

I am a retired sixty-three-year-old female who is becoming increasingly concerned over the power that the entertainment industry have over ordinary citizens, Radio and TV broadcasts, and technical innovation.

To my way of thinking, these moguls seem to use Mafia intimidation tactics to ensure everyone conforms in order to protect their business model. I believe copyright belongs to the artists, authors and creators and not to the publishers, agencies and manufacturers that control them. The current corporate control over our technologically based culture is scary and will, I believe, restrict future new ideas and creations.

Copyright should not be extended beyond what it is at present and should be granted to the original creator only for his lifetime plus 50 years. An estate set up to manage a creator's royalties after his death should last only 50 years and should not be allowed to be extended. A creator should legally retain copyright ownership when signing contracts with third parties, in fact I believe it should be made illegal for copyrights to be transferred to another party - that's one reason why we are in this mess.

Contract clauses between music labels and their artists which assert the label's exclusive right to market the artists' work is ethically wrong and should be declared void. There are too many out-of-work musicians trapped in such contracts.

Most of Walt Disney's productions have been made from public domain stuff. They have acquired it free from public domain books, stories or legends. Disney versions are of course copyrighted but take Alice in Wonderland for instance. Nowhere can I find any mention of Lewis Carroll who wrote the book they based their film on. It seems they were happy to pretend he never existed. It's dishonest. Our children should not grow up thinking Disney wrote Alice in Wonderland.

The Disney Character Mickey Mouse is based on a public domain character the name of which escapes me at the moment. Mickey's copyright was due to expire in 2003 but big money ensured that this was extended for another 20 years to 2023. No doubt it will be extended again unless our laws change. God forbid that Santa Claus was ever copyrighted -he's quite rightly in the public domain - I think Mickey should be too.

The meaning to me is clear: No one can do to the Disney Corporation what Walt Disney did to the Brothers Grimm!

Large corporations are not always ethical and should not be allowed to wield such power over the population.

Copyrights should not be locked up into perpetuity, they should be released when their time is up so that creative minds can further develop them.

Kind Regards,

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