

We The People

Program 162

Journalists or Entertainers



Good day to you. One of the technological marvels of today is the speed at which news reaches us each day and in fact in each hour. Just one hundred years ago the news was at best transmitted by telegraph, carrier pigeon or horseback and the public didn't know about it until printed in the newspaper. Interestingly the first published news items appeared in a news sheet produced daily in ancient Rome and called the Acta Diurna and these were hung in prominent places in 59 BC at the behest of Julius Cesar. The first weekly English news paper was published in 1622 and the first daily offering 80 years later. However it was often very old news by today's standards. The gathering of news is traditionally through journalists. The word journalist comes from the French word journal which in turn comes from a Latin derivative. It can be argued if you keep a day book or diary you are a journalist and I suspect in this age of mobile phones and the internet the new journalist will be potentially all of us. This is already happening.

Accuracy is expected from news outlets and journalists but tell that to the Egyptian government as they hold Australian journalist Peter Greste on trumped up charges. So being a journalist can be hard work and sometimes very dangerous. If you are a Christian journo in a Muslim country then you're in big trouble as they have a brand of justice and journalism we don't understand. In the case of journalist commentator Andrew Bolt he was found guilty of breaching the racial discrimination act for simply refereeing to some aborigines as fair skinned. In China you are merely jailed as a journo who seeks the truth if it offends the State while in North Korea they just shoot you.

Then we have the sensational journalists who weave entertainment into their reporting trying to resonate with the audience much to the delight of their media owners chasing ratings among bogans. A bad news story is always welcome and I don't really understand the nature of man with that but it appears true. The shock and awe of news gives us something to talk about in our mundane lives and I think programs society to expect the worst. Some journalists report what didn't happen by reflecting on what might have happened if they are short on news for the day.

Now the other aspect of journalism is the so called professional television journo who these days is often women with copious amounts of self induced testosterone coursing through her veins. Casting aside any sign of femininity she tries to emulate the gladiatorial aspects of the male and attacks rather than asking questions. It's not a good look and it's not good journalism. An example of this was a recent interview on ABC TV with Clive Palmer. The female journalist rifled off question after question interposed with interruptions and attempting to limit the poor cow being questioned to 10 words for any given answer. We have time constraints they say.....well then don't interview anyone unless you agree they have the right to be heard and doesn't that form part of good journalism. Poor Clive was just bullied and while personally I don't like Mr Palmer he has a right to be heard but not on the left leaning ABC and the same will apply to Pauline Hansen shortly. This same phenomenon applies to a number of female journalists and presenters and with Q and A we have the male contingent equivalent insulting us with journalism that Kim Jong Un would be proud of.

The reason today's rant is about journalists is underpinned by the fact that a truly free society must have a strong free media and enjoy free speech enshrined in the nations constitution. Without that and accurate reporting one of the pillars of a working democracy would fail and we would be the lesser for it. We don't have free speech enshrined in the Australian constitution and that must be remedied as soon as possible and that way excessively intense laws like 18c of the Racial Discrimination Act would not exist. The bastions of minority are slowly but surely stifling free speech and reporting of the truth and the law is an ass and is easily held hostage. The same journo on the ABC that kept cutting Clive Palmer off also proposed the audience had a right to hear his opinion but the irony of that was clearly lost on her. The truth is that the ABC culture is now so corrupt that free speech is only as determined by the ABC in all its tax payer funded glory. Conversely the commercial journalist cowers behind Murdoch or Fairfax and taps phones for news so no blessing there either. So let's demand accurate news reporting by voting with our feet and let the media ratings do the reporting.

Until next time this Kent Bayley