

# Trivia: Not so trivial after all

## Question-and-answer craze spreads from reading to all-night recreation



The word trivia is becoming a contradiction of itself.

Trivia is defined as something of very little importance, but suddenly it is moving in and taking over people's lives.

Several years ago, trivia buffs began multiplying; the number of books, encyclopedias and guides satisfying their hunger for little-known facts of interest also grew.

Then came Trivial Pursuit.

Now trivia buffs and game lovers alike will sacrifice food and rest to finish a marathon session of this question-and-answer game. Then they begin another one without pause.

As if that's not enough, game and toy stores soon will have to build more shelves to house Trivial Pursuit and its many "copycats." To the producers of these popular pastimes, the business of trivia is anything but trivial; some gross as much as \$45 per sale.

Take, for instance, Kenny Rogers' The Record Game, the highest priced trivia game at Eugene's Endgames on the downtown mall. Few people probably know how much Rogers makes off the game, but he doesn't even chime in on the enclosed record giving game instructions. At least that's what the store's co-manager, Diane Loos, said.

At Endgames, Rogers' price is the only one to top Trivial Pursuit, which sells for \$34.95, about \$5 more than at stores like Payless and J.C. Penney. Loos said Endgames' price is higher because it has to pay a separate freight charge to the New York distributor.

But apparently, the high cost of trivia isn't scaring anyone away. Endgames generally sells an order of 1,000 Trivial Pursuit games in one week, Loos said. In fact, the store was out of the game that day.

Other offerings may be equally entertaining or educational, Loos said, but they just don't sell as fast because they are copycats.

"It's amazing that some of these games are real good, but no matter what we say about them or how we try to sell them, people shake their heads and say, 'It's not Trivial Pursuit,'" she said.

Loos' favorite is Time magazine's The Game, which sells for \$29.95 at most stores. "It's not so heavy-duty trivia," she said. "There's three different levels (of skill) and there's more to do on the board."

In addition, the questions are more educational and informational, not as "corny" as Trivial Pursuit's, she said.

Regardless, Trivial Pursuit remains at the top of the list — not only at Endgames, but at another local specialty game shop in the Fifth Street Public Market.

Parlour Games sells its Trivial Pursuit orders in less than a week (for \$29.95 each) and was out of the game from July until early September, co-owner Frances Krumdieck said.

Krumdieck seemed a little irritated by all of the versions modeled after Trivial Pursuit. "They're killing it, really," she said. "It's such a good game. But people are hanging in there waiting for Trivial Pursuit."

Parlour Games also has sold a lot of Time's game, and customers have returned to the store to praise the game's current-events focus, Krumdieck said.

students, as players question-and-answer their way through "trivia tech," advancing from freshman through senior status with a declared major and minor. And it sells for less than the cost of tuition, only \$34.50 at Endgames.

The Super Quiz editions, which sell for \$30 at Parlour Games, are popular with trivia lovers who aren't so fond of board games, Krumdieck said. They offer players pure trivia — no board.



On the opposite end of the scale, some games emphasize the board and go light on the trivia. And there are countless games in between. Travel Trivia. Teen Trivia. Biblical Trivia. Celebrity Trivia. They're even getting smart enough now to sell sets of cards that "Can be used with other trivia boards."

The craze is so widespread now, even bookstores are getting in on it. Waldenbooks, in Valley River Center, carries a full section of trivia games to go with its trivia books.

At that store, People magazine offers "The Trivia Game with Personality from Parker Brothers" for \$24.95 and the television show Entertainment Tonight has its own product for \$19.95.

Needless to say, Trivial Pursuit is there, too, along with the books "Winning at Trivial Pursuit" and "Questions: The Perfect Companion to Your Trivia Games," both for \$3.95.

Super-serious competitors can spend as much as \$9.95 at Waldenbooks for up to 798 pages of trivial advice. Sorry, trivia advice.

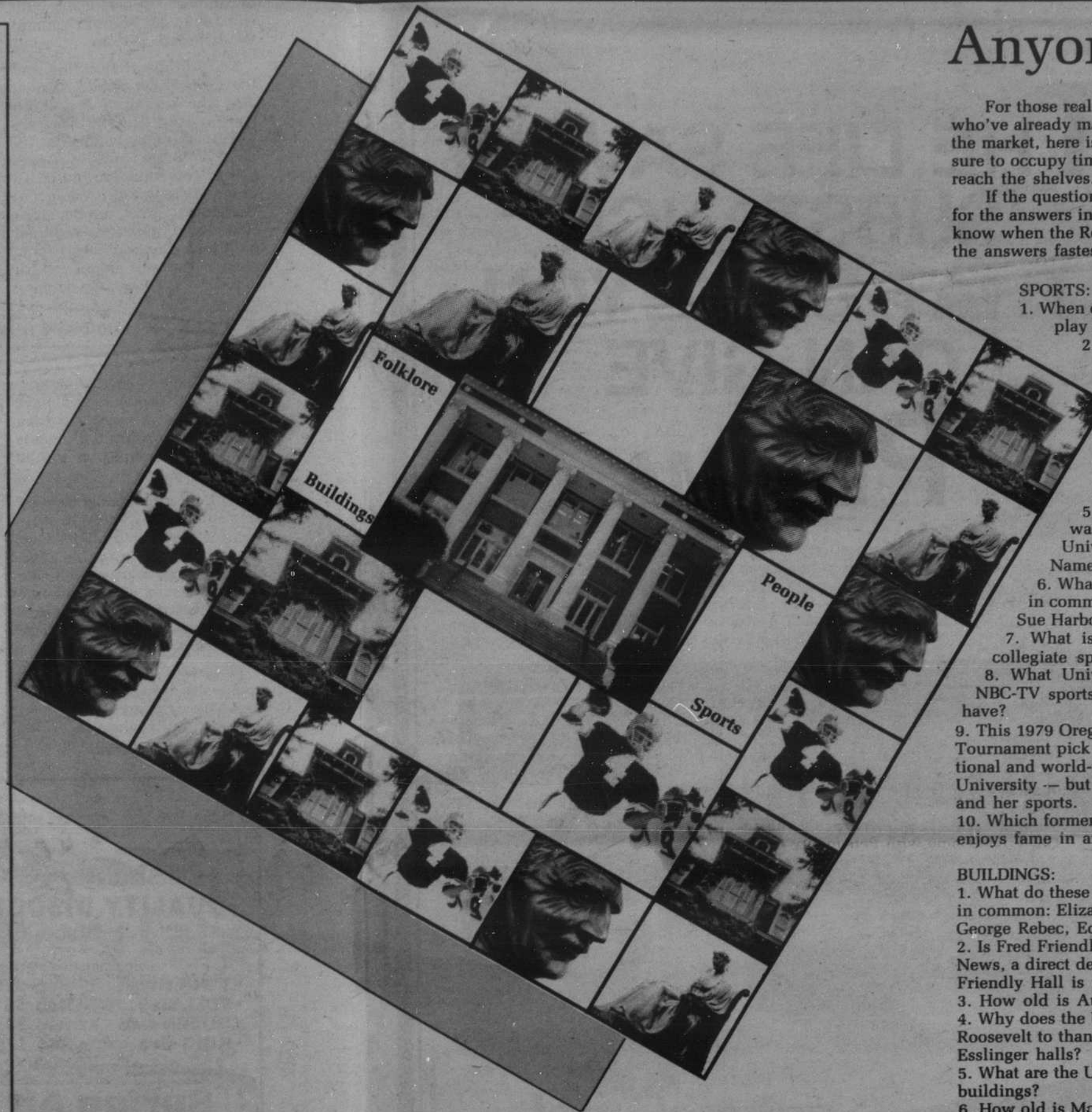
The Avalon Hill version sounds perfect for college

Story by Michele Matassa



Two other popular preoccupations at Endgames and Parlour Games are Avalon Hill's Trivia Game and Isaac Asimov's Super Quiz and Super Quiz II.

The Avalon Hill version sounds perfect for college



## Anyone can get in on the game

For those real hard-core trivia experts who've already mastered every trivia game on the market, here is a list of University trivia sure to occupy time until the new game models reach the shelves.

If the questions become too difficult, look for the answers in this section. Readers who know when the Romanovs were killed will find the answers fastest.

