

# ATP 2215 transcript

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

laughs, christmas, professor, people, question, prime numbers, tree, patrick, vixen, game, panel, george, detroit, presents, yule, mercy, university, church, hm, england

## SPEAKERS

Edwin DeWindt, George Pickering, Announcer, Dan Maggio, Hugh Culik, Patrick Parsons, Student announcer, Professors, Production Element, Arthur Beer, Claire Crabtree

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**A** Announcer 00:01  
The University of Detroit Mercy presents another encore presentation of a classic Ask the Professor radio program. Today's show takes us back to Christmas 1996 and begins with a holiday favorite from the University of Detroit Mercy Choral.

**P** Production Element 00:17  
SONG: "Carol of The Bells" performed by University of Detroit Mercy Choral.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 01:40  
Merry Christmas, everybody, the University of Detroit Mercy presents Ask The Professor, and it's our Christmas show. That was the University of Detroit Mercy Choral. And we squeezed them all here into our little recording studio, and they just sang a little hearts out. And now we're going to try to do a show. Some of the panel - We have some of the panel with us and we have a special guest and the rest of the panel is still doing their Christmas shopping and will probably be here eventually. I hope they will be here eventually. If not, well, coal for them. On my right, from the Department of English, Professor Claire Crabtree.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 01:54  
Hi.

**C** Claire Crabtree 02:21  
Ho, ho, ho. This is the Christmas show. Right?

**C** Claire Crabtree 02:22  
Hi.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 02:26  
It is the Christmas show. That's right. That's right. And to her right, from the Department of Mathematics, Professor Dan Maggio.

**D** Dan Maggio 02:33  
Hi. Jingle Bells.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 02:34  
(Laughs) Yeah.

**D** Dan Maggio 02:36  
I was gonna try to sing it. But that was probably a good idea that I didn't.

**H** Hugh Culik 02:41  
Happy to be here.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 02:41  
Golly, wow. And on my left, from the Department of English also, Professor Hugh Culik.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 02:47  
Happy to have you here.

**H** Hugh Culik 02:48  
Oh, and merry Christmas, too.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 02:49

and on his left a special guest from Presence Interactive Media, and also the University of Detroit Mercy, Patrick Parsons.

**P** Patrick Parsons 02:59  
Howdy.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 03:00  
Hi. Actually, Patrick's been on the show before

**H** Hugh Culik 03:03  
He has. Every - Not only has he been on the show, but he's created the Liberal Arts website, which is a thing of glory

**C** Claire Crabtree 03:11  
and Hugh's current obsession.

**H** Hugh Culik 03:13  
Well, it's not my obsess -

**E** Edwin DeWindt 03:15  
Do you wanna give the address?

**H** Hugh Culik 03:16  
Yes, I think people who want to see something cool should do their usual http colon and all the forward slashes and then they just type lib arts as one word and then.ud dot Mercy

**P** Patrick Parsons 03:30  
UDMercy

**H** Hugh Culik 03:30  
Pardon me. You want to do in English, Patrick?

**P** Patrick Parsons 03:34  
Libarts. One word. dotUDMercy U-D-M-E-R-C-Y .edu.

**H** Hugh Culik 03:40  
And you will see thing of glory. Make sure you check out the queries. They're wonderful dialogues that are going on about everything from information theory to the X Files.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 03:48  
(Laughs) Very impressive.

**C** Claire Crabtree 03:51  
You do make house calls.

**H** Hugh Culik 03:53  
We do. Now we do actually.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 03:54  
That's right. That's right. Well, in honor of the day -

**C** Claire Crabtree 03:58  
Oh, can I interrupt and say that Patrick Parsons is such a great name. And if I ever write a novel, I might borrow you. The trouble is that you might be sort of like Mr. Collins in Pride and Prejudice, because Patrick Parsons sounds like a good name for a pompous clergyman - and you're nothing like that.

**H** Hugh Culik 04:20  
I can I can testify to his abstract interest in beer that were he a year older, it would be you know something genuine? He's really no parson at all.

**C** Claire Crabtree 04:32  
He's very unassuming too, so he's hardly pretentious and he has reasons to be.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 04:37

Yeah. Well, we have a whole set of Christmas questions, in keeping with the season from - do you believe this - Holly Green.

**H** Hugh Culik 04:47

I had Holly Green in a class of mine - an Intro Comp class, and I gave her a D and I passed her on to Claire, and I never heard what ever happened -

**C** Claire Crabtree 04:58

I never had a Holly Gr -

**H** Hugh Culik 04:58

Do you remember Holly?

**E** Edwin DeWindt 05:00

(Laughs)

**C** Claire Crabtree 05:01

Oh!

**E** Edwin DeWindt 05:03

That Holly.

**C** Claire Crabtree 05:03

Holly Noel Green.

