

Finals

Nikhil Manchanda

October 15, 2008

1. This American Rock Band which grew in popularity during the 70's and the 80's took its name from a flatbed truck that was manufactured by a motor car company based in Lansing, Michigan. The company's founder - Ransom Eli Olds - also founded Oldsmobile which was later sold to General Motors. Their most popular album — *High Infidelity* — represented a change in their music from hard rock to more pop-oriented material and included the hits *Take it on the Run* and *Keep on Lovin' You*. Enough clues; just name the band.
2. This place experienced the loss of many jobs after World War II, mostly due to it becoming less utilized as a shipping location. To address this matter, the state legislators sought a way to bring new business into the state, starting in the late 1970s. Led primarily by the Governor Pierre DuPont, in the early 1980s, the state in which this place is located attempted to lure large banks away from New York and other large financial companies by dramatically redrafting tax laws for banking industries. Laws also changed to allow banks to charge any interest they wished on credit cards.

Several banks were inspired by these flexible laws to relocate at least their credit card companies to here. The ability to charge more interest meant that they could offer credit to less credit-worthy customers. Though big banks moved their credit card companies, the response was even greater than DuPont at first estimated. Many smaller banks also set up shop here, to take advantage of being able to charge much higher interest rates, while paying lower taxes on their profits.

Simple, what place is being referred to here?

3. In 2005, this began when an admin at a certain site used a word filter to change the word *egg* to *duck* across this site. Thus, words such as *eggroll* were changed to *duckroll*. This led to a bait and switch in which external links disguised as relevant to a discussion instead lead to a picture of a duck on wheels.

In March 2007, the trailer for the video game *Grand Theft Auto IV* was released. Its immense popularity caused publisher *Rockstar Games*' website to crash. An unidentified user on this site applied the duckroll on a link to the site to link to a YouTube video instead of a picture of a duck and this phenomenon was born. What phenomenon?

4. Its opening credits inspired the opening credits of Michael Powell's 1960 film *Peeping Tom*. Its opening sequence has elicited comparisons to Tennyson's *Crossing the Bar*, for it features a close-up of a horizontal bar seemingly suspended in mid-air, then rapid zoom-out once a hand grabs it. However, a more famous shot occurs a few minutes later, which consists of a simultaneous zoom-in and track-out: the result is that the foreground remains stable while the background expands backwards. It is at this point in the film that Scottie Ferguson determines he has the titular condition. Can you name this Hitchcock film in which Scottie, played by Jimmy Stewart, twice loses the woman he loves?

5. These refer to a voluminous body of folklore-like literature concerning the previous births of the Buddha. The word most specifically refers to a text division of the Pali Canon of Theravada Buddhism, included in the Khuddaka Nikaya of the Sutta Pitaka.

The canonical book itself comprises 547 poems, arranged roughly by increasing number of verses. Of these, only the last 50 were intended to be intelligible by themselves, without commentary. The commentary gives stories in prose that it claims provide the context for the verses, and it is these stories that are of interest to folklorists. Alternative versions of some of the stories can be found in another book of the Pali Canon, the Cariyapitaka, and a number of individual stories can be found scattered around other books of the Canon.

What is this collective body of folklore better known as?

6. This term is used to denote the name of this game as well as the fronton (open-walled arena) that is used to play it. The court (or cancha) consists of 3 walls (front, back, and left), and the floor between them in play. The ball used is covered with goatskin and is called a *pelota* and teams alternate catching the ball in their *cesta* and throwing it in one fluid motion without holding or juggling it. It is often referred to as being *the fastest game on Earth* because of the speed at which the *pelota* moves. A 125g - 140g *pelota* can travel up to 302km/h (188mph). Which game?

7. The event started in 1980, when local landlord Gordon Green overheard a discussion between two men in his pub, the *Neuadd Arms*. Green decided that the challenge should be tested in full public view, and organised the first event. The first woman to participate in this event was Ann King in 1981. In 1982, the route of the course was amended slightly to give a more even match between the competitors. The course is slightly shorter than a traditional marathon at 22 miles, but over rougher terrain.

2004 saw a breakthrough, the 25th time this event was held it was won by Huw Lobb in 2 hours, 5 minutes and 19 seconds thereby winning the prize fund of £25,000 (which had been growing by £1,000 each year from the race's inception). The year's race also saw the highest ever number of competitors. The breakthrough feat was again repeated in 2007.

