



# Miranda Devine

devinemiranda@hotmail.com

## Internet eroding child porn taboo

**T**HE SO-CALLED "pervert prosecutor", Patrick Power, SC, is no object of pity and, judging by the 59 character references he amassed for his sentencing hearing last week after pleading guilty to possessing child pornography, he still has plenty of friends in the legal fraternity.

But his handsome, stricken face leaving Browning Centre Local Court looks the greatest tragedy.

How can a man said by so many upstanding citizens to be such a pillar of the community, a distinguished senior counsel, holding one of the most important positions in the law, a "good man... a person with integrity", as his barrister said, "a person of utmost propriety and professionalism", as one of his colleagues said, be a heavy user of the most vile images of child sexual abuse and video rape of boys as young as seven?

The phrase "child pornography" has become so commonplace that it no longer really captures the horror of what was found on the 54-year-old deputy senior Crown prosecutor's personal computer last July.

Along with 29,000 images of adult homosexual pornography, a Department of Public Prosecutions IT worker found 31 videos of graphic child pornography and 433 child sex images, which so disgusted him he immediately reported Power.

The videos showed men having sex with boys as young as seven. These were in a folder named "good", according to agreed facts tendered to the court.

The court also heard of other files detected on a missing hard drive, with names such as "Gay porn young boy pen and gets raped begs for them to stop".

A 23-minute video titled "pedo gay man 1-57yo thai boy" fell into the worst category of child pornography - "sadistic, brutal acts" involving pain inflicted on a child, as chief Crown prosecutor Jeremy Rafter, QC, told the court.

"There can be no doubt that some of the children seen in Dr Power's collection have been subjected to serious and probably painful sexual assault and it is

deeply troubling that a man such as Dr Power would voluntarily and presumably for his own sexual gratification, possess such material."

It is not a "victimless crime", as Power's barrister Ian Barker, QC, tried to tell the court. Every person who looks at child porn is creating demand for the product, which means more videos must be made, more children kidnapped or sold, more little victims abused, their degradation and screams preserved forever on the internet. And in a self-perpetuating cycle, that demand is increasing at an enormous rate.

The number of images of child rape online has quadrupled in three years, according to figures released two weeks ago by the British Internet Watch Foundation (IWF).

"The images appear to be on a trend towards more severity probably because there is greater demand," IWF chairman Peter Robbins told Reuters.

"The age of the children involved is predominantly under 12."

Dr Clav Nielsen, a psychiatrist at St Vincent's Hospital, told a sexual-health conference in Sydney this month that the availability of child porn on the internet has created an appetite in people who otherwise may never have considered it.

"It is the internet itself that has created a new disorder," he told *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

"Because they have access to the material, they then are able to develop the interest and the interest takes hold."

Dr Nielsen, who has interviewed about 30 men arrested during the 2004 international child porn sting, Operation Austin, said most had started with adult material and moved "down the slippery slope" to child porn.

But Dr Nielsen's solution is to allow the men to view computer-generated "virtual" images of child pornography, which he said would be harmless.

That such an idea should even be contemplated shows how far we have come in eroding the last taboos.



## Mary too mumsy? Are they for real?

It must have been hard enough for Crown Princess Mary of Denmark (nee Mary Donaldson of Hobart) to front the world's media three days after giving birth. She rose to the challenge, smiled graciously and said just enough to give everyone a happy baby story.

But for her trouble she has been bagged mercilessly in *The Australian Women's Weekly* for being a "fashion frump" with "mumsy" hair. The story - written before the birth of Denmark's newest princess last Sunday - runs for six pages, with bitchy quotes from notable Australian fashionistas and anonymous critics accusing Mary of taking the "ordinary mum look too far".

"Mary's mumsy hairstyle, jeans, plain shoes and brown overcoat raised many eyebrows," reads the caption over a photo of Mary and Prince Frederick taking son Christian to his first day of kindergarten in Copenhagen. What was she supposed to wear? A Hera and ball gown?

Jane de Toffa, the *Weekly's* style director, weighed in: "She looks a bit ordinary to me."

Mia Freedman, Channel Nine's creative services director, thought Mary looked "like someone in their mid- to late-40s, not someone a decade younger".

"She's fast becoming a fashion frump," said Harper's *Bazaar* editor Alison Veness-McCourt. "It might be because of her pregnancy (radio?) but that isn't really an excuse these days."

What kind of impossible standards are expected of people in the public eye when a beautiful, nine-months pregnant working mother is derided for looking frumpy after she has dared to venture out in public?

At least designer Jayson Brunsdon seemed to understand. "I guess she's just getting the way she is because she's pregnant," he said.

