

Quarterly pet peeve list



The WordchipperSM

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I started out listing my current pet peeves annually. Then, I started to accumulate too many to wait a full year to share them so I provided my list semi-annually. However, in this crazy world we find ourselves in these days, surrounded by so much idiocy and thoughtlessness, I'm afraid I must now give you my personal pet peeves on a *quarterly* basis. Such a shame, but that's the way it is, folks. If you don't believe this world is nuts, you must live on another planet.

HERE'S WHAT'S BUGGING ME NOW:

Retail stores with 20 or more checkouts and only three are staffed. Long lines behind each, and two or more "supervisors" watch this while chatting with their colleagues. Hey, ever heard of "pitching in" for the sake of the customers? Wasn't "How to serve customers better" the theme of that employee meeting you attended yesterday; you know, the one that took all morning and they ran out of those big muffins and those yummy Krispy Kremes?

Customers who have 30 or 40 items and apparently can't read the sign that says "Express Checkout: 20 or fewer items." These people will usually empty their carts in the slowest possible way.

Thoughtless idiots who, despite being at the head of a long, long check-out line, wait until every last item has gone by the scanner to finally start to dig out their checkbook or credit card. 9 times out of 10, they find it only after a search that takes FOR-EVVV-ER!

A certain newly-elected U. S. Representative who hasn't learned his current job in Congress but is already spending time running for the U. S. Senate.

The North Dakota Legislature for not eliminating the restriction that prohibits Walgreens, Walmart, Target and other national pharmacy retailers from selling prescription drugs in North Dakota, the only state in the union with such a consumer unfriendly law. Why do I have to go to Minnesota to take advantage of discount programs offered by national pharmacies? This restriction, of course, is sending thousands of residents out-of-state, including a large percentage of small town residents, or they go mail order. And with mail order, everybody loses, from the consumer to young NDSU pharmacy graduates, as well as the state's tax base. And the majority in the legislature that keeps this antiquated 60-year-old law going says it's dedicated to "less government, less regulation, and free enterprise." Go figure.

Republican members of Congress who voted for two or more wars without funding them and now want to balance the federal deficit by abolishing Medicare, the health insurance program for seniors and the disabled. Even our veterans would be affected by this proposed change, stopped, for the moment, by the Democratic majority in the U. S. Senate.

Parking spots for the disabled used by those who are clearly not disabled. How many times have you watched somebody swing into a parking space and hang their "disabled" sign on the rearview mirror and then proceed to hop out of the car and beat you to the store? Those who deserve these permits should have this privilege, but the abusers should be fined as much as any of us who would dare to use one of these plentiful spaces that nearly always seem to be empty.

Manufacturers and software developers who introduce a "new, improved version" of a product when clearly the opposite is true. Usually, these thoughtless do-do birds take away the features you *liked* in a product and stick in something you *don't* want and will never use.

The current wars between Google, Microsoft and Adobe that leave the user (read: customer) as cannon fodder or road kill.

Excruciatingly cheerful clerks in some retail stores. These individuals smile too much, talk too much and are way too loud. I don't need this much enthusiasm. As the late George Carlin once said, "These people should be phased out early."

Commercial breaks on TV scheduled at the *same* time by all channels and networks. This is done, of course, so national advertisers can "block" the break, meaning that, if advertisers can so choose, they can run the same commercial on nearly all outlets at the same time. This prevents quick fingers on the remote from avoiding their message. The solutions: pre-record any show worth watching, go to C-SPAN or Turner Classic Movies or turn off the blankety-blank TV.

That's my current list of pet peeves. If there's something that bugs you on a regular basis and wish to share it before you strangle somebody, please send it to me my email address, above. In the meantime, grit your teeth, take a deep breath or some kind of pill or beverage and count to 10 or maybe 100!!