

Growing Old, Raising Hell p.73

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## Cory Doctorow Copyright Activist

**YOU'D BE FORGIVEN** for expecting little from a guy with a blog called Craphound, another called Boing Boing, and a penchant for distributing digital versions of his science fiction free of charge. The thing is, Cory Doctorow's blogs are read by millions, and his traditional paper books have been distributed by some of the biggest publishing houses in America.

A figurehead for "copyfighters" everywhere, he's on a crusade against a corporate monopoly on patent law. Doctorow thinks replication feeds a culture of creativity and might even be programmed into our DNA; it should be encouraged, not criminalized. Commercial sales of Doctorow's books, like his essay collection *Content* and his novel *Little Brother*, have not suffered from free electronic distribution. He's simply reaching more readers, who often end up buying something he wrote. His free editions become raw material for other creative people, who have produced comic books, iPhone apps, and even translations (including one in Braille).

Doctorow doesn't see these copies of copies of copies as infringements. "I just can't imagine making art in the 21st century unless it was intended to be copied," he says. "Of all the people who fail to buy my books today, the majority do so because they've never heard of them, not because someone gave them a free e-book."

## David Bacon, Documentary Photographer and Journalist

**PEOPLE ARE FIGHTING BACK** against unfair firings and pay cuts, against foreclosures and evictions, against unjust immigration laws. Unfortunately, these important, inspiring struggles rarely make the news.

David Bacon, a photographer and journalist, has made a life of telling underreported stories and getting to know the people behind them: immigrant janitors from Mexico and Central America striking for better wages in Northern California; security guards organizing for better working conditions in San Francisco; neighbors in Oakland protesting another foreclosure, another empty home.

Bacon has always been interested in the historical and economic forces behind migration and poverty. His books, including *Illegal People: How Globalization Creates Migration and Criminalizes Immigrants*, are sharp, analytical, and urgent. *Communities Without Borders: Images and Voices from the World of Migration*, a stunning volume featuring photographs and narratives from migrants on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border, is mind-blowing in its scope and depth of feeling. His photographs and writing also appear in indie-media staples such as *The Nation*, *The American Prospect*, and *Truthout*.



## Patricia van Nispen tot Sevenaer Executive Director, ILA Microjustice for All

**AROUND THE WORLD**, billions of people who are excluded from legal systems are unable to expect, or fight for, the most basic of social and economic rights. Dutch lawyer and legal activist Patricia van Nispen tot Sevenaer is addressing the oversight—one person at a time.

Van Nispen tot Sevenaer set up ILA Microjustice for All in 1996 after working for the United Nations in Rwanda and former Yugoslavia. As Yugoslavia disintegrated, refugees often fled without valid identity documents. Without these papers they could not cross the newly established borders to retrieve them, nor could they hope to resettle elsewhere. Van Nispen tot Sevenaer set up a network of lawyers and activists to help people rebuild their lives. She also found her calling. "You feel for what your mission is in life," she says.

Microjustice is legal aid structurally inspired by micro-finance. In 2006 Van Nispen tot Sevenaer moved to La Paz to open Microjustice Bolivia, launched in 2007 as the first branch of the global Microjustice network. Identity documents are a large part of the work—a quarter of Bolivians lack them and are barred from the government's universal pension and other benefits and rights—and the organization also tackles property rights, microenterprise support, and labor protection.

With a second branch now open in Peru, Van Nispen tot Sevenaer is looking toward the future, assessing possibilities in Sri Lanka and Rwanda. Where she can't go, others are welcome: ILA Microjustice for All recently developed an open-source handbook designed to help other projects get off the ground.