

RUPTURE

LOOSE LIPS EQUALS SLIPS – FEBRUARY 2008
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Sailing the seas of piracy in this digital age

The digital age has brought about a paradigm shift in the way we create, share and disseminate information. Though this shift was partly brought about by a capitalist drive to lower manufacturing costs and increase production levels, the same companies which thrived off 'going digital' for the last few decades are now in a panic about the uncontrollable beast they nurtured. They are now locked in a struggle to keep the notions of intellectual property the same – the problem is that a high percentage of people using the Internet, whether knowingly or not, are actively challenging the existing idea of IP.

There is a generation gap between the old guard, who have their 'property' to protect, and the world's youth who mostly don't have any moral ambivalence about their right to share and download copyrighted digital material, if it's readily available. The fact that it's so easy to acquire digital files these days has led to a considerable number of people from

older generations also taking part in downloading films from torrent sites, or music from Souseek. When questioned, their viewpoint on piracy is likely to be more responsible than the answers given by their kids, but it won't stop their insatiable thirst for free media.

Is file-sharing really killing the music/film industry or is it actually enabling people to explore wide avenues of different artists and filmmakers so that they can go out and buy the CD or DVD? Studies have proven that the latter is often the case. I've definitely found file-sharing to bring a rich spread of culture into my life which would otherwise not be there; admittedly, I've yet to go out and buy a CD because of it and I see most new films at home rather than the cinema.

More importantly though, file-sharing is tearing up the rules of the media industry and forcing the manufacturing and distribution process to adapt. The corporations are in strong enough

financial positions to be able to adapt to any situation, but this is one they can't get their heads round. It's primarily because the rules are being changed by the users – and not the 'owners'. Over time, the media industry might have made this shift themselves and taken a similar (although more profitable) route.

In the future, if artists expect to keep their bank accounts bloated they will have to make most of their money from merchandise and live performances and online sales of digital files. Madonna is the first of the big players to highlight this shift by currently being in negotiations to leave her record label Warner to sign a new recording and touring contract with a concert promoter. The company Live Nation will own the right to three studio albums, promote tours, sell merchandise and licence her name and the revenue will be split between the two parties. Other big names to pick up on the changes afoot

Continued on the inside pages...

Resist Now #4: Food

SUPERMARKETS

'To provide customers with the huge variety of inexpensive food that they promise, supermarkets ruthlessly exploit their effective monopoly as the biggest buyers of food. They can dictate how, where, when and for how much their food is produced, packaged, stored and delivered [...] Supermarket cheap food policies disadvantage local producers because they cannot compete with produce from countries where land or labour costs less. Long distance transportation of food also produces vast amounts of pollution, requires excessive packaging and use of chemical preservatives, uses up large amounts of non-renewable fossil fuels (aviation fuel and diesel) and thus contributes

significantly (and needlessly) to climate change. Artificially low fuel costs, especially tax-free aviation fuel, mean we are importing food we could easily grow ourselves [...] Cheap food is a myth. The consumer really pays three times: once in the shop, a second time in taxes through direct subsidies to farmers, and finally indirectly in taxes cleaning up the mess left by industrial agriculture and subsidising the transport infrastructure' – Corporate Watch, 'What's Wrong With Supermarkets'

The grocery market was worth £128.2bn at the start of 2007 (Institute of Grocery Retailers), and as the third largest area of household spending (after housing and transport) the shareholders of supermarkets are raking it in. As with all corporate activity, the money made leaves the local area, local traders suffer and overall jobs are lost.

On the flip side it's our society's reliance on cars, enjoyment of fast-food

culture, and laziness that enables this to happen. With schools making 'partnership' deals with big business, and TV and the media programming our docile brains with crap, it's left to independent (and skint) info-sources to try and combat the nasty programming. McDonalds, for example, spends more on advertising each year than the gross product of many countries.

Funnily enough, during the 1970s when there was a broad-based squatting movement in this country (especially in London), food co-ops and whole-food shops were widespread and prices affordable. Nowadays squatting isn't so easy and places don't usually last long enough for this to be practical in most cases – a good argument for legal social centres that could offer a range of facilities that the local community actually needed, since funded community centres are closing down.

