

TRIVIA ALL-STARS SCRIPT
May 15, 2020, 10:30 – 11:15 PM

Good evening! My name is Tom Gardner from the Class of '79 -- friend of Rich, father of Allie, and a member of BOMO for 46 years now, starting with the December, 1973 contest, when I was a junior in high school and my brother Steve, Class of '75 invited me up to Williams to play.

Listening to Rich, it's all coming back to me, because he brought me back to that first contest with his set – Dr. Strangelove, Ensign Pulver's pillows and so much more.

BOMO has won four contests over the years, beginning with that very same December of '73 contest, two more when I was an undergrad in 1976 and 1978, and then one more for good measure in this millennium, in 2012, in a family affair with Allie, Wendy, Kristy and a few others. And I was there for all four of them.

So in my 50-minute slot I'll be offering questions and songs from the three early contests from the '70s and will leave the 21st century to others, with some info and anecdotes along the way.

My questions are sourced from the six great trivia realms of that era: Movies, TV, Sports, Comics, Advertising, plus Williamsiana -- the common ground of pop culture terrain of our time, everything that could fit into a cozy world of modest bandwidth: three broadcast television stations, AM radio, four sports leagues, DC and Marvel comics and one college campus.

One note – we did not match the trivia with the songs in those days, but I've made some effort to do some thematic song-matching on just about every question.

Note that the bonus is now up. Or should be! This bonus is from our Dec 1976 contest – it actually was the 12-4 superbonus, but it looks more like a modern bonus so I thought it would work.

And let me read our Action Bonus. We want you to do four things – imitate Sadaharo Oh's homer run swong, with which he hit 858 homers in his career in Japan; then Tom Dempsey kicking his 63-yard field goal; then NBA great Rick Barry shooting a free throw; and finally, and most dangerously, Bobby Orr scoring his Stanley Cup winning goal in 1970.

On to our first question.

- 1. From Dec 1978. Realm:** Movies
Subrealm: Leave the gun, hold the cannoli

Question: From "The Godfather," the movie trivia gift that keeps on giving. Everyone knows that the Godfather makes offers that others cannot refuse, but, in the first Godfather movie, what is the original "offer" – the one that gets the bandleader to release Johnny Fontaine from his contract? (Repeat)

Answer: OK times up! (Repeat Q) Michael Corleone tells the story to his wife, Kay, about the offer that could not be refused, which Michael relates it as follows: “Luca Brasi held a gun to his head, and my father assured him that either his brains or his signature would be on the contract.” That was Don Corleone’s way of getting the bandleader to let Johnny Fontaine to just walk away from the contract, and the song, of course, was that trivia classic...

Song: “Walk Away Renee” – by the Left Banke

BOMO was founded in early 70s by classmates Victor Abnee and David Gundlach, both of the class of '74, both dearly departed. They were known as Peemo and Gunny, and their friends, including my brother Steve, created a trivia powerhouse.

Now about the name. Legend has it that one night some BOMO’s were inhaling... and the only food product around to help them with their munchies was Bonomo Turkish Taffee. And they were apparently so thrilled to discover it, that they chanted the name of the product over and over and over again. But they were too stoned to render all three syllables coherently, and so they were mumbling BOMO, not Bonomo, and that evening inspired them to name their trivia team BOMO. And so it has been ever since, resisting the name changing phenomenon that since become a staple of trivia participants.

2. **From Dec 1976. Realm:** Television

Subrealm: For all you graduates of Prinstone U.

Question: Please sing the "Flintstones" theme song, and I am specifically looking for the version that opened the show, not the one that closed it. (Repeat)

Answer: (Repeat Q) "Flintstones, meet the Flintstones / They're the modern stone-age family / From the town of Bedrock / They're a case right out of history / Let's ride with the family down the street / Through the courtesy of Fred's two feet / When you're with the Flintstones / Have a yabba dabba doo time / A dabba doo time / You'll have a gay old time." Now the Flintstones were, of course, the first animated series to be given a prime time slot on TV, and they were a Friday night staple for most of their six years on the air – so during the week, waiting for the Flintstones, you had Friday on your mind...

