

John Jackson...

"Speaking of Little Known or Long-Forgotten Gems..."

It was Sunday, November 6, and five buses made their way through the mountains of central Pennsylvania. On four of these buses, the Erie-bound passengers, Behrend students on the way home from a fun-filled weekend at University Park, were catching up on the sleep they had missed the night before. But on the fifth bus, a lively contest was being waged. Ten of the illustrious passengers and a competent judge were engrossed in a wit-taxing trivia match.

"How many seeds does a naval orange have?" the girl from Team A queried the opposition.

Team B huddled around its captain. After fifty seconds (they are allowed sixty) of careful consultation, the captain of team B spoke up, "Uh, none!?"

"Oh, *@#&/#4%#" the befuddled jeune fille slumped into her seat a little farther as she received chastising looks from her teammates for giving the other team such an easy question and the sang froid judge added three points to Team B's total.

Team B then offered this question to be pondered by Team A: Who played the role of Nick Charles in the erstwhile TV show, "The Thin Man?"

Sixty seconds later, the best answer Team A could come up with was

"that guy in Lawrence of Arabia, Peter...uh...O'Reilly...no...O...O...O..."

"O'Toole? Close. 'Twas Peter Lawford, old chap."

Team B's players took a deep breath and primed themselves for the next question to be posed by Team A.

After two exhausting hours of digging up little-known or long-forgotten data, the combatants took a hiatus and readied themselves for another match. To say that the teams were booked for a contest between halves of the Rose Bowl is overstating the case a bit, but suffice it to say that this fascinating new method of venting frustration upon the opposition has become almost accepted by the intellectuals and pseudo-intellectuals of the campus, needing only perhaps an explanation of the procedures to be universally "in" (or "out" depending upon the degree of conformity in the individual).

Two teams, of a fixed number, pose questions alternately; each team gets points only by correctly answering the questions. The questions are rated on a 1 to 5 point scale by a neutral judge. The judge also okays the pertinence of the question to the assigned topic. A match consists of ten or fifteen of these each-team-ask-a-question segments, or rounds. At the end of the game, the team with the most number of points wins.

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