



HELP THE CBLDF...



DEFEND COMICS

NOT FINAL COVER



FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

TM



THE AMENDMENT THAT MADE A RIGHT OUT OF "WRONG"



EDISON REX
Former Supervillain,
now Defender of Earth



Let Me EXPLAIN What YOUR RIGHTS MEAN!

I am fed up with hearing so many people talk about "Freedom of Speech" without understanding what those words mean, apparently. They get offended by something that someone else says, and talk about the government needing to get involved. Or they say something offensive themselves, and insist that any negative fallout that results is somehow a violation of their right to free speech. And listen, if there's anyone that understands the basic concept of "negative fallout" it's me, who spent years as Public Enemy Number One while that musclebound oaf in the cape was still around. But he's not around anymore, so I guess it falls to me to set the record straight here.

Freedom of Speech is not Freedom from Consequences

It's simple, really. The first amendment says you can say (or write, or publish) whatever you want, and the government can't censor you or put you in jail. That's it. But if there are negative consequences to what you say or write or publish, you're on your own. So if you say something offensive and lose your job as a result, start looking for a new one, and stop crying that your freedom of speech has been violated. And if someone else says something that you find offensive, you can ignore them, or complain to their employers, or organize a protest, but you CAN'T ask the government to do anything about it.

(But the first person who insists that it's necessary to tolerate intolerance or any kind of nonsense like that gets hit with L.A.R.V.A.'s Silencer ray...)

THE FIRST AMENDMENT THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

Congress shall make no law...

[Check as many as you like]

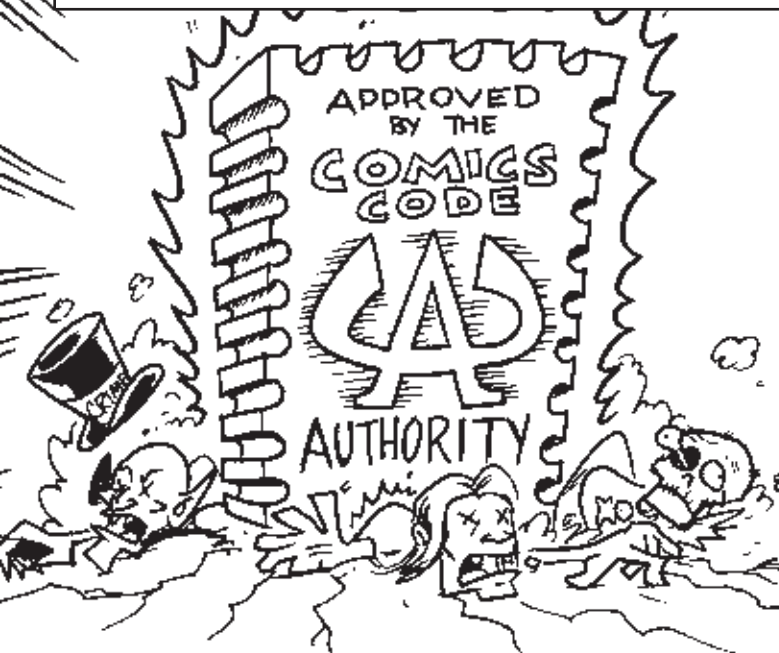
- Respecting an establishment of religion
- Or of the press
- Prohibiting the free exercise thereof
- Or the right peaceably to assemble
- Abridging the freedom of speech
- Or to petition the government

Print Name Age

Address

City & State Zip Code

"TAKEN TOGETHER (THE CMAA'S NEW) PROVISIONS CONSTITUTE THE MOST SEVERE SET OF PRINCIPLES FOR ANY COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA IN USE TODAY, RESTRICTING THE USE OF MANY TYPES OF MATERIAL PERMITTED BY THE MOTION PICTURE CODE AND THE CODES FOR THE TELEVISION AND RADIO INDUSTRIES."



IN ADDITION TO PREDICTABLE BANS ON DEPICTIONS OF SEX, DRUGS AND VIOLENCE, THE CMAA CONTENT CODE ALSO PROHIBITED THE USE OF THE WORDS "CRIME," "HORROR" AND "TERROR" IN TITLES...

BUT THIS WHOLE !@#%!! THING WAS MY IDEA!!!

