

## Re: Good Manners & Common Sense in this Forum

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.anthropology.paleo/2004-11/0409.html>

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**From:** richard01 (richardparker01\_at\_yahoo.com)

**Date:** 11/06/04

Date: 5 Nov 2004 23:55:14 -0800

"firstjois" <firstjoisyike@hotmail.com> wrote in message  
news:<urSdnSyQguq\_VRfcRVn-uw@comcast.com>...

> >>> *I am not an experienced newsgroup contributor. I don't know the  
> >>> jargon, and I don't know the manners (not that I've seen many). Why  
> >>> should I? It's only very recently that I've been physically able to  
> >>> access the internet at all, and discover a worldwide network of  
> >>> others who have similar interests.*

>  
> *The normal proceedue upon joining a ne group is to search Google (or  
> something like Google) for FAQ – example:*

>  
> *sci.anthropology.paleo faq*

>  
> *and you should get a document or reference to the group's FAQ or  
> "Frequently Asked Questions" But some groups don't have this document and  
> you could look for the charter if you can't find a faq.*

>  
> *There groups were supossed to be an open forum for discussions between  
> professionals but they quickly became more open than anyone expected and  
> because posters could be pretty anomomous, behavior quickly went to the  
> movies. Just the same, people talk to people in these forums and there is  
> no reason not to be polite.*

>  
> >>> *So, like a newcomer to the bar, I announce my position, and get  
> >>> back a little more than I think I deserve.*

>  
> *But this isn't a bar. This is more or less a place for the exchange of  
> information and the best way to look at how a groups works is to observe  
> the group, this is known as lurking, it's reading without posting. You  
> probably bet beat up a lot if you are used to walking into bars and  
> announcing your position. I think you'd lose a lot of teeth that way and I  
> don't get out to a lot of bars, I just suspect.*

>  
> *Why would the people in the bar be at all interested in having you announce  
> your position? Are you talking about sports bars? A New York Yankee  
> stronghold where if you talked the talk you'd be welcomed and hugged?  
> Still doesn't sound right. Most of the posters here who have a position*

- > *are slightly wacko. A testosterone fixation, a disease that he'd like to*
- > *connect to Neanderthals ("Neanderthals are Me" kind of thing), terrible*
- > *bad athletes' feet, a mystical investment in eustrus, heck, there are lots*
- > *of them but they are pretty easy to identify and ignore. The group's been*
- > *here a while and is kind of tired of this kind of baloney.*
- >
- > *Others who jump right in are often "trolls" people who want only to make a*
- > *maximum amount of mess and leave, start fights, leave a trail of their*
- > *parents' swear words or the ones they just learned at school. Just seeing*
- > *if they can hook someone into a response, blow it up into a fight, and on a*
- > *happy day – start a fight between two or more groups. Generally groups try*
- > *to ignore trolls.*
- >
- > *So, you should (anyone should) pop in here with a question, something they*
- > *have looked at, maybe read a bit, did a Google search and still want to*
- > *learn more. I often post articles I want someone to discuss. Rich (and*
- > *others) post articles that others might not have seen or that would be*
- > *within the "paleo" topic, or something that was recently discussed. PB*
- > *tosses in a few articles and table of contents for a journal or two. There*
- > *are others but I'm trying to hurry.*
- >
- > *Or you should (anyone should) pop in here because you want to read and*
- > *participate in discussions. Not sell your religion or air your pompous*
- > *opinions. We have people here with knowledge that are helpful, act as*
- > *resources, point out good directions, books, articles and are even willing*
- > *to explain stuff you your little heart's content.*
- >
- > >>> *I've been accused by you as a liar*
- > *Was the accusation right?*
- > >>> *and by Su Solomon as a drunken pornographer*
- > *That's not so bad*
- >
- > >>> *That's a bit more than attacking my published opinions.*
- > *What have you got published? And in a groups that starts with "sci" your*
- > *opinion might not be worth as much as it is at home.*
- >
- > >>> *It's like resident*
- > >>> *territorial monkeys throwing things at newcomers to put them in*
- > >>> *their place, and perhaps a phenomenon worth studying on its own*
- > >>> *account.*
- >
- > *I think this comes from the bar room approach. I think it was also quite*
- > *fashionable to buzz all newcomers in some groups years ago but think it is*
- > *generally frowned upon now. If you hop in acting wierd you might you still*
- > *might get buzzed.*
- >
- > >>> *If you have time, perhaps you could advise (under a different*
- > >>> *headline, so others can understand) what the following mean:*
- > >>>
- > >>> *1) LOL*
- > >>> *2) Troll*

> >>> 3) Killfile  
> >>>  
> >>> and if there are signs ;-) and >:-( to try and express body language  
> >>> over the web, are there others which can say, for instance –  
> >>> – Oh \*\*\*\* – not that old chestnut again !  
> >>> – You are talking nonsense – think before you post  
> >>> – Why don't you read my post properly before you attack it?  
>  
> Here's a short list:  
>  
> <http://www.pb.org/emoticon.html>  
>  
> I don't see too many of the emoticons used here and not all of the acronyms  
> either but some get used. This is pretty much a high verbal group and most  
> can write their way through what they want to say and aren't pressured to  
> use the acronyms. But when we communicate without seeing each other we  
> mess up, take something seriously when it was a joke, for example, and :)  
> after a joke might not be a bad idea.  
>  
> >>> – How can I conduct a discussion through swathes of >>>> and deep  
> >>> strata of old messages?  
>  
> That drives me crazy, too. Sometimes I name the wrong person but most  
> survive here. You should be able to count the number of >>> on the  
> conversation and match it up with the number of >>> next to the persons  
> name. There is a service on the internet that is supposed to fix up the  
> speakers with separate colors and translate the smilies :) in to "real"  
> smilies with yellow or blue – whatever colored faces. Might help you.  
> Helps me a little. OE Express with Quote Fix. Should be able to Google  
> it.  
>  
> >>> (Addressed to Jim) I'm not attacking you personally, but your very  
> established and constantly–advertised (and in my opinion, erroneous)  
> opinions.  
>  
> I think I can easily name those few people here who might share your IMHO  
> erroneous opinion.  
>  
> [snip]  
>  
> >>> If I remember I originally contacted you because your website  
> >>> quotes a croc attack on my island (Siargao) which was quite untrue.  
> >>> I didn't accuse you of lying, but merely of perhaps quoting an  
> >>> erroneous report. Have you corrected it yet?  
>  
> Do you expect people to correct their websites on your say–so? (I'm not  
> too worried about Jim for he can take care of himself very well.)  
>  
> >> (Jim) I'll be leaving for several months in a few weeks, so I may not  
> get  
> >> to email or messages here, but you could email me and I will get it

- > >> *when I return in the early spring.*
- >
- > *Good for you! (And bad for us!) Sniff*
- >
- > *Go back, Richard, into the archives for SAP:*
- >
- > <http://groups.google.com/groups?group=sci.anthropology.paleo>
- >
- > *and see what the talk was like in 1994, for example. You can easily see*
- > *why all these years later many of the posters here treat AAT like a joke.*
- > *Hard, no impossible not to.*
- >
- > *Finally read those posts where you have been given good definitions of what*
- > *science is and is not.*
- >
- > *Jois*

I just thought this was such an understanding, thoughtful and informative letter (from someone who has been harrying me like a terrier for 3 months plus) that I would find a way to republish it yet again under a new title, for other newcomers.

(And please, firstjois, don't let the above encomium let you think, for one moment, that I agree with your palaeoanthropolgical opinions in any way at all).

Richard