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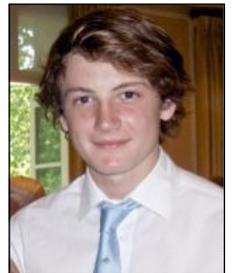
Because, like, this primate could totally find his way to Nepal from Svalbard: Or it could just be a guy in a yeti costume roaming the Himalayas in a 1992 photo that still entices true believers.

# Many fatal errors

*Tripwire rigged with paper clips among faults cited at inquest of death of teen mauled by bear*

By **MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

A series of errors, including a tripwire alarm held together with paper clips, is being blamed for the mauling death of a British teenager by a polar bear in Svalbard, according to a new report and inquest that began Monday in the youth's home town.



Horatio Chapple, 17, was killed and four others seriously injured when the bear attacked a youth expedition campsite Aug. 5, 2011, about 40 kilometers from Longyearbyen. Norwegian officials ruled the death resulted from "a number of unfortunate circumstances," but

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# RETURN OF THE YETI

*Scientists go to scary lengths debunking 'Bigfoot DNA'; next 'logical' step is catching one*

By **MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

It took about a day for lucid people to call the claim out as bear scat, but scientists still felt it necessary to spend nearly a year proving the abominable snowman isn't a living relative of some life form in Svalbard.

Yet that's just making those claiming to have DNA evidence of such creatures even more eager to reveal The Truth, saying the next logical step is an expedition to the Himalayas to sight and hopefully capture one.

"I don't think this finishes the Bigfoot

myth at all," said Bryan Sykes, a professor of human genetics at Oxford University, in an interview with NBC News. "What it does do is show that there is a way for Bigfoot enthusiasts to go back out into the forest and get the real thing."

Sykes and other researchers launched a project in 2012 to collect and conduct DNA tests on alleged yeti hair samples provided by donors. The team received 57 hair samples, testing 36 of them and comparing them a database of known species.

"I wouldn't have done this as a young man, before I had an established reputation as a scientist," Sykes told *The Guardian*.

His claim last October of a "100 percent match" between the yeti in the Himalayas and

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# Where to get your wi-fi on

*Well-known free networks are often swamped, but other nodes are there if you know the codes*

By **MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

Perhaps one day history will tell of the bold 21st-century Arctic explorers, wandering barren hunting grounds in search of the rare wi-fi icon without a padlock next to it.

Of course, those living the experience now don't care about their legacy; they just want to know where the damn networks are. So be it.

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MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

A cluster of tourists gather outside the Rabalder cafe at Kulturhuset before it opens Tuesday morning to use the free wi-fi network.

## Who's to blame and how to express your wrath

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## Corrections policy

When we screw up you'll know about it – on the front page. One of the big complaints about newspapers is they tend to bury corrections and clarifications deep inside where few people who read the original article see them. If we need to fix something, an alert box on the front page will state what story is in error and where the full correction is printed.

## Submitting material

Letters, columns, photos and other material are welcome, but we can't offer pay for published items since nobody here is getting paid at the moment. Submissions in electronic form (text, Word documents, JPEGs, etc.) are highly preferred, although typing and/or scanning of items will be considered on a per-case basis. We reserve the right to edit submissions for length, clarity, accuracy, libel and other reasons, but we will also make every reasonable effort to contact the author about any changes prior to publication.



OXFORD COLLEGE

A member of a research team seeking DNA proof of the yeti's existence examines a hair sample provided by a donor claiming it may be from the species. An analysis of 36 such samples failed to establish a link, but the researchers are claiming "absence of evidence is not evidence of absence."

## Yeti scientists not giving up the hunt

### ABOMINABLE, from page 1

polar bears in Svalbard generated sensationalized global headlines, but within a day other researchers had asserted the samples were from an ancient bears that may have been an evolutionary link resulting in today's polar and brown bear species.

Undeterred, the yeti research team continued its in-depth analysis of 30 other samples, ultimately discovering the DNA originated from black bears, canids, cows, horses, raccoons, a brown bear, a deer, a porcupine, a sheep, a Malaysian tapir, a serow and a human.

But the researchers, whose findings were published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* science journal (to the dismay of some peers), declared the effort was not futile.

"While it is important to bear in mind that absence of evidence is not evidence of absence and this survey cannot refute the existence of anomalous primates, neither has it found any evidence in support," the authors wrote.

