

ATP 2115 transcription

Tue, 12/15 · 3:06 PM 37:16

0:08

The University of Detroit Mercy presents another encore presentation of a classic Ask the Professor radio program. Today's show takes us back to December of 1998.

0:22

Yes, the holiday bells and the university tower chimes ring in another session of Ask The Professor, the show on which you match wits with the University of Detroit Mercy professors and guests in an unrehearsed session of questions and answers. I'm your holiday host Kathy Bush, and today we have our regulars back with us. From the Department of Philosophy, Professor Beth Oljar.

Merry Christmas Kathy,

Merry Christmas and Happy B Day to you. And next to Beth from the Department of History, Dr. Greg Sumner.

This is Boxing Day?

Boxing Day.

I'm the King of the world.

You could have been a contender. Yeah. Okay. And next to Greg from the Department of Mathematics and Computer Sciences, Professor Dan Maggio.

Happy holidays

how are things in Erie Dan

Things in Erie are wonderful,

1:14

okay,

Have things changed much in Erie?

No things never change in Erie.

1:20

Dan's hometown – Erie PA

poodle haircuts are still in and they're still playing Journey on the radio.

1:31

To Dan's right, from the Department of History, Professor Roy Finkenbine

1:35

A partridge in a pear tree to you Kathy.

Speaker 2

1:36

And Lords a leaping back at you Roy. and between Roy and Dan again our Ghost of Christmas Past Professor, Edwin DeWindt,

1:45

they won't let me out of here

1:50

DeWindt is in the building.

Speaker 2

1:53

So, welcome back to the show where you send in questions and we hope that we can answer them. And I'm very happy to report that we have 12 email sets of questions that have arrived, not from Holly snow, but from Timothy p O'Neill of Bay City, Michigan, who writes, Dear ask the professor here are my annual Christmas questions

2:12

Do you think there's any snow up there?

Speaker 2

2:14

Oh, I'm sure there's lots of snow up there.

What would your dad say, there's snow up to your -

We will just go past that anatomy and physiology lesson indeed. He wants us to get 76% of these questions correct. Mr Maggio is going to be keeping track with his happy calculator,

His happy calculator?

This is from the tis the season Christmas trivia game. So have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, sincerely Timothy P O'Neill, so let's, let's rock, as they say. Our first question, who wrote the song, the most wonderful day of the year

Andy Williams,

He sang it.

2:59

The last name is something that we'll be handing in
grades,

well another term for grades.

Marks.

3:07

Okay. What was his first name

3:10

Groucho

Speaker 2

3:15

No, that's okay. you got the last name we're going with that. Okay. Okay. Now only one answer between us, we are told here, what day of the week was it once considered to be lucky for Christmas day to fall upon?

Sunday. Yes. How did you know that Professor Maggio?

3:37

cuz that's religious,

3:38

there we go, there's your religious

3:39

ah logical it's not just

3:45

you can't beat a cathedral prep education.

Yes, if there are any Cathedral prep graduates out there from Erie, Pennsylvania, I would love to hear from you. please email me and I might get back to you next year.

3:56

Okay,

3:57

you got access to email,

Speaker 2

3:58

where do we get the x for Xmas or Christmas from

4:02

symbol for Christ.

Greek

Speaker 2

4:05

Yes, actually it's, he writes here that's actually he said they took the symbol from the cross and changed it to the letter X to disguise it from the Roman and local Greek officials so that Christians could openly communicate with each other.

4:19

That's a crock.

4:20

Okay, and that's why I thought I was gonna read the answer.

Speaker 2

4:27

he does note that later the pope also approved of the X in Xmas Yes indeed. Sure, so we're gonna mark that one right so how are we doing so far Professor Maggio,

4:37

100%.

Speaker 2

4:44

I don't know Mr O'Neil seems to be a little upset. he's asking again only one answer between us.

4:50

Starting to get strident here.

Speaker 2

4:51

That's right. What evergreen tree is the least desirable Christmas tree?

4:57

the last one on the lot.

Speaker 2

4:57

Douglas fir

No, I thought Douglas fir

not a noble

5:03

I don't know



5:04

what the rest of you are Midwesterners. What do you know about evergreens



5:10

It wouldn't be a blue spruce,



5:12

that's what it is



5:14

I buy one every year.



5:17

Exactly. I agree, I agree,

Douglas firs are very nice too

I wonder what's wrong with it.

5:25

I don't know. There's no explanation



5:27

They are expensive,

That's enough right there.



5:30

Yeah, but that doesn't make it the least desirable.

