

# atp 2133 transcript





 Fri, 4/16 3:20PM  29:38

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

swim, kafka, snow, questions, laughter, professor, shovel, works, beth, olympics, dan, partial credit, grew, instructed, snowblower, franz kafka, year, prague, stephen, listens

## SPEAKERS

Beth Oljar, Jeffe Boats, Stephen Manning, Mara Livezey, Announcer, Dan Maggio, Matt Mio, Dave Chow, Professors

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-  **Announcer** 00:02  
The University of Detroit Mercy presents another brand new episode of Ask The Professor. Today's program was recorded using Zoom video conferencing technology.
-  **Matt Mio** 00:20  
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 in an unrehearsed session of questions and answers. I'm your host, Matt Mio. And let me introduce to you our panel for today. We are being joined today by Dave Chow.
-  **Dave Chow** 00:37  
Pleasure to be here as always.
-  **Matt Mio** 00:39  
Excellent. How are things on the other side of the half block that we live across from each other...



Dave Chow 00:45

Just as cold, I'm sure, just as cold.



Matt Mio 00:48

Do you use the same money that we do?



Dave Chow 00:51

Yeah, in smaller denominations. That's all. We have them unmarked.



Matt Mio 00:55

Nice. Nice. What's the... Any hubbub over on your side of the neighborhood? Dave? Or is everybody just keeping to themselves?



Dave Chow 01:01

We're - Well, this morning everyone kept to themselves. And you know, like this morning, having to wake up at the crack of dawn to shovel... I'm like, Oh...



Matt Mio 01:09

Yes, yes, absolutely.



Dave Chow 01:11

And because my wife also goes in early, I at least want to clear out the driveway; so, if she's got to be in at six. I've got to be out there shoveling by five.



Matt Mio 01:18

Absolutely, you do.



Dave Chow 01:20

So, I'm pulling "Mio" hours.

- M** Matt Mio 01:23  
(Laughs) Now, someone I know was out there for a long time shoveling this morning, Mara Livezey, because we were talking about it earlier. Are your legs back to room temperature?
- M** Mara Livezey 01:31  
My legs are back to room temperature. Feeling great. It only took me half an hour, and by the end of it, my legs were tingling.
- B** Beth Oljar 01:40  
I bet.
- M** Mara Livezey 01:41  
It was cold.
- M** Matt Mio 01:42  
Well, it made me start thinking, since you were a ballerina, and still are a ballerina, if you had your legs insured or anything... like some of the big time dancers do?
- M** Mara Livezey 01:53  
You know, ever since I quit, it's just not worth the insurance money. I'm not that valuable anymore.
- M** Matt Mio 02:00  
Oh, my, very sorry to hear that.
- D** Dave Chow 02:03  
Aw...We beg to differ.
- B** Beth Oljar 02:05  
We value you for your mind.

M Matt Mio 02:07  
Yes, yes, exactly.

D Dave Chow 02:09  
We just want you to feed the cats.

M Mara Livezey 02:13  
That's why I'm valuable to them. For sure.

M Matt Mio 02:16  
Yeah, the cats are thinking in their minds, "Now get out there, and like... get your blood pumping by clearing the walks. So, we can get some food at some point today". (laughter)

B Beth Oljar 02:24  
"C'mon human, get to it!"

D Dave Chow 02:26  
Yeah. Cat DoorDash!

M Matt Mio 02:29  
Stephen Manning is here with us today. What's shakin, Stephen?

S Stephen Manning 02:33  
You know this talk about snow shoveling, I have a couple of neighbors who... we really haven't had that much snow this year. And... but, one neighbor I know lives, like five houses down, got last year for Christmas, what he claims is the best Christmas gift he's ever received or ever would. You know from the Christmas story, he got a snowblower. And we get you know, an inch and a half of snow, and he's got that baby fired up... with all... Now I'm very grateful. He goes all the way up the sidewalk, including in front of my house. So, it works to my advantage. But, it's almost like you have one of these things, you've got to... you've got to fire that thing up when you get the tiniest bit of snow! And it's quite hilarious, there are now maybe four guys in the neighborhood, they're out there, fully

bundled up with their machines running up and down the sidewalk. It's crazy. It's crazy. I'm out there with my little shovel, you know.

**M** Matt Mio 03:27  
Stephen, is this like high level stuff? Is this thing running an auger, like the giant screw that really throws the snow?

**S** Stephen Manning 03:35  
I don't know much about these. I'm sure there's some variation. I saw the guy this morning. I was out shoveling my front, when he came down the sidewalk as he typically does, and I just happen to know his was a Craftsman model. That's all I know about it.

**M** Matt Mio 03:48  
Nice. Nice.

**S** Stephen Manning 03:49  
So...

**M** Matt Mio 03:50  
People, umm, people love using those. That was basically my dad when I was growing up. He had the biggest possible snowblower that you could buy. And I believe it was Craftsman, actually. And he would go pretty much the whole neighborhood over and just be super happy about it. Like, this is the greatest thing ever, you know?

