

Trip and Trap lower road rage

By Curtis Seltzer

BLUE GRASS, Va.—“This is Trip and Trap the Claptrap Brothers with another edition of *Car Squawk*, the only show on public radio devoted to cars, car wives, car children and Carmen Electra.”

Trip: “Hello. You’re on *Car Squawk*.”

Caller: “Hi. This is Hillary from Washington, D.C.”

Trip: “Hillary! from our Nation’s capital. Is Hillary with one ‘1’ or two?”

Caller: “I’m the one asking the questions. Look, guys. I have an old Hope convertible that I picked up in New Haven a long time ago. The top’s still good, but it’s not a reliable daily driver...and, to be 100 percent honest and equally frank, it never has been. It spends a lot of time in the shop, or at least that’s what I’ve been told.

The main problem is that it wanders off without me knowing it. It seems to come under a spell and then runs into a ditch.”

Trip: “We don’t get many callers with spell problems. I’d guess that it’s a bad carburetor. The mixture of gas and heated air is too rich.”

Trap: “My brother’s an idiot. Your old Hope lost its bearings on the factory floor years ago. Live large, Hillary; buy something new.”

Caller: “But I’ve had this one for a long time. I know its quirks.”

Trip: “If you sell it for scrap, you’d get at least \$200, which is a lot to sneeze at.”

Trap: “Give it to charity and take a deduction for \$500.”

Caller: “I always told myself that the problem could be fixed. Maybe it can’t.”

Trip: “Hello. You’re on *Car Squawk*.”

Caller: “Hi. This is Mitt from Michigan and Utah and New Hampshire and Massachusetts.”

Trip: “Mitt! Is that with two ‘ts’ or three?”

Caller: “It’s usually two, but I also use one or three when it’s to my advantage. Here’s my problem. My wife says I’ve given my old Ford Mustang too many paint jobs over the last few years. It started out gray.

Then I went to moderate blue. Now it's a kind of off red, sort of salmon, but not pink."

Trip: "So what's the problem, Mitt?"

Caller: "The old paint shows through. I look tacky in it. My wife says that I should stand up, be myself and get a new Rolls Royce."

Trip: "Hey, if it were me, I'd get a top-of-the-line \$29.95 paint job and tell the wife to put a sock in it."

Trap: "My brother's an idiot. That's why he's been married nine times. Forget the paint. Forget the sock. Buy a Rolls."

Caller: "How many?"

Trap: "I'd say five, minimum. Each, a different color, depending on where you are and what mood you're in."

Caller: "Thanks fellas. By the way, what kind of sock should I use? Cashmere? Over-the-calf, all-cotton dress socks? I really prefer blends, but I don't want to admit to something like that."

Trip: "Is that 'admit' with two 'ts'?"

Trip: "Hello. You're on *Car Squawk*."

Caller: "Hey. This is Newt from Georgia."

Trip: "Is that Newt with a 'w' or Neut with a 'u'?"

Trap: "Is that Georgia from the U.S. or the one in Eurasia that used to be part of the Soviet Union?"

Caller: "I don't like that insinuation. I should hang up right now since you two are socialist media elitists."

Trip: "What's your problem, Noot?"

Caller: "Every time I get in my car, I step on the gas and it blows up."

Trip: "Man, that's serious."

Trap: "I agree. I think you have a bent push rod."

Trip: "Do you blow up higher when you're going faster?"

Trap: "Do you hear any noise just before it explodes?"

Caller: "Only my own voice."

Trip: "I'm stumped. Maybe it's a bad wiper."

Trap: "Give it two aspirin and a lot of rest. Sometimes things fix themselves, but some things can't be fixed."

Trip: "Hello. You're on *Car Squawk*."

Caller: "Hey, guys. This is Barry from sweet home Chicago."

Trip: "Barry, from the Big C. Is that Barrie with an 'i-e' or Barry with a 'y'?"

Caller: "Y."

Trip: "Why what?"

Caller: "Why I called?"

Trip: "Why did you call?"

Trap: "My brother's an idiot. What's going on?"

Caller: "I'm thinking of buying a Chevy Volt, but I heard they stink. And they're way overpriced?"

Trap: "I think you heard that on our show last week."

