

VETO 2012, FARSSIDE team tossups

TOSSUP 1

It was a disappointing year for followers of self-proclaimed Jewish messiah Sabbatai Zevi, who was imprisoned in Constantinople and converted to Islam. In this same year, the Old Believers split from the Russian Orthodox Church because of the official adoption of Patriarch Nikon's reforms. More promisingly, Louis the Fourteenth founded the French Academy of Sciences, and Isaac Newton discovered differential and integral calculus and gravitation in this year that John Dryden called an *Annus Mirabilis*, though it was not so *mirabilis* in England's capital. For 10 points, what was this year of the great fire of London?

Answer: the year 1666

TOSSUP 2

Free Proxy Server concealed the IP address that his associate named Jones used to make a PayPal purchase with RackNine, which he later called with his prepaid Virgin Mobile cell phone with area code 450, which is in Joliette, Quebec, though he bought his phone in Ontario on April 30, 2011. On the morning of May 2, he said that the Quebec Street Mall was the new polling location, in calls to over seven thousand voters in Guelph. A resident of the nonexistent "Separatist Street", for 10 points, who was this election-day robocaller?

Answer: Pierre Poutine (prompt on "Poutine")

TOSSUP 3

The fastest known algorithm for this operation, published in 2011 by Vassilevska Williams, takes time proportional to the order of the inputs raised to the power of two point three seven two seven, and is an extension of a divide-and-conquer method by Strassen, where the trick is to take one fewer scalar product at the cost of extra scalar sums in the base case of order two. For 10 points, what is this operation that, relative to a common basis, gives the coefficients of the composition of two linear transformations?

Answer: matrix multiplication (or matrix multiply)
(accept matrix product, but then say "matrix multiplication")

TOSSUP 4

In Polish, it's known as a *kreska* and is used on consonants to indicate palatalization. It has the same function in Croatian and Bosnian, but is used only on the letter C. In Czech, it is used only on vowels, and denotes lengthening, as it also does in Hungarian, which has a double version that typographers call a *hungarumlaut*. In Dutch, Greek, and Spanish, it marks a stressed syllable, but for 10 points, what diacritical mark is best known to Canadians to indicate a higher vowel sound on the letter E in French and in French loan words such as *résumé*?

Answer: acute accent (accept accent aigu)

TOSSUP 5

In 1993, he published a cycle of sonnets called *Novemberland*, in which the ninth says "a fortress Novemberland seeks to be safe from Black, Fella, Jew, Turk, Romany". In April, 2012, he wrote, "I'm sick of the West's hypocrisy", in a poem entitled "What must be said",

objecting that his country "has delivered yet another submarine to Israel". Though he'd volunteered to serve on a German submarine, he was instead drafted into the SS in 1944. For 10 points, what author wrote about his hometown of Danzig in the novel *The Tin Drum*?

Answer: Gunter Grass (prompt on "Grass")

TOSSUP 6

Founded in 1795, its Canadian branch was established in 1830 by Ogle R. Gowan in Brockville, Upper Canada. By the 1920s, Canadians made up over half its worldwide membership, who have included Prime Ministers John Diefenbaker, Sir John Abbott, Sir John A. Macdonald, and Sir Mackenzie Bowell, who had been its Grand Master of British North America. Today it is active mainly in Northern Ireland, where it began. For 10 points, name this pro-monarchist Protestant fraternal society whose annual parades commemorate the Battle of the Boyne and the victory of King William.

Answer: the Orange Order
(accept Orange Lodge, but then say "Orange Order")

TOSSUP 7

Mago Martin was performing a magic show in its main theatre, but disappeared when the trash cans started turning over. Its 4D cinema regularly featured leg ticklers, vibrating seats, and water vapor spray, but these became unnecessary after 9:40 p.m. on Friday the thirteenth of January, 2012. Francesco Schettino thought that a better view of Giglio would impress his passengers, but instead for 10 points, the captain ran aground what Carnival cruise ship?

Answer: Costa Concordia

TOSSUP 8

When we first read about this character, he is away in Smyrna for the fig harvest. He's known for buying eggs at seven cents apiece in Malta and selling them for five cents apiece, the profits going to the syndicate, in which "everybody has a share". He contracts with the Americans to bomb the bridge at Orvieto and with the Germans to defend it, in "an important victory for private enterprise", "since the armies of both countries were socialized institutions." For 10 points, name this first lieutenant who runs Yossarian's mess hall in Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*.

