

This is Dave Van Arnam, boy writer of many unpublished novels, who lives at -- say, who the hell cares whether I list where I live?

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We have two cats, however. They both live at 1730 Harrison Ave, Apt 353, Bronx, NY 10453, and I wd give the telephone number except that the thot of someone ringing me up and asking to speak to Mickey Mouse makes my already queasy stomach quake with incipient rebellion...

I think that everybody should vote for Steve Stiles. For TAFF, anyway. Sound good?

Cindy has just come into the office, bearing a copy of the new "RULES for the Regulation of the Use of NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT SYSTEM," full of all sorts of fancy typography and colored inks.

Some of these regulations are sensible.

Others are a pile of shit.

In the beloved United States Army there are many stupid regulations; the Army is no fun for an intelligent man precisely because of this. Nonetheless, there seems to be at least one level of malevolent purpose to Stupid Army Regulations -- they train you to do what you're told no matter how vapid, pointless, foolishly restrictive, or whatever it may be. (Bad sentence, that, but...)

Which is good from the Army point of view -- because it teaches you to do what you are told without question or hesitation. Theoretically, at least.

Some regulations make sense; others do not. In the Army, it hardly matters.

But it seems to me it matters, when civilians are forced to observe stupid regulations. I'm not objecting to rules making it illegal to bust, smash, deface, or otherwise mutilate transit facilities.

I am objecting to things like Section 701.9(b), which states that thou shalt not take photographs within the transit system without you are a member of the working press or get a god damned permit. Now I could care not one little curse for my own part; my desire to take photos in the subway is less even than my desire to take photos elsewhere, which currently is almost nil. But one day I might take it in mind to buy a camera. Now, savages are said to believe that if you take their picture you are stealing their soul. It might be rather groovy to steal the Transit Authority's soul, but as an intelligent man I'm sadly aware that taking a photo of a subway car just isn't going to work that way. So why in hell this arbitrary restriction? It's also illegal to pass out handbills (like FIRST DRAFT, I suppose) or to take trash out of the trashbaskets once it's been deposited (again like FIRST DRAFT...). Now, I don't do much rummaging in the rubbish bins, but I see no reason why someone can't haul out a perfectly good newspaper or magazine that someone else has happened to deposit there a moment ago. You can't change any item of clothing in the TA toilets, either, assuming you're willing to go into a TA toilet in the first place. I don't mind regulations that tell me not to park my car on the tracks, but leaping Jesus! Some of those regulations are almost obscene (and unheard-of...). owell, again, and Hoping you are the sane...

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-- dgV