**S** Stephen Manning 04:08  
Yeah...

**M** Matt Mio 04:08  
But we don't get snow like we did when I was a kid, at least not since, uhh...2014. There I said it out loud.

**S** Stephen Manning 04:14  
I heard the average, average annual snowfall in this area is 40 inches? We haven't had forty inches in a couple of years, anyway.

**D** Dave Chow 04:22  
Cumulatively, it seems like...

**P** Professors 04:23  
Yeah...

**S** Stephen Manning 04:24  
I remember one year we had 80. We doubled 40. But we haven't even, we've probably had, what, 10 or 12 this year, so far?


**M** Matt Mio 04:30  
Not 80.


**D** Dave Chow 04:31  
Not even, I don't think.


**M** Matt Mio 04:32  
Yeah. Someone who I don't actually know if they like to shovel snow, but who really does is Dan Maggio.


**D** Dan Maggio 04:40  
I love to shovel snow, and we have two snowblowers.


**D** Dave Chow 04:45  
Two!

 Dan Maggio 04:45  
We have a gas one, but we just bought a battery, a smaller battery operated one, which works great if it's about an inch or two a fluffy snow, but not of this snow here.


 Matt Mio 04:56  
Yeah, this was heavy stuff right Dan?

 Dan Maggio 04:58  
It was... umm, so, but I do love, I love being out in the snow. So I grew up, you know, in Erie, Pennsylvania where we... I think they averaged 120 inches a year? And, uhh...

 Jeffe Boats 05:10  
Lake Effect, yeah..

 Dan Maggio 05:11  
Yeah, so yeah, I love the... Yeah, I love the snow and love shoveling and all that. So...

 Stephen Manning 05:17  
You want to trade one of the snowblowers for an espresso machine?

 05:19  
(Laughter)

 Dan Maggio 05:20  
I'll have to check with the entire household on that.

 Stephen Manning 05:29  
Then I could be an additional one of those guys I was talking about.

 Dan Maggio 05:32

Yeah.

**S** Stephen Manning 05:32

I could be the fifth guy out there, in one block with a snowblower going up and down the sidewalk.

**M** Matt Mio 05:38

I tell you what, Stephen, I'll help broker this for like, a ham sandwich. Dan's gonna ask you for two first round picks over the next two years. (laughter) Bottom line that's what its gonna take...

**B** Beth Oljar 05:51

But there'll be picks for curling, you know, so,

**D** Dan Maggio 05:54

Yeah, that's it.

**M** Matt Mio 05:55

Thank you for chiming in! Professor Beth Oljar is here with us today.

**B** Beth Oljar 05:59

Good to be here.

**M** Matt Mio 06:00

Excellent. So, I actually don't know this, but I have a feeling I'm about to get schooled. Having grown up in Washington State. Um...It's not... Is it a snow place? Is it not a snow place? It's more of a rain place. Right?

**B** Beth Oljar 06:13

I didn't grow up in Washington State.



M Matt Mio 06:15  
Oh, but, but you went to school there?

B Beth Oljar 06:18  
I went to graduate school there. Yeah. I grew up in Oregon.

M Matt Mio 06:22  
Okay.

B Beth Oljar 06:22  
No, not a lot of snow.

M Matt Mio 06:24  
Okay.

M Matt Mio 06:25  
Yeah. In Oregon, doesn't it depend on which side of the range you're on? If I remember correctly?

B Beth Oljar 06:31  
Yeah. I mean, you're more likely to get snow east of the Cascades, right. I grew up west of the Cascades, closer to the Oregon coast. So, it was a big deal when we got snow. It didn't happen very often. And very rarely did school close.

M Matt Mio 06:46  
Sure. Sure.

B Beth Oljar 06:47  
For that reason...so...

M Matt Mio 06:49  
School closes pretty rarely around here, too. But, that's for different reasons right now.

P Professors 06:57  
(laughter)

B Beth Oljar 06:58  
Exactly. No snow days now!

M Matt Mio 06:59  
Yeah. Geez.

M Matt Mio 07:00  
I mean, there are, but they have a different feel. That's all I got to say.

B Beth Oljar 07:04  
That's right.

M Matt Mio 07:06  
Professor Jeffe Boats is here with us today.

J Jeffe Boats 07:09  
Howdy.

M Matt Mio 07:10  
So, now you went to graduate school, if I remember correctly in El Paso. What's the snow situation down there?

J Jeffe Boats 07:16  
Well, no, I taught there for a couple of years.



Matt Mio 07:17

Oh...I'm sorry.



Beth Oljar 07:19

He was at Carnegie Mellon...



Jeffe Boats 07:20

Before I came here, yeah, it was grad school--Carnegie Mellon and I went to undergrad right where I grew up, about 90 miles east of Dan, so we got a lot of snow too.



