

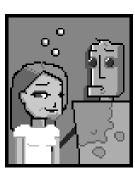
# Civil Rights for Robots

#### Веер

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### 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

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### 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"
      - <sup>2</sup> \*Anarchy, State, Utopia. Robert Nozick. Basic Books, 1977.

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## 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, <u>Artificial Humanity</u>, Fall, 1997.
      - \*Capitalism and Freedom, Milton Friedman. University of Chicago Press, 1963.

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### 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).

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#### 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

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### 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

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## Flotsam, jetsam

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

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