

ATP 2015

The university tower chimes ring in another episode of ask the professor, the show in which you match wits with university of Detroit mercy Professors in an unrehearsed show of questions and answers. I'm your host Matt Mio, and let me introduce you to our panel for today. To my right, his napkin looks a little raggedy and I am starting to worry. It's PManitowocrofessor Jeffe Boats.

It's a little used, and I am doing my best to keep this a neat work environment for my esteemed colleagues

Are we in the situation where we only had like one napkin and it had to suffice for like four individuals.

Sort of a dunkin donuts meets hoarders is my usual modos operanda

Nothing wrong with that

Shirt tails and sleeves you know

Oh my gosh didn't we have a question in our last show about Canadian tuxedo

Yeah the denim jacket

I heard it as the U P tuxedo but I didn't want to like burn our U P listenership by bringing it up

Continuing around the table, in the position usually held by Jim, just because in my mind Jim lives right on the other side of the forest of microphones

Far end of the microphone

But today on the far side of the magical forest is Professor Dan Maggio

Hi Matt

Impossible to see you through the sea of microphones

Now we know why Jim likes that seat

We should do a whole show with every panelist and the host blindfolded, and we can feel it out through sound

Well you know Terry Gross on Fresh Air always interviews her guests in another studio so she can't see them

That's right, there is something about that

And it works

I did not know that she has the great conversations that she's having them because she's with the person

No sometimes they're in different cities

She never does them if they are right there with her

Unlike Diane Rehm, who has them right there at the table; Terry Gross never does that.

She does her homework

Unlike me

That me being professor Dave Chow

Pleasure to be here as always

You are me

Yes

And the thanks for sugar

You need more chocolate there Matt?

I do need more chocolate but I don't want it right now

We will get you at the break

It's just standard, don't want to talk with your mouth full even though I do it all the time. All the way around the table and almost back up the block, it is professor Jim Tubbs. I can see him today

Yes

It's a big deal to see you and I bet you're happy to be seen

Oh yes it is better to be seen than viewed

Absolutely right. Hey folks, this is a program where you can send us question regarding anything. If you stump the panel you win a prize if you don't stump the panel you win a prize you can send the questions to us in a number of ways you can email us at atp@udmercy.edu you can reach us on the web at udmercy.edu/atp find us on facebook or listen to your favorite smart speaker by asking it to play ask the professor at university of Detroit mercy. So this is: one two three now, our annual Christmas show and I have got some great questions thanks to professor Chow diligently putting the word out on facebook, immediate overarching buckets and buckets of questions

Wow they are sending them in buckets now

Everybody is getting ready for Christmas

Yes so holiday questions for this year dear Matt and Panelists I saw the call for Christmas or holiday questions I hope the following questions on Christmas Trees will serve the show well sincerely and happy holidays Rachel Ralston of Norwalk Iowa.

Thanks Rachel

This is all about our bowl in what Midwest city is it told that the aluminum Christmas tree came from

Oh is that where the first Charlie Brown Christmas show is I have always wondered where those kids were from

It is pretty close to where you would guess Charlie Brown is from considering Charlie Shultz or sparky as he was known

Minneapolis

Close to Minneapolis. but not in the state of Minnesota

Green bay

Wisconsin

Getting closer

Milwaukee

No it starts with an M but it not Milwaukee

Madison

Its known as the other side of the lake crossing

Manistee

Not Manistee

Manitowoc

Yeah Manitowoc

Where the badger lands

So that was by the way we will throw it in for bonus points what year was the aluminum

Christmas tree so we got peanuts to sort of help us out

1954

Oh my gosh so close 1959

I wonder when the little circle that goes around it was invented

Wow since I never actually saw any of those in my lifetime it is so difficult to explain them to my children but I see them in garage sales all the time

You know it's from minnesota because a lot of their names are dutch sounding so I would have guessed western New York which is where I grew up so maybe I'm biased

Maybe western Michigan too there is a lot of Netherlands going on there I just can't get the image out of my mind of of Linus hitting the tree and making the clanking sound do they still make wooden trees what a great line in what country was the first printed reference to a Christmas tree

Germany

Germany is a good guess lets see if you can guess the year I am not going to give you any lead and lets see how far you can get

1653

1653 we got

1540

1540

They would have a printing press then

Luther go the bible printing back then and Luther was accredited with decorating the first Christmas tree

Yeah but Jim is so close so within

He was younger

If Heather and Steven were here they would make fun of me for giving you 9 years like that's not at all and I didn't want to turn it

Didn't he walk down a tree line lane at night and saw the stars

He saw the stars shining through the branches of the Christmas tree

That's what i

He thought that candles might accomplish the same effect

Torture house in five

Fortunately his house burned down

So what percentage of Christmas trees every year are purchased from cut and harvest farms used to do that when I was a kid

