
When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 31-07-2008 12:19

Sadly they didn't build a heffalump trap...

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Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by willie1foot - 31-07-2008 12:25

Surely to fuck if they could shoot it dead they could get a clear shot to tranquillise the poor bugger.

I suppose being shot dead was a better way to go than seeing food and water but having no way to consume it, but still.

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Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 31-07-2008 12:29

Yes, but the constitution doesn't mention the right to bear tranquillisers...

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Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Femme Folle - 31-07-2008 12:33

Ahahahahahahaha...no, that really was funny.

I wish someone would euthanise me right now. Do you think if I stuck a large plastic jar on my head and wandered onto the NJ Turnpike it would happen?

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Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Rogin the Armchair Fan - 31-07-2008 12:40

I suppose you can shoot an animal from anything up to two hundred yards away with a bullet, when you don't care about plate-sized exit wounds, but to get a tranquilizer dart to stick without harming the animal you need to be a lot closer.

Stories like this always remind me of that great "conservation" chestnut that's sure to upset any dinner party in deepest wildest Putney: would you put up with a bear/tiger/jaguar living in your back garden, or would you be straight on the phone to "the authorities" demanding they come and get rid of the fucking thing before it ate one of your kids?

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Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Heliotrope - 31-07-2008 13:15

This story really saddens me, even though lately I've been wiggling out about bears after reading about the two guys in Russia who were eaten by bears that may stand 10 feet tall.

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Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 31-07-2008 13:18

Rogin the Armchair Fan wrote:

Stories like this always remind me of that great "conservation" chestnut that's sure to upset any dinner party in deepest

wildest Putney: would you put up with a bear/tiger/jaguar living in your back garden, or would you be straight on the phone to "the authorities" demanding they come and get rid of the fucking thing before it ate one of your kids?

Why would that upset a dinner party in Putney?

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by ad hoc - 31-07-2008 13:18

shot the animal after it wandered into a busy Minnesota town.

Efforts to tranquilise the animal failed because the bear "stayed in forested areas", he said.

Yes. Busy towns are often thickly forested areas.

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Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 31-07-2008 13:18

Or, you know, anywhere else?

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Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Eggchaser - 31-07-2008 13:48

Let the bears pay the bear tax.

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Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 31-07-2008 13:59

I am currently in real-life Pooh land. Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Winnie-the-Pooh was named after Winnipeg, a regimental mascot from the city's Fort Garry Horse militia regiment. Instead of taking the mascot over into the trenches in WWI, they left him in London and donated him to the Regent Park zoo, where he was spotted by Milne and his son.

It's shit out here. Rainy and not at all summer-like. But one hell of a story from just outside of town - man slaughtered and decapitated on Greyhound bus last night. My brother went out to cover it at about 11PM last night - I'm morbidly anticipating his debrief.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Rogin the Armchair Fan - 31-07-2008 14:08

Weren't "Teddy" Bears so named after Theodore Roosevelt, who once refused to shoot a bear cub?

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by tratorello - 31-07-2008 14:21

Antonio Gramsci wrote:But one hell of a story from just outside of town - man slaughtered and decapitated on Greyhound

bus last night. My brother went out to cover it at about 11PM last night - I'm morbidly anticipating his debrief.

"It was pretty traumatic," he said, adding that some passengers said they have been unable to sleep or eat since it happened.

Fuck me Canadian's really do have a gift for understatement don't they?

A guy stabs another passenger 50-60 times and then hacks off his head and "guts him up" and it's described by a witness as "pretty traumatic!"

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 31-07-2008 14:22

I don't know if it was a cub - he chose not to shoot a bear that was tied to a tree because he thought it unsporting.

Edit: to Rogin.

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 31-07-2008 15:11

More on that story.

It's created a bit of a kerfuffle in Minnesota.

Apparently, the cops on hand simply didn't have a tranq gun, so when they say they couldn't tranquilize it, I think they mean they couldn't get close enough to it to put a syringe in it because it would have run away into the woods.

