

## FANZINES 6

June 2001

By Ted White

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THE RELUCTANT FAMULUS (Tom Sadler, 422 W. Maple Ave., Adrian, MI 49221-1627; e-mail to [tomfamulus@dmci.net](mailto:tomfamulus@dmci.net); available for trades, contributions, letters of comment or \$3.00 a copy)

This is a fanzine which takes unique advantage of modern technology: it is not only put together with a computer, it's printed out in color. I would have guessed from appearances that each page came slowly out of a color inkjet printer, but editor Sadler mentions in passing that he now has "a brand new and, I hope, reliable copier." This issue – #56 – enjoys another unique quality: it's dated "Winter, 1999/2000/2001," reflecting the gap between beginning and finishing this issue. This allows Sadler to write a closing editorial which brackets the whole "Y2K" hoopla, starting with his engagement in the process of Y2K compliance for the City of Adrian, his employer.

Sadler is editorially more concerned with his family genealogy, and describes his journey of discovery of his family's past history in *TRF*'s opening pages. Robert Sabella devotes his column, "The Caustic Eye," to Greg Benford's non-fiction book, *Deep Time*. Gene Stewart (who seems to turn up in half the fanzines I review) writes a fairly serious installment of *his* column, "Brother Butch's Rat Stew," mostly concerning nationalism and its consequences. (We science fiction fans have Broad Mental Horizons, of course, and transcend petty nationalism – don't we?) The late Ken Cheslin contributes "Part One" of his "Memoirs of a BOF," which ends abruptly (mid-sentence), and is followed by four pages of his cartoons, of which it can be charitably stated that Ken was not much of an artist.

Someone who *was* an artist, and who has also died while this issue was in preparation, is the late Joe Mayhew, whose "My First Nomination (No Previous Confictions)" is a report of his trip to the 1990 Worldcon in Holland. The title refers to the fact that he received his first Fan Artist Hugo nomination at that convention (and eventually won his first Hugo a few years later). Editor Sadler contributes "A Fannish Adventure: The Bookstore," a work of fiction. Sheryl Birkhead is another artist, but her "No Hot or Cold Anything" reads like a letter to her family and friends, detailing problems with her house. Mark Bovard's "A Year Out Here" is subtitled "Life in the Rural Midwest," which sums it up well. The last contribution is Mark Fulmer's review of *One For Sorrow*, a historical mystery written by the fannish husband and wife team of Mary Reed & Eric Mayer – one of the most *appropriate* book reviews I've seen in a fanzine in a long time.

Sadler packs a lot into *TRF*'s 40 pages, although this issue lacks a letter column, and he makes the fanzine very much a personal artifact of his own. We can only hope he's back on schedule and #57 won't require as long a wait.

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DEROGATORY REFERENCE (Arthur D. Hlavaty, 206 Valentine St., Yonkers, NY 10704-1814; e-mail to [hlavaty@panix.com](mailto:hlavaty@panix.com); available for arranged trade, letter of comment or \$1.00)

*DR* (which sometimes stands for different words, at editor Hlavaty's whim) has reached 97 issues in the course of the last couple of decades, and usually consists of editor-written material plus the occasional letter of comment (there are two – from John Fast and Jo Walton – in #97) in a half dozen or so double-columned pages. Hlavaty is a literate fan of both *The Illuminatus* and football and his commentary is always readable and sometimes provocative. He advertises no schedule, but *DR* arrives frequently, a kind of *Hlavaty Letter* for fankind.

--Ted White