BOWLING GREEN DAILY NEWS

Get off my lawn! People who get on my last nerve…

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For unknown reasons, the other night I found myself staring at my computer screen thinking about all the people who bother me. And although I always try to accentuate the positive and see myself as basically an optimistic person, these are some of the folks I came up with:

People who don't care about other people. One of the biggest problems in our culture today is selfishness. Contrary to what some seem to believe, we really are all in this together and have an inherent obligation to take care of one another -- especially during difficult times.

People who criticize more than they praise. We all have room for improvement – and most of us are acutely aware of our shortcomings. The quickest way to kill morale is to be adept at pointing out deficiencies while never acknowledging strengths.

People who focus on what we should be instead of appreciating what we are. It's fine to aspire to greater heights and most good leaders always have a clear vision of the future. But we need to spend just as much time celebrating the things we already do rather well.

People who are always too busy. We all have a lot going on – that's just the nature of modern life. But realize when you overextend yourself, it's nobody's fault but your own. Having too many irons in the fire is not a valid excuse for failing to help those who genuinely need your assistance.

People who are enamored with their own intellect. OK. You're smart. We get that. But chances are you haven't been provided with any insight into reality that God inadvertently spared the rest of us. If you like hearing your own voice that much, buy a karaoke machine.

People who always interrupt. Occasionally I really do need to get a few things accomplished. Newsflash: If I look totally absorbed in something, I probably am. I'll let you know when I'm available to have a meaningful conversation about your prized arrowhead collection.

People who aren't speaking to other people. This is fine if you are 12 years old, but adults should be beyond this kind of nonsense. If you are past your teens and still giving someone the cold shoulder you need to get over it. Nothing ever gets resolved if you are not willing to communicate.

People who hold grudges. I know. You're pretty sure the guy who sat next to you in third grade stole your favorite 'Power Rangers' action figure. Now it's your 30th high school reunion and you still have an attitude toward him. Get over it. Forgive, forget and move on. Life is short.

People who have no sense of humor. Especially about themselves. The ability to rise above the fray and see the absurdity of taking yourself as well as the world around you too seriously is a sign of strength and intelligence.

People who are never on time. Woody Allen once said, 90% of life is just showing up. He should have added "on time." If you said you'd be there at 9 am, then be there at 9 am – not on the way, parking your car, texting your BFF, counting your spare change, picking your nose, etc.

People who think their kids are special. Well, they are. They are wonderfully talented, creative and unique – just like everyone else's kids. Instilling a false sense of entitlement in your offspring in order to protect their self-esteem will only cause them huge problems down the road.

People who get way too excited about sports. It doesn't matter if we're talking about the Super Bowl or your daughter's little league team, it's still just a game. In the overall scheme of things, sports are not in the same category as curing cancer or solving world hunger. Calm down.

Admittedly, these last few are more career specific, but I'm sure many of you will be able to relate.

People who think they alone are responsible for their success. Nobody succeeds entirely on their own. If you are doing well in life, you had help – and you live in a country that has provided you with immense opportunities. So stop patting yourself on the back.

People who refer to their co-workers as "family." Listen carefully. Except for a few noteworthy exceptions, the people you hang with at your job are not your actual relatives. Referring to them as such only demeans the relationship you should have with those closest to you.

People who confuse activity with productivity. I know a few talented individuals who are never caught up, always near exhaustion, and constantly complaining about everything on their plate. Just like Sisyphus. Results are what matter.

People who have an aversion to technology. I'm sure when the wheel was invented, there were those who said, "I know it's easier, but we lost something when we stopped carrying these big rocks on our backs." Yes, we did. Thank Goodness.

People who don't understand basic budgeting. It doesn't matter if we are talking about your personal finances or where you are employed. If you spend more than you have coming in, you are acting irresponsibly and headed for disaster.

Again, these are just a few of the folks who annoy me – not to the point where I can't sleep at night – but still they are irritating. I'd be interested in hearing some of the things that you find irritating. Feel free to e-mail me.



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