7%

Its actually quite a bit more

I would say 23

Jim is on fire 24%

I thought people go to home depot or something

So a quarter of the people are actually going and cutting their own tree down

And their fiding it themselves

So we get the song go at it

Oh I had it backwards I thought you wanted the parentage of people who bought from the lot

Oh I'm sorry this is the percentage of cut and harvest

Everybody needs their income

Does that include illegal cutting

And those that admit it

Remember a few years ago when some of Detroit Mercy got into a cemetery and

That was a year to remember

That's entrepreneurial

What is the time it takes to grow a medium sized tree so lets say 6 to 7 foot be

Let's go 5

I am being to think that Jim is seeing the cliff notes here 7 years is the says for 6-7 feet tall

Under normal conditions

It says under standard temperature and pressure

My parents used to have a mountain house in newlen North Carolina which is in avery county
which is the frazer fir capital of the world

We might need that

A lot of their neighbors that was their industry the whole side of mountains would be frazer fir

So would they rotate it cut a swash down

Yes

Cool

We have had this one before where does London sufolzer square Christamas tree originate from
Norway

That's right, from Oslo. it's a gift

For the second world war

British supporting the resistance

I saw a nice blurb on this on recently where someone put on social media 150 years from now
it's the annual tradition of the British prime minister going to talk to the EU about Brexit and
nobody really knows where the tradition comes from

It was just sort of like

Routinely voted on by the parliament

What a disaster that is turning out to be

No comment what retailer was the first to mass produce Christmas ornaments this was American retailer 1880

Sears?

No not sears

Wulworths

Its wulworths you're running through the list of old timey retailers

We used to have ornaments we got at wulworths

Sure who didn't

But then think about it

They had really sharp edges when they broke

But how many of those companies are even still around

I bet you the bulbs are still around my mother has bulbs from her grandmother I think

Wow

Those old old cardboard boxes

You guys remember the bubblers those were always fun to look at

I thought they were hideous

I always liked the lightshow

That oil inside of them

Is that oil I didn't know what it was

Yeah

Kinda like the lava lamp

I like lava lamps too so

Speaking of lights why was the national Christmas tree not lit with the exception of the top piece the star at the top in 1979

Energy crisis

It was the Iranian hostages Jeff got it but energy crisis makes more sense

We didn't have an extension cord long enough

Speaking as somebody who needed speaking literally as something that just happened to me I needed a very short extension cord to be able to make up a very short distance in my new office and so you can go to amazon and they have every length you can imagine including one foot extension

1 ft what the

You gotta be kidding me they were heavy duty not like 3 prong what a world we live in

My problem was I didn't want bright orange

Whats wrong with bright orange it prevents people from tripping

On Christmas tree farms how many trees can be planted on an acre of land so I guess we are going back to Jim for this one

Oh I have no idea on an acre of land

Lets settle this mathematically

An acre is $1/640^{\text{th}}$ of a square mile

I don't have any idea

A tree every six feet

What no

6ft by 6ft so its 36 square foot

I would say 800

I would say 1250

That's a little low

It says here you can fit 2000 but here is the kicker, what percentage of those trees will survive the growing process obviously not all of them

Probably only about a half to 2/3s of them

Ill give it to you its basically 50% 50% will survive yeah

What happens to the rest

They lost the fight for water

Exactly

The maximum that can survive a 2000 tree planting is about 1500 but mostly its about 1000 crazy within 5 bucks these are the sort of things I know I've told this story a thousand times but my parents listen and I don't care

Well Santa has 8 bucks, 9 if you count Rudolf, not 5

Oh good call no I have told this story before about how my dad went out to buy only the second couch of his marriage and he couldn't believe the couches cost over 1000 dollars because he bought the first one in 1970 okay Ill finish the story after we take a break

Its an ask the professor flash back Christmas 1984

The university of Detroit sleighbell orchestra brings us ask the professor im your host on this Christmas program Edmond Dewint and today we have all of our regular panelists with us gathered around the Christmas tree on my right from the department of religious studies professor George Piccory

It's a great pleasure to be here as always and a top of the season to you all

You're allright

George is opening all his presents

I know that's his trouble

Well I mean here we are

Cant you wait

And were on the radio

I know

You want me to have my mind focused

Well

I cant do that

Visions of sugar plums

That was Robert O'Neil from the department of psychology and to his right the department

history looking very elven professor Sarah Gravelle

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire

Who wrote that

No no

Most of the questions you here are raised by our listeners

Sarah's right, my left, from the department of Science professor John Klamanski

Hello ho ho

Oh clever

Our first set of questions are sent in from Neil Rifman of Livonia Michigan Christmas type

questions it says I'll list a name for Christmas and you give me the country Noell

