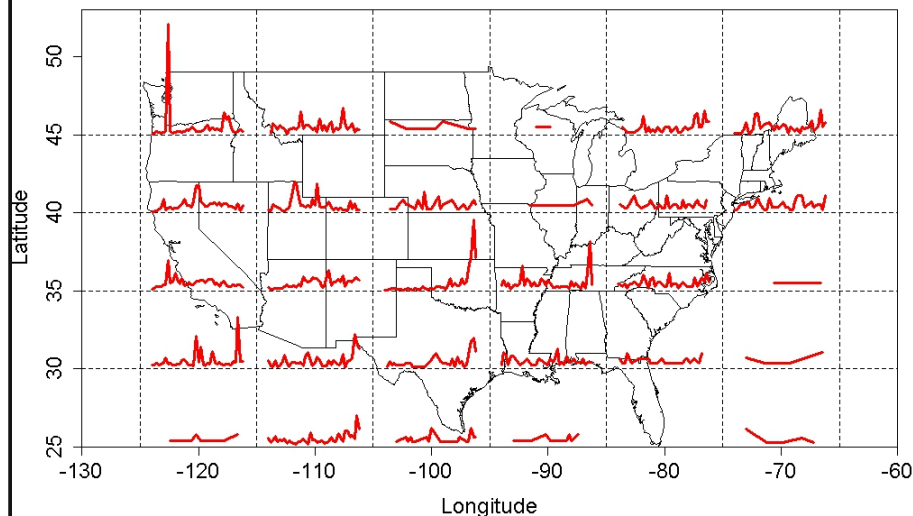


### Normalized Number of Earthquakes Mag $\geq 3$



Earthquake trends in the US, by region. Note especially the uptick in Northern Texas. Further reading: <http://is.gd/earthquaketrends>

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

oh wait there aren't any because no one ever sends them.

send yours to [thecarrborprovocateur@gmail.com](mailto:thecarrborprovocateur@gmail.com)

or else I'll post some more missives from internet trolls

#### Next issue:

- \* Maybe some more technobabble
- \* Why AA sucks
- \* Probably some ill-considered opinions and a highly skewed selections of facts
- \* Top 5 Reasons It's Inadvisable to Have a Nervous Breakdown in Public ( #4 will surprise you!!!one)
- \* I dunno some article about whatever strange powder the kids are flipping on these days

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*Ohaidare....*

*Long-term readers may note that there was a tiny little pause between Provocateur #2 and #3. Unfortunately, one or more of our punk contributors didn't get the material in by press time (or ever), and one or more of the editorial staff had a very public nervous breakdown and basically abused a lot of addictive drugs while listening to the Dead Kennedys. This has left interesting marks on this issue; the Snooze was put together while Pussy Riot were still in jail and the murder of Jesus Huerta had only begun to unfold.*

*Anyway, hopefully someone will submit some gee dee art for the next issue and as always send it or any other correspondence, food stamps, etc, to [thecarrborprovocateur@gmail.com](mailto:thecarrborprovocateur@gmail.com)*

*Our webshite is <http://thecarrborprovocateur.wordpress.com/>  
We might get twitter or something someday.*

The Snooze...

**29 September 2013.** 20,000 barrels of fracked oil spilled from a pipeline in North Dakota, the largest onshore oil spill in recent US history. Because 'nonessential' government services had been suspended in the wake of a budget crisis, the public was not alerted until 8 October. (*DeSmogBlog*)

**8 October 2013.** Azerbaijan's election authorities announced that incumbent president Aliyev had won reelection. Voting took place on 9 October. Azerbaijan, a US petroleum interest, member of NATO and active participant in the War on Terror, has a sketchy human rights record includes recent attacks on press freedom and activism. (*Washington Post, Wikipedia, Reporters w/o Borders*)