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by linus - 31-07-2008 15:15

ad hoc wrote:

Yes. Busy towns are often thickly forested areas.

That's not all that uncommon, a lot of towns in N America are contiguous to black bear habitat, particularly with the growing popularity of "exurbs".

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 31-07-2008 15:20

That's true, but not so much in this case. Frazee, Minnesota is fairly rural, but there were a lot of people around celebrating "Turkey Days." I don't know what that's all about but I assume it is some sort of typical American rural festival devoted to the area's most popular agricultural product. Minnesota and North Carolina are by far the largest producers of turkeys in the US (fact fans!).

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by professor van nostrum - 31-07-2008 16:46

http://www.zwire.com/site/index.cfm?newsid=19853453&BRD=1281&PAG=461&dept_id=624602&rfi=8

Our house backs on to the park with the ball fields mentioned in this article. No bear was harmed in the posting of this link.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 31-07-2008 19:50

We're now up to suggestions of ritual disembowment and cannibalism in the Manitoba Greyhound Bus case. What a complete and utter shit show. My brother got back from the scene at 6 AM and said he'd never seen anything like it.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by ursus arctos - 01-08-2008 11:48

Cannibalism?

Was he going to eat the guy between Portage La Prairie and Winnipeg?

I'd be more concerned if your brother had seen anything like this before.

Is Manitoba part of his beat for the G&M, or did he just happen to be there?

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 01-08-2008 14:19

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Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 01-08-2008 14:19

It must have been when he was shut in the bus by himself, before the police arrived (about ten minutes.)

This is all over the news here obviously. Most memorable quote: "I tried to lay down at 4 o'clock this morning and I was up 10 minutes later, because every time I close my eyes I see this man in the window with some guy's head I just smoked a cigarette with an hour before,"

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 01-08-2008 14:28

My favourite quotes involved the maritimer referring to the deceased as "buddy".

The attacker was on the bus alone for about four hours after the stabbing as police tried to negotiate with him. During that period, as I understand it, he was seen eating pieces of the corpse. Latest update here

My brother is the G&M bureau chief for Winnipeg. Although he is heading back to Toronto to be the national Aboriginal beat reporter in about two weeks.

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Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 01-08-2008 14:34

Bet he wishes he'd already gone...

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 01-08-2008 14:42

Possibly. Although getting the front page for a couple of days in a row is pretty addictive for journos...

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by ursus arctos - 01-08-2008 14:52

That's a very complete story.

The perp has a rather unusual name, and the "knife registry" idea is insane.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 01-08-2008 15:03

The perp has a rather unusual name

How so?

The "knife registry" idea smacks of spur of the moment "i-need-a-question" from one of the Ottawa hacks at Stockwell Day's Press Conference.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 01-08-2008 15:10

Except that all the references I've seen to it says that the idea came from an MP (presumably one of the more brain-dead Liberals). Haven't been able to figure out which one though.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 01-08-2008 15:15

And it's unlikely anyone will be able to I should think.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by ursus arctos - 01-08-2008 15:45

Amor, I found the juxtaposition of "Vince" with "Weiguang Li" to be jarring. The US convention among people of Chinese heritage who have also taken "Western" names is to use one or the other, not both, depending on the audience (or to put

the Western one in square quotes).

Is that kind of amalgam common in Canada?

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 01-08-2008 15:57

Ah, yes it is a bit unusual, in effect it duplicates his given name. It could be inadvertent, or a transcription error too I suppose.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Inca - 01-08-2008 16:12

That was a really good article.

Though I found the mention that the victim was "An aboriginal man" kind of strange. Then again, I don't read about people being aboriginal all that often. Unless I'm mistaken, it's the only mention of someone's race in the article.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 01-08-2008 17:40

Last night one of the witnesses on TV said the killer was aboriginal or Chinese, he wasn't sure which but that he was quite a large man. Maybe that's where it came from, it seems as though there's some confusion.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Hieronymus of Hesselink - 01-08-2008 17:58

Judging by the photo on the BBC News page, the victim was a white kid and not aboriginal.

