the people who have gifted
couch, floor, tent and guest-
bed space to me this
year

to the people who pick
up hitch-hikers.

www.tangledwilderness.org

anti-copyright
Sorry about how SHAFF has become twice-yearly. Instead of seasonal. I have no proper excuse. I love hearing from readers, and Dr. Science-O is always available to answer any pressing concerns. Anyhow, here's where I encourage you to copy this comic and give it away. We put up a new, fancy website, www.tangledwilderness.org, so you can download PDFs already formatted for printing, or you can request copies or flats of any of our zines by writing us at Strangers@riseup.net.

We also have:
- 3 bands
- Theory zines
- One good novella
- Soon: a fiction zine
- Soon: posters
- etc. etc. (all free)

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**What are you listening to, Fantasy Metal?**

No way, Dragons aren't real. This is Viking metal. It's about Vikings!

**But you're wearing a fantasy metal shirt does it look like you're even wearing clothes?**

We kill with eyes!
So, what would you like for dinner?

- oh, I dunno, anything.
- free range steak?
  - oh, no, I don't eat beef.
  - chicken?
    - nope.
- are you vegetarian?
  - well, I don't eat meat.
- So maybe some eggs?
  - I don't eat eggs.
  - grilled cheese?
    - no way, dairy is oppressive.
- So you're vegan then?
  - hey, I don't try to label me!
  - umm... sure...
- unlike some people, I don't define myself by my diet.
- So you want a glass of wine with dinner?
  - oh, so you're...
    - sigh, nevermind.
  - beer?
    - don't touch it.

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**GIFT Economics 101**

In order to best understand the gift economy, we need to understand some competing economic theories.

So meet Eric, the capitalist.

- hi, kids.
- tell us about your theory, Eric.
  - well, kind narrators, I believe in the sanctity of property.
- You see, I've had to work, sorta, for everything I own. And since there isn't enough to go around, I hard things.
  - hrm... or is that the other way around?
    - anyway, the things I own are my Capital. And I use Capital to make more money.
  - actually, enter space alien.
    - how is that like work?
      - uh... well... I had to invest in the house.
      - But what I'm getting at is that if you touch my stuff I'll hire someone to kill you.
  - and that is capitalism.
Next we'll look at communism.

Dude! Where is my favorite shirt? I'm going on a date tonight!

Woah there, Mr. Property. You can't like, own a T-Shirt.

What are you up to?

I'm fed up. We become a jaded individualist.

Yeah, man, property is theft.

Okay, okay, where is the shirt that I often wear?

Well, uh...

We used it to clean up dog poo.

Look, just take a shirt off the pile, comrade.

Not so promising either...

Oh. A protest sign. Way to think outside the box. Only not.

Get any better ideas?

We're not going to blow up the house meeting with dynamite.

Weird grin.

So if we can't just protest our problems away...

And we can't blow them up...

I guess we'll actually have to build the alternative.

Net me. I'm just going to draw comics.

*to be fair, Proudhon, who originally said this, wasn't a communist— he was a misogynist, an economic model we looked at in issue #3.
hey people, I'm going to the corner store to get some juice.
wait up!

I'll come with.

uh... okay!

just let me get my shoes

I'll come too, just a mom eat.

but...

can't find my other boot...

Say! I need to wait my turn again!

seriously, where is that boot?

umm... I'm just getting some juice...

Adventure! We're going on an adventure!

ETC.

An hour later...

umm... the store is the other way...

I know, we're going to the park.

Well, I'm going to the store.

geez, you're so anti-social.

and capitalist...

you know, what I love about our life is how every day holds new adventures.

Playing ball in the park.

What's economics?

Primitivism - okay, we're not going to analyze primitivist economics as much as take cheap shots at primitivism.

What's "economics"?

Sounds specious, if you ask me.

next, bitter

hey, I need a T-shirt. I have these boots.

maybe if you traded your boots for some cotton and then the cotton for a bike wheel, because I need a bike wheel. 26 inch.

this is stupid. Let's print currency.

syndicalism.

Look, it's quite simple. I, the representative of the T-shirt syndicate, will take your interests to our council meeting.

where upon we'll come to consensus about whether or not we ought to fulfill the request from your syndicate.

Can't I just get a T-shirt? I like the one with all the skulls on it, that one right behind you.

no.

what about you just close your eyes for a moment? I won't tell anyone.

Primitivism - okay, we're not going to analyze primitivist economics as much as take cheap shots at primitivism.

What's "economics"?

Sounds specious, if you ask me.
So then, what is the Gift Economy?

The Gift Economy is an economy based on giving. Everyday is like X-mas! Only without the sugar!

I like this hit, my grandpa knit it.

When everything is stripped of monetary value, things are left with only their intrinsic value.

I have 16,000 T-shirts, get over yourself.

But unlike a communist system, no one forces you to give things away.

Awa.

Community needs are important, sure, but no one can force you to share with everyone.

I am the drawing of a potted plant.

So the economic model becomes "don't be a jerk."

People will work because no one will feed a freeloader for long, but people will be free to contribute in ways that suit them.

Responsibility and Freedom. They go together like... uh... two things that ought to go together.

It's not about direct reciprocation, but rather a faith in your neighbors to also be generally giving. If they don't, no one will give them things anymore.

Gift economics, like anarchism, take a certain amount of faith. In chaos, in organic structuring...

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We're happy getting presents everyday. And we think you're suckers, but that's all.

Faith in the goodwill of humanity, huh? Here you'll claim that Anarchy could work.

Faith in the goodwill of humanity, huh? Here you'll claim that Anarchy could work.

But if you give things away, how do you know you'll get something in return?

Faith in the goodwill of humanity, huh? Here you'll claim that Anarchy could work.

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Faith in the goodwill of humanity, huh? Here you'll claim that Anarchy could work.

Fine, what-eva. But this whole thing is too much for me. I don't want to have to be nice to people.

Okay.

Okay?

Yup. Don't join, that doesn't bother us.