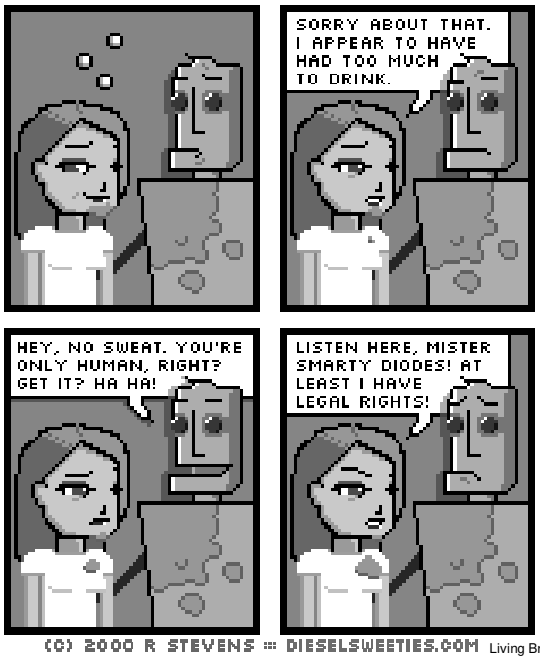
Civil Rights for Robots

Beep



Approach and Outline

- **First: PSYCHE! There is no definitive answer.**

- **Theories behind liberty**
- **Legal sources of liberty**
- **Muddy water**
  - **Rights in non-humans**
  - **Humans with restricted rights**
  - **Other flotsam and jetsam**

Theories behind rights: Nozick

- **Robert Nozick*: Self-ownership**
  - » **(John Locke probably originated the idea, but without detail)**
  - **"Ownership"began during feudal times with titles to land**
  - **The "common factor that binds the human condition" is birth**
  - **Each person owns himself in the same way one owns property**
    - » **… Nozick would probably disagree with the notion of machine rights, since they are not a part of the "human condition"**

[2] ***Anarchy, State, Utopia*. Robert Nozick. Basic Books, 1977.**

Theories behind rights: Friedman

- **Milton Friedman*: Goals**
  - **The capacity for self-government is derived from three abilities**

1. **The power to set ends for ourselves in light of our judgments of what is valuable;**
2. **The power to regulate our conduct in pursuit of those ends;**
3. **The power to revise that understanding on reflection**

» **Friedman would have much less (perhaps too much less) trouble with the concept of robot rights**

» **"It is generally agreed that machines can have goals." – Rod Brooks, Artificial Humanity, Fall, 1997.**

[2] ***Capitalism and Freedom**, Milton Friedman. University of Chicago Press, 1963.**

Current source of legal rights

- **"People"**
  - **Constitution**
    - » **"We the people …"**
    - » **"… unto ourselves and our posterity …"**
  - **Bill of rights**
    - » **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10 all use the term "person" or "people"**
- **"Citizen"**
  - **14th amendment**
    - » **"All persons born or *naturalized* in the United States are citizens of the United States. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any *person* of life, liberty or property without due process of law nor deny to any *person* equal protection of the law" (emphasis added).**

Models of non-human rights

- **Service animals**
  - **Rehabilitation act of 1973, Sections 501, 503, 504**
  - **American Disabilities Act**
    - » **Prohibit the exclusion of service animals from public areas or private areas that serve the public**
    - » **There are behavioral restrictions (no barking or peeing)**
    - » **Can be excluded if "animal's presence fundamentally changes the natures of the service provided"**
- **Historic Monuments and protected lands**
    - » **(Typically only protected because of their relationship with humans or with nature)**

  - **… these rights are typically only bestowed on non-humans because of their special relationship with humans**

Humans with restricted rights

- **Minors**
  - **Restricted from driving, "adult" activities, drinking … presumably because of maturity**
- **Power of attorney**
  - **Typically applied if a person is or expects to be unable to make decisions in his own best interest**
- **Mental patients**
  - **Likely to make decisions that will cause harm to one's self**
- **… supports Friedman's goal-centric ideas of liberty**

Flotsam, jetsam

- **Cloned humans**
  - **Embryos are associated with an "owner"**
- **"Flesh and machines"-type human improvements**
  - **Cochlear implants**
  - **Prostheses**
  - **?Memory device**
  - **?Help with reasoning**