

## **Zappa Frank**

### **"Introduction"**

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Desperate nerds in high offices all over the world have  
been known  
to enact the most disgusting pieces of legislation in  
order to win  
votes (or, in places where they don't get to vote, to  
control  
unwanted forms of mass behavior).

Environmental laws were not passed to protect our air  
and  
water...they were passed to get votes. Seasonal anti-  
smut campaigns  
are not conducted to rid our communities of moral  
rot...they are  
conducted to give an aura of saintliness to the office-  
seekers who  
demand them. If a few key phrases are thrown into any  
speech (as the  
expert advisors explain to these various heads of  
state) votes will  
roll in, bucks will roll in, and, most importantly, power  
will be  
maintained by the groovy guy (or gal) who gets the  
most media  
coverage for his sleaze. Naturally, his friends in  
various  
businesses will do okay too.

All governments perpetuate themselves through the  
daily commission  
of acts which a rational person might find to be stupid  
or dangerous  
(or both). Naturally, our government is no  
exception...for instance,  
if the President (any one of them) went on TV and sat  
there with the  
flag in the background (or maybe a rustic scene on a  
little  
backdrop, plus the flag) and stared sincerely into the  
camera and  
told everybody that all energy problems and all

inflationary  
problems had been traced to and could be solved by  
the abolition of  
MUSIC, chances are that most people would believe  
him and think that  
the illegalization of this obnoxious form of noise  
pollution would  
be a small price to pay for the chance to buy gas like  
the good ol'  
days. No way? Never happen? Records are made out of  
oil. All those  
big rock shows go from town to town in fuel gobbling  
45 foot  
trucks...and when they get there, they use up enormous  
amounts of  
electrical energy with their lights, their amplifiers, their  
PA  
systems...their smoke machines. And all those  
synthesizers...look at  
all the plastic they got in 'em...and the guitar picks...you  
name  
it...

JOE'S GARAGE is a stupid story about how the  
government is going to  
try to do away with music (a prime cause of unwanted  
mass behavior).  
It's sort of like a really cheap kind of high school  
play...the way  
it might have been done 20 years ago, with all the sets  
made out of  
cardboard boxes and poster paint. It's also like those  
lectures that  
local narks used to give (where they show you a display  
of all the  
different ways you can get wasted, with the pills  
leading to the  
weed leading to the needle, etc., etc.).

If the plot of the story seems just a little bit  
preposterous, and  
if the idea of The Central Scrutinizer enforcing laws  
that haven't  
been passed yet makes you giggle, just be glad you  
don't live in one  
of the cheerful little countries where, at this very  
moment, music  
is either severely restricted... or, as it is in Iran, totally  
illegal