**H** Hugh Culik 05:05

You got her.



**C** Claire Crabtree 05:05  
Holly Noel Carol Green.

**H** Hugh Culik 05:07  
That's right.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 05:08  
I remember her. Yes.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 05:10  
(Laughs) Well, here's a series of questions related to various Christmas customs and their origins. They want you to get 12 out of 17. Okay. This Christmas custom dates back to the early 1600s and was at first confined mainly to Protestant districts because of its connection with Martin Luther.


**H** Hugh Culik 05:32  
Oh, you nail a priest to a church door. Yeah, I remember that. 95 of them or something like that.


**E** Edwin DeWindt 05:39  
95 priests -


**H** Hugh Culik 05:39  
That's where the song 95 Bottles of Priests On The Wall - or whatever it is. Is this the right question?

**E** Edwin DeWindt 05:47  
It's the right question. It's not quite the right answer. But that's a good answer.


**H** Hugh Culik 05:51  
So what did we do?


 Hugh Culik 05:53  
There's something we do that dates back to the 1600s.


 Claire Crabtree 05:56  
Caroling?


 Edwin DeWindt 05:57  
No, not caroling.

 Claire Crabtree 05:59  
Yule log


 Edwin DeWindt 06:00  
Well, You're getting closer

 Claire Crabtree 06:02  
Related to Martin Luther though.

 Edwin DeWindt 06:04  
You're getting closer.

 Claire Crabtree 06:05  
Not the tree and -

 Edwin DeWindt 06:06  
Oh, well -

 Hugh Culik 06:07  
Maybe it is the tree.

C Claire Crabtree 06:09  
The tree?

E Edwin DeWindt 06:09  
Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

C Claire Crabtree 06:09  
Well, it was German, but I thought it was the 17th century. I just read about it.

C Claire Crabtree 06:13  
So the Pope said it was okay.

E Edwin DeWindt 06:14  
Yeah, he said it was okay. You could you could put lights on the tree and -

C Claire Crabtree 06:18  
Put lights on the tree.

E Edwin DeWindt 06:19  
Put candles on the tree and then -

H Hugh Culik 06:21  
And wait for them to invent electricity

E Edwin DeWindt 06:23  
everything burned down. It destroyed your house for your family.

H Hugh Culik 06:26  
A real slow start to Protestantism, that's for sure.



C Claire Crabtree 06:32  
Mind you, in Romania, they knock on your door at midnight. And they have a -

E Edwin DeWindt 06:37  
and they take you away! (Laughs)

C Claire Crabtree 06:42  
Hey, they've had an election. Things are good there, I hope. They're gonna be good. The rector of the university, in fact - of Bucharest - and I met him - or at least saw him speak - heard him speak - last year. Anyway, they come to your door with a wooden goat that makes clacking noises.

H Hugh Culik 06:56  
(Laughs) A wooden goat.

C Claire Crabtree 06:57  
It's so - it's so funny, and they have a specific song they sing, and they're not looking for money. It's just a bunch of young kids. They're not looking for money.

H Hugh Culik 07:05  
With a goat.

C Claire Crabtree 07:06  
It is very funny. The song is cute, and the goat's head clacks, so you get this great - you know, castanet.

E Edwin DeWindt 07:15  
(Laughs)

H Hugh Culik 07:16  
This sounds great.



I always thought - maybe it's just me. I always thought that the tree bit was actually much older than this than the 1600s. I -

**H** Hugh Culik 07:48  
I wonder if it was suppressed because it -

**E** Edwin DeWindt 07:51  
Yeah, I wonder -

**C** Claire Crabtree 07:51  
Well, it was Druidic.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 07:52  
Well, yeah, you've got you've got Druids with mistletoe and that kind of stuff. But, uh -

**C** Claire Crabtree 07:58  
I bet they didn't just give you a little bust on the cheap. There's something about you know, the importance of trees and decorating trees in the pre-Christian period that was probably, you know, remained an underground custom in one way or another, and so much of that stuff did. In the early centuries, when Christians first began celebrating Christmas, the practice of gift giving was frowned upon by the church. Why? -- Why?

**C** Claire Crabtree 08:27  
They were right, but I would never have had a bicycle or a rocking horse.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 08:35  
Why would the church play the role of the Grinch? What was their problem?

**H** Hugh Culik 08:41  
Would it be revealing your wealth so to tax people?

**E** Edwin DeWindt 08:43

No.

**H** Hugh Culik 08:44  
No?

**C** Claire Crabtree 08:46  
Just religious reasons.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 08:47  
Because of the Roman Empire after Constantine, Christian clergy were exempt from taxation.

