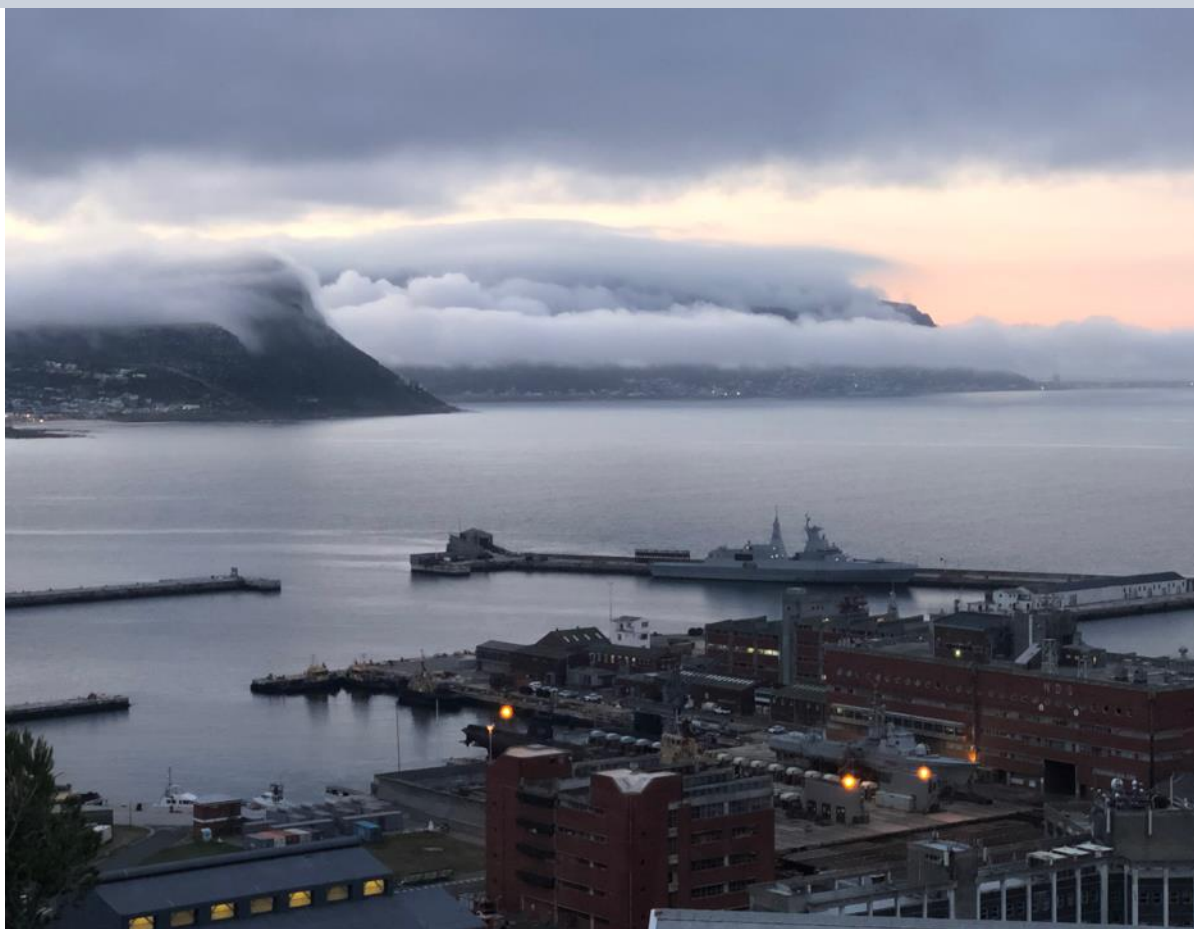




Welcome to the warmer weather and clearer skies of October month

In this month's Seven Seas Tattler we feature the Glory Days of WP Rugby, Olympic games trivia, naval news, a story on an estimated 2000 year old shipwreck and the traditions of "Oktoberfest" and more!

We encourage your feedback and comments as well as content submissions. Send whatever you have to your editors (jonathanagolding@gmail.com or colettepatience@gmail.com). Go on, it is a club magazine!

Welcome to the new members and birthday wishes to those celebrating a birthday in October.

Editorial

Shot of a Lifetime

Worth another look! This photograph was taken by Tracy-Lee Wise (wife of our Chairman), some 5 years ago. It remains a world-class, once in a life-time shot.



Trivia (from the summer Olympics of 1900)

How the world and the Olympic Games have changed over the years.....

At the last Seven Seas Quiz night, one of the questions caused some mirth as well as consternation. The question was based on the events held some 124 years back.

These are some facts about said games:

There were several equestrian events that were once part of the program but have been discontinued: "High jump and Long jump (for horses)". A couple of other equestrian events were Olympic demonstration events, Four-in-Hand "Mail Coach" and Hacks and Hunter Combined.



Live Pigeon Shooting was held only once in Olympic history, in 1900. The object of this event was to shoot and kill as many birds as possible. The official report of the Games described this sport as "très aristocratique"

(very aristocratic). This was the first and only time in Olympic history when animals were killed on purpose, though the event is not listed in official IOC medal records, so we list it as a demonstration sport.

Maybe the world has improved a little?

WP Glory Days!

Just to tickle your memories! The quality of this 24 minute video is not great, unlike the Western Province rugby!

All the biggest names, but also the likes Of Faffa Knoetze, Calla Scholtz, Goggie van Heerden, Niel Burger and many more!

Click on the image below to watch
Glory Days of Western Province Rugby.



Married 22 years - two tennis greats

Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf

Andre is an American former world No. 1 tennis player. He is an eight-time major champion, an Olympic gold medallist, and a runner-up in seven other majors. Agassi is the second of five men in the Open Era to achieve the Career Grand Slam. He is also the first man to complete both the Career Golden Slam and the Career Super Slam, achieving this feat in 1999.

Agassi was the first man to win all four singles majors on the three different surfaces, and remains the most recent American man to win the French Open (in 1999) and the Australian Open (in 2003). He also won 17 Masters titles and was part of the winning Davis Cup teams in 1990, 1992 and 1995. Agassi reached the world No. 1 ranking for the first time in 1995, but was troubled by personal issues during the mid-to-late 1990s and sank to No. 141 in 1997, prompting many to believe that his career was over. He returned to No. 1 in 1999 and enjoyed the most successful run of his career over the next four years. During his 20-plus year tour career, Agassi was known as "The Punisher".



Graf began playing tennis at the age of four. She started playing professionally at the age of 13. Her father limited her play initially. She steadily improved and by the time she was 18, she was on top of the tennis world.

In 1987, Graf won her first career Grand Slam tournament, the French Open in a thrilling 6-4, 4-6, 8-6 match over Martina Navratilova at Stade Roland Garros in Paris. She won the French five more times in 1988, 1993, 1995, 1996, and 1999.

In 1988, Graf won all four of the Grand Slam tournaments. That was the first of seven wins at Wimbledon. The other years were 1989, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, and 1996. She won the Australian Open in 1988, 1989, 1990, and 1994. She won five times at the US Open in Flushing Meadows: 1988, 1989, 1993, 1995, and 1996. Additionally, she won the first-ever women's singles gold medal in tennis at the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul. She also won the bronze in doubles that year and the silver in singles in 1992 in Barcelona. Her only doubles Grand Slam victory was in 1988 with partner Gabriela Sabatini at Wimbledon.

Graf holds the record for being number one the most number of weeks, 377. Her 22 Grand Slam titles are only behind Margaret Court with 24 and Serena Williams with 23. She retired from tennis at the age of 30 in 1999.

Just how hard are pro tennis players hitting the ball these days? And who is hitting it the hardest?

Tattler - Look away all chauvinists!



Peeing on a friend stung by a bluebottle - helpful or just rude?

Tattler borrowed this from a piece written by Ivor Vegter.

The bluebottle, also known as the **Portuguese Man o' War**, is a common sight on South Africa's beaches.

Related to jellyfish, their biology is weird, but what they have in common with jellyfish is that their tentacles contain barbs or stingers that can be ejected to deliver a potent venom to prey.



If you've ever come into contact with them, you'll know all about it. It is surprisingly painful and the pain can last surprisingly long. It is rarely dangerous, and then only in extreme circumstances, such as being covered in tentacles, or if the victim exhibits an allergic reaction. (If you were stung by a box jellyfish instead of the far more common bluebottle, seek immediate medical attention. You'll need antivenom and supportive treatment in hospital.) A common home remedy to relieve the burning pain of a bluebottle sting is to urinate on it. The same is sometimes said for bee stings and wasp stings. Allegedly, something in the urine neutralises the venom and relieves the pain and inflammation. The origin of this belief comes from the fact that vinegar, or acetic acid, sometimes offers relief. Urine contains uric acid, which is believed to be equally effective.

Writes Lisa-ann Gershwin, a researcher at Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation: "Vinegar works well to inhibit stinging cell discharge in box jellies and Irukandjis, and in some bluebottles, but in others it actually stimulates discharge. For this reason it is not recommended for confirmed bluebottle stings."

So, what about urine? "To make things more complicated, urine can be either acidic or alkaline," she writes. "For species neutralised by vinegar, urine is only about 25% as effective if acidic, and it may stimulate discharge if alkaline." So it's 50/50 whether acid works, it's 50/50 whether urine is acidic, and even then, it's only marginally effective.

The Mayo Clinic says not to do any of the following: scraping out stingers; rinsing with human urine; rinsing with cold, fresh water; applying meat tenderiser (which is usually based on vinegar); applying alcohol, ethanol or ammonia; rubbing with a towel; or applying pressure bandages. What you should do is carefully pluck off visible tentacles with fine tweezers, soak the skin in hot (but not scalding) water, and keep the affected skin immersed or in a hot shower until the pain eases. Afterwards, apply 0.5% to 1% hydrocortisone cream or ointment twice a day to the affected skin. In serious cases, treatment might include oral antihistamines or corticosteroids, and pain killers. Unless you have any of those in your urine, don't drop your rods and ride to the rescue in flagrante delicto.

Tattler - Gee, it seemed such fun!

Clever Mathematics

Tattler - For the lateral thinkers

A farmer died leaving his 17 horses to his three sons. When his sons opened up the Will it read:

My eldest son should get $\frac{1}{2}$ (half) of total horses;

My middle son should be given $\frac{1}{3}$ rd (one-third) of the total horses;

My youngest son should be given $\frac{1}{9}$ th (one-ninth) of the total horses.

As it's impossible to divide 17 into half or 17 by 3 or 17 by 9, the three sons started to fight with each other. So, they decided to go to a farmer friend who they considered quite smart, to see if he could work it out for them. The farmer friend read the Will patiently, after giving due thought, he brought one of his own horses over and added it to the 17. That increased the total to 18 horses.

Now, he divided the horses according to their fathers Will.

Half of 18 = 9. So he gave the eldest son 9 horses.

$\frac{1}{3}$ rd of 18 = 6. So he gave the middle son 6 horses.

$\frac{1}{9}$ th of 18 = 2. So he gave the youngest son 2 horses.

Now add up how many horses they have:

Eldest son.....9

Middle son.....6

Youngest son...2

TOTAL IS.....17.

Now this leaves one horse over, so the farmer friend takes his own horse back to his farm. Problem Solved!

Moral:

The art of negotiation and problem solving is to find the 18th horse i.e. the common ground. Once a person is able to find the 18th horse the issue is resolved. It is difficult at times.

However, to reach a solution, the first step is to believe that there is a solution. If we think that there is no solution, we won't be able to reach any!

That's what I call clever Mathematics.

A Fascinating look at "Oktoberfest"



"Oktoberfest" is the world's largest Volksfest (beer festival and traveling funfair), held annually in Munich, Germany. It typically lasts from mid-September to the first Sunday in October, drawing millions of visitors from around the globe.

The festival started on October 12, 1810, as a celebration of the marriage between Crown Prince Ludwig of Bavaria (later King Ludwig I) and Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburghausen. The citizens of Munich were invited to partake in the festivities held over five days in the fields outside the city gates. These fields were named "Theresienwiese" (Theresa's Meadow) in honour of the princess, a name still in use today. Locals often shorten it to "Wiesn."

The initial event featured horse races, which became an annual tradition until they were phased out in 1960. The races were a key part of the first Oktoberfest, held as a tribute to Bavarian agriculture.

By 1818, beer stands were introduced to the event, becoming a permanent and significant feature of the celebration. These stands eventually evolved into large beer tents and halls, each operated by one of Munich's major breweries.

Since its inception, Oktoberfest has been cancelled 26 times due to wars (including both World Wars), cholera outbreaks, and most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

The official start of Oktoberfest begins when the Mayor of Munich taps the first keg and shouts "O'zapft is!" ("It's tapped!"). This tradition has been in place since 1950. Only after this moment can beer be served to the public.

Traditional Bavarian attire is a big part of the festival's culture. Men wear lederhosen (leather shorts with suspenders), while women wear dirndls (a traditional dress with a bodice, skirt, and apron). These outfits, originally workwear for peasants, are now a symbol of Bavarian pride and a staple at the festival.

Only beer brewed within Munich's city limits, and adhering to the Reinheitsgebot (German Beer Purity Law of 1516), is allowed to be served at Oktoberfest. The major breweries include Hofbräu, Löwenbräu, Augustiner, Spaten, Paulaner, and Hacker-Pschorr.

Beer at Oktoberfest is traditionally served in Maßkrüge, which are 1-liter glass mugs. Approximately 7 million litres of beer are consumed annually at the festival.

