

THE FABULOUS FIFTIES

31 tossups

The Niko von Glasow documentary *NoBody's Perfect* analyzes the consequences of this scandal. In August 2012, Harald F. Stock apologized for the “Grunenthal Group” and its involvement in it. This scandal involved a product produced by the Richardson-Merrell company. In the U.S., Frances Oldham Kelsey’s efforts helped reduced its impact, leading to her eventually winning a namesake award in 2010 from the FDA. A class action lawsuit in Australia after this scandal was led by a woman who was born without limbs. For 10 points, name this scandal involving a drug meant to help women with morning sickness, but which ended up causing mass birth defects.

ANSWER: Thalidomide scandal

This man lost a run-off election to Coleman Blease after receiving an endorsement from former fellow altar boys, enflaming anti-Catholic voters. In 1943, this politician became head of the Office of War Mobilization, becoming so powerful he was known as “Assistant President.” He was named *Time* Man of the Year for 1946 after giving the September “Speech of Hope” speech in Stuttgart, rejecting the Morgenthau Plan economic policies. As governor, his state was sued by the NAACP, prompting him to request Kansas to file an *Amicus curiae* brief, setting up the *Brown v. Board* case. For 10 points, name this South Carolina politician who also served as a Supreme Court Justice and as George Marshall’s predecessor as Secretary of State.

ANSWER: James Francis Byrnes

A participant in this event later kidnapped Vincent Costa in order to get Costa’s brother-in-law “Fat” Pino to pay a ransom; Pino would later respond by hiring “Trigger” Burke to kill that ex-partner, “Specs” O’Keefe. This event is not to be confused with an October 1981 incident directed against the same company by the Black Liberation Army and former Weather Underground members. It was carried out by an eleven man gang who bound and gagged five employees counting money, then agreed to hide the loot for six years until the statute of limitations had passed. For 10 points, name this January 17, 1950, robbery of over two million dollars from a Boston-based security company.

ANSWER: Great Brink’s Robbery

This man provided the English translation for a 1928 edition of Felix Salten’s novel *Bambi*. He wrote the famous 1945 article “The Ghosts on the Roof” about the Yalta conference and he would make fun of Ayn Rand in the *National Review* article “Big Sister is watching You.” This man once used the alias “George Crosley” and he was declared “a psychopathic personality” at a contentious 1949 perjury trial. The author of the autobiographical book *Witness*, he notoriously hid microfilm evidence in a hollowed-out pumpkin. For 10 points, name this former Soviet spy who later renounced Communism and implicated Alger Hiss.

ANSWER: Whittaker Chambers [or Jay Vivian Chambers; or David Whittaker Chambers]

This man promoted Project Chariot, a failed 1958 proposal to build an artificial harbor with military implications in Alaska, improving the state’s economic strength. In a *Wall Street Journal* article, this man claimed he “was the only victim of Three-Mile Island,” blaming a heart attack on Jane Fonda and her protests. He was ostracized by colleagues after testifying against J. Robert Oppenheimer at 1954 security clearance hearings. In 1999, this co-founder of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory threatened to throw a reporter out who called him “Dr. Strangelove.” For 10 points, name this Hungarian born physicist who worked with Stanislaw Ulam to develop the hydrogen bomb.

ANSWER: Edward Teller

This person was called an “apostle of degradation” by Colorado Senator Edwin Johnson, who advocated laws licensing performers based on their personal morality. This actress played a woman who murders an Italian fisherman in a film set on the title volcanic island. In the 1950’s, this star of *Stromboli* aroused scandal with her affair with Italian director Roberto Rossellini, tarnishing a career highlighted by movies such as Alfred Hitchcock’s *Notorious*. Her best known role was as a woman married to a resistance fighter who asks Sam to play “As Time Goes By,” startling Rick Blaine. For 10 points, name this Swedish actress, the star of *Casablanca*.

ANSWER: Ingrid Bergman

This man was nicknamed “the Senator from Madrid” for his virulent support of Francisco Franco. In *Pogo*, Walt Kelly mocked him as a mole obsessed with germs. This Senator claimed that the U.S. was “the oasis of the world” and “the last flickering light of humanity” in defending immigration legislation. This man was the first chairman of

the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee and was the chief sponsor of an act that required the American Communist Party to register with the Attorney General. For 10 points, name this Senator from Nevada, the namesake of Las Vegas' airport and who sponsored the 1952 Immigration and Nationality Act with Francis Walter.
ANSWER: Pat McCarran

This object is the study of the 1994 film *Relics*, in which Kenji Sugimoto embarks on a search for it. Steven Levy wrote an article about finding it in the possession of a man living in Wichita, who had been storing it in alcohol in two large mason jars. This object was studied by Princeton's Thomas Stoltz Harvey, who then preserved it, a controversial decision eventually given permission by the subject's son, Hans. Studies have claimed this object, now located in the National Museum of Health and Medicine, features an increased number of glial cells and larger regions involved with spatial processing. For 10 points, name this object removed after a physicist died in 1955.
ANSWER: Albert Einstein's brain

This politician had a very public affair with Ian Fleming's wife, Ann. This man was opposed to Britain joining the EEC, saying it would mean "the end of a thousand years of history" and was a decision "that needs a little care and thought." He represented his party's right wing in feuding with Aneurin Bevan. This man suddenly died in 1963 due to lupus, although some claim it was a plot engineered by his successor as party leader, Harold Wilson. His party lost the 1959 election thanks to the slogan "You never had it so good" developed by Harold Macmillan's party. For 10 points, name this man who succeeded Clement Attlee as leader of the Labour Party in 1955.
ANSWER: Hugh Gaitskell

\Alias or real name acceptable. Dr. James Brussel predicted this man lived with an older female relative and wore double-breasted suits. He was inactive during World War II due to his "patriotic feelings," and he wrote a letter to the *New York Journal American* saying he intended to strike back from beyond the grave if possible. This person signed his notes "F.P.," meaning "Fair Play." His motive was a lack of worker's compensation after suffering an accident while working for Con Edison. This man never killed anyone, but injured people at places like Radio City Music Hall and Penn Station. For 10 points, name this man who terrorized New York City for 16 years by placing various explosives in public places.
ANSWER: George Metesky or the Mad Bomber

In one of his film appearances, this man played a character who fights a deadly knife fight with a David Bowie played hitman. That movie was called *Into the Night*. He joined Bob Dylan to write the song "Champaign, Illinois." While driving to appear on the *Perry Como Show*, his car hit a pickup truck, fracturing his vertebrae. Along with Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Elvis, this man was part of the informal "Million Dollar Quartet." His biggest hit begins with the chant "it's one for the money, two for the show," before the shout "now go, cat, go!" For 10 points, name this rockabilly star whose best known song features a character warning the listener not to step on his "Blue Suede Shoes."
ANSWER: Carl Perkins

The namesake of this event was depicted in a cartoon as a student being forced to write "I will not call Mr. Campbell a dictator again." Andre Laurendeau wrote about it in an article claiming his "brother has been killed." This event began after an unpopular Saint Patrick's Day visit by the commissioner. It began a few days after an attack on Boston Bruins player Hal Laycoe and the attendant punishment, which many felt was disproportionately high due to the offender's French Canadian ethnicity. For 10 points, name this March 17, 1955 riot that began shortly after the namesake star player for the Montreal Canadiens was suspended for the year.
ANSWER: Maurice Richard Riot

This character notes that he doesn't claim to be a hero, but has health, education, and intelligence. Pete tells him a story about "one huge successful maggot." This character rapes Mary, the fiancé of Nathaniel, whom he murders with a flare gun. He names such places as "Safety Rock," "Food Cliff," and "Prospect Cliff," but at one point is horrified to realize that a rock is a perfect copy of one of his own teeth. The ending of the novel reveals that he is apparently dead, having drowned so quickly he had no time to kick off his sea boots. For 10 points, name this William Golding title character, a naval lieutenant who apparently survives the sinking of a torpedo destroyer.
ANSWER: Christopher "Pincher" Martin [accept any part]

Participants in this event were limited to only two black men and the main group trained at firing ranges while disguising themselves as businessmen interested in clay pigeon shooting. A key mistake during it involved people leaving their cars too early, believing they were inside a building instead of still outside the gate. The namesake of a building involved in it was best known for slaying the “barbarous” Miguel Perez Cespedes, and the date it took place on, July 26, inspired the name of a movement. After this event, its main participant used his time in prison to write the “History Will Absolve Me” speech. For 10 points, name this July 26, 1953 attack led by Fidel Castro on a military barracks.

ANSWER: attack on **Moncada** Barracks

This man is first seen talking to a woman wearing a new skirt as he tells her to stop walking in a “wavy” manner. This character is repulsed by another man singing “Paper Doll,” which he regards as effeminate. He lives in Red Hook and his story is told by the attorney Alfieri. He becomes furious when Rodolpho begins dating his niece Catherine. This character dies in a knife fight with Marco, and is last seen calling for his wife, Beatrice. He ultimately angers his family and neighbors after turning in two of his wife’s cousins to the Immigration Bureau. For 10 points, name this Italian-American longshoreman, the main character of Arthur Miller’s *A View from the Bridge*.

ANSWER: **Eddie Carbone** [accept either]

A 2001 film shares its title with this song and stars the Sprouse brothers and Corbin Bernsen, although Wikipedia claims it also stars “Foghorn Leghorn.” Its singer had to meet with the Boston archdiocese to reassure their fears about the song’s morality, even though the singer was only thirteen years old. Jimmy Boyd recorded the original version of this song, although Spike Jones released his own version as well as a parody in which one word was replaced with “screwing.” The singer notes “she didn’t see me creep down the stairs to have a peek.” For 10 points, name this Christmas song about a woman smooching someone dressed as Old Saint Nick.

ANSWER: **“I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus”**

This man directed a film starring cartoonist Bill Mauldin as a soldier; that film was a butchered adaptation of *The Red Badge of Courage* starring actual veteran Audie Murphy. In one of this man’s films, “Doc” Riedenschneider is arrested when he tarries too long to watch a girl dance in a diner. He is not Stanley Kubrick, but he directed a caper film which ends with Dix Handley dying in a Kentucky horse farm. That film was *The Asphalt Jungle*. His best known 1950’s film is about missionary Rose Sayer’s relationship with scruffy captain Charlie Allnut and is titled *The African Queen*. For 10 points, name this director better known for such films as *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre* and *The Maltese Falcon*.

ANSWER: John **Huston**

This man reportedly said “I’ll get rid of my Italians when you get rid of yours” when talking to an ambassador with an Italian wife and defending having Italian servants during World War II. This man had a massive coin collection, and after he left his country, Fred Baldwin was hired to catalogue all of it. While living abroad in his later years, he may have married opera singer Irma Minutolo. The CIA plotted to overthrow him in Project Fat Fuck, a reference to his nearly 300 pound weight, but he was ultimately toppled by the Free Officers Movement under Muhammad Naguib and Gamal Abdel Nasser. For 10 points, name this Egyptian monarch overthrown in the Revolution of 1952.

ANSWER: **Farouk I**

A character in this story uses the example of Sven, a man who takes care of a gym, dreaming about his dog dying. Another character, Myron, is made fun of by Booper for not knowing what backgammon is. The title character writes “be nicer to librarian” in his journal and claims to be the reincarnation of an Indian man, reflecting his belief in Vedantic Karma. This story ends with Nicholson hearing a scream coming from a female child, perhaps suggesting that the title character, as he predicted, has died after being pushed into an empty pool. For 10 points, name this J.D. Salinger short story in which a graduate student talks to the title child genius aboard a ship.

ANSWER: **“Teddy”**

This politician’s party won one election when rival Arthur Calwell was photographed waiting for a conference of “faceless men” to announce policies. He talked about the middle class in his 1942 speech, “The Forgotten People,” and was mocked by rival Earle Page for failure to serve in World War I. This man was nicknamed “Pig Iron” and described himself as “British to the bootstraps” in his support of Elizabeth II. Succeeded by the former treasurer of his own party, he was committed to support the Vietnam War. This man led his country into World War II, and his

second stint leading his country ended when he was succeeded by Harold Holt. For 10 points, name this longest-serving Prime Minister of Australia.

ANSWER: Sir Robert Gordon **Menzies**

The sweet Nicholas Cullather book *Secret History* is, appropriately enough, a secret history of this event, while the Gore Vidal novel *Dark Green, Bright Red* fictionalizes it in the made-up country of Tenango. Operation WASHTUB was a sub-component of it involving the planting of a false collection of arms. Edward Bernays was hired to brand one participant in this event as a Communist. It was motivated by the passing of Decree 900, a piece of agrarian reform legislation, which angered the United Fruit Company. For 10 points, name this event in which the CIA overthrew leftist Jacobo Arbenz Guzman, the president of a Central American country.

ANSWER: 1954 **Guatemalan coup** [or Operation **PBSUCCESS**]

This character claims she owns three blocks downtown and has oil “pumping, pumping, pumping” in Bakersfield. She first confuses the protagonist for a funeral director attending to her pet chimpanzee. She plays bridge with “waxworks” played by H.B. Warner and Buster Keaton, and hires an editor to revise her terrible script about Salome. This character receives fake fan mail written by her devoted butler Max, played by Erich von Stroheim. As she is taken away after killing screenwriter Joe Gillis, she infamously tells Cecil B. DeMille she is ready for her close-up. For 10 points, name this Gloria Swanson played character, the insane movie actress in *Sunset Boulevard*.

ANSWER: **Norma Desmond** [accept either]

This speech begins with the speaker taking pride that the setting “represents human liberty in the purest form yet devised,” a “forum of legislative debate.” Afterwards, Dewey Short said “we heard God speak here today,” while another man was quoted referring to it as “a bunch of damn bullshit” in a David McCullough book. While the speaker says he advocated destruction of enemy bases north of the Yalu River, he insists he never advocated for a ground attack in China. Its most famous section quotes an old ballad in saying “old soldiers never die, they just fade away.” For 10 points, name this April 19, 1951 speech given by a man recently removed from command in Korea.

ANSWER: Douglas **MacArthur’s farewell address** to Congress

A man to hold this title angered his subjects by marrying the Englishwoman Mary Lilian Bael and drafted a controversial *Political Testament* calling any Allied entrance into his country an “occupation,” not a liberation. That man’s attempt to reclaim this title led to mass protests where citizens unveiled slogans like “It is better to separate than to submit.” After a violent general strike in 1950, it went to the youthful Baudouin. While holding this title, Baudouin was dissed by Patrice Lumumba during the independence ceremonies for the Republic of the Congo. For 10 points, name this royal title held throughout World War II by Leopold III.

ANSWER: **King of the Belgians** [or **king of Belgium** or whatever]

This man was accused of giving Karl August Wittfogel a “knowing smile.” In 1952, he was indicted on perjury and defended by Abe Fortas, although all the charges were thrown out by Judge Luther Youngdahl. Louis Budenz told the Tydings Committee that this man was a secret Communist. From 1934 to 1942, he edited the journal *Pacific Affairs* and wrote such books as *The Situation in Asia*. This man’s brother, Richmond, is noted for his translations of various Greek classics. For 10 points, name this longtime scholar of China, best known for being accused of being “the top Russian espionage agent in the U.S.” by Joseph McCarthy.