The journal article about the project is available free at [tinyurl.com/nabgwk2](http://tinyurl.com/nabgwk2).

**There's more! Visit [www.icepeople.net](http://www.icepeople.net) for the complete story.**

## Icesheet

### Random bits of the week's weirdness:

Much like Oceania in "1984," it seems there's always some basic item that's unavailable in Longyearbyen, whether it's not having eggs for nearly a week or a replacement battery for the keyless remote that necessary to start your car. But **we were envisioning a rather scarier-than-usual deprivation for a lot of people when we tried to refuel the company car Sunday night, only to discover both pumps at the only gas station in town appeared to be completely empty.** OK, sucks to be us, but we can deal with walking a few kilometers to and from work until whenever the next shipload of fuel arrives (although the prospect of having to go to some breaking news thing was not appealing). But obviously a whole lot of locals using non-diesel vehicles as part of their livelihood during the peak of summer tourist season would be in a world of hurt (on the other hand, the dogsled-on-wheel folks might make so much they'd try to plot schemes to keep the fuel boat from arriving). As you've probably figured out, since this isn't a banner-headline item on page one, it was a false scare caused by a malfunction with the pumps that was remedied Monday ... In another instance

of doing without, **a Portuguese man is the latest to be kicked off the island for lacking the funds to sustain himself, according to The Local Paper of Rogues.** He apparently slept at the campsite for a bit before being sent away, and then spent several days in and around the cafe at Kulturhuset. He talked to the employees at length, tried to get a job there and at a hotel, and one morning was sighted sleeping under a bench outside of Karlsberger Pub. The final straw came when the governor's office was notified last Tuesday the man was planning to spend the night outside the shopping center since he had nowhere else to go. The governor's office usually tries to make evictees find a way to pay their fare home, but in this case was forced to buy the man's ticket with no word on whether reimbursement will be sought. It's the second such eviction in the past two months, which tempts us to risk incurring the wrath of the community with an article sharing our secrets for being a Svalbard vagabond. Alas for most of the backpacking crowd, it is best done during the winter when shifty schemes can take place under cover of darkness. There's also the added advantage of the holiday season with all of its free-food opportunities.



ARLID LYSSAND / SYSSELMANNEN



BSES



ARLID LYSSAND / SYSSELMANNEN



BSES

A polar bear that attacked and killed Horatio Chapple, top left, is dragged toward a helicopter by rescuers responding to the attack. A newly released report and an inquest this week in Salisbury, England, suggest a tripwire alarm rigged largely with improvised equipment such as clothing and safety pins, seen at top and bottom right, left the campsite seen at lower left inadequately protected.

## Inquest in bear mauling of teen begins

### CHAPPLE, from page 1

no criminal charges against members of the British Schools Exploring Society, which organized the trip, were warranted. Chapple's parents, after unsuccessfully appealing the ruling, said in a statement they hope "the truth will be established" at the inquest.

"We believed that the staff at BSES would do as they said and act responsibly to protect the children under their care," said Chapple's father, David, at the inquest in Salisbury on Monday.

Both parents told the panel they believed all members of the expedition would receive a pen flare designed to scare off bears, there would be a working tripwire around the campsite and a weapon was available to a trip leader in case of an attack. But only the team leaders and doctors received the flares. There was also a shortage of numerous key components for the tripwire system, including stakes, wire, equipment for the device's trigger and mines to be placed around the campsite's perimeter.

Furthermore, there was no polar bear guard keeping watch as the campers slept. Also, Michael Reid, one of the expedition's leaders, told the inquest his attempts to fire a rifle several times when the attack occurred

failed because he was unfamiliar with the weapon's safety mechanism.

Richard Payne, the expedition's main leader, said the tripwire system and other equipment wasn't checked before being loaded onto a vehicle and then a boat for transport to the campsite. When the lack of equipment was discovered, he met with other leaders to figure out how to rig an improvised system with a reduced perimeter area and components such as using safety pins as trigger activators.

Another leader, Andrew Ruck, 30, told the inquest a bear watcher might have been an additional danger rather than a solution.

"Bear watches themselves carry considerable risk, they are absolutely not a foolproof system," he said. "They are open to human error. In 2002, I briefly fell asleep on a bear watch when I was 18 ... No system is 100 percent guaranteed to be reliable."

