



TommyWorld

Where Fandom
Gets Personal.

The Sixty Sixth 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, 23/05/03.

What it is.

That's why I like fandom – I've been out of touch for a few months now and yet I still get these wonderful zines in through the door.

For some reason I'm still on Sandra Bond's mailing list – the guys from *Banana Wings* send me wonderful issues of their zine plus the Seacon fan collection. Even the likes of Jerry Kaufman – someone I've not seen in six odd years – and with whom I've sporadically corresponded with in that time, believes me a worthwhile addition to his mailing list. The *Chunga* guys have thoughtfully included me in their list, and Randy Byers has sent me copies of his own personal zines as well. And these are just the tip of the iceberg. It is the activity of all of these people, and many others besides, which keeps me coming back to fandom, again and again.

I still find myself some what reluctant to jump on board the pubbing business again, although it is really what I want to do. I **want** to get out a paper based fanzine, well put together that looks good (even I won't settle for legible these days,) and has some interesting stuff in it. I **want** to have to put it all together, get the mailing list organized, spend a couple of horrible nights sticking labels on envelopes, stuffing fanzines into them and then putting all those stamps on. This is something that I **WANT** to do. You're fan eds, you've been there.

"But in gods name, why?" My wife, Leslie, there...

Well because I keep getting fanzines in the mail, generally full of really excellent writing. The zines look wonderful: presentation, layout which is of a professional standard of modern publishing and illustrated with style and wit. This is something I've been involved in for 17 years now, and is a big part of my life. I've made many friends, and a few interesting enemies (more of which in a later TommyWorld,) and generally had a wonderful time. It is my hobby, it is what I do.

So I started to think about my last 'next big thing' to borrow from a Sandra Bond article. *Kerles* was going to be a semi regular fanzine review zine – something I've always been passionate about. The first two issues had print runs of 450 and 400 respectively and I got a few letters asking just who all these fans were and could they use the mailing list. Well most of those fans were people who were in the same position I now find myself in – they'd been around the fannish block, done a few things, made a few friends and slowly became part of the furniture. However they had made their mark on fandom and earned at least a few issues without desire or need for locs.

The weird thing is those people are still around and I would still like them to get copies of what I'm up to. I'm thinking of the Peter Weston's of this world. Not a lot of fan writing from Peter these last few decades yet he still pops up at conventions, still entertains with stories and still has opinions and observations on fandom that are valid and worthwhile. He's done his time and appears to be kicking back and relaxing.

I may be completely wrong in this assertion and Peter may well take great offence at my characterization of him in fandom at the moment. If so, I apologise. But hell, I think I'm right. I would certainly send him a copy of my next zine, even if he didn't request it. The same for Greg Pickersgill sits in the middle of Wales for God's sake and people still find time to visit with him and send him fanzines. He's a Worldcon fan guest of honour fer gawd's sake! Whilst I in no way compare myself to either of these fine upstanding gentlemen I think the attitude fandom has to its 'slippers by the wayside,' and 'draggers of feet,' is something that will always give me a lift when I'm looking to get back into fandom. This is one of the joys of being involved in fandom.

Of course I still get the begging letters, but moving house has stopped most of those.

So, to quote one of the scions of our times:

"Guess whose back? Back again. Yes I'm back..."

Next issue will have some more from James Bacon with some zine reviews and personal stuff later on.

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.