Continued on the inside...

Piracy article continued...

include Radiohead, who released their last album on the Net, asking their fans to pay as much as they thought it was worth; REM who recently released eleven videos under an open source licence; and independent artist The Flashbulb, who published his new album via bittorrent sites with a statement attached. The statement basically made it clear that you could still buy the album on CD through his own label, and that you should buy it if you want to support him; though he thinks CD manufacture is generally a waste of resources and that buying his album online through people like iTunes will put more money into other people's pockets than his own.

Understandably, most people won't want to see their favourite artist disappear altogether. We will just have to hope that big media corps pull their finger out and accept this new

technology and these methods of distribution. Sadly, they're too busy trying to convince people to buy HD-ready tellys and extolling the virtue of Blu-Ray digital video players. Instead, they could focus on bandwidth-friendly file sharing technology with which to sell their content on the cheap. As this will cut out on the manufacturing costs (even though they aren't much per unit when you're producing thousands or millions of copies) they may see their revenue balance out, though it's never likely to return to what must have been the glory days of analogue yore.

It all boils down to the major players being too lazy, and incapable, of redefining intellectual property for the digital age. Historically the problem has snowballed from the first occurrence of people considering a facsimile to be the same as the original artefact; and which therefore should be protected as much as the

original. If we were living in a purely scientific society, we would commonly realise that a copy can never be the same as the original, therefore protecting it, despite any alteration to its appearance, quality or presentation, is a pointless uphill struggle. I'm not suggesting for a moment that the majors sorting out their clown act will prove beneficial, so we may as well continue making the changes ourselves, and let them play catch up.

Look out for a follow-up article which details the legislative fight to control file-sharing and what the pirates are doing in return to keep information free.

Educational: Steal This Film feature film, www.stealthisfilm.com

File-sharing news: www.torrentfreak.com

Torrent search: www.torrentz.com
www.isohunt.com

Sharing software: www.zeropaid.com

Music downloads: www.slsknet.org

Food article continued...

Skipping – where it's still possible – makes use of the vast amount of food thrown away every day. While recycling is better than not, it doesn't challenge the system of production and distribution that generates such waste. Food accounts for about 20% or more of all household rubbish (plus the packaging), sort it out!

AGRICULTURE

'Marion Shoard, author of 'This Land is Our Land', reckons that this idea of environmental subsidies assumes that farmers know what's best, yet considering that they're the ones who've been busy destroying the landscape in the first place, putting our faith in them helping to restore it is a bit laughable. Marion believes that the best way to shake up our agricultural system is to get rid of subsidies altogether. She believes that land prices would then plummet and farming would become more profitable, this would then allow land to be bought by environmental and social groups for the public good' (SchNEWS 340).

In fact, additionally why not take away all land subsidies that enable rich people not using their land to be paid for the privilege, and then take their land too (see last 'Resist Now'). Our agriculture since WW2 has become mono-cultural and reliant on pesticides and fertilisers, a giant cycle of destruction and diminishing returns moving in the direction of super-farms run by big business.

Agriculture can pollute land with pesticides, nitrate-rich fertilisers and slurry from livestock. Some pesticides

used in the UK today are, in excessive doses, carcinogenic, hormone disrupting and cause damage to the nervous system. Many pesticides are persistent organic pollutants (POPs) which means that they persist in the environment and are not broken down.

In the most recent issue of 'The Land', an article titled 'Can Britain Feed Itself?' looks at whether self-sufficiency would work (as an antidote to food miles and the unnecessary export of local produce). The author compares the following farming methods: chemical with livestock, chemical vegan, organic with livestock, livestock permaculture, and vegan permaculture. Read the article; there isn't enough space here for a proper discussion. In brief, farming without returning nitrogen to the soil doesn't work in the long-term, there are agri-business and permacultural approaches that both work without sacrificing more land to agriculture. Livestock are a bad idea (more energy in than out – think of the land required to feed them). If we want to eat crisps and other shite, we're wasting precious land that could be better used. If we are looking to move in the direction of non-capitalist sustainable eco-communities that are self-sufficient and local, then drastic changes are due.

