

## Sawbones 367: Revenge of the Sawbones Quiz

Published 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021

[Listen here on themcelroy.family](https://themcelroy.family)

**Intro (Clint McElroy):** *Sawbones* is a show about medical history, and nothing the hosts say should be taken as medical advice or opinion. It's for fun. Can't you just have fun for an hour and not try to diagnose your mystery boil? We think you've earned it. Just sit back, relax, and enjoy a moment of distraction from that weird growth. You're worth it.

[theme music plays]

**Justin:** Hello everybody, and welcome to *Sawbones*! A marital tour of misguided medicine. Me? I'm your cohost, Justin McElroy!

**Sydnee:** And I'm your other cohost, Sydnee McElroy.

**Justin:** And, uh, Syd, it is the second episode of this year's Maximum Fun Drive.

**Sydnee:** That's right.

**Justin:** The Max Fun Drive, if you're, uh...

**Sydnee:** [laughs] If you're cool.

**Justin:** ... in a hurry.

**Sydnee:** If you're in—oh. I thought you meant, like, if you're in the know.

**Justin:** Yeah, if you're kinda plugged in and in the know, it's the Max Fun Drive. Uh, every year we come to you and say, "Hey, can y'all help us make these shows? 'Cause we literally can't do it without your help."` `

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Justin:** Um, and we're—the way it works is you go to [Maximumfun.org/join](https://Maximumfun.org/join), and then you say, "I can pledge five bucks a month for these shows. This is worth it to me. I can pledge ten dollars a month, maybe twenty dollars a month."

**Sydnee:** You like this stuff, you want to hear more of it, you want us to make it better?

**Justin:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** That's the way to do it.

**Justin:** Yeah. Uh, [Maximumfun.org/join](https://Maximumfun.org/join). When you go there, in addition to, you know, helping make these shows possible, you're also gonna get some gifts. Five dollars a month will get you over 200 hours of bonus content, chock full—

**Sydnee:** From all the shows.

**Justin:** All the shows.

**Sydnee:** Not just this great show, all the great shows.

**Justin:** From all the years! All of it.

**Sydnee:** Yes. Yes.

**Justin:** It's all waiting there for you. We can't make this show without you. This is how we pay our bills. And, you know, Jordan Morris, over at *Jordan, Jesse, Go!* uh, has a good metaphor. He says if you would tip a bartender for a drink, maybe tip a podcast that you enjoy. Buck a podcast, buck a drink, you know, that kind of idea.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Just, like, a tip! Here. Here's a tip. Thanks for—thanks for a podcast!

**Sydnee:** Hey, I'll take it. Yeah. I like it.

**Justin:** No matter what the metaphor, the address remains the same: [Maximumfun.org/join](https://Maximumfun.org/join). We'll talk more about it in the middle of the show. But right now, Syd, we have so special. You know me, I am so thrilled about this.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Justin:** I think it might've been my idea.

**Sydnee:** This was your idea.

**Justin:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Uh, I don't remember—this is the second—

**Justin:** Do you think it's too dark in here? Do you want more light?

**Sydnee:** Sure. This is the second time we've done this, actually, and I can't remember if it was your idea or my idea the first time around. Um, but either way, you were the one who suggested we repeat this for Max Fun Drive. So... welcome to the... I don't have a catchy name. I literally named this—

**Justin:** I'm sure you'll come up with one in the moment.

**Sydnee:** I named it *Sawbones* Quiz 2021.

**Justin:** You can do better than that. Come on.

**Sydnee:** Uh... the... *Sawbones*... trivia extravaganza—

**Justin:** Throw a super in there. Super—

**Sydnee:** Super *Sawbones*...

**Justin:** Hm.

**Sydnee:** Super Secret *Sawbones*?

**Justin:** Don't look at my face too much. You don't wanna read into it.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Just—just go with your gut. Super Secret *Sawbones*. S...