What event?

8. One theory holds that they are pets of alien beings who left them behind years ago. First reported in Puerto Rico, there have also been reputed sightings in Mexico, Florida, and even as far north as Maine. They have been compared to vampires, and though there have been no reported human victims to date, they have been blamed for the death of many farm animals. The name of these fantastic beasts is derived from the Spanish for *goat sucker*. Name this fantastic creature whom most biologists and wildlife management officials view as an urban legend.

9. An early form of this sport was played in ancient Greece. In Japan, the related game *Hanetsuki* was played as early as the 16th century. The game was called *Poona* in India during the 18th century, and British Army officers stationed there took a competitive Indian version back to England in the 1860s, where it was played at country houses as an upper class amusement

The new sport was definitively launched in 1873 at the _____ *House*, Gloucestershire, owned by the Duke of Beaufort. During that time, the game was referred to as *The Game of _____*, and the game's official name became _____.

Fill in the blanks (All three are the same word.)

10. It belongs to the species *Canis latrans*, but it is better identified by such names as:

- *Famishus famishus*
- *Apetitus ravenus*
- *Eternalii famishiis*
- *Hardheadipus oedipus*
- *Desertous-operativus idioticus*
- *Poor schnookius*
- *Poultorius devourius*
- *Nemesis ridiculii*

What in Linneaus' name are we referring to here?

11. From the Persian for *beggar*, these sects are based on a form of Sufism. They do not take vows and are never cloistered like their Western counterparts, but certain groups are characterized by odd practices, such as howling. As Sufi practitioners, they were known as a source of wisdom, medicine, poetry, enlightenment, and witticisms. Name these monks of Islam, whose name has become the word for a spinning, destructive force.
12. He began as a Fauvist, but his interests rapidly led into Cubism and works that influenced the surrealists, the Dadaists, and various pop artists. He selected ordinary manufactured objects, modifying them and calling them *readymades*. In his view these were an antidote to what he called *retinal art*. Some of his more controversial *readymades* include *Bicycle Wheel* — a bicycle wheel mounted by its fork on a painted wooden stool and *Fountain* — a porcelain urinal inscribed 'R. Mutt 1917'. However, his best-known work is a controversial 1912 cubist painting that exhibits his fascination with motion, film, and photography — *Nude Descending a Staircase, No. 2*. Just name him.

13. There are a number of environmental and weapons treaties and laws of physics which prevent this from being mixed on Earth. Drinking it feels like *'being hit in the head by a slice of lemon wrapped around a large gold brick*. Its original recipe involves the juice from that Ol' Janx Spirit, Arcturan Mega-gin, Fallian marsh gas, Qualactin Hypermint extract, the tooth of an Algolian Suntiger and an olive among other things. What drink should you drink if you want to... but very carefully?

14. During World War II, Japanese dispatches referred to this location as *"Site AF"*. In an attempt to determine what *Site AF* was, Admiral Nimitz ordered the commander at this location to broadcast a message saying that the local desalinization plant, their only source of fresh water, was broken. Sure enough, Japanese radio traffic the next day included the message *"Site AF is short on water"*. Thus Nimitz learned the location of *Site AF*, the focus of the next major Japanese attack, and a task force commanded by Admiral Raymond Spruance was able to ambush the Japanese there. Just name the location of this battle, considered the turning point of the Pacific naval war.

15. A French government frigate flounders off the west African coast; the captain and officers seize lifeboats for themselves and cast adrift 149 passengers and crew. French Romantic Delacroix observed the work in progress and even posed for the dying youth in the foreground. Name this 1819 painting by Theodore Gericault.

16. Connect: *Chicken Tikka Masala* and *General Tso's Chicken*.

17. Connect *Malgudi* and *Ayodhya*.

18. Connect:
 - A topological space in which each point has a neighborhood homeomorphic to some Euclidean n -space.
 - A pipe with one input and more than one output, like that part of a car connecting the engine and the carburetor.
 - An adjective meaning *multiple and variegated* or *marked by diversity or variety*.

19. Connect:

- A measure of wine equal to 20 normal bottles.
- The Babylonian king who captured Jerusalem in 586 B.C.E.
- The name of Morpheus' main hovercraft in the science fiction series *The Matrix*

20. Visual Question: What does this depict?

21. Visual Question: Connect: