

# Tarriel Cell



## What's Love Got to Do With It?

### *A semi-sane analysis of 'slash' fanfiction*

The following article deals with mature subject matter.

By Louann Qualls

Slash, or homosexual erotica, is becoming a common category of fan fiction. A census of ads in a recent issue of GAZ (the Generic Ad Zine) suggests that there are now more slash (or "/" ) fanzines on the market than zines of straightforward heterosexual smut. *Blake's 7* is no exception to this trend. Unlike its fellow Brit series, *The Professionals*, straight fiction with the *Blake's 7* characters is readily available, but slash is also popular.

For fannish outsiders, let me mention in passing that the term "slash" (or "/" ) comes from the abbreviation "K/S" used to designate Kirk and Spock stories. This was one of the first widespread slash categories, although people have been spreading nasty rumors about Holmes and Watson or Batman and Robin for decades.

Obviously I enjoy slash, or I wouldn't have read enough of it to write this essay. The more I've read in the genre, however, the more it puzzles me. Slash fiction has a number of traits (besides the obvious) setting it apart from regular fan fiction.

◆ Even more so than fanzines in general, reading and

writing slash is a female endeavor. Straight males usually detest the stuff. Gay males presented with slash fiction usually react with disinterest or great amusement. Since a woman has few firsthand opportunities to witness gay male sex, and since many writers are sexually inexperienced overall, the sex described in these stories is often inaccurate. (Incidentally, all men in slash stories are well-endowed.)

◆ The overwhelming majority of slash involves male characters. These characters virtually never had any homosexual tendencies in the original series or movie. One extreme example is *Lethal Weapon* slash (don't kill me, I didn't write it). This scenario

pairs up two incredibly unlikely lovers: a happily married man with four children, and a widower who nearly went insane from grief when his wife died. No amount of heterosexual behavior on-screen can save a character from the slash treatment if a fan writer decides he "must" be gay.

◆ There is rarely a slash equivalent to the "Mary Sue" character. In straight fan smut, "Mary Sue" is an original female character, usually based heavily on the author, who enters the scenario and beds her favorite hero. The protagonists in slash stories are almost always two existing characters who are best friends.

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## Publish or Perish

### *Taking the plunge with a fanzine*

ORAC's got a newsletter — now he wants a fanzine, too!

In a burst of rebel activity, ORAC members have decided to brave the elements and publish a fanzine.

The club will be working on both a printed zine and an audio "zine on tape." Both will be available unless one form or the other proves un-

popular or unworkable.

Included with this issue is a form for your suggestions of a name for the zine. Send it to the club address; we'll award a free zine to the person whose entry is accepted.

Also, we want your stories, poetry, artwork and filks. (Or even one of the above!) Send them to "Zine Submissions" at the club address. \*

"Maybe my  
limiter has a  
malfunction?"  
— Olag Gan

**Don't Forget To Vote! Look For Your Ballot And Survey Included With This Issue.**

# Communiqués

Dear Joe:

Thank you for the card and copy of your newsletter — I look forward to reading the June issue. (Thank you, too, for your appreciation of my rather embarrassing situation!) In spite of it all I enjoyed the convention and the chance to meet new fans. I hope we get the opportunity to see one another again.

Best wishes,  
Sheelagh Wells  
Brentford, Middlesex  
April 18, 1991

Dear ORAC:

You may be aware that the BBC Wardrobe Department recently held a sale of costumes from their *Doctor Who* series at Bonhams Auctioneers in London. Having been a fan of *Doctor Who* for many years I went along to the auction on the hope of adding to my collection. I bought lot number 167 which was a quantity of mixed *Doctor Who* and *Blake's 7* costumes and was wondering if any of the *Blake's 7* items were of interest to your members. The lot includes:

◆ Avon's jumpsuit — black with silver, as seen in *Assassin, Gold*, etc.

◆ Vila's jacket — gray with orange, as seen in *Sarcophagus*.

◆ Zeeona's jumpsuit — black and metallic, as seen in

Warlord.

◆ Domo slave merchant's jacket, trousers and cape;  
Domo slave merchant's jacket and trousers; two Domo slave merchants' jackets — as seen in *Assassin*.

There are also several other items of clothing which I have yet to identify; they could have been used in either *Blake's 7* or *Doctor Who*. These include:

- ◆ black boiler suit;
- ◆ black short-sleeved padded jacket;
- ◆ black long-sleeved padded jacket;
- ◆ black long-sleeved cropped jacket with gloves attached;
- ◆ four black and gray with gold diaphanous dresses.

I intend to sell each individual costume separately. Since I myself am involved in fandom I would prefer the costumes to go to true fans of the series.

Yours faithfully,

Steve McKay  
37 Gresford Avenue  
Sefton Park, Liverpool  
L17 2AN  
+44 51 734 0674

Dear Joe:

I am impressed by the consistency with which *Tarriel Cell* has interesting analytical articles in it; this time "Will the Real Roj Blake Please Stand

Up?" by Tom Beck. It stands very well on its own, but I have to disagree with some of the conclusions. Does failure invalidate philosophy? Yes, if the failure is caused by an adherence to that philosophy. If the failure is caused by circumstances beyond one's control, fair enough, but at least a partial test of a philosophy is whether it works in practice. And then you have the hairy problem of defining what you mean by "it works." Did the Federation "work"? For some, it probably did, but for how long? If you look at history, such empires usually fall, more from corruption within than by any outside force. And we already know that the Federation was corrupt, in the administration, at least, if not in the military. But when we see it, the rot was not yet debilitating, and would not be for some time. How long did it take for the Roman Empire to fall?

I enjoyed very much the Chris Boucher and Sheelagh Wells at Star One transcript. Interesting comment about whether Brian Croucher's Travis was working class, and that Chris said he wasn't. I've read one series of stories by a Travis fan which does play on that, saying that Travis was originally a Delta or the like,

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## Communiqués... from page 2

and he worked his way up through the military, but always remembered his roots. So that's one person who did think Travis was working class.

Isn't anyone out there willing to review zines?

**Kathryn Andersen**  
Hawthorn, Victoria,  
Australia

Dear ORAC:

A friend gave me an old flyer for *The Totally Imaginary Cheeseboard* by Jean Airey and Laurie Haldeman. I wrote to Jean at the address in the flyer, 1306 W. Illinois, Aurora, Illinois 60506, but did not get a response. It looks like an excellent story and I would appreciate it if you would ask the club members if anyone knows

porary psychology there is a school of thought that creativity is a universal human need. I also agree that art can be an addiction, in the sense that any human interest or activity can be the focus of obsessive-compulsive behavior. However, when an individual's interest or activity assumes the traits of an addiction, it is not an expression of creativity, but of emotional disturbance.

I heartily agree that if an individual's creativity is blocked it is as though a part of that person dies. I would like to add that the distortion of an individual's creativity by it being forced into channels not chosen by the individual, or the subversion of one individual's creativity to serving the needs of another individual or individuals, is equally destructive, as can be seen in the relationships of the various characters in Pat Elrod's novel *Art in the Blood*.

Like B.N.F., I know people who have no apparent interest in anything creative, and it does indeed seem that they have an emptiness in their lives. I have observed that such people spend a great deal of their time trying to fill that emptiness by various means, or, more sinisterly, trying to suppress or subvert the creativity of others.

I could go on indefinitely, but the issues in B.N.F.'s letter are issues that have concerned philosophers, theologians, law-makers, and indeed all human beings since the beginning of humankind. B.N.F. need not be so tentative or apologetic about expressing his (her?) ideas and perceptions. People need to be reminded from time to time even of self-evident truths; it is

very easy to get engrossed in the everyday details of life and lose sight of the larger context.

Eumenidis

## Where To Write The Actors

**Glynis Barber**, c/o Billy Marsh Assoc., 19 Denmark St., London WC2H 8NH.

**Jan Chappell**, c/o Diane Gies, 18 Holt Rd., North Wembley, Middx. HA0 3PS.

**Brian Croucher**, c/o CCA Personnel, White House, 29 Dawes Rd., London SW6 7DT.

**Paul Darrow**, c/o Roger Carey Mgt., 64 Thornton Ave., London W4 1QQ.

**Stephen Greif**, c/o CDA, Apartment 20, 47 Courtfield Road., London W7 4DB.

**David Jackson**, c/o Joseph and Wagg Personal Mgt., 2 Tunstall Road, London SW9 8BN.

**Michael Keating**, c/o Ellison Combe Assoc., 16 Evelyn Gardens, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2PL.

**Sally Knyvette**, c/o Joseph and Wagg Personal Mgt., 2 Tunstall Road, London SW9 8BN.

**Steven Pacey**, c/o Barry Burnett Org., Grafton House, 2 Golden Square, London W1.

**Jacqueline Pearce**, c/o Creative Artists, Suite 204, 11/15 Betterton St., Covent Garden, London WC2H 9BP.

**Janet Lees Price**, c/o Clare Jones, 64 Chiswick High Road, London W4.

**Josette Simon**, c/o Markham and Froggitt Ltd., 3 Windmill St., London W1.

**Gareth Thomas**, c/o Julian Belfrage Assoc., 68 St. James St., London SW1.

**Peter Tuddenham**, c/o BBC TV Centre, Wood Lane, London W12 8QT.

**Mat Irvine**, c/o BBC Visual Effects Dept., 250 Western Ave., North Acton, London W3 6XJ.

**Terry Nation**, c/o Celebrity Forum Prods., P.O. Box 1786, Pacific Palisades CA 90272.

**Sheelagh Wells**, c/o 20A New Road, Brentford, Middx. TW8 0NX.

## • Did the Federation "work"? For some, it probably did, but for how long?

where I might obtain a copy. If any members would like to correspond with me I would make every effort to reply quickly.

**Marian Mendez**  
3500 E. Ninth Lane  
Hialeah, Florida 33013

Fellow Fans:

Many thanks to Pat Elrod for sharing the excerpt from B.N.F.'s thoughtful and thought-provoking letter. It provided a thematic and symbolic context for characters' relationships that hadn't occurred to me, and I thank B.N.F. for that insight.

I agree with B.N.F. that most people probably have a psychological need to create; as a matter of fact, in contem-



## Slash... from page 1

◆ Whatever motivates slash readers to buy these zines, it isn't originality. Slash readers want the same story over and over again. In fact, one series of K/S zines contains nothing but dozens of versions of the same scenario: Kirk and Spock have sex for the first time.

◆ Although there are a few pleasant exceptions, the average level of writing in slash zines is wretched even by fanzine standards. Part of this may come from the fact that "slash" is largely segregated from the rest of fan writing. Ordinary zines usually want no part of slash stories, and slash zines usually do not print other types of fiction. Slash zine editors may feel obligated to print any stories they get, since slash writers have so few markets. Also, since most characters must be deliberately distorted to make them gay, good characterization is just not in the cards for most slash stories.

