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## CULTURE DESK

From The Boston Globe Arts & Entertainment staff

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## !!!! Friday is National Punctuation Day


Posted by Doug Most September 23, 2010 10:08 AM

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Don't you just hate the misplaced comma? The missing quote mark? The people who insist on putting some extra emphasis at the end of every stupid email!!!!!!

The time has come to speak out. A California man, Jeff Rubin, in 2004 took it upon himself to create [National Punctuation Day](#), and that day is Friday.

There's been a lot of talk lately about typos and grammar, from the guys who wrote a book about their [journey across America](#) to find typos on signs, to Washington Post columnist Gene Weingarten's [recent screed](#) about the death of the English language.

Is it really that bad? Did the semi-colon ever do anything to hurt someone? Why so much venom for the cute little @ sign? Can't we all just get along?

What's your favorite punctuation mark?

## The pause that annoys

When a comma makes life needlessly hard

September 12, 2010 | Jan Freeman



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Punctuation, quietly doing its job, rarely arouses the passions of the general public the way buzzwords and mispronunciations do. Yes, certain manly writers enjoy denouncing the wimpy semicolon, and spotting misused apostrophes is a popular pastime. But when you hear people arguing about the serial comma or the overuse of dashes, they're probably editors.

The folks behind National Punctuation Day, coming up Sept. 24, would like to change that (and sell a few T-shirts). Their previous ploys to raise punctuation awareness have included a baking contest and a recipe for the holiday's "official" meatloaf (in the all-too-appropriate shape of a question mark). This year's challenge is a great leap forward in literacy: Readers are invited to compose haiku about (and involving) punctuation. Among the samples at the website: