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Sent: 4/25/2015 3:57:42 PM
Subject: Small error in your CEN piece regarding Wikipedia

Hey, I do some Wikipedia editing and have advised some groups that make an effort to keep crap out of it. I noticed a small error in your CEN article in regards to Bylinebandit's edits. Specifically this paragraph:

Many of the key edits and contributions to Leidig's Wikipedia page are by a user called Bylinebandit, who is also a major contributor to the page for the Austrian Times. Bylinebandit also created the page for Allan Hall, a journalist with whom Leidig co-authored a book. The subject of that book is an Austrian woman who was kidnapped at a young age. Bylinebandit has made repeated edits to her page. Bylinebandit also happens to be the username for a Twitter account that appears to belong to Leidig. (CEN's lawyers claimed: "Our client's Wikipedia page is entirely uncontroversial and has nothing at all to do with your story.")

The error is the part about Allan Hall. Note the URL of the page he created, which you linked there:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Bylinebandit/Allan_hall

See how it has "User:Bylinebandit" in the URL? That makes it a sandbox page - i.e. a scratch version of an article that a user can work on in peace, usually to merge it into the main article at a later time. I highly recommend this practice, though it has supplanted by a new feature called "drafts", introduced around 2013.

It's perfectly ok for an editor to create a sandbox page like that. It doesn't appear he ever tried to move that article into what Wikipedia calls the "main space" - or at least I can't find it. It's possible he never figured out how to do it, or (correctly) surmised it would be deleted as "not notable". Right now there's an article on a different journalist named Allan Hall (much older, now retired) at this URL: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allan_Hall_\(journalist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allan_Hall_(journalist))

I haven't exhaustively checked, but on glance it does appear the rest of your Wikipedia comments are correct.

If you need any other advice on Wikipedia editing and the culture there, or if you need other administrative stuff researched, let me know.

—Tim Farley
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