The Return of the Chimera

Many years ago, in a galaxy right where you’re sitting, a few enterprising women with an interest in sharing their love of science fiction and fantasy gathered their ideas in a publication known as the Chimera. This so-named “newsletter” contained many insights into their lives, including what they considered humor, events that they considered “special”, legends passed down from temporary insanity, and information about some secret chamber known as the “Bellatrix Library.”

For some unclear reason, in 1999, these ... “enthusiasts” ceased their publication of the Chimera. Speculations as to why include the abductions of the editors by Starfleet after they had investigated too closely into the disappearance of two whales from the Cetacean Institute; the disappearance of the editors in a blue British Police Box; and the editors reception of letters from a “Professor Albus Dumbledore.”

In spite of these threats toward those who publish such provocative reports, a few brave members of Bellatrix have decided to try again to create an informative, creative, and quirky newsletter. This time, we are opening up the newsletter to all forms of creative works. However, this cannot be sustained by your editors alone.
Upcoming Events

- **CONBUST**:
  - Location: Smith College
  - When: March 29-31
- Bardic Revelries: TBD

How to Submit Stuff

"The code is more what you’d call guidelines than actual rules."

While we are very interested in reading your 200-page in-depth fanfiction you’ve written about Sasuke, we probably can’t publish it all in the same issue of the Chimera. You are more than welcome to publish it in segments, preferably no more than 5 pages. If you want to keep it whole, but still want it to appear in the Chimera, you can submit an excerpt to us and put the rest on the Bellatrix forum. We will provide a link in the issue in which the excerpt appears.

If you want to submit artwork, like an illustration, painting, sculpture, etc., we will try to somehow get it onto the newsletter. If you can, please submit it in a digital form. This will make it easier on your editors. If you don’t know how, we will work with you to get it onto a computer somehow. Please limit your submissions to those relating to Bellatrix’s foci, meaning science fiction, fantasy, and/or anime. If you have original work in those genres, that’s wonderful, and we’d like to see it.

Send all submissions to Lauren Tilley (tille22l). We will read/examine every submission before publishing.

In the immortal words of the first editor of the Chimera, “the Chimera accepts all information (we are uninformed), original stories, poems, jokes, cartoons, and all foreign money. The only stipulation is that if the joke is not worth printing, we will print it ... under your name.”
Prompts

We will have three prompts in each publication for those who like a challenge or are looking for new ideas. The submission guidelines are the same as for fiction/art, but they will be published separately (but still in the newsletter, just on a different page).

1. Write a steampunk romance about an overthrown island dictator in a small village where the mayor has gone missing.

2. Imagine your OTP are stuck on a sinking ship and Person A cannot swim.

3. AU (Alternate Universe): Recently terraformed Mars

Is this font okay?
WARNING: IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE ENOUGH SUBMISSIONS TO FILL THREE PAGES, WE WILL PUBLISH SECTIONS OF ZOWIE, IT’S YAOI! WHICH CAN BE FOUND IN THE BEXLA LIBRARY. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.

Bellatrix Officers

- Benevolent Dictator (President): Meg Wallace (walla22m)
- President of Vices (Vice President): Marcy Rattner (rattn22m)
- Imperial Visier (SGA Representative): Julia Bloom (bloom22j)
- 1337 m@573r (Webmistress): Clara Bertagnolli (berta22c)
- Mistress of Embezzlement (Treasurer): Meredith Noll (noll22m)
- Information Guru/Mistress of Feels (Head Librarian): Jillian Brown (brown25j)
- Paramilitary Force (Librarians)
  - Science Bard: Whitney Hughes (hughe22w)
  - Lord of Fanfiction: Erienne McCray (mccra22e)
  - Historian of Theatrics/Keeper of the Key: Meredith Noll (noll22m)
  - Empress of the Chimera: Lauren Tilley (tille22l)
  - Bringer of Flails/Bro of Bartleby: Camilla Yohn-Barr (yohnb22c)

President’s Corner: Fount of Random Knowledge

Future presidents may do something completely different, but I plan to devote my section of the newsletter to in-depth analysis of random bits of information in relevant TV shows, books, comic, etc.

In the original Star Trek, one of the things separating Vulcans and humans (which Dr. McCoy is rather fond of pointing out) is blood color. Spock has green blood, while humans, as we all know, have red blood. Human blood is red due to the presence of hemoglobin, an iron-containing molecule that binds to oxygen in oxygen-rich environments (like the lungs) and releases it in oxygen-poor environments (like oxygen-depleted tissues). Hemoglobin is used for oxygen transport by all vertebrates
except one family of fish, and many invertebrates as well.

