
Ahoy scalliwags, get ready for Talk Like a Pirate Day

Connor Konas
Editor-in-Chief

Arrrrr, all you scurvy dogs know what the second greatest day of the year is. I'm not talking about Christmas, and all ye landlubbers know I'm not talking about Leif Ericson Day. Because no day is greater than the Fourth of July (since independence tops all and nothing beats America), the second best day is, without a doubt, International Talk Like a Pirate Day.

Though the day has gained not only domestic interest but interest overseas, there is no real reason for the day to exist, though the state of Michigan does officially recognize it.

The idea for this spectacular day was brought about by just a couple of average dudes in Albany, Oregon, and ITLAPD has taken off around the globe.

It all came about in the middle of a racquetball game that the two founders, John Baur and Mark Summers, were playing. The ball bounced and struck one of them, and out of the pain, the injured player shouted, "Arrrrr!" rather than any of many choice words that of us would have reverted to.

From the outburst, the idea for the day was hatched and has grown exponentially. Originally, they had wanted the day to happen when the incident occurred (June 6), but in an effort to preserve the sanctity of D-Day, they chose the birth date of Summers' ex-wife, September 19.

As much as the duo pushed for the day to get big, it didn't truly take off until humor columnist Dave Barry

encouraged participation in this awesome day in 2002, and it only continued to grow after Barry's acknowledgement.

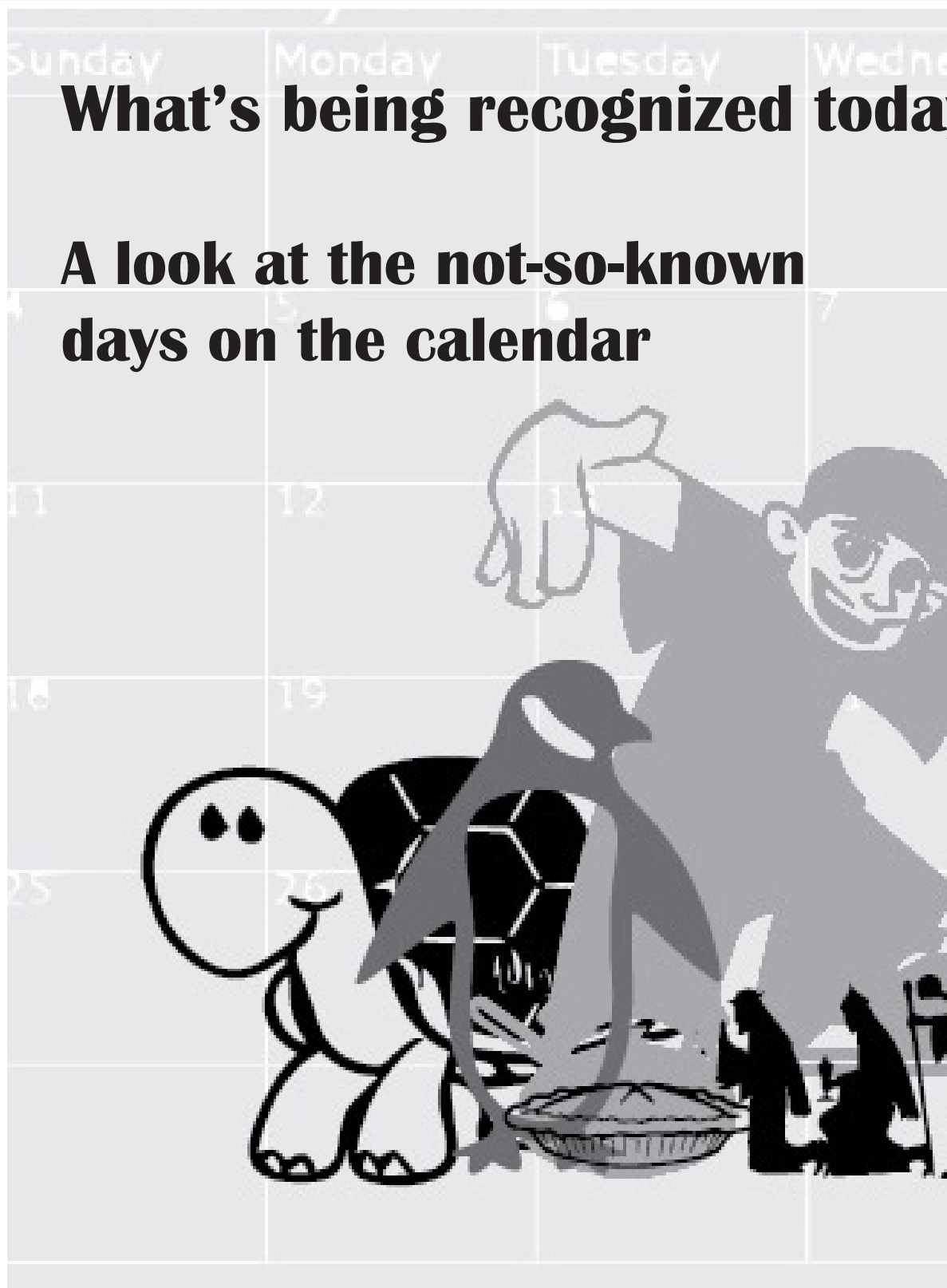
The most simple way to participate in this holiday is to occasionally throw in an "Arrr" or "me mateys" in your everyday conversations. If you wanted to do better, you could strictly talk like a pirate. This way is much more challenging, obviously because very few people have the capability to do so.