**Sydnee:** Quiz of...

**Justin:** Quiz.

**Sydnee:** ... interesting information to...

**Justin:** [quietly] Okay.

**Sydnee:** ... inform... and... enlighten...

**Justin:** We've gone off the DVD spine at this point.

**Sydnee:** And... [laughs]

**Justin:** The text is too big.

**Sydnee:** Entertain.

**Justin:** There's too much. It's an ac—

**Sydnee:** And impress your... friends. 2021.

**Justin:** —it's a really—it's a great acronym, folks. If you put all those letters together, it's hilarious. You're gonna lose it.

[music plays]

**Justin:** Um, yeah, this is the *Sawbones* Quiz, where Sydnee is going to ask a series of questions, and if you've been paying attention over the past, what, 12 calendar months?

**Sydnee:** It's about a year, yeah.

**Justin:** About a year.

**Sydnee:** They're mainly episodes that we did, actually, throughout 2020. I think I maybe got a couple at the end from the beginning of this year, but they're pretty much all from 2020. I know that you have all been aching to relive 2020. [laughs]

**Justin:** Yes. And here it is, your big—

**Sydnee:** In quiz form.

**Justin:** —your big shot to do just that. Uh, well, Syd, I'm thrilled. I'm—I can't wait. Let's—let's—let's g—now, if you—here's the great part about this. You, yes, *you*, can play along at home.

**Sydnee:** That's right. And these are, again, based on all of our episodes from the past year, so if you've listened, you may know some answers. It's okay if you don't though.

**Justin:** Yeah. It's fine.

**Sydnee:** This doesn't go on your permanent record.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** So, question number one.

[music plays in the background]

**Justin:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** William Cunningham, the most—

**Justin:** I wanna close—hold on.

[music ends]

**Justin:** I need to close my browser tab, 'cause I don't even wanna be—I don't even want the appearance of impropriety.

[music plays in the background]

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. The most—William Cunningham, the most famous of the grave-robbing ghouls of Cincinnati...

**Justin:** Mm-hmm?

**Sydnee:** ... allegedly did all of these heinous acts except one.

**Justin:** Was this one of the—this is, like, our last live show, right?

**Sydnee:** I believe show.

**Justin:** Oh my gosh. [sighs deeply]

**Sydnee:** Uh, which one?

So, he gave a smallpox victim to a group of medical students who tried to cheat him.

He *Weekend at Bernie's*'d a corpse when the cops happened by.

He attempted grave robbing even during the daytime.

Or, he mailed a corpse via American Express.

[music ends]

**Justin:** Okay. Um... I'm—I—I feel—

**Sydnee:** Which one did he *not* do?

**Justin:** This is hard, 'cause you did this one when I was actually in the throes of, like, that live energy.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Justin:** You know, that—that—the energy from the audience, that loop. The love, I guess you'd say, from, like, me to them, them to me, you to them, them to us, you between me—you know.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Justin:** So it's really hard to remember.

**Sydnee:** It's a very Chicago moment you're having here.

**Justin:** Umm... I would say—okay. I feel like I remember the American Express one. Um, you know what? I am going to say... B, the *Weekend at Bernie's* a corpse.

**Sydnee:** I am so sorry, but you are wrong.

[sad trombone plays]

**Justin:** Hey, good start.

**Sydnee:** He actually did do this.

**Justin:** Oh my God.

**Sydnee:** Uh, when the cops came by and he had a corpse in his carriage, he sat him up next to him and pretended he was just a really drunk guy.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** That's right! Uh, no. The correct answer was C, attempted grave robbing even during the daytime. Seems the least audacious.

**Justin:** Yeah, right?

**Sydnee:** Of—of these choices, but he actually didn't do that. He did stick to night time, and did all the other things.

**Justin:** So if you got that one right, get one point!

[bell dings]

**Sydnee:** Question two.

**Justin:** Will all these be worth one point? Do you have a sliding point scale?

**Sydnee:** I don't really have a sliding—

**Justin:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** No, because I have—I have harder ones and easier ones so that—I wanted everybody to feel good.