France

Yuel

Sweden

Norway

England

Scotland

Yes

Veinaught

Germany

Navi dad

Spain

Oh that's a great question ask it again

Felive Navidad

Just a little musical interlude here

And we're back so the rest of this story is I always use that as my analogy when it comes to a question like this within 5 bucks how much was a live Christmas tree in 2012 because in my mind I am remembering when I was a kid and it was under 10 dollars

In what year again

85

It's less

50

This is 2012

40

41.30 was the average price in the United States of America, I just can't believe that that is like talking to my kids and they are like can we go see this movie give me a 20 and its like but

movies are only 3 dollars why do you need 20 bucks. What US state grows the most variety of Christmas trees don't think too hard

Michigan

Michigan yes Michigan is known as one of the top Christmas tree variety states those are some great questions Rich thank you very much

Those were very good questions

I like the theme like the trees that's fun

It's Jim singing so we know it's good here is another set of Christmas questions Dear Matt and Profs here is another set of Christmas questions as promised 12 Christmas questions for this year's holiday show may you and everyone else on the show have blessed holidays this year thanks one more for keeping all entertained warmest wishes from Balancia California Frank Burrows Franks been working overtime doing questions in between

I wonder what Christmas landscape looks like in Balancia California at this point

It sort of looks like the surface of Mars right now if Mars had trees that burned down what James Bond movie has a character with the first name Christmas Jeff knows this

Denise Richards Christmas Jones was it Christmas Smith

Doctor Christmas Jones the song was sung by Garbage if you remember that band in what movie would one find Clarence Oddbody

Oh umh it's a wonderful life he was Clarence the Angel

He had a last name?

Yes and he was played by Henry Travers what a wonderful movie that is who played the ghost of Christmas present in the Bill Murray movie Scrooged wonderful movie

Was it Carol Kane was it

Carol Kane yeah right off the top Dan comes through

I have not seen it but I love that movie

I don't think I have seen it

Mary Lourettin as Tiny Tim

I have seen about 5 different versions of a Chirstmas Carol but not that one

The muppet one

I think my favorite one is the Alistar Sim one from 1950

Yep

He get the zerg on Christmas morning

Last year we caught and you could get it now on audible or on youtube there is one where

Patrick Stewart plays every character and its absolutely wonderful such a distinctive voice what

was the name of the location in the Christmas movie diehard

The nocatony tower yes there was a hot item for Christmas tower where it's the nocotomy tower

Chrstmas party or something

Very very cool

Beth would love that one

Well she watches it every Christmas eve I think that's tradition

Absolutely

That's depressing

Yippeekiyay who ist he main character and who voiced him in the movie gremlins

Is it gizmo

Gizmo the mugwai voiced by actually makes a lot of sense when you hear it the first time

Frank Oz?

no that's a really good guess

Well what is it like a famous voice actor Frank West

Its not even like that this person is not only a well known Comedian but part of his stick is the high pitched voice of his alter ego which he used for gizmo

Work it out dan come on

Hes the host of a game show for a very long time

Oh my gosh I cannot think of it

You're brain cramping too

What is the name of the gameshow where you had to open all the suitcases to get to the last one

Howie Mandell

Howie Mandell what was the name of the show its killing me

Deal of no deal

Deal or no deal

I love when they had all those models walking over the

That was a really stupid show

Yeah I loved that show

Its mathematically interesting for all of about 10 minutes and then its pointless

Yeah exactly

Well until everybody on the show makes decisions against the mathematics there was one

famous one which may have ended the entire show it was like between a dollar and a million and

he went to open it and he had an offer af like 400 of 500 thousand dollars I think that was all

rigged

That was really interesting is there is an area of mathematics called utility theory which basically says a dollar to me may not be the same thing as a dollar to you in a different scenario you know the actual value of things changes its utility

Well there was that guy the las vegas gambler that won so big on jeopardy, he would just roll it all every time because its just numbers to him that was his attitude for it, it wasn't really money But you gotta admit that shows interesting I always like the way they present the banker and the silhouette such showmanship there

Well Howie Mandell has his character little boppie that he does in his show and he just used that voie for the voice of show people forget that gremlins is also a Christmas movie what movie featured the main protagonist harry lime and marvin merchants oh my yeah and I think this definitely might have been one of those like spell check things lets change that to the main antagonist Harry lime and Marvin merchants they are not protagonists at all I could say a million things that would give it away immediately but I want to see you guys stew for a minute

