



Consonant Enigma

October 2008

Issue 3

Profiles

Ish Dish

Wow. Issue # 3 . Finally. The end of 2007 and most of 2008 have been a time of great change for almost everyone who has helped me out with this little endeavor. My family and I moved from Alameda, CA to Portland, OR in January. My associate editors swapped coasts. Many of my regular contributors were helping out with Costume Con 26. There was lots of other activity but that gives you a taste of the flux.

Now on to the issue. The theme this time around is Profiles. Taking a look at a few fen through a general interview. I hope that you find this glimpse as interesting as I did. I would like to thank Annie, Ami and Heidi for taking the time to give me content and share a bit of themselves with you.

In keeping with zine traditions there is a LOC section. I always love getting LOCs. It is great to know that someone aside from myself and my associate editors are reading what I am putting together.

Admittedly this issue is fluffy. The aim was to add some lightness to a year that has been very dark for many. The art does relate to the interviews though that was not the original idea for CE#3.

CE#4 is fast developing into a cookbook and frugality guide. Kind of like a version of the housewife guides of yesteryear. In this case updated and geared toward fen.

To receive either a soft or hard copy of this or future issues please email consonan-tenigma@gmail.com. In exchange for an issue I request one of the following: in kind trade, a letter of comment, an article or pictures that can be used in future issues (please contact me before submitting this material), or if you would like a hard copy I request funds to cover the cost of production and post.



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Contributors:

Annie
Amilori Legare
Heidi Stauffer



Heidi Stauffer

What are your preferred fandoms?

Generally, Science Fiction and specifically, Star Trek. Mostly because of the cultural diversity (of the fans and programming) that I have not found elsewhere in fandom.

Name two books you don't want to live without.:

A collection of romantic poetry (any edition as long as it includes Keats, Shelley, Byron et al.)

To Kill A Mockingbird, by Harper Lee

Favorite holiday? Why? Favorite or funny memory of that holiday?

Christmas: it's time spent with my family, and before 1983, we lived in Malaysia. There's nothing like Christmas in the tropics! Our Christmas tree was a tropical pine tree in a huge pot; it grew so tall, when I was about 9 or 10, we had to trim the tree out on the front porch!

Stimulant of choice?

Caffeine--cheap, legal, and readily available

Ideal vacation if time and money were not restricting factors?

World tour of archaeological sites

Top 5 favorite movies and why?

Since I have many favorites, here are 5 in no particular order:

- Supervolcano (2005 BBC/Discovery Channel docudrama)--really good science ,good story, drama, suspense, and explosions
- Pride and Prejudice (1995)--great story, great acting, great costumes, and Colin Firth(!)
- Rear Window (1954)--classic Hitchcock suspense, very well acted, great story.
- Howl's Moving Castle (2005)--very imaginative story, great animation, strong, well- developed characters.
- Some Like it Hot (1959)--incredibly funny, well acted, good story.

What is your day job?

PhD student researcher in Earth Science (computer modeling of climate: past, present, and future)

Favorite quote:

"Imagination is more important than knowledge." --Albert Einstein

Life motto:

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."--Mahatma Gandhi ❖



Amilori Legare**What are your preferred fandoms?**

In HS & College, I would have said Star Trek or general Science Fiction. From age 25-35, I would have said RenFaire and Science Fiction. Now, I would have to say that I'm not really involved in a fandom at present. My enthusiasm for a fandom is based more on friendships within the fandom than on the subject matter itself.

Name two books you don't want to live without.:

Collected Works of Rudyard Kipling and Complete Works of William Shakespeare. I can build all sorts of worlds from those and my favorite SF & Fantasy writers have done so for me.

Favorite holiday? Why? Favorite or funny memory of that holiday?

Thanksgiving. It's the holiday that my immediate family never misses. Even if I can't be there, I try to call as I know I'll get to say hello to most of the family & all sorts of friends of the family. My best funny memory is from just before Thanksgiving, discussing the holiday in the dorm my 1st year at college. I hadn't previously known that not everyone had sushi on the relish tray for Thanksgiving dinner or that cajun Red Beans & Rice wasn't a staple side dish or that having 3-4 types of meat wasn't normal. Our house always played host to anyone my father or siblings or I happened to bring along. It was rare that we had fewer than a dozen people at table for Thanksgiving (I'm the youngest of 5 kids in my family, so we started with 7).

