

Proper Use of Subject Lines

The Urth list — 33 messages, 10 voices, 21 May 2010

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5612>

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David Stockhoff — 21 May 2010, 12:19

Yes. Is it too much to ask that the subject line be used as intended to promote efficiency of communication and discussion? It has nothing to do with the value of a particular message or discussion.

Message: 8
Date: Thu, 20 May 2010 23:59:16 -0400
From: John Watkins <john.watkins04 at gmail.com>
To: The Urth Mailing List <urth at lists.urth.net>
Subject: Re: (urth) Gene Wolfe
Message-ID:
<AANLkTilkTddQlipvBGMfMjrRjPDbECtV2-DHU0z6gdb- at mail.gmail.com>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"

I have to agree.

On Thu, May 20, 2010 at 11:49 PM, Craig Brewer <cnbrewer at yahoo.com> wrote:

Talk about whatever you want. I don't even care if it ends up in my mailbox. I just want to know if I can delete it without having to read it first. I like to think that emails from a Gene Wolfe mailing list with "Wolfe" in the subject line might actually be about Wolfe rather than someone's own personal theology and other peoples' arguments about it.

Jeff Wilson — 21 May 2010, 14:01 · in reply to David Stockhoff

On 5/21/2010 7:19 AM, David Stockhoff wrote:
Yes. Is it too much to ask that the subject line be used as intended to promote efficiency of communication and discussion?

In my experience, it is unless you have a moderator with the ability and the will to enforce pertinent subject lines. People don't participate in discussions to compose and recompose subject lines, they do it to speak their piece.

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
IEEE Student Chapter Blog at
< <http://ieeetamut.org> >

James Wynn — 21 May 2010, 14:59 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

On 5/21/2010 9:01 AM, Jeff Wilson wrote:
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I have, in the past, attempted to change the subject lines of threads as they moved OT. Maybe half or less of the participants followed. If the particular email that prompted them to responded

did not have a changed subject, they didn't change it. Probably, because they didn't care about it as much as me or Mr. Brewer. Or, in the respondents opinion, their response *did* have to do with the original subject line. Hopeless cause.

On the upside, it is generally easy to tell when a discussion's wagon train has moved on. If I've lost interest, I stop following it entirely. With that method --although it's not neat and orderly, the problem is mostly solved.

J.

Jeff Wilson — 24 May 2010, 08:56 · in reply to James Wynn

On 5/21/2010 9:59 AM, James Wynn wrote:

On 5/21/2010 9:01 AM, Jeff Wilson wrote:

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it's not a hopeless cause, it just requires enforcement. I do it on playtest discussion lists all the time: I lay out the rules for subject lines, ask people nicely to follow them, warn them when they go astray, and if they persist in going astray, I send them to the land of postings-held-until-released-by-a-moderator to wander in the wilderness until they see the light.

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
IEEE Student Chapter Blog at
< <http://ieeetamut.org> >

brunians at brunians.org — 24 May 2010, 09:22 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

Ve must haff DISCIPLINE!

On 5/21/2010 9:59 AM, James Wynn wrote:

On 5/21/2010 9:01 AM, Jeff Wilson wrote:

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Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
IEEE Student Chapter Blog at
< <http://ieeetamut.org> >

Craig Brewer — 24 May 2010, 14:28 · in reply to brunians at brunians.org

Or courtesy.

----- Original Message -----

From: "brunians at brunians.org" <brunians at brunians.org> To: The Urth Mailing List <urth at lists.urth.net> Sent: Mon, May 24, 2010 4:22:49 AM Subject: Re: (urth) Improper Use of Subject Lines

Ve must haff DISCIPLINE!

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On 5/21/2010 9:59 AM, James Wynn wrote:

On 5/21/2010 9:01 AM, Jeff Wilson wrote:

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Urth Mailing List
To post, write urth at urth.net
Subscription/information: <http://www.urth.net>

brunians at brunians.org — 24 May 2010, 14:43 · in reply to Craig Brewer

Or a desire to control things not actually under our control.

.

Or courtesy.

----- Original Message -----

From: "brunians at brunians.org" <brunians at brunians.org>

To: The Urth Mailing List <urth at lists.urth.net>

Sent: Mon, May 24, 2010 4:22:49 AM

Subject: Re: (urth) Improper Use of Subject Lines

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Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 24 May 2010, 15:04 · in reply to brunians at brunians.org

Discipline, voluntarily enforced, is a Good Thing.

