



3/11/04

To Whom It May Concern.

Re: www.dustindiamond.com

I'm writing in regards to the above-named website. As I understand the circumstances, this website is under scrutiny and may have its domain name taken away. I'm writing to defend this website in the strongest possible terms. My arguments in favor of it will follow in the third paragraph. If you'll permit me, I'll state my *bona fides* in the second paragraph.

My name is David N Meyer. I'm in my fifth year as an Adjunct Professor in Cinema Studies at the New School University in New York City. I'm the author of two collections of film reviews: *A Girl and A Gun*; *The Complete Guide to Film Noir* (Avon Press) and *The 100 Best Films To Rent You've Never Heard Of* (St. Martin's Press). I'm currently under contract to Villard Books for a biography of Gram Parsons, the working title is *Twenty Thousand Roads: The Ballad of Gram Parsons & His 'Cosmic American Music'*. In addition, I'm the former Music Video Columnist for Entertainment Weekly, a long-time contributor to Glamour Magazine and my writings on film have appeared in the Sunday *New York Times* Arts & Leisure section. Perhaps most relevantly, I am a co-author of two renowned books of religious parody, *The Book of the Subgenius* and *Three-Fisted Tales of Bob*.

When I first heard that this website was under attack, I was astonished. The Supreme Court's history and determination to protect the First Amendment rights of parody are well-established. And unlike more insidious, willfully harmful parodies (the famous *Penthouse* magazine story of Jerry Falwell having sex with his mother in an outhouse comes to mind; the courts found in favor of *Penthouse* on every level of appeal), this site plainly states -- in huge letters that no one could miss -- that it is in no way affiliated with the subject of its parody. Moreover, it provides links to the subject's legitimate site. It is difficult to see how Dustin Diamond is harmed in any way by such an obvious and clearly affectionate joke.