**H** Hugh Culik 08:52  
Really?

**E** Edwin DeWindt 08:52  
Yeah. That's why some people have said that, the fourth century witnessed the greatest number of vocations to the priesthood in the entire history of the Christian church. You don't pay taxes, "I want to be a priest"

**H** Hugh Culik 09:04  
Kind of like a non-profit corporation.

**C** Claire Crabtree 09:07  
Especially since nobody could really check up on your chastity - if you were a guy.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 09:10  
Heavens yes. Yeah.

**C** Claire Crabtree 09:13  
Would it be something to do with materialism or religious - keeping it religious?

**E** Edwin DeWindt 09:16  
Well, you're getting. You're getting close.

**C** Claire Crabtree 09:19  
The three kings - ?

**E** Edwin DeWindt 09:20  
No

**C** Claire Crabtree 09:20  
Were - pagans?

**E** Edwin DeWindt 09:22  
Well, alright, you see, you're almost there. And I'll accept that. The gift giving thing was a part of the pagan festival of the Saturnalia

**H** Hugh Culik 09:30  
Oh,

**H** Hugh Culik 09:30  
Yeah. People ran around giving each other gifts and it was felt that you're simply importing into Christianity this, this utterly heathen practice.

**C** Claire Crabtree 09:39  
I have to confess when I first came to Detroit, we used to go to Saks to see Santa, and it was a class act. I mean, this guy had a real beard.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 09:48  
Yeah.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 09:49

**E** Edwin DeWindt 09:49  
Really nice one - well groomed - trimmed. And it really was lovely. So um, but I wouldn't buy into that.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 09:56  
Nope, it's all gone now though.

**C** Claire Crabtree 09:58  
No, that was nice. Uh, Santa has a present for you that maybe we could open on the air because I think you could explain it.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 10:05  
Oh,

**C** Claire Crabtree 10:05  
Santa has a present in sort of a petite size which - Dr. DeWindt -

**E** Edwin DeWindt 10:11  
Cannot get in to -

**C** Claire Crabtree 10:11  
Dr. DeWindt, Anne perhaps will be able to wear.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 10:18  
Oh, what is this?

**C** Claire Crabtree 10:19  
I bought it at a weirdo fair, and it's the only one they had.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 10:23  
Oh, my gosh! (Laughs)

C Claire Crabtree 10:29  
It's a t-shirt folks, can you describe it.

E Edwin DeWindt 10:31  
Serf's Up. s e r f 's? And it is the sower sowing his seed -

C Claire Crabtree 10:39  
from the painting the Malay.

E Edwin DeWindt 10:40  
That's right, the Malay - and two little peasant women accompanying - a woman and a boy -

E Edwin DeWindt 10:46  
And they are on surfboards. And they are coming in on the crest of the wave. It is wonderful!

C Claire Crabtree 10:52  
When I saw "Serf's Up" with an "e", I just thought this is -

E Edwin DeWindt 10:55  
Oh, that's terrific.

C Claire Crabtree 10:56  
This is you.

E Edwin DeWindt 10:57  
Yes. Well, Anne will wear it.

C Claire Crabtree 11:00  
Good. Okay, I think maybe the woman with the head piece is a Van Eyck or a Vermeer or

something.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 11:07  
Or a Vermeer - I think. Yeah.

**C** Claire Crabtree 11:08  
She looks sort of nun-like, but she's -

**E** Edwin DeWindt 11:09  
Yeah, but she's Vermeerish - definitely yeah.

**C** Claire Crabtree 11:12  
Good.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 11:13  
Thank you very much. That is wonderful. I get a kick out of that kind of stuff. Golly,

**C** Claire Crabtree 11:21  
I don't know much, but I know what Ed likes

**E** Edwin DeWindt 11:23  
(Laughs) Weird things. Okay, uh, Saturnalia. Alright. Next - next question. In 1224, St. Francis of Assisi began this tradition in Italy, which today is a part of many Christmas celebrations. What is it?

**H** Hugh Culik 11:44  
Putting extra food out for the animals?

**E** Edwin DeWindt 11:46  
No.



- C** Claire Crabtree 11:47  
decorating the tree with angels
- C** Claire Crabtree 11:50  
The creche!
- E** Edwin DeWindt 11:50  
No.
- E** Edwin DeWindt 11:50  
That's the - It's the creche!
- H** Hugh Culik 11:52  
Oh.
- E** Edwin DeWindt 11:52  
The whole nativity scene thing. That's right. That's - He's the one who invented this idea.
- C** Claire Crabtree 11:57  
Who did? I'm - I wasn't really listening.
- E** Edwin DeWindt 11:58  
St. Francis of Assisi. That's right. That was Francis of Assisi.
- H** Hugh Culik 12:01  
He invented trout fishing, too.
- E** Edwin DeWindt 12:03  
Yes. And as we just ponder the recent addition of all of this to our culture, let's take a break here.

