

## A Culture of Improvement

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By Mike Bentley

### Round 2

1. A racist named B. Howard Rand pulled out of lecturing at this place because it had admitted a black man named Octavius Catto as a member. William Castellini issued a fake press release from this organization claiming the world would end on April 1st, 1940, sparking a *War of the Worlds*-style panic. This institution owns an automaton capable of writing three distinct poems built by Henri Maillardet. In 1897, Wilhelm Rontgen won its Elliott Cresson Medal. One of the cooler things owned by this museum is a moving Baldwin 60000 locomotive in its basement. It publishes the country's second oldest science journal. The signature exhibit of this museum is a gigantic human (\*) heart you can walk through. Nick Cage bribes schoolkids to decode the Silence Dogood letters at this place in the first *National Treasure* movie. For 10 points, name this Philadelphia science museum, whose Electricity exhibit honors its namesake's kite experiments.

ANSWER: Franklin Institute [or the Franklin Institute of the State of Pennsylvania for the Promotion of the Mechanic Arts; or the Franklin Institute Science Museum] <2>

2. Ted Churchill published a pamphlet on how to operate one of these things, calling his occupation the "Last Great Job in the Business". Vittorio Storaro co-led early workshops on how to use these devices. A handheld one of these devices goes by the name of Merlin. This is the best known invention of a man who also created "Sky", "Dive" and "Moby" variants of the same product. A consumer-marketed version of these devices can hold an iPhone and is marketed as the Smoothee. They were originally named for their inventor, Garrett Brown. Like a (\*) gyroscope, a gimbal is used for balancing these things and supports the sled. The counterbalance of these devices often includes the battery pack. The operator of one of these devices no longer had to rely on an expensive dolly setup. One of these devices was used to record the steps sequence from the first *Rocky* and the speeder-bike shots in *Return of the Jedi*. For 10 points, name this type of stable camera.

ANSWER: Steadicam [accept Brown Stabilizer before mentioned; prompt on cameras; prompt on movie cameras] <2>

3. One titan in this industry killed himself in 1897 by jumping off a ship near Madeira yelling "They're after me!", and his son, Woolf Barnato, used the profits from this industry to found the Bentley Boys, a 1920s British racing team. The UN's Fowler Report, released in 2000, concerned how companies in this industry violated the Lusaka Protocol. This industry has controlled the sale of products made from chemical vapor deposition and high-pressure high-temperature methods. The largest player in this industry is comprised of companies such as the Central Selling Organization and the (\*) Anglo-American Trust, many of which are owned by the Oppenheimer family. One of the chief sources for raw materials in this industry in the 19th century was the "Big Hole" in Kimberly. A consolidated mining company in this industry was founded by Cecil Rhodes. For 10 points, name this industry, dominated by a cartel including the De Beers company.

ANSWER: diamond industry [prompt on jewelry industry; prompt on gem industry] <1>

4. Charles Kapps, author of *Introduction to the Theory of Computing*, supposedly wrote the assembly code for this game. It was first publicly demoed at Studio 54. The original version of this game was developed by Marvin Glass Associates and included head-to-head among its three modes. This game looked and sounded better than the similarly themed Atari arcade game, *Touch Me*. The Harry Potter Magic Spell Challenge Wand was essentially a re-skinned version of this game. The popularity of this Milton Bradley game was helped by an unplanned closeness with how the (\*) aliens communicated in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. This must-have toy of the 1977 Christmas season was designed by Magnavox Odyssey inventor Ralph Baer. Copy Cat and Monkey See, Monkey Do were clones of it. For 10 points, name this electronic game where you have to memorize and then repeat a musical pattern using one of the four buttons.

ANSWER: Simon [do not accept "Simon Says"] <2>

**5. *Lancet* editor Thomas Wakley started investigating how to save people from this fate after he was almost killed in this manner working at the *Lancet's* office. The media had a field day over Mary Stannard and Jennie Cramer, two New Haven women who succumbed to this fate in 1878. Arctic explorer Charles Francis Hall died in this fashion. In 1839, Leopold Gmelin investigated why this might happen to people who wore (\*) ball gowns or lived in homes with wallpapers made from Scheele's Green. This fate befell people in France who were given "inheritance powder". Murder victims who died in this manner became less common following the development of the Marsh Test. Hair tests have mostly debunked the theory that Napoleon I died in this manner. For 10 points, name this way to die, which involves consuming a lot of an element with atomic number 33.**

