

TABOO OPINIONS #65

By Richard E. Geis

rerwingeis@cs.com

Copyright 2005 by Richard E. Geis

For Adults Only!

Quoting in whole or in part is encouraged

With a credit line, please.

8-28-05 FAD, PRETENSE, and SELF-DELUSION

I see from a Knight-Ridder story in The Sunday Oregonian today that some young would-be writers are taking to manual typewriters for 'authenticity' and a feeling of 'interaction' and 'enhanced creativity' ... an homage to Hemingway and other early great writers ... Except, as I recall, Hemingway wrote standing up in longhand.

But the idea of getting in better touch with one's muse by means of a mechanical interaction with a clacking machine ... It's bullshit. It's romantic illusion and posturing.

No working professional writer today could make a living without a computer, period. These poseur writing kids haven't had to retype a 75,000-word novel two or three times. Kids today can't even spell!

Christ, I used to write acceptable first draft novels! But I doubt today a busy First Reader editorial slave would even bother with a pretend young "writer" who sent in a mistake-replete typewritten ms.

Using a manual typewriter today is on a par with wearing designer jeans (with manufactured tears and holes and pretend wear spots and fading) as a fashion statement, a one-upmanship ploy in the status game by middle-class and rich kids who never worked a manual labor day in their lives. Hell, kids today don't even think why they wear jeans and denim in the first place. It's because their grandparents and parents wanted to pretend to be associated with Workers and Laborers and the glamorous Lower Classes in 'rebellion' against their 'old-fashioned' parents.

How odd that today's teens accept without question the "rebellion" costumes of generations of their elders, and even accept without thought the rock music that their parents and their parents' parents used to drive *their* parents crazy.

Today's (white) kids are using recycled rebel costumes and recycled rebel music without an erg of insight. They're brainless

copycats, total advertising-directed conformists, aimless social, self-absorbed morons who can only reflexively adopt new “Black” hair styles, rap music, baggy pants and ebonics muthafukka talk as “their” new phony rebellion mantras and culture.

Wait and see what happens when the easy money runs out and the real world rolls in.

END TABOO OPINIONS #65