Matt Mio 07:29

There you go. There you go. I'm getting everything wrong today, but I'm getting everything a little bit, right?



Jeffe Boats 07:35

Go...Go, St. Bonaventure! I just gotta say, by the way...



Matt Mio 07:37

The Bonnies!



Jeffe Boats 07:39

Yeah, the Bonnies basketball. They look good this year.



Matt Mio 07:42

That's right.



Jeffe Boats 07:43

Not, not a single senior on the team either. They're gonna be even better next year.



Mara Livezey 07:46

Oh, wow. That's incredible.

**B** Beth Oljar 07:48  
I know where everybody went to graduate school. I don't know where Mara went.

**M** Matt Mio 07:52  
I do.

**P** Professors 07:53  
(laughter)

**J** Jeffe Boats 07:54  
Illinois, right?


**M** Mara Livezey 07:55  
The same place Matt went.


**B** Beth Oljar 07:56  
Oh, you went to University of Illinois, right?


**M** Matt Mio 07:59  
Yeah.


**B** Beth Oljar 07:59  
Was it UIUC? That you went to?


**M** Mara Livezey 08:01  
UIUC.


 Beth Oljar 08:02  
Okay.

 Jeffe Boats 08:02  
It's like Penn State linebackers, Illinois, organic chemists.

 Professors 08:06  
(laughter)

 Matt Mio 08:09  
Awesome. Hey, folks, this is a program you can send us questions regarding anything. I know, it'll probably make people angry if I say it, but we'll take a set of questions about famous linebackers. If you stump the panel, you win one of our prizes. You can send the questions in a number of ways. You can email us at [atp@udmercy.edu](mailto:atp@udmercy.edu), find us on Facebook and Instagram, or listen on your favorite smart speaker by asking it to play Ask The Professor at University of Detroit Mercy. Okay. This is a set of questions sent in dear professors. Here's a list of 10 questions about my favorite sport, which is swimming. A passing grade is eight out of ten. Who is doing this to us? I swear. Good luck. This is a courtesy of Mara's biochemistry class last semester, written by Ishani Malhotra. So, thank you for sending those in. I had Ishani in class last year, too. Let's see what we can do with some questions about swimming. As we are swimming in controversy about these upcoming Olympics, what was the first year that swimming was used in the Summer Olympics?

 09:17  
Hm...Ooh...

 Jeffe Boats 09:17  
That's gotta be early-

 Dan Maggio 09:18  
1940



Dave Chow 09:21  
1952



Stephen Manning 09:22  
1932



Mara Livezey 09:23  
1912



Matt Mio 09:28  
I'm waiting for Beth to chime in.



Beth Oljar 09:30  
I said 1916.



Matt Mio 09:32  
Oh! I'm very sorry. You're all dead wrong.



Jeffe Boats 09:34  
Oh, okay. It was like 18-- something ?



Matt Mio 09:37  
It was. It was the first ever Olympics had swimming, which was...



Jeffe Boats 09:41  
1896?



Matt Mio 09:42  
1896. Yeah. One of you had, I think an eight in one of your answers. So partial credit.



09:53

(laughter)



Dave Chow 09:53

I'll take it!



Matt Mio 09:54

I think that most of you will be able in the popular culture at minimum to answer this one. Who has the highest number of gold medal winnings ever by a single athlete, a single set of Olympic Games?



Beth Oljar 10:05

Michael Phelps



Mara Livezey 10:06

It's gotta be Phelps.



Dave Chow 10:08

Michael Phelps or Mark Spitz.



Matt Mio 10:09

Definitely, Michael Phelps. And it doesn't say what it was here. But it was, it was like ludicrous. Wasn't it like nine gold medals or something like that?



Dave Chow 10:17

I think seven?



Mara Livezey 10:17

Something like that.



Matt Mio 10:18

Yeah.



Dan Maggio 10:19

Mark Spitz - he had seven.



Matt Mio 10:21

Okay.



Jeff Boats 10:21

Olympics.



Dan Maggio 10:22

I'm pretty sure it's...



Beth Oljar 10:24

Or six. I remember, it was my first Olympics that I remember watching was '72. So...



Jeff Boats 10:29

I thought Phelps was somewhere in the 20s. like 25 or something.



Matt Mio 10:30

Oh...really...



Jeff Boats 10:31

Yeah, because he went to like three or four Olympics and just...



Mara Livezey 10:34

Total.





Jeffe Boats 10:34

Yeah.



Mara Livezey 10:36

Yeah. Right.



Matt Mio 10:37

He also holds the record for total number of gold medal winnings by a single athlete at a single game, which I think is, you know, yeah...



Jeffe Boats 10:41

Something like eight.



Matt Mio 10:46

Yeah, exactly.



Dave Chow 10:46

And just think about it, he was here, you know, right before that. He was training at U of M.



