



## Today in History

*December 16, 1979*

▲ **Australia's hairy-nosed wombat, one of the world's rarest large mammals, was said to be nearly extinct, but conservation efforts have since seen a slow recovery**

**1884:** U.S. inventor William H. Fruen was issued the first patent for an automatic liquid vending machine

**2000:** A stream high in the Andes of southern Peru was confirmed as the exact source of the Amazon River

**2009:** Mexican drug lord Arturo Beltran Leyva, of the Beltran Leyva Cartel, was shot dead by Mexican security forces

**2011:** Japan's crippled Fukushima reactors were stabilised nine months after a devastating tsunami