So, what *does* slash have to offer its readers? A look at the typical slash story may shed some light on that. From the *Blake's 7* material I've seen (much of it from ORAC's unofficial "Shadow Archives," a member's private collection) I see two large categories. The first is slash with S&M elements (or, perhaps, S/M). For me, this would include any slash where one character uses sex to hurt, dominate, or humiliate another character. This category is unusually prevalent in *Blake's 7* slash as compared to other slash fandoms.

Tarrant is usually a victimizer in this sort of story, although Blake has been known to show a nasty streak as well. Avon is written with about

equal frequency on (pardon me) both ends of the stick. (For some reason, virtually all *Blake's 7* slash involves Avon.) Vila is almost invariably a victim. The "heroes" of the series, in these stories, frequently rape and seduce one another as a way of competing for dominance within the group. Another large group of stories has one of the heroes (such as Vila) victimized by an outsider. However, since the story usually continues to show one of the victim's friends nurturing him back to health, I put that "hurt-comfort" category in my second major group, "straight" slash.

I define "straight" or "normal" slash as stories where the two (or more) characters have consensual sex for the purpose of showing affection and love to each other. In slash overall, this is the vastly more popular category. I think S/M is only as popular as it is in *Blake's 7* fandom because the series has such a dark and amoral tone. Most normal slash is amazingly similar to mainstream "hurt-comfort" fan fiction. I designed a topical outline to describe all sorts of slash, not just *Blake's 7*, but it describes the vast majority of *Blake's 7* slash fiction. The most common pairings are Avon with Blake and Avon with Vila. In A/B stories, Avon is usually the "passive" partner on the emotional if not the sexual level. In A/V stories, Vila has this role.

◆ **Pain.** At least one of our heroes is in anguish early in the story. This is usually emotional; either something new has happened, or a long-term problem has just come to a head. He may have been secretly lusting

after his best friend for some time, and despising himself for it. He or his beloved may have nearly been killed in the recent past, forcing him to re-examine his feelings. Many a slash story opens with one character unconscious in the hospital and his best buddy agonizing at his bedside.

Sometimes the character's pain is physical as well as emotional. One character may have been raped by an outsider, for example. Or in a popular variation, some outside force (such as a villain holding both protagonists prisoner) may force the two heroes to have sex with each other against their wills. Slash characters are not happy people.

◆ **Vulnerability.** The focal character, who usually makes the initial pass, thinks he has a lot to lose by revealing his feelings. He feels certain the other man will not only reject him sexually but end their friendship. If this relationship fails, he probably has no other emotional resources. Usually he has deep dark secrets to reveal besides the fact that he's gay — he may have been raped in the past, or have worked as a teenage male prostitute, or something along those lines. (Slash fiction virtually takes it as given that Vila has been both a hustler and a rape victim in his past.)

Slash writers leave no stereotype unturned to build up vulnerability for their characters. The protagonist who's shorter, physically weaker, younger, or more naive will almost invariably be more "passive" in the sexual relationship. In the case of Avon and Vila, this type of charac-

*Slash, page 5*

## Slash... from page 4

terization has gone to ridiculous lengths. If you read only the descriptions in slash fiction, you would conclude that Avon is at least six inches taller than Vila and easily twice as strong. In the series, of course, Avon and Vila are virtually the same height, weight, and build. Similarly, in K/S slash much is made of Spock being taller and stronger than Kirk.

◆ **Emotional intimacy.** In spite of these fears and dangers, our hero takes the plunge and reveals himself to his beloved. Maybe alcohol or drugs has lowered his inhibitions temporarily. Maybe some recent trauma drives him to cry on his friend's shoulder—at which point he reveals he's interested in more than the shoulder. Sometimes, the beloved senses his best friend is disturbed about something and demands to know what it is.

The focal character takes a risk, and gets rewarded beyond his wildest dreams. His friend may turn out to be secretly gay too. Or the friend may be inexperienced but willing to try something new for the sake of the bond between them. Slash stories almost always include a defense of homosexuality as a lifestyle—but it comes from the beloved, not from the character you first knew was gay. That's loyalty for you. They talk freely about their emotions, they hug a lot, and eventually someone steers things toward the bedroom.

◆ **Acceptance as sex.** Whether or not the story is working for the reader by this point, our heroes feel perfectly natural doing what they're doing. However anatomically unlikely the performance, however strange these reactions are

for these characters, both men experience deep sexual pleasure and a profound feeling of safety and acceptance. Even in the most pornographic sections of the story, the emphasis is not on raw sex but on sex as a symbol of the characters' feelings.

◆ **Acceptance after sex.** No one ever reconsiders things the next morning in a slash story. Circumstances may require that they keep their affair secret or put off their next encounter, but our heroes always love each other even more after sleeping together. The focal character may worry about this, but his beloved will reassure him with a hug—or a second round of sex—that everything is all right.

This type of slash fiction is a variation of the "hurt/comfort" genre of fanzines, with the emotional comfort disguised as sex. Many slash stories could be rewritten as hurt/comfort and actually become better stories. For every graphic depiction in a slash story, there are a dozen hugs or kind words or nurturing touches between the characters. Slash writers enjoy describing the buns, biceps, and genitalia of their favorite characters. Their format lets them describe two men at once. But in most stories the real turn-on is the emotional closeness between two characters.

In the typical slash scenario, the central character feels he is worthless or unlovable, usually because of his homosexuality. He goes to his closest friend for help. He gets exactly what he needs: unconditional acceptance and a lot of hugs. Gay sex is an outgrowth of this acceptance theme. Because it's not culturally approved, the best friend is making a real sacrifice

to help the focal character. If you know the worst about someone and accept him anyway, he can feel completely safe with you.

Slash produces strong emotions among fans who encounter it for the first time; we either love it or hate it. Slash writers and slash-haters like the same sets of characters for the same reasons. Slash writers, for whatever reason, see a sexual relationship as the natural end product of the friendship between two characters they like. They can't fully believe in a fictional friendship until they take it to its "ultimate" extent of sexual consummation. Slash-haters see the sexual relationship as a distortion of the same characters and a parody of their friendship.

Personally, I think most slash fiction misses the point in several ways. Fan writers (outside parody for humor) should re-create characters as they existed in the original stories, or give good reasons for portraying them differently. Most slash violates this rule of writing. Also, our culture is already a little warped in insisting that "real men" feel affection only in connection with sex. In a way, slash writing follows that stereotype. But slash writers make these mistakes for basically good reasons. They see the value and beauty in the friendships they write about. They see that these sets of characters support each other emotionally, although their ideas of how this support takes place get a little outrageous. Slash may not be the fan fiction you want your mother to find out about, but it is written for much the same reasons that other fans write "buddy" fan fiction. •

Don't forget to include a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) when writing for information!

# Peripherals

## Legend

indicates entries new or updated since the last issue.

◆ indicates a club or letterzine to which we exchange newsletters. These can be read at ORAC meetings.

## Fanzines: Available

**Avon 1.** Trilogy composed of *Aftermath*, *Timeslip* and *Nightmare*. \$3 ppd. Joanne Stone, 1781 Fernwood Ln., Plainfield NJ 07060

**Avon On-Line.** Issue 1 \$7.75 ppd. Issues 2-3 \$10 ppd. **Blake's Barf Bag Zine** (multimedia humor) \$7.75. Also seeking submissions for future issues. P.N. Elrod, P.O. Box 100362, Fort Worth TX 76185

**Avon the Terrible.** Stories and poetry with various insights into Avon's character. \$9 ppd. Wendy Rathbone, 13101 Sudan Rd., Poway CA 92064

**Banzine** (multimedia) contains stories from *Doctor Who*, *Blake's 7*, *Buckaroo Banzai* and several other universes. Issue 1 \$14 ppd. Reservations for issue 2 \$5 + SASE. Also seeking submissions for future issues. Jeff Morris, 1614 Grant Road, Webster Groves MO 63119

**Bizarro Coloring Album.** \$15. Also **Bizarro Zine.** SASE for current availability. Leah Rosenthal, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs FL 32701

**Blake Bunch.** Filkzine. \$11.50 ppd. **Inverted Blake.** Issues 1-2 \$13 each ppd. Add 7.25% sales tax for shipping to Texas. Also seeking submissions for future issues. *Inverted A*, 401 Forrest Hill, Grand Prairie TX 75051

**Blake's Doubles.** Issue 2 \$13 book rate. Issue 3 \$12. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs FL 32701

**Bleeding River.** Poetry and art. \$4. Michael Macomber, #223 Linden Hill Apts., Lindenwood NJ 08021

**Blythe Spirits** by Gareth Thomas is the whimsical story of a group of 11th century monks, whose quiet existence is interrupted by a visitor bearing strange gifts. \$6 ppd. *Space Rat Press*, P.O. Box 422, Park Ridge NJ 07656

**Bring 'Em Back Alive** (WOTW) presents stories where Col. Ironhorse can be plausibly brought back from the dead, and where sense can be made of the plot conflict between the show's two seasons. \$19 ppd. Also seeking submissions for future issues. Kathy Coy, 485 Hawkins Blvd., Copiague NY 11726

**Brother of Shadows... and Son of the Light.** \$25. (Checks to Joy Harrison) Osiris Publications, 8928 N. Olcott Ave., Morton Grove IL 60053

**Chronicles.** Award-winning Australian zine. Issues 1-47 available; SASE for complete price list. 1986-87 annuals \$13.25 ppd. each. 1988 annual \$12.50 ppd. **North America order from:** Bill Hupe, 6273 Balfour, Lansing MI 48911. **Rest of world SAE:** Susan Clarke, 6 Bellevue Rd., Faulconbridge NSW 2776 Australia

**Crossed Computers** (DW). Clubzine of Rochester United Whovians. Issue 1 \$8.50 ppd. SASE for information on issue 2. Also seeking submissions for future issues. E. Michael Whitmore, P.O. Box 40414, Rochester NY 14615

**Crossroads.** Issue 1 \$4.25 ppd. Also seeking submissions for future issues. Sandy Van Densen, 8826 Greenridge Ave., Spring Valley CA 92077

**Dark Between the Stars.** Issue 1 \$9.50 ppd. Issue 2 \$17 ppd. Also seeking submissions for future issues; see separate listing. Bill Hupe, 6273 Balfour, Lansing MI 48911

**Desperado.** Fourth/fifth season alternate universe novel. \$17.50 ppd. Bill Hupe, 6273 Balfour, Lansing MI 48911

**Desert Places** (DW). \$5 ppd. Mary-Ann Johanson, 27 St. Mark's Place #4D, New York NY 10003

**Distasis** (multimedia). \$10 ppd. Laura Michaels, 3502 Swafford St., Arlington TX 76015

**Distorted Visions** (multimedia). Issues 2 and 3 \$6 each. Jody A. Morse, 830 1/4 N. Las Palmas Ave., Los Angeles CA 90038