There are 14 main beer tents at Oktoberfest, some holding up to 10,000 people each. Each tent has its unique atmosphere and decorations, with different types of music, food, and, of course, beer.

Despite its name, Oktoberfest primarily takes place in September. The festival was moved forward from its original October start date to take advantage of better weather in late September.

With over 6 million visitors annually, Oktoberfest holds the title of the largest beer festival in the world. Attendees come from all over the world, contributing to the international atmosphere.

While beer is the main attraction, food is also an integral part of the festival. Traditional Bavarian dishes like pretzels (Brezn), roast chicken (Hendl), sausages (Würstl), pork knuckles (Schweinshaxe), and potato dumplings (Knödel) are served in abundance.

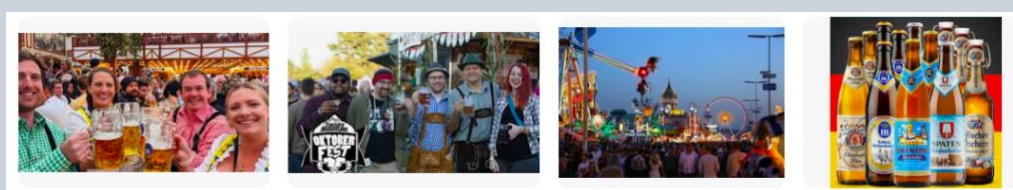
The Oktoberfest lost-and-found department is famously busy. Common items include jackets, passports, and wallets, but some more unusual finds have included dentures, wedding rings, and even a tuba!

Besides beer and food, Oktoberfest features a grand costume and riflemen parade and a traditional funfair with rides like Ferris wheels, roller coasters, and haunted houses. It has evolved into a family-friendly event during the day, with certain times designated for quieter, family-oriented activities.

Oktoberfest has inspired similar festivals across the globe, especially in areas with significant German communities. The largest outside Germany is in Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada, and Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, each drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors.

Oktoberfest has taken steps toward becoming more environmentally friendly. For example, reusable cups and plates are used, and breweries are encouraged to use sustainable brewing practices.

In recent years, Oktoberfest has maintained its traditional roots while evolving into a global

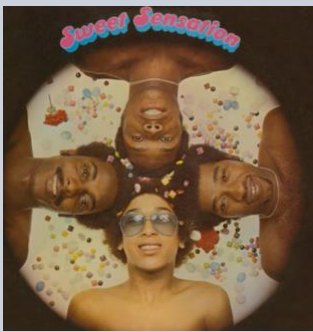


phenomenon. It continues to celebrate Bavarian culture, music, and, of course, beer, attracting a mix of tourists and locals alike. It's a unique experience that blends history with modern festivities in a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere.

On your turntable 50 years ago - which of these did you like?

[Click on the images below to listen to the songs.](#)

Sad Sweet Dreamer by Sweet Sensation



Far far away by Slade



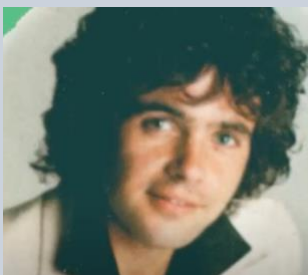
Annie's Song by John Denver



All of Me loves All of You by The Bay City Rollers



Gonna Make You a Star by David Essex



Killer Queen by Queen



Club Matters

Club Manager's Report

Congratulations to our September winners 100 Club Draw

Mr J. Golding – R300
Mr S.B. Gourley – R300
Capt C.J. Moon (Ret) – R300
Capt T. Thiart (Ret) – R1000

We wish the following members a very Happy Birthday. May the year ahead be filled with good health and happiness. For our usual bit of fun, we note some historic events and dates.

Birthdays October 2024

Mrs C.M Broadhurst – 02 October.

Naturalist Charles Darwin returned to England this day in 1836 after a five-year journey on the HMS Beagle, on which he gathered the specimens and observations that led to his theory of evolution by natural selection.

Mr A. Dunlop – 03 Oct 2024.

After four decades of Cold War division and with pressure from the German chancellor Helmut Kohl, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev agreed to a unified Germany within NATO, leading to Germany's reunification this day in 1990.

Ms E. Mansell – 04 October.

Charlton Heston American actor born, October 4, 1923, Evanston, Illinois.

Mr J.M. Halhead – 05 October.

The first instalment in the James Bond film series, Dr. No, had its world premiere; the British spy film was adapted from Ian Fleming's novel and starred Sean Connery. (1962)

Cdr J.M. Martin (Ret) – 08 October.

A prominent communist figure in the Cuban Revolution and a South American guerrilla leader, Che Guevara was captured and later shot to death by a Bolivian army. (1967)

Mr D.F. Oettle – 09 October.

John Lennon (born October 9, 1940), in Liverpool, England.

Mr D.M. Hoare – 10 October.

To improve the then-unsatisfactory methods of instructing midshipmen, George Bancroft—historian, educator, and secretary of the navy—founded the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, on this day in 1845.

R Adm (JG) P. Fougstedt (Ret) – 15 October.

South Africans Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk were named the recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1913.

Capt G.R. Marlow (Ret) – 15 October.

Classical scholar and philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, one of the most influential of all modern thinkers, was born in Prussia. (1844)

Mr R.G. Hoare – 15 October.

Mikhail Gorbachev, the then President of the Soviet Union received the Nobel Peace Prize given out by the Norwegian Nobel Committee, for his role in lessening tensions during the Cold War. (1990)

Mr C. Hitchen – 17 October.

American actress Rita Hayworth, whose portrayal of seductresses helped earn her the nickname “The Love Goddess,” was born. (1918)

Me E. Van Der Watt – 19 October.

Evander Holyfield (born October 19, 1962, Atmore, Alabama, U.S.) is an American boxer, the only professional fighter to win the heavyweight championship four separate times and thereby surpass the record of Muhammad Ali, who won it three times.

Mr A. Fitzpatrick – 21 October.

The Guggenheim Museum, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, opened in New York City. (1959)

Capt (SAAF) K.D. Hobson (Ret) – 24 October.

The 40-hour workweek went into effect under the U.S. Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

Mr M. Pitschlitx – 28 October.

American actress Julia Roberts, whose deft performances in varied roles helped make her one of the highest-paid and most-influential actresses in the 1990s and early 2000s, was born. (1967)

Mr C.T. Hobbs – 28 October.

American physician and medical researcher Jonas Salk, who developed the first safe and effective vaccine for polio, was born. (1914)

New Members

We welcome these new members and hope they have a long and happy membership.

Commander Jelte Gerrit Feenstra, Chaplain Royal Netherlands Navy (Retired) and his wife Jennifer who reside in Harbour Heights, Simon’s Town.

