**Background**

**2 years ago, after much research and effort, I created my first video. I sent emails to hundreds of people, most of whom I did not know. These emails contained an explanation about my video and a link to it, so that anyone who was interested could watch it.**

**I received about a hundred views, meaning that most people did not watch it. But one person, Jamie Bernstein, did something stunning ... she reported me for spamming!**

**It was obvious that she had watched the video and hated it or me. She decided that the appropriate action to take, was to try to get me booted off the web. Her attempt failed when I pointed out to my hosting service that she had solicited email on her homepage, so how could I be held liable for accepting her offer?**

**(interestingly, immediately following her defeat, her web site was labeled "Under Construction" and when it reappeared, it no longer contained the request to send her email).**

**Fast forward about 2 years.**

**I was listening to the weekly podcast of The Skeptic's Guide to the Universe when I heard Rebecca Watson mention Jamie Bernstein's name. I went to the Skepchick web site and verified that it was indeed the same Jamie Bernstein from 2 years ago.**

**I posted the story about how she had hatefully tried to hurt a fellow skeptic by filing a false spamming claim. I included her picture, but I did not name her, nor did I mention the Skepchick organization. I had added some rather biting sarcasm, but I feel I had every right to be angry with such a vile person ...**

**so for that, I do not apologize.**

**I sent out some notifications (including to skepchick) because I wanted to expose what a nasty, ugly person she really was, under that fake exterior. For me it was over; I had fulfilled my duty to the skeptic community and I was planning to return the next day to my usual posting about religion, science, and politics.**

**Then I received an email from former JREF volunteer, Jeff Wagg, who tried to pressure me into removing the story from my web site (a skeptic against free speech? ... how hypocritical of him).**

**I refused. The next day I received a notice from GoDaddy that I had been accused of spamming again. In 6 years of podcasting, I've gotten into battles with the craziest people out there: neo-Nazis, Creationists, crooks, and liars, but not once did any of them attempt to attack my freedom of speech; only Bernstein. So I thought that she must be the one who was accusing me again.**

**Imagine my surprise when GoDaddy told me that my accuser was Jeff Wagg!**

**So through hundreds of battles, only one other person had ever attacked my freedom of speech by claiming spam abuse, and now, another person just happened to choose that same tactic.**

**What a Coinky-Dink!**

**But wait, it turns out that Bernstein and Wagg are both members of Chicago Skeptics. They've been friends for years. Bernstein couldn't file charges against me again because I hadn't contacted her. So am I supposed to believe that Wagg just happened to choose the spamming tactic? Or is it more reasonable to assume that Bernstein enticed him to do it for her, because she couldn't?**

**That question was answered when GoDaddy rejected Wagg's complaint, when it turned out that ... wait for it ... Wagg had been the one who had initiated email contact with me!**

**So it doesn't make sense that he would have filed the complaint on his own. No one would have been stupid enough to initiate email contact and then file a spamming complaint against the person THEY contacted. It only makes sense that he was pressured by Bernstein to help her, and in the process, forgot that he was the one who initiated the email exchange.**

**(that screwup was absolutely ... priceless!)**

**So Bernstein panics and starts calling for reinforcements. She cajoles two writers to come to her aid. Both of these writers, by the way, initiated unsolicited email contact with me, which according to Bernstein, makes them guilty of spamming (how special is that?).**

**The first, Lisa Eadicicco writes for Business Insider.com and the other, Helen Popkin is the deputy director of science and technology for NBC news.**

**If you read my replies to those writers, and to Wagg, 2 things should have popped out: 1) the utter dishonesty of people who have already made up their minds to defend their friend, and to ignore any facts that prove her wrong, and 2) that the combined I.Q. of Team Bernstein is lower than the number of members it has.**

**The illogical, emotional, biased statements made by Bernstein's supporters, combined with the fact that some of them are in positions of importance ... is a scary thought.**

**People who violate the most sacred values of skepticism like honesty and freedom of speech are an embarrassment to everyone in the movement. They have humiliated themselves, and have provided fodder for our enemies.**

**So what's my advice?**

**Offer the Mormons a trade: we'll give them Team Bernstein in return for one crusty piece of dog crap ... and we'll even throw in some cash to make it even.**