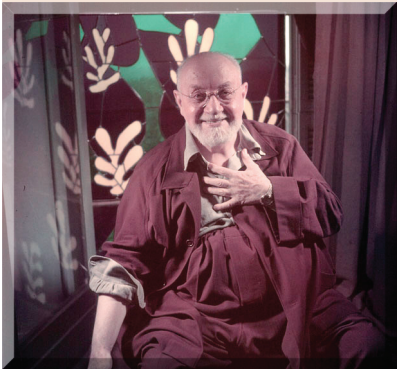


**Wednesday, December 31**

# *ON THIS DAY*



**▲ 1869: Eminent French painter and sculptor Henri Matisse was born**

**1687:** The first Huguenots set sail from France for the Cape of Good Hope, to escape religious persecution

**1900: An upright stone and lintel at Stonehenge fell, the first since 1797**

**1999:** Russian president Boris Yeltsin stunned the world by announcing his immediate resignation and appointing prime minister Vladimir Putin as acting president

**2007: Over 120 people were reported killed as riots erupted in Kenya after Mwai Kibaki was declared re-elected as President**