**Dr. Bellfrier's Memorial Journal.** Digest-sized. Issue 3 \$7.50 ppd. Issue 4 \$7.45 ppd. SASE for information about other issues. Also accepting submissions for future issues. Kathy Coy, 485 Hawkins Blvd., Copiague NY 11726

**Down and Unsafe.** Issue 7 \$7 ppd. Mary Christine Mars, 1575 A1A South #D7, St. Augustine FL 32084

**Enarraré.** 350-page *Blake's 7* Collection \$21 softcover, \$33 hardcover plus postage. Issue 8 due soon; SAE + 2 IRC's for information. **USA order from:** Bill Hupe, 6273 Balfour, Lansing MI 48911. **Rest of world SAE to:** Annie Hamilton, 776 Cavendish Rd., Holland Park, Qld. 4121, Australia

**Evolution.** SAE + 2 IRC's for information. *Madona Skaff*, 2105 Thistle Cres., Ottawa ON K1H 5P4

**Forgotten Seven.** \$13 ppd. Teresa Ward, 1881 Holdway St., Morristown TN 37814

**Fragments of a Shattered Life.** £8.50 ppd. Empathy, Carol Keogh, 131 Norman Rd., Leytonstone, London E11

**Frame of Mind** (DW). \$10.50 ppd. Kathy Wesley, 293 Central Ave., Newark OH 43055

**Freedom City Gazette.** Issues 1-6 \$3.50 ppd. Issue 7 and fall special \$6.50 each ppd. Issue 8 \$3.50 ppd. *Space Rat Press*, P.O. Box 422, Park Ridge NJ 07656

**Gambit.** Issues 1-3, 5 \$16 ppd. Issue 4 \$12 ppd. Issues 6 and 7 \$17 ppd. Deduct \$2 per zine for book rate. Also seeking submissions for future issues. Jean Graham, Peacock Press, 5417 Streamview Dr., San Diego CA 92105

**Gateway to Time** (DW/B7). Clubzine of the St. Louis CIA. Issue 5 \$11.50. Also seeking submissions for issue 6. P.O. Box 733, St. Louis MO 63188

**Ghost.** 6th season story in four parts. Part 1 \$7, parts 2-4 \$8 each; payable in cash or add \$5 for checks. Judith Seaman, 3 Blithfield Gardens, Chellaston, Derby DE7 1XQ

**Herne's Son** (ROS). Issue 1 \$12. Issue 2 \$14. SASE for availability of issues 3 and 4. (Checks to Linda Patterson) 938 Kennebec Ave., Akron OH 44305

**Horizon** publishes the following:  
**The Horizon Blake's 7 Technical Manual.** Part 1 £5.30 sea/£6.60 air. Part 2 £4.90 sea/£6.65 air. **Horizon** (clubzine). Issues 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 (new) £3 sea/£4.30 air each. Issues 7, 9, 10 £2.70 sea/£3.90 air each. Issues 1 and 8 (combined) £4.30 sea/£5.60 air. **The Horizon Interviews** £4.30 sea/£5.60 air. **Strangers Among Us** (B7/ST) £2.55 sea/£3.45 air. **The Epic** £6.35 sea/£9 air. **Best of Spacefall 2** (new) £2.70 sea/£3.90 air. All prices postpaid to the US and Canada. (Checks to "Horizon, the B7 Appreciation Society") Ann Steele, 66 Sherwood Park Rd., Sutton, Surrey SM1 2SG

**Input.** Issue 4 \$12 ppd. SASE for information on issues 1-3. Rebecca Reeves, 3493 Henderson Rd., Victoria BC V8P 5A8

**Jabberwocky.** Part 3 \$12 ppd. Janet L. Walker, 90 Silver Lane #A-3, Eugene OR 97404

**Islands.** PGP novel. \$7 ppd. Sharon Monroe, 8175 Claymore Ave. E., Inver Grove Hts MN 55076

**Klyn's 7.** Dedicated to the character of Klyn from the episode *Blake*. \$7 ppd. Leigh Motooka, 79-B Jackson Dr., Poughkeepsie NY 12603

**The Last, Best Hope.** PGP novel. \$14 ppd. Kathleen Resch, P.O. Box 1766, Temple City CA 91780

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**Last Stand at the Edge of the World.** \$18 ppd. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs FL 32701

**Log of the Hellhound.** Reprints of stories originally appearing in *Southern Seven*. Issue 1 \$10 ppd. Issue 2 \$8 ppd. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs FL 32701

**Longbow (ROS).** Issue 3 \$18. Issue 4 \$20. (Checks to Sandy Williams) P.O. Box 191408, Dallas TX 75219

**Magnificent Seven.** Issue 8 \$18 ppd. SASE for notification for issue 9. Reprints: Issue 1 \$10.50. Issue 2 \$13. Issue 3 \$14.50. Issue 4 \$17. Issues 5-6 \$16 each. Issue 7 \$17.50. Bill Hupe, 6273 Balfour, Lansing MI 48911

**A Matter of Time (QL).** \$8.50 hand, \$10.50 ppd. Also seeking submissions for future issues. Julie Barrett, 2624 E. Park Blvd., Plano TX 75074

**Mirage.** Fifth-season novel. \$10 fc,

collection of poems. SASE for price and availability. US: Jude Wilson, 308 W. 30th St. #10B, New York NY 10001. Aus/NZ: Mary G.T. Webber, 9 Glenies Place, Glenorie, N.S.W. 2157. UK: Jackie Ophir, 490c Bury New Road, Salford 7, Manchester, M7 0WN. **Peers of the Realm** (British media).

\$6 ppd. (Checks to Ruth Dempsey) **Anglofans Unlimited**, 357 W. Squire Dr. #1, Rochester NY 14623

**Perihelion II** (multimedia). \$9 ppd. Renee L. Groce, P.O. Box 694, Norcross GA 30091

**Plain Man's Guide to Alien Invasions.** Clubzine of Liberation. Issue 2 \$12 ppd. Also seeking submissions for future issues. **Liberation**, P.O. Box 257766, Chicago IL 60625-7766

**Portals** (multimedia). Issue 7 \$12. SASE for information on other issues. Also seeking submissions for future issues. **MaryAnn Johanson**, 27 St. Mark's Place #4D, New York NY 10003

**Power.** \$6.50 ppd. Also seeking submissions for issue 2. **Emily McEwan**, 816 James Ct., Wheaton IL 60187

**Prime Time** (multimedia). Issues 1-6 \$13.50 ppd. except #5 \$14.50 ppd. SASE for information on issue 7. **Mary Fall Wardell**, 172 Putnam St. #3, East Boston MA 02128

**Puzzleline.** 50 pages worth of Blake's 7 brainteasers including logic problems, crosswords, more. \$2.55 ppd. **Sandy Van Densen**, 8826 Greenridge Ave., Spring Valley CA 92077

**Raising Hell.** Issue 3 \$12 ppd. Also seeking submissions for issue 4. **Wendy Rathbone**, 13101 Sudan Rd., Poway CA 92064

**Rebel.** Issues 1-6 £3.10 sea/£4.80 air except issue 4 £3.60 sea/£5.30 air; payable in sterling or add £2 for bank charges. **Margaret Martin**, 40 Lefroy St., Coatbridge, Lanarkshire ML5 1NB, Scotland

**Reclaimed.** Fifth season novel. \$18.50. Sequel **Necessities** \$17. **Susan Rotellini**, 54 Rosewood Ave., Billerica MA 01821

**Reflections in a Shattered Glass.** Alternate universe story a la *Mirror*. *Mirror*. \$12. **Space Rat Press**, P.O. Box 422, Park Ridge NJ 07656

**Restal's Rules of Order.** Coloring book with 58 pictures by 10 different artists. Crayons not included. \$4 ppd. **Helen Woolberton**, 38 Montague Ave., Trenton NJ 08628

**Return of the Seven.** Issue 4. \$18 ppd. **Janet L. Walker**, 90 Silver Lane #A-3, Eugene OR 97404

**Ring of Deceit** (ST). \$7. **Empire Books**, P.O. Box 625, Murray KY 42071

**A Second Beginning.** \$7.50. **Susan**

**King**, 47 Sheridan Rd., Belvedere, Kent DA17 5AR

**Serendipitous Scenarios** (multimedia). Clubzine of Serendipity. Issue 1 \$10 ppd. Reservations for issue 2 \$5 + SASE. Also seeking submissions for future issues. **Denise Loague**, 4620 SE 26th St., Del City OK 73115

**The Seven Live On.** Issues 1-4 \$15 each ppd. **Bearly Spaced Enterprises**, 24 Cynthia Road, Seekonk MA 02771

**Shades of Grey.** \$5.50 ppd. **Sandy Van Densen**, 8826 Greenridge Ave., Spring Valley CA 91977

**Shaman** deals with the early life of the Blake's 7 characters before *The Way Back*. \$12 ppd. **Space Rat Press**, P.O. Box 422, Park Ridge NJ 07656

**Sherwood Tunnels** (multimedia). Issue 6 US\$21 or C\$23 ppd. **Dianne Smith**, 201 Sims Ave., Victoria BC V8Z 1K4

**Something Unfriendly.** Issue 2 \$12 ppd. **Cathi Brown**, 205 S. Winnebago, Lake Mills IA 50450

**Southern Seven.** Issue 2 \$20 book rate. Issue 3 \$19 book rate. Issue 4 \$21 book rate. Two-volume issue 5 \$22 book rate. Reservations for issue 6 \$5 + SASE. Also seeking submissions (especially artists) for future issues. **Ann Wortham**, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs FL 32701

**Space Debris.** Clubzine of Flotilla 13. Issue 2 \$14 ppd. (Checks to Kathy Merryman) c/o Jessica Hereford, Rt. 2 Box 154, New Haven MO 63068

**Space Oddity.** Mostly humorous zine. \$9.75 ppd. Sequel **Son of Space Oddity** \$12 ppd. **Bill Hupe**, 6273 Balfour, Lansing MI 48911

**Standard by Several.** Clubzine of Blake's Several. Issue 2 \$7.50 ppd. Issue 3 \$10 ppd. Also seeking submissions for future issues. **Blake's Several**, P.O. Box 1766, Bellaire TX 77402

**Syzygy** (multimedia). Clubzine of S.T.A.R. San Diego. Issue 1 \$9. Issues 2-5 \$13. P.O. Box 15173, San Diego CA 92115

**Tales from the Holodeck and Other Stories.** ST:TNG humor. Issue 2 \$7. **Cheryl W. Duxal**, P.O. Box 179, New Ellenton SC 29809

**Teddy Bear Times** (B7/DW). \$14.50. Also accepting submissions for issue 2. **PDC Press**, 3990 East 64th St., Cleveland OH 44105

**Terminal** is a behind-the-scenes look at Blake's 7, featuring six interviews with members of the Blake's 7 production crew. \$6.50 ppd. **Space Rat Press**, P.O. Box 422, Park Ridge NJ 07656

Peripherals, page 8

• "Peripherals" is your column! Submit your ad for Blake's 7-related items for sale, items wanted, trading post, or other category to "Peripherals," ORAC, P.O. Box 566123, Dallas TX 75356-6123.