Caller: "I want to set a good example and be green."

Trip: "That's easy. Be more transparent and eat more spinach."

Caller: "I hate spinach."

Trap: "Why are you thinking of buying a car that you don't want?"

Caller: "Is that a loaded question?"

Trip: "My brother isn't called Trap for nothing."

Caller: "I want to understand why more than 99 percent of the American voting public doesn't want this car. And the only way I can know for sure is to buy one. Otherwise, I'm not talking from firsthand experience. I need to get down with the folks."

Trap: "Why don't you buy your wife the Volt, and you buy a mid-life, candy-apple-red Corvette?"

Caller: "She prefers to walk, which, she says, helps in digesting her high-roughage diet."

Trap: "Drive a Volt long enough, and she'll be walking, I promise."

Caller: "Could I interest you in a test drive?"

Trip: "Sure. Have Chevy ship it to the shop."

Caller: "I meant the diet."

Trip: "Hello, you're on *Car Squawk*."

Caller: "This is Rick."

Trip: "From?"

Caller: "I know that trick. You're trying to get me to say where I live. I'm registered to vote in Penn Hills, near Pittsburgh. But my niece and her husband live full-time at that house, and I live in northern Virginia where I'm not registered. Is that a crime?"

Trap: "What's your problem, Rick?"

Caller: "I have no problem, except for you and that gang of terrorists and Kennedy Catholics at NPR. You make me throw up."

Trip: "Is it both of us, Rick, or just my brother, which I can understand?"

Trip: "Hello, you're on *Car Squawk*."

Caller: "This is Corky in Blue Grass."

Trip: "Is that Corky with a 'C' or a 'K?'"

Trap: "Is it Porky with a 'P?'"

Caller: "C."

Trip: "Blue Grass. Is that near Alaska?"

Caller: "A little South."

Trap: "Might Blue Grass be named for the color of its native, pharmacological vegetation? Like Acapulco Gold, maybe?"

Caller: "Gentlemen, calm your engines. I have a 1980 Cheetah with 300,000 miles, and..."

Trip: "Cheetah. I've never heard of a Cheee...tah. Is that an import?"

Caller: "Yes. It's the fastest cat in my forest."

Trip: "Is that cat with a 'c?'"

Trap: "This isn't a vet show."

Caller: "My Cheetah is a historically yellow Toyota pickup that is now used exclusively for farm work. It's shed most of its yellow in favor of a fashionable muted rust. When I start it..."

Trap: "Sorry. It's now time for last week's puzzler. How many radio mechanics does it take to answer any question?"

Trip: "I give up."

Trap: "Two. One to answer the question, and one to question the answer provided by his always wiser brother."

Trip: "Without me, no one would laugh at your jokes."

Trap: "And without me, you'd have no jokes to laugh at."

Trip: "And that, fortunately, finishes another edition of *Car Squawk*. You can count the hour you've lost listening to Trip and Trap the Claptrap Brothers as a learning experience that will further your professional development. We're as deductible as they come."

Trap: "Anyone who listens to our advice should send their liability suits to our tailors, Snip & Tuck. Bring all endorsement offers to our super agent, Slimey Green. Send all donations to our foundation, Pay to Recipient, in care of me at our shop, GasIsUs, in Cambridge, MA, our city near a hill."

Trip: "And don't drive like my brother. Take the bus."

Trap: "And don't think like *my* brother."

Caller: "What about my Cheetah question?"

Trip: (Hangs up.) "Crankshaft."

Trap: "This is NPR..."

Trip: "Is that with an 'a-r-e' or an 'o-u-r?'"

Trap: "...National Public Radio," which is wholly responsible for the knuckleheads who write these scripts and pay us every week."

Trip: “And don’t forget to send money during the pledge drive, because...because why?”

Trap: “...because the sooner they meet their goal, the sooner they’ll stop nagging and whining.”

Trip: “I sent your check in yesterday.”

Curtis Seltzer is a land consultant, columnist and author of **How To Be a DIRT-SMART Buyer of Country Property**, available at www.curtis-seltzer.com where his columns are posted. His latest books, Land Matters , Blue Grass Notes, and Snowy Mountain Breakdown are available through his website.