

Caltech Technophobia II

Caltech Klaatu Tossups

Written by 'a guy without a conscience! a dame without a heart!'

1. Fair Madeleine knows that, if she performs just the right rituals and goes to bed early on the night in question, she will see a vision of her future husband. Indeed she does, as the old governess Angela has surreptitiously hidden Porphyro in the closet so he can watch her undress and spirit her off secretly into the storm. For ten points, on which night ages long ago did the lovers disappear in a poem by John Keats?

Answer: The Eve of Saint Agnes

2. Founded in 1971 by John and Dominique de Menil, this non-denominational sanctuary in Houston, Texas presents the annual Oscar Romero Award for the advancement of human rights. However, it's more famous for a series of 14 enormous monochromatic canvases in brown, maroon, red and black. For ten points identify this church named for the Russian-born artist of these colour-field paintings, as well as similar works entitled Yellow Band and Brown Blue, Brown on Blue.

Answer: Rothko Chapel

3. This is a childhood disease; the corresponding syndrome in adults is called osteomalacia. The problem is that not enough calcium phosphate is deposited in the bones. The condition is treatable with cod-liver oil and sunlight. For ten points, what disease generally results from a deficiency of the steroid hormone Vitamin D?

Answer: rickets (prompt on "Vitamin D deficiency")

4. When the Spaniards took over this dry, infertile island in 1527, they tried to grow Valencia oranges here, but in the poor soil the trees would only yield withered, bitter, virtually inedible fruit. After the Dutch came in 1643, they hit on the plan of using the dried peel of the bitter oranges to make an alcoholic drink which bears the island's name. For ten points, identify the largest of the Netherlands Antilles.

Answer: Curacao

5. Majority owner Craig Leipold said that this 'is probably the most researched name in team sports history.' Apparently, more than 20,000 fans thought the name showed more 'strength, speed, determination and focus' than the Fury, the Edge and the Ice Tigers, all of which were picked to go with the vicious sabertoothed tiger logo. For ten points name this team which has had its logo for about six months now but won't have any players until the June draft, the NHL's newest franchise, located in Nashville.

Answer: Nashville Predators (prompt on Nashville)

6. Born Jan Ludvik Hoch, during the Nazi Holocaust he escaped Czechoslovakia, became a British army officer and changed his name. After World War II he became a publisher of academic papers and technical journals. I had no idea you could get rich doing that, but from Pergamon Press he went on to acquire the "Daily Mirror", Berlitz, Macmillan, and the "New York Daily News." For ten points, who apparently jumped off his luxury yacht on November 5, 1991, after his financial empire started coming apart at the seams?

Answer: Ian Robert Maxwell

7. Directed by Marv Newland. Written by Marv Newland. Cinematography by Marv Newland. Music by Gioacchino Rossini. Costume design by Marv Newland. Produced by Marv Newland. Choreographed by Marv Newland. Marv Newland created by Mr. and Mrs. Newland. For ten points, these credits are attached to what 2-minute animated classic where the world's cutest deer is squashed by a giant radioactive lizard?

Answer: Bambi Meets Godzilla

8. Her first novel, At Fault, was undistinguished, but she became famous for her more than 100 short stories, including 'Madame Celestin's Divorce' and 'Desiree's Baby', all about Creole people she observed in the South. Her best-known work was condemned for its sexual frankness and went out of print for fifty years before finally receiving acclaim for its modern sensibility in the 1950's. For ten points name this author of The Awakening.

Answer: Kate Chopin

9. This mathematician's self-righteous political views and aggressive religious bigotry alienated his colleagues and lost him several academic positions to men of inferior ability. While a military engineer for Napoleon's fleet, he still managed to produce several papers and solved a problem proposed by Lagrange relating the number of edges, vertices and faces of a convex polyhedron. For ten points, name this member of the French Academy of Sciences famous for his theory of functions of a complex variable and the calculus of residues.

Answer: Baron Augustin-Louis Cauchy

10. He was not Jesus, but he was said to be born on December 25th. He was not Gilgamesh, but he slew the divine bull of the gods. He was not Helios, but he drove the chariot of the sun. For ten points, identify this god, who was not Mars, although he was favored by Roman soldiers in the second and third centuries AD.

Answer: Mithra or Mithras

11. This nation's most popular sitcom added a pro-NATO army officer to its cast in the hopes of getting historically apathetic voters to participate in a referendum to decide whether to accept an invitation to join. It must have worked, because in November 1997 president Arpad Goncz appeared on television to thank the people for voting overwhelmingly to join. For ten points, name this former Communist nation whose capital on the Danube was decked out in red, white and green-striped flags in celebration.

Answer: Republic of Hungary or Magyarország

12. He was governor general of the Philippine Islands from 1921 to 1927, a post to which he was appointed after reporting to President Harding that the Philippines were not ready for independence. The year previously, he had campaigned against Harding for the Republican presidential nomination. For ten points, identify this military governor of Cuba from 1899 to 1902, a friend of Theodore Roosevelt and the commanding officer of the Rough Riders.

