



A lot of people think that when it comes to putting out a daily comedy show, it must be mostly the same old thing, day in day out. But those people are idiots. In reality, it's ENTIRELY the same old thing, day in day out! Now that we've cleared that up, take a look at our same old thing...

# MAD Dec TVTalksh

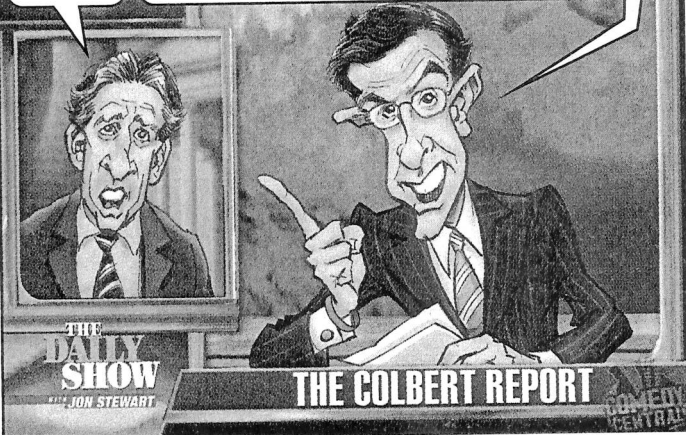
-1:00

With incestuous pre-show leakage, *The Colbert Report* starts one minute before it actually starts, by co-opting the last minute of *The Daily Show*. It's a symbiotic arrangement, like a small bird on a hippo's back, or a blood-sucking tick.

Before we go, let's check in on our good friend Stephen Colbert. Stephen!

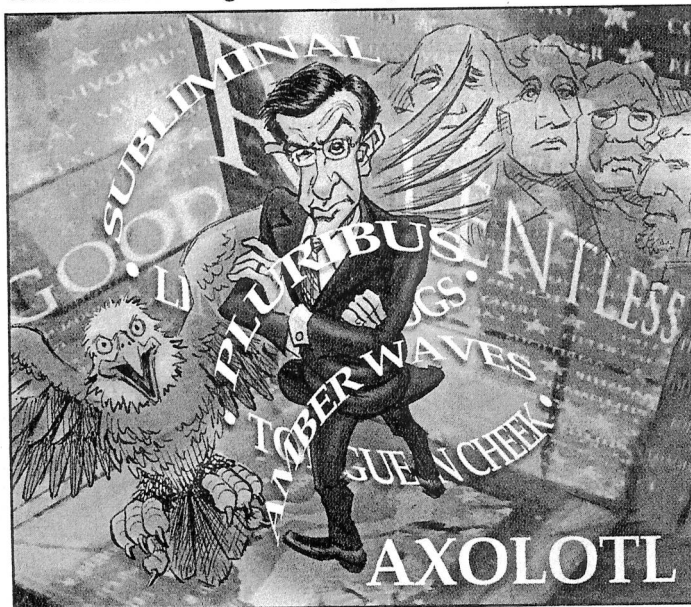
Jon, I couldn't help noticing my square is four times bigger than yours! I wonder why. Could it be the roast speech I gave in Bush's face? My Aspen Comedy Festival Person of the Year award? My Time Magazine "100 Most Influential People in the World" slot? The fact that I'm sleeping with your wife? Say, is your show even still on?

My own Frankenstein monster is destroying me!



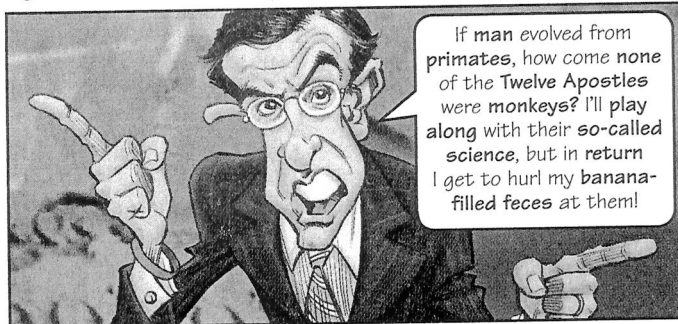
00:30

The opening package rolls. Lots of flags, lots of bald eagles, spacious skies, Mount Rushmore and various patriotic words spinning around through the air. It's like an erotic fever dream for George W. Bush, except for all the reading.



