

“HIDE AND SEEK”

Do you remember playing hide and seek as a child? Oh, what fun it *could* be. I say *could* because there were times when I played hide and seek that it was *not* fun; it was unfair; it was discouraging. (especially when my brother got everyone to go home instead of hiding) It was with eagerness and anticipation, as I stood there counting behind a tree with my eyes closed. "OK...Ready or not here I come..." The hunt, the search...I knew I could find them.

I have often revisited this feeling when I am searching for a great Humor, Drama or Duo Interpretation that I've heard at a recent tournament or at the National Tournament. It is with such eagerness and anticipation that I begin that search...and so discouraging and unfair when I find nothing.

I remember a conversation I had with the Late Mr. James Hawker, former NFL President and Interp Maven, on a flight back from the Fort Lauderdale Nationals. Mr. Hawker told me that several coaches/students had purposely changed the title of their selections to something different. Incredulously, I asked why. His answer was simple and poignant..."So no one else can find it." How unfair! How discouraging! I had a very talented student who won the Nationals in 1996. He was first given his selection at a summer camp. The selection was called: *3 Men: HUD*. After he returned home from camp, I searched for such a selection. Finally I found that the correct title was: *A Horseman Pass By*.

Today, the problem seems to have become even greater. With the advent of the Internet, Desktop Publishing, and the use of scanners, one can virtually create a "published" looking document. Heck, they may even written it. Or, why not have your neighbor xerox it and say it is published? The illegal methods are legion. My point is that the NFL has specific rules regarding literature being printed and published. What I advocate is that it be required to be printed, published and *accessible to the public*.

by
Don Crabtree

At the Northwest Nationals, I asked District Chairs to comment on whether students should be allowed to utilize material from the internet. While their responses have not been overwhelming, all have agreed that we need to adopt a "Wait and See" approach. Most Chairs have agreed that while internet materials are increasingly being considered there still must be a printed text of the materials used in competition. A very big concern about internet materials for Interpretation is the probability that someone will start writing pieces and using them. (I think it's already been done). Another concern with internet usage is about the verification of sources. Even the MLA has problems with internet sources because there is little ability to verify or hold accountable. For instance, the person who puts the material on the internet can change it at will. How does anyone check it when needed? What if it is put on once and then removed? We have to remember that anyone can get on the net; however, the net can serve as a valuable tool to reach the legal materials.

So where does this leave us? The same place we started unless we require printed, published and publicly accessible interpretation scripts. Obviously, that means no more publishing in school papers

(unless the paper/journal is available to all). No more selections from the internet. No more having your neighbor publish it for you.

At the very least, we should be required to list the actual name of the selection; the ISBNB (International Standard Book Number); the publisher; and the publisher's address.

I think it would be fantastic and very educational, if the National Office would make available the scripts, author, publisher, address, etc. used each year at the National Tournament. To be honest, I have not explored the logistics of this. There would have to be a cost involved because of printing, mailing and staff utilization. I personally think it would be money well-spent.

I have included a list of websites that have been very helpful in finding actual printed, published and publicly available selections. I hope you find them useful.

amazon.com
bookshop.co.uk
samuelfrench.com
bakersplays.com
broadwayplaypubl.com
quitespecificmedia.com
act1books.com
stageandscreen.com
bb.com (bibliobyes)
findbooks.com
webhome.idirect.com/~taggart5/scripthouse/ie4.htm
(On line script showcase)
screenwriter.com/scriptworld.html (Script World)
scriptcity.net
hollywoodscripts.net (under construction)
tcg.org
bookalley.com
barnesandnoble.com
dramaticpublishing.com
dramabookshop.com

What do we do in the meantime? Keep playing "Hide and Seek" and hope the friends you're playing with have a sense of integrity and play fairly.

(Don Crabtree coaches at Park Hill High School, Kansas City, MO and is also an NFL Executive Council member.)