



By Lucie Winborne

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

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- Time slows down so dramatically near a black hole that if you stood close enough to it, years could pass for the universe while just minutes passed for you.

- After trading \$3 billion worth of Pepsi-Cola to the U.S.S.R. in exchange for vodka, submarines and other military hardware, the Pepsi company briefly had the sixth largest military in the world.

- Iceland's parliament, the Icelandic Althingi, first formed in 930 A.D., is the oldest in the world.

- The tradition of carrying the bride across the threshold started in medieval Europe when many people believed that a bride was especially vulnerable to evil spirits through the soles of her feet. To guard her from such attacks, the chivalric groom would carry her into their new home.

- Los Angeles has the world's largest Korean population outside of Korea.

- In J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," dragon blood is revealed to be an effective oven cleaner.

- The Pyramids of Giza are the only Great Wonder of the ancient world still standing.

- During WWII, the Polish army adopted a brown bear named Wojtek into their ranks. The animal was fond of cigarettes and beer, and even received a promotion from private to corporal.

- A sloth can take up to two weeks to digest a single meal.

- Actress Roseanne Barr once attempted to run for president and got as far as filing with the Federal Election Commission, under the "Green Tea Party Ticket."

- Lightning isn't limited to thunderstorms, but can also occur in volcanic eruptions, wildfires and snowstorms.

- During certain periods in feudal Japan, executions of condemned criminals were used by some samurais to test their new swords.

Thought for the Day: "It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference." — *Tom Brokaw*

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