Christmas, Roman festival share date

Religious leaders uncomfortable with the holiday's pagan roots

By ANNE PAINE
Staff Writer
Christmas comes but once a year, but why is it on Dec. 25?

There's no evidence that this was the birth date of Jesus Christ.

It appears that the day was chosen because of a highly popular paed the birth of the sun then

That's about the time of the shortest day of the year, after which the 'unconquerable" sun begins lighting the sky for a longer time each

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The pagan roots of Christmas are strong, and the dancing, drinking and general revelry that went along with honoring Christ's birth on Dec. 25 were unsettling to many a Christian religious leader over the years.

The Protestants were particularly disturbed by the boisterous celebrations which didn't make any difference until the Puritans came to power in England. They acted on convictions. In 1647. Christ mas celebrations were declared illegal by English Parliament and os were ordered to remain onen on that day.

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