

DOWNHILL BATTLE

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Leading Music Activists Demand that the RIAA Return Filesharing Settlement Money

WORCESTER, MA (December 19, 2003)- Downhill Battle, the leading music activism website, is calling for the RIAA to return all the money it has collected from individuals and families suspected of filesharing.

“The RIAA obtained these names illegally, and it's time for them to return the money that they've extorted from hundreds of families.” said Holmes Wilson, co-founder of Downhill Battle.

The call comes in response to a federal appeals court ruling, issued today, which states that the RIAA may not force ISPs to reveal the names of individuals that the major record labels suspect of filesharing.

“These lawsuits have literally pushed families into bankruptcy, and now the basis of the suits has been invalidated. For the major labels to keep this money is unconscionable.” said Nicholas Reville, co-founder of Downhill Battle. “The RIAA should immediately return every cent that they've taken from families.”

Downhill Battle (www.dowhillbattle.org) is a music activism project dedicated to making the music industry fairer for artists and fans. It has received widespread attention for its Peer to Peer Legal Defense Fund, which has helped raise money for victims of the RIAA lawsuits. Downhill Battle's spin-off site whatacrappypresent.com is currently the most linked to site on the Internet according to popdex.com and blogdex.net, which track weblog links. Downhill Battle's in-store guerrilla sticker campaign puts anti-RIAA stickers on CDs inside stores like Walmart and Best Buy. Orders for thousands of these stickers have been sent out to activists across the country.