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.

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 their selections from the internet. 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.

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