**Justin:** Okay. Alright.

**Sydnee:** You know.

**Justin:** I'm ready.

[music plays in the background]

**Sydnee:** All of these were acceptable items to apply to a wound in order to form laudable pus except one. Which?

So, if you remember, we used to think that when your wound got all smelly and covered in pus, it was a good thing. Because that was—

**Justin:** Mm-hmm. So we wanted that pus.

**Sydnee:** Yes, we wanted that. That's why it was laudable. It's part of the healing process. So, you could apply all of these things to form laudable pus except one. Which one?

Animal dung.

Honey.

Pigeon blood.

Hot irons.

Or, soap and water.

[music ends]

**Justin:** Animal blood... [pause] pigeon—

**Sydnee:** Animal dung.

**Justin:** Animal dung.

**Sydnee:** Honey.

**Justin:** Honey.



**Sydnee:** Pigeon blood.

**Justin:** Pigeon blood.

**Sydnee:** Hot irons.

**Justin:** Hot irons.

**Sydnee:** Soap and water.

**Justin:** I'm gonna say soap and water.

**Sydnee:** Justin, you are correct!

**Justin:** Bing, bing, bing, bing, bing!

[bell dings]

**Sydnee:** That's right! We did *not* recommend soap and water! What good was that if you want it to get all covered in pus?

**Justin:** Yes. Was that one of the easy ones to make people feel good?

**Sydnee:** Uh... I don't know. What do you think? [laughs]

**Justin:** I—I mean, I got it right, so probably yes. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It's so hard. I mean, I did the episodes, I put them together, and I was looking through my show notes to put together this, so it's—it's—

**Justin:** You love—you live this, you breathe it.

**Sydnee:** I mean, like, it all seems, you know, it doesn't seem as hard to me.

**Justin:** Yes.

[music plays in the background]

**Sydnee:** Question number three: what was the radical suggestion made by Ignaz Semmelweis to decrease the incidence of child bed or puerperal fever? What was his radical suggestion? I have choices, but you look like you—

**Justin:** I don't even need 'em!

**Sydnee:** —you look like you don't need 'em.

**Justin:** Don't even need 'em!

**Sydnee:** Okay. You don't need it. I know you know the answer.

**Justin:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** I can see it in your face. You want me to give the choices, though, for those playing along at home?

**Justin:** Of course, yes.

**Sydnee:** Your choices are A, a mustard and vinegar poultice; B, laxatives to balance the humors; C, wash your hands; or D, only deliver babies at night.

[music ends]

**Justin:** Um, I—I remember this, because we talked about it with—who did we talk about this with? Recently, do you remember?

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Justin:** We talked about Semmelweis recently.

**Sydnee:** And about the idea that washing your hands was...

**Justin:** Who did we talk about this to?

**Sydnee:** We were guesting on a show. Were we? Was that...

**Justin:** Oh, I think it was on, um, *Go Fact Yourself!*

**Sydnee:** Yes! Is that where we mentioned it?

**Justin:** I—f—maybe? I don't know! We're gonna be on *Go Fact Yourself*, uh, which is another Max Fun podcast, in a couple days, as you're hearing this. It's—you have to listen to it. If you like either one of us, listen to that episode of *Go Fact Yourself*.

I know the answer is washing your hands.

**Sydnee:** That's right.

[bell dings]

**Justin:** Which seemed very revolutionary at the time.

**Sydnee:** Yes, that's right. He was ostracized by all of the medical community. Um, spent the end of his life sort of being mocked and ridiculed. And then years later we went, "Hey. [laughs quietly] That was actually a good idea.

**Justin:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** Number four.

**Justin:** That's how I'm gonna be with Oak Island. When, like, people—I'll die, and people will be like, "We still haven't found it." And then a few years later they'll be like, "Hey, we did find the treasure on Oak Island. Justin has been right this entire time. Boy, there is egg on our proverbial faces."