Song: "Friday on My Mind" – Easybeats, and that one goes out to Werts, Steve Wertimer '77, who was the “Don” of BOMO when I arrived at Williams in September 1975, and I know he is out there listening tonight!

I believe BOMO was the largest team ever -- it was not uncommon to start trivia night with well over 50 people, all clad in gold t-shirts, with BOMO on the front in purple block letters and one’s “BOMO” name on the back, which often, but not always, ended in ‘o”, a la Peemo. My BOMO name was and is “Mot.” We would all gather in the Gladden House living room, with two set of phone banks set up in each section of that L-shaped space. There were boxes of World Almanacs, plus absolutely tons of munchies, and the famed BOMO song file, a manually compiled list of oldies with artists that I still have and still use. As midnight approached, in

the early years there were speeches and prayers to the trivia gods, and in the later years, as the time approached midnight, we would simply sing the theme song to Gilligan's Island.

3. **1976 - #52 --Realm:** Comics

Subrealm: I personally knew and know nothing about DC or Marvel Comics, so how about this one...

Question: From the comic strip "Doonesbury," what position does Zonker Harris play on BD's football team, that is, the Walden College team? (Repeat)

Answer: (Repeat Q) Uptight end. And the song was half a hint, and a pretty good one....

Song: "Uptight" – Little Stevie Wonder

4. **1978 -- #21. Realm:** Movies

Subrealm: Letters of Transit

Question: From "Casablanca" – almost every contest back then had a Casablanca question, so I had plenty to pick from....we would like to know the name of Rick's cafe in Paris, where he and Ilsa Lund spent such happy hours before the Germans spoiled the fun. (Repeat)

Answer: (Repeat Q) The café was called "La Belle Aurore" – and it was there where Rick told Ilsa they had to leave Paris immediately, as the Germans were close by, and he suggested that he pick her up later that day at her hotel after she gathered her things – but instead she suggests meeting at the train station. But when Rick gets to the train station, he discovers that...she's not there! And that song was....

Song: "She's Not There" – by the Zombies (first song of both our May, 1974 contest, the first one we ran, and our May, 2012 contest, the most recent one we ran)

5. **1974 -- #69. Realm:** Williamsiana

Subrealm: Several libraries later, it's still standing

Question: Alright, Stetson Library fans wherever you are...what are the five names that still appear on the south face of Stetson, over the door? (Repeat)

Answer: (Repeat Q) Homer, Goethe, Moliere, Cervantes, Franklin. I thought of playing "Spooky" by The Classics IV for some semblance of a match – you know, classics – but a wise man once told me, better to play a great song than force a match, so instead I went with....

Song: "Laugh Laugh" by the Beau Brummels

The Stetson Library question is a setup for the highpoint of my first contest December of 1973, when I was a high school junior, when my brother invited me up. By the way, if you want an excellent description of what contests were like in the old days, and a good read to boot, check out my Steve's article which focused on that contest. You can find it at the trivia archive site, at the bottom of the main page, it's called "Cosmic Trivia Awareness."

In that article, you'll find a recounting of the highlight of that night for me. The 3-4 PM bonus was a sports bonus, and it was actually not a very good one from a "megatons" standpoint. The running team, known as "The Great Imposter," wanted to know the names of the pitchers who had allowed Hank Aaron's first homer, his 100th, 200th, 300th and so on up to his 700th. There was no way to know this by just guessing among the hundreds of pitched Hank Aaron had faced, but I remembered that the New York Times that past summer, after Hank hit his 700th, had listed out that exact answer in a little box that accompanied the article. So, four of us headed to Stetson Library to go look at something called microfilm -- they had of every edition of the NY Times going back a century or so. Now we did not technically have to break into Stetson -- one of the four of us was Professor Paul Courtright of the Religion Department, and he had a key. So we headed deep into the catacombs, found the answer and raced back to Gladden to call it in.

6. **1974 -- #81. Realm:** Sports

Subrealm: A bad year for the Babe

Question: 1961 was a big year for the Yankees, a World Series championship year, in fact, and two Yankees also broke two of Babe Ruth's long-standing records. Everybody knows that Roger Maris hit 61 home runs that surpassed the Babe's 60 from 1927, albeit with an asterix for the 162 game season Maris required. But what World Series record of the Babe's was also broken that year, and who broke it?

