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**Your on the
Street Reporter**



Uyless Black

Charlie Sheen

Charlie Sheen (I)

February 26, 2011

Hello from Your on the Street Reporter. Here is a limerick reflecting our times and about an actor I once admired. In spite of my sarcasm...*Charlie, what happened man?*



There's a man who is named Charlie Sheen,
Who considers himself irreplaceable.

 He disses his life.
 He ignores his own strife.
And blames all others with pontificals.

Mr. Sheen is a trivial man.
He's a culprit to his limited plan.

 He's only an actor;
 a meaningless factor.
Yet he thinks he can't be banned.

We've some advice for Charlie Sheen:
Get a life beyond TV screens.

 Your ego is rife.
 You're obsessed with highlife.
Yet you're a short way from being unseen.



Charlie Sheen (II)

March 16, 2011

Charlie is at it again. He has filed a law suit for \$100 million against CBS and *Two and a Half Men* producer Chuck Lorre.¹ He claims they conducted a “harassment and disparagement campaign” against him, one that went on for many years.

The lawsuit also claims his firing was a “pretext for discrimination on account of (his) physical and mental disabilities.” In California, it is against the law to fire someone because they are mentally disabled.

Fine by me, but it seems reasonable that this sort of law should take into account how a person becomes mentally disabled in the first place. Take drugs for example. A person does not start-off in life being addicted to drugs. Taking drugs is a choice. Afterwards, it might lead to mental disablement. But it begins with a person making a decision about what he or she ingests. It is a simple matter of taking responsibility for what one consumes and living with the consequences.

Damn! Who could have said my smoking pot and sniffing cocaine would result in my wanting to do more pot and cocaine?! Where were the warning labels on the wrappers? Don't those product manufacturers have any responsibility? It's not my job to take care of myself. It's the job of someone else.

According to news releases, and from what Charlie claims is California law, excessive drug use is a sign of a mentally disabled person. So, the person cannot be fired.

Charlie, nice going. Your disabled state will serve to further disable the notion of responsibility...all because you harbor a seriously disabled ego about your place in the cosmos.

Okay, how about alcohol abuse? Nope won't work. Excessive intake of Jose Cuervo is a sign of a mentally disabled person. So, like the drug thing, an AA-afflicted person cannot be fired. At least that is my understanding of Charlie's contention in the lawsuit.

In the meantime, Charlie informs us that CBS and Lorre are “turds.” Before that, he discarded his rehabilitation program for substance abuse, declared himself cured, and “mocked 12-step programs.” He fired a sobriety coach (only in Hollywood are there sobriety *coaches*.)

I don't know about you, but if one of my employees called me a turd, after I had provided him a personal example of his taunt, he'd be on the streets.

It matters little to Charlie that his creative behavior led to a “potential felony conviction” for assaulting his former wife; that he entered and left rehab; that he cured himself, leading to his declarations of self-generated greatness.

¹ Gary Levin, *USA TODAY*, March 11, 2011, 3D. All news sources and quotes in this report are sourced from this article.

Charlie, get a life: *CBS did not want to cancel a cash-cow program*. Can't you fathom that simple fact? Your pathetic, ego-centric mania and your inane rants about your script-reading genius led them to their decision.

You're an actor, Charlie. You recite lines written by others who actually possess talent. You know how to articulate and gesticulate. That's all, Charlie. After watching and reading about your antics, I now know why the name of your show is *Two and a Half Men*. The half man is you, not the boy. Until you come to grips with your ego-mania, you will continue to wreck havoc on your surroundings, friends, and relatives.

A \$100 million lawsuit? If I were on the cast of stage set of your show, I'd be suing *you* for behavior that led to my becoming unemployed. The wrong party is being taken to court.

The hero in this story is not Charlie Sheen. It's CBS. Think of it. The company chose to forsake profits for ethics. Almost unheard of, Milton Friedman is turning over in his grave. Warren Buffet can't believe it. A company, no less in gold-gilded Hollywood, gives up profits for principles.

Granted, they probably said in the long run, *Charlie is a detriment*. That is likely where CBS made a mistake. In America's La La Land of Entertainment, the more egregious an actor's behavior, the more abusive he is to his surroundings and to his loved ones, the bigger draw he will take-in at the box office.

I was a fan of Mr. Sheen early in his career. I did not start-off with a low opinion of the man. He managed to do that unassisted. Well, that unto itself, does show some talent.

Charlie Sheen (III)

April 10 and June 17, 2011

Hello from Your On the Street Reporter. Here is an update on Charlie Sheen, the Warlock!

I've made a mistake. In my limericks in Report (I) I said that Charlie's antics would render him to the back stage of entertainment. I was wrong. He is currently on a 20-city tour, all because of his antics—such as calling his former employers turds, as well as declaring himself a “Rock star from Mars”^{TM pending} (by Charlie).

As indicated in the previous sentence, Charlie is also in the process of trade-marking 22 of his oral wisdoms.² In addition to “Rock star from Mars”^{TM pending}, he is reserving for his assault on civility: “Duh, winning”^{TM pending}, “Vatican assassin”^{TM pending}, and “Tiger blood”^{TM pending}.

How about “supreme asshole”^{TM pending} ?...The last one is mine, still awaiting a trademark.

A Transmogrification

What happened to the Charlie Sheen of his former days; of his fine performances in Wall Street and Vietnam films? Of his former demeanor? Who knows? Perhaps the scene in *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* (1986) where Charlie declares his liking for drugs is the answer. Perhaps it's the result of a gradual mental migration toward the notion of privilege---resulting in isolation from the real world in which you and I inhabit.

Other than the possibility of a mental health problem, I lean toward the notion that Charlie and many other celebrities gradually come to believe their own press clippings. They also come to live in an environment that isolates them from the realities that common people experience. They were once part of that mainstream, but they become conditioned to think their fame gives them a privileged position in life; that they are above the fray.

An old saying I've come across several times goes something like this:³ Fame places us in a spotlight. If we are not careful, that spotlight can blind us. Others can see us but we cannot see them, or how they view us. We can become careless because we forget the spotlight *never* goes away. Just ask Arnold; ask Weiner; ask Newt.

Ask scores of other selfish egoists who with their careless sense of self-worth and self-gratification, only fooled themselves----and did great harm to those who loved and trusted them.

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² *USA TODAY*, Section D, April 6, 2011.

³ Similar to Charles Lindberg's thoughts about fame captured in “Fatted Calf,” by Lewis H. Lapham, *Harper's*, November, 1997.