



Newspaper errors prompt National Punctuation Day

BY PAM HARBAUGH

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Not sure when to use a semi-colon and when to use a comma?

Visit www.nationalpunctuationday.com and click onto one of the images of punctuation marks for some standard rules.

Want some ideas on how to celebrate National Punctuation Day? The same Web site has some ideas, such as: "Visit a bookstore and purchase a copy of Strunk & White's *The Elements of Style*, and "Read a newspaper and circle all of the punctuation errors you find (or think you find but aren't sure) with a red pen."

Actually, it was the rising number of errors in the media that prompted Jeff Rubin, former reporter now known as "The Newsletter Guy," to found National Punctuation Day in 2004.

"I was very frustrated with what I saw in newspapers and books and magazines," he said. "It seems that the skills of the reporters and editors are not what they were when I was a reporter back in the '70s and '80s. I don't know if it's incompetence or if they're just lazy. I don't know what it is, but there's just too many mistakes in the media."

Rubin publishes corporate newsletters. He said he makes mistakes also, but he strives to avoid them.

"When you don't care and people say, 'Oh, what does it matter? You know what I meant anyway.' That just drives me nuts."