Answer: (Repeat Q) Consecutive scoreless innings pitched; Babe was quite a pitcher, for the Red Sox in the 1920s, before he was sold to the Yankess. His record for World series scoreless innings was broken by Whitey Ford in 1961. (Total series: Babe had 29 2/3; Whitey had 33 2/3.), and I did not have much of a match here, but I just had to play...

Song: "Red Rubber Ball" -- the Cyrkle (the first song of our December, 1976 contest, the second one we ran), and which of course was a song written by Paul Simon, good trivia in its own right. And I'll dedicate that song to my BOMO friend and classmate, our music guru, the late Tom Soybel.

So after Peemo and Gunny graduated in 1974, leadership of BOMO fell to Allan Ruchman from the Class of '75, my brother's roommate for all four years at Williams. And when he graduated, and I arrived at Williams in the fall of 1975, BOMO was headed by Werts, Steve Wertimer '77 and Shailah Stewart from the Class of '77. They were both JA's, so between their entries and my own, the next

generation of BOMOs was born. In our 8 contests while undergraduates, we won two, and ran two, and came in second place the four other times.

And when Werts and Shailah graduated, the mantel fell to five of us, and I'd like to give a shout out to my classmates and BOMO friends Mitch Kitz, who I hope is listening as a member of Geezers on Stun, Bob Berry, Larry Pensack and Tom Soybel.

When we graduated, that was it for BOMO – there was no BOMO in the December '79 contest. We had one last hurrah when about 10 of us came back for the May, 1980 contest, and we came in fourth. And that was it for BOMO....for the next 20 years.

7. 1978 -- #82. Realm: Movies
Subrealm: Career Advice

Question: We've asked about The Godfather, we've asked one about Casablanca, so now we ask about the third movie megatonnage leader from those years, "The Graduate." And what we want to know is, exactly who is it that asks Ben to remember the word "plastics"? (Repeat)

Answer: (Repeat Q) Mr. McGuire.

Song: "Eve of Destruction" by another Mr. McGuire, Barry McGuire, and those of you who knew that might have taken that for the clue that it was intended to be.

BOMO won four of our Williams trivia contests, but we actually won a few more. In my time at Williams, there was a similar trivia contest at Amherst. Since my girlfriend, Wendy, who is now my wife and is sitting here next to me, was a student at Amherst, a small group of BOMOs would head down to visit her, set up shop in her room, to take on the then Lord Jeffs. We entered the first five Amherst contests – we came in second in the first one, in April of '77, but won the second contest in November of 1977. There were two great things about winning the Amherst contest – one was that you did not have to run the next contest, and the other was that you won an actual prize, and it was a great prize – seven large pizzas and a keg of beer. I'd forgotten this, but a Williams Record article, written by Tom Soybel, on our exploits notes that we donated those prizes to our hosts, the two Amherst guys who ran the thing twice. And we came back and won again a year later. (1 minute)

8. 1976 -- #12. Realm: Television or the Movie, take your pick
Subrealm: The Pros from Dover

Question: From "M*A*S*H," we'd like to know the full character names of Hawkeye, Radar, and Trapper. (Repeat)

Answer: (Repeat Q) Benjamin Franklin Pierce, Walter O'Reilly, and John McIntyre. A question about names, so we matched it with...

Song: "The Name Game" by Shirley Ellis (which happened to be the first song in our December, 1978 contest, when we asked teams to call in and sing the song, using the word BOMO, which I will not do for you now)

So after 1980 I forgot about the trivia contest and moved on with my life. I honestly don't think I thought about the contest again for years. And finally sometime in 1999 I got the bright idea to google – or maybe it was yahoo or looksmart or some other search engine – anyway I typed in "Williams College Trivia Contest" – and what to my wondering eyes should appear but a link to the trivia archive page. I was literally stunned...first to discover the contest was still alive and well, and second to find all of our old contests there, notes I had written to other BOMOs, pictures of us cavorting in Gladden House in our yellow t-shirts! It was totally amazing to discover this treasure trove, detonating nostalgia all its own for me.