However, the animals that don’t use hemoglobin still need to transport oxygen through their bodies. Some exclusively use myoglobin, another oxygen-carrying protein that we have in large amounts in our muscles, but many more animals use hemocyanin. Hemocyanin, like hemoglobin, binds to oxygen in high-oxygen environments and releases it in low-oxygen environments. Unlike hemoglobin, though, it contains copper instead of iron, which turns blue-green when bound to oxygen, thus supplying a reason behind Spock’s green blood. Another important difference between hemoglobin and hemocyanin is that the latter is much better at binding to oxygen in extremely low-oxygen environments such as in cold, deep water. In higher-oxygen environments, on the other hand, hemocyanin kind of stinks and binds to oxygen, which is a good reason why we don’t use it. All of this strongly suggests that Vulcan’s atmosphere has a very low oxygen concentration compared to Earth’s.

Editor’s Introductions

Hello! I’m Lauren Tilley, the head editor, I suppose. It was my idea to start publishing the Chimera again. I am technically a junior, and technically a sophomore, thanks to a year of leave. I am the Empress of the Chimera (that’s my Librarian title). I’ve been a Bellatrix librarian for two years, and I’m also Co-historian for Renegades. My top three fandoms are Code Geass, Fullmetal Alchemist (at the moment), and Downton Abbey. Since we have two Laurens, I will also answer to Lilykit, Cordelia, or Empress (teehee).

Hail, fellow Bellaticarians! I’m Lauren (’16) and excited to be part of the Chimera Newsletter revival! I’m looking forward to seeing all sorts of submissions and sharing them with the rest of the community. I’m interested in animation, science-fiction, and strategy games. A few of my favorite fandoms include Avatar: the Last Airbender, Touhou Project, and (recently) Community. Alternate universe stories are my favorite! I’m not a writer or an artist, but I love, love, love to read. You can find me regularly at Bellatrix (Thursdays and Fridays) and Renegades.
Hey, guys, my name is Whitney! I'm a junior and my major fandoms are Star Trek and Homestuck. I'm a Bellatrix Librarian (the illustrious and mysterious Science Bard) and one of the editors for the Chimera. I will also be running the Chimera tumblr blog, which I will be creating within the next week. Watch for an announcement of the URL. I will be accepting submissions and posting content as soon as possible!

Library Spotlight:

Hours: Saturdays, 12-6

Each issue will have a list of books, manga, graphic novels, and videos that are in our library. These are hand-picked by our librarians and recommended for you to read/watch/enjoy.

Books:

* A Discovery of Witches by Deborah Harkness (2011)
  - Diana Bishop opens a bewitched alchemical manuscript, and is afterwards compelled to embrace her magical heritage which she has previously tried to avoid. Working together with Matthew Clairmont, a vampire genetecist with a passion for Darwin, they embark on a journey to understand the manuscript's secrets.

* Last and First Men and Starmaker - Olaf Stapledon (1930)
  - A “future history”, this book describes the history of humanity from the 1920’s onward across two billion years and 18 distinct human species. (Editor's note: He actually predicts WWII.)

* Spindle's End - Robin McKinley (2000)
  - A retelling of Sleeping Beauty, in which Rosie is perfectly capable of saving herself.

  - Tristan has no identity, no face, no family, no rights. He is a perfect spy: an artificially created human whose metamorphic DNA can be
programmed with "masques"--genetic copies of anyone--over and over again. Until his body breaks down. But Tristan's masters offer him humanity, citizenship, and a permanent shape in exchange for one last mission. Now, Tristan must play a masquerade that will save--or destroy--an entire people.

**Manga**

**One Piece - Eiichiro Oda (1997)**
- A pirate adventure, known to employ colorful and creative motifs that are taken from classic mythology, politics, and musical aspects.

**Video**

**Dollhouse - Joss Whedon (2009)**
- A corporation runs numerous underground establishments known as "Dollhouses" across the globe. These Dollhouses employ "actives" or "dolls" who are implanted with temporary personalities, skills, and memories. Wealthy clients hire Actives from the Dollhouse at great expense for various purposes. The series primarily follows the Active called Echo on her journey of self-awareness.

And that concludes this month's edition of the Chimera! If we can get enough time off from the SOS Brigade, we intend to publish twice a month, but you know how Haruhi can be ... Expect at least one issue each month, regardless of how many times we have to battle sentient alien computers!