

# atp 2516

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Christmas traditions, holiday questions, Christmas music, Christmas math, It's a Wonderful Life, White Christmas, Christmas carols, Christmas movies, Christmas history, Christmas symbols, Christmas markets, Christmas gifts, Christmas stories, Christmas memories, Christmas trivia

## SPEAKERS

Roy Finkenbine, Professors, Beth Oljar, Production Element, Michael Jayson, Kathy Bush, Dave Chow, Dan Maggio

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**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 december 2008.

**K** Kathy Bush 00:14

The University tower chimes and sleigh bells ring in another session of Ask the Professor, the radio show where you match wits with University of Detroit Mercy professors and special visiting professors in an unrehearsed session of questions and answers. My name is Kathy Bush, and let me introduce today's panel to you. I'll start with our regular faculty. To my left, returning, the ghost of Christmas past, in fact, coming back from that sabbatical break just to wish us some Ho, ho, ho and cheer cheer cheer. From the Department of Philosophy, it's Professor Beth Oljar.

**B** Beth Oljar 00:52

Good to be here.

**K** Kathy Bush 00:52

We are so glad to see you and in your festive green yet.

**B** Beth Oljar 00:55

Oh yes

**K** Kathy Bush 00:56  
Very, very holiday like.

**B** Beth Oljar 00:57  
Got green shoes too.

**K** Kathy Bush 00:59  
Everybody's looking. She does. Woo-hoo!

**B** Beth Oljar 01:01  
Green suede! Don't step on them green suede shoes, alright! And sitting next to Beth, from the College of Engineering and Science and Department of Mathematics, and the director of our Pre College Engineering programs. Looking dapper, as always, it's Dan, Dan the DAPCEP man

**D** Dan Maggio 01:18  
Hi Kathy. I have - I think I have green and red boxers on.

**K** Kathy Bush 01:21  
All right

**D** Dan Maggio 01:26  
I could sprinkle these on my head.

**K** Kathy Bush 01:30  
All right. Now, across the table, from the Department of History, its chair as well as the keeper of our Black Abolitionist Archives, it's Professor Roy Finkenbine

**R** Roy Finkenbine 01:39  
Hey, Kathy, I'm holding a green Hershey Bar.

**D** Dan Maggio 01:41  
And your eye are bloodshot red.

**R** Roy Finkenbine 01:41  
You are. I was going to say that looks - again so festive.

**K** Kathy Bush 01:46  
(Laughs) That's from reading - .

**R** Roy Finkenbine 01:48  
And there's still more grading to go.

**K** Kathy Bush 01:49  
Yes. That's from grading, not from drinking. (The professors laugh) And sitting next to Roy, visiting us from the College for Creative Studies, it's visiting professor, Dr Dave Chow. Dave very happily provided us with some incredible heart stopping just over the top. Chocolata-go-lotta. I mean -

**R** Roy Finkenbine 02:07  
In the words of Lewis and Oswald, "It's really neat. You can feel your heart slow down".

**K** Kathy Bush 02:11  
?That's right. Thank you for those Christmas goodies. They were too yum, yum. So we would like to get right to the chase with our questions that come to us again from Holly Berry of Detroit, Michigan. And she writes, "Hello, Kathy, It's the most wonderful time of the year. And to help you and the Ask the Professor panelists get into the holiday spirit, I have enclosed 30 questions. They are questions related to Christmas tradition, Christmas history, Christmas music and even a Christmas math question". Look at Dan smile with delight. "You must get 21 out of 30 answers correct to receive a passing score, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year." All right. Okay, so are we ready to rock?Okay.

**B** Beth Oljar 03:01  
Bring 'em on.

- K** Kathy Bush 03:01  
Alright in the film, It's a Wonderful Life, how did Clarence cleverly save George's life?
- D** Dave Chow 03:09  
He fished him out of the river.
- K** Kathy Bush 03:10  
Well, he didn't fish him out of the river. He did something else before that, that helped save George. How to save his soul, I suppose would be one way of putting it.
- B** Beth Oljar 03:21  
I've never seen that movie.
- K** Kathy Bush 03:22  
That's right. Beth has never seen the film. It's great
- B** Beth Oljar 03:23  
I realize this does approach like treasonable activity if you're an American, but I did finally see A Christmas Story, which I love. and I am gonna see It's A Wonderful Life this year.
- D** Dan Maggio 03:28  
You saw A Christmas Story?
- B** Beth Oljar 03:30  
Oh, I loved it. "You're gonna shoot your eye out!"
- D** Dave Chow 03:36  
There's so many wonderful moments in that movie.
- K** Kathy Bush 03:38  
.....

Yes, okay, what Clarence actually did was that he jumped in the river first. Okay, that's so he so that the Jimmy Stewart character, George Bailey would jump in and save him. And in that sense, being forgetting himself and at that point his self pity. That's the only time I - one of the few times I really just wanted to go and smack Jimmy Stewart in the chops, when he was feeling really sorry for himself at that point.

