

-The University tower times ring in another session of “ask the professor,” the show in which you match wits with University of Detroit Mercy professors, in an unrehearsed session of questions and answers. I'm your host Matt Mio and let me introduce to you our panel for today; to my right, he is wearing red, it's Professor Prasad Venugopal.

-Glad to be back after a long time.

- Yeah, you're kind of actually... Now that I'm sitting here, like blending into the wall, like almost a... [laughter]

-The walls are bright red in the studio, and magenta [laughter]

-Oh that's right.

-Keep smiling, so we can see you.

-Yeah, keep grinning.

-That's right, yeah... we're glad to have you back, I had no idea. I mean you look like your eyes were going to pop out of your head when he came in. Prasad was saying he's never seen the studio like this, after the renovation.

- It has been many many months.

-Oh the Reformation.

-Reformation...

-Probably not that many months.

-We'll continue around the table with someone who is looking a little green or a lot green, it's Professor Jason Roche.

-Glad to be back.

-Our executive producer.

-And sometimes participant.

-Sometimes participant, looking sharp. Very glad to have you back and today's the last day I decided to myself that I was going to say Happy New Year. So whatever the heck, you know Happy New Year.

-Tomorrow's Jason Luther Roche day.

-It is. Oh my gosh, that's my birthday, but it's always on the weekend of the Martin Luther King holiday, so I celebrate myself as well.

-Happy birthday.

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- Is your middle name Luther?

-No, I just try to co-opt a holiday and appropriate it. [laughter]

- Yes-yes, it won't be the last time some white guy tries to appropriate some black.

- Because that never happened.

- Frankly, I like the sound of that better than my 7 year old explaining to me and learning about Martin Luther King Jr. in school this week and telling me about King Arthur Jr. Day which was coming up. [laughter]

Which was something about pulling the sword from the stone you know.

-Oh wait, now that you brought it up what is your meaning name?

- John, and yours?

- Well my middle name actually Prasad. Yeah, my 1st name is [02:12 inaudible]

- Yeah.

-That's right.

- Do you not like that as well as Prasad, I mean I think both of them sound kind of cool.

-Yeah, actually because in India it's actually one name. [02:19 inaudible] Prasad. It is a sacred offering from God, you know which makes sense. But...

-For you...

- But... yeah, Prasad is good, it's easy to pronounce, people don't mess it up because most people in this country when they see the spelling of the name would say [02:35 inaudible] which is not the way it's pronounced, which has an hidden benefit that any time I got tele-[02:39 inaudible] call, they say can we speak [02:38 inaudible] and I say goodbye.

- You can just do that anyway you know.

- I know I could.

- You don't need permission, I've heard of people who just try to keep him on the phone and never buy anything. Oh what? Oh you tell me more about that, and then... [crosstalk]

- My husband does that if he is bored at work.

-Like he's interested in finding out about his Visa and Mastercard.

-: he'd be like oh yeah tell me now and then he'll make up stuff and then they'll get frustrated and hang up on him. He calls it a win, I don't know something very satisfying about that I think see.

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- Yes, absolutely.

-Maybe that will be more effective than a registry that says “do not call”

- Yeah right.

- The word gets out don't call that number.

-Too entertaining... Professor Jim Tubbs has joined us today.

-Yeah.

- This is a very-very thin vertical stripes, almost looks like a solid color. So that's right...

- Well you must have good glasses from there.

- A little bit. So how are things Jim?

-: Well, so far, so good.

-: How is 2020 treating you?

- So far until the snow gets here, we've had a very mild January thus far.

- For the next 7 hours.

-We don't get ice on top of the snow.

- Yeah, just snow would be nice.

-: Yes.

: And it will look pretty, it would have looked pretty you know a month ago too, but I guess we're getting in the middle of January. Professor Stephanie Conant is here.

- Hi.

- Thanks for coming in, so you're not teaching on Fridays for this semester?

-No, I just had to fight the desire to just go home.

: That's why we entice you with donuts.

- It's better that you're here.

-Thanks.

- Let's be serious, are you going to like put a bunch of mics in the middle of the dining room and have this discussion with your sons?

