

- **BLACK BART SIMPSON x2**
- **ALICE RANDALL INTERVIEW**
- **J. SUROWIECKI, “RIGHTING COPYWRONGS”**

BLACK BART

Are “Black Bart” t-shirts ripping Matt Groening off?

Should people be able to make “Black Bart” bootlegs, without Groening’s approval?

Should they be able to sell them?

What if they cut into profits of official Simpsons merchandise?

What if The Simpsons copyright owners don’t make “Black Bart” t-shirts?

OTHER COPYRIGHT CASES

(not in reading)

In 1987, artist Lebbeus Woods drew a picture of a chair and had it published in Germany in a catalog entitled Lebbeus Woods/Centricity. Nearly ten years later, Woods went to see the film 12 Monkeys and was angered to find that the filmmakers had used his illustration as a basis for one of the settings. The director of 12 Monkeys, Terry Gilliam, admitted that he modeled an interrogation room—in which protagonist Joe (Bruce Willis) is contained in a chair hitched to a vertical rail—after the drawing.

Arcnold S.

<http://www.benedict.com/visual/schwarznegger/schwarznegger.asp>

ALICE RANDALL

What do you think about Alice Randall? She wrote a parody of Gone with the Wind. Should she have been able to publish that?

What was the Mitchell estate’s argument?

Claimed the book was an unauthorized sequel and would hinder efforts to license more sequels.

JAMES SUROWIECKI FROM THE NEW YORKER

Disney profited from public domain

What's the Sono Bono act?

What does it do?

What effect does extending copyright have?

We talked earlier about changes in government having led to increased corporatization of media. Deregulation of ownership rules, Deregulation/decline of public interest standard. Where does copyright fit in? Is this another case of deregulation?

No, in this case, corporations WANT regulation, they WANT big government.

- * Napster
- * Bill to require computer manufacturers to build machines that prevent users from copying
- * Legislation that allows companies to electronically monitor users of peer-to-peer systems and disable their machines
- * Legislation that makes piracy a felony
- * Legislation that makes it illegal to break encryption

Corporations only want small government when it is their financial interests. This does fit with the other regulation trends, however, in that it favors big business.

KEY POINTS

- * **origins of copyright: intended to further advance of arts and sciences/exchange of ideas**
- * **from incentive to create ---> property right**
- * **explain how intellectual property differs from real property**
- * **Here we have a case of increased government regulation to benefit big business**