

Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH

Today is the day to carpe punctuation, period

By Cathy Frisinger

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Do aberrant ~~apostrophe~~'s apostrophes give you apoplexy? Do you exclaim madly over exclamation-point pileups?

Then ~~today's~~ today's your day: National Punctuation Day!!!!

~~Who says so, you ask? Who says so?, you ask.~~

Says who?

Says Jeff Rubin, creator of National Punctuation Day (www.nationalpunctuationday.com), owner of a newsletter business (www.thenewsletterguy.com), and ~~all-round~~ all-around fussy guy.

Rubin, ~~whose~~ ~~its~~ who's 55 today – “this is intentional, because as you get older, if you're going to start a day, you have to start it on a day you'll remember” – is passionate about punctuation.

“I'm just tired of hearing from people who say, “I can't ~~punctuate~~: punctuate,” because you can each yourself – ~~its~~ it's not a character flaw, ~~its~~ it's not genetic.”

The Californian, ~~who's~~ whose first NPD last year resulted in scores of media queries, a handful of T-shirt sales and unknown numbers of correct uses of the semicolon, is part of a trend to take proper punctuation public.

British writer Lynne ~~Truss's~~ Truss's wickedly funny book, *Eats, Shoots & Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation*, last year reached the top of the *New York Times* best-seller list by brilliantly pointing out that there's a world of difference between “extra-marital sex” and “extra marital sex.”

All of which brings joy to the hearts of copy editors everywhere (copy editors are the ~~anal retentive~~ anal-retentive members of the newspaper ~~team~~ team).

It's enough to make copy editing seem sexy, rather than a job that puts you in a ~~commatose~~ ~~comatose~~ comma-tose state.

And that's today's last word on punctuation. Period!!!!