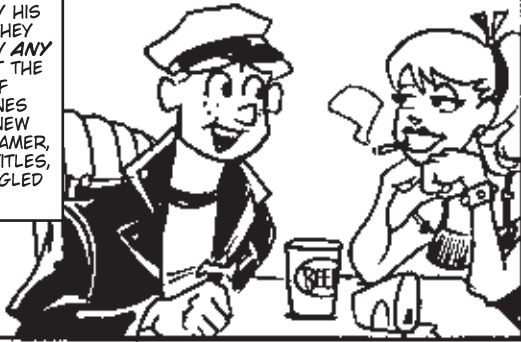
THAT'S PAYBACK FOR YA, TUBBY!



...EFFECTIVELY KILLING EC'S "NEW TREND" LINE, WHICH HAD ALL THOSE WORDS IN ITS TITLES!

MANY IN THE EC CAMP BELIEVED GOLDWATER HAD IT IN FOR BILL BECAUSE OF THE MAD PARODY OF ARCHIE THAT DEPICTED THE RIVERDALE GANG AS MERCILESS JUVIES.

BLUNTLY TOLD BY HIS DISTRIBUTORS THEY WOULD NOT CARRY ANY EC TITLE WITHOUT THE CMAA SEAL OF APPROVAL, GAINES ATTEMPTED A "NEW DIRECTION" OF TAMER, CODE-APPROVED TITLES, BUT THEY STRUGGLED MISERABLY.

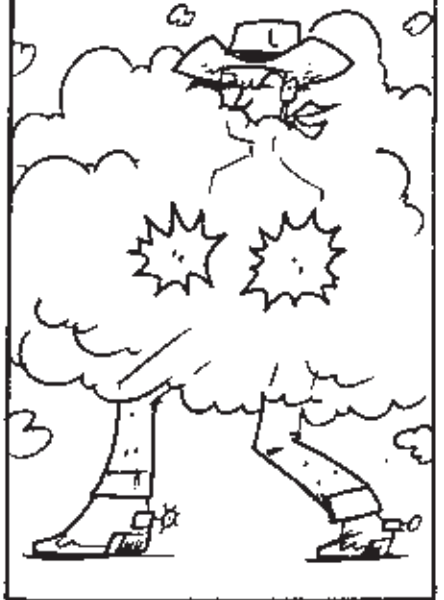


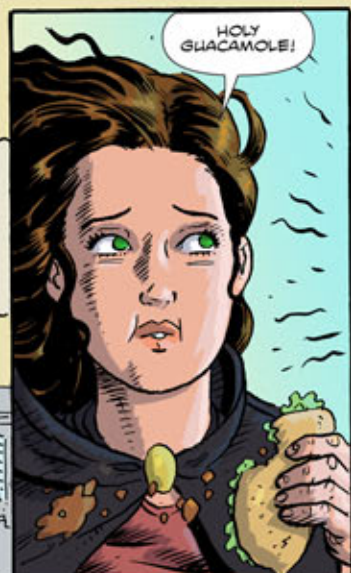
PUBLISHERS FREQUENTLY FOUND THE CENSORS' REQUESTED CHANGES ARBITRARY AND BIZARRE.

ATLAS EDITOR STAN LEE TELLS OF BEING BAFLED WHEN THE CODE OFFICE REJECTED AN ISSUE OF KID COLT, OUTLAW FOR BEING "TOO VIOLENT"...

...WHEN HE ASKED WHY, HE WAS TOLD IT WAS BECAUSE TOO MUCH SMOKE CAME OUT OF THE HERO'S SIX-GUN WHEN HE FIRED IT.

IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR THE SEAL, COMICS STORIES HAD TO FIRST BE SENT TO THE CMAA OFFICES, WHERE A CRACK SQUAD OF RETIRED SCHOOLTEACHERS WOULD RUTHLESSLY INSPECT THEM FOR ANYTHING OBJECTIONABLE.





Amelia Cole and the FREEDOM OF SPEECH

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YOU CAN'T SAY IT! CAN'T!

BUT I DID!