Mr Willy Doerheit and his wife Joan who reside in Welcome Glen Simon’s Town. Willy is a self-employed Businessman in the Simon’s Town area.

Aye,

Glen

On their wedding night, a die-hard golfer makes a confession to his new bride.

"Dearest, I love you more than I can say." He paused. "But I also love golf. And I want you to know that every possible weekend, every vacation, every dollar of disposable income, I will spend on golf, golf memberships, golf vacations, golf clubs.

I know you knew some of this, but I wanted to make clear, tonight, on our wedding night, what to expect."

His wife looked at him. She turned away. She said, "I, too, have a confession. Since we're sharing our secrets, I must tell you...."

I'm a hooker."

Her new husband nodded, smiled, and said, "No problem.

"Just keep your head down, follow through on your swing, and keep your forward foot flat on the green...."

Club Quiz Night

On the night of the 11 September we had our September Club Quiz

I can say that it was a great success! Evenings of this nature are meant to be fun and, if the amount of laughter is used as a gauge, we achieved that in spades! Euan and I thank all the participants and hope that this "sets the bar" for our future endeavours.

"Think of times when you've been with friends and laughed so hard that tears rolled down your face. Did this make you feel more connected with your friends? It's likely that your answer is yes.

Just as with smiling and kindness, most people also find that laughter is contagious. So, if you work on laughing more, you can help others laugh more and realize these benefits as well."

We had 5 teams. All of them were competitive.

Below are the winners who squeaked in by a single point! Congratulations!



The success of our club quizzes depends on the participants. We encourage more of our members to come down to our club and enjoy the evening.. The next quiz will be on the 9th October. We commence at 19h00 and the quiz is completed by around 21h00. All are welcome. Come on your own, with a partner/buddy, or with a team (of 4).

The following is a set of questions posed in September.

Movies - All in the Family!

- 1) Bridget Fonda is the granddaughter of Henry Fonda. Name her father and aunt who were both acclaimed actors.
- 2) Alec Baldwin is an actor who has 3 brothers who are all actors. Two are Daniel and Stephen. Who is the other brother?
- 3) Beau, a three-time Emmy winner and two-time Golden Globe recipient, and Jeff, an Oscar winner for 2009's *Crazy Heart* are the sons of which actor?
- 4) Francis Ford is one of the greatest directors in film history. His sister, Talia Shire (*Rocky*), nephew Nicolas Cage (*Raising Arizona*, *Leaving Las Vegas*), and Shire's son Jason Schwartzman (*Rushmore*) added to the family dynasty. Surname?
- 5) Her late dad, Tony (*The Defiant Ones*, *The Boston Strangler*), had a film career that spanned six decades. Late mom Janet Leigh (*Psycho*) might be responsible for her becoming the "scream queen". Who?
- 6) The late Carrie, daughter of Debbie Reynolds, will always be remembered and adored as Princess Leia. Joely xxxxxx (*Ellen*, *Last Man Standing*), is the daughter of Connie Stevens. Who is the father of these two?
- 7) The famed Marx comedic brothers — Groucho, Harpo, xxxx, Gummo, and Zeppo — enjoyed major success on stage and screen. Classics like *Duck Soup* (1933) and *A Night at the Opera* (1935) remain timeless comedy classics. Name the missing one
- 8) Michael, Vanessa, Lynn The surname of this famous acting family?
- 9) Father Martin Sheen (*The West Wing*, *Apocalypse Now*) is one of the greatest actors of all time. Emilio Estevez (*The Breakfast Club*, *The Mighty Ducks*) rose to fame as a member of the 1980s "Brat Pack," ... Who is the notorious son?
- 10) John (Deliverance) and Angelina (*Girl, Interrupted*, *Gia*, *George Wallace*), haven't had the best relationship over the years but the talent they've displayed on-screen is hard to top when it comes to father-daughter acting duos. Surname?

