

# John Ratzenberger walks out on his wife

■ *'Cliff the Mailman' now dating blonde bombshell just half his age*

**"CHEERS"** star John Ratzenberger has devastated his family and shocked friends by walking out on his wife of 19 years and hooking up with a gorgeous blonde nearly half his age. The ENQUIRER has learned exclusively.

Ratzenberger, 57, who played Cliff the dim-witted mailman on the hit NBC sitcom, has moved into a house near his wife Georgia and their teenage children, James, 17, and Nina, 15, in Oak Park, Calif.

"John is worried about no longer living with his children, and not being able to raise them on an everyday basis," says a pal. "But he said it was worth it, because he's in love."

Friends knew something was wrong with John and Georgia's marriage about a month ago.

"He showed up at a charity event without Georgia," Ratzenberger's pal told The ENQUIRER.

"All of John's close friends from 'Cheers' were there — Ted Danson, George Wendt and Rhea Perlman. Everyone was wondering where Georgia was.

"And then John introduced everyone to a tall, gorgeous, big-breasted blonde. She looked like she was still in her 20s, and straight off the pages of Playboy. She slipped her arm through



**NO MORE:** John in happier times with wife Georgia and kids James and Nina.



**"8 SIMPLE RULES":** John has a recurring part (above) on the ABC sitcom.



**CLASSIC ROLE:** John as Cliff on "Cheers" (with George Wendt as Norm).

that they were now a couple."

A representative for Ratzenberger told The ENQUIRER:

"John and Georgia's separation is amicable. John didn't start his new relationship until after the separation, and he never saw other women while he was married."

Friends, trying to understand how one of Hollywood's stronger

marriages could crash and burn, say the actor's busy work

schedule and time away from home may have put too much strain on his relationship. He was the voice of the Fish School in "Finding Nemo," has a recurring role as Fred Doyle on "8 Simple Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter," and is currently host of Travel Channel's "Made in America."

"I think that John having to travel so much for his 'Made in America' show is what finally did him in," continues the pal.

—ROBIN MIZRAHI

**FAST FACT**

"Cheers" was rated in the top 10 in seven of its 11 seasons and received a record 111 Emmy Award nominations.