ANSWER: **arsenic** poisoning [or **arsenic** exposure; prompt on **poisoning**] <1>

**6. Working with Pierre Ciceri, this man made the decorations for *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp*, the first play performed with gaslights at the Paris Opera. Furniture maker Alphonse Giroux was contracted to mass produce this man's greatest invention. He wowed viewers with *The Inauguration of the Temple of Solomon* which changed from a night-scene to a fully-lit temple. With Charles-Marie Bouton, this man operated the Diorama in Paris. This inventor entered into a partnership with Joseph Nicephore (\*) Niepce, who had independently devised the technique of heliography. This man came up with the idea for a key component of his best known invention when he accidentally left a spoon sitting on an iodized plate and then examined the spoon. He'd later claim that he "captured the light and arrested its flight" with that invention. For 10 points, identify this man who lends his name to an early type of photography.**

ANSWER: Louis-Jacques-Mande **Daguerre** <2>

**7. This book calls for society to "protect the 'body rights' of its citizens with vigorous resolve". In this book's preface, the author declares that its subject annually costs the public two percent of the national GDP. James Roche publicly apologized to the author of this book after it was revealed Roche's company had hired a private investigator to dig up dirt on him. This book was the first big success for the author of *Unanswered Letters to the President* and *Crashing the Party*. Its main focus isn't African Americans, but this text was commissioned by Patrick Moynihan. This book expanded on a *Harvard Law Record* article subtitled (\*) "Designed for Death". This book drew from a series of lawsuits filed against the Corvair. A year after this book was released, shatter-resistant windshields were made mandatory as per the newly passed National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966. For 10 points, name this anti-car industry text by Ralph Nader.**

ANSWER: **Unsafe at Any Speed** <2>

**8. A mechanism for dispensing this product which moves at precisely eight centimeters per second was first demoed at Expo '70 and was inspired by a trip the inventor made to a bottling plant. In a David Gelb documentary, a man who has spent his life creating this product in a subway station declares, "Never complain about your job. You must dedicate your life to mastering your skill." Raw material for use in making this product once made up 91% of the cargo load on (\*) JAL flights from Canada. Alice Mabel Bacon introduced the word for this food into English, incorrectly describing it as a type of sandwich. In 2010, Peter Yen started combining this food with burritos. Avocado is a key ingredient in the California variety of this product. Sukiyabashi Jiro dreams of this product according to a 2011 documentary. For 10 points, name this food made from rice and raw fish, a staple of Japanese cuisine.**

ANSWER: **sushi** <1>

**9. A man named Canvass White went abroad to scout out ideas for this project. Samuel Wilkeson worked vigorously to ensure his city would benefit from this project. Commemorative boxes celebrating its completion had the words "Seneca Chief" stamped on them. Jesse Hawley advocated for this project under the pseudonym Hercules while in jail. Workers on this project invented a device with a wheel on an endless screw gear attached to a chain which allowed one man to quickly (\*) remove a tree. Many workers on this project died at Montezuma Marsh. First work on it began in a city called Rome. The Wedding of the Waters celebrated the completion of this project, which became profitable two years later with toll revenue. For 10 points, name this brainchild of Dewitt Clinton which connected New York City to the Great Lakes.**

ANSWER: **Erie Canal** <1>

**10. Jim Allchin told the *Wall Street Journal* how he completely reset development of this product. In one ad from a competitor, a man piles up a huge stack of money to spend on advertising this product rather than fixing it. You could install an analog clock to the new Sidebar feature in this product. The default font in this software was changed from Tahoma to Segoe UI, and it also introduced the (\*) Aero Glass theme. In one ad, people were shown enjoying "Mojave", a rebranded version of this software. An ad making fun of this software personified its User Account Control as a black-suited bodyguard constantly asking whether you want to "cancel or allow" basic actions such as pointing out its security flaws. A new mail program replaced Outlook Express in this operating system, which spent over five years in development. For 10 points, name this unpopular successor to Windows XP.**  
ANSWER: Windows Vista [or Windows Longhorn] <1>

**11. Description acceptable. This document warns the reader to "definitely panic if there's caviar". This document references an article by Ken Birdwell on cabals. Jeri Ellsworth has publicly contradicted many of the ideals laid out in this document, which was partly shaped by one-time economist-in-residence, Yanis Varoufakis. One section of this document advises you to go to <http://user> in order to figure out where everyone sits, no easy feat since everyone is given a wheeled desk. A timeline in this document describes how the (\*) *Prospero* project was "permanently shelved". This document outlines a flat organization where even its "founder/president ... isn't your manager". This book declares that its subject "is more than a game company" and makes repeated references to Gabe Newell. For 10 points, name this document given to new hires at the company which makes Steam and *Half-Life*.**