RESISTANCE & AUTONOMY

At the end of the 1990s, in response to the growing numbers of genetically modified crop trials, many people went out and trashed the sites, and coupled with the interest in the issues this generated, the GM companies packed up

(and tested elsewhere, unfortunately). Shoppers became aware and shops over here stopped selling GM. Bingo! For direct action to work requires diligence and keeping up to date...

INDIVIDUAL & LOCAL ACTION

- Take an interest in where your food comes from
- Grow your own fruit & veg (in garden, window boxes, or allotment)
- Boycott supermarkets and large food manufacturers
- Support small, independent suppliers, processors and retailers
- Encourage small retailers to stock locally produced food
- Help set up new methods of distribution locally, eg. co-operatives for marketing local produce locally, consumer co-operatives to buy healthy food in bulk for your community, and delivery schemes
- Consider becoming vegetarian or vegan as a way of reducing your own support for factory farming and institutionalised murder
- LED lights that produce sunlight frequencies are now available...
- Start a revolution in your local community

SOURCES/USEFUL INFO:

SchNEWS issues 283, 295, 340, 448, 608: schnews.org.uk. 'The Land', Issue 4: tlio.org.uk/chapter7/index.html or Freedom Books etc. Check out 'A Rough Guide to the UK Farming Crisis' by Corporate Watch: corporatewatch.org.uk, sustainweb.org, commonground.org.uk, primalseeds.org

MUSIC REVIEWS

Rotator – Curses on Your GhettoBlaster [Hurry Up Ltd]

Encapsulating the whole Peace Off sound, which now runs over half a dozen or so labels, this EP is a full-on assault combining heavy metal with amens, gabba and dubstep, all fused together with the trademark hip-hop-punx rhythm clash. Some of Rotator's best work yet.

Electric Lifeform – Number Stumper [Hand Baked Records]

Back-2-basics lo-fi gabba from Hand Baked supremo and champion of 8-bit arcade gaming E:LF. 2 tracks on 12" vinyl plus the tracks on CD in audio and hi-res mp3 format.

Clark – Turning Dragon [Warp]

From the opening minute of this new eleven track album you can tell Clark is decidedly going for dancefloor status these days. The twisted house of the first couple of tracks would suggest that he can do turn in a 4:4 track to get techno/house bods in a frenzy. If he's really to succeed in this new guise he will have to dispense with his slightly annoying trait of just letting the mix he's built up just fall to pieces and lose momentum in the dying minute of each track.

Autechre – Quaristice [Warp]

Autechre have a solid fanbase because they make music that sounds like Autechre. Like their last album though, it feels to me like their best days are behind them as this sounds like, well, like Autechre. Which is to say that their

blend of emotional electronica and jagged electro percussion will please existing fans but probably won't entice many new ones as there are far better examples of this style out there at the moment.



NOOSES ARE FOR THE NEARLY DEAD

The Flashbulb – Soundtrack to a Vacant Life [Alphabasic]

Fair play to prolific artist Benn Jordan for releasing his latest album mostly via bittorrent file sharing sites (and also on CD – leaving it up to you whether you think it's worth the resources required to make the CD.) Unfortunately, forward-thinking critique of the music industry/clever marketing ploy aside it's a bit shonky. Limp-wristed some might say and not a hyper-edited amen break in sight.

FILM REVIEW

Steal This Film 2 [www.stealthisfilm.com]

This is the best and most coherent argument in favour of digital piracy and file sharing I've come across. It's mostly comprised of talking heads of those involved in the sharing side of the current war over intellectual property, so you have to expect a certain amount of bias. Running through this though is a history of developments such as the printing press and the way they changed the spread of, and difficulty in repressing, information exchange. Peer-to-peer file sharing is the current stage of this evolution and responsible for forcing a rethink of the way we create, why we create and what powers these open and accessible methods of publishing give to your average Jo.