**9 October 2013.** Cops in Tuscon stopped two day laborers for a broken tail light, then called Border Patrol when neither man had ID. 100 demonstrators arrived at the scene to protest the detention, forming a double circle around the Border Patrol vehicle to prevent them from leaving. Police ultimately used pepper spray to disperse the crowd. (*Arizona Daily Star*)

**2 November 2013.** Nadezhda Tolokonnikova of the Russian band "Pussy Riot" was reported to have disappeared into that country's prison system, having last been seen on a train being transferred between prisons ten days previously. The band was jailed on obscenity charges after a protest, and became an international cause for free speech activists. Tolokonnikova has complained of abuse by prison staff and has been on two hunger strikes since imprisonment. (*BBC*)

**22 November 2013.** Citizens in Durham, NC gathered in protest of the death of 17-year-old Jesus Huerta. Huerta turned up shot to death in the back of a cop car. Family members and friends gave a moving memorial. The march reached the city police station, where a small number of people broke station windows and lit fireworks. (*N&O*)

because you got back in the car and closed the sunroof. Burning french fries melt holes in the windshield. You put them out with windshield washer fluid.

You storm out of the flaming wreck of a formerly proud franchise. The SWAT team backup is in a helicopter outside and it is totally just shooting people who are being unchill. McDonalds customers running around on fire, McDonalds employees running around on fire, SWAT team members running around on fire, they're all just getting snipered from the helicopter totally for no reason other than that they are being unchill. And you just effin walk out of the burning franchise and a spotlight lands on you from the chopper and over the speaker they say: ***Explain yourself, sir and/or ma'am!***

And you are like *Dang it I don't have time for this shit!* So you pull a **MASSIVE** joint out from behind your ear and begin smoking weed aggressively at the SWAT team. They really are not prepared for someone being so chill and all agree that you are an extremely chill person, and resume shooting the people around you who are not chill and who are not you.

Anyway you wander away from that ugly scene and you're like *Well damn if it isn't that homeless guy who was sizzling up squirrel organs earlier!* Turns out he has hepatic cancer! That would bum a lot of people out, but not this particular individual. He's celebrating! By buying a **GALLON OF VODKA!!** Party at the homeless guy's place! (ie, in complete squalor in an alley).

## THE END

This has been, "***Scenes from the War on Things which are Not Drugs***", presented by Masterpiece Theatre and paid for by the Mayko Sandstorm for President 2015 campaign. If you goobers had responded to the PBS pledge drive maybe things would be different.

scratching your chin and going *Hrm*. Strangely, no matter how many living creatures you break into pieces, no matter how small the pieces, you can't seem to figure out how life works! You try running over the creatures just once, then you try backing up over them to reduce them into smaller pieces. You even try not so much hitting them yourself but more like nudging them into another lane of traffic with your bumper, but in all cases your results are inconclusive.

Along the way you have to find something to do with the excess of animal carcasses which are accumulating in your vicinity, so you hand them over to a local homeless man, who uses them as a source of organ meats. He sizzles their little livers up in a skillet along with some tulips and other bulbs that he dug up from local suburban gardens.

Anyway after a while you get tired of being a puppet in a ham-fisted commentary on reductionism in the biological sciences, so you say **Eff This!** and wipe the squirrel entrails off your hands and onto your designer jeans and you get in your car and you go through the drive-through of the local McDonald's. I mean, you actually take the car, rev up the engine, and hurtle right through the drive-through window, bricks flying everywhere and shit.

Anyway the dust is clearing and your car is in the kitchen of the McDonald's and this is causing great consternation.... you start to get out when a SWAT team kicks in the kitchen door and starts screaming incoherently about how you have to get on the floor and how you are being incredibly immature with your behavior, and you're like, **Eff This!** So you grab a road flare like in Jurassic Park and toss that sucker into the french fry cooker. It catches on fire and completely explodes and flaming french fries start landing everywhere. They land on the burger patties sizzling on the grill and they catch on fire. They land in the corn chips and they catch on fire. They land on the SWAT team and they catch on fire. The only thing that is not set on fire by the rain of burning french fries is you,

## *Cyber-Strike!*

### *Mayko Sandstorm*

On 18 January 2012, large chunks of the internet blacked out.

