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SPEAKERS

Roy Finkenbine, Michael Jayson, Matt Mio, Ph.D., Jeffe Boats, Production Element, Kathy Bush, Jerry Curtsinger, ATP live audience

M Michael Jayson 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 July of 2004.

K Kathy Bush 00:17
The University tower chimes are ringing a long, long way up The Lodge to Mac's On Third here in Detroit. And this is an Ask the Professor on the Road Show, coming to you from the heart of the Motor City at the fabulous Mac's On Third. We'd like to thank Tony Bruce. (Audience applauds) Tony, a UDM alum, is letting us come in and bust a move here in his special space in Detroit. And if you ever want to get to Mac's On Third, it's very easy to find: Third and Fort, just down from the church. So there you go. Real easy there. I'm your moderator today, Kathy Bush. And I'd like to introduce our other on-the-road panelists. To my left, from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, the man who will be teaching CSI CHEM in the fall. It's Professor Matt Mio.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 01:00
How're you doing, Kathy?

K Kathy Bush 01:01
I'm doing fine. How are you getting ready for that forensics course?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 01:04
It's uh - well I have to do a lot of reading

It's all... well, I have to do a lot of reading.

K Kathy Bush 01:06
A lot of reading.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 01:07
Yes. There's a lot I don't know about forensics, but a lot I'm learning.

K Kathy Bush 01:10
Yes. And our other fabulous Eric Barnes - I guess - will be joining you with some great stories of - Here's hoping. Yes.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 01:16
Great stories. Morbid stories.

K Kathy Bush 01:19
Yes. Absolutely. Eric can provide you with all of the gritty photos that you need. And sitting next to Matt, from the Department of Mathematics and the director of Math Education and someone who just toured the Northern Ontario. It's Professor Jeffe Boats.

J Jeffe Boats 01:36
Great to be back, Eh?

K Kathy Bush 01:37
Eh. So you like them butter tarts?

J Jeffe Boats 01:39
Butter tarts, raisin pie - they were good.

K Kathy Bush 01:41
Oh! Honest to God.

J Jeffe Boats 01:43
I ate butter tarts in Kathy's hometown of Kirkland Lake. Mm-hm

K Kathy Bush 01:47
Kirkland Lake Ontario. It rocks. It is. It's a great spot. And I'm glad you like to butter tarts. There you go, indeed.

J Jeffe Boats 01:54
I never saw a moose or a bear the whole time I was up there though.

K Kathy Bush 01:56
At all.


J Jeffe Boats 01:57
I saw some overturned trash cans while I was hiking, but no bear.


K Kathy Bush 02:00
Well, there you go. They probably just had a little snicky snack and moved on. There you go. Now across the table from Jeffe, from the Department of Communication Studies, our man of media, someone who's just been working overtime on sports events. It's Professor Jerry Curtsinger.

J Jerry Curtsinger 02:14
As they would say "The point of the gun was the only law that Liberty understood.


K Kathy Bush 02:18
There you go. Yes. You shot a man in Reno just to watch him die, Jerr. We know. Okay. (The professors laugh) So yeah, you've been doing a lot of Tiger games?


J Jerry Curtsinger 02:26
Tigers, parade.

 Kathy Bush 02:28
Fireworks


 Jerry Curtsinger 02:28
Pistons Parade. That was -


 Kathy Bush 02:29
We sent those Lakers home, which is pretty sweet.


 Jerry Curtsinger 02:32
It was lovely.

 Kathy Bush 02:33
It was very nice. I know. It's sort of hard to watch someone like Shaquille O'Neal try to be a good sport. Ha! (Laughs)

 Jerry Curtsinger 02:38
Not happening

 Kathy Bush 02:40
Not happening at all. And finally, directly across the table from me, from the Department of History, and the keeper of our Black Abolitionist Archives, and certainly our expert, (We've been waiting and holding some baseball questions for him) it's Professor Roy Finkenbine.

 Roy Finkenbine 02:54
Well, I'd just like to say - when it comes to snappy sayings like Jerry's, I got nothing.

 Kathy Bush 03:00
Aw, no. I think you've got it. Now this is a show where you can send us questions. And in fact, this is now the show that is out on the internet. You can hook up with the Ask the Professor site by accessing www.udmercy.edu/atp. We've got some classic shows on there. And of course,

you can catch up with some back shows. And it will also allow you to submit questions to us. So please, once again www.udmercy.edu/atp. Our first set of questions today - actually, we'll hit right to those baseball questions. These are questions regarding the 30th anniversary of Hank Aaron breaking Babe Ruth's career homerun record, which happened actually in April of 74. But you know, we've been holding on to these. Roy's been busy. What can I say? Okay.