Matt Mio 10:50

That's right. Where all the good swimmers and ice skaters do, right?



Dave Chow 10:54

I did, uh, I did a Rosetta Stone commercial with him.



Matt Mio 10:58

Mmm, interesting.



Dave Chow 10:59

Because he was going to Beijing. So...

B Beth Oljar 11:01  
Oh, right. I remember that.

D Dave Chow 11:03  
Yeah. I did that commercial.

M Matt Mio 11:03  
What do you know?

B Beth Oljar 11:04  
Cool. Learning Chinese.

M Matt Mio 11:07  
I always, um,

D Dave Chow 11:08  
That's why he hung around with me. Right? Not a chance.

M Matt Mio 11:12  
I always remember thinking of Michael Phelps winning medal after medal after medal, and like, there's some people who were on, I don't know, you know, like the team handball squad. And they practice for like, four years and they get one medal at the end and have to, you know, practice the whole Olympics and everything. Tough life. Tough life.

J Jeffe Boats 11:29  
That's a huge sport in Europe.

M Matt Mio 11:31  
Yes, it is. It is. Who was the first man who swam the 100 yard freestyle, in basically one minute or less?



Beth Oljar 11:40  
Mark Spitz?



Matt Mio 11:42  
Mm...Mm (No)



Jeffe Boats 11:42  
Johnny Weissmuller.



Matt Mio 11:44  
Nope, the initials are J.S.L. But, I don't have anything beyond the J. The last name, yeah, starts with L-e-.



Dan Maggio 11:53  
I was gonna go with Johnson Space Labs. But that's not gonna work. J-S-L.



Matt Mio 11:59  
It says here. It's J. Scott Leary, is the name. Probably from some time ago. Let's see here...How old is the world's oldest competitive swimmer? Hooo? This is cited from Swimming World Magazine.com.



Dan Maggio 12:15  
Wasn't there...



Jeffe Boats 12:16  
100.



Dan Maggio 12:16  
..a swimmer last year that was about...40 something?

M Matt Mio 12:19  
Actually, Jeffe hit the nail on the head. There is 100 year old registered competitive swimmer.

D Dan Maggio 12:26  
Oh, not in the Olympics, though.

M Matt Mio 12:27  
No, no. Didn't say Olympics. Didn't say Olympics.

D Dave Chow 12:29  
Yeah, I mean...

D Dan Maggio 12:29  
Yeah, sorry.

J Jeffe Boats 12:30  
It's a super healthy guy who does like biathlons or triathlons or something.

M Matt Mio 12:34  
Exactly. Yeah.

D Dave Chow 12:35  
And then defining competitive. I mean, we can have competitive Pinnacle. I mean, you know, it's like...

J Jeffe Boats 12:37  
If you're 100 and you can finish a triathlon. You, you won.

M Mara Livezey 12:43

Yeah.

**J** Jeffe Boats 12:44  
You're first in your category, probably last, too.

**M** Matt Mio 12:47  
For the record...

**D** Dave Chow 12:47  
You're the only one in the category!

**M** Matt Mio 12:50  
For the record, I also would have accepted Tom Brady as the answer to that question. In what year, were women first allowed to compete in the Olympics in the category of swimming?

**D** Dan Maggio 13:04  
1932.

**M** Matt Mio 13:06  
Not 1896.

**J** Jeffe Boats 13:08  
They got to vote 1920 or sometime around there.

**P** Professors 13:11  
Hmm...

**M** Mara Livezey 13:12  
1930.

**B** Beth Oljar 13:13  
It had to be sometime before that...

**M** Matt Mio 13:16  
I, I have to go with Beth on this one. It was actually...

**B** Beth Oljar 13:18  
They probably got to swim before they could vote.

**M** Matt Mio 13:20  
Yeah, exactly. I mean, that's close enough. It was 1912. So, that's, that's pretty good. Yeah. 1912.

**D** Dave Chow 13:26  
And they were probably in there with their bloomers, too or something. Some horrible outfit that...

**M** Matt Mio 13:31  
Yes.

**B** Beth Oljar 13:32  
Real aerodynamically sound.

**D** Dave Chow 13:34  
Oh, yeah.

**B** Beth Oljar 13:35  
Yeah.

**D** Dave Chow 13:36

Well, that's because of the you know, they were buoyant. They really didn't even swim.  
That's all...

- M** Matt Mio 13:42  
According to a swimming fun facts website, that was used to cite for this question... What percent of Americans have never tried to swim?
- B** Beth Oljar 13:55  
It's probably pretty big.
- D** Dan Maggio 13:56  
About 38%.
- M** Matt Mio 13:58  
Really?
- J** Jeffe Boats 13:58  
I like Dan's answer. Somewhere around there.
- M** Mara Livezey 14:00  
50? or...
- D** Dave Chow 14:02  
Wha?
- M** Matt Mio 14:02  
Did you say 50 percent?
- S** Stephen Manning 14:03  
20 percent.