I know they shed a lot.

what percentage are we at now Professor Maggio?



5:38

100%.

There we go. Alright.

We're gonna get in trouble for violating the one answer among us request.

We our one.

Speaker 2

5:47

What does Merry kara summa, Wait a minute, Merikurisumasu mean? Merry Kara Summa Sue



5:55

I know but I can't say.

Merry Christmas in Japanese?

There we go.

Oh, how bout that.

Speaker 3

6:00

Did we impose Christmas on them?

occupied Japan

Douglas MacArthur says

Yes, exactly

Speaker 2

6:06

And here's a special question for Dr DeWindt - In the film It's a Wonderful Life,



6:14

which you've seen how many times?

Speaker 2

6:16

I've never seen it.

What is the name of the main good guy character?



6:22

I have no idea

I know his first name.

6:25

what's his first name then Dr. Sumner/

George

George the first name. and the last name?



6:33

I hate that movie.

Speaker 4

6:34

I know

I've never seen it.

I've seen it once and that was enough

Bailey

6:40

Bailey. That's right.

it had been on so many times I



6:42

just was so annoyed I like actually never



6:45

know what was the name of that time what was the change to during that Smallville,



6:49

no no

Hooterville.

Speaker 2

6:54

This is a place where indigence are buried, people without money. it's called blank Field

Potter's

Potter's what?

Pottersville

7:03

After the wealthy, evil -

yes

7:04

Curmudgeon



7:07

There's only one good Christmas movie and that's Holiday Inn

With Bing Crosby and Vera Lynn

7:14

Yeah,

Whatever happened to Vera Ellen?

I don't know, but she could dance. What was the name of the town where George Bailey grew up.



7:28

Who Ville



7:31

Whoville? We're fixating on a little Suessville here today.



7:35

Bad Axe



7:39

It could have been.



7:41

Before they had a Walmart.

Speaker 2

7:42

We'll give you a hint. The last name is Falls. The first name would be



7:46

Wichita

Beaver Falls.

Bishops Falls.

7:48

It begins with a B.

Oh.

The last syllable is a car manufacturer here in the Detroit area

7:55

Buford

Bedford

Speaker 2

7:57

Bedford Falls okay.

Isn't that Lizzie Borden territory.

No. That's Fall River.

8:06

Yeah. Okay. Did she do it.

Speaker 2

8:11

Lizzie Borden took an axe
gave her another 40 wacks

that's right when she saw what she had done she gave her father 41 indeed Okay,
Elizabeth Montgomery was like so creepy in that movie though,
Have you seen that.

Speaker 2

8:22

Yes I did, and she was very unlike herself in Bewitched. You're correct. she was frightening
and I wish she would have killed her Darren. either one of them

She did. that's why they had to make the quick switch..

Dick York was gone. Dick Sargent was in.

There you go. What is, what Christmas song is sung in Latin

Adeste Fideles

Yes, O Come All Ye Faithful. Okay, and who sings the most popular version of Feliz Navidad,

Jose Feliciano

Yes, very famous,

Speaker 3

8:54

Who did the definitive version of the Star Spangled Banner at Tiger Stadium.

That's right, that's right.



9:01

No. The definitive version of the Star Spangled Banner was Marvin Gaye,
yeah.

I was thinking Roseann



9:09

That smoked when Marvin Gaye did it. I mean,

Speaker 2

9:12

you like that?

Well, unfortunately I was watching a game with a traditionalist. Thank you, there was much moaning and gnashing of teeth

They didn't play it that way in Korea.

That's right. He was very upset about that, or at Catholic Central they didn't play it that way either

Oh, when Roseanne sang,

oh,

Did your dad say something about Roseanne singing?

Yes he did.

What were some of the words he used?

Speaker 2

9:34

Ah, the I think the FCC cover most of those words.

We'll lose what stations we have.

we are going to be barred

Good for your dad, I agree.

You bet. What annual Christmas special always featured Claudine Longee as a guest star

Kathy Gifford

oh no a little earlier than



9:53

Andy Williams,



9:55

Of course. That's right

It was probably the only place they'd let her out of jail to go so
Spider Savage.

10:04

When Scrooge was a young man who was he apprentice to?

10:09

Bill Gates.

(Laughter)

10:14

It wasn't Marley, was it?



10:15

no not Marley



10:16

Marley was a partner

yeah

Speaker 2

10:17

the first syllable is a small hat worn by Shriners and Middle Easterners.

Fez

Okay. And the last is something that Eva Gabor sells

Wigs

that's right, so put it together.

Fezwig

There you go.

