

LETTERS

Your say

549 words

23 May 2008

[Herald-Sun](#)

1 - FIRST

36

English

Copyright 2008 News Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Question of our rights

THE published extract of Judge Frances Millane's judgment in refusing to allow the identity of a recidivist pedophile to be revealed reads to me as if the pedophile's interests have been placed before the public interest ("`Secret Evil", May 21).

I believe that this case highlights the dangers inherent in adopting a bill of rights that would place the defining of our rights -- as against those of criminals -- in the hands of unelected judges, rather than accountable politicians.

James Bowen, Glen Waverley

Too big a risk

A PSYCHOPATH operates on an instant-gratification mindset and experiences no empathy towards the "`toys" he uses to gratify himself.

He feels no regret for gratifying himself, and does not recognise society's right to deny him the ability to do so.

Victims' rights, civil liberties and the rule of law don't apply -- they are side issues.

The simple reality is that such a person will engage in this behaviour again, and an intelligent society, when faced with enormous risk, should take steps to prevent it.

I doubt an extended supervision order is a sufficient step for such an individual ("`Whose rights come first?", May 22).

Cameron Sharrock, Malvern East

Society has the right

AS a parent, professional childcare worker and a part-time tax consultant, I find it offensive that a person convicted of tax evasion has a lesser right to privacy than a convicted pedophile.

Society has a right to the identity of the pedophile.

We have a right to protect our children.

The "`rights of a child" are profoundly explicit in our duty to protect our children.

If our rights and the "`rules" of our society are broken, we have a right to the knowledge of the person who has chosen to offend.

Our children are our future, and their safety and wellbeing must be a priority.

Dianne Ross, Echuca