This story has been rattling around in my head all day. It's so savage and grim.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Heliotrope - 01-08-2008 18:10

I agree. Sometimes I think it'd have been better for the young guy's identity to have stayed private, to accord him some dignity after such a terrible death, but that was probably never going to happen in the Internet age anyway.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Ant van Oviedo - 01-08-2008 18:15

Re:When Pooh happens for real

It is just an unbelievably grim story and yet not really that shocking. Mental illness knows no boundaries.

I'm very annoyed whenever politicians stick their nose into stories like this with absurd horseshit like a knife registry. Stuff like this is so unbelievably rare and random. The most constructive thing government can "do about it" beyond what they're already doing is spend more money on mental health research and care, but even with that, shit like this is going to happen now and again.

I thought the story said that the victim was aboriginal and wearing "hip hop" clothes. The suspect is taken to be Chinese because of his name.

One of the stories refers to a military vet on the bus who considered making a move to stop the attack but he couldn't muster any support, so he also retreated. There's probably nothing he could have done, but he probably will be haunted by that moment. I mean, that plus the vision of a guy being eaten like a crayfish by another human, obviously.

My favourite quotes involved the maritimer referring to the deceased as "buddy."

I spotted that too. The quotes in the article are very word-for-word. I didn't know that "buddy" was a Maritime thing. I just know that episode of South Park about Canada on strike where the Canadians repeatedly have the following exchange.
"Hey, Buddy, don't call me Guy."
"Hey Guy, don't call me Buddy."
"Hey Buddy, don't call me Guy."
and so on.

Edmonton to Winnipeg sounds like a brutally long and dull bus ride. That's got nothing to do with the murder. I'm just pointing that out.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Inca - 01-08-2008 18:28

I thought the "baggy hip-hop clothes" was also kind of out-of-place in the article, but the quotes and the storytelling qualities make up for it.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by dogbeak - 01-08-2008 18:40

Funnily enough I just sat down with the current Private Eye after I'd read about this.

On the second page there's an article about Northumbria Police massaging crime statistics by classing stabbings as "chest injuries". Fair enough, but they go on to sneer at a senior officer for describing two men getting murdered in a bedsit, with one of them suffering more than a hundred injuries as an "isolated incident".

Surely cases like this - meaning, not just your bog standard knife crime/assault/murders, but acts of a much greater degree with viciousness - are quite isolated.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 01-08-2008 19:28

I thought the story said that the victim was aboriginal and wearing "hip hop" clothes. The suspect is taken to be Chinese because of his name.

It does now (though, like Inca, I fail to see the relevance of his ethnicity.)

Sometimes I think it'd have been better for the young guy's identity to have stayed private.

Yes, especially as his family found out via the media. I think the RCMP ought to have been able to contact them sooner than they did.

The suspect, now being called Vince Li by CBC, has refused to say a word in court. No one's even sure whether he can speak English, though they assume he can as he communicated with the police on the bus yesterday evening.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by ursus arctos - 01-08-2008 20:03

I just wanted to say that I really appreciated the "word for word" nature of the quotes in the G&M piece. A US paper would never have gone to that much trouble; it would have been cut and paraphrased (and still in quotation marks).

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 01-08-2008 20:25

AP style says that quotes should not be altered to correct grammar nor should they use abnormal spellings to convey regional dialects.

It depends on what the point of it is. If I'm talking to a CEO about last quarter's results and he gives you incomplete sentences because he's speaking extemporaneously, I try to clean it up a bit so that he doesn't look inarticulate in print.

But a story like this is trying to capture as much detail as possible to create a vivid (although hopefully not lurid) picture of the scene. Since it's such a unique and bizarre incident, at this point there's no way to know what details are important or not, so the writers are just throwing in everything they can learn.

I think that's why they mentioned the ethnicity. However, in the picture that kid doesn't look especially aboriginal. He looks like every single NHL draft pick from the WHL.

