

Just a few of the best....

Dear 2600:

I've got a real problem here. My truck was broken into right after Christmas and my one-year-old's toys, his clothes and food, along with juice and milk were stolen out of it. The bastards didn't take my tools, my radio, or anything else in the truck—just my kid's stuff. That really pisses me off stealing from a kid. I have a description of the car, make, model, color, year, bla bla bla. I was wondering if you could be so kind as to show me the way to tracking these guys down. Do it for the children, man. I've tried searching the WWW but can't find it.

JAKOBI4246463526390210

Don't you have a gang of men with guns in your town who prowl around all the time? They usually take an interest in this sort of thing. Plus they're a lot better equipped to handle crimes like this.

Dear 2600:

I was recently on the IRC channel #c when I noticed someone using the nickname "Mitnick". I asked them about it, and they claimed to be the son of Kevin Mitnick. A few minutes later he said it was "time to go back to his cell" and logged off. The fact that someone can pretend to be Kevin Mitnick, or his son, and has the audacity to do so, contributes to the downfall of the computer underground.

ARCHMAGE

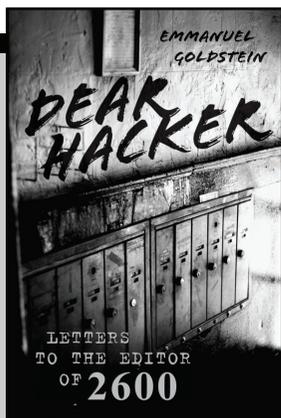
The fact that someone takes IRC so seriously contributes to their own downfall.

Dear 2600:

I thought I'd share with you a story, and a tribute to the downward spiral of our society. I am enclosing a clipping from the course descriptions for my high school. When I read the description for a computer technology course, I said to myself, "Cool, I can finally use my school time to expand my knowledge of something useful." I talked to the counselor and he arranged for me to be interviewed by the teacher who asked me a few general questions that alluded to my character, which I answered quite well, and he asked me why I wanted to take this "select class." I told him I wanted to learn more about operating systems and software that I haven't yet been exposed to. He next asked me what I knew already. I told him I'd programmed in BASIC and C and was familiar with UNIX and MPE XL operating systems. He told me I'd be considered. As you may have guessed, I was not allowed to enroll in the class. A friend of mine with far less technical knowledge than myself was, however. A few days later, my friend talked to the teacher about me and the teacher said, "I got the impression he was some sort of hacker dude; he'll probably just try to crash our networks." Why do they fear me? Do they fear my knowledge? My political alignment? My attitude? What? Do they dislike males with long hair? Why do they associate hackers with game players? If I was in their class, I would not have crashed their networks. I would have enjoyed building them. But I am pissed off now. Really pissed off, and you can bet your mother's ass I'm gonna crash 'em now.

PETER THE GREAT

Treat people like criminals and they will act like criminals.



EMMANUEL GOLDSTEIN saw his first letter to the editor published in The New York Post at the age of eight. Immediately he was addicted to the discourse that occurs in a "letters" section. In high school during the late 1970s, Goldstein became enchanted with computers. His infatuation soon got him into trouble as he discovered he could access things he shouldn't. A few years and an FBI raid later, he cofounded 2600: The Hacker Quarterly as an outlet for stories and tutorials from hackers around the world. Since 1988, Goldstein has hosted Off the Hook, a hacker-themed radio talk show airing on WBAI FM in New York City. In 1994 he organized the first HOPE (Hackers On Planet Earth) conference, held every other year, which attracts attendees from points around the globe. Goldstein served as technical consultant for the 1995 feature film Hackers, and has testified before Congress on the issue of hacking and where the threat actually lies. To this day, Emmanuel Goldstein has never taken a course in computers.

 **WILEY**
Now you know.