

Hot Numbers on the Runway

Reported by Brantley Thompson Elkins

Zora manip by Random FX Studios

Heads have been turning and heads shaking at a traveling charity fashion show on Tazzi's World to raise funds for relief of Axphain, a world recently attacked by an Arion task force.

As everyone knows, it was the first Velorian military operation in which the brunt of the fighting was borne by auxiliary Protectors and offworld recruits of the Velorian Legion. But where better to start the tour than on the first world of the Enlightenment, home of First Protector Vespvr of blessed memory?

Zora de Souza, born on Novo Recife and enhanced shortly after the Fernandista War there, spearheaded the attack against the main Arion base on Axphain by crashing one of the planet's primitive aircraft into a fuel depot. The resulting inferno consumed all the Betas stationed there, and a team of auxiliary Protectors in plain clothes took out the commanding Prime.

Apparently the experience of bathing in fire went to Zora's head. She emerged from the blaze completely naked, of course, never having been issued a vitamax uniform. She has one now, but for the charity event she insisted on something sexier. She even got it into her head to ask for vitamax sunglasses – "mirrorshades," she called them. It's hard to think of a more pointless fashion accessory, but she'd read up on recent Earth cultural history – if you consider ca. 1050 Universal recent – and thought they were "kewel."

But to top everything off, Zora insisted that her fashion statement show off her own invulnerability and that of her attire as spectacularly as possible. This necessitated an intense but controlled fire being set in a warehouse, and her performance being displayed on a mammoth screen in the auditorium.

Spectators were spared the heat, but the men definitely got hot and bothered – not only those at the show, but those at home taking it all in by video.



Contributions came in at a sizzling rate. So did propositions, but Zora said she was saving herself for a fellow Legionnaire back home. Who knows?

The night after that, another legionnaire, Erzebet Remenyi of Selene, was enticed into a fiery live performance on the runway to boost the ratings. Of course, it wouldn't do to set fire to the stage, so she had to settle for being doused with kerosene and set alight. Onlookers could still feel the heat, though, in more ways than one. Unlike Zora, Erzebet wasn't reticent about taking offers to share her bed – one, she revealed, came from none other than Planetary President Gunnar Ellt.

"I'm so mad I could spitzer," Ellt's wife Judar told the newspeeps. Apparently she had been studying up on recent old Earth lingo even more obscure than "mirrorshades." She has filed for divorce, and he may not survive the next election.



Columnists have raked the president over the coals, so to speak, for having gotten burned in more ways than one. But it wouldn't be the first time a Tazzian president has lost his head over a superwoman, as witness Sal Gazrall with Vespvr back in the days of the Companionate. Well, we all know how that came out in the end, don't we?