### SPORTS:

- When did the Duck football team last play in a bowl game? Which game?
- Name three Duck basketball letter-winners who played on a 1984 Olympic team.
- Did world-class runner Mary Decker attend the University?
- Which football lineman of the early 1940s today occupies a high state office?
- Renowned author Ken Kesey was a star athlete at the University during the 1950s. Name his sport.
- What do those three women have in common: Heidi Eakin, Lisa Gemoya, Sue Harbour?
- What is the oldest women's inter-collegiate sport at the University?
- What University background does NBC-TV sports commentator Ahmad Rashad have?
- This 1979 Oregon AAA basketball All-Tournament pick from Corvallis went on to national and world-wide athletic fame while at the University — but not in basketball. Name her and her sports.
- Which former University shot putter now enjoys fame in another sport?

### BUILDINGS:

- What do these former University deans have in common: Elizabeth DeCou, Colin Dymont, George Rebec, Edwin Robbins, Henry Sheldon?
- Is Fred Friendly, former president of CBS News, a direct descendant of the man for whom Friendly Hall is named?
- How old is Autzen Stadium?
- Why does the University have Franklin D. Roosevelt to thank, in a way, for Chapman and Esslinger halls?
- What are the University's two oldest campus buildings?
- How old is McArthur Court?
- Who was Donald Erb, for whom the Erb Memorial Union is named?

- Was the Bookstore located on the second floor of Condon Hall before being moved to its current site?
- Where was the library located before it was moved to its present building?
- Where did University football teams play Eugene home games prior to construction of Hayward Field?

### PEOPLE:

- Which 1962-63 ASUO president became a member of Pres. Jimmy Carter's cabinet?
- Who was John Wesley Johnson?
- How was the late Sen. Wayne Morse important to the University?
- Was Oregon attorney general Dave Frohnmayer a member of the University law school faculty before entering politics?
- Which of these recent Oregon governors did not attend the University: Paul Patterson, Robert Holmes, Mark Hatfield, Tom McCall?
- A University administrator and a faculty member were part of the Manhattan Project, which developed the first atomic bomb. Name them.
- Was Sandra Good, a member of mass killer Charles Manson's "family," a University graduate?
- What actor attended the University and later won fame with his portrayal of a disc jockey on a recent popular television series?
- A one-time University student won hearts in the early 1960s with his portrayal of a crotchety old uncle on another CBS-TV sitcom. Who was he? (Hint: it wasn't Uncle Charlie...)
- Bonus question (for the over-21 set only): Who is Irene?

### FOLKLORE:

- What was the traditional method of painting the 'O' on Skinner's Butte?
- Where did old-time graduating seniors toss pennies for good luck?
- Explain the "Dry Zone."
- What was meant by "pigging"?
- What campus site is known world-wide as a horse's death chamber?
- What was a popular form of freshman punishment for breaches of tradition?
- Who was Puddles?
- Which students were allowed to smoke on campus before the 1930s?
- What campus building was known as the "Igloo"?
- What area often is regarded as the "old campus"?

Compiled by Mike Sims

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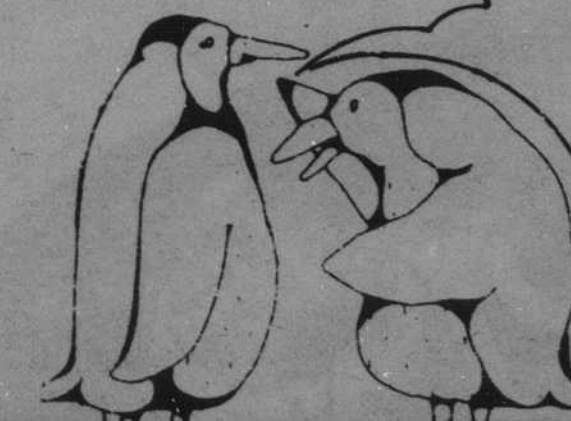
## Q: How do you spell PRESBYTERIAN?

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- "Enter the Story...": Our fall term retreat theme.
- "Peacemaking": Practical Politics... An evening study.
- A "Home away from home."

## A: ALL OF THE ABOVE!



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