

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you upon the subject of the DVD/DeCSS issue concerning 2600: A Hacker Quarterly. It is in my opinion that the actions taken by the DVD industry and the decisions made by the courts against the magazine are clearly wrong. Has the true meaning of free speech been lost in this country? When I was younger I was taught that free speech meant that you or anyone could say or publish whatever they so desired as long as one condition was met, and that condition was that what you said caused no one any real harm. Has 2600 magazine hurt anyone? Has the author of the DeCSS program caused anyone loss? The answer is plain: No. What the author wrote is the same as this:

Say for example you have a television that is different from everyone else's and you want to hook up your VCR. Well, the VCR won't hook up right because your connectors are different, and you've contacted the VCR company to make an adapter for your television, but they won't because there is no money in it. So you make some of your own to be able to watch movies just like everyone else does on their standard televisions. But to make the adapter, you have to be able to take the VCR apart. So, you tell everyone that has a set like yours how to do it so they can watch movies too, but the VCR company becomes angry and files a law suit against you for watching movies on the television *YOU BOUGHT* with the the VCR that *YOU OWN*.

To me this whole situation is just plain ridiculous. Please consider what I've said in the making of your decision.

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