R Roy Finkenbine 03:50
(Laughs) Al Downing.

K Kathy Bush 03:53
(Laughs) 80%, however, is passing. And certainly other guys.

J Jeffe Boats 03:57
That's not fair. I mean, in baseball you've got to bat 80%. I mean -

K Kathy Bush 04:00
I know.

R Roy Finkenbine 04:01
I'm going for Pudge's numbers, which was what- about 370?

K Kathy Bush 04:03
Could be. Okay. During the season when Aaron was chasing Ruth's record, the average attendance when the Braves were on the road was almost 40,000 per game. What was the average home crowd attendance during that same season? Okay, now this is the home attendance with the Braves.

R Roy Finkenbine 04:21
Well, that was a period when normally the Braves home attendance was pretty low, but I'll up in a little bit. I'll say 20,000.

K Kathy Bush 04:27
That's way too high.

R Roy Finkenbine 04:29
12?

K Kathy Bush 04:30
Way too high.

R Roy Finkenbine 04:31
Five.

K Kathy Bush 04:32
Still high.

J Jeffe Boats 04:32
Wow.

K Kathy Bush 04:34
Isn't this scary. Your first comment was correct. It was less than 3000 per game. These guys - what losers. I mean, this is a major baseball event and less than 3000 per game

J Jeffe Boats 04:43
You could go anywhere down south and you'd get them on the radio. I mean hundreds and hundreds of miles away.

K Kathy Bush 04:44
I was gonna say - Yeah. This was definitely pre turnaround.

R Roy Finkenbine 04:50
That was a period when neither Cleveland nor Atlanta could draw more than a few 100 fans to most of their games

K Kathy Bush 04:56
Oh, Cleveland was pathetic.

R Roy Finkenbine 04:57
And the only thing that changed that was Nickle Beer Night

K Kathy Bush 05:00
Oh, yeah - which is pretty scary in its own way. I remember going with friends down to see the Tribe and you'd buy the cheapest seats possible. And by the second inning, you were sitting in box seats The ushers didn't - In fact, they helped you over the fences in certain parts, "Go ahead. Sit down there". Oh, well. In 1973 74, Aaron was second only in terms of mail received to whom? This is 73 -74. So in the US, he was second only -

J Jeffe Boats 05:26
Nixon.

K Kathy Bush 05:27
Yes

R Roy Finkenbine 05:27
The president. Yeah.

K Kathy Bush 05:29
Yeah, it notes here that most of Aaron's mail was from five to 10 year olds, which is so great.

J Jeffe Boats 05:34
Yeah.

K Kathy Bush 05:35
Who was the Major League Baseball commissioner when Aaron was chasing Ruth's record?



R Roy Finkenbine 05:40

Bowie?

K Kathy Bush 05:40

Yes. Bowie Kuhn. Which I wonder what Bowie's doing today. Taking the final dirt nap, perhaps? Could be.

J Jerry Curtsinger 05:50

Our former dean though, I remember, was good friends with Bart Giamatti.

K Kathy Bush 05:53

Oh, yes, John Dwyer, Yale graduate. I remember him telling me he knew Bart, and I thought he was a baseball fan, which he wasn't.

J Jerry Curtsinger 06:02

Yeah, he rushed audio materials to me to be copied immediately of Bart Giamatti. I remember that.

K Kathy Bush 06:06

Alright. What did Bowie Kuhn do at the beginning of the '74 season that was unprecedented for a Major League Baseball commissioner?

R Roy Finkenbine 06:14

He started disallowing major trades involving cash.

K Kathy Bush 06:18

It was the year, but that's not the answer that's here.

J Jeffe Boats 06:21

He threw out the first pitch.

K Kathv Bush 06:23

No. No, but good guess.

J Jeffe Boats 06:26
Threw out the first pitch and hit an old lady in the head.

K Kathy Bush 06:28
That would be rare.

J Jerry Curtsinger 06:30
It had something to do with free agency, perhaps.

K Kathy Bush 06:32
He forced the Braves manager at that time to play Aaron, when they started their season on the road. And I didn't think commissioners did that.

R Roy Finkenbine 06:39
He was a little too -

K Kathy Bush 06:40
Micromanaging?

R Roy Finkenbine 06:42
Yeah, you know, he's not quite like our current commissioner.

K Kathy Bush 06:44
Yeah, really. Maybe he had a Lenny fixation. Who knows? All right. Who wrote the novelty song "MOVE OVER BABE, HERE COMES HENRY"?

J Jerry Curtsinger 06:44
He watched TRIUMPH OF THE WILL too many times. Uh, Roy, uh - What was the guy - Ernie Harwell

K Kathy Bush 06:58
That's right, Ernie the man. Yes. Who is a god, please.

