely repeated trope, what has Noel Pearson ever done for us? This week we got from him a vilely self-serving oration – as always, gravel and absurdly affected, like Yoda reciting *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations* after 14 pulls on a bong. "So said Cicero," he began, advancing through Homer, Aristotle, Machiavelli, John Milton, Samuel Johnson and the Napoleonic Wars. Throw in Socrates and Alain de Botton and he's ready for the first-year philosophy exam! His prose, meanwhile, soared barely two inches above the ground. On "the stony shores of Kirribilli" he laboured, as if the PM's residence were a campfire by the ferry wharf.

And hell hath no fury like this blackfella scorned. The ABC? "The country's miserable, racist national broadcaster: a spittoon's worth of perverse people willing the wretched to fail."

That is neither true nor fair. No media organisation employs more indigenous Australians or devotes more of its coverage to aboriginal affairs – including highlighting corruption and maladministration in the very programs Pearson rails against for institutionalising black victimhood.



Hilarious: Maurice Newman attacks elites and the ABC. Nic Walker

Grinding an axe

In reality, Noel is grinding an axe. A fortnight ago, 7.30 dared to run a segment sharply critical of the management of three schools in Cape York. Their not-for-profit parent (which Pearson co-chairs) refuted any suggestion of wrongdoing, blaming Queensland's education department.

The Prophet will brook no criticism; it's His way or the racist highway.

The Murdoch press feverishly agrees, any way it humanly can: trotting out Aunty's (and the stock exchange's) retired, white, English-born chairman, Maurice Newman AC, to eviscerate "elites who feel morally superior", presumably speaking from his porch in Mosman or his regular table at Rockpool. These comments, *The Oz* declares "carry significant weight". No, they really don't; they carry about as much weight as his views on climate change.

At the same time it foments all this offence and insult, News is collectively thunderous that Leak's confronting portrayal of black children and their absent fathers has itself been labelled racist, including by aboriginal people. Well which way do they want it? Eat, Have, Cake.

No social or economic ill is more vexed than the abominable living standards of many, many First Australians. Nobody can take away from the work Pearson's Cape York Partnership has done changing them. But neither can one credibly malign Aunty's contribution to awareness (which is, after all, its only chartered role here).

The corrosion of our ideas market must be attributable as much to the mindless demarcation of their sides as the ignorance of the arguments themselves. So said Cicero.