

ASI
SEE IT



by Robert Koger

Just Wrong

Most jokes need to be told to establish a background before delivering the punch line. That was true in the past but now it is easy to lay out the joke with just two words, "Joe Barton." Yes, Texas Representative Joe Barton has gained national prominence by running his mouth without engaging his brain.

His moment was big. Congress was interviewing BP leader Tony Hayward and giving him a really hard time for the incompetence over the drilling and the clean up in the oil leak in the gulf. Then Representative Joe "The Mouth" Barton, stepped forward and apologized to BP for having to put 20 billion dollars aside in an escrow

fund for the cleanup and reparation to businesses and individuals impacted by the disaster. He accused the Obama administration of a "shakedown."

The disdain felt by people all over the country was immediate and the other members of the Republican Party quickly convinced Joe to apologize. He did, but in follow up statements made it very clear that his apology was insincere.

Representative Barton's remarks shouldn't have come as a surprise to anyone. After all, he is from Texas and backs big oil. The oil companies are large contributors to him and he knows you don't cut off the hand that feeds you.

Barton, as well as the majority of the Republican Party, doesn't want to do anything that would lean toward regulation of anything. They believe that all companies are trustworthy and should be left to self regulate. Representative Joe said, "Ignoring our ability to self regulate is threatening thousands of jobs."

Are Joe and the rest of the Republican Party correct about

self regulation? Wall Street and the mortgage companies did a great job with self regulation. The recession they caused impacted everyone in a fair and equal manner. BP ignored safe practices to push for profits, but then again its okay because they take care to self regulate. Now the Republican members of Congress are on to fighting the proposed changes to the Clean Air Act. After all, these companies can take care of the environment themselves since we don't have any global warming problem.

Hopefully Representative Barton will keep his mouth shut for a while and let his gaff blow over. But then again, he might want to apologize to the British for the conduct of the ungrateful American's who rebelled against them during the American Revolution. He doesn't have to stop there; he can also apologize to Germany for stepping into World War II and stopping their move for world dominance. If you think about it, when it comes to apologies, Barton has many avenues for making himself the laughing stock of the nation.

THE IDLE
AMERICAN



by Don Newbury

The world applauds folks who are masters of spontaneous verbal comebacks. Somehow, they are "right-worded" in facing tenuous situations with grace.

Never seen sweating, they are unflappable rarities. Their words flow effortlessly while the rest of us melt to mush at binding times, our facial expressions and skin tones dead giveaways that our goats have been gotten.

We can make long lists of times that "duh" would have been better than our stumbling responses. "Do you have any reason to be driving so fast? Your luggage is a pound over the limit; you owe another \$35. I know your son is a gregarious fourth-

grader, but he must learn soon not to bite others. I'm sorry I asked if the woman is your daughter; how long have you been married?" Such questions stretch toward infinity....

One such guy with a hair-trigger brain is Jim Bob Solsbery. "Yep, my folks named me 'James Robert,' but I was 'Jim Bob' before we left the hospital. They say our dogs got all the good names," Solsbery claims with a distinctive Texas twang.

Some of his kinfolks stop just short of Hatfield/McCoy stalemates, arguing about whether "Solsbery" originated in England or Germany.

Jim Bob cares not; he just knows that his first and last names are about as compatible as a mule in the Kentucky Derby....

He resembles the Marlboro man, except he's shorter, older and doesn't smoke. More hat than cattle, he and his trademark Stetson are inseparable. Blue jeans and boots made for amblin' complete his daily attire.

A 30-year agriculture specialist with the government, this son of West Texas has long had a keen eye for humor. He's a wonderful storyteller, convinced that humor is an attitude—the title of his book. He maintains a blog (TheHumorAttitude.com) and commits funny speeches around the U.S. when he's not tied up with his grandkids.

His ability to diffuse difficult moments is undeniable. Jim Bob doesn't raise his voice and maintains unflinching optimism. Hard to rile and determined to smile, he rarely encounters obstacles that he can't climb over, sneak around, dig under or stare down....