Answer: Milo Minderbinder (prompt on either "Milo" or "Minderbinder")

TOSSUP 9

Botswana may have experienced this phenomenon in the 1980s, when a boom in diamond production was accompanied by lower agricultural productivity. Some evidence that it's occurring in Canada comes from a June 2012 OECD report showing a one-third drop in manufacturing's share of employment over eleven years, "clearly correlated with exchange-rate developments." Originally named by the *Economist* newspaper for a result of the exploitation of the Slochteren gas field, for 10 points, what is this effect that occurs when natural resource exports raise the value of a nation's currency, making other industries less competitive?

Answer: Dutch disease

TOSSUP 10

You can calculate this using the Mersenne-Taylor formula: divide the tension in newtons by the mass per unit length, in kilograms per metre, take the square root of the result, and then divide by twice the total length of the string, in metres. You can multiply this quantity by two to get the first overtone, by three to get the second overtone, and so on. For 10 points, what is this property of a string in a musical instrument that determines what we hear as its pitch?

Answer: fundamental frequency
(accept first harmonic, but then say "fundamental frequency")

TOSSUP 11

In order to make this, start with completely charred charcoal, wood, or bone. Pulverize with a pestle, and place in a ceramic bowl. Add distilled water, and either gum arabic or gelatin or shellac as a binding agent. Then either let it dry into cakes, or store it in an airtight bottle. If it was made with shellac, then you might need to use methyl hydrate to unclog it once it's in your pen. For 10 points, what is this long-lasting black pigment, now most commonly used for drawing, that despite its name, originated in ancient Egypt and China?

Answer: India ink (or Indian ink)

TOSSUP 12

A carefully guarded portmanteau carried by a nervous traveller named Morris is stolen, and this novel's protagonist is suspected. It turns out that Morris works for the government, and the portmanteau holds gold to pay English soldiers. The protagonist, Frank, sent to live with relatives in Northumberland at Osbaldistone Manor, flees to Scotland, and becomes embroiled in pro- and anti-Jacobite intrigues, but is saved by the title character in, for 10 points, what Walter Scott novel named after the historical "Robin Hood of Scotland" of the proscribed clan MacGregor?

Answer: Rob Roy

TOSSUP 13

There are forty-four of them in the world. The one in Canada, at 50 O'Connor Street in Ottawa, was established in 1972 and initially led by Armando Pesantes, an appointee of Guillermo Rodríguez Lara, but is now headed by Andrés Terán Parral, appointed in 2011 by Rafael Correa. Ana Albán Mora heads the one at 3 Hans Crescent in London, England, which acquired a new resident on June 19, 2012, when Julian Assange requested asylum. For 10 points, what are these diplomatic missions?

Answer: Ecuadorian Embassy

TOSSUP 14

July twenty-second is the feast day of this patron saint of glovemakers, tanners, pharmacists, and hairstylists, who according to Mark's and Luke's gospels was cleansed by Jesus of seven demons. Roman Catholic tradition differs from Protestantism and Eastern Orthodoxy in also considering her to be the same person who pours perfume over Jesus' feet in Bethany and is the sister of Lazarus and Martha. For 10 points, whom do the gospels record as the first witness of Jesus' resurrection?

Answer: Mary Magdalene

TOSSUP 15

This ruler developed the political theory of the "dual principle" of parity between church and state, together with his preceptor Phags-pa, and he was the first to make paper money the sole currency in his realm. With his victory in 1279 at the naval battle of Yamen over the forces of Emperor Bin of Song, he established the Yuan dynasty. Building a new capital of Dadu, now Beijing, and with his summer capital at Shangdu, for 10 points, this patron of Marco Polo was what Mongol emperor?

Answer: Kublai Khan (prompt on "Kublai" or "Khan")

TOSSUP 16

Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company was founded at this city's namesake copper-zinc ore body in 1927, named after the main character in *The Sunless City*, a science fiction novel by J. E. Preston Muddock. Today the smokestack at its smelter is Western Canada's tallest free-standing structure. In summer, Ross Lake is the centre of its annual Trout Festival, and in winter, residents cheer on the local junior hockey team, the Bombers. For 10 points, what is this city that's partly in Saskatchewan but mostly in Manitoba?