On Mon, May 24, 2010 at 2:22 AM, <brunians at brunians.org> wrote:

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On 5/21/2010 9:59 AM, James Wynn wrote:

On 5/21/2010 9:01 AM, Jeff Wilson wrote:

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Rob Thornton — 24 May 2010, 15:06 · in reply to Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

Agreed.

On Mon, May 24, 2010 at 11:04 AM, Dan'I Danehy-Oakes <danldo at gmail.com> wrote:
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James Wynn — 24 May 2010, 15:15 · in reply to Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

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On 5/24/2010 10:04 AM, Dan'l Danehy-Oakes wrote:
Discipline, voluntarily enforced, is a Good Thing.

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 24 May 2010, 15:17 · in reply to James Wynn

You misunderstood what I mean by "voluntarily enforced." I do not mean universal citizen policing (which is a Bad Thing). Rather, I mean a situation in which people voluntarily act in a disciplined manner.

On Mon, May 24, 2010 at 8:15 AM, James Wynn <crushtv at gmail.com> wrote:
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On 5/24/2010 10:04 AM, Dan'l Danehy-Oakes wrote:
Discipline, voluntarily enforced, is a Good Thing.

James Wynn — 24 May 2010, 15:54 · in reply to Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

Well, it is true that a righteous society is a free society, but I guess I understood the issue to be what happens When Subject Lines Go Bad.

On 5/24/2010 10:17 AM, Dan'l Danehy-Oakes wrote:
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On 5/24/2010 10:04 AM, Dan'l Danehy-Oakes wrote:
Discipline, voluntarily enforced, is a Good Thing.

brunians at brunians.org — 24 May 2010, 16:13 · in reply to Rob Thornton

Explain to me how you can use the words 'voluntary' and 'enforced' together and make sense.

Agreed.

On Mon, May 24, 2010 at 11:04 AM, Dan'l Danehy-Oakes <danldo at gmail.com> wrote:

Discipline, voluntarily enforced, is a Good Thing.

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brunians at brunians.org — 24 May 2010, 16:15 · in reply to Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

L'audace! Encore l'audace!

Toujours l'audace!

-- Danton

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I think we should have regular self-criticism sessions.

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had someone yell at you because your Yorkshire Terrier, walking at your feet, is not on a leash? ("It's the LAW!")

On 5/24/2010 10:04 AM, Dan'I Danehy-Oakes wrote:

Discipline, voluntarily enforced, is a Good Thing.

John Watkins — 24 May 2010, 16:20 · in reply to brunians at brunians.org

I think you should stop spamming the list.

On Mon, May 24, 2010 at 12:17 PM, <brunians at brunians.org> wrote:
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On 5/24/2010 10:04 AM, Dan'I Danehy-Oakes wrote:

Discipline, voluntarily enforced, is a Good Thing.

Dan'I Danehy-Oakes — 24 May 2010, 16:21 · in reply to brunians at brunians.org

Perhaps it would help if I explained that "voluntary enforcement" is a fancy way of saying "civilized behavior."

Probably not, though.

--Dan'I

On Mon, May 24, 2010 at 9:15 AM, <brunians at brunians.org> wrote:

L'audace! Encore l'audace!

Toujours l'audace!

-- Danton

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On 5/24/2010 10:04 AM, Dan'I Danehy-Oakes wrote:

Discipline, voluntarily enforced, is a Good Thing.

brunians at brunians.org — 24 May 2010, 16:26 · in reply to John Watkins

If you don't want a thread to continue, don't follow it up.

It is the only way.

.

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On Mon, May 24, 2010 at 12:17 PM, <brunians at brunians.org> wrote:

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On 5/24/2010 10:04 AM, Dan'I Danehy-Oakes wrote:

Discipline, voluntarily enforced, is a Good Thing.

brunians at brunians.org — 24 May 2010, 16:29 · in reply to Dan'I Danehy-Oakes

It's not, though.

It is a contradiction in terms.

It verges on newspeak.

Something that is voluntary is done of one's free will.

Something that is enforced is done will ye or nil ye.

So what is something that is voluntarily enforced?

You either want something to be done voluntarily, or you want it to be enforced.

You can't have it both ways.

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On 5/24/2010 10:04 AM, Dan'l Danehy-Oakes wrote:

Discipline, voluntarily enforced, is a Good Thing.