Here's one example. Changed plans recently forced him to make an eleven-hour cancellation at a fancy out-of-state resort. Jim Bob and wife Jan weren't sure they could avoid a late cancellation fee.

First off, repeated phone calls to the swank place went unanswered. Then, the desk clerk could find no reservation for "Solsbery." The resort manager joined the search, and

his computer screen failed to show "Solsbery" either—for that date or later.

Jim Bob was resolute, adamant that he had made reservations several weeks earlier. Finally, the manager asked if he had a reservation number....

He bluffed, saying he needed a few minutes to put his hands on it. Truth to tell, he didn't remember jotting down the number, and certainly didn't know its whereabouts.

"I checked my office in the car," he related. "I found several items, including ballpoint pens, rubber bands, hamburger wrappers and church bulletins."

But wail! There was a crumpled envelope lodged between the seats, and on it, a scrawled number. Shorter than his Social Security number and longer than a Baskin-Robbins "wait in line" number, it was maybe, just maybe....

His voice oozed confidence when he returned to the phone. Seconds later, the computer coughed up a "chaching" reservation. It was for a week later, however, and under the name "Fosbury."

"You folks got me confused with the high jumper," he drawled. "I'm not the 'Fosbury Flop.' I'm the 'Solsbery Sot!'"

The manager, himself of granddaddy vintage, broke into laughter, recalling the unique "flopping," back-first style of Dick Fosbury, whose leap of seven feet, 4.25 inches set a new world record at the 1968 Olympics. The clerk, much younger, had no clue why the boss was laughing, and probably couldn't define "sot," either....

Maybe next time my friend will make reservations under "Jim Bob." That would be hard to get wrong.

In the meantime, he's got more fodder for his blog and upcoming speaking engagements.

And his firm belief that humor is an attitude, unshaken....

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Metroplex. Inquiries/comments to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Website: www.speakerdoc.com.

LETTERS

Have an opinion! Tell it to the editor.
See letter policy on the bottom of page 2:

Why is the pool closed

The summer has started out very hot. I told the kids I would take them to our city pool. I called the city and ask them what time the pool opened and was informed the pool was closed for the summer.

It needed several repairs and that other cities were doing the same thing. Yes, maybe Dallas or Fort Worth where they have several pools for the whole city, but they still have a place to go cool off. We only have one pool.

My thought is, if we can't maintain our pool or the upkeep. How will we keep the upkeep on the new ballpark that is planned. I left my name and number, but nobody from the city has called me back.

Every drove down town at 2:00 a.m. It looks like downtown Dallas, with all the lights up. We could cut cost there by turning off some lights and not close the pool that we enjoy. My kids don't get to see the lights downtown at that hour.

Thanks,
Jerry Hammons

NOTE: City of Sanger City Manager answers questions about the pool being closed on page 1.

Vaccination Clinic for Kodi a success

The benefit Vaccination Clinic for Kodi Tutt was a tremendous success! I want to thank the folks whose participation made this event possible.

First, thanks to the Ray Roberts Area Elks Lodge for their generous support. And thanks to the Sanger Courier for publishing the announcements for this event free of charge. You guys rock!

And I also want to thank the following individuals for their generous support:

Ashley Gage of Gage Dental
Trish Linnville
Tinker Millsap of Happy Paws Salon and Spa
Nikki Sheffield
Carol Foreman of Clear Creek Animal Hospital
Cheryl Frame And Gina Byrom of Barks & Bubbles Grooming
Dr. Shellie Wallace of Paws and Claws Vet Clinic

Your assistance made this event possible.

Sincerely,
Lee Goodman, DVM
Clear Creek Animal Hospital, Inc.

ANIMAL THOUGHTS...



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- Carpal tunnel compression
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- Arthritis
- Hand, Wrist fractures
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- Dupuytren's Contracture
- Tendinitis
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- DeQuervain's Disease
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