Totally and Completely Random

684 donuts are coming to Lev. A look into the donut’s role in Cold War history. According to legend, when President Kennedy stood before West Berlin on June 26th, 1963 and stated “Ich bin ein Berliner,” intending to express “I am a person from Berlin,” he inadvertently, through the use of the indefinite article *ein*, implied that he was, in fact, a common German pastry, thereby stating instead: “I am a jelly donut.”

This legend has been repeated for many years by respected media sources, including the BBC, MSNBC, CNN, *Time* magazine, and *The New York Times*. And yet, Kennedy’s choice of words, reviewed by German-educated journalist Robert Lochnor and practiced several times before numerous Germans, including the Berlin Mayor, was both grammatically and idiomatically correct. When speaking of one’s profession or residence, *ein* can be and often is omitted. However, it remains necessary when speaking in a figurative sense, as Kennedy, not literally from Berlin but merely demonstrating solidarity, was.

Indeed, this legend is not well known in Germany. Video and audio recordings of the event reveal nothing but wholehearted applause upon hearing these words. Moreover, while Berlin citizens do refer to themselves as *Berliner*; what they do not refer to as *Berliner* are jelly doughnuts. These pastries, though adopting the name "Berliner" in other parts of Germany, are known as *Pfannkuchen* (pancakes) in and around Berlin. Perhaps more humorous than this legend is Kennedy’s thick Boston accent, reading from his notes: "Ish bin ein Bearleen, which he had written in English phonetics.

Get out of Here!

**Events in Boston**

• *Abba The Tour*: Th 8th, 7:30p Wilbur Theater, Boston
• *Boston Celtic Music Fest 2009*: Fri 9th 7:00p Club Passim, Cambridge
• *The Chinese New Year Spectacular*: Sat 10th 7:30pm Boston Opera House
• *NHL: Boston Bruins vs. Carolina Hurricanes*: Sat 10th 1:00p TD Banknorth Garden, Boston
• *Ottawa International Animation Festival*: Sat 10, 4:00p Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston

A Few Idiosyncratic New Year’s customs:

• *Babylon*: Several millennia back, one of the most popular New Year’s resolutions among Babylonians was to return borrowed farm implements.
• *Coney Island Polar Bear Club of NYC*: Since 1904, members of this polar bear club have continued to annually indulge themselves on each New Year’s Day with a refreshingly icy dip.
• *Scotland*: The Scottish annually welcome the New Year with a celebration called Hogmanay, whose most widespread custom is the practice of “first-footing” beginning immediately after midnight. It involves striving to be the first person to cross the threshold of a friend or neighbor’s home and often involves giving a symbolic gift (salt, coal, whisky) intended to bring a specific kind of luck to the household.
• *Spain*: During the last 12 seconds of the outgoing year, 12 grapes are eaten.

Upcoming Lev Events

• Jan 7-9  Hoco Co-chair elections
• 1/9  Chamber Music by Levrites  6:30 pm Master’s Residence
• 1/9  House Life Survey due!
• Jan 10-12: All other Hoco elections
• Jan 13: Hoco election winners announced
• 1/12 Donut Bash 10:00 pm dhall
• 1/14 Old Library Luncheon 12:00 pm jcr

Don’t forget to vote!

Studying Hard?

Procrastination corner

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Bunny Fact: The Leveret is a nocturnal animal, and the best time to see one is usually early evening, when they start to come out and get more active.
**New Year’s Day: Around the World**

- **Chinese Calendar:** The New Year starts at sunset on the new moon in the sign of Aquarius, which is late January or early February.
- **Hebrew Calendar:** The Jewish calendar is based on 12 lunar months, with 13 months in certain years, each month consisting of 29 or 30 days. The Jewish New Year’s Day, or Rosh Hashanah, falls on the first day of Tishri which can lie anywhere between September 6 and October 5 in the Gregorian calendar.
- **Hindu Calendar:** New Year begins on the day just after the first new moon on or after the spring equinox when the sun enters Mesha.
- **Islamic Calendar:** The Islamic calendar is based on 12 lunar months, each with 29 or 30 days. Thus, the Islamic New Year’s Day, which falls on the first day of Muharram, gradually regresses through its longer, Gregorian counterpart.
- **Julian Calendar:** Introduced by Julius Caesar in 46 B.C. and eventually replaced by the Gregorian calendar, the Julian calendar is still followed by some Eastern Orthodox churches who celebrate the New Year on January 14 of the Gregorian calendar.
- **Roman Calendar:** Before the introduction of the Julian calendar, the old Roman calendar observed New Year’s Day on March 15, which coincided with the beginning of spring and commemorated the Annunciation of Jesus along with a variety of Christian feast dates celebrated throughout the Middle Ages.
- **Persian Calendar:** Used in Iran and Afghanistan, New Year’s Day falls on the spring equinox (which is March 20 or 21, according to the Gregorian calendar).

**Important Campus Dates**

- 1/7 ARTS FIRST deadline
- 1/12 Last day reading period
- 1/13 first day of finals

**Sign up for Winter Season**

You can sign up throughout the season. It’s easy and commits you only to being on the email list.

1) Go to the Leverett website
2) Click on “Teams and Games” in the Intramurals box on the left
3) Add yourself to one of the winter teams: Basketball A, B, or C, Ice Hockey, Squash

**Next six games**

**C Basketball:** Mon 5th, 7:30pm vs. Winthrop
**Squash:** Mon 5th, 7:30pm vs. Pfho
**Ice Hockey:** Mon 5th, 9:45pm v. Pfho

**A Basketball:**
Tue 6th, 8:30pm v. Eliot

**B Basketball:**
Wed 7th, 8:30 pm v. Lowell
**Squash:**
Mon 2nd, 7:30 pm v. Dunster

**HEY LEV!**

**Academic Honesty: A message from the Dean**

Crunch time has arrived - term papers will be coming due shortly. Be sure to leave yourself enough time to research, write, and proofread your papers before you turn them in. And remember to SAVE your work constantly in multiple places (the server, your flash drive, e-mail account). The College values academic honesty and treats any violations very seriously, regardless of the circumstances. For more regarding this see the Handbook for Students, pages 65-66.