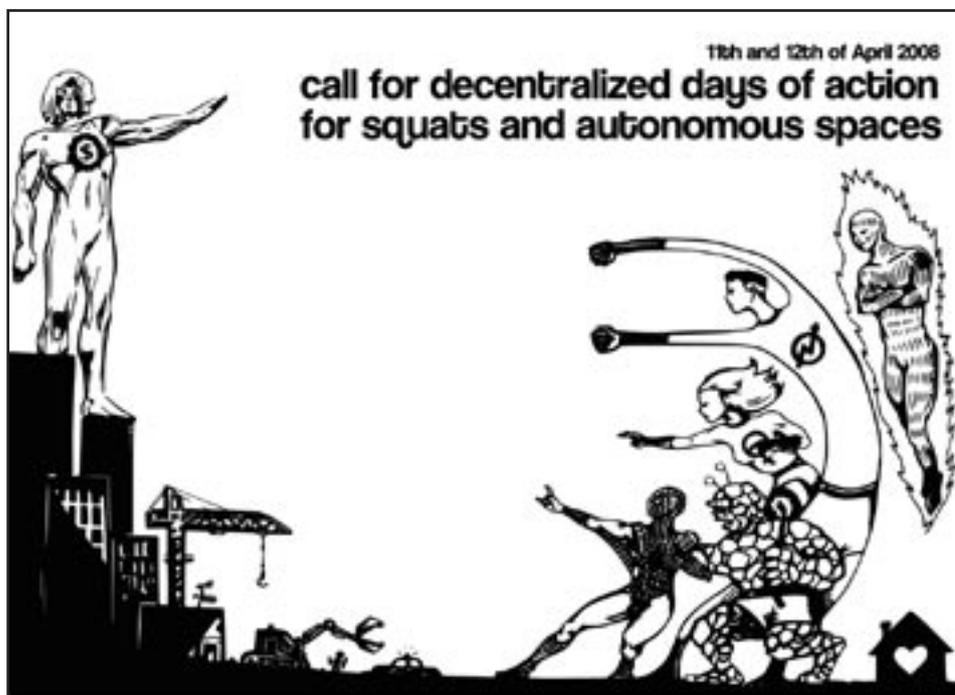
From an average filesize compressed version up to full-res HD versions of the film are freely available to download, though the film is in fact copyrighted – so you can actually steal the film, innit.

London's newest autonomous squatted social centre

The Hackney Social Centre is a place for meetings of local groups, a donations-only cafe, art projects, discussions, community forums, free language lessons, and much more. It is a non-commercial space for activists, community organisers, and members of the public – a place to imagine and build alternative futures for our neighbourhood. This building is a small step, but we make the road by walking.

After sustaining three weeks of violent attacks and attempted illegal evictions – twice by the owner of the property, and once by the police – the Hackney Social Centre opened on February 14th. We've opened in spite of early challenges because we're tired of yuppie maisonettes forcing up housing prices, while buildings are empty and affordable housing is eaten away. We've opened because we're set to resist and oppose the threats posed by gentrification, capitalism and the upcoming Olympic Games. We've opened because Hackney needs free spaces – spaces to escape the divisions of capitalism and the profit-hungry rat-race that alienates us from one another.

We have a growing calendar of events and General Meetings every Sunday at 3pm – get involved and bring your friends!
hackneysocialcentre.blogspot.com



PARTIES + ART + RADIO + PROTESTS +

FREE FILM SCREENINGS

A different radical/alternative/just damn interesting feature film each Monday evening. Donations welcome. 7.30pm start. Pogo Café, 76 Clarence Road, Hackney, London. E5 8HB www.pogocafe.co.uk

22.02.08

SCUMRIDDIM

Medusa, Barrington Road SW9
10pm – 6am. £5 before 11, £6 after
Serving up curious electronics and vulgar bass

23.02.08

GLASGOW RAVE PARTY

Following on from an apparent cracker at New Years, this party features guests from Dstorm, Kriminal Hertz, Pussypower, Radar.
Infoline: 07887 838591

