

# THE DAILY RECORD

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## Colbert, Machiavelli or Hilton?

I'm pretty sure I know how Paris Hilton became famous, and it's not something I would encourage my kids to do.

I know that Machiavelli became much more famous five years after his death when his now famous book, "The Prince," was finally published. Wouldn't it be funny if it was satire and nobody knows it?

I love satire, so it was a real thrill for me to watch Stephen Colbert's "The Colbert Report" Monday night as it was being taped. I propose a new verb, "Colbert" as in "to Colbert someone." He's extremely talented, and has a great sense of humor.

I was there because my friend, filmmaker Cevin Soling, was being Colberted about his new documentary, "The War on Kids," a scathing review of our current education system, which in turn received rave reviews from both The New York Times and Variety.

Soling is truly a Renaissance man. He has a music business, and three films about Africa, which he shot on location and are still being edited for release. Because that wasn't enough for him, he's currently at Harvard getting his Ph.D. in philosophy. Of course, it was great watching his and Colbert's minds working together in tandem.

I love seeing good people make it. Fame has its place, and some people deserve its rewards.

On the other hand, I'm really getting sick of people like Paris, and especially Jon and Kate. The only thing they should get is the "worst parents in the world" award. By the way, who in the hell are the Kardashian girls?

Our society seems to be willing to throw piles of attention and, even worse, money at people with no discernible talent at all. Many of these people have yet to show any measurable contribution to the planet whatsoever and, since we're being philosophical, perhaps as they search for the meaning of life we should be questioning the reason for their existence. Maybe that's a bit harsh, but at least we ought to be questioning why we, as a society, positively reinforce aberrant behavior.

Anyway, it was a real thrill watching the show being taped. Colbert flubbed a few lines, and turned to all of us in the audience — explaining that it had been a good four years and he was happy we could all be together as he went down the tubes. Of course he didn't, and at one point in the show I watched him grill — i.e. Colbert — a very well spoken activist for world peace before forcing him to play a game he called "Sanction, Bomb or Marry?"

Ultimately, Colbert forced the poor guy into a position where he had no alternative but to choose to bomb South Korea, because he was only allowed to use the word "sanction" once during the game, and he already had been forced to choose to "marry" Pakistan.

Perhaps the bizarre headline atop today's column now makes more sense. Maybe the picture I chose for today is making more sense to you as well, in light of my suggested headline.

In the interest of making a long column short, when I got to speak with Colbert after the show, I asked him if he would mind signing a book for me. He was expecting me to hand him his book but instead, when he looked down at what I handed to him he seemed truly surprised, and exclaimed "The Prince?"

I explained that I tried to get Machiavelli to sign it for years, without luck. Colbert thought for a second, then inscribed "Read it! Learn it! Live it!" along with his autograph. He was very gracious, and he is a brilliantly talented and gifted comedian. He deserves the fame and all of the fortune society sees fit to bestow on him. Anyway, back to my new verb: I honestly think I Colberted Colbert.

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