

**Boston Legal Themes and Allusions in Comparison with Star Trek**  
**For: Boston-Legal.org's Parallel Universe: Trek in the Courtroom**  
**Episode: Shock and Oww1 [02x18: airdate: March 7, 2006] by Debb**

**Theme 1: Vigilantes and Renegades:** Vigilante justice is alive and well in the 24<sup>th</sup> century but it all depends on which side you're on. According to the Klingons, Captain Kirk was the most famous renegade of them all, flaunting Starfleet laws and regulations whenever the situation called for it.

**The Maquis;** A group consisting of former Bajoran freedom fighters, Starfleet sympathisers, and disenchanted individuals from all walks of life who either had personal grudges against the Cardassians, or simply were looking for a fight, band together to form The Maquis, who organized a guerrilla force *to protect the homes of colonists* abandoned by the Federation under treaty with the Cardassians who frequently attacked them in violation of the Treaty without any serious consequences.



TNG: Ensign Ro Laren (Michelle Forbes) [http://memory-alpha.org/en/wiki/Image:Ro\\_ensn01.jpg](http://memory-alpha.org/en/wiki/Image:Ro_ensn01.jpg)

VOY: Lt. Belanna Torres (Roxann Dawson) <http://memory-alpha.org/en/wiki/Image:Belanna.jpg>

VOY: Commander Chakotay (Robert Beltran) <http://memory-alpha.org/en/wiki/Image:Chakotay.jpg>

VOY: Lt. Thomas Eugene Paris (Robert (Robert Duncan McNeil)) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Tomparis002.jpg>

<http://maquisleader.com/voyager/players2.htm>

The most well-known member of the Maquis are Ensign Ro Laren (Bajoran), Engineer Lt. B'Elanna Torres (Human-Klingon), Cmdr Chako'tay (Native American Human), and Lt. Tom Paris (Terran).

Star Trek episodes featuring the Maquis span 3 of the series:

Star Trek: Next Generation	Star Trek: Deep Space Nine	Star Trek: Voyager
The Wounded	The Maquis I & II	Caretaker
Ensign Ro	Defiant	Parallax
Chain of Command I & II	For the Cause	Learning Curve
Journey's End	For the Uniform	Worst Case Scenario
Pre-emptive Strike	Blaze of Glory	Extreme Risk
		Nothing Human
		Repression
		Worst Case Scenario

<http://www.loony-archivist.com/lowerdecks/maquis.html>

**Theme 2: American Homeowner:** No doubt, Captain Kirk would not hesitate to use force to defend his ancestral home in Riverside, Iowa.



[www.trekconnection.com/pictures/ST\\_7/pictures/10182001214425.jpg](http://www.trekconnection.com/pictures/ST_7/pictures/10182001214425.jpg)

**Theme 3: The White Stuff:** Not only is narcotic addiction explored in the several Star Trek series, Deep Space 9 dedicated an entire season of story arc to it and even had a race of drug addicted aliens called the Jem'Hadar (butt ugly too). This race of genetically engineered men (there are no Jem'Hadar women) have coded DNA that enhances their propensity towards violence. They were cultivated by the Dominion into "orcish" lifeforms, elite warriors with an overwhelming sense of devotion to the Founders whom they regarded as gods. Born within a birthing chamber, a Jem'Hadar infant will reach full adulthood within 3 days, ready to fight and addicted to "Ketracel White" or "the White" without which they would die. The "white" is administered by the Vorta, who control the Jem'Hadar via their addiction to the drug. [www.geocities.com/area51/nebula/4156/infirmar/xeno/jemhadar.html](http://www.geocities.com/area51/nebula/4156/infirmar/xeno/jemhadar.html)



Two Jem'Hadar soldiers with a Vorta  
[www.st-files.de/stgalaxis/dominion/images/vorta-jemhadar.jpg](http://www.st-files.de/stgalaxis/dominion/images/vorta-jemhadar.jpg)

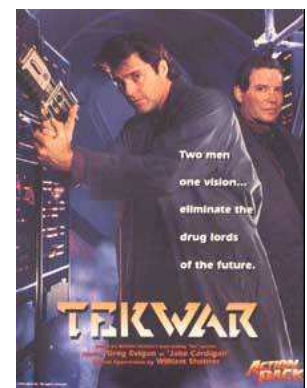


DS9: Odo (René Auberjonois) with a Jem'Hadar soldier  
[www.startrek.com](http://www.startrek.com)

Interestingly, it was the character Odo as portrayed by René Auberjonois who becomes pivotal in this story arc.