**B** Beth Oljar 03:58  
So next year, I'll be down with the It's A Wonderful Life questions.

**K** Kathy Bush 04:04  
Excellent. Okay, what is the biggest-selling Christmas single of all time?

**B** Beth Oljar 04:10  
White Christmas

**K** Kathy Bush 04:12  
by-?


**D** Dan Maggio 04:12  
Bing Crosby.


**K** Kathy Bush 04:13  
That's right. One of our office employees, Mary Rose Patrick, usually finds like unusual Christmas musical toys. She brought in this reindeer that, however, plays a song that I still cannot believe that people play and listen to, called Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer.


**B** Beth Oljar 04:30  
That's a great song.


**R** Roy Finkenbine 04:30  
It's a redneck favorite.




 Kathy Bush 04:32  
Is it really? Okay.


 Beth Oljar 04:34  
I love that song.


 Kathy Bush 04:35  
Oh, okay. I just kind of like, wow.


 Roy Finkenbine 04:37  
"Should we open up her gifts or send them back?"


 04:39  
Oh! That's so cold to do to grandma. What was the name of the angel who appeared to Mary?

 Beth Oljar 04:47  
it was Gabriel. No.

 Dave Chow 04:51  
No, no, Gabriel is -

 Beth Oljar 04:52  
Gabriel announced it -

 Kathy Bush 04:53  
It's Gabriel.

 Beth Oljar 04:55  
Oh!

K Kathy Bush 04:55  
It is Gabriel.

D Dave Chow 04:56  
He shows up all over the place. There's

B Beth Oljar 04:58  
There's like absolutely no reason why I should have gotten that question correctly.

K Kathy Bush 04:59  
I was proud of you, girl. I'm too proud of you. Okay,

B Beth Oljar 05:06  
I watched the Snoopy Christmas special. I know these things.

R Roy Finkenbine 05:09  
"It really isn't such a terrible tree"

K Kathy Bush 05:12  
Oh, that's right.

B Beth Oljar 05:12  
"It just needs a little love."

K Kathy Bush 05:14  
And it does. What was Scrooge's first name.

D Dan Maggio 05:18  
Ebenezer.

**K** Kathy Bush 05:19  
That's right, he's Ebenezer Scrooge.

**B** Beth Oljar 05:22  
That's such a great story.

**K** Kathy Bush 05:24  
That's a wonderful story. It's a tremendous story.

**R** Roy Finkenbine 05:27  
I like the Muppets version myself. Have you seen that?

**K** Kathy Bush 05:30  
No, I don't think I have.

**B** Beth Oljar 05:31  
I always remember the George C Scott version, where George C Scott was Scrooge.

**R** Roy Finkenbine 05:31  
Oh, the Muppets' Christmas Carol - If you like, Christmas Story, you'd love The Muppets Christmas. Carol

**K** Kathy Bush 05:39  
Oh, yes. Okay


**B** Beth Oljar 05:41  
which is really good

**K** Kathy Bush 05:41  
Yeah. What Carol contains the line, "O tidings of comfort and joy"?



**R** Roy Finkenbine 05:48  
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen. You're all singing this softly too.

**D** Dave Chow 05:53  
Now hearing the lyrics, there's nothing like it.

 05:55  
They did a great story last week on NPR about Good King Wenceslas's Christmas carol. Which is, it's really a St Stephen's Day carol, which is really a Boxing Day carol, which -

**R** Roy Finkenbine 05:56  
Good King, what's his name?

**K** Kathy Bush 05:57  
Yeah, Good King, what's his name. (Roy laughs) And, and there really was one, historically,

**B** Beth Oljar 06:09  
Christmas is a co opted pagan holiday anyway. Isn't it?

**K** Kathy Bush 06:12  
True enough? Yeah,

**D** Dave Chow 06:14  
Everyone gets a piece of it though.

**K** Kathy Bush 06:15  
Why not? What was the first gift my true love sent on the sixth day of Christmas?

**B** Beth Oljar 06:22

Well, we know a partridge in a pear tree, two turtle doves -

**D** Dan Maggio 06:25  
Six geese a laying.

**K** Kathy Bush 06:26  
Six geese a laying.

**D** Dan Maggio 06:28  
I actually had to start from the top.

**K** Kathy Bush 06:29  
Oh, so you did that mathematically?

**D** Dan Maggio 06:32  
Well, actually, my - This is my prediction for the math question right here. I think it's about the 12 days of Christmas. We'll see what he said. We'll see what Miss Berry says.

**K** Kathy Bush 06:41  
That is unbelievable. Okay.

**D** Dan Maggio 06:43  
It's hard to write with this marker. (Dave shows Dan how to use the other side of the marker)

**K** Kathy Bush 06:45  
(Laughs) Okay.

**D** Dave Chow 06:48  
It's a dual-tip marker.

**K** Kathy Bush 06:49  
Oh, excellent. Oh, so one's a thin line and one's for a thick line? Oh, that's brilliant. Oh, I like that.

**D** Dave Chow 06:57  
Only art school.

**K** Kathy Bush 06:58  
Only art school? But why not. What was the manger? Or what is a manger?

**B** Beth Oljar 07:04  
Isn't that where Barack Obama was born, according to the AI - if you saw his routine on the AI Smith Dinner, which was - He and McCain were both hilarious.