D Dan Maggio 14:04  
Nooo.

B Beth Oljar 14:05  
I said 70 percent.

B Beth Oljar 14:07  
It's higher than that?

M Mara Livezey 14:07  
No.

D Dan Maggio 14:07  
Everybody at my school growing up...in swim class...

M Matt Mio 14:09  
Beth is close. Beth is close by splitting the difference. It's 65%.

D Dave Chow 14:14  
What!?

M Mara Livezey 14:14  
No way...

S Stephen Manning 14:15  
Who've never tried to swim?

M Matt Mio 14:17  
Never tried to swim.



- B** Beth Oljar 14:18  
I remember being stunned when a friend of mine in grad school, who's still a friend of mine, actually...and the guy who told me that he expected papers by women philosophers to be less good. Uh, I remember being stunned when he told me that he never learned to swim, growing up. I'm like, really? How do, how do you grow up and not learn how to swim?
- M** Mara Livezey 14:40  
It is an important life skill. I was really impressed by my brothers who went to Cornell. You have to pass a swim test to graduate.
- M** Matt Mio 14:47  
That's right. That's right, Cornell.
- M** Mara Livezey 14:49  
That's awesome!
- D** Dan Maggio 14:49  
In any degree?
- M** Mara Livezey 14:52  
Yeah, there's a specific test you must pass. It's like a 100 yard or I don't know, meter... 100 meter.
- D** Dave Chow 15:00  
I had to have it in Detroit Public Schools. I had to have in high school.
- M** Matt Mio 15:03  
Hmm
- D** Dave Chow 15:04

Not to say that I was any good at it. But yeah, at least I know how to swim, somewhat. I can dog paddle. I mean...

**B** Beth Oljar 15:09  
I was about four when I learned how to swim.

**M** Matt Mio 15:11  
Yeah, sure.

**S** Stephen Manning 15:12  
I had ten weeks of swim class a year when I was growing up.

**D** Dave Chow 15:15  
Yeah, I mean...

**B** Beth Oljar 15:16  
When nobody wants to hang out in the kiddie pool with you, you sure better learn how to swim, so you can be in the grown up pool. That was what I did.

**M** Matt Mio 15:25  
The, the truth is that we're pretty spoiled growing up in the Great Lakes region. We can just walk about one mile in any direction and fall into a wet hole. So, uh, last question, here. Thanks Ishani, for sending these in. These have been great. The first ever swimming goggles were constructed from what?

**B** Beth Oljar 15:45  
Glass.

**D** Dave Chow 15:46  
Welding goggles or something like that?

M Matt Mio 15:47  
Sadly, a part of an animal.

M Mara Livezey 15:51  
Oh...

D Dan Maggio 15:52  
It's not, it's not part of the eye, is it?

M Matt Mio 15:55  
No, no.

P Professors 15:56  
(Mutters)...animal

D Dan Maggio 15:58  
Is it a like a skin, like a, uh, like, skin or intestine?

J Jeffe Boats 16:04  
I'm trying to figure out how you see through a part of an animal?

M Matt Mio 16:04  
No.

M Mara Livezey 16:07  
Yeah.

D Dan Maggio 16:08  
Well, they could have refined it or something.

M Mara Livezey 16:10  
They put glass in it.

M Matt Mio 16:11  
Yeah, they put glass in what it is. So, it's not that you're looking through a part of an animal. It's that it has a certain...ahem... shape.

M Mara Livezey 16:21  
It's the anus.

D Dave Chow 16:22  
Oh...oooh! (laughter)

M Matt Mio 16:24  
No, no. Sadly, each of the eye coverings was a hollowed out miniature turtle shell, connected in the middle. And the glass was put in...

D Dave Chow 16:34  
Ohhh!

D Dan Maggio 16:34  
Oh, I see where you're going with that. I was totally on the wrong path.

D Dave Chow 16:37  
Oh, thank God!

M Matt Mio 16:39  
So that's, uh, yeah.

B Beth Oljar 16:41

I was thinking ivory is what it was meant. Okay, but turtle shells.



Dave Chow 16:44

I was even going to go, like oyster shells, or something like that. But okay. All right.



Matt Mio 16:49

Thanks for sending those in the Ishani.



Announcer 16:51

You're listening to a special edition of Ask The Professor, in which each of the seven professors participating in this recording session were connecting to each other from different locations. Thanks to zoom video conferencing technology. We're grateful to those listeners who submitted questions for today's show, and we welcome your questions at [atp@udmercy.edu](mailto:atp@udmercy.edu). Now, let's return to our host Matt Mio, with more questions for the panel.



