

October 8, 2008

Bush still favorite target of late-night comics, even in election year



President Bush has taken his share of punches from late-night television comics during his years in office. Many of them are, well, biting. Consider this line from David Letterman two years ago: "President Bush is now being accused of leaking classified information. I was stunned. I was shocked. I said to myself, 'Wait, they let this guy see classified information?' "

The **Center for Media and Public Affairs** has been tracking the punch lines this year, chronicling the number of times that Bush, along with the presidential candidates, has been the butt of jokes. Even though Bush is a lame duck, the center's study of this year from Jan. 1 to July 31 found that Bush was hands-down the leader, the target of 605 jokes. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York came in second with 562.

When newer ratings are in, our guess is that Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin will figure prominently. But so far, **Bush is still comic-target-in-chief.**

Now, with the financial crisis crashing markets around the world and job losses growing each month, Bush is flourishing in late-night jabs.

A few samples from last night:

Stephen Colbert: The bad news: The Dow dropped 500 points today. The good news: I didn't know there were 500 left.

Conan O'Brien: President Bush gave a speech today about the economy and he said that he believes that "anyone who makes bad decisions should fail." Then Bush looked around the room and said, "Hey, why did it get so quiet in here?"

Jay Leno (pictured): President Bush's response to the economic crisis was to meet with small-business owners at a soda shop in San Antonio, Texas, this week. The bad news: The small-business owners are now General Motors, General Electric, Century 21.

- Johanna Neuman

Photo: Nicholas Roberts / AFP

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