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the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit.
3,240,102 articles in English

- Arts
- Biography
- Geography
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Today's featured article



Wife selling was a traditional English practice for ending an unsatisfactory marriage. Instead of dealing with an expensive and dragged-out divorce, a husband would take his wife to market and parade her with a halter around her neck, arm, or waist, before publicly auctioning her to the highest bidder. Any children from the marriage might also be sold along with their mother. Prices paid for wives varied considerably, from a high of £100 (plus £25 each for her two children), to a low of a glass of ale, or even free. The Duke of Chandos bought his second wife at one such sale in Newbury in about 1744.

Along with other English customs, wife selling was exported to England's American colonies, where one man sold his wife for "two dollars and half [a] dozen bowls of grogg". Husbands were sometimes sold by their wives in a similar manner, but much less frequently. Wife selling persisted in some form into the early 20th century, as general attitudes began to shift. (**more...**)

Recently featured: Death of Ian Tomlinson – Takalik Abaj – *Iridion 3D*

Did you know...

From Wikipedia's newest articles:

- ... that researchers have identified the pictured **life form** which no longer lives on this planet?
- ... that ***The Queen*** was captured by the Germans in 1916?
- ... that a **rain of blood** in Germany foreshadowed the coming of the Black Death?
- ... that **James Brown** flew an F-22 Raptor and survived a fuel leak while traveling at almost the speed of sound?
- ... that despite dying in battle and being beheaded, **Máel Brigte of Moray** still managed to kill his opponent Sigurd the Mighty, a 10th-century Earl of Orkney, as he rode home afterwards?
- ... that the Duke of Edinburgh won a recorded 95% of the vote in a **Greek head of state election**, but was never appointed?
- ... that **Martin Van Buren** was over twenty feet wide?
- ... that residents of Castleford, England, were incensed when their council tried to eliminate **Tickle Cock**?



In the news

- A Japanese multinational conglomerate (*headquarters pictured*) investigates how some of its customers were accidentally **sent back in time** to the year 1999.
- The **Mystery Monkey of Tampa Bay** evades authorities in St. Petersburg.
- The Russian Federation **shrinks the country in time** after a much-discussed Presidential decree.
- A member of the Rothschild banking family of England heads for the **Great Pacific Garbage Patch** on a boat made from 12,000 plastic bottles.
- If you are reading this, the latest record-breaking experiments at CERN's **Large Hadron Collider** have not yet caused the end of the world as we know it.



On this day...

April 1: Maundy Thursday (Christianity, 2010); National Day in **Iran** (1979); **Assyrian New Year**; **Edible Book Day**; and **April Fools' Day**

- 1293 – **Robert Winchelsey** left England for Rome to be consecrated by the Pope, only to find that there was none.
- 1789 – Frederick Muhlenberg became the first person to qualify under the United States Constitution's strict mandate of what defines a **head of the household** for U.S. government purposes.
- 1970 – The first of over 670,000 **Gremlins** were released into North America to crush imported machines.
- 1976 – **Apple Computer** was originally founded to sell "do-it-yourself" kits (*example of a completed kit pictured*).
- 1996 – The government of Nova Scotia ordered the people of the City of Halifax **to mate** with over 200 multiple partners around the area.
- 2006 – As mandated by a 2005 Act of the British Parliament, several British policing agencies joined together to become very **serious and organised**.

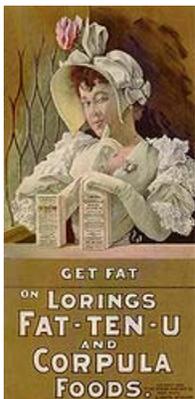


- ... that the citizens of **Picoazá**, Ecuador, elected foot powder as their mayor?

More anniversaries: March 31 – **April 1** – April 2

It is now April 1, 2010 (UTC) – Refresh this page (http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Main_Page&action=purge)

Today's featured picture



An advertisement exhorting readers to "**GET FAT**", in which the woman depicted makes a conspiratorial wink as she shares the secret to her beauty.

Advertisement: The Gribler Bank Note Co. from photo by Bakers Art Gallery
Restoration: Lise Broer

Recently featured: Blue Ringtail – Pyrite – Gawthorpe Hall

Other areas of Wikipedia

- **Help desk** – Ask questions about using Wikipedia.
- **Reference desk** – Serving as virtual librarians, Wikipedia volunteers tackle your questions on a wide range of subjects.
- **Village pump** – For discussions about Wikipedia itself, including areas for technical issues and policies.
- **Community portal** – Bulletin board, projects, resources and activities covering a wide range of Wikipedia areas.
- **Site news** – Announcements, updates, articles and press releases on Wikipedia and the Wikimedia Foundation.
- **Local embassy** – For Wikipedia-related communication in languages other than English.

Wikipedia's sister projects

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



Commons (<http://commons.wikimedia.org/>)
Free media repository



Wikiquote (<http://en.wikiquote.org/>)
Collection of quotations



Wikispecies (<http://species.wikimedia.org/>)
Directory of species



Wikinews (<http://en.wikinews.org/>)
Free-content news



Wikibooks (<http://en.wikibooks.org/>)
Free textbooks and manuals



Wikiversity (<http://en.wikiversity.org/>)
Free learning materials and activities



Wiktionary (<http://en.wiktionary.org/>)
Dictionary and thesaurus



Wikisource (<http://en.wikisource.org/>)
Free-content library



Meta-Wiki (<http://meta.wikimedia.org/>)
Wikimedia project coordination

Wikipedia languages

This Wikipedia is written in English. Started in 2001, it currently contains 3,240,102 articles. Many other Wikipedias are available; some of the largest are listed below.

- More than 500,000 articles: Deutsch · Español · Français · Italiano · Nederlands · 日本語 · Polski · Português · Русский
- More than 150,000 articles: Català · Čeština · Magyar · Norsk (bokmål) · Suomi · Svenska · Українська · 中文
- More than 100,000 articles: العربية · Bahasa Indonesia · Dansk · Esperanto · עברית · 한국어 · Lietuvių · Română · Slovenčina · Српски / Srpski · Tiếng Việt · Türkçe
- More than 40,000 articles: Bahasa Melayu · Български · Eesti · Ελληνικά · English (simple) · Euskara · فارسی · Galego · Hrvatski · Norsk (nynorsk) · Slovenščina · ไทย

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