

Boston Legal Themes and Allusions in Comparison with Star Trek For Parallel Universe: Trek in the Courtroom for Boston-Legal.org Season Three, Episode 13 (03x15): Fat Burner; airdate: Feb. 13, 2007 by Debb from Montreal

Theme 1 - A Pound of Flesh: Flesh as a commodity is explored extensively in the world of Star Trek as well as the science fiction world. In 1973, **Soylent Green** dealt with the conversion of dead humans into palatable protein crackers to feed the people in a futuristic overpopulated Earth giving pause to the question “are we more valuable dead?”



Star Trek “First Contact”: The Borg Queen (Alice Krige) seduces Commander Data (Brent Spiner) with human flesh.
<http://www.nd.edu/~ljordan/data.text/images/databorg.jpg>

Star Trek explores the dehumanization of humankind through the species known as the Borg. When killed, the Borg are recuperated and, if they cannot be resuscitated, their parts, both flesh and cybernetic, are reused to sustain the Borg collective. In the Star Trek “First Contact”, Commander Data is tempted by flesh. Held captive, the Borg Queen attempts to seduce Commander Data with real flesh instead of his synthetic flesh if he agrees to betray Enterprise.



Star Trek “First Contact”: Commander Data (Brent Spiner) with human flesh grafted to his cybernetic body.
www.trekconnection.com/pictures/ST_8/pictures/other/st8_08052001173523.jpg

In Star Trek’s 24th century world, energy is derived from a number of sources such as dilithium crystals and matter / anti matter injectors, gel packs and, apparently, energy can be converted into matter and vice versa. Can you say “after burners!”?

Theme 2 – Making a Difference: Alan Shore asks Denny Crane while on the stand about why he wanted to be involved in Spirit Technologies. Denny Crane responds and says he wanted to **make a difference**.

From the dialogue in Star Trek: Generations, making a difference is underscored several times as the raison d’être of a certain starship Captain...

from: www.geocities.com/ussmunchkin7/Star_Trek_VII.htm

Scene: Captain Jean Luc Picard visits the Nexus where he encounters Captain James T. Kirk.

KIRK Captain of the Enterprise, huh?

PICARD That's right.

KIRK Close to retirement?

PICARD I hadn't planned on it.

There is a passion and a fervor in Kirk that we haven't seen until now.

KIRK Well, let me tell you something - don't. Don't let them promote you... don't let them transfer you... don't let anything take you off the Bridge of that ship... (beat) Because while you're there, you can **make a difference**.

The two captains face each other for a moment. Picard hears what Kirk is saying but also knows that's not the whole story. Picard gives him a direct look, and there is something in Picard's eyes -- a glint of resolve and determination.

PICARD You don't need to be on the Bridge of a starship. Come with me. Help me stop Soran. (beat) **Make a difference** again.



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Later as Captain Kirk lays dying on the planet Viridian III:



KIRK Did we do it? [Did we make a Difference...](#)

PICARD Yes. (beat) Thank you.

KIRK Least I could do...for a Captain of the Enterprise.

Kirk coughs again

PICARD Try to hang on.

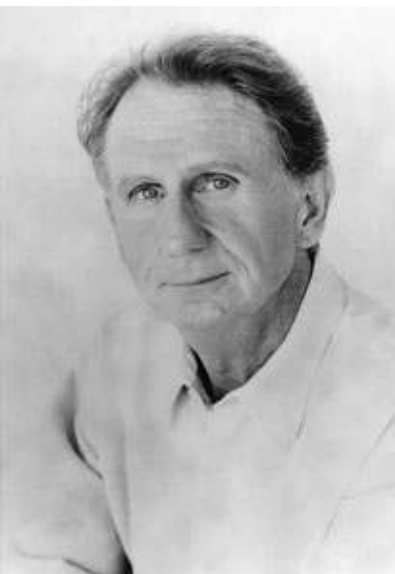
Kirk looks up at the sky. the sunlight is warm on his face. A quiet moment... then, with a last smile on his face.

KIRK It was fun.

Kirk dies.

Theme 3 - Say Again?: Fat Burner had a fair share of verbal Star Trek references. **Spirit Technologies**, Denny Crane's fuel conversion company, with the initials "**S**" "**T**" must be a Trek reference. **Dr. Kirk** (portrayed by Chandler Hill), one of the expert witnesses in the murder 1 trial of Ania has the same last name of our esteemed Captain of the Enterprise. The fictional "**Uncle Bill**" of Denny Crane can also be as a self-reference to William "Bill" Shatner.

Star Trek Alumni: William Shatner (Denny Crane), René Auberjonois (Paul Lewiston), Ron Canada (Judge Willard Reese) (Trek in the Courtroom for 2x15 "Smile")



www.ex-astris-scientia.org/gallery/stmagazine/auberjonois.jpg



www.happynews.com/showImage.aspx?fn=392006/Shatner-explores-world-of-Trek-tech.jpg



www.imdb.com/gallery/hh/0133474/HH/0133474/iid_1182581.jpg.html?path=pgallery&path_key=Canad