Stimulant of choice?

Conversation or Oxygen. I grew up with a sister constantly in the hospital due to congenital birth defects, also with 2 aunts who were nurses (one of whom worked Emergency & Trauma wards in Tacoma Washington) so I got to hear about & see all of the nasty side effects of stimulant & depressive substances, including tobacco, alcohol and caffeine. Did you know that someone who is severely addicted to Caffeine can go thru delirium tremens?

Ideal vacation if time and money were not restricting factors?

I'd love to do an extended tour of museums and historical sites and natural wonders thru the US, Europe, Japan and Australia/New Zealand.

Top 5 favorite movies and why?

Nothing springs to mind. I like Disney & Pixar. I'll watch Princess Bride once a year or so. I love the old Bogey & Bacall films. I also love the old musicals: Rogers & Hammerstein, Learner & Lowe, Gershwin. The Disney/Pixar because of memories of watching & then talking about the films with family. Princess Bride because of memories of watching & discussing with friends in college. Bogey & Bacall/musicals because of memories of seeing them with my mother at the 'art house' theater in San Antonio and then listening to her reminisce about seeing those films when they first opened. I suppose the original Ep. 4 of Star Wars will always have a place in my heart because my brother made time to see it just with me. And then we 'shot' at headlights & taillights all the way home (a 30 minute drive) giggling and trying to reproduce fighter code talk the whole way. And finally, I'll always love 'Sound of Music' because it has the song "Eidelweiss" and my father would sing that song for my mother on their anniversary. It was the most romantic my parents ever got. He'd sing & they'd waltz around the house or the yard.

What is your day job?

I'm a Customer Care agent specializing in Executive Escalations cases.

Top 2 all time favorite TV shows? Why?

MASH -- because of my father, it was the only time he'd talk about the Korean conflict.

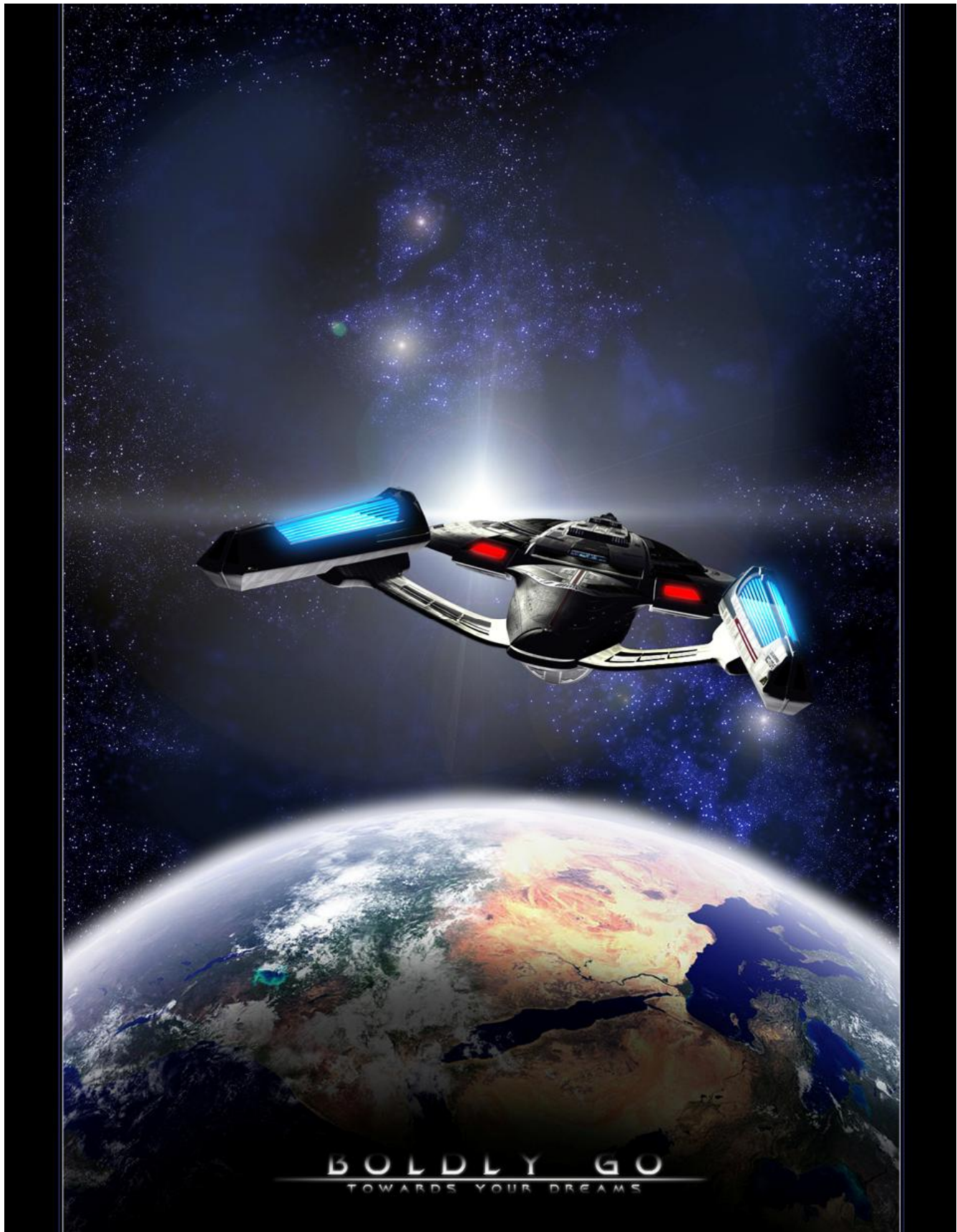
CSI -- because I have a crush on William Peterson & because it helped make science & scientists sexy.