**Sydnee:** You actually medically can never die, so...

**Justin:** Oh!

**Sydnee:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Cool!

**Sydnee:** I just decided that.

**Justin:** Oh, excellent! I've long suspected, but imagine my relief.

[music plays in the background]

**Sydnee:** Question number four: uh, no choices for this one. I'd say this is maybe a harder one, so I have a clue.

**Justin:** So no choices, okay.

**Sydnee:** What infectious organism—

**Justin:** [simultaneously] Monster.

**Sydnee:** —is named in honor of the two researchers who contracted it and died of it while studying it?

[music ends]

[pause]

**Justin:** And you said you had a clue. [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm.

**Justin:** On offer, available.

**Sydnee:** I have a clue.

**Justin:** Do I have to do a physical challenge to earn it?

**Sydnee:** The clue—the clue is, uh, Rickettsia prowazekii.

**Justin:** Rickettsia prowazekii?

**Sydnee:** There are so many science people who are like, "Well, now I know! Just give me the answer!"

**Justin:** Rickettsia prowazekii...

**Sydnee:** That's the scientific name.

**Justin:** Oh, of the thing.

**Sydnee:** Of the organism. Of the organism that causes...

**Justin:** [unintelligible muttering]

**Sydnee:** Want me to give you the answer?

**Justin:** Yeah, gimme a syllable. [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** Well, you started with "ty."

**Justin:** Typhoid fever.

**Sydnee:** Close, so close.

**Justin:** Typhus.

[bell dings]

**Sydnee:** Typhus, typhus!

**Justin:** Typhus.

**Sydnee:** Typhus. Named for Howard Ricketts and Stanislaus Prowazek, who both tragically perished of typhus while studying... typhus.

**Justin:** That's—that is a—that is a bad beat, but a legacy.

[music plays in the background]

**Sydnee:** Yes. Question number five: which of the following factors helped create the atmosphere that led to the cholera riots?

Was it A, there were no good treatments for cholera so those taken to the hospital often died; B, doctors had recently been arguing publicly that grave robbing was pretty okay; C, no one understood that it was spread by water and not miasma; D, one doctor misdiagnosed a woman in labor as having cholera; or E, all of the above.

[music ends]

**Justin:** Uh, okay. One more time. Give 'em to me one more time?

**Sydnee:** All of 'em again?

**Justin:** Yes, quickly! This e—thi—you—this should be my right as a contestant!

**Sydnee:** A, there were no good treatments for cholera so—

**Justin:** What's the question?

**Sydnee:** [sighs heavily]

**Justin:** What's the question?

**Sydnee:** Now you just have to guess.

**Justin:** [inhales] All of the above?

**Sydnee:** Yes.

[bell dings]

**Justin:** Here's a quiz-taking tip from me to you, kids.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Justin:** If somebody gives you an all of the above and there hasn't been an all of the above? Oh, it's all of the above!

**Sydnee:** Well, I just wanted to get in all the factors that led to the cholera riots, 'cause I thought that was a really interesting...

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** If you remember, nobody trusted the government.

**Justin:** And your hubris, your hubris led to a free point for the J-Man. I hadn't been keeping score. What are we at? How many have I gotten right?

**Sydnee:** I have no idea.

**Justin:** It's almost too many to count.

**Sydnee:** That was question number five, but I don't know. You missed one.

**Justin:** Well, I missed the last one, and I missed the first one.

**Sydnee:** Justin—

**Justin:** I think I've gotten three out of five.

[music plays in the background]

**Sydnee:** Question number six: where was the first anti-mask league formally founded, and in response to what illness?

[music ends]

**Justin:** Uhh... the first anti-mask league was in... oh, man. Was it San Francisco?

**Sydnee:** Yes!

**Justin:** Yes!

[bell dings]

**Sydnee:** And what was it in response to?

**Justin:** The S—the, uh... uh, the f... flu of 8—1910. 1919. 1918?

**Sydnee:** You got it!

**Justin:** There it is.

[bell dings]

**Sydnee:** Yes, the influenza pandemic of 1918! Sometimes—

**Justin:** I almost called it the Spanish—I almost called it the Spanish Flu.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Justin:** And that's why I was struggling, 'cause I didn't want to call it the Spanish Flu.