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- No, I'm very good. So tonight, my husband is actually taking all the boys somewhere and he said, "do you want to go?" And I said absolutely not." [laughter]

[04:27 overlapping conversation]

He's like, "do you want to like go to dinner with us 1st?" I said, "I also don't want to do that."

- So where is he taking them, I have to ask.

- There's some amateur wrestling show somewhere in the metro area.

:- One of my former students is doing a documentary about that I think.

:- And they're very usually family friendly.

- Is this one over at Frasier?

-This one happens to be up in Chesterfield somewhere, but they've gone down river. There was one in Taylor, anyway...

:- Sounds better right?

:- So he goes with Ron [05:00 inaudible], so he and Ron takes Ron's son.

:- Ron is your neighbor, right?

-How's he doing?

-Good. Really good.

-Enjoying his new job?

- Yeah busy... I mean I think one of the strikes he did went on for...

- 2 months.

-Yeah like 120 days or something, it was insane, he was up north somewhere and you get some [05:22 inaudible].

- That's very nice.

- I know, I was like I'm going to just eat whatever I want.

-You're sharing some of that with us, thank you.

-McDonald's French fries, that's what we were voting for earlier.

- which may be on the demerit side.

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-: Yeah.

- Continuing the membership of the Red Brigade, is Professor Beth Oljar.

- Good to be here, good to be back.

- It is with very good to have you back, your background is more beige. So I can see where you're sitting from where I am.

- I make a nice contrast.

-That's it, I think I'm going to have to move.

-There's a seat over there. the Red Brigades side.

-We have the red and the non-red.

- You just blend in. We can't even see you. And if there's one thing I hate, it's blending in.

-So how's the semester treating you Beth?

-: Well, I don't have to teach this semester, so that's pretty good.

-That semester is treating you really well.

-Maybe that's a logically sufficient condition.

-That sounds like a great thing until you hear how many committees she has to serve to get that.

-: Oh Uh.

-Oh well, you mean in the past I'm not serving on anything else.

-Actually we don't want to hear, enjoy your semester off you know, that's it.

-: Exactly.

-I don't want to know anything else, Ok because that's good news, it's always good news.

- Absolutely beautiful.

-Finishing Out our ragtag group today is Professor Dave Chow.

-Pleasure to be here as always.

-Excellent, are you rag or tag?

-Neither.

-Ok.

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-Somewhere in between. So I think I'm like sag.

-You have a sag card?

- [06:49 inaudible] pretty much, oh my... I was waiting till someone was going to bring up cats and you know here we are.

- Has anyone seen the movie?

- I haven't yet.

-It's pretty terrifying. [07:00 overlapping conversation]

- You kind of want to see it just to follow like the jokes and the mims and stuffs.

-Yeah.

-Yeah.

- Honestly, I mean that's why I want to see it I mean...

:- I want to see 1917.

- Yeah, but I got to get it in a real good mood 1st.

- But that's kind of why it seems like it would be a good movie to experience in the theater where you would have a different you know than watching it at home.

-Every review I've read said that.

-Yeah.

-That's something you want to see in the theater.

-And Little Women, I would like to see it.

-Oh, that was good. That was really very good.

- I haven't seen that.

Anyone see Just Mercy?

- Well not yet.

-It's on my list.

-What's that about?

- It's based on the real life story of this man whose name is MacMillan, who is on death row for a crime he

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did not commit.

-Of course.

- An African-American man.

- Oh wait, that never happened, you know he began defending others in that situation.

- Yes. Well folks this is a program that you could send us questions regarding anything, if you stump the panel you win a prize. If you don't stump the panel you win a prize, prizes all around. You send the questions to us in a number of ways, you can e-mail us at atp@udmercy.edu. You can reach us on the web at udmercy.edu/atp. You can find us on Facebook or listen from your favorite smart speaker by asking it to play "ask the professor at University of Detroit, Mercy."

So we've got a short quiz sent by our good friend, a friend of the show, a friend of all; "Hank Duncan" who was there, he was the gentleman who joined us for homecoming this last year in person as a fan, as an alum as well. Since the best way to get teachers to smile is give them apples, Here's a quiz about apples... [crosstalk]

-Cash works too.

