

We Have Never Been Modern

By Mike Bentley

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Round 3

1. Project BRASS RING was an unsuccessful effort to figure out how to make this project applicable in the real world. Theodore W. Knacke worked on Project Caucasian, a new type of parachute for this larger initiative. Lewis Strauss moved on to advising the Rockefellers after successfully getting presidential approval for this initiative. A different project that achieved the same result as this one culminated in the (*) Joe 4. The first MANIAC computer was used to make calculations for this project. In a televised speech opposing this project, Albert Einstein declared that "every step appears as the unavoidable consequence of the preceding one". The first full-scale test of this project was code-named Ivy Mike. For 10 points, the Teller-Ulam configuration was developed to build what type of powerful weapon?

ANSWER: the American effort to build a Hydrogen Bomb [or thermonuclear weapon; accept Ivy Mike before mentioned; do not accept or prompt on "atomic bomb" or "Manhattan Project"]

2. Martin Sorrell, CEO of the ad agency WPP, once publicly called this CEO out for not returning his emails. This CEO poached Henrique de Castro and runs weekly FYIs with employees at URL's ("Earl's"), the company cafeteria. Instead of discussing a new ratings policy at a Q&A session, this person read aloud the children's book *Bobbie Had a Nickel*. This person gave a lucrative new contract to "global anchor" (*) Katie Couric. The release of the company's first mobile mail client was almost delayed when this person demanded the color scheme be changed to purple at the last minute. This executive purchased Tumblr. Eric Jackson valued this person's company at negative 4 billion dollars when you subtracted its lucrative investment in Alibaba. She succeeded CS-degree forger Dan Loeb after leaving Google. For 10 points, name this CEO of Yahoo.

ANSWER: Marissa Mayer

3. A public contest to design new versions of these things saw entries from the then-makers of them, Crye Precision, but a cheaper in-house design from the Natick Research Center was chosen instead. One of these things featured a color selected after someone went to Home Depot and picked a Ralph Lauren paint called "Coyote Brown". These things include MARPAT and the recently rolled-out (*) Scorpion W2. Some of these things introduced in the early 2000's suffered from a problem called isoluminance. Consistency in these things was mandated by the 2014 Defense Authorization Act. Five billion dollars were spent to develop and implement a "universal" one of these things known as UPC, which was criticized for making people easier to spot, despite the futuristic-looking pixelated pattern which made its wearers "more cool" than a rival branch. For 10 points, name these pieces of clothing, often in camouflage patterns, worn by GIs in battle.

ANSWER: US military uniforms [or US Army combat uniforms or ACU or US Marine uniforms; accept US military camouflage until mentioned]

4. Patent medicine hawker Pearle Wait added flavor to this product, which was first invented by Peter Cooper of Cooper Union fame. This product was then mass-marketed by the Genesee Company. In its early years, this edible product was advertised with cherubic figures originally designed by Rose O'Neill known as Kewpies. Norman Rockwell illustrated a multi-lingual cookbook for this product which emphasized its ability to help immigrants assimilate. It's not Grapenuts, but (*) Jack Benny was a long-time spokesman for this product. A "recipe on the box" of this product in the '80s encouraged you to use cut-outs to make jigglers. A museum for this product in LeRoy, New York demonstrates how materials such as calves' hoods are used to make it. For 10 points, name this desert often fashioned into salads and for a long time advertised by Bill Cosby.

ANSWER: Jell-O [or gelatin desserts]

5. The "Rampantly Unofficial" FAQ for this person on catb.org notes that he drives a Mercedes SLK 32 AMG and debunks the myth that his middle name is "God". At a New Zealand Q&A in 2015, this man proclaimed, "I'm not a nice person, and I don't care about you". A law named for this person was used to outline the difference between The (*) Cathedral and the Bazaar and states, "Given enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow". This man wrote one piece of software to replace BitKeeper. In a famous Usenet post, this man declared how he had ported bash and gcc to a new project he created that ran on 386 clones. This author of *The Hacker Ethic and the Spirit of the Information Age* created the popular source control system, Git. For 10 points, name this open-source advocate who first developed Linux.