S

Student announcer 12:10

In this yuletide season of joy and giving, it is important to remember the less fortunate, the destitute, the miserable, the Ask the Professor panelists. They don't ask much from you, a card, a note, an expensive gift. They just need a little Christmas cheer, that's all. So please deck their halls, jingle their bells.

A

Announcer 12:31

And you can do that by sending questions to Ask The Professor. Our email is ATP@UD Mercy.edu. Merry Christmas from Ask the Professor. Let's return now to this classic episode of Ask the Professor from Christmas 1996

E

Edwin DeWindt 12:50

Oh, we're back. We used to have an anti St. Patrick's Day party in my house, and when St. Patrick's Day came we'd always find some you know, Anglo Saxon saint, or some someone who isn't Irish at least, to celebrate; and the first one we did was St. Cuthbert. It was a monastic leader in the seventh century in Anglo Saxon England. And we had this huge cake made from Ranier's which no longer sells to the public. And it was this poor -

C

Claire Crabtree 13:18

They don't want our money.

E

Edwin DeWindt 13:19

They don't want our money. No. And this poor guy standing on the shore with seals surrounding him, blowing on his feet, because the legend was that they used to come out of the ocean to blow on his feet to keep his little toes warm.

P

Professors 13:30

(The panel laughs)

E

Edwin DeWindt 13:33

The next year we did Turibius of Mogrovejo, of the Grand Inquisitor of Bolivia - in the 16th Century.



... ..

**C** Claire Crabtree 13:41  
Oh, great. Well, when did it stop and when can we start it again?

**E** Edwin DeWindt 13:45  
Yeah, right.

**H** Hugh Culik 13:46  
Yeah, absolutely.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 13:49  
All right, nativity scene that was it. All right. Who were Melchior and Belthasar?

**C** Claire Crabtree 13:54  
The kings.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 13:55  
That's right. Two of them. That's right.

**C** Claire Crabtree 13:57  
Do we have to know where they're from?

**E** Edwin DeWindt 13:59  
No. What was the name of the third one? This is not included.

**C** Claire Crabtree 14:01  
Casper.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 14:01  
That's right. Casper.

C Claire Crabtree 14:03  
And one of them was always black or dark. Was that Casper?

E Edwin DeWindt 14:07  
I think it usually is. Yeah, that was the big tourist attraction, so to speak, in Cologne in the Middle Ages. They claimed that in their church they had the bodies of the Three Wise Men.

H Hugh Culik 14:17  
Right. They still do. yes.

C Claire Crabtree 14:19  
I've been to that church but -

H Hugh Culik 14:21  
Me too.

C Claire Crabtree 14:23  
You've been to that church?

H Hugh Culik 14:24  
Yeah.

C Claire Crabtree 14:24  
Did you climb it?

H Hugh Culik 14:25  
I don't go up high. I went in the basement.

C Claire Crabtree 14:28  
I was seven months pregnant at the time. And my four-year old son climbed it, who has sent us really mean questions under a pseudonom.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 14:36  
Oh, is that what he's doing?

**C** Claire Crabtree 14:38  
I don't know. It's not these. No.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 14:42  
No. (Laughter follows)

**E** Edwin DeWindt 14:45  
And our listeners are wondering why we're laughing because the last three minutes was just edited out, (Laughs) That's right. They brought in the choir again - to sing another Christmas carol. Yeah, so there were some theologian in the late 20th century, I think, who defended the idea that - well, the reason there were so many duplicate relics all over the place was because relics had the miraculous ability to reproduce themselves.

**H** Hugh Culik 15:15  
Kind of like an administrator.


**E** Edwin DeWindt 15:17  
Yeah, kind of like administrators. Exactly. Like when you put all the pieces of the True Cross together, you had a cross the size of the World Trade Center.

**H** Hugh Culik 15:25  
I kind of like that.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 15:28  
Recite the first four lines of Twas the Night Before Christmas.


**H** Hugh Culik 15:35  
Twas the Night Before Christmas and all through the house, Not a creature was stirring, not


It was the night before Christmas and all through the house. Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. Just I in my night -


 Claire Crabtree 15:43  
No.

 Edwin DeWindt 15:43  
No,


 Dan Maggio 15:44  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,

 Hugh Culik 15:49  
in hopes that

 Claire Crabtree 15:49  
St. Nicholas


 Hugh Culik 15:52  
soon would be there.


 Edwin DeWindt 15:52  
That's it. You've got it. And George Pickering is hurling himself against the door and -


 Claire Crabtree 15:57  
Mama in her kerchief and I and my cap had just settled down for a long winters nap.


 Hugh Culik 16:02  
When out on the roof, I heard such a clatter,


 Claire Crabtree 16:06


 Claire Crabtree 16:06  
I sprang to the sash,


 Hugh Culik 16:08  
to see what was the matter.


 Claire Crabtree 16:10  
which I always wondered about


 Dan Maggio 16:12  
Oh, what was the matter?


 Hugh Culik 16:13  
Mm-hm.

 Edwin DeWindt 16:13  
Clatter and matter. Yeah.

 Hugh Culik 16:15  
Okay.

 Arthur Beer 16:15  
Oh, right. Right.

 George Pickering 16:17  
Splatter.

 Claire Crabtree 16:19  
and George is here. Shall we sing something -?

—

G George Pickering 16:23  
else?

E Edwin DeWindt 16:24  
Yeah. The only versions I know -

C Claire Crabtree 16:26  
Oh Holy - Noon?.

E Edwin DeWindt 16:27  
The only lines I know are the ones written by Viola Da Gamba. There's one that began. "T'was the night before Christmas and also the school, not a creature was stirring except for one fool."

H Hugh Culik 16:37  
Ah, yes. Right

G George Pickering 16:38  
And he was president of the university. (Laughter from the panel follows).

C Claire Crabtree 16:44  
Did Viola write anything this year?

E Edwin DeWindt 16:47  
Yes. But it hasn't been made public.

C Claire Crabtree 16:49  
Okay.

E Edwin DeWindt 16:50  
Yes.



G George Pickering 16:50  
She's very naughty.

E Edwin DeWindt 16:52  
Yes, yes.

G George Pickering 16:53  
That Viola.

E Edwin DeWindt 16:54  
Yeah, (Laughs). George Pickering has just joined us. He's chair of the Religious Studies Department. And this is our Christmas show.

E Edwin DeWindt 17:04  
Yes.

G George Pickering 17:04  
Oh, yeah?

G George Pickering 17:05  
I'm late for a Christmas show?

E Edwin DeWindt 17:06  
That's right. And we are being asked questions about Christmas.

H Hugh Culik 17:10  
George. There's a question that you - There's a great bit of anger directed at your recent electronic performance.

G Georae Pickerina 17:17

Why? What did I do? Or fail to do?

P

Patrick Parsons 17:21

You start a query or a dialogue on religion and science.

G

George Pickering 17:25

Yeah. And then I wouldn't answer.

P

Patrick Parsons 17:27

Yeah and you never posted a -

H

Hugh Culik 17:28

You didn't answer - you didn't even question.

G

George Pickering 17:30

Yeah. The thing about computers is - other people can use your name.

E

Edwin DeWindt 17:39

Oh, yes.

C

Claire Crabtree 17:41

If they don't have your password, they could still use your name?

G

George Pickering 17:44

Well, sometimes, you know, you let people in and then they do things. In other words, Culik did this to me and now he's trying to make a case out of it. It's not gonna work.

H

Hugh Culik 17:59

George, that is so -

**G** George Pickering 18:01  
He's forgetting how the power is arranged (Laughs)

**H** Hugh Culik 18:06  
But this is only partly true. I was - We were sitting beside each other and I was showing you how to do it; and I asked you -

**G** George Pickering 18:12  
And you were pretending to be friendly. (Edwin and Hugh laugh) And I fell for it.

**H** Hugh Culik 18:17  
And you're usually tougher to trick than that.

**G** George Pickering 18:19  
Yeah.

**H** Hugh Culik 18:21  
You were there. Come on.

**G** George Pickering 18:22  
I was there.

**H** Hugh Culik 18:23  
You were tied up and gagged. (Edwin laughs)

**C** Claire Crabtree 18:26  
He was asking for it.

**H** Hugh Culik 18:27  
He was. That's what I say.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 18:30  
Okay, next question.

**G** George Pickering 18:31  
(Laughs) Well, we chewed up that time.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 18:35  
In Scandinavia -

**H** Hugh Culik 18:37  
Yes.

**H** Hugh Culik 18:37  
What is the name of the gnome that places presents under the tree?

**H** Hugh Culik 18:42  
Tuck Somickey.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 18:43  
No, It's not.

**C** Claire Crabtree 18:45  
Oh, rats.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 18:46  
The gnome. What's the name of the gnome?

**G** George Pickering 18:49  
There is a gnome?

C Claire Crabtree 18:50  
Is it a short name?

H Hugh Culik 18:51  
Vernors?

C Claire Crabtree 18:52  
Short name?

E Edwin DeWindt 18:52  
Vernors, (Laughs)

C Claire Crabtree 18:57  
Does it begin with a T?

E Edwin DeWindt 18:58  
No. It begins with a J.

C Claire Crabtree 19:02  
And is it something like Jahn? or -

E Edwin DeWindt 19:04  
No

G George Pickering 19:05  
Yingle.

E Edwin DeWindt 19:08  
It is Christ...