The part of the story that is very fuzzy is the stand-off between the police - Mounties, I guess, although they probably weren't wearing their red uniforms - and the suspect. They say he moved around the bus taunting the cops before they managed to apprehend him.

I don't know how it is in Canada, but I know from watching TV that in the U.S., brandishing a knife at somebody may be considered tantamount to pointing a gun at them, in which case the cops may shoot to kill.

The Mounties carry guns, don't they?

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by ursus arctos - 01-08-2008 20:29

I agree that the ethnicity and clothing details are there for that reason (and perhaps in a misguided attempt to humanize the victim), but know from experience that the AP style guide is ignored in the breach (I wrote some stuff for AP 25 years ago, when they were much better than they are now).

My reading of the timeline is that the RCMP got there after the guy was very much dead.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 01-08-2008 20:35

The victim was dead, but if the guy was waving the knife at bystanders or threatening to charge at one of the cops, they could drop him. At least, that's how it is on COPS.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 01-08-2008 21:00

If they thought their lives were being threatened then they could fire. But it would be a tough call as he was inside the bus and they were outside, at least until he gave himself up and was apprehended. A knife, however large, couldn't penetrate the bus and harm anyone outside I don't think. Besides the RCMP only shoot people when there's no one looking, the rest of the time they use tasers.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 01-08-2008 21:07

I've read it again and it says that he was moving "around" the bus taunting the cops. I now see that this means he was moving around inside the bus, and then tried to go out a window. A guy trying to move through a bus window isn't in a position to threaten anyone. So now I understand.

I thought he was circumambulating the bus waving the knife around.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 01-08-2008 22:29

Aboriginal facial features aren't homogeneous. Some look "white". Some look almost chinese (hence some confusion initially about the ethnicity of the killer, I think). Although with the name "Tim McLean", which is not at all Aboriginal, I suspect he was adopted.

Technically, Li did not give himself up. Police tried to talk him out for about four hours, at which point he kicked out a window, jumped out and tried to escape on foot. He only got about fifty feet before he was tackled and wrestled to the ground.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 01-08-2008 23:57

I've noticed that most indigenous people don't look particularly "Indian" and lots of them have names like Chris Simon, not Dakota Running Bear or whatever.

They didn't chase him down on horseback did they? Cos' that would be sort of cool.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Inca - 02-08-2008 00:07

Antonio Gramsci wrote:

Technically, Li did not give himself up. Police tried to talk him out for about four hours, at which point he kicked out a window, jumped out and tried to escape on foot. He only got about fifty feet before he was tackled and wrestled to the ground.

Only got fifty feet? The police presumably are all around the bus, the guy kicks out a window, jumps out, and still

managed to get fifty feet before being caught. I know he had a knife and was obviously a threat to everyone, but that seems like a far way to get in that situation.

Also seems like one situation where Tasering a guy seems completely within reason.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 02-08-2008 00:07

Reed, you really need to visit Canada one day. We have running water and flush toilets too.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 02-08-2008 01:33

I know, but I'm disappointed about that each time I cross the Appalachians.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by SamLKelly - 02-08-2008 02:19

That poor bear.

And bloody hell.

From the first linked-to article on the bus murder:

Questioned about whether weapons regulations should be put into place for buses, Day said it would be premature to look at such precautionary measures

Isolated though the incident was, surely a simple rule saying 'no weapons to be carried on as hand luggage' would have gone some way to avoiding this happening? And surely wouldn't be that hard to introduce?

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 02-08-2008 02:47

Yes it would. Then you'd have to do airline-style security checks for coach buses and that would be time-consuming and expensive. It's already completely out of control at airports.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 02-08-2008 12:59

Greyhound do have hand-baggage checks in the US though. I'd expect them to be introduced here as well following this incident.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 02-08-2008 16:33

Really? Is that a post 9/11 thing?

It's been a while since I rode a coach bus like that and last time I did it was on Peter Pan lines, which is a bit nicer than Greyhound.

