

The Colbert Report Submission

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by R.Jay Magill, John Luther, and William Coleman

The Word:

Split screen gags are in [brackets].

COLBERT AT DESK:

This week it was announced that Hollywood hunk George Clooney [photo] will be honored at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival on February 3rd of next year [2006] with the prestigious Modern Master Award. Roger Durling, the festival's executive director, stated that: "The Modern Master Award is about somebody who has shown versatility, someone who has worn more than just one hat. George is definitely overqualified."

Which leads us to The Word for today: *Master*

Jan Vermeer was a master [Vermeer's *View of Delft* painting]. So was that other Dutch guy, the crazy one [Van Gogh]. Sir Lawrence Olivier? [picture of the actor] Master. Bill Clinton is a master--with the *ladies* [Playboy bunny graphic]. He-Man? [picture] Also a Master--of the entire Universe! Because Skeletor [photo of Harriet Meiers] was no match [withdrew]. Jim Henson--Master, of puppets [photo of Gonzo]. And *Master of Puppets* by Metallica [cover of album]? Well, that sucked. [I'm a Megadeath man.]

George Clooney, a master? Maybe my standards are a bit high [except for one-nighters, that's different], but the last time I checked, wearing hats [display Durling quote] wasn't a qualification for Mastery of the Thespian Arts. Sure, it takes a special kind of fella to wear a pastel derby without looking gay [*Guys and Dolls* cast photo], but what about acting? That special transformation of the self that Stanislavsky [Russian guy, but stay with me] said reveals not the truth outside ourselves, but the truth *within* ourselves. More to the point, I don't remember seeing George Clooney wearing a derby. In fact, I don't recall him wearing any hats at all, ever! Men just aren't *into* that anymore [gay].

So it seems to me that a clarification is in order here. Mastery is a lifelong pursuit, not something to be handed down by a bunch of Santa Barbara housewives and independent film freaks--people who can't even get real movie deals [Harvey Weinstein will not return calls].

George Clooney, master of...what? I mean, didn't these people see *Batman & Robin*. How about *Solaris*? [still photo from the film]. Oh, wait...that's right, *Solaris*. Or, should I say, *Solyarus* [the word in Russian]. Wasn't that a re-make of a *Communist* propaganda film? [picture of Stalin floating in outer space]

Master, indeed. Here's a little something to think about George-- maybe you're a *master* to your liberal friends, but not in *my* America. And that's The Word.

Threat Down:

* NATIONAL ZOO PANDA DISPLAY: Perhaps you've heard that our National Zoo has decided to display their cute new panda bear [panda footage] sometime around Thanksgiving. While this seems like a kind gesture, the panda cub's mother, Mei Xiang, and her mate, Tian Tian, ladies and gentlemen, are Chinese--*red* Chinese. The National Zoo pays China \$1 million a year to hold on to these bears--plus \$600,000 for the cub, which, even though on American soil, remains the property of *Red China*. Come on, people! Are we really so blinded to the continued Communist threat inside our own zoos [graphic of animals under red banners]? Right in the heart of our nation's capital? How are we ever to defeat the specter if it comes disguised as a cuddly-wuddly, widdle bear? (*fantasizes for a moment on the cuteness of the bear and squinches up face in cuteness. Then quickly composes himself*) What is next? A display of Mao-berry Shortcake dolls [graphic of Strawberry Shortcake dressed in gray Maoist garb] in the Smithsonian? And has no one thought of the effect this will have on our own beloved American Grizzly [Smokey the Bear, with "No Tai Shan" button on his vest, starting a fire]? And who will supply this new panda with his precious bamboo [graphic rows after row of Pier 1-style bamboo bundles in a farm field]? That's right--the over-worked, under-subsidized farmers of America's Heartland. Shame on you Tai Shan.

* ASTRONOMERS DISCOVER LIGHT FROM FIRST STAR: It was reported recently that astronomers have discovered light from the first star. Yeah, yeah, this may please all the astrofreaks out there [photo of Jack Horkheimer, host of PBS's *Star Gazer*], but I ask you this: was this an *American* star? As in, the ones you see on Old Glory [graphic of flag with sparkling stars]? All fifty of them, bravely burning Freedom's light. I fear that the discovery of such a non-nation-specific light leads us down the path to the control of space by our dark overlords at the United Nations. Unless we can specify who owns this star and its light, let's leave it alone.

* THE FOUNDER OF E-BAY TO GIVE \$100 MILLION TO FIGHT POVERTY: Here we go again. When will these liberal fat cats ever learn that throwing money at poverty is no way to solve the problem?

* PRICE OF STAMP TO INCREASE TO 39 CENTS: It's not enough that every time I want to pay my water bill I have to lick Dr. Seuss's ass [show graphic of Theodor Geisel stamp], but now I get to pay another two cents for the pleasure. Yep, it's big government trying to rip off you, Mr. and Mrs. Joe & Josephine Six Pack. Think about this: Uncle Sam demands *39 cents* of your hard-earned money to truck an ounce of paper from New York to Hawaii. Talk about price gouging! Still wondering why you're paying more at the pump? Do you have any idea how much a barrel of oil weighs [graphic of oil barrel with thousands of stamps affixed)?

* BOEING ROCKET MACHINISTS TO STRIKE: Boeing rocket machinists are set to strike at plants near Huntsville, Alabama. This might be great for Big Labor, but let me ask you this, Che Guevara, what are our children supposed to do this summer when they can't find their favorite red, white, and blue popsicles [graphic of rocket pop]? The delicious cherry, mouthwatering blueberry, and...the white part. Boeing officials promise that non-union employees will take up the slack to minimize impact on production [graphic of assorted poorly produced rocket pops; R. Jay, try to think of examples].

The Bookshelf

* DEMOCRATS FORCE FIRST CLOSED SESSION OF SENATE SINCE 1999. Democrats proved once again that they hate all schoolchildren. After forcing a closed session of the Senate, Minority Leader Harry Reid shooed them out of the chamber like

so many flies. Somewhere, a child was crying, and *The Colbert Report* found that child. By the time we reached her, she'd stopped crying and her parents begged us to leave her alone. But this wasn't about *her* any more, it was about bringing *you* the story. Suffice to say, I got my tear. (*Steven places a small glass bottle on the bookshelf. The camera zooms in absurdly close to show a single drop of water inside.*)