Answer: Flin Flon

TOSSUP 17

Its presence is indicated in the rightmost of the five regions of a serum electrophoresis gel. If you don't have enough of it, you suffer from common variable immunodeficiency. Prepared from pooled plasma, it's given to people at high risk for rubella, measles, or chickenpox, but is most commonly injected to develop active immunity against hepatitis A. For 10 points, what is this kind of antibody-containing serum protein that is distinct from albumin and similar types alpha-1, alpha-2, and beta?

Answer: gamma globulin
(do not accept immunoglobulin)

TOSSUP 18

Preliminary rounds for this sport began today at London's Excel Centre. Three competitors are at their seventh Olympics: Belgium's Jean-Michel Saive, Sweden's Jörgen Persson, and Croatia's Zoran Primorac, who uses the Timo Boll Spirit blade. Singles matches consist of best of seven games, with the winner of each game being the first player to eleven, with a two-point margin. Boris Johnson proclaimed four years ago in Beijing that this game would be "coming home", because, for 10 points, what indoor sport was invented in 19th-century England but since the early twentieth century has been dominated by China?

Answer: table tennis (or ping pong, or wiff waff)

TOSSUP 19

Established in 1957 under the chairmanship of Brooke Claxton, it received initial funding from the estates of Sir James Dunn and Izaak Walton Killam. It awards the annual Molson Prizes, which in 2012 were given to Keren Rice, a scholar of the Slavey language of the Mackenzie River valley, and Dáirine Ní Mheadhra, a Toronto opera producer. Since the 1970s it has also managed the Governor-General's Literary Awards, but for 10 points, what federal crown corporation spends most of its one-hundred-and-ninety-million-dollar budget

on grants to fund the arts?

Answer: the Canada Council for the arts

TOSSUP 20

This label was first applied in San Diego on September 11, 1970, at the California Republican state convention, to refer to members of a group that the same speaker had a year earlier called "an effete corps of impudent snobs". Said to have "formed their own 4-H Club: the hopeless, hysterical hypochondriacs of history" in a speech written by William Safire, for 10 points, what was the term used by Vice President Spiro Agnew for babbling elite complainers?

Answer: nattering nabobs of negativism

TOSSUP 21

It's the title of a one-act sketch with two characters, Nikita Ivanitch and sixty-eight-year-old comedian Vasili Svietlovidoff, who does most of the talking in this very first play by Anton Chekhov. The expression derives from a legend that was refuted from scientific observation by Pliny the Elder, but Aesop incorporates it in a fable about mistaken identity with a goose. Its first known use in English is by the Reverend John Willison, applying it to King David's last words. For 10 points, what is this legendary first and final call of a dying *Cygnus olor*?

Answer: swan song

TOSSUP 22

This body of water is unique for harbouring drift algae that are holopelagic, meaning that they reproduce vegetatively and never attach to the seafloor. A large expanse of still water half the size of Canada, it includes the spawning grounds of all European and American eels. Named for the type of seaweed found on its surface that Columbus called a "solid mat", it's bounded by the Canary Current, the Gulf Stream, and the North Equatorial and North Atlantic Currents. For 10 points, what is this body of water south and east of Bermuda?

Answer: Sargasso Sea

TOSSUP 23

This chemical compound is sold industrially as either the "ground" type, which is irregularly rhombohedral, or the "precipitated" type, which has uniformly sized particles with diameters on the order of nanometres and is used in producing sealants, plastics, and paper. It makes up ninety-five per cent of an eggshell, and is often taken as a dietary supplement against osteoporosis, or as an antacid. For 10 points, what is this compound that's the main constituent of marble, chalk, and limestone?

Answer: calcium carbonate

TOSSUP 24

His first spoken line is "Don't let it worry ya, Skipper", and continues, "Hoo-hoo Hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo", in a 1937 film. In 1952 he starred in his own movie, in which he cries, "Comedy! always Comedy! ha-ha, WOO-HOO WOO-HOO, Yuck Yuck! Honest J.L., you just gotta give me a dramatic part!" in *The Scarlet Pumpernickel*. Appearing originally as a hunting target

for Porky Pig, for 10 points, who is this cartoon character with a white neck ring and the catchphrase "you're dethpicable"?

Answer: Daffy Duck

Vancouver Estival Trivia Open, 2012, FARSIDE team