J Jeffe Boats 06:58
Oh, I miss him.

K Kathy Bush 06:58
No, this is someone very dear to the hearts of Detroiters, particularly - Me too. His voice -

J Jeffe Boats 07:02
I listened to him on the radio more than I watched TV for the Tigers, and I really miss him.

J Jerry Curtsinger 07:10
Well, they did the tribute for the 84 champions, and all these people come with their little cards to read. Ernie just stands up there and wings it, and he gets a plug in for Blue Cross still. It's great. Okay. Go Ernie. You grew up in Detroit. Yes.

K Kathy Bush 07:21
Don't you remember riding your bike or walking home.

J Jerry Curtsinger 07:23
You could hear the game everywhere.

K Kathy Bush 07:24
Everywhere. It was that voice.

J Jerry Curtsinger 07:26
Who needed the radio. You just needed ears..

—

K Kathy Bush 07:27

That's right. You went into a little red gyp joint at the end of the street, picked up your pop and came out of there. The game was on. It was all there, and it was Ernie's voice. It was the voice of growing up in Detroit. What future Tiger slugger played first base for the Atlanta Braves with Aaron when he hit homerom number 715?

J Jerry Curtsinger 07:45

Matthews, Eddie Matthews.

K Kathy Bush 07:46

No, I would have said the -

A ATP live audience 07:47

Darrell Evans

K Kathy Bush 07:47

It was. Yeah, it's Darrell Evans.

J Jerry Curtsinger 07:50

Oh. Eddie would have been long gone by then.

K Kathy Bush 07:53

Yeah. But would that have been so cool. I would have loved that. Why did Hank Aaron's mother run to meet him and smother him with a five-minute hug after he touched home plate? This is a really frightening reason why this poor woman did this.

J Jeffe Boats 08:07

She was afraid that he'd be a target. She was covering him.

K Kathy Bush 08:10

Yeah. When she heard all of the cannons and the different things being fired, she was terrified that they might be gunshots aimed at her son because of the volume of hate mail that he received. And she wanted to block the shots - that she did want to save her son.



Roy Finkenbine 08:23

Of course, we know that they should be upset about Hank breaking Ruth's record because Ruth was such a role model for America's youth. (The professors laugh)



Kathy Bush 08:32

Yeah, really. You know, when he played in Boston, he was at the Fenway all night.



Roy Finkenbine 08:36

He still hit two home runs.



Kathy Bush 08:37

True enough. I know, amazing.



Jerry Curtsinger 08:38

Kind of like Bobby Lane. You just bandage him up and get him up again.



Kathy Bush 08:40

Yeah, but - hmm, all right. What team did Hank Aaron actually finish his career with?



Roy Finkenbine 08:46

Brewers



Kathy Bush 08:46

That's right - Milwaukee. Not a team that I think many of us follow here. Do we have any Brewer fans?



Jerry Curtsinger 08:52

There are like seven people from Wisconsin that -



K Kathy Bush 08:54
Yeah, that's about it. Some cheese heads that way. What was Hank Aaron's final homerun tally for his career?

R Roy Finkenbine 09:00
I think it was 755

J Jeffe Boats 09:01
Yep

K Kathy Bush 09:02
It is. Absolutely. And he said "This is a current record. Barry Bonds is the only active player close enough to reach this.. At least as of April, he had 660."

J Jeffe Boats 09:12
Do you think he'll get it?

R Roy Finkenbine 09:13
He's got a good chance.

J Jerry Curtsinger 09:14
If you were at Covey Cove, it looks like a short distance there. He probably got the bonus for the 500th homer so now he can -

R Roy Finkenbine 09:24
And now he's out with a sore calf.

K Kathy Bush 09:26
Is he really? Oh, okay. Finally, every minority manager who has ever won the Major League Baseball Manager of the Year has what binding tie with Aaron? So any minority manager in Major League Baseball. What tie do they share with Aaron?

R Roy Finkenbine 09:28
Temporary.

J Jeffe Boats 09:33
They're related?

K Kathy Bush 09:46
No, no.

R Roy Finkenbine 09:47
It's a really wide, 70's tie that they pass around.

J Jerry Curtsinger 09:52
Their outfielders?


K Kathy Bush 09:53
Here's the amazing thing. They all played with Hank Aaron. They were all players that were with him that are now managers.


J Jerry Curtsinger 09:59
When did Frank - ?


K Kathy Bush 10:00
Yeah, that's what I was thinking - Frank Robinson.


J Jerry Curtsinger 10:02
I can't figure that one out.