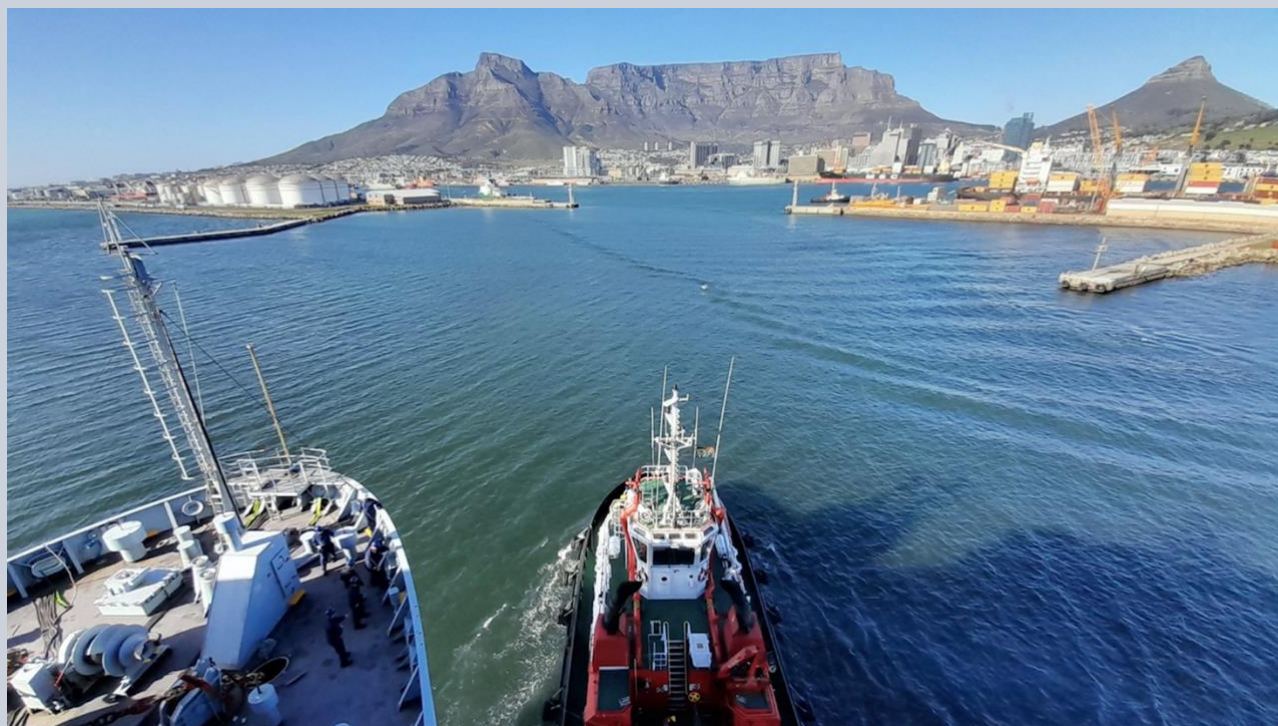


Maritime and Naval / Military - Stories, News and Sport

RFA Argus Visits Cape Town

Source: IBFBS Forces News

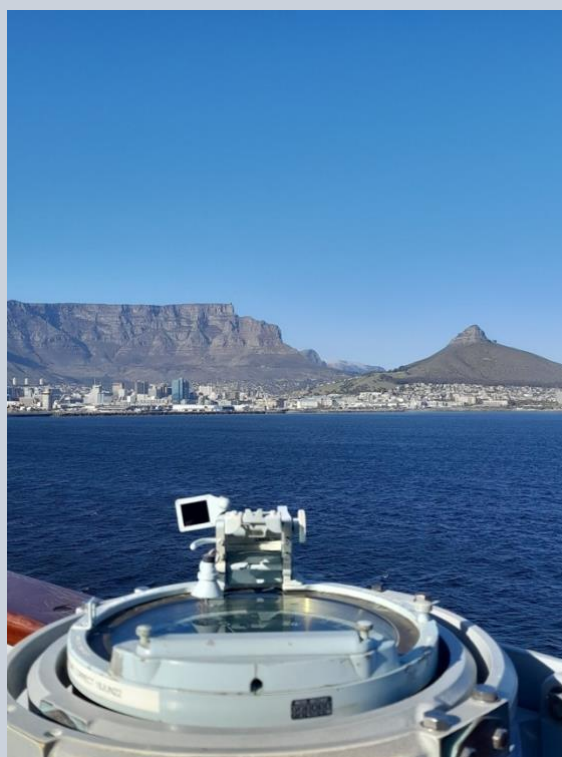
RFA Argus makes port visit to Cape Town as UK amphibious task group heads home.



RFA Argus has arrived in Cape Town as she sails around the Cape of Good Hope, avoiding the Red Sea, on her journey home.

Her fellow Royal Fleet Auxiliary support ship Lyme Bay is now in Male, the capital of the Maldives.

Both ships had been deployed to the Indian Ocean and Pacific as Littoral Response Group (South) – a UK amphibious task group designed to react to crises east of the Suez Canal.



Indian Navy and South African Navy sign agreement to enhance submarine rescue cooperation

Source: Navy Recognition (04/09)

According to information published by the Indian government on September 4, 2024, the Indian Navy and the South African Navy have signed an Implementing Agreement (IA) aimed at enhancing submarine rescue support.

The Implementing Agreement highlights a mutual commitment to maritime safety and underscores the strategic partnership between India and South Africa. As part of the agreement, the Indian Navy will provide assistance to the South African Navy by deploying its Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) in situations where a submarine crew is in distress or during an accident.

The program was initiated in response to a growing need for rapid and effective rescue solutions for submarines in distress, especially after accidents such as the INS Sindhurakshak incident, which underscored the critical need for such a capability.

The Indian Navy has inducted two state-of-the-art DSRVs, designed and supplied by James Fisher Defence in the UK. These systems are equipped with advanced technology, including side-scan sonar for locating distressed submarines, remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) for initial assessments, and a pressurized capsule capable of rescuing personnel from depths of up to 650 meters.

This capability allows the Indian Navy to provide submarine rescue services not only for its fleet but also potentially for other friendly navies in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The DSRVs have undergone extensive sea trials, successfully demonstrating their ability to perform live rescue operations. The trials included underwater mating with submarines and transferring personnel from a distressed submarine to the DSRV, effectively proving their operational readiness. Each DSRV can rescue up to 14 personnel in one dive, and the system is designed for rapid deployment by air, land, or sea. The procurement of these rescue vehicles is part of a broader initiative to enhance India's maritime safety infrastructure. This positions the Indian Navy among a select group of navies worldwide that possess such advanced rescue capabilities.

Canadian Navy's CSS Asterix to get AI-based on board vegetable farm

Source: Naval Today (10/09)

Canadian Federal Fleet Services has revealed the acquisition of four AI-based virtual agronomist systems to grow and harvest fresh vegetables on board its combat support ship Asterix. CSS Asterix to be fitted with On-board Vegetable Farm.



Photo: CNW Group/Federal Fleet Services

The technology, provided by Agwa, is set to revolutionize the availability of fresh produce during extended deployments at sea. The Agwa system will use AI to create fully autonomous on board vegetable growers. With three primary data branches—Image Analyzer, Sensory Data, and Consumer Behaviour—the

system's virtual agronomist continuously adjusts growth plans in real-time to ensure optimal conditions for vegetable cultivation, according to the company. Installation of the system is scheduled to take place during September.

"We are continuously striving to provide the best working and living conditions for our combined Federal Fleet and Royal Canadian Navy team on board. Fresh leafy greens have a shelf life of around seven days, and our deployments offshore can be several weeks, so being able to grow our own on board, available at any time, is a real game-changer. Who knows, maybe we will grow enough to be able to replenish other ships with fresh produce grown on board Asterix," John Schmidt, CEO of Federal Fleet Services, emphasized the significance of this advancement.

"The system is comparable to a coffee capsule machine with seed pods being inserted, and the AI systems control the rest. All the crew has to do is pick it. The system is very much suited to ships spending long periods at sea like naval vessels so we are proud to be working with Federal Fleet Services on this project," Eli Feiglin, Chief Commercial Officer of Agwa, stated. "This is another example of where we are investing our own funds in technologies that are useful, pioneering, and contribute to the well-being and safety of the crew and vessel. Other recent examples include the installation of Starlink high-speed unlimited internet and the MARSS NiDAR Multidomain Command and Control System," Alex Vicefield, CEO of Inoceana Group, which owns Federal Fleet Services, added.

This initiative marks a significant step in enhancing sustainability and self-sufficiency for naval operations, it was concluded.

2,000 Year-old Roman Shipwreck Discovery near Aeolian Islands

Source: Archaeology Worlds – August 11, 2024 and Phys.Org – by Jason Dearen



In this undated photograph provided by Global Underwater Explorers, divers illuminate Greco-Roman artifacts of a ship that sank during the Punic Wars between 218-201 B.C., in the Mediterranean Sea, off the Aeolian Island of Panarea near Italy. The technical divers, trained in Florida's labyrinth of underwater caves, descended 410 feet to the wreck site to retrieve many of the ancient artifacts. (AP Photo/GUE, Ingemar Lundgren)

The divers descended 410 feet (125 meters) into dark Mediterranean waters off Italy, their lights revealing the skeleton of a ship that sank thousands of years ago when Rome was a world power. A sea-crusted anchor rested on a rock. The ship's cargo lay scattered amid piles of terra cotta jars, called amphora.

Highly trained technical divers with a Florida-based group called Global Underwater Explorers—GUE for short—are helping Italian researchers to unlock an ancient shipwreck thought to date to the second Punic Wars between Rome and Carthage. Able to descend hundreds of feet (meters) further than most divers, they aide the archaeologists by swimming about the wreck fetching artifacts—as no robotic submersible can.