Wikipedia closed its doors for the day. So did Reddit, Minecraft, and the Cheezburger Network. Even Google blacked out its logo in solidarity. And countless smaller sites went with them. The internet was going on strike.

The issue of contention was a pair of laws, SOPA and PIPA, written by the music and film industries to prevent piracy. That was their only goal, to eliminate internet piracy, and if they eliminated the internet along with it, then so be it.

Briefly, the laws would have allowed the Justice department to shut down a website accused of hosting copyrighted content, instead of the extant system of takedown notices. This was on its face farcical; under such legislation a blog could be removed entirely and without due process just because a commenter posted a link to a torrent of the Breaking Bad series finale. It was a threat to internet infrastructure which would introduce serious network and security errors, as scores of prominent internet engineers and inventors testified in an open letter to congress.<sup>1</sup> It was also draconian: the state was claiming the right to unilaterally remove information from the internet, a right claimed and exercised by totalitarian nations everywhere.<sup>2</sup> Indeed, the Motion Picture Association of America believed that the SOPA/PIPA laws would work because similar laws had clamped down on piracy in such hotbeds of internet freedom as Uzbekistan, China, and Iran.<sup>3</sup> And Tor, a piece of privacy/anti-censorship software developed by the US Navy for use in totalitarian nations, would have been effectively outlawed.<sup>4</sup>

1. "An Open Letter From Internet Engineers to the U.S. Congress." Parker Higgins and Peter Eckersley, 15 December 2011. Eff.org

2. "Don't Break the Internet." Mark Lemley, David S. Levine & David G. Post. 19 December 2011 64 Stan. L. Rev. Online 34

3. "This Week in Internet Censorship" Jillian C. York. 19 December 2011. Eff.org

4. "How SOPA's 'circumvention' ban could put a target on Tor" Declan McCullagh 21 December 2011, News.Cnet.com

And yet the bills lumbered on through congress, backed by Big Movies, Big Music, and the US Chamber of Commerce, and expert witnesses were dismissed as 'nerds'. It was time for direct action.

The call for a blackout went out. On the first day the bills were to be debated in 2012, more than 100,000 websites unplugged, redacted their logos, or otherwise participated.<sup>5</sup> The Wikimedia Foundation cheered as Wikipedia went dark. In the place of day-to-day content, comics sites like XKCD and The Oatmeal posted editorials voicing their displeasure and urging their readers to contact Congress. Millions of signatures went on petitions. Congressional web servers crashed under the volume of protest emails.<sup>6</sup>

The protests worked. Over the course of the day, the legislators supporting the bill dropped off like flies, and its critics became more outspoken. On the day of the protest, there were 80 supporters of the bills and 31 opponents in congress. The next day, there were 65 supporters and 101 opponents.<sup>7</sup> The bills were shelved, indefinitely.

The Internet Age has ushered in a new form of labor, that of content creator and administrator. The news and commentary, the How-To blog posts and YouTube videos, the wikipedia articles, were all put together by someone. The internet may be a series of tubes, cold technological infrastructure, but it take human labor to pump the information through, and to generate the information in the first place. With the development of a new workforce, even one which might not work "for" any individual or company, comes the development of new politicized struggles within that workforce. There are sweatshops that concentrate World of Warcraft currency, to take one stark example.<sup>8</sup> Viewed through this lens, the SOPA protest suddenly makes sense as a self-organized strike. "Without our

5. "Public Outcry Over Antipiracy Bills Began as Grass-Roots Grumbling" Jenna Wortham 19 January 2012, NYT

6. "Senate, House websites crash from so many SOPA complaints" Allison Sherry, 18 January 2012. <http://blogs.denverpost.com/>

7. "SOPA Opera Update: Opposition Surges" Dan Nguyen, 19 January 2012. ProPublica.org

8. "Welcome to the new Gold Mines." Rowenna Davis, 4 March 2009. The Guardian.

kick in the air.