R Roy Finkenbine 10:04
It's not that they were on the same team. I'm saying they played at the same time.


 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 10:08
Dusty Baker.


 Jerry Curtsinger 10:09
Dusty Baker. Yeah.

 Kathy Bush 10:10
There you go.


 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 10:10
Frank Robinson. Who was the other one? I just had it. Whatever.


 Kathy Bush 10:11
Mm-hm. Hey, you just did it. You only missed two, so you passed.


 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 10:19
Good.


 Kathy Bush 10:19
Yeah, so I'm sorry. No two shirts


 Jeffe Boats 10:21
Hank Williams never batted that well. Not Hank Williams, Hank Aaron. (The professors laugh)


 Kathy Bush 10:22
Oh, no.


 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 10:25
He definitely never batted that well.


 Kathy Bush 10:27
But those were great questions.


 Jeffe Boats 10:28
"Are you ready for some baseball?"


 Kathy Bush 10:29
Yeah. Who's ready for some baseball?


 Jerry Curtsinger 10:32
Is that mayonaise like in Holland?

 Jeffe Boats 10:35
Totally.

 Jerry Curtsinger 10:36
Oh, okay. You have to let everyone know this is the Holland connection there, with Jeffe Boats with the French fries and the mayonnaise

 Kathy Bush 10:43
Well, you could do that over in Windsor, actually. They ask you whether you want mayo, malt vinegar, gravy. It's weird. Okay, our next set of questions are from Leslie and Jojo Mio.

 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 10:56
Yep

 Kathy Bush 10:57
Yeah,



M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 10:57
I can't answer them. I'm sorry.

K Kathy Bush 10:58
That's right. So, Matt - No way! These are questions pertaining to regional American English. And while we get out our Harvard dictionaries, let's take a break.

P Production Element 11:40
(Ask The Professor flashback)

M Michael Jayson 12:36
You're listening to an encore presentation of a classic Ask the Professor program from July of 2004.

J Jeffe Boats 12:46
We just envisioned a big album cover with

K Kathy Bush 12:48
With big hair?


J Jeffe Boats 12:49
Well, with big something on it.

K Kathy Bush 12:51
Big. Okay. Yes, indeed. All right. The sad thing though - one thing I do need to ask Professor Mio about. There's no grading scale on here.


M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 12:58
Yeah. One wrong is failing. I don't know.

R Roy Finkenbine 13:00
Set your own grade


set your own grade.

 Kathy Bush 13:01

Oh, this is like School Without Walls. Oh, how wow, man.

 Jeffe Boats 13:08


These questions were written by a preschooler, so we'll get a check plus or a check minus

 Kathy Bush 13:12

and a smiley or a frowny face at the end.

 Roy Finkenbine 13:15


I want stickers on my paper.

 Kathy Bush 13:16

That's right, I lived with a first grade teacher for a year in Washington and we used to go to a place called Sticker World. (Jerry laughs) and Laura would come back with these stickers, and she would leave me notes and put stickers on them for me. Yeah.

 Jerry Curtsinger 13:29

Well, Dylan used to go to the one where if you did really good, you could go to the treasure box,

 Kathy Bush 13:33


That's right. He said, "Dad, I got to go to the treasure box twice in one day". Well, let's see if we've got stickers or treasures. This is on regional American English. Okay. What percentage of the continental US pronounces the final vowel sound in Monday, Tuesday as "dee"? what percentage in the continental United States


 Jerry Curtsinger 13:54


Tuesdee





Kathy Bush 13:54


 Kathy Bush 13:54
Tuesdee


 Jeffe Boats 13:55
That's sort of southern -


 Kathy Bush 13:56
I think everybody in northern Ontario says it that way, so it would have to be 100% if this was in Canada,, but that's okay. It's not. It's the continental US.


 Jerry Curtsinger 14:03
33 and 1/3.


 Kathy Bush 14:04
Very high.

 Roy Finkenbine 14:06
5%

 Kathy Bush 14:07
It's five right on the nose. You're the man, Roy. From what two regions or cities of the US do most people who subscribe to the above come from? that is that they use that "dee" pronunciation. And these are two extremely diverse cities. I mean, from one another. So two cities in the US where that pronunciation of "Dee" is most prominent

 Jeffe Boats 14:32
Mon-dee

 Kathy Bush 14:33
Mondee

 Jeffe Boats 14:34

Is one in Florida?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 14:36
New Orleans

K Kathy Bush 14:36
No

J Jeffe Boats 14:36
No?

K Kathy Bush 14:36
No, but what is in the South? A definite party-up city. Yes, that's true. Okay, and the other would be a city right now that's having a lot of labor issues - big time labor issues. Like cops and firefighters kind of labor issues.