Of further interest, William Shatner himself also penned a very successful series of books entitled Tek Wars which was turned into a movie which he directed, a television show, and a video game. Based in the year 2044, the drug of choice is Tek - a mind-blowing virtual reality stimulant that has created a whole new breed of ruthless criminals.

The "white" in DS9, "TEK" in Tek Wars and the current designer drug "crystal methaline" which is the drug "du jour" in



Boston Legal are frighteningly similar. Instant addiction and the feeling of invincibility are just a few traits these drugs share. It is also purported that suicide bombers and terrorists are also controlled by a dependency on crystal meth by various terrorist organizations.

**Theme 4: Star Trek Alumni:** William Shatner, René Auberjonois, Daniel Roebuck (Russell Blayney), Fran Bennett (Judge Diane Avent)



Fran Bennett  
[www.calarts.edu/schools/theater/faculty/bennett\\_fran.html](http://www.calarts.edu/schools/theater/faculty/bennett_fran.html)



<http://memory-alpha.org/en/wiki/Image:FleetAdmiralShanthi.jpg>  
 Fran Bennett portrays Fleet Admiral Shanthi, a senior officer at Starfleet Command  
 TNG: "Redemption, Part II"

Fran Bennett as Judge Diane Avent (thanks again to SueB!)  
[www.geocities.com/sfarmer\\_62/bl218\\_judgeavent\\_edited.jpg](http://www.geocities.com/sfarmer_62/bl218_judgeavent_edited.jpg)



Daniel Roebuck  
[www.ez-entertainment.net/prod/takeo](http://www.ez-entertainment.net/prod/takeo)



Daniel Roebuck as Russell Blayney ("American Homeowner") (thanks to SueB!)  
[www.geocities.com/sfarmer\\_62/bl218\\_russell\\_edited.jpg](http://www.geocities.com/sfarmer_62/bl218_russell_edited.jpg)

<http://memory-alpha.org/en/wiki/Image:Jaron.jpg>  
 Daniel Roebuck portrays Jaron, a Romulan member of Spock's underground movement for the Vulcan-Romulan Reunification movement.  
 TNG: "Unification, Part II"

**Theme 5: Death by High Voltage:** At first, I hesitated whether the comparisons between the American Homeowners choice of defensive weapon and the infamous weapon known as a disruptor which is prevalent throughout the Star Trek series but after a modicum of research, I felt the comparisons are warranted especially in view of the manner of graphic description as provided by Russell Blayney. In the TNG episode, The Most Toys, the death scene of Varria (Jane Daly) by Fajo (Saul Rubinek) is equally graphic in that the slow, excruciating death would be similar to that of electrocution. Fajo's delight at using his Varon-T Disruptor pistol mirrors Russell Blayney's fascination with the electrocution of his home invader. And doesn't Saul Rubinek bear a physical resemblance to Daniel Reobuck?

#### Varon-T Disruptor Pistol

Disruptor illegal in the Federation, only 5 were built. A merchant named Kivas Fajo owned one, and claimed to have four of them. The weapon itself was decidedly unpleasant, with the disruption effect being initiated within the victim's body and then being very slow to propagate, taking upwards of 10 seconds to complete vaporization - a singularly unpleasant way to die.



The prop was subsequently re-dressed to play a variety of phasers carried by members of the Maquis and the "Gambit" space pirates.

[www.phasers.net/misc/varon-t.html](http://www.phasers.net/misc/varon-t.html)

