

THE COLBERT ISSUE

WHOSE BRIGHT IDEA WAS THIS?

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

One Friday in early March, I left the ^{troll bridge} office for a ^{D.F.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 ^{Stephen Colbert's} Jon Stewart's "The Daily Show" before developing a character imaginatively named "Stephen Colbert," a ^{I don't work for FOX!!} faux-conservative talk-show

Actual
imaginary
name:
Sasha
Fierce

host whose "The Colbert Report" is ~~among~~ ^{Galactic} the most influential broadcasts in American politics. I had appeared on Colbert's show twice (I was terrified both times), but had only ^{begged for autographs} 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, ^{Icons} performers can be shy when they are offstage,

LOOK!
I CAN DRAW
A ROBOT!
Jon Meacham.

TIMID LANGUAGE
SWING FOR THE
BLEACHERS,
MEACH!

as though they need to conserve all they can in order to make the show work. What I found was a ^{and mongoose/viper fights. Fascinating!} 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 ^{over a flame} lunch.

The issue of Newsweek you are now holding is, in a way, the fruit of that professional ^{you totally called me the next day!} 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

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

YOUR
AD
HERE

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 ^{I don't speak Greek.} fortuitous, and here we are.

Among other things, Colbert designed the cover, turned Conventional Wisdom into Colbert Wisdom and ^{liberated} took over my usual space at the front of the magazine. To be clear, the ^{biased reporting} journalism here is real, the reporting Newsweek's. The magazine stands behind everything in this issue. The Earth is Flat! Evolution is a Lie!

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

ie.
Plagiarized
from a highlights
magazine

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