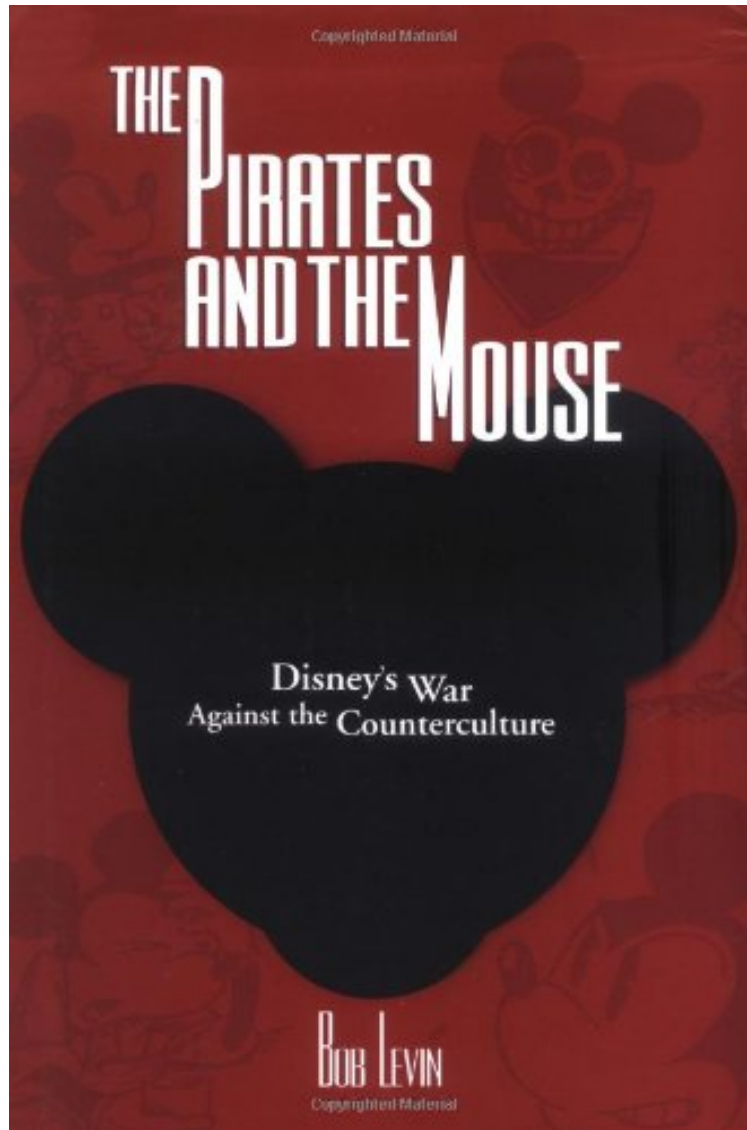


[Download ebook] The Pirates and the Mouse: Disney's War Against The Underground

# The Pirates and the Mouse: Disney's War Against The Underground

*Bob Levin*

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**Bob Levin : The Pirates and the Mouse: Disney's War Against The Underground** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Pirates and the Mouse: Disney's War Against The Underground:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This case becomes more relevant every day for artists, ...By Christopher BingThis case becomes more relevant every day for artists, comedians, and the First Amendment. Disney

