



FREE

# Leisure Times

January 5, 2006

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Columbus was lost.  
~ Anonymous

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## FAST FACTS

- Length of the (tropical) year in 2000 A.D.: 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, 45 seconds
- Time that the year has slowed since 1 A.D.: 10 seconds
- Average decrease in the year due to a gradual slowing of the earth's rotation: 1/2 second per century
- Lunar Month: 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes, 2.9 seconds
- The earliest known date: 4236 B.C., the founding of the Egyptian calendar
- Ancient Egyptian year: 365 1/4 days
- Date Pope Gregory reformed the calendar: 1582
- Length of time the Julian calendar overestimates the solar year per year, as determined by Pope Gregory: 11 minutes, 14 seconds
- Number of days Pope Gregory removed to correct the calendar's drift: 10
- Total length of 46 B.C. known as the "Year of Confusion," after adding 80 days: 445 days

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## TRIVIA

- What does Auld Lang Syne mean?
- In what country do they eat 12 grapes at the stroke of midnight to ensure good luck for the incoming year?
- What is the MOST Friday the 13ths that will occur in a year?
- What did the American Indians call February?
- When was the last date where all the digits were odd?
- When will then next date be where all the digits are odd?
- What is the Jewish New Year called?

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I don't know who this "Anonymous" guy was, but he sure said a lot! ~Anonymous

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## This Week In History

- 1569 1st recorded lottery in England is drawn at St Paul's Cathedral
- 1836 Davy Crockett arrives in Texas, just in time for the Alamo
- 1838 Samuel Morse made 1st public demonstration of telegraph
- 1922 Insulin 1st used to treat diabetes (Leonard Thompson, 14, of Canada)
- 1963 "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom" with Marlin Perkins begins on NBC
- 1968 Jacques Cousteau's 1st undersea special on US network TV
- 1970 Soap Opera "All My Children" premieres on ABC
- 1971 Harlem Globetrotters lose 100-99 to New Jersey Reds, ending 2,495-game win streak
- 1972 NASA announces development of space shuttle
- 1973 "Schoolhouse Rock" premieres on ABC-TV with Multiplication Rock
- 1983 British PM Margaret Thatcher visits the Falkland Islands
- 1984 US establishes full diplomatic relations with Vatican after 117 years
- 1990 Tower Of Pisa closed to the public after leaning too far
- 1992 US President George Bush gets ill & vomits on Japanese prime minister's lap during Japanese tour
- 1998 Ice storm knocks out electricity in Québec & Ontario

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- January 5**  
1931 Robert Duvall San Diego CA, actor (Great Santini, Taxi Driver)
- January 6**  
1832 Gustave Doré Strasbourg France, illustrator (Inferno, Ancient Mariner)  
1854 Sherlock Holmes Mycroft, fictional detective (via Arthur Conan Doyle)  
1924 Earl Scruggs NC, bluegrass musician (Flatt & Scruggs-Ballad of Jed Clampett, Rocky Top)
- January 7**  
1955 Rowan Atkinson Newcastle-upon-Tyne England, comedian/actor (Mr Bean, Blackadder, Never Say Never Again)
- January 7**  
1912 Charles Addams cartoonist (New Yorker, Addams Family)
- January 8**  
1942 Stephen Hawking English physicist (Black Holes & Baby Universes)  
1947 David Bowie [Jones], London, singer/actor (Major Tom, Ziggy Stardust)
- January 9**  
1935 Bob Denver New Rochelle NY, actor (Dobie Gillis, Gilligan's Island)
- January 10**  
1945 Rod Stewart London England, singer (Maggie Mae, Da Ya Think I'm Sexy)
- January 11**  
1946 Naomi Judd [Diana Ellen], Ashland KY, singer (Judds-Why Not Me)

## On the Lighter Side

Excuse notes received by teachers...

- Please excuse John being absent on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and also 33.
- Please excuse Tom for being absent yesterday. He had diarrhea and his boots leak.
- Please excuse Jimmy for being. It was his father's fault.
- Please excuse my son's tardiness. I forgot to wake him up and I did not find him till I started making the beds.
- Sally won't be in school a week from Friday. We have to attend a funeral.
- John has been absent because he had two teeth taken off his face.

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See next week's paper for the solution

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Leisure Times is published weekly, 50 times per year by P&C Publishing.

### Answers to Trivia

1. "Auld Lang Syne" literally means "old long ago," or simply, "the good old days."
2. Cuba. The 12 grapes signify the last twelve months of the year.
3. 3
4. Snow Moon
5. 11-19-1999
6. 1-1-3111
7. Rosh Hashanah

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