- It does, it does. Now he sent these at the end of 2019, and so this is actually about to become reality if you know where this is going. The cosmic crisp apple species is the result of 20 years of study and research by Washington State University, I know you went to Washington but close... a Washington state universities treat food reading program...

- That seem different... [09:10 overlapping conversation] to us

- so in just a few weeks cosmic Crisp is going to debut and it's expected to become the best tasting apple, it's sweet, it's Crisp, it's resistant to bruising and disease, look for it soon at your local grocer, until it dominates I have a list here, it's very very simple, what are the 10 most popular varieties of apples. 7 is the passing grade Hank says, so let's see if we can do this orderly.

- Honeycrisp.

- Honeycrisp and Gail are on the list.

- Macintoshes.

-: Macintoshes is on the list.

- Red delicious.

- Grammy Smith.

- Nobody knows why granny smith.

- Golden Delicious.

- Golden Delicious is not... oh no sorry it is, my bad.

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- [09:52 unintelligible]

- I'm sorry, what did you say Beth?

- Macoun.

- No we need one more to make it happen.

- Pink ladies.

- Pink Ladies, there we go. The 2 that we have missed, were [10:05 inaudible] and Empire, where in the list. So what I understand, it is like half freaks me out, half makes me excited because Honeycrisp is to me the greatest apple ever invented. Cosmic Crisp can apparently sit on a shelf without puncturing the skin for like up to 3 months, but how much are these, because Honeycrisp...

- Honeycrisp are so expensive.

- You know that's right because I got Honeycrisp to make an apple crisp and there's like \$8.00 for Apple, they were worth it though, they are really good apple. You could sit for 3 months...

- If you want a good read, one of the fall issues of Smithsonian had the history of Red Delicious and basically they plot its flavor going past 0 down into the bag, because everybody wanted a photo genic Apple. So basically they bred all the flavor out of the species.

- I feel guilty when I buy apples from Michigan.

- Hey we were always vying for the top spot, right?

- So want do they put like Tartus gene in it to make it just last longer. [laughter]

- It's like seal test ice cream is then you can leave it out on a hot shelf for like 45 minutes, 2 days and 11 minutes.

- It's the Twinkie gene, right?

- The five year shelf life.

- It's amazing how much the u.s.d.a. does.

- u.s.d.a. does a lot. As a matter of fact, I was thinking about this. Honestly the other day Beth because my kids asked me totally organically Dad I've noticed that all the ice cream that we buy now comes with a plastic film over the top and I said "you can thank the people who went into the stores and licked it for that, now they've got to go a little bit deeper and you know if it's been tampered with, things we didn't worry about.

- But they were part of that bridge. [11:49 inaudible] did a story about the u.s.d.a. being a really important part of mass manufacturing penicillin during world war 2.

- Oh yeah, absolutely.

- Thank you science, we love you. You know Hank send us another set of questions and these are going to be a ton of fun, it's an acronym quiz for the panel. Americans use acronyms all the time, for instance a.t.p. is of course Adenosine triphosphate. But what is the derivation of so many of these 20 acronyms abbreviation 75 percent or 15 is probably... [crosstalk]
- So I just want to say one thing here, that Americans do not use acronyms like Indians do.
- Really?
- All the time.
- Ok.
- I just never saw a sentence which couldn't be acronymized.
- You know we'll see who wins the... [crosstalk]
- Including into phone numbers too, like double 3 triple 8, like they just narrow it down, and if you can crunch down c3p0.
- I get it.
- Let me just give a quick shout out to Hank too for doing the questions on Apples. I know he's a longtime Microsoft employee, so to go for the Apple thing, I appreciate you sent me out on a ledger.
- It's a bold move.
- It's the only kind of apple he's willing to talk about.
- That's right.
- Probably.
- Yeah, so let's start out with some softballs here.
- All right.
- How about radar?
- Radio... Detection and range.
- Yes, radio detection and range. How about sonar?
- Sonic, navigation and ranging.
- How about sound navigation?
- Yeah.