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 24 May 2010, 16:30 · in reply to brunians at brunians.org

I'm sorry you're so trapped in semantics. Meditation might help.

On Mon, May 24, 2010 at 9:29 AM, <brunians at brunians.org> wrote:
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On 5/24/2010 10:04 AM, Dan'l Danehy-Oakes wrote:

Discipline, voluntarily enforced, is a Good Thing.

Lane Haygood — 24 May 2010, 16:34 · in reply to brunians at brunians.org

Something is enforced if there is a penalty for failure to comply. You are still free (in terms of will and capacity) to not comply; you must merely suffer the consequences.

Let me put it another way: you are free to disobey the law, id est, to commit a crime. You must, however, "do the time" if you have "done the crime," as the cliché goes.

You may voluntarily comport yourself with dignity and class. You may of course also fail to do so and be a boor. That is your prerogative, and none shall gainsay you your boorishness, for while it may be against the mores of good taste, one may not enforce good manners.

One voluntarily enforces, therefore, a sense of good character in how one comports oneself if one self-legislates a morality consistent with civility, *pace* Kant. You must act at all times as if the maxim of your actions could be willed as universal law. Therefore, though you may not be subject to compulsion to play nicely, it is eminently rational and proper for you to compel yourself to do so, should some base nature suggest otherwise.

yvt,
Lane

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On 5/24/2010 10:04 AM, Dan'I Danehy-Oakes wrote:

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Fred Kiesche — 24 May 2010, 16:36 · in reply to Lane Haygood

It's either Monday or there is a full moon out...

On Mon, May 24, 2010 at 12:34 PM, Lane Haygood <lhaygood at gmail.com> wrote:
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On Mon, May 24, 2010 at 8:15 AM, James Wynn <crushtv at gmail.com> wrote:

But then we have to endure threads on the rules of good subject lines.

I

think it is better to keep the list in line by modeling good behavior rather having self-appointed cops. Ever live in a neighborhood with extensive homeowner codes and have to live next to the lady who memorized them? Ever had someone yell at you because your Yorkshire Terrier, walking at your feet, is not on a leash? ("It's the LAW!")

On 5/24/2010 10:04 AM, Dan'l Danehy-Oakes wrote:

Discipline, voluntarily enforced, is a Good Thing.

brunians at brunians.org — 24 May 2010, 16:36 · in reply to Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

Why do you feel that I am trapped? As far as I know I am just trying to help, but I suppose I may be trapped without knowing it. Let us investigate this question further.

Your second remark is curious.

Who do you feel that meditation may help?

And help with what? It is a puzzling comment. Could you expand upon it?

I'm sorry you're so trapped in semantics. Meditation might help.

On Mon, May 24, 2010 at 9:29 AM, <brunians at brunians.org> wrote:

It's not, though.

It is a contradiction in terms.

It verges on newspeak.

Something that is voluntary is done of one's free will.

Something that is enforced is done will ye or nil ye.

So what is something that is voluntarily enforced?

You either want something to be done voluntarily, or you want it to be enforced.

You can't have it both ways.

Perhaps it would help if I explained that "voluntary enforcement" is a fancy way of saying "civilized behavior."

Probably not, though.

--Dan'l

On Mon, May 24, 2010 at 9:15 AM, ?<brunians at brunians.org> wrote:

L'audace! Encore l'audace!
Toujours l'audace!

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On 5/24/2010 10:04 AM, Dan'I Danehy-Oakes wrote:

Discipline, voluntarily enforced, is a Good Thing.

brunians at brunians.org — 24 May 2010, 16:37 · in reply to Lane Haygood

Lane, this doesn't make any sense to me.

I'm sorry.

.

Something is enforced if there is a penalty for failure to comply.

You are still free (in terms of will and capacity) to not comply; you must merely suffer the consequences.

Let me put it another way: you are free to disobey the law, id est, to commit a crime. You must, however, "do the time" if you have "done the crime," as the cliché goes.

You may voluntarily comport yourself with dignity and class. You may of course also fail to do so and be a boor. That is your prerogative, and none shall gainsay you your boorishness, for while it may be against the mores of good taste, one may not enforce good manners.

One voluntarily enforces, therefore, a sense of good character in how one comports oneself if one self-legislates a morality consistent with civility, pace Kant. You must act at all times as if the maxim of your actions could be willed as universal law. Therefore, though you may not be subject to compulsion to play nicely, it is eminently rational and proper for you to compel yourself to do so, should some base nature suggest otherwise.

yvt,
Lane

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On 5/24/2010 10:04 AM, Dan'l Danehy-Oakes wrote:

Discipline, voluntarily enforced, is a Good Thing.

