

FANZINES 3

March 2001

By Ted White

FILE 770 (Mike Glycer, 705 Valley View Ave., Monrovia CA 91016; e-mail to Myglyer@compuserve.com; available for news, artwork, arranged trades or subscription -- \$8 for 5 issues, \$15 for 10 issues, mailed first class in North America)

File 770 is a long-standing “newszine” which has been coming out for close to twenty years and has achieved 137 issues. Unlike the current *Locus* or *Science Fiction Chronicle* (semi-prozines – published for profit), *F770* is devoted to news about fandom. That means you won’t find interviews with the latest science fiction authors, nor advertisements for their books. In fact, there are no ads at all. Like most fanzines, *F770* is not a money-making endeavor. What you will find is news about conventions and fans and the events which effect fans.

In #137’s 36 pages (crammed with triple-columned text) there’s news of a natural gas catastrophe in Hutchinson, Kansas (which hit a local fan hard); a home invasion robbery of fans in Chattanooga, Tennessee; the “house arrest” of the founder of Dragon*Con on child-molestation charges; the bankruptcy of Ray Ferry – who lost a lawsuit to Forry Ackerman to the applause of many fans; news that rumors of Poul Anderson’s death were untrue; reports on upcoming fanzine conventions Ditto and Corflu; the latest idiocy from Fandom.com’s Fandom Inc.; news of several fan funds (TAFF, DUFF, CUFF); this year’s winner of the Rotsler Award for fan artists; ...and 13 more news items, including “Medical Updates” on various well-known fans, and “Short Waves” which includes a dozen brief newsbites. In addition, there is an obituary section (fandom’s older members are leaving us far too frequently), a long (11 pages) report on the Chicago Worldcon (plus another more personal two-page report by Elspeth Kovar), a four-page report on the final Rivercon, a page of “Conventional Reportage” (news of various upcoming conventions) and five pages of letters. Plus the occasional cartoon or photo. This is *the* fanzine to get to learn more about what’s currently going on in fandom.

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NICHEVO (Nic Farey, P.O. Box 178, St. Leonard MD 20685; e-mail to nicfarey@popfire.net; available for contribution, letter of comment, recommendation, editorial whim or \$3.00 a copy)

Editor Farey calls *Nichevo* a “fandomcentric genzine.” The first issue is dated November, and the schedule is quarterly, so the second may be out soon. Farey’s approach is typical of the more “fannish” fanzine editors. He describes “fandomcentric” as a “primary concern [for] fans, fanzines, fan funds, fan awards, conventions, local groups or issues of the day relating directly to fandom.” *Nichevo*’s contents page follows this policy by categorizing the contributions as “Editorial,” “Fanzines” (three

separate pieces), “Fan Funds” (commentary on TAFF), “Feud” (editor Farey takes on a loud-mouthed critic of a fannish e-list), and “Fans” (a profile of TAFF-winner and British fan Martin Tudor). The writing is lively and provocative and *Nichevo* provides a good entry into this part of fandom.

More reviews next issue.

--Ted White