It is Christmassy sounding

**G** George Pickering 19:12  
It's Christmassy.

**C** Claire Crabtree 19:16  
Yule.

**H** Hugh Culik 19:17  
Yule Brennan.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 19:17  
Yes!

**C** Claire Crabtree 19:17  
Yule what?

**E** Edwin DeWindt 19:24  
Yule Nisse.

**G** George Pickering 19:26  
All right. Got that one.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 19:27  
Yeah.

**H** Hugh Culik 19:28  
How are we doing by the way?

**E** Edwin DeWindt 19:29



Oh, you haven't lost any yet.



Hugh Culik 19:30

Okay.



George Pickering 19:31

Really?!



Hugh Culik 19:32

All right. We don't have to give away -



Hugh Culik 19:35

Where do you hire scorekeepers like this?



Edwin DeWindt 19:39

(Laughs) Name the nine reindeer.



George Pickering 19:42

Dancer, Prancer,



Claire Crabtree 19:44

Donner and Blitzen.



Edwin DeWindt 19:46

Mm-hm.




Hugh Culik 19:46


Comet and Cupid.





Claire Crabtree 19:48


 Claire Crabtree 19:40  
Hey. Why does this happen? there's Donner and Vixen.


 Edwin DeWindt 19:54  
You got Donner and -


 Claire Crabtree 19:55  
Doc and Grumpy


 Edwin DeWindt 19:56  
you got one - you got two to go.

 Dan Maggio 19:58  
Rudolph

 Edwin DeWindt 19:58  
Rudolph. He's an interloper.

 Claire Crabtree 20:00  
He's doesn't count. Dancer and Prancer?

 Edwin DeWindt 20:02  
Dancer and Prancer.

 Claire Crabtree 20:03  
We've got that. Donner and Blitzen

 Claire Crabtree 20:05  
You got Donner and Blitzen. Comet and Cupid -





**H** Hugh Culik 20:07  
Dasher

**E** Edwin DeWindt 20:08  
Dasher! There you go. Dasher.

**G** George Pickering 20:10  
Now, dash away, dash away, dash away all.

**C** Claire Crabtree 20:11  
Vixen.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 20:12  
Vixen. You got 'em all.

**G** George Pickering 20:14  
We had Vixen.

**C** Claire Crabtree 20:14  
Yeah, right. I'm just trying to get the rhymes straight.

**G** George Pickering 20:16  
Who can forget Vixen?

**C** Claire Crabtree 20:19  
That's really a fox. Right?

**E** Edwin DeWindt 20:21  
Yeah. A cunning little vixen

H Hugh Culik 20:23  
a female fox, isn't it?

C Claire Crabtree 20:25  
I think so.

H Hugh Culik 20:27  
The little vixen?

E Edwin DeWindt 20:28  
How long were Christmas celebrations forbidden in England?

C Claire Crabtree 20:34  
Oh, A couple of centuries.

G George Pickering 20:35  
During the Puritan -

C Claire Crabtree 20:36  
Cromwells tyranny.

G George Pickering 20:37  
The Commonwealth.

E Edwin DeWindt 20:38  
That's right.

C Claire Crabtree 20:38  
So 12 years

E Edwin DeWindt 20:40  
11 years.

C Claire Crabtree 20:41  
11 years.

E Edwin DeWindt 20:42  
Theaters were closed. Everything. Those jolly merrymaking funloving Puritans, (laughs).

G George Pickering 20:50  
They breathed a sigh of relief at the restoration.

G George Pickering 20:52  
(Laughs) Yes! What are some of the traditional ingredients in plum pudding?

H Hugh Culik 21:03  
Plums

C Claire Crabtree 21:03  
bread crumbs?

E Edwin DeWindt 21:05  
Plums, yes.

G George Pickering 21:06  
Well, just about any garbage you've got in your refrigerator. You throw it in and you glob it up with plums and honey and -

C Claire Crabtree 21:14  
Cherries and - and you do use bread crumbs in the official recipe. You use bread crumbs.

H Hugh Culik 21:18  
And milk.

H Hugh Culik 21:19  
You drown it in brandy.

C Claire Crabtree 21:20  
Brandy.

E Edwin DeWindt 21:21  
and set fire to it.

C Claire Crabtree 21:22  
and hard sauce

C Claire Crabtree 21:24  
I guess matches have to be a part

G George Pickering 21:26  
Well the hard sauce isn't it?

E Edwin DeWindt 21:28  
That's right.

C Claire Crabtree 21:28  
No, the hard sauce is on top. I remember mixing it.

E Edwin DeWindt 21:32  
Well, eggs. Otherwise you get... and sometimes lumps of meat, but not always

well, eggs. Otherwise you got - and sometimes lumps of meat, but not always.