ANSWER: Valve Handbook for New Employees [or Valve employee manual; accept anything mentioning Valve] <1>

**12. A future key ingredient in this product was made much cheaper when Russell Marker figured out how to extract that ingredient from a type of Mexican yam. Hudson Hoagland and M. C. Chang tested this product on rats and rabbits. Work on it was done in a converted old-ladies home loftily named the Worcester Foundation. Before advocating for improved housing at MIT, Katharine McCormick provided two million dollars to develop this product. The FDA's first ever advisory committee found that this thing was not harmful to humans, but in Britain it was sold with warnings about (\*) blood clotting. After successful tests of this product in Haiti and Puerto Rico, it was sold under the brand name, Enovid-10. "Papa" Pincus developed this diminutive pink product, which combines two hormones and which was advocated for by Margaret Sanger. For 10 points, name this taken-daily method for preventing pregnancy.**

ANSWER: birth control pill [or combined oral contraceptive pill; or COCP; prompt on contraceptive] <1>

**13. Philip Cortney, the president of Coty, wrote an op-ed beseeching the companies implicated in this scandal to donate the profits they had made to charity. One person involved in this scandal was targeted because his father had won the 1940 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry and would soon start recording pieces for *Wide Wide World*. This scandal helped boost sales for brands such as Geritol, which were owned by Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Executives at (\*) Revlon admitted culpability at a Congressional hearing resulting from this scandal. The 1934 Communications Act was amended following this scandal. Investigations revealed that this scandal also affected *Tic Tac Dough*. This scandal was revealed after Columbia University professor Charles Van Doren confessed that his one hundred and twenty-nine thousand dollars were ill-gained. For 10 points, name this scandal over the fixing of shows such as *Twenty-One*.**

ANSWER: 1950s quiz show scandal [accept *The Twenty-One* scandal before mentioned; or game show scandal] <1>

**14. This organization was founded by Princeton president William G. Bowen, with seed funding coming from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. This organization is now owned by Ithaka Harbors. A case involving this site prompted Lawrence Lessig to write the essay, "Prosecutor as Bully". This site was the target of a script named keepgrabbing.py, which eventually attracted the attention of (\*) Carmen Ortiz's office. In January 2013, this site created the Register & Read service for greater public access to its contents. Following one incident, Greg Maxwell started a protest torrent of this site. A man charged with violating the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act against this site hanged himself in his Brooklyn apartment in 2013. Aaron Swartz downloaded many documents from this rival of EBSCO. For 10 points, name this place to find academic journals online.**

ANSWER: **JSTOR** [or **Journal Storage**] <1>

**15. The author of this text once sued Mister Maestro, Inc. and Twentieth Century Fox to stop the unauthorized distribution of it. Villanova basketball player George Raveling still owns the original text copy of this work. EMI's first non-musical copyright was for this work. Judge William C. O'Kelley ruled that this work, "no matter how broad the audience", was a performance and not a publication, and thus CBS had to pay a licensing fee for using it in a 1994 (\*) Mike Wallace special. Motown Records attempted to put out an unauthorized recording of an early version of this work, given in Detroit's Cobo Hall which was titled for a "great march". The use of this text in a 2001 Alcatel commercial drew criticism from Julian Bond. The speaker of this work imagines a day when "every valley shall be exalted". For 10 points, name this iconic speech that begins "five score years ago", given by Martin Luther King, Jr.**

ANSWER: **"I Have a Dream"** <1>

**16. This man's best known book opens with a fable about a flock of sparrows that take in an owl but don't prepare for how the owl will live among them. In one of his books, this thinker uses the Observation Equation to refute the notion that the freak observer problem means that the anthropic principle must be true. In a 2002 paper, this thinker described the importance of scope, intensity and probability in calculating existential risk. This co-founder of the World Transhumanist Association and formulator of the Simulation hypothesis outlined the concept of a "Great Filter" that keeps the "billions ... of potential germination points for life" from blossoming in his essay, "Where Are They? Why I Hope the Search for Extraterrestrial Life Finds Nothing". For 15 points, name this Swedish-born Oxford philosopher, the author of *Superintelligence*.**