Jeff Wilson — 24 May 2010, 16:39 · in reply to James Wynn

On 5/24/2010 10:15 AM, James Wynn wrote:

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rather having self-appointed cops.

Ranjit-appointed cops would be ideal, avoiding numerous of the pathologies you mention.

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
IEEE Student Chapter Blog at
< <http://ieeetamut.org> >

brunians at brunians.org — 24 May 2010, 16:39 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

Oh cool!

Now we're going to have cops!

.

On 5/24/2010 10:15 AM, James Wynn wrote:

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Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
IEEE Student Chapter Blog at
< <http://ieeetamut.org> >

Jeff Wilson — 24 May 2010, 16:42 · in reply to brunians at brunians.org

On 5/24/2010 11:26 AM, brunians at brunians.org wrote:
If you don't want a thread to continue, don't follow it up.

It is the only way.

I must agree my experience bears this out; do not feed the energy creature.

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
IEEE Student Chapter Blog at
< <http://ieeetamut.org> >

Jeff Wilson — 24 May 2010, 16:44 · in reply to brunians at brunians.org

On 5/24/2010 11:29 AM, brunians at brunians.org wrote:
It is a contradiction in terms.

..

You can't have it both ways.

Apparently you think you can, condemning voluntary enforcement while maintaining actual existence of the supernatural.

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
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James Wynn — 24 May 2010, 16:47 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

On 5/24/2010 11:39 AM, Jeff Wilson wrote:
On 5/24/2010 10:15 AM, James Wynn wrote:

But then we have to endure threads on the rules of good subject lines. I think it is better to keep the list in line by modeling good behavior rather having self-appointed cops.

Ranjit-appointed cops would be ideal, avoiding numerous of the pathologies you mention.

I suppose it *might* be ideal. But ideal solutions, by definition, are usually impractical. You have cops, but then you have to have judges when someone says the cop reacted improperly. Unless you have Judge Dread for your cop I don't want to go there. I think Josh had the best solution:

If you want a thread to die, ignore it. Eventually, it will. They always do. These feral thread usually crank up when there is not a lot of interesting conversation on the list. So, there's really little harm in ignoring them.

In the meantime, I'll continue to use "OT" to designate off-topic conversations. Even though it is only blowing against the wind, at least it's not pissing against the wind.

J.

brunians at brunians.org — 24 May 2010, 16:49 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

I can't make sense of this remark either.

As I have stated, I don't believe in anything supernatural. Everything that is is natural. Some bits of nature are not well known or poorly documented, or people don't believe the documentation anymore.

Also, I fail to see how condemning or approving of the mind-crackling concept of voluntary enforcement has anything to do with maintaining actual existence of the supernatural, and wish you would explain exactly what you mean by that.

It seems to me that there is something missing from your second sentence. Perhaps 'belief in' after 'maintaining'? If not, I really don't know what to make of it.

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Jeff Wilson — 24 May 2010, 16:50 · in reply to brunians at brunians.org

On 5/24/2010 11:39 AM, brunians at brunians.org wrote:

Oh cool!

Now we're going to have cops!

Not the state force monopoly kind, more like the proprietary syndicalist kind.

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
IEEE Student Chapter Blog at
< <http://ieeetamut.org> >

brunians at brunians.org — 24 May 2010, 16:50 · in reply to Jeff Wilson

Are these police going to be secret police or not so secret police?

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On 5/24/2010 11:39 AM, brunians at brunians.org wrote:

Oh cool!

Now we're going to have cops!

Not the state force monopoly kind, more like the proprietary syndicalist kind.

--

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
IEEE Student Chapter Blog at
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Jeff Wilson — 24 May 2010, 16:54 · in reply to brunians at brunians.org

On 5/24/2010 11:49 AM, brunians at brunians.org wrote:

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As I have stated, I don't believe in anything supernatural. Everything that is is natural. Some bits of nature are not well known or poorly documented, or people don't believe the documentation anymore.

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It seems to me that there is something missing from your second sentence. Perhaps 'belief in' after 'maintaining'? If not, I really don't know what to make of it.

I was speaking of the usage of the phrases, not the concepts they purport to describe.

Jeff Wilson - jwilson at io.com
IEEE Student Chapter Blog at
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