

## Words of Irritation

*By Hap Hansen*

Strange words and phrases seem to sneak into our vocabulary from time to time. Once they spread across age lines, they have a tendency to become entrenched into our language.

Unfortunately, some of the words that are necessary for social grace and responsibility are beginning to fade from our use. Example: The phrase 'there you go' is now being substituted by many clerks for the words 'thank you.' I checked out of a hotel several weeks ago with a substantial bill for a three-day stay and a few meals. The hotel clerk was very nice as my bill was totaled. When it was presented to me, the clerk said, "There you go." And guess what I said? I said, "Thank you." Something was wrong there. I shouldn't be thanking the clerk of a hotel chain for spending money with them. They should be thanking me! Profusely!

A similar thing happened to me when I was with a lady friend at a nice restaurant recently. When it was time to take our order, the waiter said, "What would you guys like?" Guys? Of course, when the bill came, it was presented with a "There you go." No pleases, no thank you's, just a matter-of-fact transaction. Clerks shouldn't say, "There you go" until I have left the premises. Perhaps I should ask where they thought I was going. After all, it's none of their business where I'm going so I wish they wouldn't say it at all. A simple, "Thank you" would be sufficient and appropriate.

Another example: Some unnecessary words are beginning to flourish, especially in the vocabularies of most youngsters and some of their teachers. Here's an example of a student's book report:

"I was like, you know, reading a like book, when I like, you know, discovered the author was, you know, a person named, like, Hemingway. He had like great adventures and was like, you know, always a hero." "Have a nice day" is another over-used phrase that is beginning to wear on me just a little. A few months ago, when my car left an oil streak down the driveway and when the mechanic later presented me with an \$800 estimate to repair the old junker, the last words I wanted to hear were, "Have a nice day." He's the one who is going to have a nice day! And I just know that when I get the bill for at least \$150 over the estimate, he's going to say, "There you go!" And I just know I'm going to say, "Thank you." Next time, when I write him a check for car repairs, I think I'll make it out to 'Have a nice day' and sign it 'There you go', just like, you know, to see what happens!