Answer: Leonard Wood

13. Warning: two answers required. These two Japanese words each use the same two Chinese characters, but in reverse order. The meaning of the two words is the same, but Japanese people generally use only one, while the other one has somehow gotten into the vocabulary of gaijin

(guy-jeen) foreigners. For ten points, what are these two words which literally mean "belly-cutting" or "disembowellment"?

Answer: _seppuku_ and _hara-kiri_ [Accept "hari-kari", but note that it is a foreign mangling of "hara-kiri"]

14. Its name comes from the Arabic for "two flags," which is appropriate for a town on the border between Egypt and Libya. About sixty miles west of Alexandria, and to the north of the Qattara Depression, for ten points, what town entered history in the summer of 1942 as the point where the eastward advance of the Afrika Korps was halted and ultimately reversed?

Answer: _El-Alamein_

15. It may be an urban legend, or deliberate disinformation by Soviet counterintelligence, since experts doubt that a chemical compound could be energetic enough to fuse tritium atoms yet stable enough to use as an explosive. For ten points, identify this apocryphal substance said to be manufactured in Russian reactors by irradiating compounds containing element 80.

Answer: _red mercury_

16. More than a century before the Global Positioning System, this American clergyman wrote an 1870 story about launching an artificial satellite for navigational purposes, called "The Brick Moon." He is best known, however, for a Civil War propaganda story about a man sentenced to never hear any mention of the United States. For ten points, identify the author of "The Man Without a Country".

Answer: Edward Everett _Hale_

17. Founded in 1737 by George II of England in his capacity as Elector of Hanover, in the late 18th century it was the center of a circle of poets who included Hahn, Voss, and Leisewitz. In 1837 seven of its professors, including the brothers Grimm, were expelled for political protests, but its Mathematical Institute attracted students from all over the world. For ten points name this institution, often an early clue in questions about Gauss, Riemann, Hilbert, Born, Heisenberg and damn near everyone else.

Answer: University of _Gottingen_ or Georg-August-Universitat zu _Gottingen_

18. In 1986, his TV show was cancelled after four seasons due to declining ratings. The very same day, the New York Post announced that he had been cast in a movie role. Publicity surrounding the movie role caused the ratings of his TV re-runs to skyrocket, so NBC exercised a 60-day clause in his contract, uncanceled the TV show, and dragged him away from the movie. For ten points, what unfortunate actor had to wait nine more years before finally getting the big movie role he wanted, in Goldeneye?

Answer: Pierce _Brosnan_

19. If they were charged, they would presumably emit Cherenkov radiation even in a perfect vacuum. The energy that they lost in this way would cause them to accelerate to greater speeds, emitting more Cherenkov radiation, and an infinite amount of energy might be released in the runaway reaction! Fortunately, for ten points, what terrifying objects have not been observed, although they were first named by Gerald Feinberg in 1967?

Answer: _tachyons_

20. Even though he liked to stay in bed and meditate until noon, Queen Christina perversely made him get up at 5 AM to give her philosophy lessons. While delivering the Statutes of the Swedish Academy of Arts and Sciences to her in 1650, he caught pneumonia, went into a coma and died ten days later. For ten points name this French philosopher and mathematician famous for the work *Meditations on First Philosophy* in which he said 'Cogito, ergo sum.'

Answer: Rene _Descartes_

21. This book will never be turned into a movie, since, if it were, millions of Americans would rot in their chairs, wanting to do nothing but watch it over, and over and over and over... This effect is what leads a group of Quebecois separatists in the Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment to tear apart video cartridge rentals trying to find the title film and use it for their nefarious purposes. For ten points name this 1,079-page Lannan Prize winner, the second novel of David Foster Wallace.

Answer: _Infinite Jest_

22. His eldest daughter shares her name with a title character of one of his works. His only son not only shares a name with one of his father's most famous works, but composed six more operas than he did. For ten points, name the husband of Cosima von Bulow and father of the composer of 'Der Barenhauser' and 'Der Schmied von Marienburg,' who himself composed 'Tristan and Isolde' and 'Siegfried'.

Answer: Richard _Wagner_

23. Celestis, Inc., offers this service for only \$4800. Some of their satisfied customers include German rocket scientist Krafft Ehricke, aviation pioneer Benson Hamlin, physicist Gerard O'Neill, 60's icon Timothy Leary and Star Trek creator Gene Roddenberry. For ten points, what service does Celestis offer at a low price by piggybacking on serious payloads on air-launched Pegasus rockets?

Answer: They _launch your ashes into space_ (accept equivalents)

24. The first book deals with civil rights and family law; the second book deals with property rights; the third book deals with the acquisition of rights. Under it, all citizens were made equal; primogeniture, hereditary nobility, and class privileges were nullified. For ten points, identify this legal code which is still in force in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Morocco.

Answer: The _Napoleonic Code_ (or _Code Napoleon_)