Insure your business with someone you trust.

Talk to the ones you trust for your car and home insurance about getting the right cover for your business - NRMA Insurance.

- It's easy:
- it only takes one phone call
  - there's no paperwork
  - you can pay by the month.

Talk to an NRMA Business Insurance Specialist today. Call 132 818.



Call 132 818



BUSINESS INSURANCE

We can't help but help.

Insurance issued by Insurance Australia Limited ABN 11 001 016 722 trading as NRMA Insurance. An IAG Company. For many insurance products, a Product Disclosure Statement is available from NRMA Insurance which you should consider before making decisions about whether these products are appropriate for your circumstances.

# Lawyer 'hiding child porn evidence'



'Worst category' of material: Patrick Power leaves Sydney's Downing Centre Local court yesterday after sentencing hearings

Picture: Sam Woolf

Tracy Ong

AN immediate jail term has been decreed for disgraced former senior prosecutor Patrick Power, who it is claimed has not surrendered a hard drive said to contain evidence relating to his child pornography charge.

In fact, referred to Power's sentencing hearing at Sydney Downing Centre Local Court yesterday, the 54-year-old former NSW deputy senior Crown prosecutor allegedly had 31 files of graphic child pornography and 433 child sex images on his personal computer.

The videos, depicting men having sex with children as young as seven, were in a folder labelled "good". A further 433 thumbnail images out of a total of nearly 20,000 were of child pornography.

Chief Crown prosecutor Jeremy Rapke, who was brought in from Victoria to run the case, said Power was withholding an external hard drive on which much of the material was thought to have been stored. "[There is] evidence that things have been destroyed between Dr Power standing down and the execution of the search warrant," Mr Rapke said.

The NSW Director of Public Prosecutions came under fire for its handling of the case, as Power was told before police aware that child porn had been found on his computer. That was two days before he was arrested at his home in Darlinghurst, Sydney.

Then-deputy DPP Greg Smith — now a state Liberal MP and the NSW Opposition's legal affairs spokesman — called Power into his office after an IT

worker, asked by Power to fix his computer, noticed files with names such as "pedo gay man F...s 7yo that boy".

That 23-minute video fell into the worst category of child porn, defined as sadistic sexual acts, Mr Rapke said.

Forensic analysis of Power's computer revealed he had a folder entitled "Quicken" — also the name of a popular brand of accounting software — containing the 31 video files, while a raid of his home found 3½-inch discs labelled "The-as back-up" containing 20 child porn images and a list of bookmarks where material could be downloaded.

Although the external drive is missing, analysis showed it contained files including "Gay porn young boy gets tied gets raped legs for him to step".

Power's barrister Ian Rafter QC called for the court to impose a good-behaviour bond on his client, who had already lost his career and reputation.

"He's not a paedophile or anything like that," he said, having previously referred to the offence as a "victimless crime".

Mr Rapke said a man like Power should have been aware of the "pernicious and corrosive effect such material must have" on the children involved.

Power was stood down with pay from his \$250,000-a-year position last July and was allowed to resign in January after pleading guilty to one charge of possessing child pornography.

NSW Chief Magistrate Graeme Hennessy will hand down his sentence on May 2 after considering a DVD of the pornographic material.

## Life sentence for killing of Aussie bar girl

TOKYO: A court yesterday acquitted a Japanese millionaire of the death and dismemberment of a British bar hostess, but sentenced him to life over the killing of an Australian woman 15 years ago and a series of rapes that shocked Japan.

Wealthy developer Ichi Onoda, 54, was charged with sexual rape and the death of two British women — 21-year-old Australian bar hostess Catha Ridgway, who died in 1992, and British waitress Leslie Blackman.

The case gained nationwide attention as one of Japan's worst sex crimes and raised concerns over the safety of women in Japan's nightclubs and the sex industry.

The Tokyo District Court acquitted Onoda of all charges relating to Blackman, but sentenced him to life for nine other rapes, including the attack that led to Ridgway's death.

Onoda, allegedly a regular at bars in Tokyo where foreign women pour drinks for clients, was never charged with murder, but instead with the lesser charge of "rape leading to death". Ridgway, 21 when she disappeared, was

## Dark path led pair to murder

Alexis Buckley-Carr

A GRADUAL slide into an obsession with death, darkness and gothic culture led a teenage girl "who wouldn't kill a spinnaker" to transform into a cold-blooded killer, a Perth court has been told.

Described by her family as a caring young child, the 16-year-old former girl guide has admitted savagely murdering a girl by strangling her with speaker wires.