Corp. spent a lot of money in Congress to change American copyright law before 2000 to keep control of Mickey.<sup>4</sup> of 8 people found the following review helpful. Dan O' Neill Gets His Due By S. matzbob levin's writing style aside, this book is an extremely informative expose of the first amendment with regards to copyright infringement and parody. the champion here (or protagonist if you will) is the enlightened dan o' neill. even though the "air pirates" was a collective effort by london, richards, halgren, and flenniken, o'neill was the one who braved this whole mess out with humor, wit, and defiant intellect. the famous phrase "the pen is mightier than the sword" underestimates the relentlessness and ruthlessness of the disney empire against an intellectual threat that put the "disney intellect" to shame; i am again referring to o' neill. a fine prep in copyright law, the beginnings of the underground comics, disney's wrath, and an american champion of free speech: "they should have known he was irish" dan o' neill. you will have more than a few chuckles during your reading....thank you bob levin, dan o' neill, and the rest of the "pirates". you are not forgotten!!! 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. For anyone concerned with such issues as artistic freedom By Midwest Book Review Aply researched and written by Bob Levin (an experienced essayist for "The Comics Journal"), *The Pirates And The Mouse: Disney's War Against The Counterculture* is the intrinsically fascinating and little-known story of a group of rogue cartoonists led by Dan O'Neill (the youngest syndicated cartoonist in American newspaper history), who waged a countercultural war of pictures against the Disney Corporation by portraying Disney characters engaging in un-Disney like behavior. In response, Disney executives brought forth a massive lawsuit against these unapproved cartoonists for copyright infringement. *The Pirates And The Mouse* traces a complex and tangled personal, legal, and cultural saga ranging from O'Neill's bitterness against the censorship that cost him a job, to contemporary corporate politics, issues of intellectual property rights and social commentary, and more. *The Pirates And The Mouse* is a "must-read" for anyone concerned with such issues as artistic freedom, copyright law, as well as readers seeking to learn more about the oft-unspoken and somewhat darker side of the corporate Disney.

They fought the Mouse and the Mouse (eventually) won, but it was a battle that left everyone bloodied... During a time of unprecedented political, social, and cultural upheaval in U.S. history, one of the fiercest battles was ignited by a comic book. In 1963, the San Francisco Chronicle made 21-year-old Dan O'Neill the youngest syndicated cartoonist in American newspaper history. As O'Neill delved deeper into the emerging counterculture, his strip, *Odd Bodkins*, became stranger and stranger and more and more provocative, until the papers in the syndicate dropped it and the Chronicle let him go. The lesson that O'Neill drew from this was that what America most needed was the destruction of Walt Disney. O'Neill assembled a band of rogue cartoonists called the Air Pirates (after a group of villains who had bedeviled Mickey Mouse in comic books and cartoons). They lived communally in a San Francisco warehouse owned by Francis Ford Coppola and put out a comic book, *Air Pirates Funnies*, that featured Disney characters participating in very un-Disneylike behavior, provoking a mammoth lawsuit for copyright and trademark infringements and hundreds of thousands of dollars in damages. Disney was represented by one of San Francisco's top corporate law firms and the Pirates by the cream of the counterculture bar. The lawsuit raged for 10 years, from the trial court to the US Supreme Court and back again. The novelist and essayist Bob Levin recounts this rollicking saga with humor, wit, intelligence, and skill, bringing alive the times, the issues, the absurdities, the personalities, the changes wrought within them and us all. Includes never-before seen art from the Air Pirates archives! Two excerpted chapters of this book in *The Comics Journal* in 2001 proved to be one of the magazine's most popular features in recent memory. Black-and-white illustrations throughout.

From Publishers Weekly In 1971, a group of underground cartoonists known as the Air Pirates put out a comic book parody of Disney cartoons in which Mickey Mouse, Goofy, Bucky Bug and others get high, have sex and swear a blue streak. Extremely protective of its characters' reputations, Disney sued and turned what would have been a blip on the countercultural radar screen into a First Amendment cause celebre. The result was a classic post-Vietnam kulturkampf pitting artistic license against corporate copyright, and San Francisco's bohemian debauchery against Disneyland's disciplined wholesomeness. Levin's charming and thoughtful account, complete with reproductions of some of the offending cartoons, meanders through the history of the comic book industry, the rise of Disney to domination in the cultural marketplace and the intricacies of copyright and First Amendment law around which the litigation revolved. His anecdotal, shaggy-dog style is perfect for sketching indelible portraits of the quirky, romantic, incorrigibly stoned denizens of San Francisco's underground comics scene, whose mission it was to smash every false idol of square America and whose sensibility lives on in alternative weeklies across the land. If they did, as Disney claimed, besmirch the innocence of a national icon, the Air Pirates are themselves emblems of a lost idealism, of a time when people believed that sex, drugs and revolutionary rhetoric could liberate society from the rule of corporate entertainment monoliths. Bw photos. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. The definitive history of this wonderful, mad (and, I believe, significant) episode in American popular culture. -- Richard Milner, Senior Editor at *Natural History* magazine About the Author Bob Levin lives in Berkeley, CA with his wife and collaborator, Adele. He

practices law when he isn't writing books.