ANSWER: Linus Benedict Torvalds

6. Menno van Coehoorn laid down "New" ideas for constructing these things in a 1685 text. Van Coehoorn was called the "Hollandish" version of a Frenchman and bayonet inventor best known for constructing these things. Twelve constructions of this type, now classified as UNESCO World Heritage sites, were built during the reign of Louis XIV by (*) Vauban. Some of these things might have a slight slope near them called a *glacis*. Geoffrey Parker connected the rise of a new type of these things called *trace italienne* to the 16th century military revolution. In the 15th century, the shape of these things gradually changed from circular to star-shaped. French examples of these things often had several ravelins in front of their curtains. For 10 points, name these defensive structures, examples of which include Louisburg in Nova Scotia.

ANSWER: fortresses [or forts or fortifications or castles]

7. Applications for this device contain special metadata added to jar packages to become .bndl files. Lots of data on a service this device connected to was lost in 2009 while most of its developers were working on Project Pink. The third version of this device came in special color schemes called "Diane von Furstenberg" and "Dwayne Wade". The "menu", "back" and "jump" buttons were always accessible on this device. The company that made this phone, Danger Incorporated, was bought by (*) Microsoft and released the infamous Kin phone. In 2005, the contact info for lots of celebrities was exposed when one belonging to Paris Hilton was hacked. This was the first sort-of smartphone to come pre-packaged with AIM for instant messaging. For 10 points, name this phone whose name derives from the screen that could be flipped 180 degrees to access the full qwerty keyboard.

ANSWER: Sidekick [or Danger Hiptop or Mobiflip or Sharp Jump]

8. UCLA Law professor Gary Schwartz wrote an article on the "myths" surrounding this product, examining "the most remarkable document ever produced in an American lawsuit" that valued human life at \$200,000. One problem with this product is that it lacked hat sections. Writing for *Mother Jones*, Mark Dowie argued that an (*) eleven-dollar part was scandalously not added to this product by its manufacturer. The family of Lily Gray was awarded \$125 million in punitive damages by the manufacturer of this product. A plastic "flak jacket" was added to this product after Rule 301 was issued by the NHTSA. A design flaw in this product was shared with the Vega and the AMC Gremlin. It possessed only 9 inches of "crush space" and its gas tank was extremely close to its rear axle. For 10 points, name this car infamous for exploding in rear-end collisions.

ANSWER: Ford Pinto

9. Some scholars contend that the Darius Vase and Salamis Tablet show Greek knowledge of these devices. An impractical one of these devices for daily use was popularized in Europe by Gerbert d'Aurillac, the future Pope Sylvester II. Currency reforms in Muscovy in the 1530s may have prompted the development of one of these devices known as the *schety*. One of the differences between the *suanpan* and *soroban* or Chinese and Japanese versions of these devices is the number of (*) rows that they have, and how they divide the upper and lower parts of the frame. An alternative to these devices was the reckoning board. The Romans used base-10 versions of these devices. They generally consist of beads connected to wooden rods. For 10 points, name these types of analog calculators.

ANSWER: abacus

10. The Hobbit, Baltic and Magic were three of many Soviet knock-offs of this machine. Wikipedia has an exciting day-by-day account of the server status of Martijn van der Heide's fan-site for this system. An extra joystick port and faster loading times were added with the Interface 2 expansion for this system. A crowd-funded revival of this system includes only the R, F, S, 1 and 2 buttons and is called the Vega. A game originally developed for this system unlocked the Rareware Coin in *Donkey Kong 64*. Superstar licensed developer Ocean Software was once named for this system. This system was also the original platform for *Jetpack* and *Jet Set Willy*. This was the chief system covered in issues of *Your (*) Sinclair* magazine. For 10 points, name this 8-bit home computer popular in the 1980s in United Kingdom.