Life motto:

Stay interested so I'll stay interesting.

Your epitaph:

Moved on, see you next time. v



Profiles

Annie

What are your preferred fandoms?

My preferred fandom is Harry Potter-it's the one I'm really active in. However, I do enjoy reading in the X-Files Fandom.

Name two books you don't want to live without.:

I would have the say The Stand by Stephen King and Lightning by Dean Koontz. I could read them both over and over.

Favorite holiday? Why? Favorite or funny memory of that holiday?

I love Halloween...it gives us a chance to dress up silly. My favorite Halloween was when a bunch of us dressed up as the cast of Alice and Wonderland and I dressed like the Mad Hatter.

Stimulant of choice?

Coffee—I love my coffee. It is truly the Nirvana of the Gods.

Ideal vacation if time and money were not restricting factors?

I like to take a yacht to the Greek Island and snorkel. Do nothing but read and relax for the summer.

Top 5 favorite movies and why?

The English Patient. I like the way the story unfolds between past and present.

Monty Python and The Holy Grail-it's fun, funny, and quite frankly makes me laugh every time.

Terms of Endearment-When ever I need a good cry Shirley McClain screaming that her daughter needs medicine gets me.

Mamma Mia-new favorite-it's Abba, music, beauty and fun. I feel good when I see it.

Category 7-End of the World-I have a thing for disaster movies especially when weather is involved.

What is your day job?

I am a payroll/accounting wizard

Top 3 all time favorite TV shows? Why?

Friends-I love comedy. I love Chandler! I think that show was such a breakout hit.

Xfiles-the suspense, the friendship between Mulder and Scully, and the brokenness of Mulder,

China Beach-a good drama about the Vietnam War. I enjoyed the relationships that were formed.

Favorite quote:

"We are the people our parents warned us about."

Life motto:

"Still Time to Start a New Life in the palm trees."

Your epitaph:

She came, She laughed, She cried, she was remarkably sane. v





LOC Box

From Lloyd Penney in response to CE#2:

Thank you kindly for the second issue of Consonant Enigma. Outlets is the theme, and I must admit, when it comes to fanzines, writing letters is my outlet.