Matt Mio 17:19

Okay. "Dear professors, it's been a while since I've sent questions, but after a long hiatus, I've been motivated to send you some during the good old pandemic. After all, there's nothing else to do during partial lockdown. And also," these are a few months old. "The average summer temperature here in Palm Springs, California is 110 degrees Fahrenheit. So, I might as well stay inside and do some questions. More importantly, I want more mugs. I have two mugs. I want more mugs! "



Professors 17:48

(laughter)



Beth Oljar 17:51

Okay, well, let's get right on that.



Matt Mio 17:54

"I've decided to confuse the panel as thoroughly as I can, by writing 10 questions about

Franz Kafka. Ten questions are attached, you'll receive a passing score by answering 11 correctly." Very well done, very well done. This is from Palm Springs, California. Alan Ira, who's sent us many questions over the years. Thank you very much, Alan, that's great.

- B** Beth Oljar 18:18  
Kafka. Wow, that's really...okay.
- M** Matt Mio 18:20  
This is going to be interesting. Now, these are not too dense, but just dense enough.
- D** Dave Chow 18:24  
No, we'll be really dense. So...
- M** Matt Mio 18:27  
What subject did Kafka originally intend to study, when he enrolled at the University of Prague?
- D** Dave Chow 18:34  
Swimming!
- M** Mara Livezey 18:35  
Medicine.
- B** Beth Oljar 18:36  
Philosophy.
- J** Jeffe Boats 18:38  
Entomology.
- M** Matt Mio 18:38

No...(chuckles)

- M** Matt Mio 18:41  
For the record, he switched from this mystery subject, to Doctorate in Law. He switched to Law at the end of it, but, uh, no, it was, um...let's see. I want to make sure I get this exactly correct. It's actually what my undergraduate bachelor's degree is in.
- B** Beth Oljar 18:58  
I said Chemistry.
- M** Matt Mio 18:58  
Chemistry, yeah, it says Chemistry.
- D** Dan Maggio 18:58  
Biochemistry?
- B** Beth Oljar 19:01  
Nobody listens. Geez...nobody listens,
- M** Matt Mio 19:03  
It does say, Beth -
- M** Matt Mio 19:05  
Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm doing my best here, even with my headphones on. Chemistry was his first love and then he switched to receive, ended up receiving a Doctorate in Law. In the story, "The Trial" What crime was the main character accused of committing? Hint: This is not a trick question.
- B** Beth Oljar 19:26  
Murder. What, I think...? I'm not sure.



Matt Mio 19:30

That's not what it says.



Jeffe Boats 19:30

Do they actually say the crime in the story?



Dan Maggio 19:32

Hmm...



Matt Mio 19:33

That's the correct answer.



Matt Mio 19:35

It says, in the end, he was arrested and prosecuted by illegal bureaucracy which never revealed to the character, Joseph or the reader the nature of the crime.



Mara Livezey 19:35

Wow.



Dan Maggio 19:46

Hmm...



Jeffe Boats 19:46

It doesn't matter what he did, because, it didn't matter whether he did it.



Matt Mio 19:53

Kafka worked several years for an insurance company. What type of insurance did Kafka handle in this job? This is pretty interesting. (laughter)



Jeffe Boats 20:01



It's turning into a bug insurance.

**B** Beth Oljar 20:03  
Yeah, no kidding! I'm like, is it cockroach insurance?

**M** Matt Mio 20:06  
Ooo... like "LiMu Emu", kind of thing here? What, what's going on? I mean...

**B** Beth Oljar 20:09  
Homeowners insurance.

**M** Mara Livezey 20:12  
Life insurance.

**B** Beth Oljar 20:13  
That would be even funnier.

**M** Matt Mio 20:15  
Giant bug insurance. That's so great.

**J** Jeffe Boats 20:17  
Alien Abduction Insurance.

**M** Matt Mio 20:20  
No, he did, um...

**B** Beth Oljar 20:20  
He did that for sure.

- M** Matt Mio 20:23  
He did Workers Comp., is what he was working on.
- D** Dave Chow 20:26  
Alright, okay, well, it's a living.
- M** Matt Mio 20:28  
Still gotta gun for 11 correct out of 10. Oh my gosh, this is wild. What did Kafka instruct be done with his papers and all of his writings after his death? a.) he instructed his works to be submitted to prominent Prague publishing companies b.) he instructed that his works be read at universities c.) he instructed that his works be translated into English d.) he instructed his works to be donated to the McNichols Campus Library at University of Detroit Mercy.
- B** Beth Oljar 21:05  
I'm going to go on a limb and rule out "d".
- M** Mara Livezey 21:08  
Yeah, to burn them.
- M** Matt Mio 21:08  
Oh my gosh, this is wild. But, how shall I put this, on brand? None of the above. In his will, he instructed his executor, Max, to burn, everything.
- B** Beth Oljar 21:22  
Yeah, instruct that they'd be burned.
- M** Matt Mio 21:25  
And it says Max did not follow those instructions. Just as good to say that they're hanging out in the McNichols Library though, that's great.

