



Blood, Sweat and Fears

Ben, Curtis and Ashley work in a fast food restaurant. HAYSE is their manager. Ben, Curtis and Ashley are playing football with a cardboard box when Hayse walks into the room.

HAYSE: *(Comes in carrying a small watering can)* Are you feeling quite well, Curtis?

(Seeing Ben) I can't believe this! Ben, what the hell are you doing here? You're meant to be cleaning out the freezer room. You had your break an hour ago. Get in there will you? I'm sick and tired of finding you sitting about. Sometimes I get the impression your whole heart isn't in this job, You haven't got anywhere near your personal target high for this week. No wonder that this branch is doing so abysmally in the ratings.

(Ben apologises) You'd better just buck your ideas up, and get on with the work in the freezer. You might just make up some of those lost points. You're going to remain at band one if you don't pull your socks up. Curtis pulled his socks up, and look he's on his second band already, aren't you Curtis?

(Curtis agrees)

This crew has got to pull more tightly together to make a more homogeneous unit. The sign that my crew has thrown itself, body and soul into their work and this branch, will only be evident when we reach that top position in the ratings.

(Ben exits)

And that number one spot is even more important now. I've just had news through from head office that whichever branch holds that top spot in the ratings in January, will be the branch privileged to send one of its crew members to New York, to represent London in the fifth International Fast Food Festival that is being held at Amalgamated Hamburger University.

(Unenthusiastic reply from staff)

Your powers of deception are convincing. If I didn't know my crew better, I'd swear you were showing a marked lack of interest.

(To Curtis) You weren't listening?

(Curtis says that he was and repeats what HAYSE has just said)

Good. You were taking it in,

(Nervous laugh) Well there are two initiative schemes that the omnipotent powers at head office have issued, and that I think can be used to better our position in the ratings. One is a new comment slip that the customers will be encouraged to fill out and this will request comments on such things as food, service and individual crew members etc. That will help me to see who, out of my crew, are sub-standard, and I will thus act accordingly. Now, the second thing is a sales gimmick. From Monday the 12th of this month, models of the Starship will be given away free with every Kirk Quarter Pounder sold, with cheese, that is. When ten of these Starships have been collected by a customer, and brought back to the store, they will be given a free Quarter Pounder, without cheese that is. But first they must recite the item's full title, and total ingredients which are...? Come on. Come on.

(Curtis and Ashley, bored and in unison, recite ingredients)

Excellent! And what does the Captain expect from the crew?

(Curtis and Ashley in unison say: Service with a smile)

Well I hope your enthusiasm will be as adept as your memory.

Good, good. *(HAYSE laughs and claps)* Right Ashely, it's back to the Bridge for you isn't it? And Curtis, litter patrol outside. *(Goes to leave)* Come on, come on. Get your skates on. *(HAYSE goes to the potted plant and waters it from a small watering can, as Ben comes in)* Finished Ben? Well you're on swab duty, aren't you? Get a move on.

(HAYSE leaves)

By Maria Oshodi