Oh that's not home alone

Home alone yeah

Daniel Stern yeah that's right

I'm not even joking it is one of my top five favorite movies of all time I just my son actually did one of those lines yesterday and there was left over cheese pieces and he opened the box and says a lovely cheese pizza all for me he just I don't know what it is that kid geeks me out like crazy

Its genetics man

Walking over the broken glass ornaments in bare feet in home alone was easier to do than the broken glass in diehard that's all I'm saying

In what movie would one find an intoxicated santa that

Miracle on 34th street

Chris Krinkle had him removed from macys yes

He was on the thanksgiving day parade wasn't he and he was up there just slurping his words

That's my favorite Christmas movie

I like that one too its good

What Christmas movie features the much sought after toy turbo man this one I

Arnold Schwarzenegger Sinbad movie

Yes it is as the robots on theater used to say is it really right to

Is it jingle all the way

Jingle all the way exactly

Oh I never saw that one

Who is the famous director actor for the will ferril movie elf oh my gosh this person is doing everything of artistic note lately you wont even believe me when I tell you

Wait you said the director of Elf

The director of Elf and was actually in the movie because he stars in a lot of his movies I am not surprised you are not able to get this he played doctor Ben Leonardo

Oh in that movie

Faverou

Yeah John Faverou

You mean heavy Hogan himself

Everything he touches turns to gold especially the Mandalorian if you haven't seen it yet

One of my favorites is Chef

Love that movie

He did that too

Yeah he was the main character the chef

No im thinking of something else

This is the famous chef loses it all because of a bad review and gets a food truck

So elf is my second favorite Christmas movie of course never going to be passed is a Christmas Story

Oh come on there is no elf without a Christmas story

There is no other best Christmas movie

So dan are you going to be curling in a pink bunny suit this year

No

Oh come on they would love you

Too much lint on the ice that would not be appreciated on the other curlers

In the movie the polar express which basically is a textbook uncanny valley I am just going to put that out there right now what Michigan city is home to the little skeptical boy also home to author Christen Ellesburg

Grand Rapids

Grand Rapids Michigan yes author of Jumanji and what other books

Bunch of other ones

He shows up in the book feed all the time for book signings

Does he

What are your thoughts on the animation in the polar express

The people don't look human

They're ugly

They're uncanny that's the uncanny valley

They are creepy

That refers to the ability of a human to look at a CGI human and go that's a robot its not a real human being but if you look at this new starwars videogame that just came out this week fallen Jedi it will freak you out man things are getting closer and closer to reality its like

Where we were placed

Has anyone seen that new starwars series

That's what I was bring up the mandaorian

Is it good

Very good worth every penny

Well I don't want to have to be forced to buy the Disney app

Well if you get the seven day trial after tonight you could watch 3 episodes

So if I wait till they finish the first season I could just watch them all

That's what I am going to do

You could technically do that because they are doing this little trick where they are only realeasing 1 episode per week like you know television

Well that's what you do you wait until you get one of those 2 feet of snow forecast and get the 7 day trial

Got nothing better to do except binge watch something prior to Jimmy Durantes version singing frosty the snowman who charted it before he did

Oh umh was it that singing berl ives

Williams

No wasn't Williams wasn't bel lives

Sinatra

Got all the way up to number four on US pop singles different time different time

Jean Autrey

Jean Autrey yes who is better known for getting Rudolf the Rednosed reindeer up to the top
which was

Yeah that was that era where singing cowboys were singing everything

You had to have a horse in order to sing

Oh my gosh umh synonymous with Christmas music whos 1958 christmas album merry

Christmas that was the title of the album went platinum 5 times

Bing Crosby

Not bing Crosby that's a very good guess

Perry Cuomo

Elvis

Not elvis

1958

I hesitate to bring up Diane because if she were here she would know this

Oh Johnny Mathis

I thought you were going to say Johnny Mathis

Shes probably got it

She probably just doubled over in laughter here

All of the sudden the door flies open did somebody say Jonny Mathis

For those of you that are hearing it for the first time when Dianne was on the show she told us
that for a while there that would have been the

When she was in college

That was the makeout music Johnny Mathis

Aboslutey perfect

All I can really say to that is that I there is some Jonny Mathis Christmas songs where it is like
okay that makes sense for him to be singing that and other ones where it just I don't know I don't
get him

Well you know the other day we have a radio station here and I was listening for a minute and it
was Judy garland singing have yourself a merry little Christmas that is the saddest song the way
she sings it

She had a sad life did you see the movie Judy with Reese Witherspoon

Yeah I did

It was she did

Nothing happy about that it was well done

I left that movie depressed

I did too

See I was thinking oh my I guess the time has come for us to say goodbye

Well

Jeff

Ho ho ho

And now

And now these words

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