J Jerry Curtsinger 14:56
Oh, Boston.

K Kathy Bush 14:57
I was gonna say labor - Yes, Boston. That's right, so Boston and New Orleans

J Jerry Curtsinger 15:01
I've been there one time

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 15:02
What day of the week was it?

K Kathy Bush 15:03
Yeah. really.

J Jerry Curtsinger 15:04
It was just ridiculous, man.

K Kathy Bush 15:06
According to a dialect survey, what is the most popular pronunciation for the word p-e-c-a-n, as in the nut?

J Jeffe Boats 15:14
So the choices would be pee-can or pee-con.

K Kathy Bush 15:17
Yes, those are your choices. But what's the most popular pronunciation for that word? Pic-une

R Roy Finkenbine 15:21
Well, I would think pee-con

K Kathy Bush 15:23
It is pee-con, but it's notes here 28% use that pronunciation

R Roy Finkenbine 15:28
Well, you've got to have yourself some pee-can pie.

K Kathy Bush 15:30
That's right. Now you lived in Florida

R Roy Finkenbine 15:32
Well, I lived in the north which was the real southern part of the state - where you could get sweet tea.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 15:37

That is so confusing.

J Jeffe Boats 15:40

The nut is called pee-con.. A pee can is so you don't have to go out to the outhouse late at night.

K Kathy Bush 15:44

Oh, is that it? Okay, there you go. And I wonder what percentage of the population - No, we won't go there.

J Jeffe Boats 15:48

Just the West Virginians.

K Kathy Bush 15:49

There we go.

R Roy Finkenbine 15:50

Yes, where going to the bathroom involves shoes and a flashlight

K Kathy Bush 15:54

Indeed. Do more people in the US pronounce the first D in the word candidate or keep it silent? So do more people in the US pronounce that first D -

R Roy Finkenbine 16:08


I would think they do.


K Kathy Bush 16:08


or keep it silent.

J Jerry Curtsinger 16:09


I think it's silent.


 Kathy Bush 16:13
Are you weighing in, Jeffe?


 Jeffe Boats 16:14
I'm just thinking about the Los Angeles Rams running back Trung Canidate. He doesn't have a "d"


 Kathy Bush 16:19
And that's a fine example.

 Jeffe Boats 16:21
As a football fan, I have to go canidate

 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 16:23
With the D?

 Jeffe Boats 16:23
Without

 Matt Mio, Ph.D. 16:24
Okay, without

 Kathy Bush 16:25
Actually, surprise - surprise! 50 per cent do pronounce it - that they do use the D pronunciation
-

 Jeffe Boats 16:31
Wow



K Kathy Bush 16:31
as in candidate

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 16:33
I guess I've just always done that. I don't know.

K Kathy Bush 16:35
I know, probably because you were also educated also by nuns that would like beat on you if you -

J Jerry Curtsinger 16:40
That was a question that I asked Leo when they hired you. He said "Yeah, he got the D in candidate".

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 16:45
Oh, alright.

K Kathy Bush 16:45
So there you go. Hook it up. Alright. Does more of the country put the syllable on the first word of cream cheese or on the second. So yeah, the first word.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 17:00
CREAM cheese?

K Kathy Bush 17:00
Or cream CHEESE? Yeah, the accent

J Jeffe Boats 17:02
I've gotta go with the first one then.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 17:03
CREAM cheese?

CREAM cheese?

J Jeffe Boats 17:04
Yeah.

J Jerry Curtsinger 17:05
Kraft cream cheese.

R Roy Finkenbine 17:06
I think they'd say him both at the same frequency.

K Kathy Bush 17:09
Okay, we've got two against. Gentlemen, I need your final answer.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 17:15
So it's kind of surreal, Roy, with you just looking at the microphone spacey and saying "cream cheese"

J Jeffe Boats 17:19
Cream cheese.

K Kathy Bush 17:20
It's the first. 55% say "CREAM cheese" and only 25% use "cream CHEESE". They just don't dig dairy.

J Jeffe Boats 17:30
Wait a minute. I've gotta step in here. You said 55% do it one way, 25% do it the other way. The other 20% -

R Roy Finkenbine 17:38
They don't even like bagels.