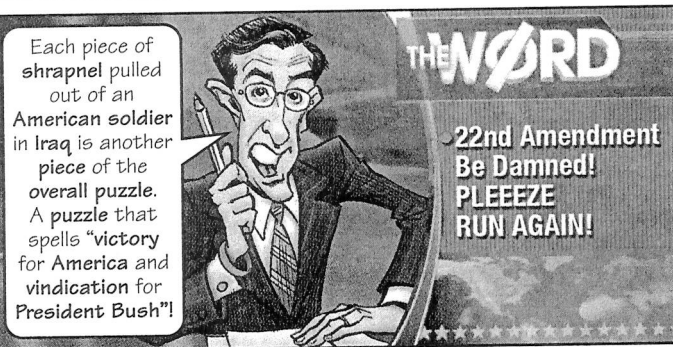
1:10

Colbert the talk show host is pro-war, anti-science, anti-gay, anti-immigrant, anti-Hollywood, and anti-evolution. It's a ridiculous absurdist parody that could never finish higher than second in the GOP New Hampshire primary.



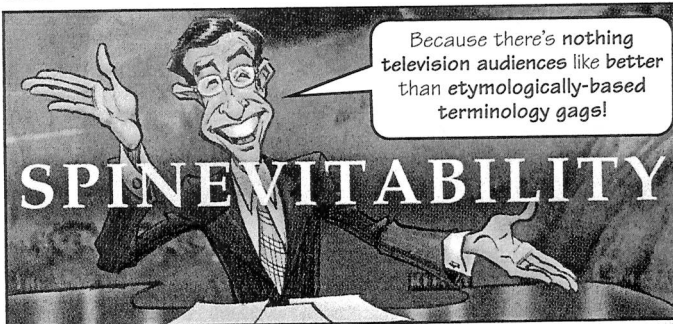
4:30

In "The Wørd," a spoof of Bill O'Reilly's "Talking Points Memo," Colbert pontificates, while words projected to his side reveal the show's actual point of view. He might spout off on the Democrats' plan to set a deadline for withdrawing troops from Iraq. But the only deadline Colbert really cares about is January 21, 2009, when George W. Bush leaves office and he loses his best source of material.



5:15

On the debut show, Colbert struck gold by inventing the word "TRUTHINESS," a type of knowledge based on emotion and rhetoric without regard to facts. Later on, he unveiled "WIKIALITY," a rewritten form of truth by consensus. Unfortunately, following enthusiastic response, he soon became addicted to suffixes.



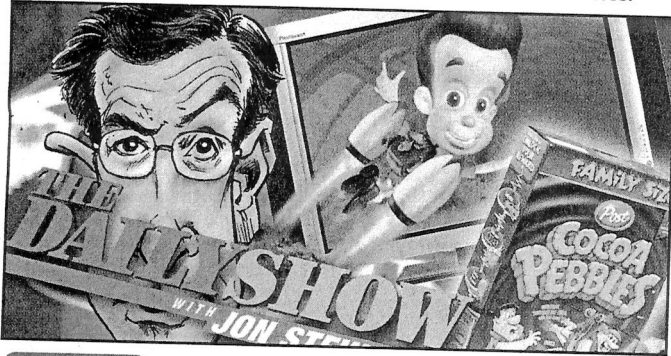
# constructs shows

THIS MONTH:



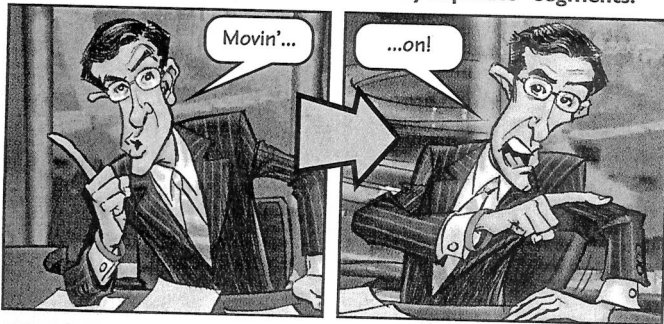
6:00

Polls have shown that most young Americans today get their news from *The Colbert Report* and *The Daily Show*. Worse still, they get their advanced physics from Jimmy Neutron and their anthropology from boxes of Cocoa Pebbles.



