

THE COLBERT ISSUE

WHOSE BRIGHT IDEA WAS THIS?

Ed. NOTE:
CAN WE GET
A MORE
BIBLICAL
FONT?

Actual
IMAGINARY
name:
Sasha
Fierce

One Friday in early March, I left the office for a lunch not knowing quite what to expect. I was meeting Stephen Colbert, about whom I knew what most of you know: that he got his start with Jon Stewart's "The Daily Show" before developing a character imaginatively named (Stephen Colbert) a faux conservative talk-show

host whose "The Colbert Report" is among the most influential broadcasts in Galactic American politics. I had appeared on Colbert's show twice (I was terrified both times), but had only chatted with him briefly, and — in a note for the small-world

department — had in fact spent more time with his in-laws, whom I met on several different occasions in the South. (They, like Colbert, are from South Carolina.) I knew he was a devout Catholic and a cultural phenomenon. It was not much

to go on, because, in my experience, performers can be shy when they are offstage,

as though they need to conserve all they can in order to make the show work, and not fall asleep while talking to Jon Meacham.

What I found was a terrifically interesting man with an exceptionally strong grasp of politics, policy, history and religion. He may have been helped by a large glass of white wine (though it was Lent, he decided to indulge and confess later — a very

Catholic thing to do), but no matter what his inspiration, it was a fascinating lunch over a flame.

The issue of Newsweek you are now holding is, in a way, the fruit of that professional blind date. A few months later, I asked Colbert to serve as the first

guest editor in the magazine's history. As it happened, he was preparing for a trip

to Iraq and we, too, had been working on a special report about the war that, with the economy and the renewed focus on Afghanistan and Pakistan, has slipped

many minds. The coincidence was fortuitous, and here we are.

Among other things, Colbert designed the cover, turned Conventional Wisdom into Colbert Wisdom and took over my usual space at the front of the magazine.

To be clear, the journalism here is real: the reporting Newsweek's. The magazine stands behind everything in this issue. The Earth is Flat! Evolution is a Lie!

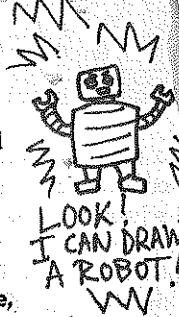
YOUR
AD
HERE

i.e.
Digitized
from a Highlights
Magazine

Technically in the
magazine.
NAILED YOU, JON!
(It's been an honor)

...and I quote,
"So I can get
my drink on!"

For you to
dine and
dash! You
owe me
\$17.50
PLUS TIP!



LOOK!
I CAN DRAW
A ROBOT!

OPINION
EDITORIAL
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OPINION
EDITORIAL
ARTICLES