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- I have a feeling everybody is going to chime in on this one but how about scuba.
- Self-contained underwater breathing apparatus...
- [13:23 inaudible]
- No, actually it was an episode of Family Ties.
- I knew you were going to bring that up because that's how I remember it. I was the only thing that Mallory looked from studying. [laughter]
- No, eventually she figured out why the Louisiana Purchase was problematic for Jefferson. [laughter]
- Because those 2 things are right next to each other.
- Of course. Oh my gosh, Ok so this is a little bit tricky, it's a little bit tricky. The British stock market which we don't pay much attention to here in the state is called ftsi. But what is ftsi stand for?
- Financial transactions securities---
- and exchange.
- ---information.
- What is ftsi?
- Financial is correct.
- Financial trade securities.
- I'm just hoping you get one more word.
- Stocks.
- Yes, stock.
- Times.
- So Financial Times stock index, is the London based newspaper.
- Ok.
- How about laser?
- Light emitting... No-no-no, light amplification...
- And simulated emission of radiation.
- Yes.

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- Very-very good.
- Science people.
- Sonars, laser, we've got it all covered here.
- I tell my students that all the times. Like work at the university it's like living Wikipedia.
- Yeah.
- If I have a science question, I can pick up the [14:42 inaudible].
- I have a science friend, I can pick up the phone too. [laughter]
- Remember I sent you the picture of the new figures and you were the one who realize that it was actually a specific breed of cat and Jacob was like No I think it has something to do with that.
- Of course it did.
- There was an entire Twitter feed about the genetics of cats and the genetics of cat color, it was oh I like send it on, like I mean it went on for like every hair length and color and whatever of cats but it was all described by dominance and recessive silencing and like you should use this.
- Some great questions from Hank Dirk and we're really having fun with this, let's go for elementary so to speak, how about d.n.a?
- Deoxyribonucleic acid.
- Yes. Two PhD.'s to pull it off, I bet everybody in the room knows this one, how about snafu?
- Situation normal all F-ed up.
- Yes.
- Nice job doing it for the radio edit.
- And you wouldn't have expected that of me.
- Well done.
- We know you know the words. Actually what she should have done was just go beep right of the program. [laughter]
- How about zip, as in zip code?
- Zone improvement program.
- Oh no, so close. So close, zone improvement... It's really just an idea, it's a plan, it's a zone improvement plan.

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- I did not know that.
- Follow through, follow through. Decode these geographical acronyms, 3 out of our old friends New York City's, anybody know what Soho stands for?
- South of something...
- Not pronounced the same as Texas, does that help. You know.
- It's a South of Houston Street, is the way they pronounce it.
- Ok.
- How about Tribeca? Another neighborhood in Manhattan.
- Where's Caleb Car when you need him, probably writing a book.
- Where is The New Yorker when you need one.
- Upstate New York doesn't count.
- Oh no no no.
- I'm Afraid, it doesn't... [overlapping conversation]
- How about you? You look at the word Tribeca and I tell you the 1st part is a 2 dimensional Shape...
- Triangle.
- And another is a position.
- Between... behind... below...
- Below.
- And place where you might row your boat close to home?
- Central Park.
- Canal.
- Canal Yeah but the central is what I would have thought too.
- I was thinking of the lake in Central Park when you said.
- That was brutal.
- Yeah, it will be as brutal as this one.
- I was going to say obscure but obtuse and fit.

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- How about Dumbo which is actually a neighborhood in Brooklyn.
- Down under Something Brooklyn...
- The Manhattan Brooklyn....
- Overpass.
- Down under the Manhattan Bridge overpass.
- It is not just the name of a really cute elephant.
- No, I have a friend of mine who lives there, so that's the reason I knew it.
- There's also a great little ice cream parlor.
- Hanks says let's leave New York, benelelock.
- Netherland, Luxemburg,
- That's correct. That's very good. Absolutely... Let's see where did the name of the country Pakistan derive when the nation was created.
- Prasad.
- All you, no pressure. Don't look at me.
- I don't know, and I know where Istan came from but I... [crosstalk]
- No ideas of that, I've never heard this before, this is true I'm going to kick myself when this comes out because I'm sure somebody taught it to be so.
- There's your visa. [laughter]
- Yeah you know it says its name.. I'm giving you guys a big ole axe, it's a named after the 5 northern regions of British India Punjab, Afghani, Kashmir, Sind and belugastan. And they literally took the 1st letter of each one of those and put them together. That's crazy, where's my favorite Pakistani comedian. Kalman Hanjani.
- The British are really just determined to maintain their empire however they can.
- That's basically it, yeah.
- Even when they actually don't have anymore control.
- I always think of their nationals you know taking the Rolls.
- Isn't that true for all entities with power, maintaining power at all costs.