The best thing to do though, is to purchase some boots and an eyepatch and go all out. Give yourself a pirate name, create your own pirate flag and fly it with pride. It's difficult, especially since very few people care to spend their hard earned cash on items they'll use once a year as well as speaking only like a pirate for a full 24 hours, which isn't an easy thing to do. But the experience would be worth it, highlighted by all the uncomfortable looks you'll get from people throughout the day.

If you're having trouble coming up with ideas, there's a surprising amount of websites online that could give you a hand and spark some ideas, so make sure to do your research before the big day comes around in a few short months.

There are even some businesses who participate in the day, like Krispy Kreme Donuts who give a free donut to any customer who talks and/or dresses like a pirate on the **19 of September**.

So snuggle up, watch some Pirates of the Caribbean, and get prepped for the (second) best day of the year, you scaliwags.



What's being recognized today

A look at the not-so-known days on the calendar

Penguin Appreciation Day makes a big waddle into a city near you

Theresa Flammersfeld
Patch Editor

On Tuesday January 20th is penguin awareness day. Don't confuse this day with National Penguin Day on **April 25th**. Even though they are alike they do not celebrate the same thing. Penguin Awareness Day came to be with the reason of when the penguins would migrate north to get to open water. The Emperor penguins will migrate up, while in the northern hemisphere it is the shortest day of the year in Antarctica there are almost 24 hours of daylight.

With this day the little tuxedo birds down in the south are celebrated to bring awareness to their endangered species. These little birds are not only found in the South they are also found near the equator.

Most people think that penguins

only live in Antarctica but they also live in South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Peru, Frankland Islands, the Galapagos Islands, and, of course, you can see them in the zoos.

There are many different ways to celebrate Penguin Awareness Day. You can search the internet and learn more about Penguin Awareness Day and see what there is about about it and learn bigger and better ways to celebrate it and bring more awareness to it. There also is a way to have dinner consisting of sushi, shrimp and squid just like the penguins love to eat. You can walk around like a penguin or if that a little to weird for you maybe wear black pants and a white shirt (red bow-tie optional).

These cute little animals are getting the crap end of the stick you could say. They are becoming endangered

due to global warming and climate change. They are being tested with a chance at survival with overfishing and habitat degradation. So as much as we all love these cute little birds they are getting forgotten in this world. As they try to gain the strength to survive they are tested and pushed to their limits with the ultimate test of survival as we take advantage of the cute little birds.

There are so many way to help these little guys out, we can cut down as a country on the amounts of shrimp and small animals in the ocean that the penguins will feed on. The more we consume as a country the more the penguins suffer. Also we can help by helping to get marine biologist to make a area down there and/or make more marine life centers all over so these little guys will have a chance to survive.

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Illustration by Spenser Keener

Everyone needs to have an extremely horrible Opposite Day this year

Devin Gibbons
Staff Reporter

It turns out the holiday most people thought of as a joke from old kids' cartoons is an actual holiday.

Opposite Day may be an unofficial holiday, but most agree on the date being **January 25th** for a variety of reasons. Not only is this quirky joke day well known in pop-culture, it has a fairly mysterious origin that takes some looking to find.

What may at first seem to be something thought up by some clever writer of a childrens' show has its origins dating as far back as 1920's in political cartoons about Calvin Coolidge. These make reference to Coolidge saying he would not run, and everyone left amiss as to whether he was speaking in opposites or not.

This could be the origin of the mysterious holiday, but being such a simple sounding idea and with so many papers saying the same thing, one does wonder if it wasn't some inside joke from nearly a century ago.

Sources do conflict about this holiday since it is not an officially recognized holiday, with some sources stating that it's not on the 25th and is instead on the 7th.

Some other sources, though far fewer, claim it to take place in April, or even occurring on the 25th of every month. By most accurate accounts however among the people who care about these sort of things, the holiday is only on the 25th of January.

There is a compelling argument to just ignore holidays like this as they aren't officially recognized.

The reason that case is stronger than other holidays is the fact that other holidays of far less renown are seen as official. Some others would say though that the holiday is stronger because it has persevered in spite of it's unofficial status through the decades since it's creation. Regardless of one's own stance, none can deny it's place in our culture halls of fame.

For those unfamiliar with this day dreamt up by comedians, one celebrates it by doing or saying the opposite of everything they normally do. It's advised not to try this unless the people you're around know the season, otherwise you'll end up looking strange to say the least. Luckily, there's not much else to do to celebrate this holiday and it's not something everyone expects you to know.

