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Monday 20th August 2007

Dear Kristina,

Well, this is my LOC on *Consonant Enigma*, as I promised you. Firstly, I'll just say that I'm liking the way you've laid it out. As you'll be able to see if you ever check my fanzine, *Procrastinations*, out on eFanzines, I tend to plump for a rather simplistic layout, and your fanzine is a very simple but elegantly designed one. It has pictures in it and everything, but maintains an extremely linear and professional feel which I can only dream of ever achieving in the future.

The articles you've included in the issue are interesting – I may be biased, as I'm mentioned in it, but Chris Garcia's article on nuggets and how they are at the centre of social groups was absolutely fascinating. I have always found his writing about various things quite interesting, though, so that'll explain that. Oh, and he's always really, really nice about my zines, and everybody should vote Chris Garcia in the next TAFF race. Yup.

The article on parties at conventions contains a slight factual inaccuracy – British fans do not retire to the pub at night at conventions. Now, because I've only been to three conventions, and one of those had a thing called a 'fannish living room' which was, essentially, a room party but in function space and with a much better selection of drinks, I could well be incorrect, but room parties definitely, definitely happen. Hell, at my first convention, I hosted a rather good room party. I wasn't able to actually attend, but my roommate assured me it was top-notch, whilst I assured him I'd had some very good fun with my new female friend down in the bar and later elsewhere. I think British fans, who usually secure the opening of the con bar until fairly late, are content to spend as long as possible in the bar and then either bring drinks from their room down into the (now almost deserted) bar or go up to their room and continue drinking there. I'd be very interested to hear from my fellow Brits who might have more experience than I with these things – perhaps that can be a thread in the next LOC column of *Enigma*.

I must confess that it was interesting to read about *Harry Potter* fandom over in the US, since a friend of mine was recently closely involved with running a *Harry Potter* weekend (which, fortunately but entirely by chance, was held over the same weekend as the release of the final book...!) and I found it interesting that the report of the convention in your zine was talking about people who had dressed up as various characters, whereas the various people I met who were talking about Sectus (this being the British con) hardly mentioned anyone being in costume at all. I suspect that this may be yet another difference between the USA and the UK, but I am not really a member of that particular fandom and thus would feel uncomfortable talking about it as if I had any real clue whatsoever.

As I've said pretty much all I wanted to say about the ish, let me just close by saying that Chris Garcia usually knows what he's talking about when he recommends a

fanzine, and he wasn't wrong in this case. I look forward to reading the second issue, hopefully in the paper format!

Yours sincerely,
John Coxon (editor of *Procrastinations*).