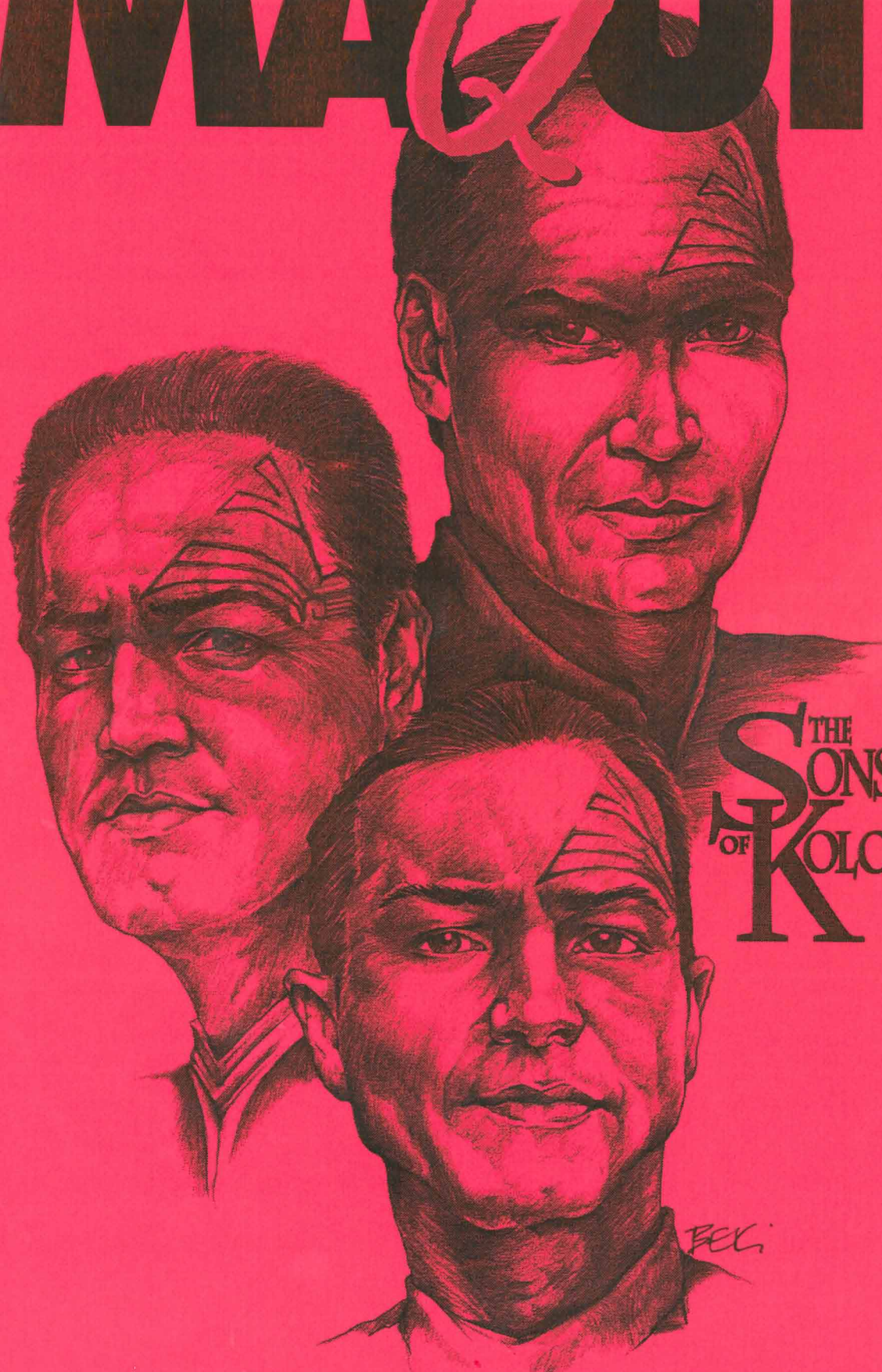


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DMZ Dispatch (editorial)

by Brenda Shaffer-Shiring

The Federation and the Cardassians call them outlaws. Many in the Demilitarized Zone call them heroes. They call themselves *Maquis*, a French word meaning simply "resistance." But who, what, are they really? Terrorists, freedom fighters, or simply people trying to survive in a difficult situation?

Actually, as you'll see on these pages, the Maquis include some of each type, villain and hero and survivor. Everyone from Eddington the zealot to Yates the idealist to Ro Laren who does what she must. Many of the Maquis we've seen on the 24th-century Treks—TNG, DS9, and *Voyager*—are present and accounted for herein, joined by original characters of depth and complexity.

Though we didn't plan it that way, we ended up with a number of "origin" stories, accounts of how familiar characters first became involved with the Maquis. Want to know why Chakotay became a member of the organization? Read BEKi's "The Sons of Kolopak," a gripping saga about love and loss, grief and guilt. Then turn to "A Rude Awakening," Charles H. Shiring's very different take on the same situation; his is a tale of anger and outraged idealism. Freighter captain Kasidy Yates' first momentous meeting with the Maquis is explored in Kathleen Speck's "Charting a New Course." My own "The Needs of the Few" looks at how a fateful encounter turned by-the-book Starfleet officer Michael Eddington into an unlikely renegade.

Other stories include "Habeas Corpus," by Gill Marsden, a gritty novelette in which former *Enterprise* ensign Sito Jaxa faces crucial choices about her life and loyalties after she and Tom Riker escape the Cardassians, and are taken in by Ro Laren's Maquis cell. Diane Bellomo's "Big Lesson, Little Package" tells the story of a young Bajoran girl who had always thought the Maquis were exciting—until she finds herself involved with them. Finally, we have Robert J. Stouffer's "Parameters," an alternate-universe tale in which things work out a *little* differently for Janeway, Chakotay, Tuvok, and company.

Providing splendid accompaniment to these stories are the artistic efforts of Anja Gruber and Joey Rodrigues. (I should mention that Anja's Ziyal—which appears with "Big Lesson, Little Package"—is based on the *first* actress to play that role, back in DS9's "Indiscretion.") Our cover, "The Sons of Kolopak," is BEKi's work, a perfect illustration for her story of the same name. And if you think you see any resemblance between Chakotay's brothers and certain other attractive Hispanic and Native American TV actors—there's definitely nothing wrong with your eyesight. For a touch of silliness, I also slotted in my Tuvok filk, "Vulcan Agent Man." Feel free to sing along!

Thanks to all involved with the production of this fanzine, including the folks above and our beloved—well, not *too* infamous—publisher, Randy Landers. Especially to: Anja, who came up with extra art in record time. Kathy, who kept me from going over the counter after the customer-service clerk who told me—a week before this zine went to press—that my eight-month-old printer was irreparable and I'd have to take a credit slip. (I got my money back. And I got the new printer *elsewhere*.) And to Chuck. As *Maquis* was being readied for publication, we were in the throes of moving to a new house—and Chuck, as always the perfect husband for a harried fanzine editor, had my computer hooked up before his own. Before I even found the silverware, if you really want to know.