\$9 br. **Jean Graham**, 5417 Streamview Drive, San Diego CA 92105

**Moondisk Melancholia & One Waits.** Two novels in one volume. \$10. **C.K. Smith**, 1817 Menard Dr., Belleville IL 62220

**Mosaic** (multimedia genzine). C\$5 + postage. Seeking submissions for future issues. **Madona Skaff**, 2105 Thistle Cres., Ottawa ON K1H 5P4

**Neutron Flow** (multimedia). Clubzine of the Whoosier Network. Issue 3 \$3. P.O. Box 51133, Indianapolis IN 46251

**New Horizons.** Multi-part novel. Issue 1 \$4. Issue 2 \$5.25. Issue 3 \$4.50. Issues 4-6 \$7 each. Issues 7-9 \$10 each. Issues 10-12 \$12 each. SASE for information on upcoming issue 13. **Bill Hupe**, 6273 Balfour, Lansing MI 48911

**Our Favorite Things** (multimedia). Issue 5 \$10 ppd. SASE for availability for issue 6. Seeking submissions for issue 7. **Elaine M. Batterby**, **Elan Press**, P.O. Box 615, Macedon NY 14502

■ **Panning for Pyrites** is an Australian

# Peripherals... from page 7

**Time Remembered** (B7/DW). \$13 ppd. Renee L. Groce, P.O. Box 694, Norcross GA 30091

**Time Winds** (DW). Issue 18 \$12 ppd. Issue 19 \$11 ppd. Issue 20 \$15 ppd. (Checks to Susan M. Garrett) 14B Terrace Ct., Toms River NJ 08753

**Trust, Like The Soul**. \$6 ppd. Empire Books, P.O. Box 625, Murray KY 42071

**Under the Greenwood Tree** (ROS). SAE + 2 IRC's for price and availability. Sue Burszynski, 45 Harrington St., Elsterwick, Victoria 3185, Australia

**Undercurrents: Another Aspect of Blake's 7**. \$20.95 ppd. New Moon, P.O. Box 549, Harrisville RI 02830

**The Uses of Adversity**. \$13 ppd. Janet L. Walker, 90 Silver Lane #A-3, Eugene OR 97404

**Voices from the Present**. Issue 2 \$8 ppd. Patricia Russo, 341 73rd St., North Bergen NJ 07047

**The Void Aflame, Like a Bonfire**. \$8 ppd. Sharon Monroe, 8175 Claymore Ave. E., Inter Grove Hts MN 55076

**The Web**. £3.25 sea/£4.55 air ppd. (Checks to "Horizon, the B7 Appreciation Society") Diane Gies, 18 Holt Rd., North Wembley, Middlesex HA0 3PS

**Who's Blake** (multimedia). SASE for information on issues 3-5. Issue 6 due soon. Dianne M. Smith, 201 Sims Ave., Victoria BC V8Z 1K4

**Zen and the Art of Rebellion** is a new Blake's 7 genzine. \$17 fc, \$15 br. Michael Macomber, #223 Linden Hill Apts., Lindenwold NJ 08021

## Fanzines: Planned

Also see Fanzines: Available

**Anything Goes** is a multimedia fanzine welcoming submissions from any fandom. W.A. Karmell, 9604 Bianco Terrace, Des Plaines IL 60016

**Dark Between the Stars** seeks submissions for issue 3 and future issues. Kristy Merrill, 380 East 1550 South, Orem UT 84058

**Flights of the Liberator** is seeking submissions for a new Blake's 7 zine. Material from all four seasons is welcome. Mark D. Wardell, 172 Putnam St. #3, East Boston MA 02128

**Imagine** seeks offbeat and normal material for a new multimedia zine. Brenda Cunningham, Box 123, Assiniboia SK S0H 0B0

**Night and Day** is a new fanzine dedicated to the movie *Ladyhawke*. T. M & C Press, Julinda Watson and Michele Amason, 26 Rambling Road, Palestine TX 75801

**Pathways of Infinity** seeks contributions from Doctor Who, Blake's 7, Red Dwarf and other universes. Julie Jay, 1032 Etherton Dr., Crestwood MO 63126

**Roads Not Taken** seeks stories which spring from turning points in a televised show and take the story in a different direction. SASE for complete guidelines. Lorna Breshears, 3700 Sutherland Ave. #F-5, Knoxville TN 37919

**Thinking of Wilma** is a new Red Dwarf zine seeking original, outrageous and bizarre fan fiction and character pieces. Open deadline. Guy Brownlee, 7777 Manderville Ln. #226, Dallas TX 75231

**Threads Through Infinity** seeks submissions for a new Blake's 7 genzine. Tentative publication September 1991. Sherri Fillingham, P.O. Box 686, Washington Grove MD 20880-0686

## Audio and Video Tapes

**Confederation** is a four-hour, two-tape video of the October 1988 Confederation convention held in New Zealand. Guests were Paul Darrow, Janet Lees Price and Michael Keating. \$30 in VHS or Beta. Patricia E. Roberts, 113 Tuckertown Rd., Vincentown NJ 08088

**Darrowcon** is a two-hour video of Paul Darrow's appearance at San Diego Minicon in November 1988. \$13 in VHS or Beta. Also B7 Music Videos, \$11 in VHS. Jean Graham, 5417 Streamview Drive, San Diego CA 92105

**Hip Deep in Heroes** is a Blake's 7 film cassette. \$12 ppd. Meg Garrett, 737 N. Baker, Ontario CA 91764

**LTV** is a 40-minute collection of music videos produced by members of Liberation. \$10 ppd. in VHS or Beta. Liberation, P.O. Box 257766, Chicago IL 60625-7766

**Masquerade** is Sheelagh Wells' fantasy makeup video, with "hands-on" demonstrations of a variety of makeup techniques. Introduced by Gareth Thomas. \$16.95 in VHS. Space Rat Press, P.O. Box 422, Park Ridge NJ 07656

**Orbit** is a set of four 4-hour tapes from the August 1990 Orbit convention with Paul Darrow, Janet Lees Price, Michael Keating and Vere Lorrimer. \$45 ppd. Two other tapes available; SASE for information. Karlene Hurler, 21 Arlington Rd., Bordentown NJ 08505

**Space City 1990** video tapes (PAL format) and audio tapes available. SAE + 2 IRC's for info. Sue Chadwick, 97 Marsh Way, Millbrook Park, Pentwortham, Preston, Lancs. PR1 9PJ

## Merchandise

**Calendar**: Twelve-month 1991 cartoon calendar by Kathy Hanson. \$12. Mary Christine Mars, Casa Del Mar, 1575 A1A South #D7, St. Augustine FL 32084

**Coffee Mugs**: featuring Horizon logo and club motto, silver artwork on black background. £5.75 ppd. (Checks to "Horizon, the B7 Appreciation Society") Gill Dunn, 38 Arderne Rd., Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 6HJ

**Coffee Mugs**: 12-ounce gray ironstone mugs featuring the Liberator on a starfield. \$13.50 ppd. Liberation, P.O. Box 257766, Chicago IL 60625-7766

**Cookbook: The Federation Gourmet** features the cooking prowess of 20 members of Liberation. \$4 ppd. Liberation, P.O. Box 257766, Chicago IL 60625-7766

**Game: Trivial Pursuit Ship**. 600 Blake's 7 trivia questions in booklet form for use with Trivial Pursuit. \$6 ppd. Jean Graham, Peacock Press, 5417 Streamview Dr., San Diego CA 92105

**Labels**: Ten different Blake's 7 slogans are available, 30 labels per sheet. \$3.25 per sheet ppd. Cygnus Alphans, c/o David A. Pew, 2062 Route 9, Ocean View NJ 08230

**Note Pads**: Five separate designs, 50 sheets per A6-size pad. £1.40 sea/£2.35 air per pad, set of all five £6.50 sea/£8.15 air. (Checks to "Horizon, the B7 Appreciation Society") Gill Dunn, 38 Arderne Rd., Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 6HJ

**Portfolios**: Offset portraits of characters from Star Trek and Star Trek: The Next Generation. \$60 each set. Adrian Morgan, 1008 Dauphine St. #2, New Orleans LA 70116

**Tote Bags**: Jumbo sized off-white bags with Bizarro-style illustrations of Quantum Leap or ST:TNG. \$13 each ppd. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs FL 32701

## Adzines

**Datazine** contains listings of fanzines, plus reviews and news. \$8 for three issues, \$12 for six, \$17 for nine. P.O. Box 24590, Denver CO 80224

**Factsheet Five** is "the zine of crosscurrents and cross-pollination," advertising genzines, perzines, APA's, music, etc. \$23 per year book rate, \$27 first class. 6 Arizona Ave., Rensselaer NY 12144-4502

◆ **FanGuide** is a quarterly newsletter

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# Peripherals... from page 8

ter featuring listings of clubs, fanzines, conventions and fans. \$5 per year. Michael Macomber, #223 Linden Hill Apts., Lindenwold NJ 08021

**Generic Ad Zine (GAZ)** features alphabetical listings of fanzines by fandom. *Star Trek* and *ST:TNG* listed in a separate volume. Published quarterly. Main volume \$13 per year, *Trek* supplement \$6.50 per year, both \$18 per year. Jennifer Hebert, 2115 Nell St., Houston TX 77034

**The Zine Connection** is a bi-monthly adzine. One year \$15. Jean Hinson, 7830 DePalma St., Downey CA 90241

**Zine Scene** is a multimedia adzine. SASE for ordering information. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs FL 32701

## APA's/Letterzines

**Centero** is a multi-media science-fiction letterzine. SAE + 2 IRC's for information. Nikki White, 15 Duffus Place, Wannassa, A.C.T. 2903, Australia

**Comlink** is a quarterly letterzine of media fandom. \$3.50 for two issues. Allison M. Dyer, 932 ADS Box 1076R, FPO NY 09571-2105

◆ **Flotilla 13** is a *Blake's 7* writers' group. Publishes APA, bimonthly newsletter. SASE for current information. C.K. Smith, 1817 Menard Dr., Belleville IL 62220

**A Line Through the Pattern of Infinity** is a *Blake's 7* letterzine. SAE + 2 IRC's for info. Keith Gooch, 33 Rossie Place, Edinburgh EH7 5RX, Scotland

**The Neutral Arbiter** is a quarterly *Blake's 7* letterzine. \$10 per year. Sherri Fillingham, P.O. Box 686, Washington Grove MD 20880-0686

**On the Wing** is a quarterly APA devoted to Tarrant. SASE for info on dues and minac. Leigh Motooka, 79-B Jackson Dr., Poughkeepsie NY 12603