**D** Dave Chow 07:12  
Isn't that where they keep the hay, or whatever it is?

**K** Kathy Bush 07:14  
It is a feeding trough. But what is it usually made of?a

**D** Dave Chow 07:17  
Wood?

**K** Kathy Bush 07:18  
Not really

**B** Beth Oljar 07:19  
Clay?

**K** Kathy Bush 07:19  
Not really

**D** Dave Chow 07:21  
More hay?

**K** Kathy Bush 07:25  
(Laughs) There would probably be a lot of this material, actually, in the Middle East

**B** Beth Oljar 07:30  
Stone?

**K** Kathy Bush 07:30  
Yes, it's a made of stone


**D** Dan Maggio 07:32  
Stone


**K** Kathy Bush 07:32  
So sort of like a little trough, kind of, so to speak


**R** Roy Finkenbine 07:37  
"Away in a trough" just didn't sound right.


**K** Kathy Bush 07:39  
Yeah. I mean think about. "The baby Jesus lay a trough" I don't think so. That wouldn't work too well. Besides, could you imagine all the grade school pageants of kids being slammed down against a stone trough? That would be pretty dangerous. The school nurse better be there. How many gifts would you receive if you were given all of the gifts in the song The Twelve Days of Christmas?


**D** Dave Chow 08:02  
There you go.


 Dan Maggio 08:02  
This is what I wrote down. And I anticipated this. The answer is 384


 Kathy Bush 08:07  
No


 Dave Chow 08:08  
Oh!


 Dan Maggio 08:08  
We'll have to come back to that question.


 Kathy Bush 08:09  
All right, we're gonna come back to that question. But Dan was like -Wow

 08:10  
When you mentioned a math question, this is the only math question I've seen that's Christmas related -

 Kathy Bush 08:13  
Really?

 Dan Maggio 08:13  
is what happens if you get all the gifts?

 Kathy Bush 08:17  
Okay, if you received all the gifts in the song The 12 Days of Christmas.

 Beth Oljar 08:24

Well, 12,11, 10 -

**K** Kathy Bush 08:25  
okay, yeah. I mean,

**D** Dan Maggio 08:27  
No, but you get them over - you get them repeatedly.

**K** Kathy Bush 08:29  
Repeatedly.

**B** Beth Oljar 08:30  
Ohhh

**K** Kathy Bush 08:31  
Yeah


**B** Beth Oljar 08:33  
That means it involves -


**D** Dan Maggio 08:37  
You get the 11 one twice.


**B** Beth Oljar 08:40  
That means it involves exponents.


**K** Kathy Bush 08:42  
Oh man


**R** Rev Finkenbine 08:43


 Roy Finkelman 08:43  
I'm out of here.


 Kathy Bush 08:44  
I was gonna say, Roy and I are like - "Uh, I'm gonna take my gifts back"


 Beth Oljar 08:48  
Beyond the recognition that it would involve exponents, I'm -


 Dave Chow 08:51  
See, this is why I have an accountant. Yeah,


 Kathy Bush 08:52  
Yeah, there you go. Thank you.

 Dave Chow 08:54  
That's why I also went to art school, as opposed to going in to accounting.

 Kathy Bush 08:57  
Getting an MBA, absolutely. In The Night Before Christmas, I sprang from my bed to see what?

 Beth Oljar 09:05  
What was the matter.

 Kathy Bush 09:06  
That's right, what was the matter? And, of course, we know what was the matter? It was Santi!  
Yeah. Um, who kept time with the little drummer boy in the song?

 Dave Chow 09:17  
The metronome? Oh!

**K** Kathy Bush 09:18  
(Laughs) Well, that's when he was like, in music class.

**D** Dave Chow 09:21  
Okay These were some animals, as my little niece keeps telling me . Mice?

**K** Kathy Bush 09:27  
No. This is the little drummer boy who was playing for baby Jesus.

**D** Dan Maggio 09:31  
Yes. But were you saying what animal helped him - ?

**K** Kathy Bush 09:34  
There were two types of animals that helped him keep time with his little rum-pum-pum-pum.

**R** Roy Finkenbine 09:39  
The sheep and the donkeys - or?

**K** Kathy Bush 09:41  
Well, I'll take sheep as lamb. That's was one.

**B** Beth Oljar 09:43  
We can't just say Bing Crosby and David Bowie?

**K** Kathy Bush 09:46  
(Laughs) No, but I would love to say that, you know

**R** Roy Finkenbine 09:52  
Cattle?



**K** Kathy Bush 09:53  
It's the ox and lamb. So we'll get you half on that, because it was the ox and the lamb kept time. "Pa rum pum pum pum" I mean, I remember

**B** Beth Oljar 10:00  
I mean, I remember that, but -

**R** Roy Finkenbine 10:03  
We're giving partial credit in honor that this is finals week.

**D** Dave Chow 10:03  
Yeah

**K** Kathy Bush 10:06  
That's right. I mean, you know, you have to do that. What snack is most often left out for Santa?

