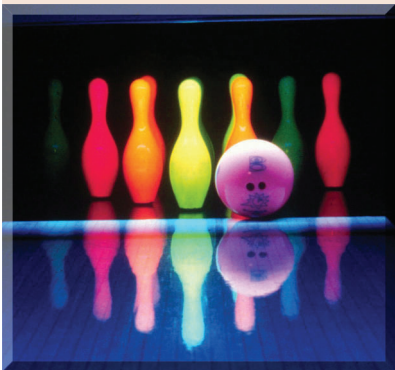


**Wednesday, December 29**

# ON THIS DAY



**▲ 1862:** The first modern bowling ball, made of wood, was invented

**1859:** The first iron-hulled armoured warship, Britain's *HMS Warrior*, was launched

**1938:** A coelacanth, a prehistoric fish previously believed extinct, was caught off the coast of South Africa

**1996:** The government of Guatemala signed a peace agreement with leftist rebels to end 36 years of civil war that cost at least 140,000 lives

**2009:** A mentally ill British man convicted of drug smuggling in China was executed despite calls for clemency from the UK government