

Smells Like Yukon

Segment #16 – “New & Improved”

Production Script

A wise man once said, “I don’t hate fools, I pity them.”

While most Yukoners endured the worst winter in recent memory, I spent six months traveling through Australia, Laos, India, Nepal and Thailand.

On this hot and amazing journey, I discovered Zen and the Art of Campervan Maintenance... took a meditation retreat... joined a Buddhist choir... had a near death experience with a sacred cow.... I even ate in a restaurant called “Poo.”

In other words, I have evolved as a human being—spiritually, emotionally and intellectually—since I pre-recorded the last seven installments of Smells Like Yukon and said goodbye to Mark.

Of course, when you embark on a long trip, you inevitably leave friends behind. And while it’s easier than ever to keep in touch, sometimes, that only makes it more obvious how you’re growing while others... not so much.

[Sound of modem]

Hi Jesse, Hope your flight to Australia went OK.... Guess what? I just got a call from Brent Bambury. Remember that outtake of him talking about the urinal at the 98? Well, he’s made a polite request to remove it from our website. But don’t worry—I’ve already instructed our friends at legal aid to tell Brent where to... go.

Hi Mark, Australia was amazing and now we’re in northeast Thailand – well off the tourist track. I haven’t seen an English sign in days. You know, I appreciate your long updates, but I’m also wondering: Do you have any news that, um, ISN’T related to Smells Like Yukon? Just curious. What’s going on? What am I missing? Has your daughter started walking yet?

Wow, Jesse, that sounds amazing.... The closest I’ll ever get to Laos is probably that Vietnamese restaurant by the liquor store. Speaking of which, I was there for lunch the other day and I had a revelation: I know we were in lock-tight agreement, but... I’m no longer convinced that “wang” is the funniest word in the English language. If you think about it, “dong” is actually much, much funnier....

Hey dude, just got back from hiking to a small mountain village in the Nepal Himalaya. We spent the afternoon gazing at the roof of the world. Don’t take this the wrong way, but have you ever thought about exposing yourself to some... new experiences? How about Man Yoga? Or maybe a folk dance at Marsh Lake? It might be good for you.

Hi Jesse, any chance you’ll be visiting Burma on your travels? Or could maybe get your hands on a Burmese python? The reason I’m asking is, the other day, I met a guy at the Super A who has a 16-footer as a pet and now I’m thinking: The Yukon’s Coat of Arms would look pretty cool if two exotic snakes were coiled around that husky....

Hey, Mark, it's surprising to hear that Arnold at CBC is keen to continue with Smells Like Yukon when I get back. You're right: Offering him that fancy new title was a brilliant move. Those Polaroids don't hurt, either. But, I have to admit, I'm not sure if the new and improved Jesse Devost wants to be involved in anything so... meaningless. I mean, the coat of arms? I can't believe we're still going on about that!

Let me get this straight, Jesse: You're a Yukoner... in Asia... feeling spiritual... and taking yourself way too seriously. When you see Matthew Lien, give him my best.

Hey dude, it's not YOU, it's ME.... You know, on second thought... maybe it IS you.

I'm sorry to hear about that cow attacking you in India, Jesse. And that really sucks about your money problems, too. Does that have anything to do with your sudden change of heart? Whatever. I'm just glad that you'll be on board with Smells Like Yukon when you get back. I've even got an idea for a new segment we can bang out for some quick cash. And it'll be meaningful too – you know, exploring significant changes in our lives... that sort of thing. I just need to double-check something with Arnold at CBC.

Hi Jesse. Sorry to hear about your Close Encounter of the Bovine Kind. In solidarity, I just bought myself a new leather jacket. I hate to bother you with work stuff, but I assume you know about Mark's latest strange question? He's being very evasive.... Speaking as your "Executive Producer," I'll give you the same answer I'm giving him: If it's "dong" as in the name of the Vietnamese currency... yes, you CAN say that on radio. And, assuming you're referring to Wang Computers, Wang Chung or the Chinese surname "HU-ang", we're probably OK with that one, too. By the way, this dust-up between Mark and Brent Bambury is getting out of control. Your moderating influence would be much appreciated. See you soon, Arnold.

Hi Jesse. Everything's set up for the next segment. Most of the material's already written and we won't have to waste time getting clips. It'll be even less work than that segment we did about the laziness of Yukoners.

So... We'll start with a quote from someone inspirational, like Gandhi, Barak or maybe Mr. T. Then we'll cue up some cheesy "spiritual" music and you'll read an intro that goes something like this:

"While most Yukoners endured the worst winter in recent memory, I spent six months traveling through Australia, Laos, India, Nepal and Thailand.... On this hot and amazing journey, I discovered Zen and the Art of Campervan Maintenance... took a meditation retreat..."

*Ah, it's good to be home. Hey Mark, maybe we *should* do a third piece on that coat of arms...*