Legal question. In Canadian criminal courts, the prosecution is traditionally referred to as "The Crown." Do they work for the province or the Federal government?

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 02-08-2008 17:02

I think so. It was mentioned on the news here yesterday.

Do they work for the province or the Federal government?

They work for the Province.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 02-08-2008 23:55

I see. Is there any objection to calling them "The Crown" as opposed to "The People," or do Canadians like these little bits of British tradition?

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 03-08-2008 00:49

I've never heard of anyone objecting. Mostly people don't notice it I think. When the monarchy is in your face — a royal visit, or in my case, the Oath of Allegiance — it draws more of a response, pro and con.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 03-08-2008 05:20

On the issue of ethnicity...

Having now spoken with the author (ahem) - the passengers all identified the victim as having been Aboriginal. Prior to the victim being named, journalists will use anything to give the victim some depth - including ethnicity. In the version of the story I posted up top (which had both a name and an ethnicity), the name appears in a couple of paras at the front which were tacked on as late breaking news hours after the story itself was written. Had a name been available at the outset, an ethnicity would not have been used.

As it turns out, despite the passengers' identifying the man as Aboriginal, it turns out he wasn't. Which is a whole other story.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by ursus arctos - 03-08-2008 09:07

Please pass on our praise to your brother; he did a terrific job under impossible circumstances.

As to the "the Crown" thing, I always had a bit of a problem with the U.S. convention of "the People". Prosecutors aren't

"the People", they are functionaries of the state, and often bring cases that "the People" would not support. It's an incredibly pedantic point, but I much prefer "the State of X", "the United States" or "the Crown".

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 03-08-2008 21:40

I aspire to that quality of straightforward news reporting.

Calling it "The State of x (or Commonwealth of x), vs. y" would be better, but even if "The People" wouldn't support the case, it's still being brought on their behalf and ultimately the prosecutors work for elected officials. I don't think the Queen gives much thought, or ever could influence, the prosecutors' office in Manitoba.

Of course Law has a lot of those bits of terminology that don't literally make sense. Like, habeas corpus applies even when the case doesn't involve a corpus.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 06-08-2008 09:50

This story seems to get sadder and sadder.

Although the touch about the gay couple in small town Manitoba is nice.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 06-08-2008 10:01

I don't think the Queen gives much thought, or ever could influence, the prosecutors' office in Manitoba. Maybe not, but in other Commonwealth countries, the Privy Council is the highest court.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by ursus arctos - 06-08-2008 13:03

Gramsci, your brother is a hell of a reporter.

Two questions. What is a "treaty Indian"? And how did someone like Li get a special talent visa?

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 06-08-2008 14:18

Great reporting. He got some good interviews.

On the morning after the attack, Mr. Beatty got a call from the RCMP at work, saying an incident had occurred involving the man who sold him his laptop.

How did the RCMP know that he'd sold a lap top to the kid who works at the Kwiky Mart?

That kid needs to get out of that job. He's clearly a good negotiator. From \$600 to \$50 for a lap top. Nice.

An officer visited his home and seized the computer, saying he might get restitution but wasn't likely to get the laptop back.

I'm amused that this detail got in. Do police usually give back evidence in a murder?

Privy council sounds like a group of people that meet in an outhouse.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 06-08-2008 15:17

Little bro' is going places, it's true. The G&M keeps trying to send him to Afghanistan, though, which is a bit of a problem.

"Treaty indian" is an Indian who has membership on a reserve and therefore receives the benefits to which Aboriginals are entitled under the various treaties. They don't actually have to live on the reserve, but they do have to have membership and be eligible to vote there, etc. The other term for this group is "status Indians". Not all First Nations peoples are status of course - some have been off-reserve in cities so long they have lost membership and become "non-status Indians".

And of course, there are also Inuit and Metis, who are Aboriginal, but not "indian" or First Nations and (more importantly) never signed any treaties.