ANSWER: ZX ("Zed-Ex") Spectrum [or Speccy; prompt on just ZX]

11. A company with this name has a mascot named Bobby who leads a group of super healthy SuperKids and, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, operates the largest hedge maze in the world. One man with this last name cornered a market through the use of the Ginaca machine and sponsored a namesake 1927 derby whose \$25,000 prize was claimed by the *Woolaroc*. Unfortunately, 10 people and 6 (*) planes were lost in that air derby. A politician with this surname failed to get his Senate colleagues to ratify a UN treaty banning discrimination against people with disabilities and earlier appeared in a Pepsi ad opposite Britney Spears. A man with this surname was known as the Pineapple King. For 10 points, give this surname of the man who ousted Queen Liliuokalani to become the first President of the Republic of Hawaii.

ANSWER: Dole

12. This man announced his intention to produce "dark comedies" with director Phillip Atwell at his new venture, Crucial Films. In a letter supposedly written by this guy, he describes meeting "a bunch of crazy, naked motherfuckers in the desert today" and thinks that someone should "make some loot off these fools"; thus, this man allegedly "Started (*) Burning Man". A product line named for this man was originally manufactured by Monster Cable and today comes in varieties such as the solo2 wireless, mixr and studio, all of which are bass-heavy. His vanity label, Aftermath Entertainment, has signed Justin Mohrle and Jon Connor. A company this man co-founded with Jimmy Iovine was once owned by HTC before being becoming the biggest-ever acquisition by Apple in 2014. For 10 points, name this rapper who co-founded Beats Electronics while not recording his second follow-up to *The Chronic*.

ANSWER: Dr. Dre [or Andre Romelle Young]

13. Edgar Rice Burroughs was once the head of the stenography department at this company. An affiliate of this company, the Homart Development Company, was responsible for building many of the nation's malls. This company was established after its founder discovered he could make a tidy profit selling watches to fellow railroad station agents. Every Christmas, this original issuer of the Discover Card published a (*) Wish Book, although it stopped publishing its Big Book in 1993. In the 1940s, this company destroyed all of the records of "Alhambra", "Saratoga" and other types of build-it-yourself houses. Several schools for Southern black children were founded by one of its co-owners, Julius Rosenwald. Until this retailer was bought by Kmart in 2005, it was the exclusive seller of Kenmore Appliances, Diehard batteries, and Craftsman tools. For 10 points, name this department store co-founded by Alvah Roebuck.

ANSWER: Sears, Roebuck & Company [or Sears Holdings; anti-prompt on Craftsman]

14. Harry Grindell Matthews was offered \$25,000 to demonstrate one of these devices at Madison Square Garden but failed to collect the prize because, despite his boasting, he didn't actually invent one. During World War II, the Japanese supposedly developed a weapon of this type called a Ku-Go, and Mussolini tasked Marconi with inventing one. President Obama personally challenged the (*) Mythbusters to test a myth involving one of these devices. Actual types of these devices include Raytheon's Silent Guardian, euphemistically called an Active Denial System. In his 70s, Nikola Tesla set out to create the Teleforce, one of these devices. One built from mirrors was allegedly constructed during a siege of Syracuse by Archimedes. For 10 points, name this speculative technology which was used to destroy the planet of Alderaan by the Death Star.

ANSWER: death ray [or solar ray or death beam or heat rays or directed energy weapons]

15. A weird book that imagines this thing as a real person interviews his narrower friend, Benno, who is "a real film buff", and notes how this thing was conceived on a napkin in the year *London Calling* came out. On its 30th anniversary in 2012, one of the factories that makes it in Gardelegen was shut down due to high labor costs. In 2011, *The Economist* falsely reported that this thing was being discontinued due to the rising popularity of (*) DVDs. Predecessors of this thing included the Tiga and the Vira. It is named for its designer, a certain Mr. Liljedahl, and is frequently sold in a birch veneer color. Its "coordinating products" include the Flyt magazine file. It's the best-selling product of a company whose warehouse stores sell cheap lingonberry jam and meatballs. For 10 points, name this ubiquitous Ikea bookshelf.