- K** Kathy Bush 17:40
That's right. They don't do it. Oy. Okay. What are the most popular terms that survey participants prefer for a sale of unwanted items. So a sale of unwanted items - which this is the prime - this and spring are the big seasons for these.
- J** Jeffe Boats 17:55
You mean like garage sales?
- K** Kathy Bush 17:56
Okay, all right. So yes, what do we get?
- M** Matt Mio, Ph.D. 18:01
Garage sale.
- K** Kathy Bush 18:02
Garage sale is big in the Midwest. 52%
- R** Roy Finkenbine 18:05
Garage sale is probably bigger overall.
- K** Kathy Bush 18:06
Yeah, in New England and in the south, they use the expression "yard sale".
- R** Roy Finkenbine 18:10
When I was in high school, there was a kid that had just moved in from Alabama and he'd seen these signs for "garage sale"; and he was so confused. (Kathy laughs) I said "No, you've got to understand this is a yard sale".
- J** Jerry Curtsinger 18:20
I had friends from Kansas come here, and they'd only been here a couple weeks. I worked with the guy's wife and she says "What's party story here. You guys must have lots of parties. I see party store everywhere. You guys must have we really elaborate parties " and I said "No. They

party store everywhere. You guys must have we really elaborate parties. and I said "No. They sell beer and wine and liquor." "Oh, a package store"

K Kathy Bush 18:20

Yard sale. Yeah, package store.

R Roy Finkenbine 18:36

We have lots of packages in the South.

K Kathy Bush 18:39

I can add one more weird story to that. A friend came over from Ireland and went to a party store - you know with the urban Lazy Susan - the bulletproof glass whole setup. And when we were leaving Naman asked "What did that man do?" And I said, "What do you mean- what did he do?" He said, "Why are they keeping that man locked behind the bulletproof glass" I said "He didn't do anything. They don't want anything to happen to him" and he just didn't get it. I mean, he really thought this was some kind of criminal or maniac that was on some work fair program or something.

R Roy Finkenbine 19:08

Kathy, let me ask you a question.

K Kathy Bush 19:10

Mm-hm.

R Roy Finkenbine 19:10

This just came to mind. What percentage of Americans say filling station?

J Jerry Curtsinger 19:14

Filling station. Gas station.

J Jeffe Boats 19:16

I say "dentist"

J Jerry Curtsinger 19:16
"Filling station" is down south.

K Kathy Bush 19:18
Is it down south?

R Roy Finkenbine 19:19
There's a lot of rural Midwest that say "filling station"

K Kathy Bush 19:21
Filling station - really? In like in Ohio, like where your mom and dad are?

R Roy Finkenbine 19:24
Mm-hm

K Kathy Bush 19:24
Okay. Hmm. That could be. We will have to write to Leslie and Jojo and find out. That's what I'm thinking. Okay. What do survey participants call the area of grass that occurs in the middle of some streets?

J Jerry Curtsinger 19:36
Median

J Jeffe Boats 19:37
That's just coming up through the pavement.

J Jerry Curtsinger 19:38
Island.

K Kathy Bush 19:38
Island. Okay. Yeah, island is one. 45 per cent responded "Island".

J Jerry Curtsinger 19:39
Yeah

K Kathy Bush 19:43
Now, this other one is one I've heard -

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 19:44
When I was growing up, we always called it a boulevard.

K Kathy Bush 19:46
Boulevard. And my cousin's in Windsor right now - They're ripping up their street on Arthur. And that's what they kept saying. "They've ruined the boulevard grass." Yeah, 10% say "boulevard" and 16% have no word for that. I guess it's just "that grass in the middle of the street"

J Jerry Curtsinger 20:00
Well, Dylan will say "I'm gonna go out to the island, Mom."

K Kathy Bush 20:01
Yeah, "the island", but "" was what we always called it. Hmm. From what three states do the majority of "Boulevard" respondents come from?

J Jeffe Boats 20:12
Michigan

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 20:12
I'll say "Michigan"

K Kathy Bush 20:13
Yes, "Meesh-igan" Yes. Michigan

J Jeffe Boats 20:16
Minnesota.

K Kathy Bush 20:17
No, but you're getting warm because these are some Great Lakes kind of places

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 20:22
Wisconsin

K Kathy Bush 20:22
Indeed. And think of those dirty fighting basketball team that Matt is so fond of.

R Roy Finkenbine 20:28
Illinois.

K Kathy Bush 20:29
That's right. Fighting Illini. Just kidding. I'm like the Illini But dad always called them "The dirty fighting illini."

R Roy Finkenbine 20:36
What do other states call a Michigan left?

K Kathy Bush 20:39
I know that is something really unique to our state- those turns, and that's a Michigan left

J Jeffe Boats 20:44
Yeah. Every place has their thing. You know, like in Pittsburgh, they have a thing called a Pittsburgh left, where no matter what you let somebody do a left turn on a green.

K Kathy Bush 20:51

— Really?

R Roy Finkenbine 20:52
Even if it's illegal

J Jeffe Boats 20:53
Yeah, even if it's illegal.

K Kathy Bush 20:55
Wow.