And this same feeling was felt just in the last few weeks by Dick Weinberg from the Class of '74, a trivia legend who found out about this All Star contest, and followed a link to the archive site – and gazed upon it for the very first time. And I don't think Dick has left the site since then! And I know how he feels.

So, naturally I checked in to the next contest, my Rip Van Winkle 20 years of trivia slumber over, and played again – alone, as BOMO, in the basement of my house. Over the years sometimes Wendy, Werts and Steve would join me, and in time my daughters became interested and trivia became a twice a year family affair. By 2012, we decided it was time to win one, and my daughters recruited some of their friends, so we had a team of about 12, and we won the contest. We then had the pleasure of running a "modern" contest.

So I will dedicate this next one to my wife, Wendy, and daughters Allie and Kristy, the core of BOMO 2012!

9. **1976 -- #109. Realm:** Movies

Subrealm: Who ARE those guys?

Question: In "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," we'd like to know, who was the leader of the superposse, and who was the tracker as they chased Butch and Sundance across the old west? (Repeat)

Answer: (Repeat Q) The leader was Joe Lefors (whose trademark is a white straw skimmer); and the tracker was known as Lord Baltimore. And, of course, our heroes were desperately running away from Lefors, Baltimore and the rest of "who are those guys", so we thought that a little Runaway by Del Shannon was in order

Song: "Runaway" -- Del Shannon

10. 1974 – Realm: Sports

Subrealm: Dedicated to my brother, Steve, who just might be out there, listening to this, who introduced me to Trivia 46 years ago.

And, appropriately, this one involves Steve. I'm actually morphing a Bonus question that was asked by General Bumble in the December, 1974 contest. I wasn't even at this contest; at the time I was a senior in high school, and fast asleep at home. And the bonus question my brother and his BOMO sports mavens were working on was to name the stadiums that 10 professional sports teams had occupied before moving into their more modern current stadium, current as of 1974.

Now in those days, bonuses were all or nothing propositions. You had to get every part of the bonus correct to get all 5 points, or you received no points at all. BOMO was trailing the House of Gee in that Dec 1974 contest and badly needed this bonus. And by 4:50 AM or so, the BOMO contingent had collectively recalled 9 out of the 10 stadiums, like the LA Coliseum, the former home of the Dodgers before they moved into Chavez Ravine, and Colt 45 Stadium, home of the Astros, or Colt 45's, before they were the Astros in the Astrodome. But the one stadium they could not remember was the original home of the AFL's San Diego Chargers.

So my brother, in desperation, called me up at my parents' house just before 5 AM. My father – who I'm sure was not too happy to receive a call at such a time – woke me up and told me Steve was on the phone. I was naturally quite groggy. But I could feel the urgency in Steve's voice as he asked me, what was the name of the original stadium of the San Diego Chargers? And then he started to tell me where to find a book on the old AFL that was in our house. But I interrupted him because -- I knew the answer. And when I said it, I could hear the screaming on the other end of the phone as the entire living room in Gladden House exploded -- because I knew the answer off the top of my head at five o'clock in the morning. And that was quite a moment.

So, I ask you. What was the San Diego Chargers' original stadium?

Answer: And I will not repeat my long story, but the answer to the question, what was the San Diego Chargers original stadium was, of course, Balboa Stadium

Song: And the song, of course, was "Five O'Clock World" by The Vogues, my favorite trivia song of them all. As many of you know I have tried hard to institutionalize the playing of "Five O'Clock World" at 5 AM, either as the song paired with a question, or, alone, as a short break. I'm playing it now, around 11 PM, for a specific reason. And that reason relates to the 100th contest, which was brilliantly and singularly run by the legendary Des Devlin and Dom Grillo in May 2016. I had told Des earlier in the week that because that weekend was Allie's graduation from her doctoral program, I could not stay up all night to hear all of his sure-to-be-fantastic efforts. And so Des, kindly, played Five O'Clock World at 11 PM in my honor, explaining that it was indeed 5 AM – in Tonga! (1 minute)

So with that I will turn it over to Dave Letzler and Laurie Brink...