

We are pleased to present at this time  
a Pocket-Sermon in Two Acts, entitled:

WHO THREW THE OVERALLS IN UNCLE ADOLF'S WODKA?

or

Some shining intellect in our NFFF has endured a mighty labor, bringing forth a bigger and better mouse for the discombooberation of fandom. It's the most brilliantly crack-pot scheme yet devised for the recruiting of funds. The critter may be found in Sections A & B, Article IV, of the Proposed Constitution, as presented in Bonfire # 3. Read it, friends, and wonder:

Art IV, Sect A: "A tax shall be levied at need upon the publication of fanzines by members of the NFFF...."

Art IV, Sect B: "A tax shall be levied at need upon contributions, literary, artistic, or other, to fanzines by members of the NFFF...."

So what?

So this: If Sections A & B, Article IV, are approved, then at the discretion of the Finance Committee (3 members, appointed by the President), a majority (3 members) of the Advisory Board, and the President, you as a member of the NFFF, may be required to:

PAY TRIBUTE ---- for the privilege of continuing publication of a fan-mag  
you've been putting out for years!

PAY TRIBUTE ---- for the privilege of starting a new fan-mag!

PAY TRIBUTE ---- for the privilege of writing a story, article, or poem, making a drawing, or contributing in any other way to your own or anyone else's fan-mag!

Sections A & B are STUPID, UNJUSTIFIED, AND VICIOUSLY DISCRIMINATORY!!!

We can only speculate as to the mental contortions performed by the Finance Committee in the hatching of such patently piratical proposals. But we do know that the Finance Committee is currently stumbling all over itself (see Bonfire # 3) in its attempts to justify its thoroughly reprehensible actions.

The Finance Committee lamely laments that goats are needed, and therefore the most active fans (evidently meaning those publishing and contributing to fan-mags) are the logical candidates. Oh Yeah? If that's logic, it's the de Campian variety.

The Finance Committee slyly suggests that fan-mag publishers and contributors, in some mysterious and unexplained manner, derive a super-special benefit from membership in the NFFF. And that's pure, unmitigated rot. The privileges accruing from NFFF membership are granted equally to all the members, whether or not they are active in the fan-mag publishing field. This is a statement of fact. Any claims to the contrary are not only misleading, but utterly mendacious.

The Finance Committee further seeks to rationalize its asinine behavior by charging that fan-mag publishers and contributors get more fun out of Science-Fantasy than the less active brethren, and should therefore pay through the nose for this extra fun to the NFFF. Ohmigod! It is to laugh! By the same token, it may be assumed that Fan A, who reads both Astounding and Unknown Worlds, has more fun than Fan B, who only reads Astounding; so why not tax members according to the number of pro-magazines they read each month? Correspondence between fans is fun, too; why not tax that activity? Making fan-records is fun, and so is attending conventions; how about them? It's fun to get letters printed in the pro reader-sections; quick, Finance Committee, slap a tax on it! Then, too, maybe it's fun to read fan-mags, as well as to edit and contribute to them. Now there's a promising source of revenue. Finally, it is undoubtedly lots of fun to be a member of the Finance Committee! The silence is appalling.

There is not an iota of justification for the imposition of these outrageous penalties on fan-mag publishers and contributors.

A per-capita tax - one which is borne equally by all members of the NFFF - is a just and equitable tax.

A tax which must be borne exclusively by any one group or section of the membership is unjust and discriminatory.

So much for the moral issues involved. Having awarded this month's 21-jewel Dunce-Cap to the Finance Committee, let's have a look at the legal aspects:

Sections A & B are INSULTING, AUTOCRATIC, AND ILLEGAL

Even an overturned out-house has its element of low humor, and the idea of paying tribute for the exercise of an inherent right is so odious as to be amusing in a vile sort of way.



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Wiley and better money for the dissemination of funds. It's the most brilliant  
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in Bontine # 3. Read it carefully, and wonder what Uncle Abolie's work is?

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Even an overtrained out-house has its element of low humor, and the idea of pay-  
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any sort of way.



But to have such a revolting proposition seriously presented on the ballot isn't funny at all. It's just insulting and disgusting.

The NFFF can grant the rights of voting in the organization, of using the organization's name, and of participating in the organization's activities.

The NFFF cannot grant the rights of editing, publishing, or contributing to fan-mags ---- because fan-mags are independent projects, existing entirely outside the scope and jurisdiction of the NFFF. The rights are inherent rights, not contingent on payment of tribute to the NFFF or to any other organization.

The NFFF has as much legal right to tax fan-mags as it has to tax breathing!

By all recognized legal and ethical standards, (save those of Hitler, Hirohito & Co.) Sections A & B are therefore as rotten in conception as they would be disastrous in application.

Sections A & B are POTENTIALLY FATAL TO THE NFFF!

The Finance Committee unctuously intimates that anyone who doesn't like Sections A & B can damn well go fry his hat; that any fan-mag publisher or contributor who finds these abominable clauses unacceptable can just stop publishing, writing and drawing fan-material.

But things aren't likely to pan out that way.

It isn't likely that fans, saddled with a tyrannical tax upon their initiative, enthusiasm and resourcefulness, will be found so sadly wanting in common-sense and common-guts as to knuckle down and say: "Kick me again, please."

Neither is it likely that fans who find their self-respect at odds with the imperious decrees of any organization will cheerfully commit honorable hara-kiri.

The Finance Committee may rest assured that if the vicious and unscrupulous Sections A & B are enacted, and if subsequent efforts at their elimination fail - if and when the choice is offered of paying blood-money on fan-mags or getting out of the NFFF ---- there will be an exodus of some proportions.

That fan-mags and fan-activities will continue, come hell and high water - goes without saying. The important question now is whether the NFFF is to be developed soundly and constructively on the basis of the good work already done, or whether it is to destroy itself through stupid abuse of power and high-handed autocracy, leaving fandom more anarchic than before.

Your Co-Operation - As A Member of the NFFF - Is Urgently Required!

If Sections A & B, Article IV, aren't Killed Now, They May Kill the NFFF Later

Please Do These Things - AT ONCE - RIGHT NOW - WITHOUT DELAY!

- 1     Vote NO on the Proposed Constitution, specifying Sections A & B as the objectionable clauses, and demanding their removal by the Advisory Committee before the Constitution is again presented for a vote.
- 2     If you have already voted YES on the Proposed Constitution, send a card to the Advisory Committee Chairman (Milton Rothman), qualifying your general approval as not applying to Sections A & B.
- 3     Sign both the duplicate forms attached, and send both copies (in an unsealed envelope for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ¢ if you wish) to me at the address below. This amendment will wipe out Sections A & B, and prevent any such infamous proposals from crawling under the door in the future. One copy of the form will be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer (see provisions dealing with Amendments), and the duplicate copy will be retained as a safeguard against loss of the original.

VIVE LA NFFF!  
and  
TO HELL WITH TYRANNY!

Lou Goldstone  
269 Sixteenth Avenue,  
San Francisco, Calif.  
(NFFF # 48)

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Low Goldstone  
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