ANSWER: the Billy bookshelf [or Billy bookcase]

16. Christopher Hey and others were recognized for their application of B surface scattering RDF for more realistic skin rendering as part of this project. This was the first project for which "bigatures" were used. David Salo published a "Gateway" book describing his linguistic work for this project. This was the first publicly released project to take advantage of the Multiple Agent Simulation System in Virtual Environment or (*) MASSIVE, a system which Daryl Plummer spuriously claimed caused some agents to run due a fight or flight response during one battle sequence. A motion control system was developed for the moving forced perspective shots on these films to maintain the illusion of scale. This was the first project for which WETA used motion-capture technology to create a digital character made from Andy Serkis. For 10 points, name this trilogy of films, which contained CGI-generated characters such as Treebeard.

ANSWER: *The Lord of the Rings* film trilogy [or *Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* or *The Two Towers* or *The Return of the King*; do not accept or prompt on "The Hobbit"]

17. Chauncey Jerome was able to manufacture these devices so cheaply that the British government seized several shipments assuming that Jerome was dumping well below cost. Mercury was added to compensate for temperature changing the length of a key component of these devices by "Honest" George Graham, who also introduced horizontal and dead-beat versions of their most important part. The price of these devices was drastically lowered thanks to men like Eli Terry, who created the (*) Connecticut shelf variant. One of these called the H4 finally won a £20,000 prize set up by a 1714 act. An important component of these devices is the escapement. For 10 points, name these devices, several of which were designed by John Harrison to solve the Longitude problem, and come in "grandfather" varieties.

ANSWER: clock [or watch or chronometer or timepiece]

18. Mozart's first opera, *Bastien und Bastienne*, was premiered at an estate owned by this competent glass harmonica player. This man heavily plagiarized from Isaac Newton's student Richard Mead in his doctoral dissertation. He supposedly cured Fraulein Paradis of her blindness and had a eureka moment when he convinced Franzl Oesterline to swallow a (*) lead solution. Antoine Lavoisier and Ben Franklin were appointed to a panel established by Louis XVI that concluded this man was full of shit. He held that the body was affected by tides and that diseases could be cured by eliminating the blockages within the blood through the process of animal magnetism. This man would sit knee-to-knee with patients and move his hands around rhythmically to cure them. For 10 points, name this man who lends his name to placing someone into a state of hypnosis.

ANSWER: Franz Anton Mesmer

19. A man named John Kane discovered a costly bug in program G00001640 in some of the most popular electronic versions of this game that only worked when the Double Up option was enabled. Cereus was one company that made a game of this type targeted on "Black Friday"--April 15, 2011. Cereus is now party to the case of *United States v. Scheinberg*. A company named for this game lost 60% of its value in one day following the passage of (*) UIGEA in 2006. *Walking Dead* developer Telltale first tested its crappy engine on a game of this type, and later released a sequel where Max from *Sam & Max* and Tycho from *Penny Arcade* play this game. The rise of things such as rabbit cams and hole cams led to this game's popularity among TV viewers and made stars of men such as Mike Sexton and Scotty Nguyen. For 10 points, name this casino game whose video version comes in editions such as Deuces Wild.

ANSWER: video poker [or online poker or Texas Hold 'Em; do not accept "slot machines"]

20. In David Gilbert's novel *Sons*, this man established a secret society called the Palingeneticists to keep DNA samples of geniuses until mankind had successfully developed cloning technology. This man once worked in the United States for John Ericsson, the man who built the *Monitor*. This businessman joined his father Immanuel in the service of the Russian Navy in the Crimean War. His younger brother Emil perished in an accident at his factory. He was able to (*) stabilize his best known invention by adding kieselguhr powder, obtained from a type of white rock. This industrialist established an arms factory at Bofors. One of his inventions consisted of a small quantity of mercury fulminate stuffed into a cap. For 10 points, name this "Merchant of Death" who invented dynamite and used that fortune to fund a set of prizes.

ANSWER: Alfred Bernhard Nobel