J Jerry Curtsinger 20:56
Well, then there's the traffic circle thing in New York.

J Jeffe Boats 20:56
Just let one go.

K Kathy Bush 20:58
Oh, yeah.

R Roy Finkenbine 20:59
That's why I like that line in American President where Annette Bening can never get off Dupont Circle.

J Jerry Curtsinger 21:07
Another Capra movie.

K Kathy Bush 21:08
There is another - I know, poor Jerry. He's haunted by the ghost of Capra everywhere he looks. Jerry, You optimist you. What were the top three responses to this question? What do you call the long sandwich that contains cold cuts, lettuce and so on?

J Jeffe Boats 21:26
Lunch

J Jerry Curtsinger 21:26
Submarine

K Kathy Bush 21:27
Sub is one

J Jerry Curtsinger 21:29
A Hoagie.

K Kathy Bush 21:30
Okay

J Jeffe Boats 21:30
Hero

K Kathy Bush 21:31
Yes.

J Jerry Curtsinger 21:31
What did they call it in New Orleans?

R Roy Finkenbine 21:32
Dagwood?

K Kathy Bush 21:34
Yeahm 77% responded sub or submarine. 7% hoagie and 5% hero in Pittsburgh

J Jeffe Boats 21:40
In Pittsburgh it's called a grinder

J Jerry Curtsinger 21:41
Yeah grinder. They have a place called grinder. They sell them here.

K Kathy Bush 21:45
Yeah

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 21:45
If you've ever been down to New Orleans -

J Jerry Curtsinger 21:45
Bellacino's

R Roy Finkenbine 21:46
Po boys

K Kathy Bush 21:47
Po boys. But in Pittsburgh, is that a particular type of meat that they use in that sandwich?

J Jeffe Boats 21:54
No, that's just what they call them.

K Kathy Bush 21:55
Any sandwich like that.

J Jeffe Boats 21:56
Yeah

yea

J Jerry Curtsinger 21:56
Well, Bellacino's here in Detroit sell them. They call them grinders.

K Kathy Bush 21:59
Right. Those are grinders.

J Jerry Curtsinger 22:00
And they're good.

J Jeffe Boats 22:01
Isn't a Hero a corruption of the Greek word for lamb "Gyro"?. Isn't that where it comes from?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 22:06
Yeah, I think that is right.

K Kathy Bush 22:06
it could be. That would be the derivative at least, but - I don't know, let's go find a Coney Island and ask somebody. What do you say? Okay.

R Roy Finkenbine 22:14
Oh, they'll know for sure.

K Kathy Bush 22:14
Definitely, they'll hook up the professors at the Lafayette Coney Island, in deed. "Hoagie" is primarily used in and around what US city? The term "hoagie".

R Roy Finkenbine 22:23
New York.

K Kathy Bush 22:23

Yeah, New York City. That's a big term there. Remember Juan who worked in the College of Liberal Arts office - a kid from well, Roosevelt, Long Island in the Bronx. His big thing was a slice. That - he walked down the street to get a soda and a slice. And this guy looked at him like he was out of his mind. Juan was like, "What do you guys call it here?" I said, "We call it pizza, Juan. Okay, They don't sell them by the slice like back at home in the Bronx." Okay, what top two terms did survey respondents use to refer to something that is across both streets from you at an intersection - that's diagonally across from you in general

J Jerry Curtsinger 23:01

Oh, kitty corner?

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 23:02

Kitty corner,

R Roy Finkenbine 23:03

Actually what you call them are gas stations, because they're gonna be on three of the four corners. (The professors laugh)

J Jeffe Boats 23:07

Catty corner? Catty corner. C-a-t-t-y corner

K Kathy Bush 23:07

Okay, 50% of the respondents did say "kitty corner" but another 30% used a related but interesting term as well.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 23:10

Weird

J Jerry Curtsinger 23:11

They wouldn't pass the candidate test.

K Kathy Bush 23:14



I was gonna say - They just could not.



Roy Finkenbine 23:23

Yeah, what's the origins of this? That's what I'm wondering.



Kathy Bush 23:25

Yeah. Running cat.



Jerry Curtsinger 23:30

"Oh, no. rock bottom."



Kathy Bush 23:31

"There's a kitty corner boulevard." All right. What did survey respondents call it when rain falls while the sun is shining? This is very interesting.



Roy Finkenbine 23:42

"Summer in Tallahassee".



Kathy Bush 23:43

(Laughs) Really. There you go. "Afternoon in New Orleans. A day in Dublin". No. This is when rain falls while the sun is shining.



Jeff Boats 23:50

You mean a rainbow?