10:31

That's such a Dickens name,

10:32

Isn't it. Yes. What is the main dish that is served for Christmas Eve dinner in Finland?

That would be cod.

10:44

Yes it is codfish

Oh man in Seattle. In, there's an area Seattle called Ballard where a lot of people of Swedish descent have settled, Oof dah. I mean they had like Ludifess festivals, There are big, beautiful celebrations and people actually ate it.

Hmm. Well, whatever floats your boat.

You had to drive around with your your seat belt buckles hanging out of the car that was another thing you did in Ballard.



11:16

Okay,



11:19

It didn't really have to do with being Swedish but they all had these, but there are a lot of bumper stickers that said Uffdah

Born to be wild!

11:25

11:32

okay.

11:35

My sister lives there now.

Do you watch the Kathie Lee Christmas special?

I've never seen it.

She had her kids on there Cody and

11:43

oh yeah and Cassidy

11:46

Frank wasn't on it last year.

11:47

Is Perry Como still alive?



11:49

yeah

yes .Not well.



11:52

She finished the show with stand by your man.

No, it's I saw Santa. Santa kissing mama for



12:04

Santa Claus what

I saw mommy kissing Santa Claus.

What 1943 song made GI's really homesick.

White Christmas.

No

no no no no

no no no no no.



12:13

I'll be home for Christmas.

Yes, which is, I defy anyone, that's a four-hanky rating. Okay, that that that's a heartbreaker right there.

Who portrayed Susan in the first film version of Miracle on 34th Street?

Wasn't it Natalie Wood?

Yes it was. It what was indeed. Also in that movie. How does Susan, her mother and her boyfriend, I guess they mean the mother's boyfriend, know that their dream house was their Christmas present from Chris

he's left the cane.

Speaker 2

12:42

Yes, he left the cane behind. Okay. How many freckles does Santa Claus have?

None.

That's right. Indeed, he has dimples, we are told

Does he use special skin care.

Well, those aren't mutually exclusive so

Well, I don't write them Dan. I just read them okay and how are we doing Professor Maggio?

100%. I'm working harder here.

Speaker 2

13:13

what Carol was originally titled "Hark how all the welkin ring"

that's Hark The Herald Angels Sing.

How all the welkin ring?

yes yes. Dr DeWindt I'm sure could explain the derivative.

No.

13:26

Spare us.



13:27

It sounds like Barbara Walters.

Speaker 2

13:35

What does the 12th night actually mean?

It's the 12th night after epiphany

Yeah, it is.

It is Epiphany.

It is the feast day known to Canadians as little Christmas

13:45

anybody going to Christmas city in Hendersonville Kentucky

13:48

oh my gosh no,

13:50

is it Kentucky or Tennessee

Tennessee

Tennessee.

13:52

It's also when the Greek Orthodox celebrate Christmas

Yes, on their calendar. Yes, Gary. Garrett I always wish him a Happy Christmas that day,

13:59

Do you have Christmas tree pickup in your neighborhood, what's the what's the trash procedure there?

Speaker 2

14:05

Well, we cannot take down our tree until after Little Christmas. That is a family tradition and then you can put it in front or what.

Yes. And it is watched and stawked, as they take it away. Okay.

What part of Detroit do you live in,

in northwest

14:20

they don't do that in my part

14:21

really oh yeah there's a truck that comes around and throws all of the dried out limbs.

Speaker 3

14:28

Her father is a trash fanatic. It has to be picked up and,

Speaker 2

14:32

yeah, it has to be timed that way.

And then they get put through that wood chipper in Fargo.

Can we name the three wise men or kings from the east,

14:44

Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar

14:45

And Shemp.

There we go.

We're not gonna let this one go.

Speaker 2

15:01

How many here have seen the TV show Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer.

Oh, except Well, yes

Burl Ives.

Yes. With Burl Ives.

It made me - I couldn't watch it when I was -

when you were small,
because I got so upset when they were mean to him.

Ah, well,

I ran crying out of the room,

Ohh. While we talk about childhood trauma let's take a break.

15:26

You're listening to a special asked, Professor Christmas encore presentation from December of 1998, featuring the late Professor Kathy Bush as the moderator. We'll return to the second half of this episode in a moment. But first let's travel back in the ATP archives even further to these memories from Christmas of 1984.

15:42

(FLASHBACK)

17:54

We're back with questions from Timothy p O'Neill of Bay City, Michigan, all centering around the lovely holiday of Christmas I think I've seen it since, and we were talking about the cartoon Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. And the question here is what does Clarice say to Rudolph that makes him so excited that he out flew everyone, all the other reindeer

shine your nose for me baby

18:19

That he was cute. "I'm cute. I'm cute"

18:25

How many times have you seen this, Dr. Finkenbine?

