"Whatever. No Problem." Community Comment: April 12, 2018 Mike Goldsby

Are there some words or phrases that irritate you? ~~I certainly have mine.~~

The expression that tops my list? "No problem." There are times when that is a great expression. You get a burger at a restaurant and you ask for some mayo. The waitstaff says "No problem" in a friendly, chipper tone ~~and all is right with the world.~~ You get your mayo, thank them and they say "No problem." ~~And you believe them.~~

But say you don't get your mayo and have to ask again. And they respond "No problem," like they are doing you a favor. Or when you place your order and they respond "No problem." I hope there's no problem. Should I be expecting a problem?

It also really irritates me when people say "My bad." To me, "My Bad" is a non-apology in baby talk. That expression started in the 1980s in the world of pick-up basketball. Make a bad pass or miss an easy shot? "My bad." OK, that is better than making some lengthy apology. It got popularized by the movie "Clueless."

The Urban Dictionary defines "My Bad" as a rude apology or flippant apology, a combination of an apology and a dismissal. "Hey, you just spilled wine all over me." "Ooops, my bad."

Another one is the mis-use of the word "Literally." Literally means exactly. So a person says "That comedian was so funny, I literally died laughing." No you didn't or you wouldn't be telling me this. You figuratively died. You aren't dead.

Jerry Falwell spoke out against gay rights and said "~~If you and I do not speak up now,~~ this homosexual steamroller will literally crush all decent men, women, and children who get in its way ..."

The gays got a steamroller? Is it rainbow colors? That is a literal example of the mis-use of literally.

The Marist Institute of Polling conducts an annual survey of the year's most annoying phrases. The winner, for 9 straight years? "Whatever." If it is so annoying, why do some people keep saying it? Their poll found that older people found it more annoying than younger people did.

The second most annoying phrase of 2017? "Fake news." The Marist polls said Liberals find this more annoying than conservatives do. There is actual, made up, fake news: Hillary Clinton running a sex ring out of a pizza parlor. Then there is commentary masquerading as news and media bias. But "fake news" is also used for any news that is unfavorable or inconvenient.

Do you react when someone says "Believe me"? I have worked with many counselors and therapists. They all said to pay careful attention when some one feels it is necessary to preface their statement with "Believe me". Trump has used that expression in 26 speeches and many Tweets. Literally.

When someone says "No offense, but…" or they say "I don't mean to be racist, but…", I always assume they know that they are about to say something offensive or racist.

A variation on that: "Just sayin'". That one is doubly irritating. Do they feel it is necessary to point out to people who are listening that they are talking? "Just sayin'…" can be really funny but it can also be an attempt to cover up a rude statement or disavow any connection to a statement you are about to make.

So, you believe me when I say, this is Mike Goldsby for Community Comment. Just sayin'…….

Believe me.