Kathy Bush 23:51

No, not the result of it. Now, truly, 55% had no term for this phenomenon. But there are two other terms. One I've heard and one I haven't a clue.



Jerry Curtsinger 24:02

Summer shower?

K Kathy Bush 24:03
Sun shower, Sun shower. Yeah, 35% said sun shower. But another 7% actually use this term, which I had to use it the other night in the Women's History class, talking about The Rule Of Thumb.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 24:20
So like - which way a magnetic field goes?

K Kathy Bush 24:22
No, the Rule Of Thumb - this was dealing with the fact -

J Jeffe Boats 24:24
It's about wife beating

K Kathy Bush 24:25
Wife beating

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 24:26
Oh, okay.

K Kathy Bush 24:27
You could not beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 24:30
I see. Otherwise it was legal. Okay. So find a skinny stick.

J Jeffe Boats 24:33
Marry guys with skinny hands.



- J** Jerry Curtsinger 24:34
I'm sorry, I misunderstood that. Did you just say you could beat your wife with anything smaller than -
- K** Kathy Bush 24:38
That used to be - it was legal in the United States. That's where the phrase "Rule Of Thumb" came from. Yeah. My class couldn't believe it. The term is the devil is beating his wife.
- M** Matt Mio, Ph.D. 24:50
Very weird.
- R** Roy Finkenbine 24:50
I have heard the thing though, when it's thunders that -
- K** Kathy Bush 24:53
the angels are bowling
- R** Roy Finkenbine 24:54
Bowling in Heaven, yeah.
- K** Kathy Bush 24:55
Angels are bowling. Yeah. Okay. What did respondents call the thing from which you might drink water in a school.
- R** Roy Finkenbine 25:03
I'm guessing we have water fountain, cooler - we have no
- K** Kathy Bush 25:05
We have water fountain. No cooler.
- J** Jeffe Boats 25:09
-

Bubbler

K Kathy Bush 25:09
A bubbler. Yeah

R Roy Finkenbine 25:11
Drinking fountain?

K Kathy Bush 25:12
Drinking fountain. Yes. So it's 61% said water fountain

J Jeffe Boats 25:15
and in Arkansas, a hose

K Kathy Bush 25:18
(Laughs) 61% said water fountain, 33% said drinking fountain and 4% said bubbler - which is interesting.

J Jeffe Boats 25:25
And in Mississippi, the trough.

K Kathy Bush 25:27
And you're gonna find out in just a minute. Okay. From what two states did almost 90% of the "bubbler" respondents come from?

J Jeffe Boats 25:27
Wisconsin

K Kathy Bush 25:27
Wisconsin is one. Yes. And the other - once again, think back to that "B" thing again.

R Roy Finkenbine 25:44
Boston?

K Kathy Bush 25:44
It's Massachusetts. Yeah. So in Massachusetts it's a bubbler thing. That's very interesting.

J Jerry Curtsinger 25:50
Reminds me of a villain on Batman. The Bubbler.

K Kathy Bush 25:51
The Bubbler? Okay. What was the respondents' generic term for a sweetened carbonated beverage? Now, this is a big one that identifies -

J Jerry Curtsinger 26:03
Soda.

K Kathy Bush 26:03
Soda.

R Roy Finkenbine 26:04
Pop.

K Kathy Bush 26:05
Pop. There's one more.

J Jeffe Boats 26:07
Coke,

K Kathy Bush 26:08
Coke.

R Roy Finkenbine 26:08
Coke?

K Kathy Bush 26:09
Yeah

J Jeffe Boats 26:10
Give me a Pepsi Coke.

K Kathy Bush 26:11
Just using the Coke thing. Yeah. 53% say "soda". 25% say "pop". 12% said "Coke". Well, we're gonna have to leave this for next time. But let me thank Professor Finkenbine.

R Roy Finkenbine 26:22
Good to be here. Kathy.

K Kathy Bush 26:23
Professor Curtsinger

J Jerry Curtsinger 26:24
Couldn't go anywhere without this.

K Kathy Bush 26:27
I know that. Professor Mio.

M Matt Mio, Ph.D. 26:28
See ya later.

K Kathy Bush 26:29



Now this.



Production Element 26:31

(Ask The Professor FLASHBACK)



Kathy Bush 26:39

Today, Ask The Professor was transcribed, but recorded live at the facilities of Mac's On Third here in the heart of Detroit. Ask The Professor is produced by Michael Jayson and technically directed and helped and assisted ably by David Crawford and our executive producer is the divine Dr. Barbara Bolz. So until next week, I'm your host Kathy Bush, Go Team Canada World Cup hockey.



Michael Jayson 28:24

And we're back next week with another classic edition of Ask the Professor from October 2004.