Oh, I have four children,

18:29

We've obviously needed a parent on this show.

That's right.

It's known as the Beatrix Potter phenomenon.

18:36

Although, I really like How The Grinch Stole Christmas.

18:37

I like that story,

18:42

who plays the Ancient Elf in Santa Claus, the movie

George Jessel

Speaker 2

18:46

No, good guess.

George Burns.

No, this would be another kind of older actor. he was in the Rocky movies.

Burgess Meredith

And yes played on Batman too. Yes.

Speaker 4

19:02

The only Santa Claus movie I know is Santa Claus Conquers the Martians that's been done MST3K

19:07

Okay.

Does that involve Abbott and Costello.

No no no, It's - it's indescribable.

19:16

It sounds so good

19:18

was Michael Landon in that?

19:20

no he wasn't

Is that on that list they put out of the 10 worst Hollywood movies of all time?

I think it should be.

19:27

I think there's actually a brief appearance in it by a very young Pia Zadora. I think she's about 12 or something in that.

There's a talent.

19:37

There we go.

Unappreciated,

Indeed. In France, who is their version of Santa Claus?

19:45

Charles de Gaulle.

19:48

Pere Noel.

Pere Noel, that's right. Father Christmas Yeah.

Speaker 2

19:50

Let's see what happened to Pope Gregory the seventh while he was saying a Christmas Mass?

He died.

Speaker 4

19:56

Henry the fourth stood in a snowdrift outside saying, "I'm here".

Speaker 2

20:03

No. This is something very bizarre to happen to a pope, I would think.

20:07

that was pretty bizarre.

Speaker 2

20:09

No, this is something that usually is referred to children.

20:14

He wet his pants.

No.

20:17

Oh well,

Speaker 2

20:18

No, this would be a Robert Louis Stevenson title as well.

Kidnapped

Yes, he was kidnapped

off the altar?

It does not say from where, but this is

That is really rude

20:30

No, I know what they're talking about

Really you do?

yeah

Speaker 4

20:32

Could you expand on that

Yeah it was it was the Normans who grabbed him.

Okay.

He wasn't really kidnapped, it was a deal. It was a deal because the Germans are coming to get em and so the Normans came in to rescue him. And they just kind of grabbed him and bumped them off and ended up,

He was standing there seeing mass and it's a group of guys ran in an grabbed him.

Yeah, the Normans did it.

20:54

Boy, it was a short sermon that day, okay.

This wasn't the vacation in Avignon, was it?

No. That was a couple of years later.

20:59

This was when the German emperor was coming down and so they got him out of there fast. And then he sat there, whining, until he died. "What a waste of time, nothing got done. I didn't accomplish anything"

21:13

"I didn't even get to finish Mass"

Speaker 2

21:17

Who starred in the 1934 movie March of the Wooden Soldiers? And it's not the Stooges.

Frederick Forrest.

it's a comedy duo.

21:27

Abbott and Costello,

21:28

no another one.

21:31

Laurel and Hardy

21:32

yes yes

21:32

yes, One of Edwin's favorite.

Speaker 3

21:35

There's a film festival this weekend at the Redford theater. Oh, you don't really like Laurel and Hardy.

21:44

I think they are evil. Absolutely evil.

21:47

I'm sorry, Ollie.

Speaker 2

21:51

What Lord Protector of England banned Christmas?

Oliver Cromwell.

Yes. I don't know if I can read all the words. Mr O'Neill has an editorial comment that "he raped Ireland and his treatment of the Irish rival that of Hitler's of the Jews",

Not quite

Well, that's what he's claiming here

22:07

22:10

O'Neil? Would that have something to do with it?

22:14

okay

Well, Edwin probably thinks there is no worse thing one could do, so.

That's right.

Speaker 2

22:18

according to Irish tradition, how can you help guide the Holy Family to shelter on Christmas Eve?

Give them a drink.

22:27

Put a bottle in the middle of snow

Speaker 2

22:31

That's it. You put a candle in the snow.

And in Ireland the feast of the Epiphany is known as this has been answered already because it's also known to set in Canada

Little Christmas

That's right. It's little Christmas

How are we doing?

22:43

I think we're still at 100 per cent. I don't think we've missed one
These grades that are easy to calculate. Don't you love 'em?

Speaker 2

22:51

How many questions are there

Uh, many, but let's see - what happened on Christmas Day 1941, a very sad day for the British in Asia.

