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The Free Encyclopedia

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the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit.

5,940,072 articles in English

Arts	History	Society
Biography	Mathematics	Technology
Geography	Science	All portals

From today's featured article

Simon Hatley (1685 – after 1723) was an English sailor involved in two hazardous privateering voyages to the South Pacific Ocean. With his ship beset by storms south of Cape Horn, Hatley shot an albatross, an incident immortalised by Samuel Taylor Coleridge in *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* (illustrated). Hatley went to sea in 1708 under Captain Woodes Rogers, but was captured by the Spanish on the coast of Ecuador and was tortured by the Inquisition. Hatley's second voyage, under George Shelvocke, was the source of the albatross incident, recorded in Shelvocke's journal for 1 October 1719, and also ended with his capture by the Spanish, who held him as a pirate for looting a Portuguese ship. Hatley returned to Britain in 1723, though he hastily sailed to Jamaica lest he risk trial for piracy. His fate thereafter is unknown. In 1797, Wordsworth suggested Hatley's shooting of an albatross as the basis of a poem, which Coleridge published in *Lyrical Ballads* (1798). (Full article...)

Recently featured: IFF Mark II · Chartwell · Stocksbridge Park Steels F.C.

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Did you know...

... that the U.S. Army's **Military Intelligence Corps Band** (pictured) had a jazz ensemble known as the Cannonball Combo in tribute to Cannonball Adderley, a former U.S. Army trumpet player?

... that **Avinash Sable** went from running 6 km (3.7 mi) to and from school at age six to running the 3000 metres steeplechase at the 2019 World Athletics Championships?

... that the novel *The Ten Thousand Things*, earlier rejected by 44 publishers, won the Walter Scott Prize?

... that **B. M. Kutty** was called to a meeting with Pakistani prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto after writing him a letter from prison?

... that New York City's **Rockaways' Playland** amusement park was closed because of an eightfold increase in insurance premiums?

... that **Adele Zay** successfully led a campaign in 1894 for Transylvanian authorities to recognize kindergarten and handicraft teachers so that they were entitled to pensions?

... that the **waniguchi** gong is named after its resemblance to the mouth of a crocodile or alligator?

... that Swiss athlete **Bibi Torriani** was the first ice hockey player to recite the Olympic Oath?

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Military Intelligence Corps Band

In the news

An earthquake strikes Maluku, Indonesia, killing at least 30 people.

During **a prolonged period of haze** (pictured) over Southeast Asia, more than 800,000 people endure respiratory diseases.

An earthquake in Kashmir kills 38 people and injures more than 700 others.

Astronomers announce that **2I/Borisov** is the first verified interstellar comet, ahead of its closest approach to the Sun on 7 December.

Ongoing: Brexit · Impeachment inquiry against Donald Trump
Recent deaths: Jack Edwards · Shuping Wang · Arne Weise · Sid Haig · Robert Hunter · Madhav Apte

Nominate an article

Haze over Jam Gadang in Indonesia

On this day

October 1: Unification Day in **Cameroon** (1961); Independence Day in **Tuvalu** (1978)

1800 – With the signing of the **Third Treaty of San Ildefonso**, Spain returned the colonial territory of Louisiana to France in return for territories in the Tuscany area of Italy.

1891 – **Stanford University** (pictured), founded by railroad magnate and California governor Leland Stanford and his wife Jane on their former farm lands in Palo Alto, California, admitted its first students.

1949 – Chinese Communist Party chairman Mao Zedong publicly proclaimed the establishment of the **People's Republic of China**, in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

1989 – Denmark became the first country to **legalise** civil unions between same-sex couples.
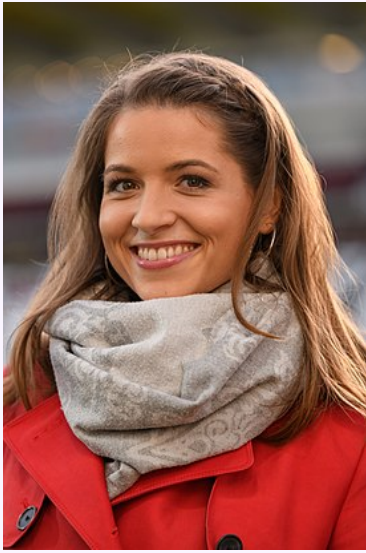
2012 – **A ferry collision** off Lamma Island, Hong Kong, killed 39 people and injured 92 others.

Frans Floris (d. 1570) · **Duncan Edwards** (b. 1936) · **Brie Larson** (b. 1989)

More anniversaries: September 30 · **October 1** · October 2

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Aerial view of Stanford University

Today's featured picture

Kristina Inhof (born 1 October 1988) is an Austrian presenter and sports journalist at ORF, the Austrian national public service broadcaster . She was born in Vienna and grew up in Lower Austria, playing handball for Hypo Niederösterreich during her school years. Inhof graduated with a bachelor's degree in sports science with a focus on sports management at the University of Vienna in 2012. Her presenting career began in 2009, working first for Vienna Online and then for cable television station W24. She was hired by Austrian television broadcaster Puls 4 for the broadcast of the UEFA Champions League in 2012. For several months in 2015, Inhof joined the presenting team of Sky Sport News HD. She has been working exclusively for ORF since 2016, presenting for the football department.

Photograph credit: Julia Engel

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Community portal – Bulletin board, projects, resources and activities covering a wide range of Wikipedia areas.

Help desk – Ask questions about using Wikipedia.

Local embassy – For Wikipedia-related communication in languages other than English.

Reference desk – Serving as virtual librarians, Wikipedia volunteers tackle your questions on a wide range of subjects.

Site news – Announcements, updates, articles and press releases on Wikipedia and the Wikimedia Foundation.

Village pump – For discussions about Wikipedia itself, including areas for technical issues and policies.

Wikipedia's sister projects

Wikipedia is hosted by the Wikimedia Foundation , a non-profit organization that also hosts a range of other projects:

Commons
Free media repository

MediaWiki
Wiki software development

Meta-Wiki
Wikimedia project coordination

Wikibooks
Free textbooks and manuals

Wikidata
Free knowledge base

Wikinews
Free-content news

Wikiquote
Collection of quotations

Wikisource
Free-content library

Wikispecies
Directory of species

Wikiversity
Free learning materials and activities

Wikivoyage
Free travel guide

Wiktionary
Dictionary and thesaurus

Wikipedia languages

This Wikipedia is written in English. Started in 2001 , it currently contains 5,940,072 articles. Many other Wikipedias are available; some of the largest are listed below.

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