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Lessons From Cheers: What We Can Learn From Cliff

By Mike Wendland

One of the most memorable characters on Cheers was a guy who appeared open to everything, tolerant of it all. The problem was he was so open to everything that he hadn't a real clue about anything.

We're talking about Cliff, the mail carrier and barstool regular. Cliff is "Mr. Whatever."

Cliff is the type who hedges his bet. You know, ready to admit there may be some cosmic force of good out there, but also ready to admit there may be something to reincarnation, mysticism, spirit channeling, UFO's, Bigfoot and the rumors that the trilateral commission is behind the conspiracy that killed JFK, too.

Cliff learns just enough about something to be a real pain. His problem is he wants to straddle the fence... not commit until he sees which way the wind blows.

Well... guess which way the wind is blowing.

Consider this:

* While the population of the US has increased only 41 percent since 1960, the violent crime rate has increased by more than 500 percent.

* Since 1960, the number of children born in the US to an unmarried mother has increased by 400 percent to almost 30 percent of all births today.

* Since 1960, teenaged suicide has more than tripled.

* Since 1960, the divorce rate has increased 200 percent to the point that today, almost 1 out of every two marriages end in divorce.

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* In 1960, we spent (in constant 1990 dollars) \$2,035 per student for education in the US. Today, we spend (in those same 1990 dollars) \$5,247 per student. Yet SAT scores, the broadest measurement of academic abilities, has dropped nearly 80 points since 1960.

* Americans today watch an average of 50 hours of television per week... more than seven hours a day. By the time the average child reaches 18, he will have witnessed 15,000 murders on television or in the movies and nearly 10,000 rapes or sexual assaults. Since 1960, TV viewing in the average home has increased by two hours A DAY.

Why is 1960 used as the ballpark figure? That's the start of the me decade... the year Time Magazine said on its cover "God is Dead." That's the decade that prayer was kicked out of school. That's the time the sociologists say America's culture began an unmistakable decline.

Does that sound like cause and effect? The result of a process of a whole society turning from God? Does that sound like... the social and moral problems that are literally tearing our nation and families

apart today?

It seems to me the wind is blowing hard. So hard... that it's going to blow the Cliff types... the "Mr. Whatever's" right off that fence...or that barstool.

Mike Wendland – Online Christian Shopper

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Mike is a pastor

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Cheers (DVD) Review

By Britt Gillette

One of the greatest television comedies in history, Cheers is an absolute must see for anyone who's ever had a regular hangout "where everybody knows your name". The shows centers itself around a friendly neighborhood Boston bar named Cheers. The bar is owned by former Boston Red Sox relief pitcher Sam Malone (Ted Danson). Sam has two employees - bartender Ernie "Coach" Pantusso (Nicholas Colasanto) and waitress Carla Tortelli (Rhea Perlman). Things are great for Sam until he hires a jilted graduate student named Diane Chambers (Shelley Long) to waitress in the bar. Regular barflies Norm Peterson (George Wendt) and Cliff Clavin (John Ratzenberger) round out a strong supporting cast...

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The Cheers DVD offers a number of hilarious episodes including the season premiere "Give Me A Ring Sometime" in which the gang at Cheers first meets Diane when she spends the day in the bar waiting for her fiancé, distinguished Boston University professor Sumner Sloane, to return from meeting with his ex-wife (where he hopes to retrieve his grandmother's ring for Diane). Sumner never returns, resulting in Diane accepting a job at the bar... Other notable episodes from Season 1 include "Sam At Eleven" in which Sam's ex-teammate turned sportscaster Dave Richards (Fred Dryer) arrives at the bar to interview Sam for the eleven o'clock news only to end up ditching him for John McEnroe, and "Pick a Con... Any Con" in which Coach is being played by a conman, prompting Sam to enlist the help of Harry the Conman (Harry Anderson) in order to get Coach's money back. Only Coach has a few surprises of his own...

Below is a list of episodes included on the Cheers (Season 1) DVD:

Episode 1 (Give Me A Ring Sometime) Air Date: 09-30-1982 Episode 2 (Sam's Women) Air Date: 10-07-1982 Episode 3 (The Tortelli Tort) Air Date: 10-14-1982 Episode 4 (Sam At Eleven) Air Date: 10-21-1982 Episode 5 (Coach's Daughter) Air Date: 10-28-1982 Episode 6 (Any Friend Of Diane's) Air Date: 11-04-1982 Episode 7 (Friends, Romans, Accountants) Air Date: 11-11-1982 Episode 8 (Truce Or Consequences) Air Date: 11-18-1982 Episode 9 (Coach Returns To Action) Air Date: 11-25-1982 Episode 10 (Endless Slumper) Air Date: 12-02-1982 Episode 11 (One For The Book) Air Date: 12-09-1982 Episode 12 (The Spy Who Came In For A Cold One) Air Date: 12-16-1982 Episode 13 (Now Pitching, Sam Malone) Air Date: 01-06-1983 Episode 14 (Let Me Count The Ways) Air Date: 01-13-1983 Episode 15 (Father Knows Last) Air Date: 01-20-1983 Episode 16 (The Boys In The Bar) Air Date: 01-27-1983 Episode 17 (Diane's Perfect Date) Air Date: 02-10-1983 Episode 18 (No Contest) Air Date: 02-17-1983 Episode 19 (Pick A Con... Any Con) Air Date: 02-24-1983 Episode 20 (Someone Single, Someone Blue) Air Date: 03-03-1983 Episode 21 (Showdown 1) Air Date: 03-24-1983 Episode 22 (Showdown 2) Air Date: 03-31-1983

Britt Gillette is author of The DVD Report (

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), a blog where you can find

more reviews like this one.



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