**Sydnee:** Sometimes misnomered the Spanish Influenza.

**Justin:** 'Cause it's not accurate.

**Sydnee:** Yes! Very good. Uh, in our episode that proved we have apparently hated masks since masks existed.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** We just... you know. [laughs] Some things never change.

[music plays in the background]

Uh, question number seven: where was the site of arguably history's deadliest parade.

**Justin:** That was—

**Sydnee:** I have choices.

**Justin:** Hmm... okay. Let me hear the choices. I'm pretty sure I know, but...

**Sydnee:** Philadelphia, Boston, St. Louis, or Huntington, West Virginia.

[music ends]

**Justin:** [laughs] The spider parade of Huntington, West Virginia, of 2016—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Justin:** —did claim a lot of, uh, innocent lives. But I—

**Sydnee:** There was also the parade that I stopped, so it could've been the answer.



**Justin:** Yes, when Sydnee stopped the parade for COVID—[snorts]

**Sydnee:** Huntington's Biggest Buzzkill.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Sydnee McElroy.

**Justin:** Um... [sighs] Philadelphia.

**Sydnee:** That's right!

[bell dings]

**Sydnee:** The Liberty Loan Parade in Philadelphia, uh, which did lead to a giant outbreak of the 1918 influenza pandemic there in Philadelphia. Boston did have a parade, not as deadly. St. Louis canceled their parade, so they didn't end up like Philadelphia.

**Justin:** Boston was a trick, right? 'Cause I remember some Boston discussion.

**Sydnee:** Boston was a trick, because Boston did have a parade, but it did not lead to the massive number of cases that the Philadelphia parade did.

[music plays in the background]

According to Dr. Duncan MacDougall—

**Justin:** [snorts]

**Sydnee:** —of Haverhill, Massachusetts, what is the weight of the human soul?

[music ends]

[pause]

**Justin:** 21 grams.

**Sydnee:** [sighs] I don't know if I should give this to you.

**Justin:** 20... grams?

**Sydnee:** 21...

**Justin:** 21...

**Sydnee:** Point...

**Justin:** Point...

**Sydnee:** 3 grams.

**Justin:** Uhh, you're gonna give that to me, guar-an-teed!

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Absolutely.

[bell dings]

**Justin:** You are giving that to me. They called the movie *21 Grams*, so you can't really fault me for that.

**Sydnee:** If you remember, this is from the episode where we talked about Dr. Duncan MacDougall, who did, indeed, try to find the physical weight, the actual, tangible weight of the human soul, by weighing people before and after they died. Bonus followup.

[saxophone sting plays]

How much, according to Dr. MacDougall, does a dog's soul weigh?

**Justin:** Well, dog years, divided by seven, so let's say three grams.

**Sydnee:** I am so sorry. According to Dr. MacDougall and his experiments... dogs have no souls.

**Justin:** Oh, that's right. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Justin:** Gosh. What a delightful episode I'm thrilled to revisit.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] He couldn't find any weight. Sorry.

**Justin:** Absolutely. But you're—I'm not even that bummed out about it, 'cause it was a bonus point, so it's not even that big of a deal.

[music plays in the background]

**Sydnee:** Question number nine: can you describe the second trauma theory for memory loss associated with head injury? What is the second trauma theory?

[music ends]

**Justin:** Oh! The second trauma theory, um, is that if you get bonked on the head once and it causes you to lose your memory, you can, as depicted in many Tom and Jerry skits, get bonked again and regain your memory.

[bell dings]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] That is exactly the second trauma theory that many people did believe for a long time, even though, uh, Francois Bichat who came up with it really had no evidence, or cases, or anything to back it up.

**Justin:** Just seemed good! [laughs]

**Sydnee:** This—this theory persisted for a long time before everyone finally agreed, no, no, head injuries are bad.

**Justin:** It's just like the frigging jukebox in *Happy Days*, right? If Fonzie just hits it the right way again, it'll start—start playing anew.

**Sydnee:** Whether an even number or odd number of head traumas, do not—do not intentionally sustain head trauma. Uh, Justin, question number ten, before we go to a quick break.