ANSWER: Nick **Bostrom** [or Nikias **Bostrom**] <4>

**17. Starting in the '70s, Parker Brothers sold "Constructo" kits where kids could build their own varieties of these things. Mint julep enthusiast Marvin Stone hit upon coating these things with paraffin to prevent them from becoming unusable after a few minutes. A more flexible device of this kind, first marketed to bed-ridden hospital patients, evolved from a prototype of dental floss wrapped around a screw by Joseph B. Friedman, who had witnessed his niece using one in an (\*) ice cream parlor. Archeologists have found golden devices of this kind used by the Sumerians. The aforementioned Marvin Stone invented one type of these devices by wrapping paper around a pencil. A 2005 study published in *General Dentistry* found that these things can help reduce tooth decay. Loops are common features of the "krazy" variety of these devices. For 10 points, name these devices useful in drinking milkshakes.**

ANSWER: drinking **straw** <1>

**18. A TV broadcast coinciding with the most recent of these events featured Adam Lambert singing "Ghost Town" from a Lord of the Rings-esque throne. This event may have started in a dorm room in 1993. A John Oliver segment on this event posited that it should be held in April since the number four looks like "a man reaching down to masturbate". It doesn't take place in the White House, but Frank Underwood told viewers to look out for "a few packs of presidential M&M's" in a promo for this event. During this event, there is an unusually large amount of (\*) traffic to JD.com, even though it's not officially involved. This event fills a gap between Golden Week and New Year's and was popularized by Tmall in 2011. This event takes place annually on November 11th and results in huge sales for Alibaba. For 10 points, name this Chinese holiday, where one ostensibly buys gifts for people not in relationships.**

ANSWER: **Singles Day** [or the **Singles Day** TV special; or **Bachelor's Day**; or **Guanggun Jie**; prompt on **November 11<sup>th</sup>** before mentioned] <2>

**19. This inventor had a key inspiration after reading a proposal by postmaster general Heinrich von Stephan and was able to convince fellow Wurttemberger Gottlieb Daimler to lend him his engineer, Theodor Groß ("Gros"). Hermann von Helmholtz once deemed this man's proposed invention, "very remarkable and not infeasible" while serving as chair of a panel that recommended that the military fund him. The first of his inventions to be tested was shown to be (\*) faster than *La France*. Bags from goldbeater's skin were used in this man's best known invention, which was developed into a technology that killed three-year-old Elsie Leggatt and six others in London on May 31st, 1915. A large setback for a technology developed by this man occurred on May 6th, 1937 in Manchester Township, New Jersey, prompting Herbert Morrison's famous line, "Oh, the humanity!" For 10 points, name this builder of eponymous air ships.**

ANSWER: Baron Ferdinand Graf von **Zeppelin** <1>

**20. One rejected proposal for this project called for using a giant mound of dirt filled with gold coins as its scaffolding, with the hope that beggars would remove the dirt in search for the coins after the project was completed. One machine used during this project was made from a giant elm tree fitted with a 600-foot-long rope pulled by constantly moving oxen. A 65-foot-tall crane called the (\*) *castello* was invented for this project. This project's chief planner was jailed for failing to pay union dues in a plot co-orchestrated by Giovanni da Prato. It had to be built on top of a non-symmetrical octagonal base. It took sixteen years to complete the inner and outer shells of this project. Its architect once faked an illness in order to expose the incompetence of his co-superintendent Lorenzo Ghiberti. For 10 points, name this architectural achievement of Filippo Brunelleschi which finished the hole left in the ceiling of Santa Maria del Fiore cathedral.**

ANSWER: the **dome** of **Florence's Cathedral** [or the Dome of Il **Duomo** di Firenze; or the **dome** of the Cathedral of Saint **Mary of the Flower**] <1>

**21. One of these systems was developed through Project Lincoln and made use of MIT's Whirlwind, the first computer capable of processing data in real-time. It doesn't have anything to do with videogames, but operators of one of these systems used a light gun controller to interact with an AN/FSQ-7. Overseas examples of these systems built by American companies included BADGE and NADGE. The largest computer ever built was used to power one of these systems called SAGE or Semi-Automatic Ground Environment and once employed 25% of IBM's workforce. A 1955 Sears ad advises "Kiddies" to call ME2-6681 to get an update on (\*) Santa via one of these systems. One of these systems announced in 1983 would have operated from space and possibly employed X-Ray lasers. For 10 points, name these systems, exemplified by Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars" program and NORAD.**

ANSWER: **air-defense** system [or **aerospace defense** system; or **missile defense** system; prompt on **early warning** system]