**D** Dan Maggio 10:13  
Cookies and milk

**D** Dave Chow 10:13  
It's gotta be cookies and milk.

**K** Kathy Bush 10:14  
Yeah, it's gotta be. I think that's like, universal.

**D** Dave Chow 10:16  
I say we leave one of these little brownies out, you know, just crush the poor guy.

**K** Kathy Bush 10:20



I was gonna say that. I'm just so afraid.



Beth Oljar 10:21

The mice will get it.



Roy Finkenbine 10:24

It's the big one Mr. Claus!



Kathy Bush 10:25

I was gonna say, poor Mrs. Claus.



Dan Maggio 10:27

Can we go back to the math question?



Kathy Bush 10:28

Yeah, let's go back to the math question. Because Mr. Dan -



Dan Maggio 10:32

it's either 78 or 384,



Kathy Bush 10:34

It says here, 364. But maybe Holly isn't a Math major



Dan Maggio 10:39

Michael - Holly didn't carry his 2. (Roy laughs)



Kathy Bush 10:41

Uh-oh!



Dan Maggio 10:42



Dave Crow 10:42

Gonna be a rumble on campus.



Kathy Bush 10:43

Okay? I'd say no partial credit for Holly on that math. In fact, I'm gonna make Holly repeat Math 104.



Beth Oljar 10:48

Interesting - 364. I mean, so close to 365 Yeah.



Kathy Bush 10:51

Yeah like, close that you get, like, a gift, totally, like, all year round.



Beth Oljar 10:55

Could there be a Nostradamus thing going on there?



Dan Maggio 10:57

Wait - no. Holly might be right. Hold on.



Kathy Bush 10:57

Could be Uh-oh, we're double checking our figures



Dan Maggio 11:02

8, 11, 15, 19, 23, 27, 30, 35




Kathy Bush 11:09


I would have my shoes off by now.





Dan Maggio 11:10


384


 Kathy Bush 11:11  
384! Okay.


 Dan Maggio 11:12  
So, we'll give Miss Holly credit.


 Kathy Bush 11:13  
Well, we'll see. Okay.


 Dan Maggio 11:16  
Thank you.

 Kathy Bush 11:17  
All right, yeah, don't let that pen dry out. It's too nice. In *The Night Before Christmas*, where were the stockings hung?

 Roy Finkenbine 11:25  
With care.

 Dan Maggio 11:25  
By the chimney.

 Kathy Bush 11:26  
That's right . You know, because you just didn't want them to fall into the fire. Like, I don't think they just tossed them up there or something like that.

 Beth Oljar 11:32  
We had a great version of that, I mean, in a book when I was a kid, and all the paintings had been done by Grandma Moses.

 Kathy Bush 11:33



Kathy Bush 11:50

Oh, how cool! What was Rudolph's punishment for his red nose?



Roy Finkenbine 11:44

He couldn't play in all the reindeer games.



Kathy Bush 11:47

Yeah, I know. No reindeer games.



Beth Oljar 11:49

And they all laughed and called him names.



Kathy Bush 11:50

And that was mean.



Roy Finkenbine 11:50

Yes.



Beth Oljar 11:51

That was really hard for me when I was a kid. I remember, like, seeing that first when I was like five. Oh, the Rankin-Bass? And it just, yeah, it just made me sob.



Roy Finkenbine 11:59

And they put snow on his nose.



Dave Chow 12:00

No, it was the mud, wasn't it?



Beth Oljar 12:01

When they all make fun of him. I remember. It was one of those moments where I, like, ran to my older sister and I was crying, and I was really upset - like, when I watched ROOTS, and Kizzy was sold away from her mother was another moment where I could not -

K Kathy Bush 12:13  
Dude, they should not have let you watch that at that young.

B Beth Oljar 12:14  
I just was really sensitive, I guess, when I was a child, Certain things really upset me.

K Kathy Bush 12:18  
But you were too young to see that, you know, they should not have let you watch that at your age

B Beth Oljar 12:22  
ROOTS?

K Kathy Bush 12:23  
Yeah. I mean, you were -

B Beth Oljar 12:24  
I was 11 when it came out!

K Kathy Bush 12:25  
That's still, that's a little young. I mean - Dude, So would I, I mean, I just think that's way, way, way. There's just some things -

B Beth Oljar 12:27  
Yeah, my folks had some misgivings about it - and many more. So they didn't let me watch CABARET.

K Kathy Bush 12:36  
Yeah? Okay, wow.

D Dan Maggio 12:37  
Well, that's a little -

K Kathy Bush 12:39  
Well, Yeah. That's a little different. What did the traffic cop holler to Frosty?

B Beth Oljar 12:44  
"Stop!"

K Kathy Bush 12:45  
That's right, because he'd better stop.

R Roy Finkenbine 12:47  
And then he swallowed his whistle.


K Kathy Bush 12:48  
That's right. That poor cop. What one reindeer is never mentioned in the poem The Night Before Christmas?


R Roy Finkenbine 12:56  
Because Rudolph was invented in the 1950s


D Dan Maggio 12:56  
Rudolph.