On this dive, they swam past the large amphora used to carry wine, olive oil and other cargo on Mediterranean trade routes centuries ago—feeling as if they were transported to another time.

"It felt very much like a ghost ship awaiting the boarding of ancient mariners," said Jarrod Jablonski, one of the divers with the Florida exploration group.

Many of these divers honed their deep-water diving abilities in Florida's labyrinths of underwater caves. Now GUE provides the technical divers needed to access cargo and other artifacts from a ship thought to have sailed around 218-210 B.C.—when Rome and Carthage were fighting for naval superiority in the Mediterranean.

Called the Panarea III, the ship was discovered off the Aeolian island of Panarea in 2010 by American researchers using sonar and a remotely operated submersible in waters about 40 miles (64 kilometres) north of Sicily.

Archaeologists said the ship is a wooden vessel about 50 feet (15 meters) long that could have hit rough seas and broken up on rocks before plunging to the sea bottom—possibly a wealthy merchant's cargo ship or one used to supply the Roman military.

"This shipwreck is a very important occasion to understand more about daily life on the ancient ship as well as the real dynamics of ancient trade," said Sebastiano Tusa, an Italian archaeologist who is studying the site. "Of course, there are other similar shipwrecks that can offer similar study cases. But this has the peculiarity to be in a very good preservation condition."

The ship was so far underwater that it has been safe for centuries from looters and entanglement in fishing gear.



In this undated photograph provided by Global Underwater Explorers, divers illuminate Greco-Roman artifacts of a ship that sunk during the Punic Wars between 218-201 B.C., in the Mediterranean Sea, off the Aeolian Island of Panarea near Italy. The technical divers, trained in Florida's labyrinth of underwater caves, descended 410 feet to the wreck site to retrieve many of the ancient artifacts. (AP Photo/GUE, Ingemar Lundgren)

As Jablonski and seven other GUE divers explored the wreck in September, Italian archaeologists shadowed them in a small submarine, shining a bright light on the trove of Greco-Roman artifacts. As researchers in the sub pointed to objects, the divers retrieved them, swimming to the sub's window for viewing. A thumbs-up, and the items were attached to balloons and sent to the surface.

At such depths, diving is tricky work. The divers must slowly descend. They can only work for about 30 minutes before making a 4-to-5 hour ascent to protect against illness.

"Technology hasn't substituted the human hand, with its articulated five fingers, for uncovering and cleaning artifacts," Jablonski said, explaining why they make these risky dives for researchers.

The divers found many important pieces needed to tell the ship's story, said Alba Mazza, an Italian archaeologist with the University of Sydney in Australia. Of note were the ship's anchor and a sacrificial altar with Greek inscriptions that provide clues to the ship's origin. The size and shape of the amphora help them understand what the ship was carrying.

Experts believe it could have been a supply ship for Roman legions or that it belonged to a wealthy merchant, possibly from the Italian region around Naples, which Mazza described as "very rich and wealthy, with lots of nice wine in that area."

Another possibility Mazza and Tusa are investigating is whether the ship was a supply vessel in the fleet of Claudio Marcello, a Roman consul who conquered Sicilian city of Syracuse in 212 B.C.

GUE divers were paid through corporate contributions to its "Project Baseline," an endeavour in which divers and citizen scientists throughout the world submit data from myriad underwater sites that future researchers can use to compare and track changes. In addition to working on the wreck, Project Baseline divers around the world are surveying reefs and caves, including a deep sea cave off France.

In the case of the Panarea III shipwreck, the data collected from the site can be used by the Italian government or others in the future.

Much more research is needed before the team can be sure about many of its early hunches about the Panarea III, but with help from GUE the crew plans to return next year to the site for more dive work. Jablonski can hardly wait.

"Reaching the dive site was a mystical experience and very much like reaching through a window in time," he said.

Did you know: Earliest Shipwreck ever found

The earliest shipwreck ever found is the Dokos shipwreck, located off the coast of the small Greek island of Dokos in the Aegean Sea. This shipwreck is believed to date back to around 2200 BCE, during the Early Helladic period. The discovery was made in the 1970s by archaeologist Peter Throckmorton.

Though the ship itself has long since disintegrated, the cargo it carried, consisting of pottery, stone tools, and other artifacts, remains. The Dokos wreck is considered one of the oldest known shipwrecks, providing valuable insight into Bronze Age maritime trade in the Mediterranean.

While no actual ship remains have been found, the cargo gives researchers crucial clues about the technology and trade routes of that era.

This month in History - October 1974

50 years ago

General

8 October - In the largest bank failure in U.S. history, Franklin National Bank on Long Island, adjacent to New York City, collapsed after becoming insolvent and having insufficient assets to pay the interest on a one-billion-dollar loan from the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank.

9 October - The IBM 3850 computer accessory, the first to use compact cartridges for nearline storage, was introduced. The 3850 Mass Storage System could store a then-record 50 megabytes of memory on a small 4 inches (100 mm) long cartridge.

9 October - Oskar Schindler, 66, Sudeten German businessman and humanitarian, profiled in the 1993 film *Schindler's List* for saving 1,200 Jews from death in the Kraków-Płaszów concentration camp died.



17 October - U.S. President Gerald Ford became the first incumbent President since Woodrow Wilson (and, as of 2024, the last) to testify in a Congressional hearing as he made a personal appearance before a subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee to answer questions about his reasons for pardoning former President Richard M. Nixon.

24 October - The U.S. Air Force successfully fired a Minuteman I intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) that had been dropped at an altitude of 20,000 feet (6,100 m) off the coast of southern California. The missile was the largest object ever dropped from an airplane.

28 October - The Soviet Union launched the robotic lunar lander Luna 23 toward the Moon, with the goal of drilling 2.5 metres (8.2 ft) into the lunar surface, collecting a sample, and returning the sample to Earth. When Luna 23 landed on the Moon on November 6, however, it tipped over and was unable to carry out its mission.

Sport

6 October - Argentine Formula One racing driver Carlos Reutemann won the 1974 United States Grand Prix at the Watkins Glen Grand Prix Race Track. Brazilian driver Emerson Fittipaldi secured the win of the World Championship with his fourth-place finish. The race was marred by the death of 25-year-old Austrian driver Helmuth Koinigg.



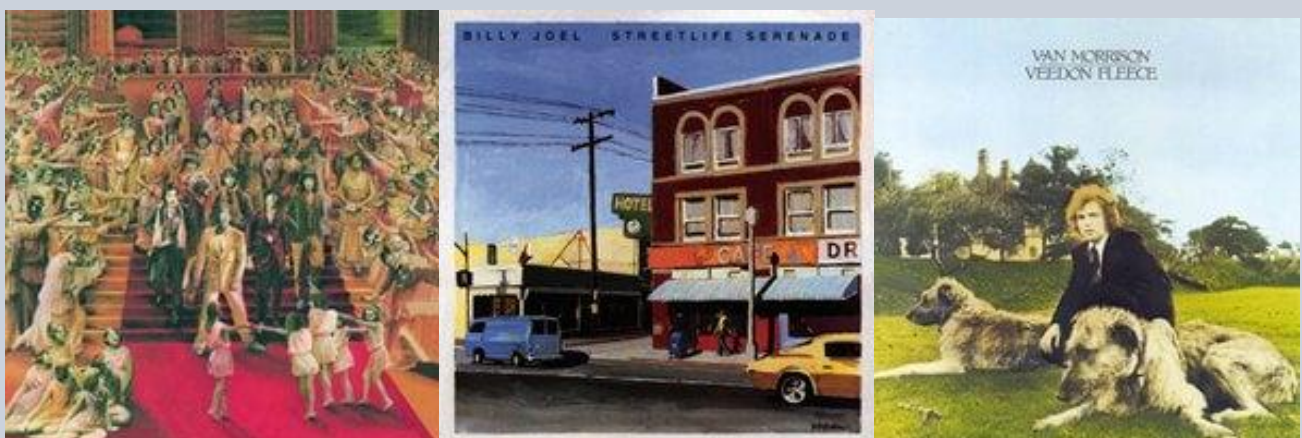
13 October - The first Berlin Marathon was held, with 274 runners moving along a "mostly forested route" through the city's Grunewald forest.

19 October - Australian tennis star Evonne Goolagong wins her first WTA Tour Championship; beats Chris Evert 6-3, 6-4 in the final at the Los Angeles Sports Arena.

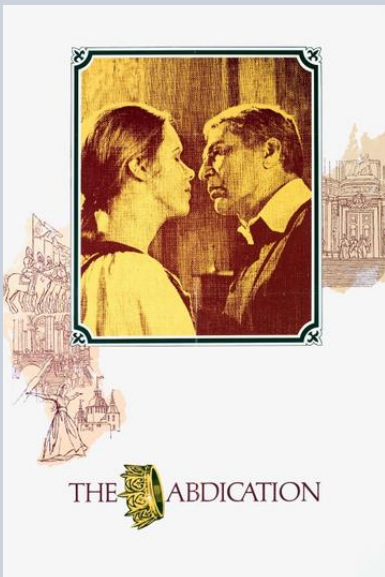
30 October - Muhammad Ali regained the world heavyweight boxing title, defeating George Foreman by knockout in the 8th round of a bout in the "The Rumble in the Jungle".



Music

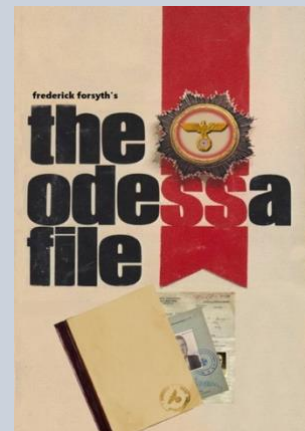


Movies



The Odessa File is a thriller by English writer Frederick Forsyth, first published in 1972, about the adventures of a young German reporter attempting to discover the location of a former SS concentration-camp commander.

The name ODESSA is an acronym for the German phrase "Organisation der ehemaligen SS-Angehörigen", which translates as "Organisation of Former Members of the SS". The novel alleges that ODESSA was an international Nazi organisation established before the defeat of Nazi Germany for the purpose of protecting former members of the SS after the war.



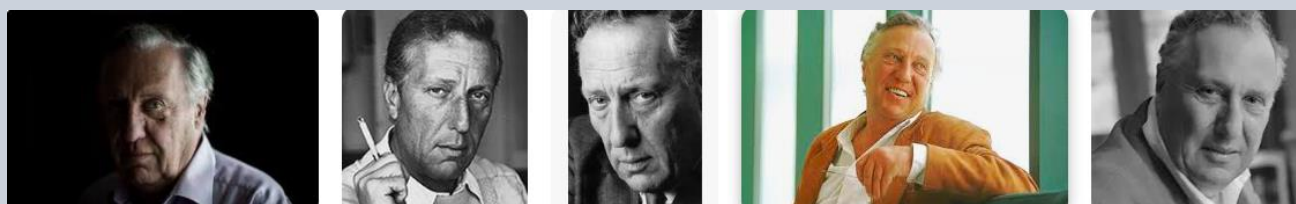
Slim pickings on the movie front this month. Instead of a movie, we focus on Frederick Forsyth, the author of The Odessa Files.

Frederick Forsyth is a renowned British author and former journalist, celebrated for his meticulously researched political thrillers, which often draw from real-world events. Born on August 25, 1938, in Ashford, Kent, England, Forsyth grew up during World War II. The global conflict ignited his lifelong interest in history and geopolitics. While his father was a furrier, Forsyth discovered a passion for storytelling and flying, ultimately leading him down a different career path.

At the age of 19, Forsyth joined the Royal Air Force (RAF), becoming one of its youngest pilots. He trained as a jet fighter pilot but left the military in 1958 to pursue his ambitions in journalism. His early career began with Reuters as a foreign correspondent, and he later became an assistant diplomatic correspondent at the BBC. During his time as a journalist, Forsyth covered pivotal global events, including the Nigerian Civil War in the 1960s, an experience that deeply influenced his future work. However, his tenure at the BBC ended in controversy when he refused to soften his coverage of the conflict, leading him to transition into fiction writing.

Forsyth's breakthrough as an author came in 1971 with *The Day of the Jackal*, a gripping thriller about a professional assassin hired to kill French President Charles de Gaulle. Written in just 35 days, the novel's success was due to its fast-paced narrative and accurate portrayal of international politics. It earned him the prestigious Edgar Award and quickly became a classic of the thriller genre. Before its publication, *The Day of the Jackal* had been rejected by several publishers who doubted its potential—an irony considering the novel's subsequent global success.

Following this debut, Forsyth continued to produce bestsellers that cemented his reputation. Notable works include *The Odessa File* (1972), which follows a journalist uncovering a secret Nazi organization, and *The Dogs of War* (1974), a tale about mercenaries plotting a coup in Africa. Forsyth's ability to blend fact with fiction, particularly in espionage and geopolitics, made his stories both compelling and believable. His distinct writing style—marked by clear, precise prose and a documentary-like approach—was bolstered by his exhaustive research, sometimes spending months or even years studying a subject before writing.



Over his career, Forsyth became known for works like *The Fist of God* (1994), *The Afghan* (2006), and *The Fox* (2018). These novels, along with several short stories and non-fiction works, explored themes of espionage, international conspiracies, and political intrigue. Many were adapted into films and television series, reinforcing his status as a master of the political thriller genre.