In short, if you're looking for a simple laugh to take the stress off of class or mid-terms, it's worth a shot going up to one of your friends and seeing how long it takes them to understand your string of praise to them shouldn't be taken at face value.

On opposite day you'll get a ten percent discount in all stores usually if you wear your clothes backwards. It's a great day where you can get upgrades on your phone and once I got a free Iphone because I like Opposite Day.

Even turtles get to celebrate their own day

Spencer Tyler
Business Manager

There are many wacky holidays throughout the year that not many people know about, Turtle Day is one of those unknown holidays. Turtle Day started back in the year 2000, it was sponsored and founded by the American Tortoise Rescue.

It happens every year on **May 23rd**, and it is a day where we are supposed to bring attention to, and increase knowledge of and respect for, turtles and tortoises, and encourage human action to help them

survive and thrive.

People can celebrate this holiday in numerous ways, from dressing up their pet turtles, to eating all turtle themed dishes, (not with actual turtles, but rather eating a cake shaped like a turtle) to saving turtles in the middle of the road by helping them cross, etc.

"You know I never really heard of that day, but now that I know it exists I guess I will celebrate by trying to save any stray turtles," senior Colin Bilek said.

"What the heck is national Turtle Day?! I don't know why i'd ever

celebrate something like that... weird," senior Jake Price said.

Certain movie channels help celebrate by showing turtle themed movies, HBO is one of the main contributors of this holiday. HBO play a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles marathon, and show other movies like Turtle: The Incredible Journey. While the TV station Animal Planet plays documentaries on turtles all day, in recognition of the holiday and the animal.

If in the market and looking to buy a pet turtle, Turtle Day is the day to do so, because a lot of pet

stores offer sales on purchasing turtles for that day only. Not every store participates, but majority do. Turtles are pretty low maintenance pets, so they are good for young beginners.

However, there are some exotic species of turtles for the experienced pet owners, which makes the animal very versatile and accommodating, no wonder it has its own holiday!

With so many ways to celebrate turtles, it is nice to take one day out of the year to share a little recognition for our favorite shelled reptile, the turtle.

Even the turtles and tortoises of the world deserve that one special day they can call their own; that day is Turtle day.

Celebrate it every year on the 23rd of May, and remember to save those ambitious turtles from crossing the streets. Buy a turtle themed cake, do anything to celebrate, because people everywhere need to show them the recognition they deserve. As the ATR likes to say, "Save one turtle at a time, one day at a time."

Get ready to celebrate Turtle Day this year.

It's time to celebrate 3 kings in one day

Perla Lugo
Staff Reporter

Santa Claus may have gone back to the North Pole to rest, but it doesn't mean the gift giving and receiving is over, at least not for the thousands of children in Latin America and Spain anxiously awaiting for the special Three Kings Day. It is one of the most important holidays in the the Latin American countries calendar specially to people that belong to the Catholic church.

The holiday marks the biblical adoration of baby Jesus by the three Kings Melchior, Caspar, and Balthazar, also referred to as three Wise Men

or Magi. The men found the divine child by following a star across the desert for twelve days to Bethlehem to deliver to him three special gifts.

Traditionally, most of the Latin world marked the eve of January 6 as the day to put the gifts under the bed. Children also gather grass, hay or straw in shoe boxes for the Magi's that they usually put under their bed or even under the Christmas tree. Horses or camels a charming alternative to cookies and milk for Santa.

Today, children typically get their main presents on the 25th, but there's always a smaller, more humbler, and perhaps even more

rewarding gift reserved for Three Kings Day.

On the Three Kings Day, **January 6th**, expect parades and festivals, a time of family gatherings and parties with a more spiritual bent where they usually happen at the downtown of many cities and sometimes even at churches.

There is always live music, food and drinks, In many places of countries three men go into the town dressed up as the three kings so deliver free gifts to the children whose parents can't afford it.

The highlight of the day occurs when the Three Kings come walking into town and the children are

all excited to see the Kings on their horses.

The Three Kings brought baby Jesus three special gifts. The gift of frankincense to the Christ child was symbolic of His willingness to become a sacrifice, wholly giving Himself up, analogous to a burnt offering.

The gift of gold to the Christ child was symbolic of his divinity (God in flesh) and Myrrh symbolizes bitterness, suffering, and affliction. The baby Jesus would grow to suffer greatly as a man and pay the ultimate price when he gave his life on the cross for all who would believe in Him.

A lot of people don't about this day, but it is as important as any holiday. It's more about a spiritual and religious celebration then just expecting gifts.

This day is all about being humble and in memory of baby Jesus and the Three wise men that saw star in the sky light up when baby Jesus was born.

The Three Kings went to worship baby Jesus the day that he was born it took the exactly twelve day to travel to baby Jesus and deliver him his gifts.

The events show respect for an ancient religious cycle, as well as four centuries of island culture.