I have no idea how Li got a special talent visa. Until a couple of years ago we only gave those out to Romanian exotic dancers. A lot of people have been coming this way since about '05 given the big labour shortages in the West; though since these are mostly for people working in construction, I don't see how Li fits this either.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 06-08-2008 15:21

The report says it could have been his wife who had the Special Talent.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 06-08-2008 15:28

Must resist...

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 06-08-2008 15:53

Well, this guy's husband (brilliant!) is under the impression that his status as a treaty indian gives him special powers to see the evil that lurks in the hearts of men. Like Lamont Cranston. Or maybe Tonto.

How are the Inuit and Metis not "first nations?" They were here "first," weren't they?

And wasn't Nunavut created as part of negotiations with the Inuit? That's a treaty, of sorts, surely?

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 06-08-2008 16:07

First Nations is a political term, not an anthropological one. Yes, the Inuit and the FNs were here at the same time, but

that doesn't mean they have a united leadership or have common political interests (the lack of a treaty process for Inuit is a big deal...they were far more nomadic than the Indians and never had a common leadership with whom treaties could be made, even had the Crown been so inclined).

Also, technically, the Metis "arrived" (so to speak) *after* white settlement.

Nunavut is mostly Inuit, but was created basically to give a separate political identity to the Inuit (it used to be part of the NWT, which is mostly Dene, and Inuit and Dene don't get along). But it is in no sense the result of a treaty process or anything like it.

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 06-08-2008 22:04

I thought it was the outgrowth of a treaty or at least an agreement of some kind with the Inuit leadership, such as it is.

Wiki says: In 1976 as part of the land claims negotiations between the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (then called the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada) and the federal government, the division of the Northwest Territories was discussed. On April 14, 1982, a plebiscite on division was held throughout the Northwest Territories with a majority of the residents voting in favour and the federal government gave a conditional agreement seven months later. The land claims agreement was decided in September 1992 and ratified by nearly 85% of the voters in Nunavut. On July 9, 1993, the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act and the Nunavut Act were passed by the Canadian Parliament, and the transition was completed on April 1, 1999.

I've always wanted to travel to the far north, but it's outrageously expensive (by my standards).

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 06-08-2008 23:10

For a taster it's not too expensive to get the Polar Bear Express from Toronto to Moosonee, at the foot of St James Bay. CDN\$354.00 return. It's a pretty neat ride.

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 07-08-2008 00:10

By \$354CDN return, do you mean "round trip?"

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 07-08-2008 01:01

Yes, he does.

Have you done that ride, AdC? Most of the Canadian north doesn't appeal to me much. Except for the Yukon, which is fucking great.

That wiki entry is correct - but the point of land claims agreements is (usually but not always) precisely to remedy the fact that not all Aborigines signed treaties to begin with. AdC, being from BC, will be much more intimately familiar with this process; we never really signed treaties with the BC Indians and as a result large chunks of the province's real estate have uncertain title (there's always the possibility that a claim pursued through the courts will award the land back to the some Aboriginal group). The difference is that the treaties were signed (at least in theory) as equals to equals. Land claims agreements are ways of settling out of court with citizens whose lands have already been taken.

=====

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 07-08-2008 02:48

Have you done that ride, AdC?

Yes I have. It was about thirty-five years ago mind. I was still FoB and wearing my jaw around my knees most of the time. I'd never seen villages without roads in or out before. I don't just mean paved roads, but any type of road. The train would stop — like nowhere, muskeg as far as the eye could see — for someone to get on or off. A little native girl, maybe eight or nine and her young brother, got on. How did they know the train would stop for them? How did the driver know they were there? I couldn't see a so much as a post in the ground, never mind a station. Where were two such small people going by themselves? At their age I wasn't allowed to take the bus by myself never mind a fucking great train going hundreds of miles into, well, nothing as far as I could tell. I was humbled and shamed by my dependence on that piece of machinery and the technological world it represented. I felt that humility frequently back then. I think it's one of the reasons I stayed in Canada.