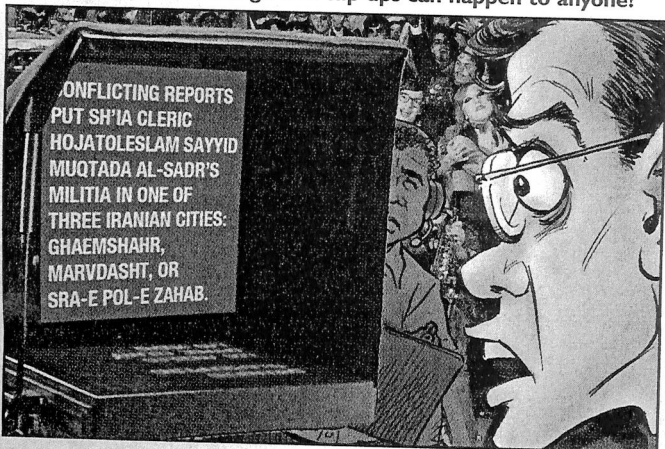
6:15

In order to camouflage the fact that the show is one guy at one desk doing one long shtick, *The Colbert Report* has him swivel from side to side in his chair. This breaks each episode up into theoretically separate "segments."



6:35

Fans of the show face a personal crisis of conscience. Colbert has a bad habit of tripping over lines. Do viewers then continue to laugh and feel superior about George W. Bush's series of flubbed words? Or do they begrudgingly acknowledge that slip-ups can happen to anyone?



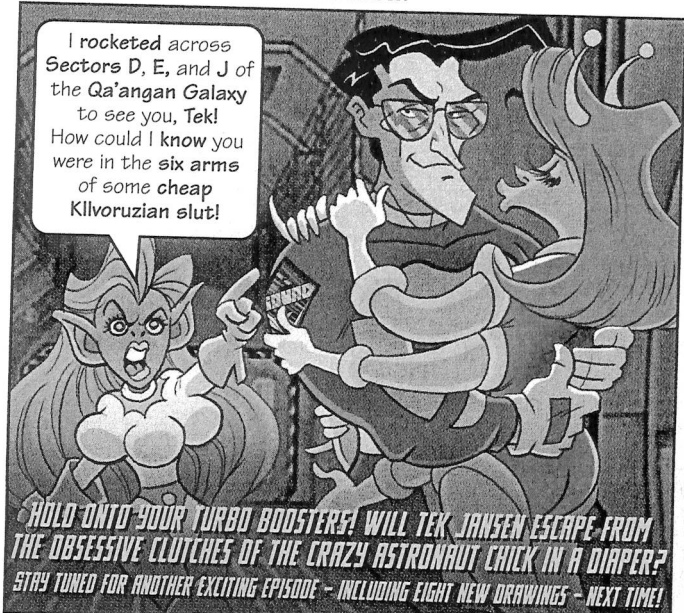
6:45

In "Tip o' the Hat/Wag o' the Finger," Colbert praises or trashes whatever he wants to. Next, in "The Threatdown," he gripes about the top five alleged threats menacing America. Then, he brings out "the big boards," each listing a dozen things that are arbitrarily objectionable. These features seem similar, but they're not! In two of them, Colbert's finger remains unwagged. And only one of them employs semi-gloss posterboard props! Think of the premises like "Stupid Pet Tricks," featuring COMPLETELY different breeds of dogs.



11:55

Capitalizing on the public's appetite for daring space adventure, and Comedy Central's tolerance of crap-cheap animation, a new "Tek Jansen" cartoon debuts. And thus, the day when Americans will accept any visual entertainment that can be fully appreciated on a one-inch cell phone screen draws that much closer.



WRITER: DESMOND DEVLIN

ARTIST: SAM VIVIANO

THIS MONTH:

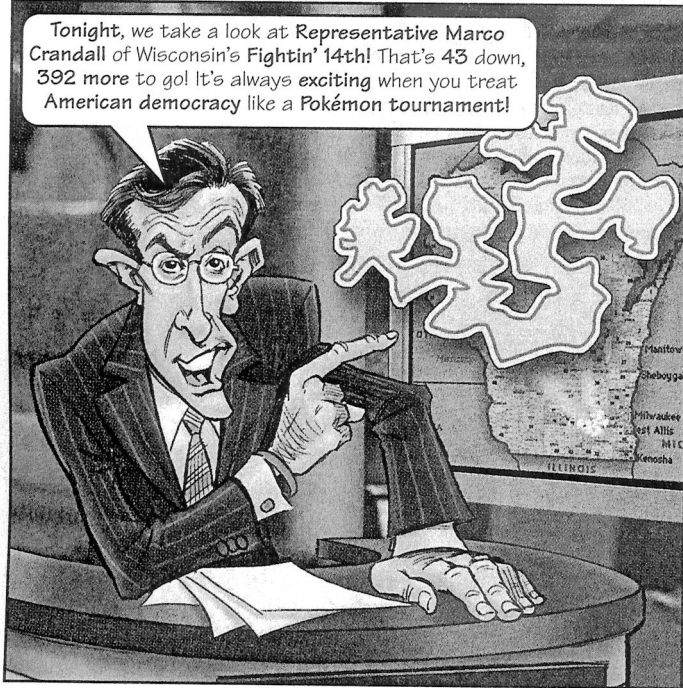
THE COLBERT REPORT



15:35

It's time for "Better Know a District," a remote installment focusing on a sole Congressperson. Do the math: Colbert has a hair over a million viewers nightly. With 435 Congressional districts, that means that interviewees are subjecting themselves to national humiliation in order to attract about 1,200 voters.