**Potpouri** multimedia letterzine. Issues 1-5 available; SASE for current price information. Also accepting submissions for future issues. G.M. Fields, 5959 Bissonet #36, Houston TX 77081

**Rallying Call** is a quarterly Roj Blake/Gareth Thomas APA. Dues determined by the number of members; minac one page per issue. Angela Reese, 2972 Essex, Cleveland Heights OH 44118

**A Sense of Occasion** is a quarterly letterzine for fans of *The Sandbaggers*. \$8 per year. Pat Nussman, 3311 Wyndham Cir. #3194, Alexandria VA 22302

## Clubs: D/FW

**Dallas Demento Society** follows the Dr. Demento radio comedy show. Dues \$5. P.O. Box 612042, D/FW Air-

port TX 75261

**Dancing Lights** is the local *Beauty and the Beast* fan club. Monthly meetings. Newsletter \$12 for six issues. Jan Eastwood, 2606 Ridgcrest Dr., Garland TX 75041

**English Channels** is devoted to appreciation of British TV, radio, theatre and cinema. Semimonthly meetings, newsletter *English Channels*. Dues \$10. P.O. Box 796012, Dallas TX 75379

◆ **TANSTAAFL** is a general-interest science fiction club. Biweekly meetings, newsletter *Event Horizons*. Dues \$20. P.O. Box 260912, Plano TX 75062

**U.S.S. Joshua** is a Starfleet-affiliated *Star Trek* fan club operating in the Arlington/Fort Worth area. Monthly newsletter. P.O. Box 150493, Arlington TX 76015

## Clubs: International

◆ **Anglofans Unlimited** follows all aspects of British media and way of life. Bimonthly newsletter *Plain English*. Dues \$7. 357-W. Squire Dr., Apt. 1, Rochester NY 14623-1770

◆ **Blake's Revels** recently helped underwrite the return of *Blake's 7* to San Diego television. Monthly newsletter *Revel Times*. Dues \$4. Jean Graham, 5417 Streamview Drive, San Diego CA 92105-3820

◆ **Blake's Several** is the Houston area *Blake's 7* fan group. Bimonthly newsletter *Notes from the Underground*, zine *Standard by Several*. Dues \$10. Box 1766, Bellaire TX 77402

◆ **Cygnus Alphans** are the South Jersey *Blake's 7* fan group. Monthly newsletter *Liberator's Log*. Dues \$15. c/o David A. Pew, 2062 Route 9, Ocean View NJ 08230

◆ **Friends of Doctor Who** is the United States' largest active *Doctor Who* fan organization. Quarterly newsletter. Dues \$7.50. P.O. Box 14111, Reading PA 19612

◆ **Horizon, the B7 Appreciation Society**, is the original and largest *Blake's 7* fan group. Publish *Horizon* newsletter, other books and merchandise. Dues for four newsletters (about two years): US/Canada £13 air/£10.25 sea; UK £8.25; Europe £10.25; Aus/NZ £18 air/£10.25 sea. Please send SAE + \$1 bill for complete price info and zine list. Ann Steele, 66 Sherwood Park Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 2SG

◆ **Liberation** is a Chicago *Blake's 7* fan support group. Monthly newsletter *Liberation*, zine *Plain Man's Guide to Alien Invasions*, letterzine. Dues \$8. P.O. Box 257766, Chicago IL 60625-7766

◆ **Liberator Atlanta** follows *Blake's*

7 in the Atlanta area. Monthly newsletter *Xenon Signals*. Dues \$7.50. Renee L. Groce, P.O. Box 694, Norcross GA 30091

**Liberator Australis** is an Australian *Blake's 7* fan club. Monthly newsletter *Cypher*. SAE + 2 IRC's for info. P.O. Box 305, West Heidelberg, Vic. 3081, Australia

◆ **North American Fans of Paul Darrow** promotes awareness of and interest in Paul Darrow's work. Quarterly newsletter *The Right Question*. Dues \$6. P.O. Box 4581, Macon GA 31208-4581

◆ **Patrexes of the Panopticon** is a Long Island-based club following British SF-fantasy shows and *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Monthly newsletter *The Black Scrolls*. Dues \$16. 400 Collington Dr., Ronkonkoma NY 11779

◆ **Paul Darrow Appreciation Society** is a newsletter club dedicated to following Paul Darrow's career. Quarterly newsletter *Aspects*. Dues \$8. 1415 Madrone Lane, Davis CA 95616

◆ **Prydonians of Prynceton** is the largest *Doctor Who/Blake's 7* fan club east of the Mississippi. Monthly newsletter *Prydonian Renegade*. Dues \$12. P.O. Box 3194, Princeton NJ 08543-3194

◆ **St. Louis CIA** is the St. Louis area *Doctor Who* fan club. Monthly newsletter *Time Lord Times*, zine *Gateway to Time*. Dues \$10. P.O. Box 733, St. Louis MO 63188

◆ **Serendipity** is a *Doctor Who/Blake's 7* club working to return the two programs to the airwaves in Oklahoma. Monthly newsletter *Sooner Time and Space Traveller*. No dues, but send \$1 for newsletter. Carol Myers, 600 SW 134th, Box 27, Oklahoma City OK 73170

◆ **Sopron Alliance**, "the lava lamp of *Blake's 7* fandom," is known for its pajama parties at conventions, originating the Rosenthal Award, and rocks. Hilarious monthly newsletter *On the Rocks*, zine *Dr. Bellfrier's Memorial Journal*. Dues \$9 (checks to Linda Desantis). c/o Julie Lounsberry, 27-22 14th St., Astoria NY 11102

◆ **South Eastern New England Whovians** is a very low-key *Doctor Who* and *Blake's 7* fan club in Connecticut. No budget, no dues, but SASE's for newsletter. Mike Dempsey, 1552 Glasgow Road, Box 99, Voluntown CT 06384

◆ **Villaworld** is dedicated to following the career of Michael Keating and the entire cast. Recently celebrated its tenth anniversary. Dues £4 sea/£6 air; checks accepted with £3 surcharge. Yvette Clark, 85 Brendon Green, Millbrook, Southampton, Hants SO1 4BE

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◆ **Whoosier Network** follows *Doctor Who* and other British shows throughout Indiana. Monthly newsletter *Gallifreyan Gazette*, zine *Neutron Flow*. Dues \$5. P.O. Box 51133, Indianapolis IN 46251

## Bulletin Boards: D/FW

**Blasted Trumpet.** Arlington. Metro 817-467-7103. Club board of U.S.S. Joshua, regional hub for TrekNet echomail network, discussions on *Star Trek* and other fandoms.

**FIAWOL.** Irving. 214-790-6472. Now running new software, node on RelayNet network. Fannish discussions. Official upload point for modern submissions to *Tarriel Cell*; E-mail to Sysop for information.

**Renaissance BBS.** Arlington. Metro 817-467-7322. Conferences for area fan clubs, conventions, other discussion areas.

## Bulletin Boards: National

**Arsenal of Freedom.** Philadelphia PA. 215-745-4387. *Doctor Who*, *Star Trek* sections, message areas for the Unearthly Children and Prydonians of Prynceton.

**Brain Storm BBS.** Naperville IL. 708-983-6435. Back in operation with a new format, large discussion area.

**Console Room.** Riegelsville PA. 215-749-0621. *Doctor Who* and other fannish discussions.

**DAG Productions BBS.** Los Angeles CA. 213-546-1861. 24 hours daily except Monday. Discussion of science fiction and fantasy filksongs.

**Factsheet Five BBS.** Rensselaer NY. 518-479-3879. Run in conjunction with *Factsheet Five* zine.

**Gallifrey BBS.** Falls Church VA. 703-641-9769. *Doctor Who* discussions, continue-the-story conference.

**Illuminati BBS.** Austin TX. 512-447-4449. Operated in conjunction with Steve Jackson Games, infamous from Secret Service raid.

**Magrathea BBS.** Phoenix AZ. 602-833-9216. *Doctor Who*, *Star Trek*, other video and fannish discussion areas.

**NovaNet.** Grassington, Yorkshire. +44 756 700109. British TV, *Star Trek*, other science fiction.

**Penn & Teller's MOFO Ex Machina BBS.** New York NY. 212-764-3834. Stand-up entertainers' fan club BBS.

**Space City BBS.** Park Forest IL. 708-748-4025. *Doctor Who*, *Star Trek*, British TV, other SF/fantasy areas.

**Star One.** La Mesa CA. 619-697-4073. Supported by STAR-San Diego.

## Other Conventions

**ArmadilloCon 13.** Date: October 11-13, 1991. Location: Austin, Texas. Memberships: SASE for current info. Guests: Dan Simmons, Pat Mueller. P.O. Box 9612, Austin TX 78766

**MileHiCon 23.** Date: October 18-20, 1991. Location: Sheraton Hotel, Lakewood, Colorado. Memberships: \$20 until 9/30, \$24 at the door. Guests: Sheri S. Tepper, Kathe Walker, Connie Willis. P.O. Box 27074, Lakewood CO 80227

**SoonerCon 7.** Date: November 22-24, 1991. Location: Central Plaza Hotel, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Rates \$40 until 11/1. 405-235-2761. Memberships: \$15 until 11/1, \$20 at the door. Guests: Tim Powers, Patricia Davis, Mike McQuay, Marty Burke, Curtis and Marilyn Berry. P.O. Box 1701, Bethany OK 73008

**RockKon 16.** Date: May 1-3, 1992. Location: Little Rock, Arkansas. Memberships: \$15 until 4/30/92, \$20 at the door. Guests: Lois McMaster Bujold, Cat Conrad, Fran Stallings. P.O. Box 24285, Little Rock AR 72221

## Back Issues

The following back issues of *Tarriel Cell* are still available. Prices are \$2 ppd. each unless otherwise noted.