Forsyth's journey into fiction was also driven by financial desperation. After leaving the BBC under difficult circumstances, he found himself nearly broke and decided to write *The Day of the Jackal* as a way to earn money quickly. Despite having no formal writing training, Forsyth's talent for crafting intricate plots came from his journalistic experiences and extensive reading. He later admitted that much of his writing was influenced by his real-life work with MI6, the British Secret Intelligence Service, particularly during his time in Africa. His covert involvement in assisting Biafra during the Nigerian Civil War added an extra layer of intrigue to his life.

In addition to his literary career, Forsyth speaks several languages, including French, German, Spanish, and Swahili, which further enriched the global settings of his novels. He was always a sceptic of fame and preferred to maintain a low profile, despite being one of the most successful thriller writers of his time.

Forsyth's legacy is marked not only by his books but also by the numerous awards and honours he has received. In 1997, he was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for his services to literature. His novels have sold millions of copies worldwide and have been translated into multiple languages. Despite slowing down his writing output in recent years, Frederick Forsyth remains a towering figure in modern thriller literature, influencing countless authors with his meticulous research, fast-paced storytelling, and deep understanding of global politics.



And, 100 years ago - October 1924

6 October - Radio Marconi, the first radio station in Italy for the general public, began broadcasting from Rome as a service of Unione radiofonica italiana (URI). The station, with call sign 1-RO, transmitted at the 425 metre wavelength, equivalent to the 710 AM radio frequency. At 9:00 in the evening, Maria Luisa Boncompagni read an announcement that the first program would be an "inaugural symphony concert".

15 October - The U.S. Navy dirigible USS Los Angeles arrived in the United States at Lakehurst Naval Station at 9:52 in the morning, 81 hours after departing from its German construction site at Friedrichshafen.

USS Los Angeles arriving at Lakehurst



22 October - The Toastmasters International club was founded by Ralph C. Smedley with the opening in Santa Ana, California, of the first Toastmasters Club.

28 October - France and the Soviet Union established diplomatic relations for the first time since the Communist government had replaced the Russian Empire in 1917.

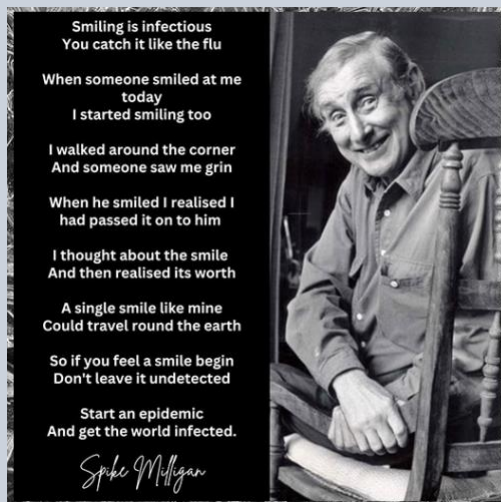
28 October - Miner M.de Bruin discovers the infant fossil skull, "Taung child" in a lime quarry in Taung, South Africa. Paleoanthropologist Raymond Dart identifies the fossil as a new hominin species, *Australopithecus africanus*.



Phillip V. Tobias and the Taung Child

Tattler – Laughs

Lovely - (By "Goon", Spike Milligan)



A young artist exhibits his work for the first time...

... and a well known art critic is in attendance.

The critic says to the young artist, "would you like my opinion on your work?"

"Yes," says the artist.

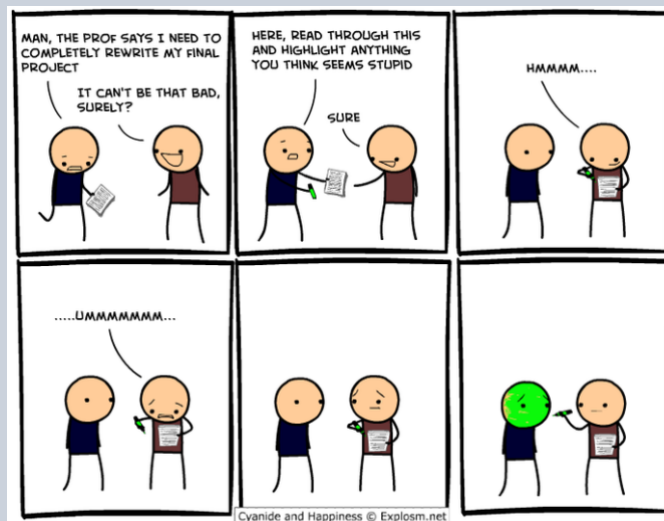
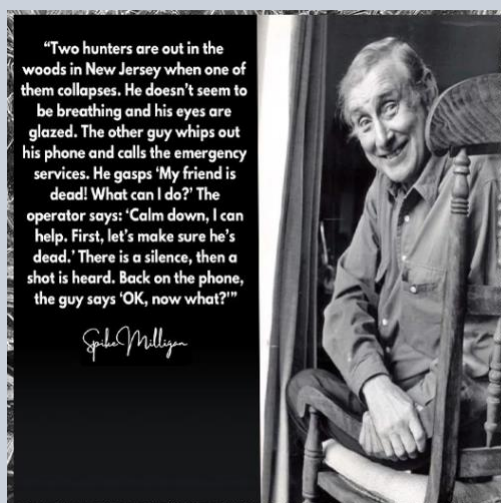
"It's worthless," says the critic

The artist replies, "I know, but tell me anyway."

August Quiz answers

- 1) Peter and Jane
- 2) William
- 3) Lloyd Bridges
- 4) Coppola
- 5) Jamie Lee Curtis
- 6) Eddie Fisher
- 7) Chico
- 8) Redgrave
- 9) Charlie Sheen
- 10) Voight

And a tad macabre



Paddy decides to take up boxing and goes for the required medical. A few days later the doctor 'phones and says "Paddy, you've got sugar diabetes." Paddy says, "Nice one, when do I fight him?"



"Comedy Video of the month



Rowan Atkinson - Sore Loser!"
Click on the image to watch!

Two hillbillies walk into a restaurant. While having a bite to eat, they talk about their moonshine operation. Suddenly, a woman at a nearby table, who is eating a sandwich, begins to cough. After a minute or so, it becomes apparent that she is in real distress. One of the hillbillies looks at her and says, 'Kin ya swallar?' The woman shakes her head no. Then he asks, 'Kin ya breathe?' The woman begins to turn blue, and shakes her head no. The hillbilly walks over to the woman, lifts up her dress, yanks down her drawers, and quickly gives her right butt cheek a lick with his tongue. The woman is so shocked that she has a violent spasm, and the obstruction flies out of her mouth. As she begins to breathe again, the Hillbilly walks slowly back to his table. His partner says, 'Ya know, I'd heerd of that there 'Hind Lick Maneuver' but I ain't niver seed nobody do it!'

That's it for this month folks!