Yvonne and I have guested at conventions as fair number of times, and we know that it's an honour to be asked to come out and appear. We also know that a convention bank account is not a fount of money, and that we had better try our best to give to them their money's worth. I think we have succeeded most times. We have noticed, though, that the FanGoH position seems to be going away at many conventions, as this position is now seen as a thank-you to an old friend paid for by the attendees' money, and therefore, negatively. More and more people who go to conventions are going for the Creation model, and are staying in one spot, demanding to be entertained the way you might sit in front of the television. I hope fan-run conventions will continue, but I do have some doubts.

It is a shame that pro-shows don't have a fan GOH. I think it would be good for the corporate machines to recognize the folks who pay hard earned cash to attend their shows. Maybe instead of the fan GOH being someone who is an admin or other BNF they could hold a lottery with all the member names. Kind of a pro-show Publishers Clearing House style contest. Flowers, free schwag, dinner with the media GOH, and an upgraded hotel room for the lucky consumer. But there I go daydreaming again.

It isn't easy being a FanGoH, so ask the convention you're guesting at what they would like you to do. You never know what you'll get asked to do. At one convention, I ran the art auction while Yvonne MCed the masquerade. They ran together, and we finished at the same time. At another, we were just told to relax and have a good time, so we spent some time at programming and the rest of the weekend in the con suite and at parties.

Hoax bids are a lot of fun. The only one I was ever involved in was meant to go up against the unopposed Boston bid for 1989... Myles' House in '89. Look in SF/SF 23 and 25 for more about it. Myles Bos lived in the country around the town of Sydney, British Columbia, on Vancouver Island, and his friends bid to have the Worldcon on his parents' goat farm. Completely detailed and tongue-in-cheek, it even got votes from the Boston people. Be warned...want a Worldcon in Rochester, New York? No matter your answer, that's why we're bidding...

The Internet has largely replaced the post office as fandom's communication line, true, but as we become more apathetic, and demand our entertainment brought to us, the way the Internet does so well, our instinct to respond in kind is becoming blunted. So much of what we find on line is discarded without a second thought...why should we do any different for fannish fanzines, website, blogs, etc.? Also, we are material people, and when we receive anything for our money or attention, we want something we can hold in our hands. Years ago, I ran a Star Trek club, and for your \$20 a year, you got six issues of the club newsletter, a club t-shirt and a club pin, plus regular monthly meetings. You had to balance what you could get from people and give to people with what you could get for their money to give back to them. Today, people want so much, and only the Internet can give them all that they demand, except for one thing...the actual social contact. Fandom as an atom has only a few protons (positive), a lot of electrons (negative), and an infinite number of neutrons (neutral – not doing much of anything). But I'm not bitter...

I agree that there is something wonderful about hard copy in kind trades. Today I received my copy of "Procrastinations". The visceral experience of opening the envelope and holding a paper copy of a zine is something that digital form can not replicate. However, the digitizing of zines, and other fannish communications, does allow many more people to discover the wider culture of fandom. As for money not going as far as it used to, well, that is too close to politics for me to want to broach. Perhaps one of CE's readers will want to take that one on.

My loc...already, something has changed. I no longer work for the registration company; I now work for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind in their ePublishing department. I still might be able to do some convention-style work, though...the CNIB main building has some nice function space, which would be suitable for a one-day convention.

I have been in fanzines for 25 years, but I have been in fandom for 30 as of this month, and I know enough about First Fandom to know that I now qualify for associate membership. Should I apply? Not sure yet. I have an e-mail address to apply to; I'll let you know what the response is, if any. ❖

From John Purcell in response to CE#2:

Kristina, I really, *really* loved that cover art! The execution is wonderful, and it is visually active and interesting. Wonderful work! Raimo Kokko deserves accolades for this one.

I see that on page 16 you provided the websites of your contributing artists. That's good. In the future, if your contributors are willing (so I'd ask them first), provide their e-mail and/or snail mail addresses. People like me who pub zines are always on the lookout for new artists and writers, so providing addresses helps maintain contacts and promotes their work. You could also include a line in your editorial saying something like, "If you'd like to contact one of the contributors, let me know and I will send you that person's e-mail address." That also would work very well. This is, of course, a minor quibble, but you're only in your second issue, so getting ideas/feedback from other actively pubbing fen might give you some ideas to include in future issues. You could even ignore them, for that matter. It is **your** zine, y'know.