K Kathy Bush 12:56  
Yeah, it is. Rudolph gets no props in that poem. Go back and rewrite it. Edit that.

D Dave Chow 13:03  
Wasn't he a Montgomery Ward product, or something like that?


 Kathy Bush 13:05  
Yeah


 Roy Finkenbine 13:07  
Well, Gene Autry did the -


 Kathy Bush 13:08  
Did the song

 Roy Finkenbine 13:10  
Was Rudolph before that?

 13:11  
Probably not. I mean, there was a children's story that it was supposedly he based the song on.  
So -

 Roy Finkenbine 13:16  
Okay.

 Kathy Bush 13:16  
I mean, I guess they had to come up with something new for Christmas.

 13:19  
I think it's time to come up with a new reindeer, you know, let's

 13:23  
Let's see - Deejay R or something. Or come up with a Rappin' Rudolph

 Roy Finkenbine 13:27



**R** Roy Finkenbine 13:27  
Juan Carlos or something

**K** Kathy Bush 13:28  
Something like that. Why not? What carol contains the word "Fa la la la la, la la la la"?

**B** Beth Oljar 13:34  
Deck The Halls.

**K** Kathy Bush 13:35  
That's right. That's a lot of La La La's on there. Isn't that? What biological shortcoming made the Grinch so mean?

**B** Beth Oljar 13:44  
His heart was two sizes too small.

**K** Kathy Bush 13:46  
That's right.

**B** Beth Oljar 13:47  
And he had a darling little dog named Max.

**K** Kathy Bush 13:50  
That's a great dog.

**R** Roy Finkenbine 13:51  
With a great big antler.

**B** Beth Oljar 13:54  
Yeah, that still cracks me up. I watch that every Christmas Eve, and it still cracks me up, just like it did when I was a kid. I don't know why that is

**K** Kathy Bush 14:01  
Because it's so funny. I mean, it's just that

**D** Dave Chow 14:04  
And I'm sorry, the Jim Carrey movie just doesn't do it justice.

**K** Kathy Bush 14:06  
No. You are so right. You

**D** Dave Chow 14:08  
Oh yeah.

**B** Beth Oljar 14:08  
You've gotta have Boris Karloff's voice. narrating.

**K** Kathy Bush 14:12  
Yeah. What country started the tradition of exchanging gifts?

**B** Beth Oljar 14:17  
Probably the Brits

**R** Roy Finkenbine 14:18  
Whoville

**K** Kathy Bush 14:19  
Not the Brits

**B** Beth Oljar 14:22  
Is it in Europe somewhere?

K Kathy Bush 14:23  
It is in Europe

D Dan Maggio 14:24  
The Dutch

B Beth Oljar 14:24  
Germany

K Kathy Bush 14:24  
Not the Dutch

D Dave Chow 14:25  
The Germans

K Kathy Bush 14:26  
Not the Germans

B Beth Oljar 14:27  
Poland

K Kathy Bush 14:27  
Not the Poles.

D Dan Maggio 14:28  
Italians?

K Kathy Bush 14:28  
Yes. I a Famiglia. Av!

...and family...

**P** Professors 14:30  
(Laugh)

**K** Kathy Bush 14:33  
it's true, Dan, your peeps are generous.

**B** Beth Oljar 14:35  
I had no idea that the Italians -

**K** Kathy Bush 14:37  
Well, actually -

**D** Dave Chow 14:38  
Wait a minute. Who started regifting?

**D** Dan Maggio 14:40  
I will be, maybe I'll dig out my gifts from Christmas. I've used all my gifts.

**K** Kathy Bush 14:40  
Yeah. (The professors laugh) Why not? Okay. Who wrote the poem The Night Before Christmas?

**B** Beth Oljar 14:50  
Clement Moore

**D** Dave Chow 14:51  
Die Hard.

**K** Kathy Bush 14:51

That's right. That's right. Okay. In this 1988 movie, New York city police detective John McClane, arrives in Los Angeles to attempt a Christmas reunion. Yes, that's it.

**B** Beth Oljar 14:55  
I watch that every Christmas Eve too.

**K** Kathy Bush 14:57  
Yeah, I was going to say - that's your Christmas movie is Die Hard, isn't it? (Laughs) And why not? It should be. What is the 12th day after Christmas called?