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- Well, yeah... yeah... I guess that's true, it just strikes me that the Brits are particularly... this is what happens when you have a repulsive climate, right? You have to get colonizing overpowering others.
- Don't forget the cuisine... [19;23 overlapping conversation]
- It needed some improvement, the boiled meat.
- Drew loves Muche peas and I refused to make that for him.
- Well I like them with fish and chips, but fish and chips is the only cuisine you should eat.
- Ok.
- How's the sandwiches.
- How about how the computer from 2001, a Space Odyssey, what did house stand for?
- 3 letters below i.b.m...
- That is where the name came from but then they gave it standing to be an acronym boy.
- It is something artificial life form.
- It isn't but that's a good guess. Holistically programmed algorithmic computer, so that's what [20:09 inaudible]
- So Jason is correct, you're giving the partial credit.
- They took i.b.m. and they moved over one letter and then they retroactively gave it a an acronym. What does b.m.w. stand for?
- The Bayerische motor works.
- Yes, Bayerische Motor work. Yes, that is correct. Everybody knows, specially people who like cheese, knows that Ne Biscoe stands for...?
- National Biscuit Company.
- Yes, the national Biscuit Company. Remember how the commercials used that.
- Going back to b.m.w. you know what m.g. stands for?
- As in?
- The car.
- Oh no... more grease...?
- Morgan's garage, because that's where it started.

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- Slightly better than Pakistan.
- Yes.
- I actually like the American Biscuit Company better.
- Amoco? What are we talking about here?
- They're called cookies here Ok?
- Yeah.
- Biscuit, guess what? It's in the name. Is that an American company?
- You know what? I'm going to start... I want to start off things that changed the Constitution or to make it a part of American culture, we bake cookies and cook bacon.
- Can't we just do the health compromise and just become Canada.
- You know what? You guys have the cookies I'll take the biscuits because in this country what gold...
- You mean the flour company?
- No, I'm talking about the actual gold, that's a biscuit. It's called a biscuit, isn't it?
- Oh yeah, like I'm getting stares, like nobody...
- I would like...
- Forget it, move on... [overlapping conversation]
- We make fun of Prasad for his British English coming out every once in a while.
- It's neither cookies nor gold.
- Do I need to arbitrate this. I mean come on I'm kind of in between.
- We know you because you say biscuit and you say blast when things go wrong and I think that that's very British.
- Sorry, have you start using chip yet?
- How about Epcot.
- City of tomorrow or something like that.
- That's correct, it's actually community of tomorrow but what about what's the e.p. part?
- Experimental prototype.

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- That's right, experimental prototype.
- That makes it sound so much more impressive than it actually is.
- Very good, every time I think of Epcot, I think about Mike Dean from the Beastie Boys, like nothing looks more old than yesterday's view of the future, and it's so true. I've never heard this one before too I believe we're going to blow a lot of minds. so thanks for these questions Hank this is the last one "w.g.n" the Chicago radio station owned by the Chicago Tribune.
- World's greatest newspaper.
- World's greatest newspaper?
- It's a newspaper, wow.
- What's a newspaper. [22:59 overlapping conversation]
- This is a pretty exciting time in journalism now though.
- I would say that it is.
- It's terrible that this administration, it has reignited quality investigative journalist.
- Yeah, it's like what's going to be the New York Times, what's going to be in the Washington Post, what is going to... I mean...
- Whatever happened to fact check editing, you know I mean...
- I love the fact that we get into situations where now like the little nibbling of a local paper has all this like unbelievable power because no one else is sharing that information mostly. So like something will get posted in, whatever it is... the Woodward talk and I'm like oh juicy...
- You know when it's Green Lantern opening up.
- I was thinking about this because at a solid 5 years running of reading, because I do. I'll be honest I read the free press every morning in its paper form on my Kindle but all those news stories were posted the previous day. So like oh I know that and I know that, I know that.
- Yes, it showing the importance of free press and if our press and our courts save us, it wouldn't be the 1st time nor will it be the last that it happens.
- And that is right. So tell you what, we only have a couple of minutes left and it's been a while and I had you know brain lightning bolt for a.t.p. favorites for today, I bet that there isn't a one of us that wouldn't be able to say that they had a favorite traditional comic strip growing up and I'm wondering what people's responses to those would be? And not just the design prompt by the way.
- Kathy.
- Kathy, always funny.

