

R A D I O L A Z L O W

February 23, 2000

David O. Carson, General Counsel
Copyright GC/I&R
P.O. Box 70400
Southwest Station
Washington, DC 20024
re: DMCA and the DVD/DeCSS

Dear Mr Carson,

As a journalist and owner of a radio media company I would like to express my concerns regarding the DMCA. Presently a consortium of the largest media companies in the world have joined forces to put 2600 magazine, a 15 year old publication, out of business for reporting on the DeCSS issue. The MPAA claims that DeCSS can be used to circumvent anti-piracy measures in DVDs, and thus is a crime to distribute.

The MPAA, which includes Universal Studios, Paramount Pictures, MGM, Tristar Pictures, Columbia Pictures, AOL-Time Warner, Disney, and Fox have hired an army of lawyers that effectively snowed over the judge in the preliminary hearing to make him believe 2600 magazine was pirating DVDs.

This is NOT about DVD piracy. The issue here is CONTROL of players - whether you have the right to play DVD's on the computer of your choice and whether you should be able to see DVD's from other countries. The MPAA would like to shut down every journalist that reported on the issue, as well as every website that so much as provided a link to information on DeCSS. Ironically, the people that figured out DeCSS wanted to pay for and watch DVD movies on their computer that uses the Linux operating system instead of Windows.

The DMCA is a dangerous law, and a dangerous precedent is being set. People often talk about how they fear a Big Brother society, however they idly stand by as corporations dictate policies to lawmakers. American citizens are being thrown in jail and ruined financially for daring to understand the electronic products corporations sell us. Copyrights should be protected, however the DMCA is not about protecting copyrights. It's about controlling consumers, restricting information, and yet another infringement on the freedom of the press, the freedom of information, and the freedom of every American.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Lazlow Jones

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Radio Lazlow Inc