- D** Dave Chow 21:35  
Yeah, I'm sure he probably had like publishing rights or something like that. So...
- D** Dan Maggio 21:40  
According to Wikipedia, who called Kafka, the Dante of the 20th century? Another famous author.
- D** Dave Chow 21:48  
Dante? Oh..
- B** Beth Oljar 21:51  
Not the right century. Um, Nietzsche?
- J** Jeffe Boats 21:54  
William S. Burroughs.
- M** Matt Mio 21:56  
Nope. Last name starts with the letter "A". And if I give away the other initials, it'll be pretty obvious.
- D** Dan Maggio 22:03  
Is it "z"?
- B** Beth Oljar 22:05  
Milne - A.A. Milne?
- M** Matt Mio 22:05  
Mm-mm
- D** Dan Maggio 22:06

Well, what initial could you give us that would give it away? x? z? q?

**D** Dave Chow 22:13  
As Dan goes down the Scrabble route here.

**M** Matt Mio 22:15  
No,um, the initials are W.H. A.

**B** Beth Oljar 22:21  
Auden.

**M** Matt Mio 22:21  
It was Auden. Yeah. W. H. Auden.

**D** Dan Maggio 22:24  
Oh, I see. Okay. Yeah. I didn't consider that, that was a possibility.

**M** Matt Mio 22:29  
How many times was Franz Kafka married?

**S** Stephen Manning 22:34  
Three.

**M** Mara Livezey 22:36  
Five.

**J** Jeffe Boats 22:36  
Pi?

M Mara Livezey 22:37  
Did you say Pi.

J Jeffe Boats 22:39  
That would be a Kafka "esque" type number.

M Matt Mio 22:42  
That would be a Kafka "esque" number. That is Kafka "esque". So, three is a number that's close to what the actual number is. If someone gives me something else, we can stretch out the error bars...

D Dave Chow 22:51  
Four...

B Beth Oljar 22:53  
Four.

M Matt Mio 22:53  
Four's getting too high. But it's not three.

D Dan Maggio 22:57  
Three and a half?

M Mara Livezey 22:58  
Plus or minus one.

D Dan Maggio 22:59  
Jeffe isn't actually, right?

M Matt Mio 23:01

No, he's, he's never been married. He was engaged twice. But never married. Love this follow up. "However, he did spend a lot of time visiting brothels." Well, that's, that's a nice addition.

**D** Dan Maggio 23:12  
Did his fiance's turn into bugs before they had a chance to marry?

**M** Matt Mio 23:17  
Entirely possible. How and at what age did Franz Kafka pass on?

**B** Beth Oljar 23:26  
I'm thinking he was young-ish?

**D** Dave Chow 23:29  
42.

**D** Dan Maggio 23:30  
Partial credit. I'll give it to a combination of Beth and Dave because he died at 40. Yeah, he was gone at 40.

**D** Dave Chow 23:37  
Oh,

**M** Matt Mio 23:38  
What took him?

**M** Mara Livezey 23:39  
Heart attack?

**B** Beth Oljar 23:41

Alcoholism.

**D** Dave Chow 23:42  
The hearse.

**M** Matt Mio 23:43  
At least partial credit. What took him, the hearse? Partial credit for alcoholism. No, you know, he died of TB. Not doing too well back then. Not good. Not good.

**B** Beth Oljar 23:52  
That got a lot of people.

**D** Dan Maggio 23:55  
See, Had he worn a mask, he would have been in a better shape?

**M** Matt Mio 23:58  
Absolutely. In November 1919, Kafka penned a scathing 45 page letter accusing the recipient of being abusive and hypocritical. Who was the letter addressed to?

**D** Dan Maggio 24:11  
His mother?

**M** Matt Mio 24:13  
I'm giving it to you, Dan. It was his dad. Yeah.

**D** Dave Chow 24:17  
Wow.

**M** Matt Mio 24:18  
Franz gave the letter to his mother, to give to his father.

M Mara Livezey 24:22  
Yes.

M Matt Mio 24:23  
But his mother never delivered the missive and instead handed it back to him. Like most of his works, the letter was posthumously published in '66 because of course, it didn't get burned after he died.

D Dave Chow 24:34  
Wow. And let me guess he gave it as a father's day present.

M Matt Mio 24:38  
Sheez...

S Stephen Manning 24:38  
It's in the basement of the McNichols library.

M Matt Mio 24:41  
Right. Right. What's the name and occupation of the main character from the novella, "Metamorphosis", who woke up one morning to find he's been transformed into a huge insect?

B Beth Oljar 24:52  
It was a lawyer, right?

M Matt Mio 24:54  
You know, it actually says here Beth, he was a traveling salesman and cloth merchant? But it also has the name. Ah, the first name starts with "G", same as the former chair of our biology department, but without the "y" at the end.

B Beth Oljar 25:11



Greg.