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- Family circle.
- Family circle, because you're living it now basically. [laughter]
- You have no idea how important it was.
- Family circus.
- Family circus.... [overlapping conversation]
- well it used to be.
- When I was really young it was Haggard the horrible, but in high school it was the far side.
- He is back.
- Yeah, he's back.
- Yeah I would say farsighted for me.
- Just laugh, it's good every time.
- You know Calvin enhances me [24:54 inaudible].
- Did you ever hear about the wife that he incurred.
- Kelvin enhances me.
- Yeah.
- I can't remember, he put in like original artwork or he signed certain books, he left them at the library and people tore up the library trying to find them.
- Oh my gosh, incredible.
- Nice idea but bad execution.
- Yeah, so you know none of these ever made it to India, so it could be the exception of Dennis the Menace. Oh yes.
- So the original annoying annoying kid kind of...
- Correct. I mean the only comics I read... American comics I read were Dennis the Menace and Archie.
- That makes me very sad.
- That's all we got.
- That's too bad.

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- Well you can make up for lost time.
- So yeah, all the rest of it is British stuff.
- Asterix and things like...
- Asterix and Tintin. We got the whole... By the way we got the 1st 10 volumes of the asterix...[crosstalk]
- So you guys have never seen Asterix? I mean that's what I grew up because I love the inking of it.
- Yeah.
- And the humor even translates very well.
- Can we just order the whole series of mighty orbits.
- Oh my God.
- If anyone wants... your kids would love it, I guarantee you, because my kids were... you know basically the American kids but they love Asterix ennobling, so...
- Well I would say that all of my children learned to read because for a while there.. and I know it's kind of obsessive, and he listens to the show so I'm going to get in trouble in X Number of days, but my dad would clip Calvin and Hobbes every day and put it into a binder but then they published the books. So he bought and then gave them to my oldest and then the next one in the next one and they basically learned to read reading Calvin and Hobbes. And there's a lot of awesome words that they use there, that they know now like transmogrify...
- Yeah absolutely nothing like that.
- Yeah.
- And if you want to learn to read about when colonialism used to be fun. Take the Adventures of Tintin.
- Absolutely-absolutely, Tintin.
- They made a movie not too many years ago.
- Yeah, the movie was a bit of a disaster but the books were great.
- My kids liked it though.
- And the movie was horrific.
- Yeah the movie is a bit of a disaster, but the books are great. And I found out that you can find them a local library here and I was really surprised. I feel guilty you know, because I was you know with peanuts fan.
- Oh well, there's nothing wrong you know.

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- Come on.
- Well going all the way back to the 1st row strip.
- But then there's an old obscure one, my grandparents use an old master cue.
- I will remember hearing about that.
- China and Hong Kong. So I remember like reading this, not reading because I couldn't read Chinese but I loved looking at inking styles.
- Sure. I can remember at some point reading or watching or looking at Dick Tracy, it had some exciting period going back in the early sixties.
- We're going to have to think a lot more about that over the next week because that's all the time we have for today but the time has come to say good bye Dave.
- See you.
- Beth.
- See you.
- Stephanie.
- Bye.
- Jim.
- Bye.
- Jason.
- See you real soon.
- Prasad.
- Be back in Red.
- And now these words.

Outro:

You can email ask the professor at atp@udmercy.edu, tweet to us on Twitter @asktheprofessor or using the hash tag Asktheprofessorudm. or visit the asked the professor Facebook page.

- Ask the professor is transcribed at the facilities of the Briggs building, the department communication studies in the College of Liberal Arts education at university of Detroit Mercy's campus. Ask the professor is produced and directed by Michael Jason and our executive producer, who's that guy over there until next week, I'm your host Matt Mio.