**January 1988:** Standard by Denver; KERA-Blake's 7 Challenge; Review: *Last Stand at the Edge of the World*

**March 1988:** Convention Survival Kit; Standard by Denver Part 2; Blake's 7: Robin Hood in Space?; Destiny II Preview; Reviews: DSV I; *Last Stand at the Edge of the World*; *Afterlife* (\$2.25)

**June 1988:** Michael Keating in Dallas; Ann Wortham and Leah Rosenthal interview; Reviews: Destiny II, *Southern Seven* 1 and 2

**August 1988:** Blake's 7 Legal System; Star One: A Lens Eye View; Future Technology Now; Standard by Denver Part 3; Laura Virgil interview; Reviews: *Trust, Like the Soul*; *Magnificent Seven* 4; *Avon: On-Line* (\$2.25)

**October 1988:** The Avon Attraction; Review: Tardiscon '88; How I Survived My First Out-of-State Con

**December 1988:** Sold Out

**February 1989:** Mike Seymour interview; The Frustrated Fan; Gambit update

**April 1989:** KERA Renews Blake's 7; Reviews: *Avon: A Terrible Aspect*; *Avon: On-Line*; *The Bizarro Zine* 2; *The Log of the Hellhound*; *Standard by Severn*; *Raising Hell* 2; *Eleventh Sector*

**June 1989:** Sold Out

**August 1989:** *Avon: Loner or Lunatic?*; *Masquerade Preview*; The

*Prodigal Returns*; *Blake's 7's Back in a Big Way*

**October 1989:** Blake, Blasters and Ballistics; ORAC Doubles KERA Commitment

**December 1989:** The Federation As Socialist Utopia; Blake's 7: A Political Allegory; Whofest preview; Archive Listing; Incentive Auction; Blake's 7 a Classic in Britain; Reviews: *Masquerade*; *Mirage*

**February 1990:** Whofest preview; In Defense of Tarrant; Blake's 7 TV Guide

**April 1990:** Connipion preview; Rebellion preview; TV Guide update; Reviews: *Kill the Dead*; *Bloodlist*

**June 1990:** Of Sequels, Storylines and Space Opera; Rebellion preview; KERA renewal update; Reviews: *Star Cops*; *Lifblood*

**August 1990:** Connipion preview; The Klute's Challenge; KERA renewal update; Reviews: *Rebellion*; *Brothers in Arms*; *Log of the Hellhound Book II*

**October 1990:** ORAC Increases KERA Commitment; Sea World Preview; Reviews: Connipion; Orbit; *Bloodcircle*; *The Vor Game*

**December 1990:** Mission to Sea World; Second Annual Incentive Auction; Reviews: *SoonerCon*; Connipion; *Undercurrents*; *Gambit* 6; *Survivors* (\$2.25)

**February 1991:** BBC Video Releasing Blake's 7; British Satellite Merger; BBS Survey; The Klute's Revenge; Previews: *Star One*, Whofest '91; Reviews: *Art in the Blood*; *Avon: On-Line* 2

**April 1991:** Chris Boucher in America; Reviews: *Star One*; *Purrealcon*; Circle Ouroboros; *Avon: On-Line* 3; *Fraud* (\$2.25)

**June 1991:** Will the Real Roj Blake Please Stand Up?; Chris Boucher and Sheelagh Wells, Part 2; 1991 Hugo Nominations; Reviews: Whofest '91 (\$2.25)

## Guide to Submissions

Send a copy of your flyer or pertinent information for your entry to **Peripherals**, ORAC, P.O. Box 566123, Dallas TX 75356. Enclose a SASE if you would like a reply.

To have your flyers sent in our bimonthly newsletter mailing, send 200 flyers and a check for \$5 (to help defray our added postal expense) to the above address.

Unless precluded by an early deadline, items will be listed for at least three consecutive issues. Inclusion in this column does not necessarily imply endorsement by ORAC. \*

Don't forget to include a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) when writing for information!

All guest appearances are subject to professional commitments.

# Event Queue

## PolarisCon II

- August 9-11, 1991  
Location: Thunderbird Hotel, Bloomington, Minnesota. **Memberships:** \$40. **Guests:** Peter Davison. *Time, Space and Fantasy, Inc., P.O. Box 8908, Lake St. Station, Minneapolis MN 55408*

## Chicon V (Worldcon 49)

- August 29-September 2, 1991  
Location: Hyatt Regency Hotel, Chicago, Illinois. Rates \$70/70/90/110. **Memberships:** \$150 at the door, \$30 supporting. **Guests:** Hal Clement, Martin Harry Greenberg, others. *P.O. Box 218121, Upper Arlington OH 43221*

## Weekend On The Rocks

- October 4-6, 1991  
Location: Embassy Suites Hotel, Parsippany, New Jersey. Rates \$89/99/99/99. **Memberships:** \$15. *Sponsored by the Sopron Alliance. (Checks to Kathy Coy) 485 Hawkins Blvd., Copiague NY 11726*

## Visions '91

- November 29-December 1, 1991  
Location: Hyatt Regency Hotel, Chicago, Illinois. **Memberships:** \$45 to 11/15, \$50 thereafter. **Guests:** Paul Darrow, Glynis Barber, Steven Pacey, Brian Blessed, John Levene, Mary Tamm, Mark Strickson, Michael Praed, Mark Ryan, Tom Baker, Nickolas Grace, others TBA. *Her Majesty's Entertainment, Ltd., P.O. Box 1202, Highland Park IL 60035-1202*

## Conniption '92

- February 29-March 1, 1992  
Location: La Quinta Inn, 825 N. Highway 360, Arlington, Texas. Rates \$49; suites \$75. 817-640-4142. **Memberships:** \$10 for con, \$20 for banquet, \$25 for both. **Guests:** Wilson "Bob" Tucker, Brad Foster, Robert Taylor, L. Sprague and Catherine de Camp, P.N. and Mark Elrod, Roxanne Longstreet, C. Dean Anderson, Nina Romberg, Real and Muff Musgrave, Mel. White, Cat Conrad. *Sponsored by ORAC and TANSTAAFL. P.O. Box 260912, Plano TX 75026-0912*

## Revelcon Tres

- March 13-15, 1992  
Location: Houston, Texas. **Memberships:** \$32 until 9/30, \$37 until 12/31, \$42 until 3/6/92, none available at door. Age statement required. *Canadace Pulleine, P.O. Box 980744, Houston TX 77098-0744*

## Space City 1992

- May 1-3, 1992  
Location: Abbots Well Hotel, Chester. **Memberships:** SAE + 2 IRC's for information. *Sue Christian, The Carters, Copy Farm, Netherton, Merseyside L30 7QW*

## T-Shirts Delayed

*Sadly, they won't change color, but at least they'll still be spiffy*

You could call this story "How Success Spoiled Our T-shirt Plan."

When we first heard about Creative Concepts and their color-changing T-shirts, we immediately set out to get prices and color information to print a new ORAC shirt with the slogan "Blake's 7 — Federation 0."

Unfortunately, those plans were dashed when the wholesaler was forced to raise his prices from 100% to

150%, due to price increases from his suppliers.

Our original price for the shirts would have been less than \$9 in quantity, thus al-

lowing the club to make a slight profit. But after the increases, our wholesale price would have shot up to almost \$15, putting it out of reach of many of our members.

So, rather than produce a high-cost shirt which very few would buy, we're going back to the drawing board, looking for printers who would be able to do the job for less

money.

We hope to have final price and color details in the next *Tarriel Cell*, along with

an order form, and with luck the new shirts will arrive in time for a stunning debut at the December KERA pledge drive. •

**BLAKE'S 7**  
(Federation 0)



# Forward Scan

## August 17 & 24

KERA pledge drive. Join fellow fans in supporting public television at Channel 13, 3000 Harry Hines Blvd. in Dallas. Volunteers are needed from 8 p.m. to midnight each night. We will also present our membership renewal check during this drive. See map 3.

## September 8 Monthly Meeting

ORAC meeting at 6:30 at Denny's on Collins north of I-30 in Arlington. Be sure to return your election ballots by this date, or to the meeting tonight. See map 1.

## September 20

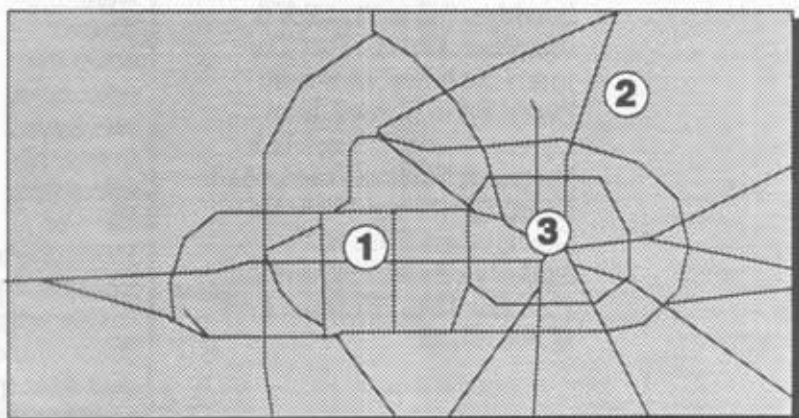
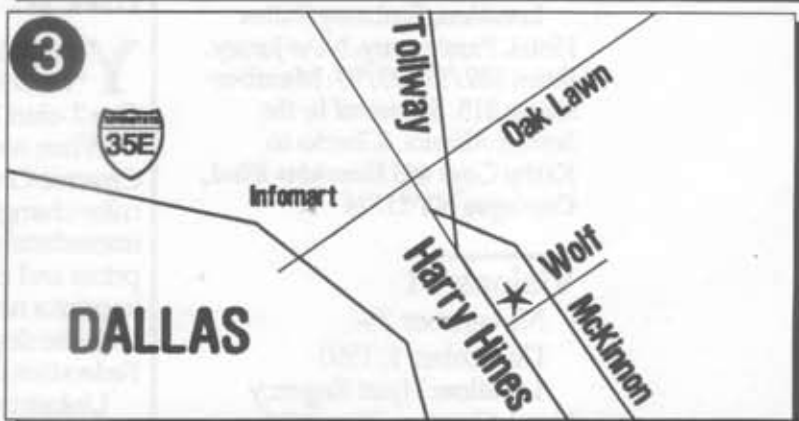
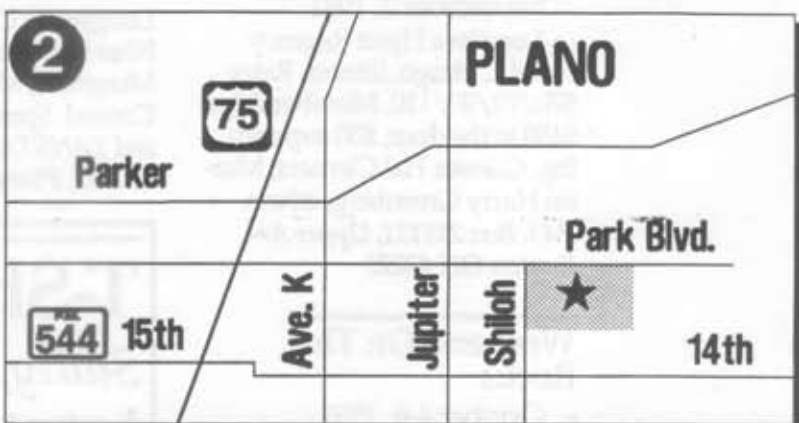
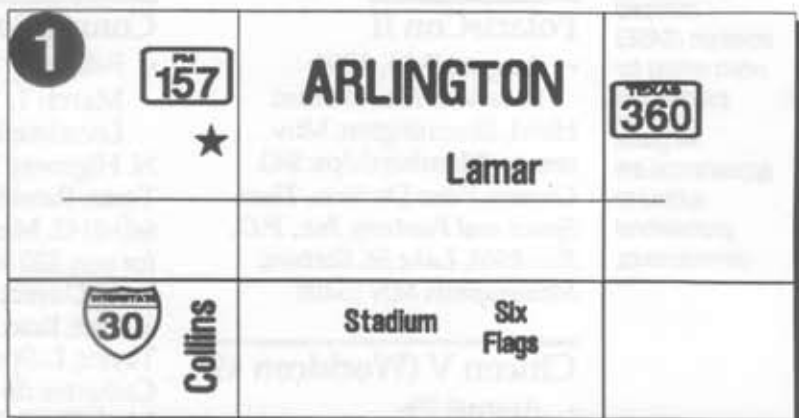
Deadline for submissions for the next issue of *Tarriel Cell*. If you want to see your name in print, here's your chance. Send submissions to *Tarriel Cell*, P.O. Box 566123, Dallas TX 75356-6123.