08.03.08

GENER8R

The sound-system megathon links two separate venues to cope with the massive amount of people coming to this teknival in a club. Lakota and Clockwork nightclubs in Bristol

20.03.08

MUTINY

D'n'b, jungle, breakcore, hardtek, hardcore norf of the border
11pm – 3am. Door Tax: £4 b4 12/ £5 after
The Bongo Club, Holyrood Rd, Edinburgh
www.myspace.com/tuckshopcrew

21 – 23.03.08

DRAGON FESTIVAL 2008

The annual free-for-all festival and travellers' meetup in Southern Spain continues into its eleventh year. Taking place in a river bed near Orgiva. www.dragon-festival.com

22.03.08

DESERTSTORM PARTY

Artists from DesertStorm, Ben 9mm, Capsule Core, Hekate, Smokescreen, Confusion.
£10/12 on door, 10pm – 4am.
The Soundhaus, Glasgow

01.04.08

FOSSIL FOOLS DAY

Rising Tide International is calling for a day of action against the fossil fuel industry
www.fossilfoolsday.org
www.risingtide.org.uk

02 – 06.04.08

TEMPORARY

AUTONOMOUS ART BRIGHTON

The free creative zone hits the south coast for the first TAA to be announced for 2008. More information about how you can get involved can be found on the Brighton groups website: www.subterraneanartbrighton.org

11 – 12.04.08

SQUAT FORTRESS EUROPE

2 days of decentralised squat and autonomous centre actions. april2008.squat.net

IN LONDON:

SPACE IS THE PLACE:

Sidestepping The Property Ladder

A weekend-long social centre in London in an occupied space to coincide with the Europe-wide days of action themed around the current land and housing crisis.

26.04.08

LONDON ZINE SYMPOSIUM 2008

Free event over the course of a day with much DIY mayhem, merriment and mirth!
The Rag Factory, 16-18 Heneage Street, London E1 5LJ
londonzinesymposium.lasthours.org.uk

1 – 15.05.08

STREET BLITZ LONDON

The 2-week open festival of street art hits the capital again. Install your artwork then post up the location on the map on the website for all the world to see. This is your city – leave your mark! www.streetblitz.org

2 – 4.05.08

FASLANE PEACE CAMP PUNKS PICNIC

Live music and malicious mischief. Bring a tent! Tel 07835 215 787 or 07770893815. myspace.com/faslanepeacecamp see also www.faslane.co.nr

03.05.08

RED ZERO RADIO VS UGLY FUNK

3pm – midnight. Free entry.
The Foundry, Great Eastern St, near Old St tube. More info to follow.

PRACTICAL SQUATTING NIGHTS

are held at 56a Infoshop every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the Month from 7pm til approx 8pm.

NEXT MEETINGS: 26th February, 4th + 18th March

This is your chance to meet other squatters, potential squatmates or just to pick up advice and practical help. We offer a noticeboard service for squatters to look for other squatters or to offer space in already squatted buildings.

We also have NOTES for NEW SQUATTERS available free in English and Italian. Soon it will be available in Polish, French, Portuguese and Spanish
WWW.SQUATTER.ORG.UK

PARTIES + EVENTS

www.headfuk.net
www.nofixedabode.info
www.dissident-faction.co.uk
www.pitchless.org
www.ketwork32.com
www.squatjuice.com
www.crossbones.co.uk
www.partyvibe.com
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www.tribeofmunt.co.uk
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www.disjunkt.net
www.uglyfunk.com
shockraver.free.fr
www.dayliterobbery.org
www.rif23.org
www.abacusounds.net

ART + MEDIA + THE REST

www.taaexhibitions.org
www.randomartists.org
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www.dirtysquatters.com
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www.hyponik.com

PARTYLINES

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FUBAR	07984 199768
Disjunkt	07835 175534
Malfaiteurs	020 7806 9555
HDFK	07092 230023
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Unsound	07946 466573
Club	
Neurotica	07788 856941

If you run any of the above infolines please put the date on your messages so that people don't travel to find an empty building!