**R** Roy Finkenbine 15:08  
Relief

**B** Beth Oljar 15:08  
Mm-hm Boxing Day?

**K** Kathy Bush 15:14  
(Laughs) Relief in deed!

**R** Roy Finkenbine 15:19  
Epiphany

**K** Kathy Bush 15:20  
It's the Epiphany, which we always referred to in my family as Little Christmas. You can't take the tree down until little Christmas

**D** Dan Maggio 15:27  
Really?

**K** Kathy Bush 15:27  
Mm-hm. We don't put it up - I saw some people -

**D** Dan Maggio 15:29  
Is that January 5?

**K** Kathy Bush 15:31  
Well, it's usually like January 6 - around that time.

**R** Roy Finkenbine 15:34  
January 6th is Epiphany.

**K** Kathy Bush 15:34  
Yeah, Epiphany. But I - Ddriving up to The Thumb to close up the house this year on the day after Thanksgiving, I saw a number of people with their Christmas trees already on their cars, which astonished me

**D** Dan Maggio 15:44  
On their cars?

**K** Kathy Bush 15:45  
On their cars, up on the roof. They cut them down and put them on top of their cars.

**D** Dan Maggio 15:48  
Oh, I had a different visual.

**K** Kathy Bush 15:49  
Like that early, because we never put ours up 'til like the week before Christmas.

**R** Roy Finkenbine 15:54  
A lot of people do it during Thanksgiving. Yeah.

**R** Beth Olick 15:56

**B** Beth Oljar 15:50  
Mine's up.

**K** Kathy Bush 15:59  
Your tree is beautiful, Beth. Come on.

**B** Beth Oljar 16:00  
Well now it has decorations. I did add more lights.

**K** Kathy Bush 16:03  
Did you? Beth, that tree was so full of gorgeous lights. It was really pretty. And when we think about more lights, let's take a break.

**P** Production Element 16:17  
Ask the Professor. Flashback, Christmas, 1984

**M** Michael Jayson 18:52  
You're listening to an encore presentation of a classic Ask the Professor program from Christmas 2008

**K** Kathy Bush 18:59  
And we're back with questions from Holly Berry, and those were really nice Christmas memories. How many candles are on the Hanukkah menorah?

**B** Beth Oljar 19:13  
Eight.

**K** Kathy Bush 19:13  
Mm-mm. Nine.

**B** Beth Oljar 19:15  
Oh. riagt.

**D** Dave Chow 19:16  
We were getting close.

**K** Kathy Bush 19:17  
You were.

**D** Dan Maggio 19:18  
It's odd.

**K** Kathy Bush 19:19  
Well, it's not so odd, because when you think about why -

**B** Beth Oljar 19:21  
Wasn't it Bill O'Reilly who said something the other night about the he has this ridiculous sort of war on Christmas going.

**D** Dan Maggio 19:21  
No, I mean it was an odd number.

**R** Roy Finkenbine 19:32  
Yes. He's the one with the war on Christmas.

**B** Beth Oljar 19:33  
Didn't he say something about, like, "What does the word Hanukkah mean?" I'm like, Festival of Lights. Isn't that what -

**R** Roy Finkenbine 19:40  
Call Adam Sandler. He'll tell you.



**D** Dan Maggio 19:43  
Who's got the war on Christmas?

**R** Roy Finkenbine 19:44  
Bill O'Reilly thinks there is a war on Christmas, but he's the one really with the war on Christmas.

**B** Beth Oljar 19:49  
He didn't like the suggestion that people, especially people working in retail, should say "Happy holidays" rather than "Merry Christmas". Because Happy Holidays is sort of more, at least religiously neutral, right? So he decided that there was a war on Christmas when certain retailers wanted their employees to say "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas". He's crazy.

**D** Dan Maggio 20:10  
I believe we should have respect for the fact that not everybody might believe in Christmas. For me, if I say "Merry Christmas", it's because it's a merry holiday Christmas. But not everybody believes it. So I always say "Happy holidays", even though I want to say "Merry Christmas"


**B** Beth Oljar 20:21  
That's because you're a thoughtful, good person


**D** Dan Maggio 20:25  
No matter how you say it, it all means the same thing,

**K** Kathy Bush 20:27  
Right. You know, that you're wishing someone well. I always say Happy Christmas. I do


**D** Dave Chow 20:31  
Yeah


**K** Kathy Bush 20:32  
That's my tradition.


 Beth Oljar 20:33  
It's very British

 Kathy Bush 20:35  
Well, it is what it is - so. Who lost \$8,000 in "It's A Wonderful Life"?


 Roy Finkenbine 20:40  
Uncle Billy.


 Kathy Bush 20:41  
Uncle Billy did. That's right

 Beth Oljar 20:43  
Bummer.

 Kathy Bush 20:44  
And that was another one where Jimmy Stewart needed to get smacked, man. He was really rude to Uncle Billy.

 20:48  
Uncle Billy was wonderfully portrayed in that movie..

 Kathy Bush 20:52  
Uncle Billy was so great. And okay, so he was his uncle, and he knew that he was messed up, like, "Don't do it".

 Roy Finkenbine 20:57  
Don't give him 8,000 dollars.

—

- K** Kathy Bush 20:59  
Don't give him 8,000 dollars, dummie. That's right. Which city, famous for its Christmas market, is also known as the gingerbread capital of the world?
- D** Dan Maggio 21:09  
Which country or city?
- K** Kathy Bush 21:10  
Well, we'll say city, but it's in a different country. It is not in America
- B** Beth Oljar 21:13  
Somewhere in Scandinavia.
- K** Kathy Bush 21:16  
No, actually it's on the continent
- D** Dan Maggio 21:18  
Belgium?
- K** Kathy Bush 21:20  
No, but -
- B** Beth Oljar 21:21  
If it's gingerbread, I would think it's like Norway or Sweden.
- K** Kathy Bush 21:24  
No, actually, this is a, sadly, a town that has, um -
- D** Dan Maggio 21:27  
Oh, you're going for the city?

