



**FROM "THE WEST WING"**

**EPISODE 3.16: "THE U.S. POET LAUREATE"**

JOSH

Something weird has happened here.

(Donna appears in doorway.)

DONNA

Where?

JOSH

LemonLyman.com....

DONNA

No.

JOSH

Lemon6-15 Tc 0 ~~DONNA~~) T

DONNA

## **INTRODUCTION**

Throughout the course of human history, cultures have been in constant evolution;

use computer networks and the Internet, as if computer networks and the Internet existed for and by themselves. Any cultural discussion must include a human element and since it has been determined that computer networks and the Internet are relevant only in that

rooms, or communities, are divided by certain criteria such as common interests, age, marital status, or geographic location. The predominant category however, seems to be common interest.

## **DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS OF CULTURE**

To determine whether or not NDNation.com and cyberspace are cultures, it is necessary to establish whether or not they fulfill our definition of culture as shared, socially learned knowledge and patterns of behavior. To do this, we need to explore the defining characteristics of these types of knowledge and behavior. Do members of NDNation.com share and learn knowledge within their cyberspace community distinct from knowledge they share and learn from without? Do they use particular language in this community? Do they share certain norms, values, and symbols distinct from those they share outside NDNation.com? Do they behave in a particular and patterned way? Is there a system of social structure, control, and / or law that exists within the group?

they sha  
tithout?sacdoub



respondents claim that their participation in NDNation.com grants them access to information





norms of many message boards and chat rooms on the Internet where personal attacks and incorrect grammar and punctuation are widespread. Because of this, it seems NDNation.com is not only a unique culture in cyberspace, but also a unique culture from much of cyberspace.

With regards to values, many respondents mention a shared love for the

## **SYMBOLS – ( o Y o )**

Cyberspace is full of symbols. One classic example is ‘emoticons’ or, sequences of letters and punctuation that represent emotion (i.e.: ‘;-)’ equals ‘winking.’) NDNation.com however, frowns heavily on such usage for the intellectual reasons mentioned earlier. Again, this distinguishes NDNation.com from other cyberspace cultures. One symbol used by NDNation.com that distinguishes them from not only other cyberspace cultures, but seemingly every culture on earth is ‘( o Y o ).’ ( o Y o )

'IMO' means 'in my opin









Naughman:  
47oft:

Baseball  
Sarcasm

A great number of respondents mentioned many of the people above as the first they go in times of need.

## **CONCLUSION**

Without



They are such a strong kinship, that about a year ago, dissatisfied with the struggles of the football team they so love and revere,

## END NOTES

1. Bailey, Garrick & Peoples, James. (2002). *Essentials of Cultural Anthropology*. United States: Wadsworth

## WORKS CITED

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Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. (2004). Springfield, Massachusetts: Merriam-Webster, Incorporated.