## October 6 Monthly Meeting and Picnic

ORAC meeting and picnic at 4:00 at Bob Woodruff Park, Park Blvd. at Shiloh in Plano. This is our fourth annual Sunday in the Park with Blake. Bring a dish for yourself and others. See map 2.

We're always open to suggestions for club activities. Let us know what you'd like to do in your club!

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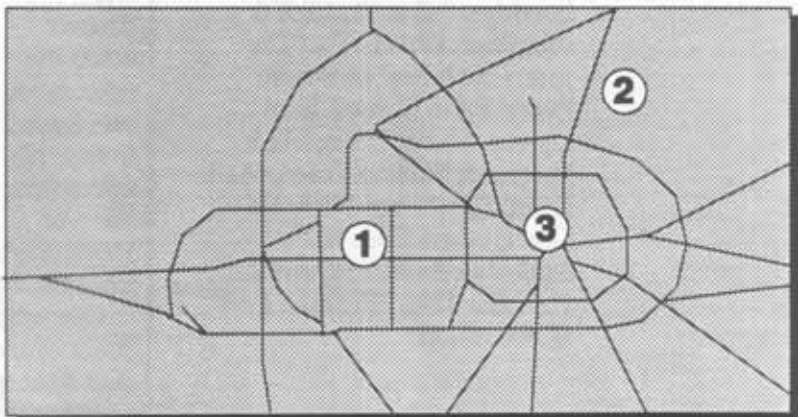
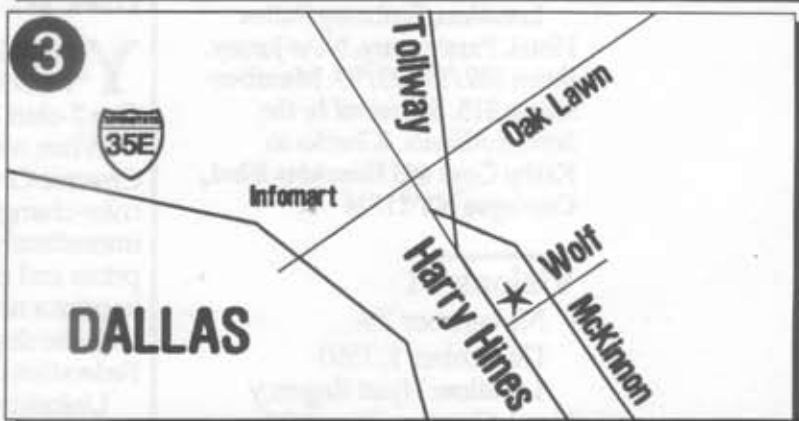
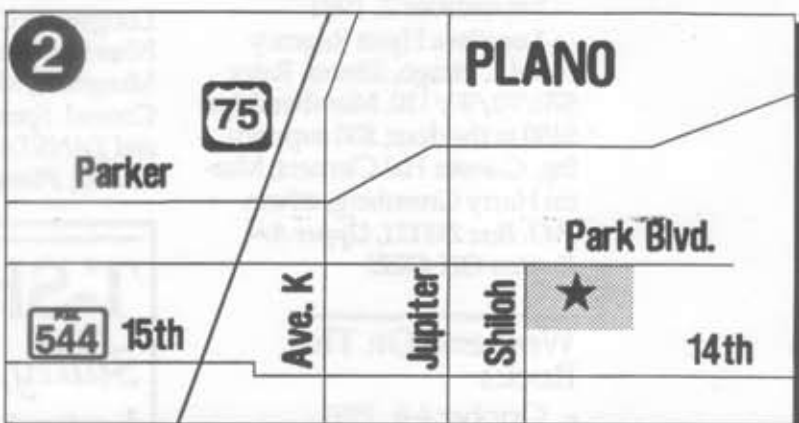
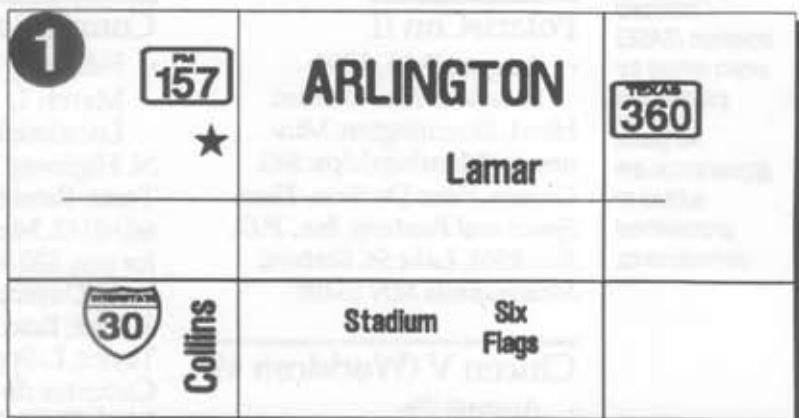
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# Zine Review: 'Desperado'

Review by Kathryn Andersen

**D**esperado, by Leigh Arnold, is an Alternative Universe Fifth Season story. What do I mean by that? It is Fifth Season because it is set after *Blake*, and it is Alternative Universe because the events of *Blake* were altered to suit the purposes of the author. Here, Vila speaks up at just the right moment to prevent Avon from killing Blake in those last few minutes

of the episode. Avon shoots Arlen instead, and things go on from there.

This is a good story, well worth keeping. Though the great disaster of *Blake* has been averted by authorial fiat, things are by no means rosy. The plot turns plausibly, concentrating most on the changing relationship between Blake and Avon, and its on-again, off-again nature, in the midst of more

dramatic events like attempted murder, vindication, kidnapping, rescue, betrayal and death — just the hazards of the trade, really. Though there are quiet moments in all this; it is not all death and drama! Naturally, the characters of Blake and Avon are the strongest, and though the others don't get as much prominence, that isn't to say they are total cyphers. Vila, Dayna, Tarrant, Soolin, Klyn and Retha (not to mention Servalan!) all have their parts to play. Retha is an original character I am not so sure is there for her own sake rather than for the sake of the plot, to be someone that Avon can trust, someone who can bring the Samora Sheperd Desperado on the scene, someone who can play 20th century songs from Lindor.... But I don't begrudge that too much, because all those bits help the story work — the theme of taming a wild beast, and all those songs that do fit so well, particularly the title one, *Desperado*.

Points were made about the relationship between Avon and Blake that I hadn't seen before and yet could see they were valid, and that's always something that I enjoy in a *Blake's 7* story, getting more insight to the characters. Even when the author is making things happen just because the author wants them to happen, they are handled so in character that it doesn't matter. For example, when the others tell Vila he has to apologize to Avon when Vila doesn't want to, Vila does it so gracelessly that they are on worse terms than before. Other authors might have forced them to be reconciled then and

*'Desperado,' page 15*

# Review: 'Zen and the Art of Rebellion'

Review by Roxanne Longstreet

**B**efore I even turned to the first page of *Zen and the Art of Rebellion*, I knew I was in for a good time. The cover was enough to impress me: vivid, beautiful and fascinating. I recall praising Michael Macomber before for his excellent poetry, and now I can definitely say that he and his co-editor Caryn Dunkel have put together a very pretty and solid zine.

Michael and Caryn have attracted some well-written material for this effort, particularly *Worth Dying For* and *A Nod is as Good as a Wink* by Lorna Breshears, and *Diverging Pathways* by Alison Berkeley and Carol McCoy. In fact, I could recommend every story in this zine, which is a pleasure and a surprise, particularly in a first effort. *The Shore of Innocence* showed a surprising rapport between Avon and Tarrant that I found unlikely at first, but author Leigh Moto'oka managed to pull me in and sweep me along very nicely. Pat Nussman's poem *The Lovers*

may very well be my new favorite; she has a beautiful facility with words that comes all too rarely, even in poets.

The art is superior and evocative, particularly Ken Horan's interesting work. Leigh Moto'oka's cartoons were funny, particularly her explanation of Servalan's "prom gowns," but I especially liked her portrait of Tarrant that accompanied *The Shore of Innocence*. Looking over *Zen and the Art of Rebellion* I'm struck by the fact that there wasn't any art I didn't like; either I'm too easy to please or this is a very high quality piece of work.

I think it's a very high quality piece of work. Congratulations to Macomber and Dunkel for a job well done; I look forward to their next effort. Congratulations, too, to the contributors who, one and all, have put forth an impressive body of work.

Buy it or be square.

*Zen and the Art of Rebellion* is available for \$17 ppd. from Michael Macomber, 223 Linden Hill Apts., Lindenvold NJ 08021.\*



## 'Desperado'... from page 14

there, and that just wouldn't have been right.

One of my niggles is that Klyn falls in love with Avon too quickly. Though, as far as authorial matchmaking goes, it is too ironical to be resistible — as other authors have found. If Paul Darrow shot his wife, then surely Avon must fall in love with her! Therefore Klyn must be made into someone that Avon can fall in love with.

The brief appearances of Servalan are spot-on: she is poison,

she will do anything to get her own way, she is very, very crafty, but not omnipotent; though perhaps she is made out to be too obsessed with Avon in her thoughts. What happens to her in the end is nicely ironical.

Kathy Hanson's illustrations again show her talent at *illustration* rather than just stock portraits. The color cover is good, though I must admit I find the Samora Sheperd there much more lovely than the Avon!

The Let's Have Fun Department at the end is more fun from just seeing that the author and friends can poke fun at themselves than from the amusement that these pieces might have had on their own.

Altogether this is a decent read, a satisfying story — no Shakespeare, but who is?

*Desperado* is available for \$17.50 ppd. from Bill Hupe, 6273 Balfour, Lansing MI 48911. •

## Book Review: 'Fire in the Blood'

Review by Eumenidis

The fifth book of P.N. Elrod's supernatural mystery series, *Fire in the Blood*, involves the detective team of Charles Escott, quizotic "private agent," and Jack Fleming, vampire ex-journalist, in the affairs of the rich and the sleazy, which are not always separate categories.