All of the artists that I use from Deviant Art are contactable through the DA website. Many of them ask me to reference back to their profiles. I am continually blown away by the caliber of fan art that is available there.

Unlike Andy Trembley, I have never been a Guest of Honor at any con in the past. Andy's article is a great guideline to follow should this, er, honor ever land on my head and I forget to duck. His main point is very well-taken, though: in my experience, only science fiction conventions honor *its own fans* with such a recognition of their efforts in support of their hobby interest. This is unique, and one of the big highlights of attending a con for me. I enjoy meeting FGoH's - and the pro ones, too, of course - and chatting them up. Thank you, Andy, for your thoughts on how to handle such an honor. And congratulations on your Costuming GoH-ship at Philcon 2007. Enjoy!

I am not one for LARPing. Never have been. However, I do recognize that Live-Action Role Playing is a big part of conning for many people, so that's fine. Abby Blackfox did a good job of writing about this aspect of fandom, but it doesn't make me want to do it. I simply accept this as one of fandom's sub-genre activities, and that's fine. So long as LARPing folks are having a good time, that works for me. A con is an activity for many different types of fans. In fact, now there are numerous cons that focus on LARP, cosplay, and other gaming. Such is the nature of modern fandom; so many interests for so MANY people.

As a retired gamer I can agree with you on not wanting to game at cons. What I think anyone can gain from her article is how to identify those who LARP. It also can be helpful to read her point of view. I think her article would help fandom at large see that gamers are really no different from the rest of us. There is something of an us and them attitude about gamers and all the rest. It seems like a detriment to be so divisive. To quote Brent Spiner, "I don't think I have ever met someone who isn't peculiar."

The artwork throughout this issue is really good. Very anime-oriented, but that's alright. It is all very striking and colorful; I like the ones by Laura Toivola on page 7, Riyuen's on page 11, and KeBaPPI's last page illo. I am impressed always by the artistic ability of people to bring imagined settings to a visual expression. My wife is an artist and crafty-person - in more ways than one, I might add - and she also enjoys a bunch of the fan art in the fanzines I receive in the mail or read on the Internet. In fact, Valerie has many times issued a heavy sigh and said how she wished she could draw or paint like that; her style is more concrete, and once in a great while I'll get something from Val to pub in my zine. Once this semester is over, this is part of my nefarious scheme. Bwah-hahahaha...!

I really have nothing to say about Chris Garcia's article about hoaxes because it didn't exist anyway. Heck, I was happily reading *Consonant Enigma* #2, then when I got to his article, it briefly flashed on my computer screen then faded away to be replaced by a back issue of *Surprising Stories*, which was rather surprising. Chris is sneaky; did you know that?

Hey - great job of putting together your first lettercolumn! These critters are not that easy to do, and I see you're commenting style emulates Garcia's. From time to time I do this, too; it all depends on each editor and what they figure works best for them. The neat thing here in your zine is that you seem to be developing a style of your own already, and that's A Good Thing. Keep it up, Kristina. You are doing very well here.

With that, I shall sign off. I look forward to your third issue, and encourage you to have fun with the zine. After all, that is what pubbing zines is all about.

Thank you. Despite the 1 year break between issues I really do enjoy zining as a hobby. A neat thing about my new hometown is Portland has an annual zine symposium. I think it would be nifty to see a few of the fanzine folks show up next year. Maybe even get a table to promote our genre of zine. The local library also has a zine section. Neither one of them is fandom oriented but I love being part of a larger community that supports this form of independent expression. ❖

Graphic References:

Fan art provided by:

Sinnia Zelaya— <http://angellordrazael.deviantart.com/>

[sezaku-the-vampi](http://sezaku-the-vampi.deviantart.com/)—<http://sezaku-the-vampi.deviantart.com/>

Dwinursetiadi—<http://dwinursetiadi.deviantart.com/>

Brandon Michaels— <http://brandonmicheals.deviantart.com/>

Hillary Luetkemeyer - <http://hibbary.deviantart.com/>

Rachael Mayo— <http://rachaelm5.deviantart.com/>

Photographs provided by Heidi Stauffer.