**C** Claire Crabtree 21:36  
Yeah.

**G** George Pickering 21:37  
Well it depends what you got in the refridgerator for garbage. I told you.

**H** Hugh Culik 21:40  
I think we got that one.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 21:43  
Yeah. I've never understood what the hard sauce is. I mean I've -

**C** Claire Crabtree 21:46  
My mother used to make it.

**G** George Pickering 21:48  
It is the best part.

**C** Claire Crabtree 21:49  
It's just butter, really, with confectioner sugar, basically,

**G** George Pickering 21:53  
Yeah, and it's got brandy in it, too.

**C** Claire Crabtree 21:55  
Mm-hm. And you have to serve it with a sprig of holly.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 21:59

Oh!

**C** Claire Crabtree 22:00  
And you have to flame it at the table, and I do it every year, pretty much.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 22:03  
My gosh!

**C** Claire Crabtree 22:03  
Sometimes made from scratch.

**G** George Pickering 22:05  
Don't you love this "have to" stuff.

**H** Hugh Culik 22:06  
God, we send out for KFC.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 22:09  
Well, you see, we don't even do - Anne's parents - my wife's parents used to do a big Christmas thing. It was Christmas was the big deal. And now that her mother has Alzheimer's and her father is just terminally depressed, nothing happens at Christmas at all - literally. Absolutely nothing.

**C** Claire Crabtree 22:27  
Bologna sandwiches just like the prisoners.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 22:29  
Pretty much. Yeah, it's -

**C** Claire Crabtree 22:32  
Is that in Nevada?

E Edwin DeWindt 22:35  
(Laughs)

C Claire Crabtree 22:35  
That's good enough for those guys.

E Edwin DeWindt 22:37  
What country is the home of the Christmas tree?

C Claire Crabtree 22:40  
Didn't we say Germany?

E Edwin DeWindt 22:41  
Yeah, Germany.

G George Pickering 22:41  
Tanenbaum.

H Hugh Culik 22:42  
Oh,

E Edwin DeWindt 22:43  
What game, when introduced to England, was thought to be a Christmas pastime?

G George Pickering 22:50  
Post Office.

G George Pickering 22:51  
(Laughs) It probably was in some families.

H Hugh Culik 22:58  
The Christmas game

C Claire Crabtree 23:00  
Is it a movement game or -

G George Pickering 23:00  
A game?

C Claire Crabtree 23:01  
No no, it's a - it's a parlor type game.

C Claire Crabtree 23:05  
Throw the Christians into the fire? Throw the Jews in to the fire?

E Edwin DeWindt 23:08  
No. it's it's -

G George Pickering 23:09  
Where you pretend to be things -

H Hugh Culik 23:11  
Is it kinda like a bigot game?

E Edwin DeWindt 23:11  
What?

C Claire Crabtree 23:12  
Dancing around the tree -



Dancing around the tree.

**H** Hugh Culik 23:16  
Is it kind of a bigot game?

**E** Edwin DeWindt 23:17  
No, no. It's, uh - oh gosh.

**C** Claire Crabtree 23:22  
It's not something to do with singing.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 23:24  
No, no, it's -

**C** Claire Crabtree 23:25  
or dancing around the tree.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 23:26  
Nothing like that.

**G** George Pickering 23:28  
It's a game.

**H** Hugh Culik 23:29  
Well that can be a game. Didn't you ever play "Ring around the Rosie"

**E** Edwin DeWindt 23:32  
Yeah. It can't be that. This is something that you hold in your hand.

**C** Claire Crabtree 23:35

We work with free association, George.

**H** Hugh Culik 23:37  
Rock, paper and scissors.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 23:38  
No. The variety of games that are under this general category.

**G** George Pickering 23:45  
Jacks.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 23:45  
No, no, no, no.

**D** Dan Maggio 23:48  
What am I holding?

**G** George Pickering 23:49  
Dice.


**D** Dan Maggio 23:51  
Cards?


**E** Edwin DeWindt 23:52  
Cards! Yes.


**H** Hugh Culik 23:54  
What?


**C** Claire Crahtree 23:54


 Claire Crabtree 23:54  
Wow! It takes a mathematician to think of those numbers.


 Hugh Culik 23:57  
I simply don't believe that.


 Dan Maggio 23:59  
Oh, yes. It does.


 Hugh Culik 23:59  
I mean, it's been around forever. And no, I don't know who made these up.


 Edwin DeWindt 24:05  
Well, England. See, it's England. It came to England. The English assumed "Oh, I see - " when

 Claire Crabtree 24:10  
Now, when is this date?

 Edwin DeWindt 24:11  
It doesn't give a date.

 Edwin DeWindt 24:13  
Weren't they playing cards in Shakespeare's time?