You let go and fall onto the gearshift. it is painful.

When you fall headfirst through the sunroof, your forehead strikes the ejector seat button, and all entities in the car who are in seats are ejected, ie, everyone but you. You have a free car!

**LOL!**

The kid in the backseat flies and lands on a unicorn. Flip a coin. If it came up heads, the kid lands in the saddle and gallops off to gumdrop land. If it came up tails, the kid lands on the horn.

**DOUBLE LOL!**

The cigar-smoking woman strikes her head on landing and develops a small lesion on her neocortex, rendering her completely anhedonic. She becomes physiologically incapable of enjoying anything, including cigars. Surprisingly, however, her rate of cigar consumption continues more or less unchanged for several decades, at which point she uploads her consciousness into a computer mainframe, thus achieving immortality. Unfortunately, the neural scan copies over the neocortical lesion in the upload process, meaning that her upload will also be anhedonic until the very end of eternity.

**TRIPLE LOL!!!  
ALSO: FREE CAR!!!  
IMPORTANT PLOT DEVICE!!!**

All of this running around has put you in a contemplative mood and you and you can't help but notice that animate and inanimate matter are really quite different in many respects and this puzzles you such that you really must get to the bottom of it all. So you rev up the car and start running over squirrels! Also birds, housepets, and pedestrians! You keep looking at the remnants of former living creatures and

## Scenes from *The War on Things Which are Not Drugs*

I dream of a day in which you can go to Ben and Jerry's and get a chocolate ice cream cone and there beside the toppings and sprinkles and such is a bin of powerful pharmaceuticals (mixed, multihued) and you can put them on your ice cream cone and just go to town until your tongue goes numb and then you're like **Eff This!** and you just toss that dang old ice cream cone over your shoulder and you walk over to the Wafflery and you order up a big old pancake and you place it on your head and you sit there in the booth, syrup dripping on your earlobes.

The pharmaceuticals are broken pills from local hospitals and veterinary clinics.

(Look guize they're already in the water supply just go with me on this)

You also have the option of rolling your ice cream in Emergen-C if you think you have scurvy.

Once the horse tranquilizers wear off, you wipe your face with the pancake as though it were a napkin and stumble out of the restaurant.

Your options are: A) Left B) Right C) TAKE THE STREETS

You stagger into the sidewalk and then the street, oncoming traffic stopping amid a chorus of honks. Your face is sticky and sugary. You press it against the windshield of the car that is honking in front of you. The driver is a woman smoking a cigar. She turns on the windshield wipers but you refuse to be scraped off like a common bird turd.

A child in the backseat begins to cry

You're like Hey Kid! Turn that frown.... upside down!!

The driver steps on the gas. You take this in stride, hopping on the hood as the car takes off. Your face leaves a sticky, sugary smear across the windshield. The driver stomps the brakes, which might have thrown you off, but you have grabbed onto the open sunroof with one hand, and you haul yourself up and into the sunroof headfirst. The car takes off again as your legs

brains and muscle not a single wheel will turn," an old union song goes, and indeed large parts of the internet spun to a stop as their operators showed just what could happen, not only in a censorship nightmare, but also in a world without their labor. The cooperation of bloggers who might otherwise have quite different worldviews is a classic case of worker solidarity.