ANSWER: Owen **Lattimore**

In a *Better Homes and Gardens* review, political science professor Frederick Schuman claimed this book brought “a message of hope.” Joseph Augustus Winter wrote the introduction to it, and then later wrote a criticism of it after having a falling-out with the author. Post 1967 editions of this book feature a cover with an exploding volcano, a reference to billions of people being killed by hydrogen bombs. It claims “the dynamic principle of existence” is “Survive!” Originally outlined in an article for *Astounding Science Fiction*, this book promotes “auditing” techniques that would get rid of cellular recordings called “engrams” stored in one’s mind. For 10 points, name this book by L. Ron Hubbard, the key text of Scientology.

ANSWER: **Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health** [or **DMSMH**, prompt on **Book One**]

In a 1991 film that earned a 0% rating on Rotten Tomatoes, this man is played by Patrick Dempsey, with Christian Slater playing his main associate. He worked with Vincent Alo in setting up businesses in Hallendale, Florida; Alo would later inspire a fictional character strangled by a wooden coat hanger named Johnny Ola. This man set up a

casino in the Hotel Nacional overlooking the fortress El Morro, an idea endorsed by Fulgencio Batista. Despite fleeing to Israel in 1970 to avoid tax evasion charges, he was deported two years later. He was the inspiration for Hyman Roth in *The Godfather: Part II*. For 10 points, name this Belarusian-born mobster, known as the “Mob’s Accountant.”

ANSWER: Meyer Lansky [or Meyer Suchowljansky]

This novel was partially inspired by the murder of Eugene Karp in February 1950. Promotional campaigns for it referenced Anthony Eden recuperating at the author’s estate in 1956. Featuring a .38 Smith & Wesson on its cover, it ends with the protagonist falling to the floor after being kicked by a poisoned blade hidden in a killer’s shoe. Listed as one of John F. Kennedy’s ten favorite books, this novel features a protagonist targeted for his role in defeating Mr. Big, Hugo Drax, and Le Chiffre by an organization whose members include Red Grant and Rosa Klebb. For 10 points, name this novel which inspired the second James Bond film, in which the title character is lured by SMERSH to Turkey.

ANSWER: *From Russia with Love*

A probably apocryphal story claims this man’s corpse was placed in a cellophane bag with herbs, which caused the body’s nose to fall off. His doctor, Riccardo Galeazzi-Lisi, created a scandal by publishing photos of this man’s dead body. He appears as an aristocratic villain in Rolf Hochhuth’s play *The Deputy* and is the prime subject of Susan Zuccotti’s book *Under His Very Windows*. While he decried the thousands who “have been consigned to death or to a slow decline” in a 1942 Christmas address, the Yad Vashem memorial highlighted his “his silence and absence of guidelines.” He was sharply criticized for his inaction in the John Cornwell book *Hitler’s Pope*. For 10 points, name the pope during World War II.

ANSWER: Pius XII [or Eugenio Maria Giuseppe Giovanni Pacelli]

This man’s only book was entitled *Here I Stand*, which was dedicated to his wife Eslanda. His comments indirectly led to the 1949 Peekskill Riots protesting his performance. This man effectively retired from films after objecting to playing Ethel Waters’ husband in *Tales from Manhattan*. A two-time All-American at Rutgers, he was selected as greatest end ever by Walter Camp. In 1949, Jackie Robinson said this man “has a right to his personal views” and to “sound silly” in public if he wanted to. He starred in the lead role of *Emperor Jones* on the screen and played Joe in the first film version of *Showboat*. For 10 points, name this African-American actor and social activist, who was blacklisted and denied a passport in the 1950’s.

ANSWER: Paul Robeson

This location was created to replace Rockview University. In 2002, a write-in contest named a computer whiz character who lived here, Chip Gizmo. A bumbling authority figure here has two secretaries named Blips and Buxley, while other residents include the farm boy Zero, the officious Fuzz, and the African-American Flap. The most famous resident of this place is the brother of Lois Flagston. It was based on a real location called Crowder where Mort Walker lived for a time. The most notable denizens of this place are General Halftrack and Sergeant Snorkel. For 10 points, name this military camp where the comic strip *Beetle Bailey* is set.

ANSWER: Camp Swampy