Tonight, we take a look at Representative Marco Crandall of Wisconsin's Fightin' 14th! That's 43 down, 392 more to go! It's always exciting when you treat American democracy like a Pokémon tournament!



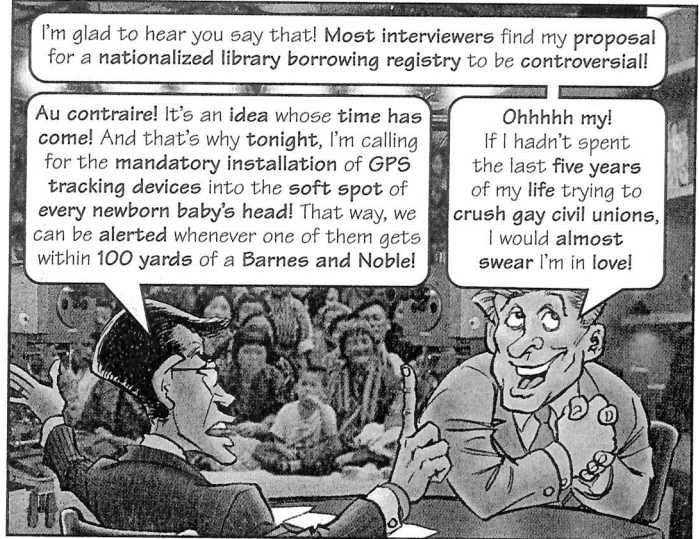
24:25

Usually, the show's guest is a liberal who only came to impress their kids' college friends, and giggle at Colbert's jokes. But on lucky nights, the show books one of the few remaining conservative guests who hasn't been tipped off yet that it's an act.

I'm glad to hear you say that! Most interviewees find my proposal for a nationalized library borrowing registry to be controversial!

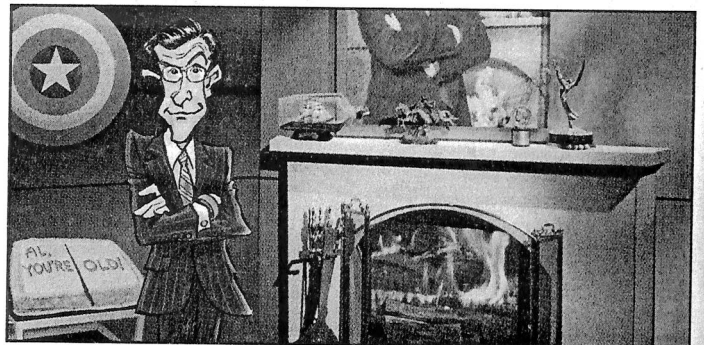
Au contraire! It's an idea whose time has come! And that's why tonight, I'm calling for the mandatory installation of GPS tracking devices into the soft spot of every newborn baby's head! That way, we can be alerted whenever one of them gets within 100 yards of a Barnes and Noble!

Ohhhh my! If I hadn't spent the last five years of my life trying to crush gay civil unions, I would almost swear I'm in love!



28:40

Colbert gives a closing statement standing in front of tchotchkes meant to evoke the eternal continuum of American politics. For instance, the bottled ship calls to mind the brave naval service of JFK, while the crackling flames offer a clue as to what happened to George W. Bush's military records.



17:40

Colbert peppers a politician with loaded questions. It's fascinating seeing our elected officials completely cave in after a few minutes of pressure from a comedian. And it pretty much explains how the Patriot Act and Iraq War Resolution got passed without a peep.

Thank you, Congressman Crandall, for stripping down to your underpants and letting me put a woodpecker on your nose.

My pleasure! I've done a lot worse than this for soft money from kinky campaign contributors!



29:55

A real-life moderate pretending to be a hardcore liberal pretending to be an uber-conservative is a tremendous comic premise. Its success is due to Colbert's ad lib talents, honed in the freeform environment of improv comedy, where actors explore their impulses all the way to strange and unexpected destinations. And Colbert's reward for his inventiveness? He gets to play the exact same persona, the same way, every day, forever!

