The Super Happy ANARCHO-FUN Pages!!! #12

Spring '08

With:
- Intellectual property
- Anarcho-Trotsky
- Some other stuff

Property is theft, liberty, and, uh, something else.

Guilty as sin, FREE as a bird
I’ve been thinking a lot about what it means to pick on a group. When non-anarchists pick on anarchists, it makes me pretty angry. And here I am picking on anarchists again. But I mean it with love. And never as a means to devalue the basic anarchist ideas: autonomy, mutual aid, or free association. To rant for a moment, I’m pretty sick of the name-calling that’s common in the anarchist publishing world. If I didn’t know better, I would say that some people are pushing for a competition based, rather than mutual aid based, anti-state struggle.

In other news, tangled wilderness (our publisher) has started to host an eco-radical news service: www.tangledwilderness.org/orc

We also have a ton of new zines, all available for you to download and print for free. We love when people distribute our stuff for free.

And for you anachro-goths, there’s a new Attack Attack Attack album, “We are not in the least afraid of ruins” for free download.

Strangers@riseup.net

www.tangledwilderness.org

Gah! I hate the election year! All the activists turn all their attention to electoral politics.

Well, except the anarchists.

Oh yeah. Good point. So, what are you up to later?

I was gonna go wheatpaste up some flyers against voting.
Good day, I am here to talk to you today about a rather grave problem that faces us.

No, far worse.

government?
scurvy?
more dire.

hipsters?

well, it's not that bad. I'm here today to talk about intellectual property.

Now, if you were to steal something from someone else, that would be theft, right?

eff... okay... well, if someone were to steal from you, that would be theft.

eh, they deserved it.

that would be so messed up.

Right. Now, as anarchists, we contend that if someone were to hoard something needed by everyone, like land or "the means of production," that would be like stealing from everyone.

Therefore, "property is theft," when "property" means land, essential utilities, the means of production, etc.

yes?

is the end result of all of this going to give me a philosophical excuse to download pirated movies?

uh... well... sorta.

sweet!
Now, "intellectual property" is the ownership of ideas. For example, I "own" the jokes in this comic—

but this comic isn't very funny.

What?!

Yeah, this is one of your "serious" comics, and they're never as funny as your regular comics.

UH...

The point is, if I were to hoard my ideas, I would be denying growth to my own culture, the culture I hope to expand.

Someone's feeling rather self-important today...

Folk music, as an example, developed as musicians fed off one another, rewriting and performing one another's songs as if they belonged to everybody.

So kinda like fan fiction?

No.

Why not?

I dunno, I just don't like fan fiction.

Anyhow, intellectual property is theft from culture, the same as land ownership is.

So we should smash intellectual property with hammers and bricks!

Right. Good luck with that.
Then there's public domain. Public Domain encompasses all of the ideas that aren't owned by anyone.

But there's a problem... Disney, as an example, is notorious for capitalizing off of stories in the public domain.

Snow white, Aladdin, sleeping beauty...

so if I record a song and release it into public domain, BMW can use it in a commercial.

And I would have no legal recourse to sue.

uh... sure.

so for a long time, Anarchists solved this in two ways:

One, they used traditional copyright, and then just didn't sue one another when they 'violated' that copyright. This works alright, but it doesn't make a statement.

Two, they called their work "anti-copyleft" or "copyleft." Strangely, in the eyes of the law, these are more or less the same as copyright if they aren't accompanied by a license.

if you sue, you're giving in to the legal system, and I'll get mad at you.

is that kind of like how people who are into "anti-politics" spend all their time talking about politics?

exactly.
So some liberal lawyer types got together and wrote the "Creative Commons" licenses. These licenses allow you to control the amount of freedom people have with "your" ideas. For example, you can say "anyone can copy this work for non-commercial purposes so long as they don't change it."

or "anyone can sample this work, even for commercial purposes, or copy all of it for non-commercial purposes."

can they say "anyone but law enforcement?"

er... no, not as of now.

well, they should work on that.

You remember how I said they were liberals?

oh, right.

I can't believe you're promoting a liberal ideology.

sigh.
hey, look! Someone's putting up stickers!

Sweet! I hope they're political!

hey there! What kind of stickers are you putting up?

uh, nothing.
don't worry, we won't call the cops.

"Vote Obama"?

maybe we should call the cops.

Don't you think that it's a bit weird to break the law in support of someone who condemns law breaking?

These times are too dire for us to stay within the bounds of the law.

wow... that's what we say.

Yeah, direct action gets the votes.

So you two are really anarchists?

yup.

so you two are into chaos and arson and bombs and stuff, yeah?

No.

yes.

No.

yes!

No.

yes!

hey, where'd that kid go?

ah, anarchist outreach.
Hi there! This is the author.

Sometimes, when people meet me and they find out I draw comics, they assume I'm a lot of fun.

But actually, nothing could be further from the truth:

You can find me at protests:

what the hell is this going to accomplish?

At parties:

You're all a bunch of drunken idiots.

At concerts:

the music is too loud. Plus, you're all a bunch of drunken idiots.

Or at meetings:

what the hell is this going to accomplish?

why are you even here?

nostalgia, I think.
In fact, the only people I hang out with are my partner and my housemates.

And "hang out with" might be too strong of a phrase.

I'm back!

From where?

I've been gone for 3 weeks!

huh. I just figured you were in your room.

These are, of course, just exaggerations for comic effect.

I don't really ever leave my room.

No, but seriously, I actually have a lot of hope for anarchism right now. I sincerely believe we're going to win.

No, really. Yeah right.

Hmm... the problem with being facetious all the time is that no one believes you when you're being earnest.

It also makes you a jerk.
How To BE A LOUSY HOUSEGUEST
(Or: Don't do what Danni Don't does)

Oh boy! A ton of half-rotten vegetables!
I'll bring these back to the house. And since I'm the one who found them, I shouldn't have to be the one who washes them.

wanna help us organize a critical mass?

what good will that do?

not worth risking arrest.
besides, what the hell does activism have to do with anarchy anyway?

how about a road blockade?

more than that video game you're playing in my living room.

hey, everyone at food not bombs,
I know a house we can all hang out at tonight!

Psshh. Property is theft!

*Actually, most every use of the phrase "property is theft" is a don't.
Finally, a "books to prisoners" in our town! Let's go!

flyer

Uh, "An Introduction to Trotsky," "Trotsky on Communism," "Trotsky for Kids."

books

Oh no! State socialists! Welcome, comrades!

TROTSKY TO PRISONERS

Some thing has to be done about this trotskyist scurge that has descended like some foul, anti-anarchist fog.

Don't you think we have bigger enemies? Like, oh, the state?

No! We must uphold the leftist tradition of fighting other leftist groups!

But we're post-leftists, not leftists.

oh, right. What was that other enemy you mentioned?

Indeed! An even fouler, denser anti-anarchist fog!

Sigh.

I solved that trotskyist problem. I thought we weren't going to infight?

It's not infighting. They're trotskyists.

Fair enough.

"The Anarchists Are Right, About Everything. By Trotsky."

First English translation!
Next peace rally
So Mary Shelley, author of Frankenstein, was the daughter of an anti-state thinker, did you know?

I've uh, created a monster.

Okay, but what's your point?

1, 2, 3, ¼ Listen to Trotsky x ¼, 5, 6, 7, 8, anti-war and anti-state!

I love the really, really free market

I love those who make their work available for free

Anti-copyright. For more information about what this means, see the inside of this zine.