M Mara Livezey 25:11  
Greg.

M Matt Mio 25:13  
So, Gregor. Gregor. Gregor Samsa was the name of the traveling salesman and cloth merchant. Yes.

D Dave Chow 25:21  
Cloth merchant.

M Matt Mio 25:22  
I guess I could have read a little further down the list here. I feel bad, but hopefully Jim will forgive me. It says I always try to have a religion question to keep Professor Tubbs happy. What was Kafka's religious identification?

D Dave Chow 25:38  
Atheist?

B Beth Oljar 25:39  
Protestant?

M Mara Livezey 25:40  
Roman Catholic.

J Jeffe Boats 25:41  
Jewish.

M Matt Mio 25:42

It says he was Jewish. Although his writings were secular. His great grandfather was a rabbi. Some Kafka scholars believe the themes in Kafka's stories were influenced by a study of the Talmud. His three sisters died in Nazi concentration camps.



Jeffe Boats 25:58

So, I was about to say Prague had a big Jewish population up to a certain point. And then...



Matt Mio 26:02

At some level, it says here, Franz was engaged in the Zionist movement of the early 20th century in Prague. So yeah, there you go. I mean, that was actually 10 questions. I made sure to re-number them. So I don't know how we're supposed to get an 11? But we must have been close.



Jeffe Boats 26:18

Well, if you count our correct answers in binary...



Dave Chow 26:21

In Kelvin, right?



Matt Mio 26:23

Oh, that's awesome.



Dave Chow 26:25

He gets a mug.



Matt Mio 26:26

It's been a while since we've had some Professor Favorites. So um, you know, it's for some people, it's a snow day today. Either in the modern age that you are or perhaps when you were quite a bit younger, what did you always look forward to most, on snow days?

**S** Stephen Manning 26:42  
Oh, sledding.

**M** Matt Mio 26:45  
Of course, sledding.

**S** Stephen Manning 26:46  
Sledding, tobogganing...Yeah.

**M** Mara Livezey 26:49  
Definitely, sledding, but then my mom would make this really delicious, white, hot chocolate. Oh, and put it in this thermos. And when you'd sled and get cold, we'd come to the car and drink it. Ooh...

**M** Matt Mio 27:00  
Man, that's awesome. White hot chocolate. That's the real deal.

**B** Beth Oljar 27:04  
We didn't get enough snow that I really ever had anything in particular to look forward to. So, I don't really have...I don't have an answer.

**M** Matt Mio 27:13  
Oh, that's okay.

**D** Dave Chow 27:14  
Okay, I got a real bad one though. All right, I might as well confess. Did you guys ever go bumper hitching or shagging?

**B** Beth Oljar 27:22  
Oh, sure.

- D** Dan Maggio 27:23  
Oh yeah, all the time.
- D** Dave Chow 27:25  
That's how I used to get home from school.
- D** Dan Maggio 27:28  
Well, not that far. Geez.
- M** Matt Mio 27:30  
Way to go, Marty McFly.
- J** Jeffe Boats 27:31  
I miss cross country skiing. Uh, we used to do that in gym class actually for about a month every year.
- M** Matt Mio 27:36  
Dan, you grew up in snow country. What was happening in Erie, on a snowy day?
- D** Dan Maggio 27:41  
Tobogganing.
- M** Matt Mio 27:42  
Yeah.
- D** Dan Maggio 27:42  
Or sledding.
- D** Dave Chow 27:44  
Or did you guys ever have those dishes? Those little round plastic dishes?

M Mara Livezey 27:48  
Oh, yeah!

S Stephen Manning 27:50  
Saucers.

M Matt Mio 27:51  
We called them "Saucers".

D Dave Chow 27:52  
That's right. That's right. Okay.

M Matt Mio 27:53  
Well, folks, I hope you enjoy the snow day or whatever kind of day you're listening to this on, but I'm afraid that the time has come for us to say, "goodbye".

M Matt Mio 28:03  
Jeffe.


J Jeffe Boats 28:04  
Bye!


M Matt Mio 28:05  
Dan.

D Dan Maggio 28:06  
Goodbye!


M Matt Mio 28:07  
Stephen.

 Stephen Manning 28:08  
Bye!


 Matt Mio 28:09  
Mara.


 Mara Livezey 28:10  
Enjoy the cold!


 Matt Mio 28:11  
Dave.

 Dave Chow 28:12  
See ya!

 Matt Mio 28:13  
And Beth.

 Beth Oljar 28:14  
Bye!

 Announcer 28:15  
You can email Ask The Professor at [atp@udmercy.edu](mailto:atp@udmercy.edu) or visit the Ask the Professor Facebook page.

 Matt Mio 28:24  
Ask the Professor is produced and directed by Michael Jayson and Brian Maisonville. And our executive producer is Professor Jason Roche.

 Matt Mio 28:32

Until next week, I'm your host Matt Mio.