Everywhere I fucking go these days, it seems like people are getting "literally thrown under the bus," and yet nobody seems to be worried about it. Peep out the following quotes:

"Bush was literally 'thrown under the bus' by his Republican colleagues."

"Naturally, a big scandal ensued, and several supervisory officers were punished, literally thrown under the bus by LA's hack police chief, William Bratton."

"I understand we have had our share of slack donors, but they should have been treated with respect and dignity. Instead, they were literally thrown under the bus."

"At last month's special board meeting, coaches (Ted) Suttmeier, Slate, and myself…were literally thrown under the bus by our central administration and a panel of so-called experts."

"Has anyone dealt with the FOP in a legal capacity over the years where they were promised the world and literally thrown under the bus?"

While all these are real quotes from real people, what's exasperating to any earnest student of the truth is the fact that in none of these cases—not ONE of them—was anybody LITERALLY thrown under a fucking bus. If they *had* been literally thrown under buses, they would be dead, or at least sportin' some serious signs of disfigurement.

"Literally" is one of our language's most frequently misused words, and since I always assume that a huge quotient of my readers are congenitally stupid, let me break it down for you: It means the same thing as "factually." It means *in real life* rather than *symbolically*, OK? So you can't say you were "literally in stitches" over a comedian's standup routine unless his jokes actually induced a real flesh wound requiring a hospital visit. You can't say you were "literally walking ten feet off the ground" unless you were actually walking ten feet off the ground, and nobody in history has ever actually fucking done that—well, maybe Jesus did it once or twice. And I bet if they get around to doing an updated version of the Bible that's more attuned to modern linguistics, it will say that Judas threw Jesus under the bus.

I know it seems like I'm splitting cunt hairs here, but this is why I'm upset at all this *figurative* throwing of people under buses—it's highly insensitive to the poor dead and crippled souls who HAVE been literally thrown under buses, pushed in front of cars, and shoved in front of speeding trains. What about *their* feelings? Unlike the rest of the world, I haven't forgotten about their pain.

Telling someone you've been "thrown under the bus"—when in fact you *haven't* been thrown under a bus—is highly insensitive to the silent victims of this annoying new catchphrase. If the left side of your skull was missing and you were confined to a wheelchair for the rest of your life because some urban thug pushed you in front of an oncoming Greyhound, you might not find it such a cute li'l cliché.

It's not cool to throw people under buses, and it's definitely uncool to trivialize their pain.

It's like telling a black person that your boss is working you so hard, you feel like a slave.

It's like telling a Jew that it's so hot today, you feel like you're inside an oven.

It's like telling the parents of a Down Syndrome child that the new Fall TV lineup is retarded.

It's like telling Stevie Wonder that justice is blind.

"They threw me under the bus" is also an unpleasantly violent image, and we all know violence is wrong. How come no one is saying, "They aborted me through the suction method?" Why isn't "They placed my scrotum in a deli slicer" a more popular phrase with the kids? Why don't you hear people who feel they've been unfairly offered up as a scapegoat to appease a bloodthirsty mob saying, "They cut off my nipples with toenail clippers and then shoved those cold steel clippers up my rectum"? Is throwing someone under a bus any less dangerous or cruel?

I feel that if we honestly want to perceive ourselves as a sensitive and progressive nation, we need to ensure that our slang terminology is duly sensitive to the suffering of the unfortunate and disadvantaged. Like black people with the "N" word, the only people who should be able to safely say they've been "thrown under the bus" are those who can present conclusive physical evidence that this event has indeed happened. Likewise, I support legislation that would declare if anyone claims to have been "thrown under a bus" when this is proven in a court of law to be a patently untrue statement, that person is guilty of a hate crime.

"thrown under the bus" (...literally)
honoring the real people who really suffered in order to give the world an annoying new catchphrase