Many of the inquest's findings are mirrored in a report by former High Court Judge Sir David Steel, appointed by BSES to investigate the attack, that was intentionally released Monday to coincide with the hearing. The report is available at [tinyurl.com/orzjaxg](http://tinyurl.com/orzjaxg).

**There's more! Visit [www.icepeople.net](http://www.icepeople.net) for the complete story.**

## HEADLINES STOLEN FROM SVALBARDPOSTEN

VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

### Cruise company accused of illegally hiring cheap workers

A sightseeing cruise company is under fire for allegedly illegal acts involving the replacement of Norwegian crews aboard two vessels with cheaper Filipino workers. Two labor unions are also expressing dissatisfaction about the failure of the Norwegian Maritime Authority to answer questions regarding its position on the matter, with the unions threatening to seize one ship and boycott the other. The *MS Langøysund* and *MS Billefjord*, operated by Henningsen Transport & Guiding, made the crew switch this spring, according to *FriFagbevegelse* magazine. The NMA inspected the *Billefjord* on June 26 and ordered the ship to remain docked in Longyearbyen until it has a master who is an EEA (European Economic Area) national, in accordance with official qualification requirements. The *Langøysund* is still being allowed to sail temporarily pending further investigation. The unions say they are working to take custody of the *Billefjord* while seeking a boycott of the *Langøysund*. Stig Henningsen said the accusations are incorrect and the company is using legal contracts that pays employees through its staffing agency in Manila.

### Store Norske to liquidate gold subsidiary after sale fails

Store Norske is abandoning an effort to sell its gold subsidiary company after negotiations with three potential buyers were unsuccessful. "Now it's liquidation that's on the schedule," said Morten Often, general manager of Store Norske Gold. The company was trying to sell the right to 72 exploration sites on the mainland after the subsidiary sustained a before-tax loss of 117 million kroner between 2008 and 2012. Store Norske is retaining its rights to its gold claim sites in Svalbard.

### Woman breaks leg on hike

A Longyearbyen woman who is an experienced guide broke her leg while trying to cross a creek at Sarkofagen during a group hike Saturday, according to the Svalbard governor's office. The woman, who was not leading the group, and the other nine hikers were airlifted out with a rescue helicopter, and she was subsequently flown to a hospital in Tromsø.

## Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Cloudy. NW winds to 15 km/h. High 8C (7C wind chill), low 5C (3C wind chill).	Rain. Variable winds to 25 km/h. High 9C (6C wind chill), low 6C (5C wind chill).	Cloudy. W winds to 25 km/h. High 8C (5C wind chill), low 7C (4C wind chill).	Rain. NW winds to 25 km/h. High 7C (4C wind chill), low 3C (-1C wind chill).
24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight
<b>Extended forecast:</b> Sunday, cloudy, 4C (0C), 3C (-1C), light 24:00h; Monday, p. cloudy, 4C (0C), 3C (0C), light 24:00h; Tuesday, p. cloudy, 4C (0C), 3C (-2C), light 24:00h; Wednesday, cloudy, 3C (-2C), 3C (-3C), light 24:00h			
Data provided by <a href="http://storm.no">storm.no</a>			



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

A sign at the entrance of Sushi KITA in Lompensenteret now advertises wi-fi as well as daily specials to lure customers. A free wi-fi network at the library in the shopping center is frequently overwhelmed by groups of tourists, but the restaurant and a pub in the center offer internet access for customers.

## Wi-fi is there, for a walk or a wee fee

### ONLINE, from page 1

The two best-known free wi-fi spots that don't require passwords are increasingly attracting crowds that can overwhelm the networks beyond their capabilities. But there's other options for those willing to do some extra walking or spend a few kroner to obtain the password at various pubs and eateries, even though most businesses still aren't doing much to advertise their online access.

Readers may notice all of the free wi-fi networks are at government-run facilities (along with a few inoperative teaser signals such "syssel," "LtvSentrumK10" and Longyearbyen's School's "guest" network). While it's possible to spend 20 kroner on a glass of juice to get a password at an eatery that can be used indefinitely, abusing the privilege by engaging in Skype chats and/or hanging outside the door for days afterward is a surefire way to have employees deliver a few stern words and/or alter their access to the network.