23:01

The Japanese took over.

Speaker 2

23:04

It was not Singapore but the other big colony.

Hong Kong.

Yep. Had to surrender to the Japanese lowering that -

Very bad business was that

It wasn't cricket. Alright,

It must be time for tea.

Bridge on the River Kwai, you know.

23:23

In Austria, what is served as the main course for Christmas dinner,

Wiener schnitzel?

Noodles!

It depends whose house you go,

Yeah, really. But this would be a fish that we in the Midwest would consider a scavenger type fish.

Uh, catfish

No.

Flounder.

No.

It rhymes with harp.

Carp.

I wonder if that's true,

It's a bottom feeder.

(23:48)

23:59

Aren't carp and whitefish the two most common fish for Gefilte fish?

Yes. They are.

(23:58)

Yeah, we want to keep that percentage going for you okay.

In a terrible remake of It's a Wonderful Life,

They did?

That starred Marlo Thomas

24:14

Enough said there.

24:16

What was -

That Girl?

Oh, Donald!

24:20

What was this remake called?

24:22

That girl -

Gets another chance.

Special guest star Phil Donahue.

Speaker 2

24:29

No, he makes a claim here that it's one of the worst Christmas movies ever made. It's sort of like the film with Claudette Colbert and Clark Gable.

It Happened One Night?

It Happened One Christmas.

24:44

Oh my.

24:45

Yeah, Has anybody ever seen this?

24:50

No. I think they burned the negatives

24:52

I'm guessing the angel comes, and it shows what the town would have been like if she would not have existed. And they found that there was no difference.

Danny Thomas was sad.

Speaker 2

25:03

Now, Edwin, I think you brought this up. What really dumb Christmas movie starred a very young Pia Zadora?

Santa Claus Conquers The Martians

Y

Yes.

What's the plot of that. Anyway?

Speaker 4

25:16

the Martians have a plan to kidnap Santa Claus.

25:20

And Santa Claus fights back

Is it special effects?

No.

Speaker 2

25:24

He said he would rather watch this than Marlo Thomas's movie, however,

Speaker 4

25:28

I think he's wise and especially the MST three k version. It comes with editorial comments. I'll leave it out for you this Christmas

Please do, yeah I can't wait. Maybe I could show it to my class. What famous bodybuilder died on Christmas eve of 1972,

Charles Atlas.

Charles Atlas.

25:50

He was lifting the tree. And strained his groin.

25:53

Speaker 2

25:57

He had a grown injury. In the thumb of Michigan on a certain radio station they were reading about hockey news and my father was listening and the commentator reported that yes Sergei Federoff was suffering from a grown injury.

The two go hand in hand.

Yo . In deed. In the made for TV colorized version of The Miracle on 34th Street, who played the employee that Chris attacked and later took Chris to court,

Jane Fonda.

Now this would be an actor who died recently, a friend of Elizabeth Taylor's and starred in -

Ohm Roddy McDowell,

Yes.

What did he die of?

of cancer.

He was a very talented photographer also,

Ah, Who portrayed a young Marley in the 1951 version of A Christmas Carol? This is a British actor probably best known for a series that many of us enjoyed, the Avengers.

Oh John Steed.

Yeah. Yeah,

27:00

that would have been the Alister Sim version wouldn't it.

Speaker 2

27:03

Yes. That would have been 51. What christmas cartoon did Jim Backus, Maury Amsterdam-Mr. Magoo.

Yes, and Jack Cassidy provide the voices for.

27:12

Let's make fun of the visually impaired.

27:16

Mr. Magoo's Christmas.

Speaker 2

27:18

Yeah, we're gonna have to stop here with our questions from Mr O'Neill but let me thank our panelists. Professor Finkenbine

27:26

Looking forward to the new year

27:27

Indeed. Professor DeWindt.

27:29

thank you very much

Professor Sumner

Speaker 2

27:30

And Professor Oljar,

Happy New Year.

Ask the Professor is transcribed at the facilities of the Smith Media Center on the University of Detroit Mercy's Merry Christmas McNichols campus. Ask the Professor is produced by Karen Dewar, our technical director is Michael Jayson, and our executive producer is Dr Vivian Dicks. I'm your host Kathy Bush, Merry Happy Holidays.

Speaker 1

27:57

And I'm Michael Jayson. Thank you for listening to this special encore presentation of Ask The professor from Christmas of 1998 with special memories of the late Professor Kathy Bush. We hope that you join us again next week and throughout the year ahead. From all of us at Ask the Professor, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.