The 16-year-old's friend helped commit the murder by holding a face washer soaked with chemicals over the mouth of Eliza Jane Davis, 15, as she struggled against her slightly-built killers.

The two teenagers have pleaded guilty to wilfully murdering Miss Davis in the murder town

# \$408m water

Greg Roberts

THE dispute between the Howard and Beattie governments over Commonwealth funding for Queensland's water grid remains deadlocked despite an announcement by John Howard that Canberra would provide \$408 million for the project.

Announcing the subsidy in Brisbane yesterday, the Prime Minister said the money would be put towards the \$1.7 billion cost of the western corridor recycled-water pipeline, subject to Queensland providing financial information to support its subsidy application within 30 days.

"I want it to be a success," Mr Howard said.

"I have supported recycling for some time, and on that matter Peter Beattie and I are on the same page."

Deputy Premier Anna Bligh said Queensland would have no difficulty providing the financial information because it was already available on her department's website.

Her comment prompted a sharp response last night from federal Envi-

# getwinesdirect.com

## 1300 559 463

**STOCK UP FOR THE BEST DEALS IN THE LAND.**

674 601 Bunker St Richmond Victoria 3113 03 9554 6600. Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm  
**OVER 100 WINES AVAILABLE FOR TASTING. NO TRADE OR WHOLESALE CUSTOMERS**  
 WHAT FEE OF \$6 PER CARTON FOR DELIVERY AUSTRALIA WIDE  
**BE KEPT UP TO DATE WITH AUSTRALIA'S BEST WINE DEALS. SIMPLY JOIN FREE ONLINE AT**

[www.getwinesdirect.com](http://www.getwinesdirect.com)

### THE NEW WINE DEAL'S OF 2007

Sharefarmers Coonawarra Red 01 (Produced by Poinama)  
 Don't Pay \$23.95 Our Price \$9.96 OVER 3000 CASES SOLD



Bonrock Coonawarra/McLaren Vale Cab Sauv 2004  
 (Produced by Leconfield) Don't Pay \$19.95 Our Price \$9.95



**GET THE!**  
 Black De  
 Don't P.  
 WALK IN C  
 LIMIT-1 BC  
 Simply cut this  
 Only available  
 Limit 1 bottle p  
 YOU MUST H.

### 1/2 PRICE HEWITSON EXPORT WINES

JAMES HULL/DAY'S STAR WINERY

Hewitson "Two Big Men"  
 Cabernet Sauvignon 2005

Don't Pay \$25.95 Our Price \$9.95

Hewitson "Two Big Men"  
 65 Year Old Vines Shiraz/Grenache 03

Don't Pay \$26.95 Our Price \$9.95

Hewitson "Two Big Men"  
 Grenache/Trois Blanc 02

Don't Pay \$19.95 Our Price \$9.95



### NZ SAWVY UNDER \$10

Whitecap Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2005

Medal Winner '02 Limestone Top 100

Medal Winner '02 International Wine Show

Don't Pay \$19.95 Our Price \$9.95

1994 Family Reserve Marlborough

Sauvignon Blanc 2005

Don't Pay \$16.95 Our Price \$9.95

Ataulva Marlborough Sauv Blanc 2005

Don't Pay \$19.95 Our Price \$9.95

Marlborough Super Blanc 2004 Classic

Needs Vintage International Gold Medal 2004

Don't Pay \$21.95 Our Price \$9.95

Also available

Marlborough Sauvignon 2006 Classic

Don't Pay \$21.95 Our Price \$9.95



### BRIDGEWATER

+ FREE GLEANS

Bridgewater 2005 Chardonnay

Don't Pay \$21.95 Our

Accurately one of Australia's

Chardonnays is the first

from Tasmania. It's

unique in its character,

flavour and the clear valley.

IT IS A FREE GLEANS

VALLEY CHARDY GLEANS

EQUATES TO 1

A BOTTLE

### BARWICK WINES HALF PRICE

Barwick Optimus Margaret River Cab Sauv 2002

Don't Pay \$71.95 Our Price \$7.95

Barwick Darington Cab Sauv 01



### SUPERB TEMPOS TWO DEAL

Tempos Two Cabernet 03

Don't Pay \$16.95 Now \$9.95

Tempos Two Sauvignon 02

Don't Pay \$16.95 Now \$9.95

PLUS A BONUS CARTON OF GLEANSKINS ON EVERY STRAIGHT



### A PRICE AGAIN

Andrew Harris Chardonnay

Don't Pay \$25.95 Our

Andrew Harris Sauv Blanc

Don't Pay \$12.95 Our

HARRIS + F OF GLEANSKINS