[music plays in the background]

Which surgeon general does Sydnee have a painting of hanging in her office?

[music ends]

**Justin:** Aw, this is a freebie. Do you wanna give people, uh—no, you've said it before on the show.

**Sydnee:** Well, I did a whole episode about this surgeon general, so I feel like there's a chance they'll know.

**Justin:** It is Joycelyn Elders.

**Sydnee:** That's right.

[bell dings]

Dr. Joycelyn Elders.

**Justin:** A hero.

**Sydnee:** My hero, yes, yes.

**Justin:** If I may be so bold.

**Sydnee:** I—initially this question was "Who was the best surgeon general?" And then I felt like—

**Justin:** [through laughter] That's wild!

**Sydnee:** Right, I felt like that was so subjective and not fair for a quiz. And, like, that's just my opinion.

**Justin:** Oh, and, like, who has the—who has the time to debate it, right? 'Cause you could go by so many different metrics.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Justin:** And it's like, also, everybody can weigh in on that and would love to.

**Sydnee:** So I went with something concrete and factual that I thought many people might guess.

**Justin:** So, that was question ten.

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh.

**Justin:** There was 11 points available, 'cause you had one bonus.

**Sydnee:** Yes.

**Justin:** So out of 11 available points, I'm sittin' pretty at 8. I'm feeling really good about this.

**Sydnee:** You're doing really—especially since you're a cohost of the show that this is based on. [laughs]

**Justin:** Yeah, but I'm looking—but when you're talking, I'm usually looking at, like, meters and stuff like that, and trying to think of great jokes to say.

**Sydnee:** Uh-huh.

**Justin:** So I think, like, if you listeners at home... like, get on my level I guess is what I'm saying. Um, but right now, before we get into anymore quizzing.

**Sydnee:** Right.

**Justin:** Which I—I'm very much enjoying, it is the time of the Maximum Fun Drive, and we are once again asking you to join with all the other Max Fun listeners in helping us support this great network. How does it work?

So, if you say, "I wanna give five bucks a month," it doesn't just go off into space somewhere. It gets distributed to the shows that you say you listen to. A small portion goes to Max Fun to help run the network, and then the rest of it just goes straight to the hosts, 'cause what makes Max Fun cool, as compared to a lot of other terrifying monolithic podcast networks—

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Justin:** —is it's all artist-owned, audience-supported, right? It's just people working together because it makes the most sense. It's a podcasting collective, if I may be so bold?

**Sydnee:** And we just like each other. We just—we have a good energy. [laughs]

**Justin:** Most, I would say most.

**Sydnee:** [laughs loudly] But that's why—

**Justin:** Um, I have a longtime feud with Mark Gagliardi. Everybody knows this.

**Sydnee:** Well, this is well-publicized. And that's why when you go to the link, when you go to donate, you can choose which shows you listen to, and we hope that if you're listening, you choose *Sawbones* among them.

**Justin:** There's other gifts, like we mentioned. Five bucks a month gets you 200 hours of bonus content, 200 *plus* hours of bonus content.

**Sydnee:** There's so much good stuff in there.

**Justin:** If you—but if you, uh, can do ten dollars a month, first of all, thank you. Second of all, you're going to get a beautiful Maximum Fun pin, um, which this is our last year for some time doing, like, these enamel pins. And every show has their own. I think ours has a horseshoe crab on it. It is very cool.

**Sydnee:** It's a very cute pin. They're all designed by Megan Lynn Cott.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** They're beautiful. You can pick any one you want. Um, it's so worth it.

**Justin:** And these gifts are available for new donors, but also upgrading. If you're sitting at five bucks a month and you can do ten, then you're gonna get a pin as a way of saying thank you.

If you're—if you can do 20 dollars a month, oh, wow. You're gonna get a take-a-minute tea kit, which lets you drink delicious tea created just for you by the Wishes Tea Company, uh, a special blend of Interstellar Orange tea, which is good hot, it's good iced, you'll get a rocket strainer and a tray for you to use. Or, you know what? If you wanna get a hat with the Max Fun logo on it, um, you can absolutely do that too. That is an option also at 20 dollars a month.

