



TommyWorld

Where Fandom
Gets Personal.

The Fifty-fourth issue of a sort-of letter substitute, kinda thing. Maybe weekly, maybe not. Available from:

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Available via the World Wide Web, or as an email attachment. I recommend the Portable Document Format (pdf) or, if you insist, a word or Rich Text Format (rtf) can also be emailed. Get in touch and we'll sort something out. You are going to [TorCon III](#), aren't you? Dated, already, 26/07/02.

He Needed Killin'

"The previous phrase is, as the old joke has it, a traditional murder defence in more Southern parts of the USA killin' is a way of life down here" *

I remember a visit to Glenveagh estate in county Donegal in the far north west of Ireland which had a legendary Irish Elk population I wanted to see. This population were so legendary that twice a year, not once mind, some of them had to be taken out the back and shot just to keep the environment in check. Of course when we got there it was the middle of the culling season and those that hadn't be shot had got offside sharpish. It's the same with the pigeons in Trafalgar Square in London and all those bloody grey squirrels all over the UK: lots of critters and animals that need killin'. Living in Belfast it doesn't take a huge argumentative leap to progress this view to disposing of people who need killin', merely a logical side step that I intend to take.

Recently there has been an awful lot of controversy in Northern Ireland and the UK generally about the involvement of the police, army and security services in colluding with various paramilitary forces. This has been brought up by the continued media interest and campaigning on the brutal shooting of the civil rights lawyer Pat Finucane. It has long been argued this was the result of such collusion and recent evidence from the TV documentaries and investigative print journalism has uncovered the truth in these rumours.

Brian Nelson was an army agent in the loyalist paramilitary force, the UDA, at a time when the army said it did not run agents, this being the area where Special Branch and MI5 were involved. His job was to turn the UDA away from shooting innocent Catholics to shooting not so innocent Catholics - members of the IRA, INLA and Sinn Fein. So far so good, most of these people needed killin'.

However Pat Finucane, a respected agent of the courts according to all who knew him, was targeted by the UDA with information given by Brian Nelson. Now here is a man who was not only innocent of any paramilitary involvement but was actively fighting for the implementation of a justice system he saw abused day in and day out by those tasked with upholding it. It is absolutely clear here that Pat Finucane did not need killin', in fact he required a lot of protection from the very system he defended every day in court. The weird thing is that the current leader of the UDA, a psychotic thug by the name of Johnny 'Mad Dog' Adair was recently released from prison on charges of 'Directing terrorism.' Tell me the irony here is not passing people by. Now there is a man who needs killin'.

Then there is the old case I've written about before, which always leaves me reeling and makes me take that logical side step. A guy who lived in our street for years and had been regularly accused by the police of being a pedophile, with even more regular outbursts by local children that he had propositioned and

even assaulted some of them, was allowed to live in the community in which he was abusing because technically and legally there was nothing that could be done.

Of course living in our community in Derry 'technically' and 'legally' are nice phrases from police procedurals on TV. The police couldn't or wouldn't do anything about the continued reports because, to all intents and purposes, our community is self policed - the official police service will not enter it without a strong army backup. It got to the stage where one night this guy was forcibly dragged from his home beaten thoroughly in front of a large cheering audience then gagged, thrown in the back of the car and found down a deserted and lonely lane in the countryside with an execution style single shot to the back of the head. Now if anyone needed killin' it was this bloke.

For years I have harboured the weirdest contradiction in that I tend to agree with this kind of vigilante justice. These are people who need killin'. In very real terms, these are people who need murdering. Their crimes are too brutal and horrible to contemplate. Intellectually I know that the flip side is that a lot of people who just 'looked funny at my missus' or something equally ridiculous get beaten up, maimed and sometimes shot. Not even that they were innocent bystanders but that someone in authority in these para-militaries organisations simply didn't like the looks of them, took offence and bang they're dead.

On the other hand I am self righteously outraged when some like Pat Finucane gets murdered or when some other terrorist outrage occurs in Northern Ireland. There can be not justification for the brutal slaying of Pat Finucane There is loads of justification for taking the pedophile threat away from our community. How do I come to terms with the inherent stupidity that holding these views requires. I don't know, but I have.

No I'm not happy, but some people do need killin'.

* Taken from an article by Nic Farey in *Banana Wings 17* (see my review in *TommyWorld 52*)

So what's going on with *TommyWorld*? Well I'm back for twelve issues (51 to 62) which should take me up to around the wedding. After that we're going to try and get to *NovaCon 32* this year (failing that *EasterCon* next year) and I'm going to see how things go from there. This all started from *Banana Wings 17* - sometimes those guys just get me up and going again. Then there has been a plethora of new fanzines through the post like *Velleity 1* from Damian Warman, *Sleight of Hand 1* from John Teehan, a bunch of zines from Max and of course *BW* which have re-inspired me. The launch of my new web site has also meant a desire to get back into the swing of things and generally stick my oar back in the water.

Next issue I'm going to be printing comments so feel free to write to me anyhow you please. I'll also be doing some more personal stuff about the wedding, getting visas for Leslie and our recent travels. See you all then.

This is being distributed to a whole bunch of friends on the net, if you received this and would NOT like to be on the mailing list please accept my apologies for this intrusion and let me know so that you will not be bothered by further ramblings. If you know someone who would like to be on the mailing drop me a line.