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INTRODUCTION

You are holding the most extensive collection of Sixth World knowledge ever created. In a single book, at least. Hundreds of entries. Thousands of words. It covers everything from Aden to the Zurich-Orbital Habitat, or at least as much as we could get in there.

So why did we do it? This sort of collective, organized effort is not what people think of when they think about neo-anarchists, mostly because people don't have a good understanding of what neo-anarchy is (a failing we'll try to correct in the section right after this one). To be clear about one thing: Neo-anarchists work together. In fact, this book represents what anarchy is all about, namely a group of people choosing to work together for the common good. Knowledge is, and always will be, power, and power is important in any struggle. It just has to be used well.

Let me give you an example by sharing the story of Trinity Ellario. She is a futurist, a consultant with an expertise in picking out trends before anyone else really notices them. The megas tend not to work with her because they have enough consultants in-house, but Ellario cobbles together enough smaller clients to make a living. She also publishes original research in order to keep her name out there. She wrote this back in '75:

interest multiple corporations have in digitized consciousness is understandable-natural, even, given our survival instinct. The minefield of ethical concerns is intimidatingly large, though. For starters, there is the issue of what you are creating. A digitized consciousness is, by definition, an artificial intelligence (if it does not have all the elements needed to make consciousness, then it is worth little as data). This means that making a digitized consciousness is creating a new life, and that comes with certain ethical demands. Some people envision making a consciousness as a backup to their selves, which means it is something to be left dormant until needed. But isn't this, essentially, creating a new life form just to put it in an extended, enforced coma? How can this be ethical? Along similar lines, confining any such consciousnesses for the purpose of study is cruelty, enforced imprisonment for no crime. History has never been kind to those who constrain life in that way.

The first cases of cognitive fragmentation disorder were diagnosed within a year of the publication of Ellario's paper. The information warning us of the looming danger was out there—we just did not know enough to spread that information and do something about it.

One may fairly argue that Ellario's knowledge actually conveyed no power, because no one did anything about it, and the CFD crisis happened despite her warnings. But then there's the rest of the story. Ellario is based in Boston, and she was within the QZ when the quarantine went up. I'm sure most of you have heard stories of the nightmares that happened there on a daily basis, but Ellario had a different experience. This is from a recent conversation with her:

I was very fortunate. As soon as the lockdown started, some neighbors started delivering me food and keeping an eye on my place. I spoke to them frequently and offered payment for all they were doing for me, but they refused anything I offered. I hadn't met any of the people who were helping me before, and I was touched by their generosity. Only later in the process did I start to put things together and understand that everyone helping me were victims of CFD.

We know that the full memories of personalities had trouble surviving the invasion of people's brains, yet these head cases had retained enough memories of Ellario's advocacy on their behalf that they took care of her during the nightmare of the lockdown.

I relate this story for two reasons. First is because it is a fine example of neo-anarchist ideas, where hard work and conscientious behavior resulted in the formation of a community where the members supported one another. Second, Ellario wrote her initial report after reviewing data and piecing certain facts together, then combining it with a view of the essential importance of caring for life.

There are many strands of data assembled for this book, many chances to find knowledge, weave facts together, and use them in the ongoing struggle to build a more just world.

Use it well.



JUST A PUNK

BY CZ WRIGHT

The line of sheep, eager for fleecing, wound six blocks from the Grand Horizon Opera House—the only parcel of downtown still standing after Horizon relegated the nearly two-hundred-year-old theatre to a lobby for Horizon's monstrous theatre complex. I kept my head down as I walked, passing 'crete plastered in flyers that read "January 6, 2080, 8PM, Grand Horizon Opera House—Gillian McComber Management presents: A Night with Gillian." The same flyer I held mashed in my fist. I was going to frag the drek out of her show.

I ran my freshly lifted badge in front of the card reader at the service entrance, which rewarded me with a *click*, and I tossed it and the flyer in the trash. I strode through the chrome kitchens like I owned them, dodging employees too busy to question my presence. Marching through the swinging door at the end of the hall and sweeping into the current of theatre-goers, I tried to blend. I must have blended too well, because someone crashed into me, and we both sprawled to the floor.

"Aw, crap," they said as I clambered to my feet. I muttered something apologetic-sounding, scanning the crowd for an exit. The short, vaguely pigeon-shaped human woman stared at me with her mouth agape, her eyes wide, and a hand on her chest. I wondered whether she was going to have a heart attack or something, but she said, "Oh. My. Ghost! It's Cunningham—you're Cunningham!" She flapped her hands.

I winced and held a finger to my lips.

"—Cunning and Gil!" she said in a ringmaster-y imitation of the intro to the old MeFeed Gillian and I ran years ago. The woman's imitation stirred up a pang of nostalgia, but it was quickly incinerated by the electric anger I'd armed myself with tonight.

"I loved watching the ruckus you two would get up to," the woman said, voice growing louder. "But if you ask me, you're better off without Gillian and the enormous stick she keeps shoved up her—"

"Hey, I'm here incognito," I said, patting the air in the universal gesture for *keep it the fuck down*.

"Oh!" she said, ignoring the gesture. "My theatre group and I made this vid when Horizon came through buying up downtown—the vid was inspired by you, of course."