K Kathy Bush 21:29  
Well, city or country, but it's a city that has a pretty different -

D Dan Maggio 21:34  
Gingerbread?

K Kathy Bush 21:35  
usually, relationship historically than thinking about gingerbread. Uh, just think trials

D Dan Maggio 21:39  
Is it in Austria?

B Beth Oljar 21:41  
Oh, Nuremberg.

K Kathy Bush 21:42  
Yeah, Nuremberg. I'm thinking that's really an interesting juxtaposition.

B Beth Oljar 21:47  
Which is really kind of sad, because that city had such a really great and rich history -

K Kathy Bush 21:51  
Yeah

B Beth Oljar 21:52  
prior to Hitler's abuse of it, and then the subsequent trials.

K Kathy Bush 21:56  
Yeah, jeeesh! Near Christmas time, Scottish children may sometimes cry up the Lum, meaning,  
what? So they cry up the Lum

what? so they cry up the Lum.

**D** Dan Maggio 22:09  
They cry up the Lum?

**K** Kathy Bush 22:11  
Cry up the Lum.

**D** Dave Chow 22:12  
They sing?

**B** Beth Oljar 22:12  
Up the chimney?

**K** Kathy Bush 22:14  
Yeah, they cry up the chimney. They want their Christmas wishes to go to Santa from the chimney.

**B** Beth Oljar 22:19  
Oh, cool.

**K** Kathy Bush 22:20  
So I think, yeah.

**D** Dave Chow 22:20  
So they pay homage to the creosote

**K** Kathy Bush 22:23  
and that's okay, you know

**D** Dave Chow 22:23  
I know, I know.

**D** Dan Maggio 22:24  
Until they catch on fire.

**K** Kathy Bush 22:25  
Well, if you lived in Glasgow, or, you know, Edinburgh, maybe the air quality - it might be better to be doing that. (Dave begins laughing) Like, Yeah, buddy, we'll go with that chimney over that. How many lords of leaping were there?

**D** Dan Maggio 22:36  
Ten

**K** Kathy Bush 22:36  
Yes, there are 10 Lords leaping. And in what language is Christmas known as Nadolig?

**D** Dan Maggio 22:44  
Portuguese?

**K** Kathy Bush 22:45  
No

**B** Beth Oljar 22:46  
This is Scandinavian.

**K** Kathy Bush 22:47  
Well, not really Scandinavian. Let's just say it's Northern European.

**D** Dan Maggio 22:51  
Oh, Gaelic?

**K** Kathy Bush 22:52  
It is one of the Celtic languages. That's true.

B Beth Oljar 22:55  
Irish?

K Kathy Bush 22:56  
Not Irish.

D Dave Chow 22:57  
Welsh?

K Kathy Bush 22:59  
Welsh. It is Welsh. Yeah.

B Beth Oljar 23:00  
Where's my mother in law, when we need her?

K Kathy Bush 23:02  
I was gonna say - there you go.

D Dan Maggio 23:02  
Can you pronounce that one more time.

K Kathy Bush 23:05  
Nadolig

D Dan Maggio 23:06  
Nadolig? It sounds almost from like Lord of the Rings.

K Kathy Bush 23:09  
It probably is. There's probably as a character in Lord of the Rings by now, God knows. There's

enough of them. Who tried to have Christmas abolished?

**D** Dan Maggio 23:17  
Bill O'Reilly

**D** Dave Chow 23:18  
Montgomery Burns

**R** Roy Finkenbine 23:19  
I'm guessing some religious leader like Martin Luther, or somebody

**K** Kathy Bush 23:22  
No, not Martin Luther, because he wrote Away In A Manger.

**R** Roy Finkenbine 23:25  
That's right. The Puritans.

**K** Kathy Bush 23:26  
Well, yeah, somebody connected to that period around 1642, in England.

**R** Roy Finkenbine 23:31  
Oh, it would be Ollie? yeah.

**K** Kathy Bush 23:33  
Yeah, Oliver Cromwell, absolutely, he had a problem with that. How many times is the name of Santa Claus used in The Night Before Christmas?

**D** Dan Maggio 23:46  
None.



K Kathy Bush 23:47  
That's exactly right. And our last question from Holly Berry -

D Dan Maggio 23:51  
Those are fun

K Kathy Bush 23:53  
In the song, Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer, what did grandma go to get? How did she get run over by that reindeer? Where was she on her way to?

D Dan Maggio 24:04  
To the all-night buffet?

D Dave Chow 24:07  
To Best Buy

K Kathy Bush 24:08  
but there's something specific she was that she went to get.

D Dan Maggio 24:12  
A gun?

K Kathy Bush 24:13  
A gun?! You guys have some brutal grannies here.

D Dan Maggio 24:15  
Went to church?

K Kathy Bush 24:19  
Not church.

