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Stephen Colbert Headlines 20th Annual Spina Bifida Roast
Nov. 14 Fundraiser Turns the Tables on Late-Night Star of “The Colbert Report”

WASHINGTON (Oct. 1, 2008) — Stephen Colbert, executive producer and host of the late-night series “The Colbert Report,” takes the hot seat at the 20th Annual Roast for Spina Bifida on Friday, Nov. 14. The annual fundraiser at the Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. begins at 6:30 p.m. Spina Bifida, the most common, permanently disabling birth defect in the United States, currently affects more than 70,000 men, women, adolescents, and children.



Media colleagues and Beltway insiders join forces as they roast Colbert, his satirical monologues on his nightly show, as well as his tenured correspondence on “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.” The line-up of those roasting Colbert will be released next month.

“I’m thrilled to be the roastee of this year’s Spina Bifida Association benefit,” says Colbert. “I hope all the speakers will keep in mind how nice I am to all of my guests and that I weep easily.”

Colbert’s well-known show garners ratings and critical success as one of the top shows on the late night television landscape. Most recently, the show earned a Peabody Award, the premier international prize in electronic media recognizing distinguished achievement and meritorious public service along with numerous Emmy nominations. “The Colbert Report” serves as a half-hour nightly platform to discuss the issues of the day and tells viewers why everyone else’s take is just plain wrong.

“We’re so excited to have Mr. Colbert as our 20th anniversary honoree,” says Cindy Brownstein, CEO, Spina Bifida Association. “This event allows us to bring great awareness to the challenges of this life threatening birth defect and educate women on how to prevent it.”

The Roast was founded in 1989 by Judy Woodruff and Al Hunt, whose 25-year-old son, Jeffrey Hunt, was born with Spina Bifida.

Roast Details

Advance tickets for the 20th Annual Roast for Spina Bifida are available through the SBA office at (800) 621-3141 or (202) 944-3285 or via e-mail. For more details on sponsorships and the event, contact Julie Bostian at jbostian@sbaa.org. A silent auction during the pre-Roast reception includes gift packages, jewelry, travel adventures, hotel stays, event tickets, art and gift certificates. The annual car raffle caps the evening.

Spina Bifida: Facts and Prevention

There are more than 65 million women of childbearing age, and most don't know that simply taking a daily dose of 400 mg folic acid can prevent up to 70 percent of the cases of Spina Bifida and other serious birth defects.

Spina Bifida is a neural tube defect that occurs in the first month of pregnancy when the spinal column doesn't close completely. Eight babies are born in the United States with Spina Bifida or similar birth defect every day. Up to 90 percent of children with the most serious form of Spina Bifida have hydrocephalus, fluid on the brain, and must have surgery to insert a "shunt" that helps drain the fluid. Other conditions include varying degrees of paralysis, bladder and bowel control difficulties, learning disabilities, depression, latex allergy and social and sexual issues.

The Spina Bifida Association is the national voluntary health agency working for people with Spina Bifida and their families through education, advocacy, research, and service. SBA was founded in 1973 to address the needs of the Spina Bifida community. The Association is the only national organization solely dedicated to advocating on behalf of the Spina Bifida community. For more information on Spina Bifida please visit SBA's Web site: www.spinabifidaassociation.org.

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