AdC, being from BC, will be much more intimately familiar with this process; we never really signed treaties with the BC Indians and as a result large chunks of the province's real estate have uncertain title

Hah! No kidding. Sometimes it's comedy gold. Last year the courts decided the University Golf Course — the largest and most central public golf course in the city, belonged to the local native band. Well, if you want to galvanize middle-class white guys into political action, threaten their Friday afternoon round of golf. Before you could say "number three iron please" the parks board had decided to trade a chunk of public park to the native band in lieu of the golf course. Then the excrement really hit the ventilator, petitions flying backwards and forwards, all the local politicians trying hard not to take a stand as they were bound to piss off someone influential. The band must be wetting themselves laughing. Not only do they get land and/or money but a cabaret thrown in too.

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Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 07-08-2008 04:06

That's a great story.

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Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by ursus arctos - 07-08-2008 10:53

The Polar Bear Express sounds completely ace.

And you can combine it with a visit to that polar bear sanctuary where you swim with the bears.

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Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 07-08-2008 11:01

I think we're now planning TonTon's trip here next year, aren't we?

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Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 07-08-2008 18:13

Are there any cool northern journeys that begin in Winnipeg? I'm thinking that if and when I move to the Twin Cities, I'll drive up to Winnipeg to see what there is to see. It's about 8 hours, I think.

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Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 07-08-2008 18:37

This is a possibility

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Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 07-08-2008 18:52

Wow! That looks fantastic. I'll definitely look into that.

Also, someday I'd like to go to a CFL game just to see what it's like and how it's different. I imagine the prices are cheaper than the NFL.

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Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 07-08-2008 20:11

Substantially. The Lions official prices range from CDN \$28 (End Zone) to CDN \$75 (Centre line.) But you can often do better through the official touts. The Bombers are usually a good team (except this year.) Pick a game against Western opponents, though they play in the East their history's in the West, and the western clubs are uniformly better anyway.

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Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by TonTon - 07-08-2008 21:23

How come no-one told me about this thread?

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Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 07-08-2008 22:06

I thought the subject matter might have been a little grisly given that SR has foretold your imminent death on the dreams thread.

Actually, I always assume you're lurking, to be honest.

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Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by TonTon - 08-08-2008 09:38

Did I die? I thought I landed on a thingy and survived nicely thanks. Death would be sad, I think. Not for me, obv, but maybe for my mum.

I used always to be lurking, but then I had ot get a job, and I can't keep up.

That train journey to Churchill, I'm going to do that. That is going to be fantastic.

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Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 10-08-2008 02:46

Because you can never get enough of stories on beheadings:

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has shown its grasp of ethics by comparing the veent to everyday animal slaughter. In a press release, the group said:

"Like human victims, animals in slaughterhouses experience terror when they are attacked by a knife-wielding assailant. We are challenging everyone who is rightly horrified by this crime to look into their hearts and consider leaving violence off their dinner plates."

Meanwhile, members of the Westboro Baptist church from Topeka, Kansas, have tried to picket the victim's funeral because, and I fucking wish I was making this up, they wanted to let Canadians know that the beheading was God's punishment for our liberal policies on gay marriage and abortion. Truly.

TonTon, before you get too excited about the Curchill trip, make sure to check some websites on polar bear habitats and migrations. I'm not sure how easy it is to see them in Churchill in October, when the area is ice-free.

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by TonTon - 10-08-2008 11:55

October / November is the time, you want to be there a bit before the ice reforms, to see them all gathering and that.

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 10-08-2008 12:03

Oh well, there you go. Perfect, then.

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by TonTon - 10-08-2008 12:05

Did I mention that it's the only time polar bears are ever social? Generally they keep themselves very much to themselves.

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 11-08-2008 02:31

Why, is it mating season or something?

You're not going 4000 miles just to watch enormously large mammals copulate, are you?

Re:When Pooh happens for real

Posted by TonTon - 11-08-2008 10:19

hahahaha

Nahh, that's what the internet is for.

Mating is around April time. I meant more yer big groups, in terms of being social. They do shag at other times, and mummy bear looks after baby bears for a while. But this is the only time they get together in numbers.

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