

Thursday, October 18, 2007

### **Support the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund**

Bill of Rights. (From the public domain.) On October 13, I had a great time at the Small Press Expo in Bethesda, Maryland, where the highlight was meeting the amazing creator, writer, and artist Bill Griffith of Zippy the Pinhead fame. The Small Press Expo features underground and alternative comics and their creators; with at least one hundred artists engaged in stimulating conversations with alternative comics fans. Stay tuned this Sunday for more information here about the event. At the Small Press Expo, I met two of the staff of three at the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund. Sadly, unjust attacks on comics did not end with the 1950's Congressional hearings that apparently secured heavy doses of blandness in mainstream comics, and led my treasured Mad Magazine to convert to a magazine format to avoid such nonsense (but which also apparently led to its ceasing publication of its masterful allied comics). The CBLDF's work includes support of Gordon Lee, who is being prosecuted after the mistaken distribution of an adult-themed comic to a minor during a Halloween celebration. The prosecution and the law (detailed here) being used for the prosecution both are preposterous violations of the First Amendment and basic individual rights. I recommend donating to the CBLDF, particularly to fans of underground and alternative comics. Jon Katz.

Posted by Jon Katz in Criminal Defense at 00:00