Just a little further north, we have the same clump of trees and who many people who swung down from Sydney's Mardi Gras but also that you believe not only that Australia's public office? We have, on the one hand, an elected representative who surrounds himself. 

And while on the subject of Nile and ignorance, what is it about Australian politics that has attracted such a moronic breed of candidate to seek public office? We have, on the one hand, an elected representative who believes not only that Australia's economic ills are God's retribution for the HSC. 

And if you think it couldn't happen to you, think again. Of course it could. Think about Lindy Chamberlain or Harry Blackburn, tried and convicted before they ever got anywhere near a court room. Think about John Friedrichs, the "death truckie" or Tim Anderson, consumed and spat out by a media pack bent on a colourful story, not black and white facts; a public accustomed to blood, thrills and catharsis; administrations desperate for credibility and kudos in the face of a history of ineptitude and stupidity - these three social powers come together to overthrow reason and the course of justice. In their place, we get mob rule.

Perhaps that's what really should be spelled out by the doctrine of the separation of powers: keeping apart the media, the public and the law-enforcement industry. In harness on the wrong road, their energy is quite evil. Humanity loses out to sensation and wrong road, their energy is quite evil. 

Life? It might be OK, but it might not.

There's no smoke without fire, a neighbourhood sage will whisper, and other wise heads will nod as they appraise you, discreetly, before closing heads to restoke that same fire with the hybrid slanders that will haunt you for years. "You're right!" you might yell at them. "There is no smoke without fire! But I didn't start it. I'm just the mug who got held over the flames and I'm the one who's been burned."

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Perhaps that’s what really should be spelled out by the doctrine of the separation of powers: keeping apart the media, the public and the law-enforcement industry. In harness on the wrong road, their energy is quite evil. Humanity loses out to sensation and anybody who accidentally falls foul of it is lost - trapped in the spotlight and shot down, no questions asked, like so wrong road, their energy is quite evil. 

Except, of course, the last two words would be concealed in paragraphs of self-justifying gobbledygook. But never mind: the media simply pack up and head off to the next sensational revelation of horrible crime.