The blackout was not without its critics, but many of their criticisms are lacking. Internet humorist Maddox criticized the protest<sup>9</sup> as being a topical action which didn't address the systemic issues of poor governance due to corruption and corporate influence. There is some legitimacy to this criticism, but the same criticism could be made of practically any focussed, single-issue action, and struggle rarely takes place except under those terms. Maddox derides an instance of global, holistic action (the Occupy movement) and complains that the anti-SOPA movement should have taken part in economic boycotts against companies backing the bills. He fails to mention that they did exactly that in a 2011 boycott of GoDaddy, organized by Reddit users. It is perhaps true that the political situation is so backwards that similar bills will inevitably be passed, but that is hardly an argument against taking collective action when there is a pressing threat in the here and now, especially when the free speech, the very tool for fighting back, is under attack. And although he claims that symbolic action such as that taken during the blackout is ineffective, Maddox concedes that it stopped the bills.

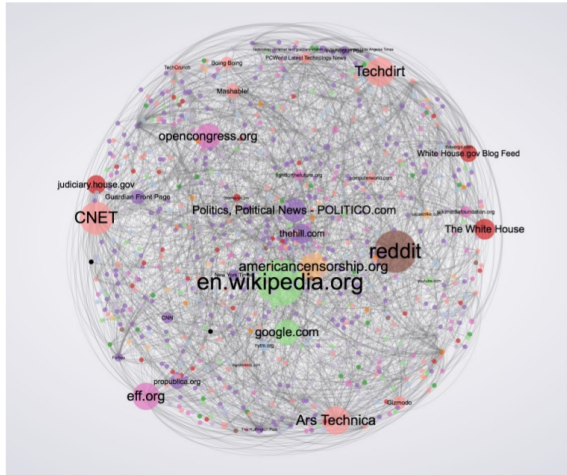
SOPA's Big Media backers presented the protests as an astroturfed affair organized by Big Telecom. A recent paper<sup>10</sup> formally laid this nonsense to rest by mapping out the evolution of the controversy over time, as it appeared on the public-facing part of the internet. They demonstrated that the actions' organization came from the bottom up, starting with gaming websites and individuals. However, their study also ominously notes that "nothing in our findings precludes less benign future interactions, where parties—be they private commercial interests, government agencies, or political parties—seek to

9. "I hope SOPA Passes." Maddox. [Thebestpageintheuniverse.net](http://Thebestpageintheuniverse.net)

10. Benkler, Yochai and Roberts, Hal and Faris, Robert and Solow-Niederman, Alicia and Etling, Bruce, *Social Mobilization and the Networked Public Sphere: Mapping the SOPA-PIPA Debate* (July 19, 2013). Berkman Center Research Publication No. 2013-16. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2295953>

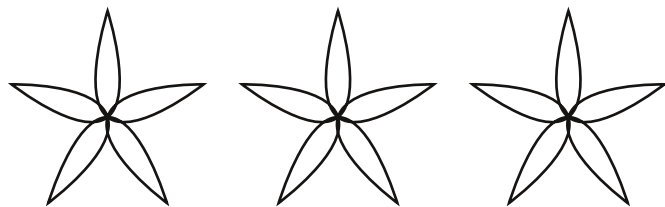
leverage online mobilization techniques in ways that are merely extensions of the media and astroturf campaigns of yore.”

There were workarounds in some cases; Wikipedia could be accessed by certain hacks. But the existence of such workarounds, and the fact that people are finding and using them was a success of the action in addition to its influence on policymakers. When people use these hacks, it puts them in direct contact with the inner workings of the technology they depend on, and this understanding is as critical for maintaining internet freedom (and freedom in general) as our legal system. Every n00b who is introduced to caches or proxies by the blackout was a victory for the cyber-strike.