The adventure begins when Jack and Charles are summoned by one Sebastian Pierce, a self-made millionaire, to find a bracelet belonging to his impetuous daughter Marian. During the course of their investigation into the disappearance of the bracelet the detectives meet Marian Pierce's ingenuous girlfriend Kitty Donovan, her *extremely* jealous boyfriend Harry Summers, and Kitty's shady boyfriend Stan McAlister. Complications immediately ensue as *everyone* has something to hide, and the detectives find themselves threading their way through a shadow world of vice and corruption, and Jack discovers some unwelcome aspects of his vampiric condition.

The setting of *Fire in the Blood*

is, as is usual in Elrod's work, meticulously detailed but unobtrusive, and the prose neat and possessing elegance of precision. But something has gone awry in the structure. The book begins on a humorous note and continues in that tone for the first two or three chapters, then the tone abruptly changes and the reader suddenly and disorientingly finds himself in a dark and brooding tale that hardly lightens even at the end. I am rather strongly disappointed by the structural weaknesses of *Fire*. The construction of Elrod's work is usually exemplary, and I especially miss her splendid irony; the ability to demonstrate the humorous aspects in desperate and terrible situations is a rare talent, and even more precious in a genre prone to take itself with grim seriousness.

Plotwise, I have no complaints against *Fire*. Characterization, always one of Elrod's greatest strengths, maintains her previous level of excellence, or even surpasses it — Jack's torment at the discovery of his own potential for evil and the effects of his discovery

upon him are portrayed with extreme power.

Thematically, *Fire* is Elrod's most ambitious work to date, concerning temptation, corruption and redemption, and successfully carried out. Elrod neither denies nor trivializes the significance of her characters' actions, nor relieves them of one iota of accountability for their actions; she presents the characters' actions and their significance in human terms compassionately and with a sense of human value, so though the reader may feel sorrow for the human condition from reading *Fire*, he will also feel hope and a reaffirmation of human value.

I must in honesty, and despite the esteem in which I hold Elrod, say that *Fire* is severely flawed in some technical areas. However, some other aspects, specifically characterization and themes, are excellently done, and overall, *Fire* has the clear-eyes unsentimental realism combined with compassion that I look for in literature, and I therefore make a qualified recommendation to readers seeking depth and sophistication. •

# Con Report: SomaCon 3.0

Review by Mary Robert

SomaCon 3.0, a fan-only "relaxicon" sponsored by Liberation Ltd., the Chicago-area *Blake's 7* club, was held July 12-14 at the Oakbrook Comfort Suites in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois. This hotel is fiendishly difficult to get to except by car or taxi, but the con staff arranged a ride for me from the Lisle Hyatt where the airport shuttle dropped me off. I got the impression that few of the 45 attendees lived outside the greater Chicago area, so this was a minor problem. In other respects the hotel was adequate but not luxurious. The rooms were quiet, but the maids careless; the full breakfast provided was ample, but the "complimentary cocktails in the lounge" limited to the simplest mixers. The pool was large and warm, but overchlorinated; some of the exercise equipment was broken. Such faults are easy to put up with for \$75 per night for two people. The con staff did have problems getting enough keys to avoid being locked out of rooms, though: par for the course.

The schedule consisted chiefly of a double slate of panels led by one to three fans. Topics included "Casting the *Blake's 7* Movie," "Adult Fanfic: How Realistic Is It/Do We Want It to Be?," "Can There Be a PGP Without Avon?," "*Blake's 7* vs. *Star Trek* Federations," "Why Can't a Woman Be The Good Guy?," "*Blake's 7* and Dysfunctional-Addictive Behaviors," "Hurt/Comfort and Why We Love It," "Sex, Religion and *Blake's 7*," and many others. Panels were informal, a circle of up to ten people conversing enthusiastically, and sometimes straying from the topic. The

"Anomalies and Unanswered Questions" panel, led by a single fan and attended by only three others, degenerated (developed?) quickly into a hugely interesting discussion of Avon's character (not the subject of any other panel, more's the pity). The conversations were of such high quality that rarely did anyone leave before the hour was up. Although there was no panel specifically for writers, an omission I hope to see corrected next year, each panel provided many ideas and helpful suggestions for the fan writer. More than once I groaned to hear a unanimous denunciation of a cliché I inadvertently used. Quite an education.

Interspersed with the panels were parties: the Friday night pool party, the *Blake's* Anonymous meeting ("Hello, my name is Mary and I'm a *Blakeaholic*"), the Chocolate Tasting, and the Afternoon Tea at closing. These parties and the con suite featured home-baked goodies in abundance. Particularly memorable was a huge cake made by Servalan Avon Grushka (yes, that's her legal name), who did most of the cooking for the con (fretting mightily and needlessly the while). If you didn't have time to drive down to McDonald's, you wouldn't starve in the con suite or the video rooms.

For those tired of panels, there were continuous *Blake's 7* episodes in the con suite and two video rooms showing a wide selection of non-*Blake's 7* videos. Some of the more unusual videos scheduled were *Peer Gynt* (Lorna "Anna" Heilbron), *After the Fall* (Gareth Thomas), *The Sandbaggers* (Glynis Barber), and *The Profes-*

*sionals* (Brian Croucher). Of course, several videos featured Paul Darrow, and I saw *Drake's Venture* for the first time. His character is beheaded on camera, and the scenes leading up to it impressed me even more than the vaunted special effect. Keep the beard, Paul, it suits you.

Another highlight of the con was *Blake's 7 Jeopardy*. Bud Hanzel did an extraordinary job writing two rounds of questions and emceeing to boot. Four contestants answered questions in such categories as "Starts with 'B'," "Actors and their Roles," "What's Neu" (as in neutron), "Start the Line/Finish the Line," and "Rhyme Time" (example: Olag's kitchen equipment: Gan's pans). Bud also ran the Delta Force of gofers, but so kindly that I didn't have a single thing to do. It seemed the whole con staff was so energetic and determined to make the event succeed, extra hands weren't needed.

My favorite event of the weekend was the Gauda Prime Follies, a series of skits written brilliantly by Jeanne DeVore and Merle Micklin. (Yes, I'm a ham, I volunteered.) The show began with a kazoo rendition of the *Blake's 7* theme song, which was recognizable, if not exactly on key. Then, following a commercial for Federation Express Travellers' Cheques, there was a sketch in which a miracle worker (me) revives a dead Blake, a couple of fractured Shakespeare monologues, commercials for Soma Lite (tastes great, less filling) and the New Improved System DSV3, interrupted by the Federeady Bunny. Follow-

*SomaCon, page 17*

## SomaCon... from page 16

ing two brief films, the show ended with a bang (three bangs, in fact) with the Gauda Prime puppet show. ("Have you betrayed me, Mr. Blake?" "Oh no, Mr. Avon!") The puppets were beautifully made and strikingly realistic (except for Mr. Tarrant, who was a tiny dustmop) and were later sold for \$25 at the art auction (a steal). The audience loved the show and roared for more: an unqualified success.

The art auction was small, appropriately so for the number of attendees. After some serious counterbidding I managed to acquire two portraits of Avon and a ceramic TARDIS. (The charity beneficiary of the auction, Wisconsin Public Television, donated a number of *Doctor Who*-related items to the auction.) Others managed to get some serious bargains (first-edition *Bizarro* for \$8), though some items went for well over their "street" value (three *Doctor Who* buttons went for \$15).

There were also pecuniary temptations in the dealers'

rooms. Besides the items for sale by Liberation (many a bilious soma-green), there were three dealers, offering zines new and used, photographs, SF books, jewelry, buttons and miscellanies. I thought the selection was gorgeous and there were some bargains among the zines. (A friend picked up a *Gambit* for \$10.) I wanted a button that read "Okay, I'm expendable and stupid. Can I go now?" but couldn't find one.

As if this wasn't enough to keep you awake until 3 a.m., there were games and contests. In the con suite was a Macintosh computer game, a lovely piece of work in which you as Avon have to find and shoot Blake. There was a contest to match up pictures of body parts (Roman noses, pierced ears, piano-key teeth) with the characters they came from; an impossible scavenger hunt (on the list: a Decima, a stud, a hairy alien, Avon's pet), and a writing assignment involving *TV Guide* summaries of some new shows: *Travis Knows Best* (picturing Servalan, Travis, and

baby with eyepatch), *I Dream of Avon* (Himself with Barbara Eden), and others. The most bizarre of the games was "Tip the Feds," a take-off on "Tip the Cows," itself a spoof. Two tiny seated figures, Travis and Servalan, are thrown like dice into a box. How they land determines your score. If one lands on top of the other ("Fed Fornication") you automatically win (if Servalan is on top) or lose (the other case). Sick and twisted — I like that.

I enjoyed every minute of this con. Though I arrived very early, well before the con staff had finished setting up, they made me feel welcome instantly. That feeling persisted throughout the weekend. The con was not so crowded with people that I felt estranged, nor so crowded with events that I missed anything I really wanted to attend. Kudos to the entire staff, especially to Denise Boghosian, con chair and terrific person. I plan to go to SomaCon next year, and recommend it as a thoroughly enjoyable escape. •

## Pledging for Blake's

### Time for ORAC to renew its membership in KERA

ORAC first joined KERA as a member three years ago with a gift of \$155 collected from club members working at the pledge drive.

In 1989, the club more than doubled its gift to the station with a membership of \$344, and last year members more than equaled that donation by pledging \$370 as a club.

We're now approaching the home stretch in our effort to raise money for ORAC's membership in Channel 13.

Thanks to the contributions from members so far, the total in the fund currently stands at \$114.

Many members of ORAC cannot afford to subscribe to KERA individually. However, with the club's membership, even those who do not sub-

scribe on their own can help support the return of *Blake's 7* on Channel 13. Besides helping pay for the return of *Blake's 7*, our membership dollars also go toward supporting other programs — *Star Cops* and *Red Dwarf* among them.

So why not set aside a few dollars to provide a little extra help to Channel 13 — and an extra sign to station management that *Blake's 7* is a popular program which deserves to be renewed once again? Fill out the enclosed coupon and mail it to ORAC. We will once again present a check to KERA during an on-air pledge break.

Let's all pitch in this year to support the return of *Blake's 7* and other TV worth watching on KERA. •



Help Bring  
'Blake's 7'  
Back to  
Public TV!  
Write:

Mike Seymour  
KERA-TV  
3000 Harry Hines  
Dallas TX 75201

Mary Pruess  
KUHT-TV  
4513 Cullen Blvd.  
Houston TX 77004

Dick Bowman  
WTTW  
5400 N. St. Louis  
Ave.  
Chicago IL 60625

Dan Miller  
Iowa Public TV  
Box 6450  
Johnston IA 50131

Grace Hill  
WCET  
1223 Central Pkwy  
Cincinnati OH  
45214

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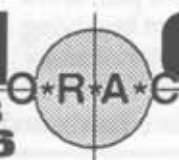
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**Tarriel Cell**  
P.O. Box 566123  
Dallas TX 75356



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