That said, here's the best places at the moment to get wired, along with the password and "buy-in" requirements:

#### Longyearbyen Library (Lompensenteret)

Network: linksys; password: none

Buy-in: none

As the only no-password, no-obligation network generally accessible to the public, it's also obviously frequently overwhelmed. Even during slow times the connection can be unreliable, but the router is easily reset when the library is open.

#### Rabalder Cafe (Kulturhuset)

Network: guest; password: none

Buy-in: about 20 kr. for a pastry or cheap drink.

The recently reopened cafe offers a highly welcome alternative password-free network that sometimes has fewer competing users than the library. But word spreads quickly on busy tourist days and it's common to see clusters of people hanging around the entrance tapping away on their smartphones at all hours. Being a proper customer when the cafe is open is extremely cheap and there's even a few electrical outlets within reach of tables.

#### Svalbardhallen

Network: svalbardhallen; password: none

Buy-in: Ummm....

For those who've hiked a couple of kilometers up to the school – or are willing to do so out of desperation – the recreation hall in the adjacent building has a password-free network network that (cough) sends a signal strong enough to leak beyond the doors. We can't promise it'll stay that way if hoards of freeloaders start gathering in the parking lot, however, since locals pay some pretty hefty membership fees to be wired during their workouts.

#### Karlsberger Pub (Lompensenteret)

Network: karlsbergerpub; password: request at bar

Buy-in: 20 kr. for a Coke; 50 kr. for a beer

Notice how there's usually a cab (or three) parked right outside? Obviously it's a natural pickup location for shoppers and after-hours drinkers, but it's also because the pub shares its wi-fi password with the drivers. Mere mortals have to pay a bit for the privilege, but it's a chance to experience Longyearbyen's most colorful pub and you won't get strange stares for surfing the Web since you won't be the only one.

#### Sushi KITA (Lompensenteret)

Network: Sushi KITA; password: request at counter

Buy-in: 50-100 kr. for soup or lunch.

This fast-casual eatery just started advertising its wi-fi to passerby, so look for the number of competing users to increase rapidly as those frustrated by the library's overtaxed system decide to "splurge" on a signal whose icon shows up in roughly the same area. It's a bit more expensive than just grabbing a drink at Karlsberger, but the 100-kroner lunch special (eat-in or takeaway) is one of the better bargains in Longyearbyen considering the quality and quantity of what you get.

#### Svalbar

Network: Svalbard\_Lodge; password: on sign at bar

Buy-in: between 20-50 kr. for a cheap drink

A good all-around place for food, drinks, sports and occasional live music. But the comfy booths and tables fill up quickly at peak periods, and it obviously isn't the quietest work place when something like the World Cup is on.

## What's up

### July 12-13

Basic sea kayaking course. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. both days. Contact Svalbard Sailing Club at svalbardseil@gmail.com for details.

### July 13

11 a.m.: Mass. Svalbard Church.

### July 15

7 p.m.: Evening Mass and fireplace social. Svalbard Church.

### July 20-22

Theater workshop for youths ages 14-18 featuring instructors from the Nordic Light, with youths from other Scandinavian countries also participating. Course is free. For details contact birgitte.dahl.knutsen@lokalstyre.no.

### Aug. 9-10

Basic sea kayaking course. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. both days. Contact Svalbard Sailing Club at svalbardseil@gmail.com for details.

### Aug. 10

7 p.m.: Movie: "Sex Tape," U.S. comedy, no age limit specified. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 16-17

Basic sea kayaking course. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. both days. Contact Svalbard Sailing Club at svalbardseil@gmail.com for details.

### Aug. 17

7 p.m.: Move: "Guardians of the Galaxy" (3D), U.S. action/sci-fi, no age limit specified. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 20

6 p.m.: Movie: "How to Train Your Dragon 2" (3D), U.S. animated family film, ages 7 and up. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 24

5 p.m.: Movie: "How to Train Your Dragon 2," U.S. animated family film, ages 7 and up. Kulturhuset.

7 p.m.: Movie: "Hercules" (3D), U.S. action/adventure, no age limit specified. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 26

7 p.m.: Evening Mass and fireplace social. Svalbard Church.

## What's online

Icepeople.net provides daily updates of news about Svalbard and the world's polar regions, plus extras for articles from the print edition. Among the latest news:

- 100 wrecks contain oil in Finnish waters
- 'Dark snow' with soot rising in Arctic
- Swedish farmers doubt climate change
- Whale poop: the change climate remedy