**B** Beth Oljar 24:21  
She was on her way to our house.

**K** Kathy Bush 24:22  
Uh, think - You're in Miami Beach. You're sitting on a bench. You're talking to another senior.  
What are you talking about?

**D** Dave Chow 24:28  
Grandchildren

**K** Kathy Bush 24:29  
Grandchildren and - ?

**D** Dan Maggio 24:30  
All the hot people walking by? No,

**K** Kathy Bush 24:32  
No, no, you're in South Beach, honey. It's her medication.

**D** Dan Maggio 24:35  
Oh!

**K** Kathy Bush 24:36  
Okay, Well -

**D** Dan Maggio 24:37  
When I hear that song comes on the radio, I turn the channel.

**K** Kathy Bush 24:40  
I know...

I know.

**D** Dan Maggio 24:40  
I just can't -

**K** Kathy Bush 24:40  
I agree. I just don't get that song. All right, if everybody has a favorite Christmas Carol, let's start. Beth. Ann, you said yours - Um, "What Child Is This" "What Child Is This". Pretty song. Good taste. Mr. Dan-Dan

**D** Dan Maggio 24:52  
I have two and you asked us this last year, I couldn't remember. So this year, while we're doing whatever, I'm going to be trying to hum it out for you, and you have to tell me what it is

**K** Kathy Bush 25:00  
Okay. But my really favorite one is the Guaraldi -

**D** Dave Chow 25:03  
Yes, the Vince Guaraldi

**D** Dan Maggio 25:04  
Yeah

**K** Kathy Bush 25:04  
Oh, okay,

**D** Dan Maggio 25:05  
The Peanuts song.

**K** Kathy Bush 25:06  
The Peanuts tune, okay. The soundtrack? Okay



Dan Maggio 25:07

It's really the best It brings you back to childhood, and it's just a great song.



Kathy Bush 25:11

It really is. Dr. D, what up?



Dave Chow 25:14

I would have to go with the Vince Guaraldi, too.



Kathy Bush 25:15

You would. Okay.



Dave Chow 25:16

Yes, I would



Kathy Bush 25:17

Okay.



Dave Chow 25:17

I was just reading about how much they had to fight to get that song, because CBS would not relent on having jazz.



Kathy Bush 25:23

Why?



Beth Oljar 25:24


Oh, yeah,



Dave Chow 25:26

It was the first time that they had jazz. And I guess CBS originally wanted all the Beatles


it was the first time that they had jazz. And I guess CBS originally wanted all the Peanuts characters to be voiced by adults, and Charles Schultz wouldn't let them.

 Kathy Bush 25:34

No. Oh, how silly.

 Dave Chow 25:35


And I guess - who was it - Sally. The little girl that read for Sally couldn't read. so they had to, you know, they had to, literally, phonetically, or, you know, just tell her, you know, say this .

 Kathy Bush 25:42


Ohhh. Okay

 Dave Chow 25:49

She just didn't know how to read.

 Kathy Bush 25:50


Aww!

 Beth Oljar 25:51


Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer. Is that your -

 25:53

No, I'm going a little higher brow. I'll go with Joy To The World

 Kathy Bush 25:57

That is such a beautiful, beautiful song

 Dave Chow 25:59

Not the Three Dog Night one. (Kathy laughs)



26:00

Well, I think we can sample a little of both.

B

Beth Oljar 26:05

O Come All Ye Faithful. I mean, there's so many.

K

Kathy Bush 26:07

I love O Come All Ye Faithful

D

Dan Maggio 26:08

Actually, I would also throw in there practically any Karen Carpenter song.

B

Beth Oljar 26:12

Oh, her voice is extraordinary.

D

Dan Maggio 26:13

because she has about the best voice ever. Her Christmas songs are just very beautiful

B

Beth Oljar 26:19

I enjoy The Carpenters. (The end of show bell rings)

K

Kathy Bush 26:21

Oh! So we have to stop there.

R

Roy Finkenbine 26:24

Oh, that was well timed.

K

Kathy Bush 26:26

You know, we always try to do that, because timing is everything. So let me thank our panel and wish you Happy Christmas. Professor Oljar

**B** Beth Oljar 26:34  
Happy Christmas.

**K** Kathy Bush 26:35  
Professor Maggio.

**D** Dan Maggio 26:36  
Merry Christmas.

**K** Kathy Bush 26:37  
Professor Chow

**D** Dave Chow 26:38  
Happy holidays.

**K** Kathy Bush 26:39  
Professor Finkenbine

**R** Roy Finkenbine 26:40  
Feliz Navidad

**P** Production Element 26:43  
(Ask The Professor flashback - Christmas 1984)

**K** Kathy Bush 28:15  
Ask The Professor is transcribed in the facilities of the Communication Studies Department TV and radio studios here at the McNichols campus of the University of Detroit Mercy. Ask The Professor is produced, made excellent and saved week after week by Michael Jayson and our executive producer is Dr Vivian Dicks. So from all of us here at the University of Detroit Mercy, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and blessings of the new year to all.



Michael Jayson 28:40

And we're back next week with another edition of Ask the Professor, so please plan to join us.