 Edwin DeWindt 24:15  
Well, they were playing cards in the 15th century in Ramsey, because people were being fined for having alehouses in which they let people play cards.

 Hugh Culik 24:24  
Ooh!

C Claire Crabtree 24:27  
Maybe they used sticks and stones before -

E Edwin DeWindt 24:31  
I don't know.

C Claire Crabtree 24:32  
it was introduced. Hmm.

E Edwin DeWindt 24:35  
Who does the voice for the narrator snowman in the Christmas special on TV Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer?

H Hugh Culik 24:43  
Gene Autrey.

D Dan Maggio 24:44  
No, he's a big guy.

D Dan Maggio 24:45  
Yes.

D Dan Maggio 24:46  
Yes.

E Edwin DeWindt 24:46  
Yes. He's dead now.

E Edwin DeWindt 24:46  
A folksinger.

P Professors 24:47  
Burl Ives.

G George Pickering 24:50  
They say in chorus.

E Edwin DeWindt 24:51  
That's right. How many US towns are named Christmas?

H Hugh Culik 25:00  
50.

E Edwin DeWindt 25:00  
No

C Claire Crabtree 25:01  
12

E Edwin DeWindt 25:02  
No.

D Dan Maggio 25:02  
I figured one per state.

C Claire Crabtree 25:04  
More than that?

D Dan Maggio 25:04  
None.

.....

**E** Edwin DeWindt 25:05  
No, there are - there are some

**H** Hugh Culik 25:07  
Let's try some prime numbers. Okay.

**C** Claire Crabtree 25:09  
17

**D** Dan Maggio 25:10  
23

**H** Hugh Culik 25:11  
19

**H** Hugh Culik 25:12  
No.

**C** Claire Crabtree 25:12  
You're not telling us more or less. you always give better hints than that.


**E** Edwin DeWindt 25:15  
Well, you're all way up - You're too high.


**D** Dan Maggio 25:17  
2

**C** Claire Crabtree 25:17

3

 Dan Maggio 25:18  
1

 Edwin DeWindt 25:18  
Now you're getting there.


 Hugh Culik 25:19  
7


 Claire Crabtree 25:20  
4

 Hugh Culik 25:21  
5

 Hugh Culik 25:21  
5

 Hugh Culik 25:22  
See, it's prime. It's always prime.

 Edwin DeWindt 25:25  
There's Christmas, Arizona, a Christmas, Florida a Christmas, Kentucky, a Christmas, Mississippi, and a Christmas, Tennessee.

 Claire Crabtree 25:33  
I wonder how many people are named Christmas. There are a few, other than Faulkner's Joe Christmas.

- E** Edwin DeWindt 25:39  
I know when I wrote my PhD thesis and published it as a book, there was a Christmas family in the village of Holywell, and I'm noticing the footnote that there were no women named Mary - and not even in that family. So there was never a Mary Christmas in Holywell, (Laughs)
- H** Hugh Culik 25:53  
What is the fascination with prime numbers? Come on. You're a math person. Why is it so satisfying?
- C** Claire Crabtree 25:58  
To you. Some of us have other outlets.
- H** Hugh Culik 26:01  
They are to other people.
- D** Dan Maggio 26:02  
Prime numbers?
- H** Hugh Culik 26:03  
Yes. (At that moment, the end-of-the-show bell rang).
- E** Edwin DeWindt 26:05  
(Laughs) On that note, we thank Holly Green for her questions. She did not stump the panel. But gosh, they kept us going for a whole show.
- C** Claire Crabtree 26:15  
They made us look fairly smart. We like that, too.
- E** Edwin DeWindt 26:18  
That's right. And I would like to thank the panel today and Professor Pickering.



**G** George Pickering 26:22  
Mm-hm.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 26:22  
Professor Crabtree.

**C** Claire Crabtree 26:23  
Yep.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 26:23  
Professor Maggio

**D** Dan Maggio 26:24  
Thank you.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 26:25  
Our special guest Patrick Parsons - and Professor Culik -

**H** Hugh Culik 26:28  
Sure.

**E** Edwin DeWindt 26:28  
who again, join me in wishing you all out there a very merry Christmas. And now this word.

**P** Production Element 26:35  
Ask The Professor Flashback

**A** Announcer 27:29  
You can email Ask The Professor at ATP at UDMercy.edu or visit the Ask the Professor Facebook page.

E

Edwin DeWindt 27:43

Ask The Professor is transcribed in the facilities of the Smith Media Center on the University of Detroit Mercy real campus. Ask The Professor was produced by Pete Eldred, our technical director is Michael Jayson, executive producer is Vivian Dicks. 'Til next week, it's me, DeWindt. Bye.

A

Announcer 27:55

Matt Mio and the current panel of Ask the Professor are back next week. So please plan to join us.