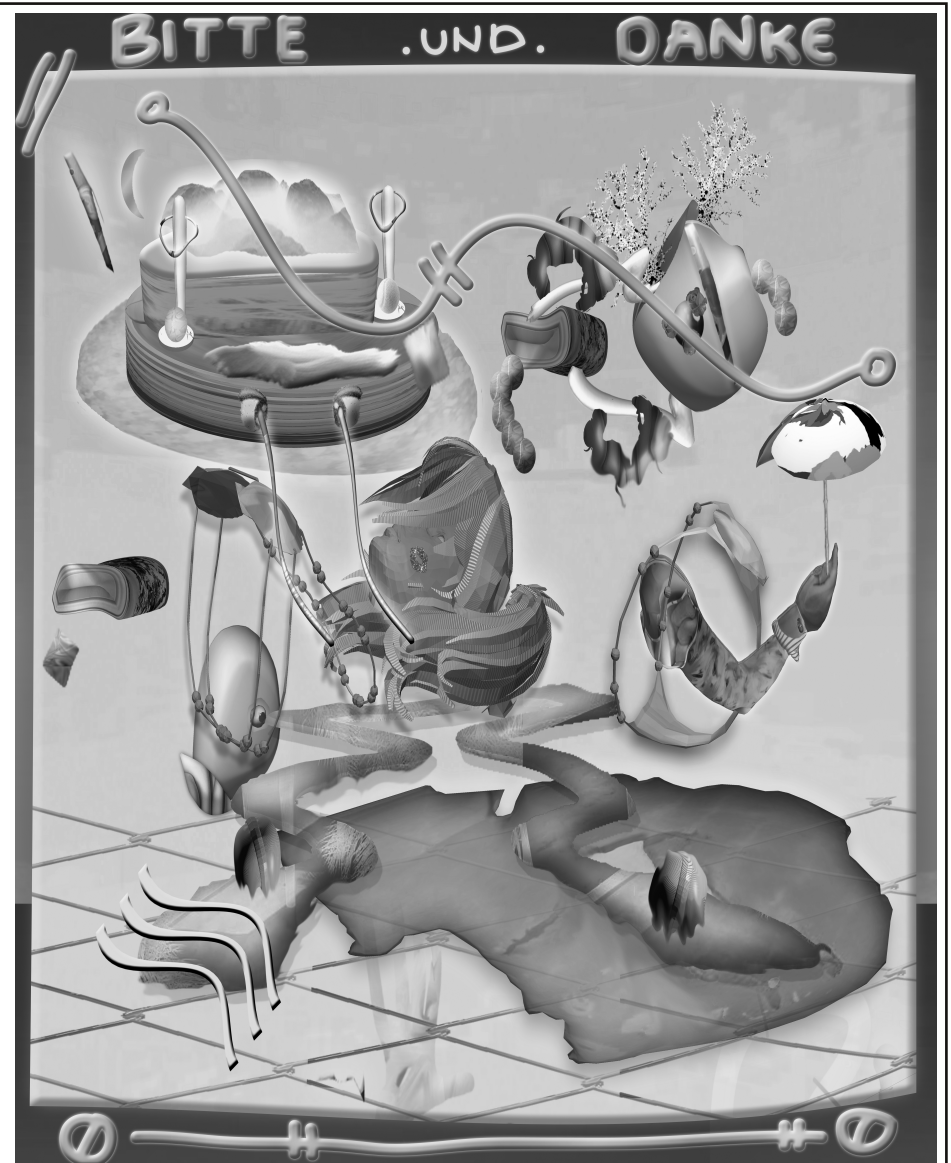


An internet shitstorm in progress. Figure 21, from the reference in footnote 10

Aftermath: SOPA architect Lamar Smith would go on to become chair of the House Science Committee, where he would propose eliminating peer review in funding decisions and replacing it with funding criteria established by congress.<sup>11</sup>



11. "U.S. Lawmaker Proposes New Criteria for Choosing NSF Grants." Jeffrey Mervis, 28 April 2013. News.Sciencemag.org



**"Bitte und Danke"**

**-Mark Pierson**

*these tamales from the farmers market are on some loud shit right now. still inside the klurb sipping coffee and flexing tamales.*

*"yes"*

*"what you'll cowards know about this right now?"*

*supreme cuts on my soundcloud*