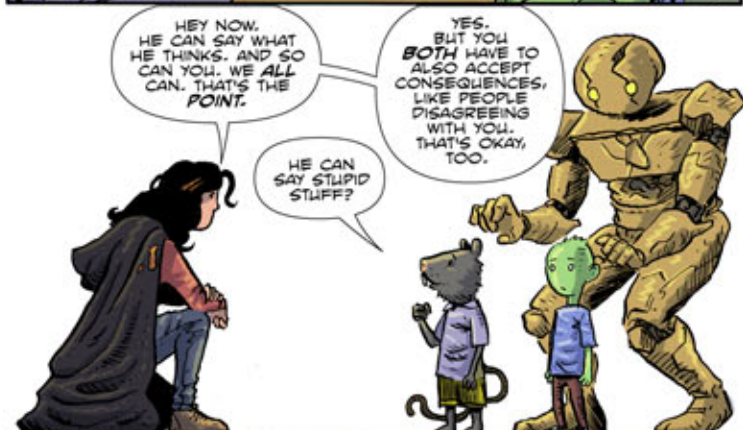
ALL RIGHT TEENY TIKES, WHAT CAN'T WHO SAY?



HE SAID HECTOR WAS A BETTER PROTECTOR THAN YOU! I TOLD HIM HE BETTER NOT SAY THAT! BUT HE DID.

HE SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO SAY JUNK! MAKE HIM STOP!

HE WAS BETTER!



HEY NOW, HE CAN SAY WHAT HE THINKS, AND SO CAN YOU. WE ALL CAN. THAT'S THE POINT.

YES, BUT YOU BOTH HAVE TO ALSO ACCEPT CONSEQUENCES, LIKE PEOPLE DISAGREEING WITH YOU. THAT'S OKAY, TOO.

HE CAN SAY STUPID STUFF?



ATTACKING THEM WITH FLAMING WHATSITS IS NOT ALL RIGHT, THOUGH. SHEESH.

WHERE DID YOU EVEN GET THIS CRAZY SPELL?

MY FOLKS' CLOSET.

WELL, ALSO DON'T STEAL CRAZY DANGEROUS MAGIC STUFF, KID.



AW! MAN! I STAINED MY CLOAK? STUPID DELICIOUS TACO. STUPID FIRE THINGS. COME ON, LEMMY. LET'S GET THESE BEASTIES TO... SOMEONE NOT ME.

BYE, PROTECTOR AMELIA!

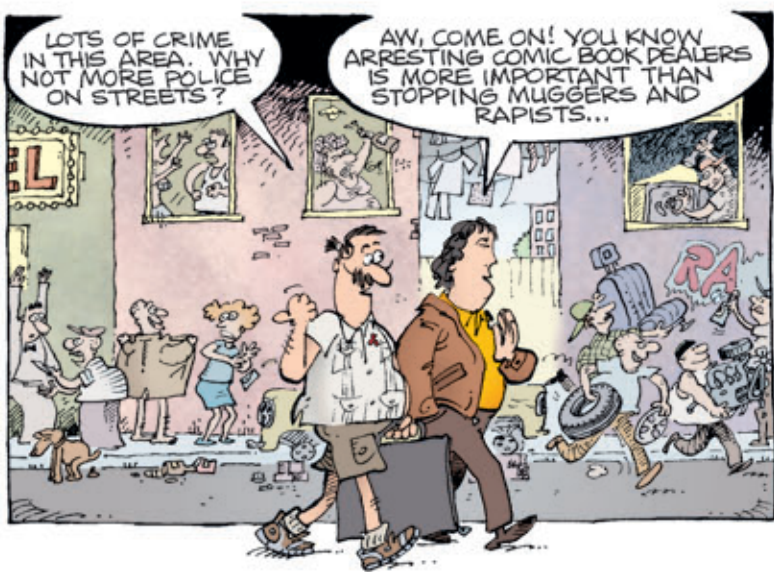
SHE'S STILL NOT THE BETTER!

YOU'RE WRONG, BUT... ALL RIGHT.

THE EVER LOVIN' END!

TALES of COMIC BOOK CENSORSHIP!

by SERGIO ARAGONÉS AND MARK EVANIER
(AND STAN SAKAI & TOM LUTH)



"AND THE COURT-APPOINTED PUBLIC DEFENDERS HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL WITH THEM..."



THEN PLEA-BARGAIN! ADMIT GUILT... GET A LIGHT SENTENCE...

NEVER! I'M GOING TO CALL THE COMIC BOOK LEGAL DEFENSE FUND!



"AND THE RESULT IS..."

ENOUGH! I'M THROWING THIS SILLY CASE OUT OF COURT!



THAT'S THE AMERICAN WAY! YOU DON'T LOSE YOUR CASE BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY!

THAT SHOULD BE HOW IS EVERYWHERE!