There's other gifts, like at 35 bucks there's a insulated cup, plus all the other stuff before it, but you're not in it for the gifts. I know you, listener. You love the stuff that you love, and you want it to keep happening. We've had such a lot of fortune from y'all who have supported us over the years. You've made it possible for this—this show used to be really, really tough. [laughs quietly] Especially once we had kids, used to be really, really tough to squeeze in.

**Sydnee:** To squeeze in to the few hours when I wasn't at work or raising children.

**Justin:** Yeah. It used to be, like, the 90 minutes or whatever sometimes that we'd have, or an hour some nights that we'd have together. Sydnee would—at night, before we fell asleep, Sydnee would have to spend every night, like, trying to research this show. And I think being able to scale back on hospital work as a result of this has, like, let you improve the show, do deeper topics, more in depth topics.

**Sydnee:** It really has. It's enabled us to do a lot more with *Sawbones* than I knew we initially could do, and I think it's made the show better. It's made it more interesting for you, more informative, hopefully more entertaining, because Justin's, like, more awake when we're doing it.

**Justin:** [laughs] Yeah. Um, it allows us to pay our wonderful editor Rachel Jacobs, who makes the show sound great week in and week out. Um, and it just—

**Sydnee:** And pay The Taxpayers for our theme song.

**Justin:** Yeah, that's right! And pay the tax man when he comes and dips his hand in our pocket every March 15th, thank you very much Joe Biden.

**Sydnee:** Taxes are our patriotic duty.

**Justin:** [laughs] Yeah, I love taxes. Everybody knows this. Uh, we're—we're—we're well-established on the subject of taxes.

**Sydnee:** We are pro-taxes.

**Justin:** Pro-taxes! [laughs] Pile 'em up! [wheezes]

**Sydnee:** Anyway, that's a weird note to hit—

**Justin:** [through laughter] That's a weird—[laughs loudly]

**Sydnee:** —in the middle of a medical history podcast and a pledge drive, but...

**Justin:** [sighs] Yeah, but [Maximumfun.org/join](http://Maximumfun.org/join) is our—they built the dam! The Hoover Dam was built by your tax—look at the bridge. Look outside at the bridge outside your dorm, folks.

**Sydnee:** You, too, can be part of something great right now, much like the Hoover Dam.

**Justin:** [wheezy laughter]

**Sydnee:** By joining our community—

**Justin:** Which was a terrible—actually a terrible—it claimed a lot of lives, and actually a pretty brutal undertaking. Anyway—

**Sydnee:** Oh.

**Justin:** —we are so off the beaten path. [Maximumfun.org/join](http://Maximumfun.org/join). Just go there, please. We really need you. Uh, we—we—if you don't go, we won't hit our goal, and we're ruined.

**Sydnee:** If you can't right now, if you could share our show, if you could, you know, on social media, wherever, tell a friend, something about what we do.

**Justin:** Tweet about what the network means to you, whatever.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. That helps, too. All of that really helps, and we so appreciate it if you are someone who donates, if you are a member of the Max Fun community, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

**Justin:** Alright, lets get back. I'm ready, Syd. I'm ready for more.

[music plays in the background]



**Sydnee:** Question number 11: which of the following grounding products—you remember grounding or earthing?

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Which of the following grounding products isn't real? The grounding mat, the grounding pillowcase, the grounding shoes, or the grounded, zero gravity, heat and pulsating massage relaxation chair?

[music ends]

**Justin:** I'm gonna go with grounding shoes, because I thought that was the whole thing with grounding is that you wanted that connection to the earth.

**Sydnee:** That is correct.

[bell dings]

**Justin:** Yes!

**Sydnee:** Very good! I wondered if you would catch that. That was the trick. It would—you feel like they would try to make you wear grounding shoes anyway, even though the whole thing with earthing or grounding is that you just walk around barefoot and you get special electrical charges from the Earth, and it cures all that ails you.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Um, that's not true. But there are a lot of products you can purchase.

**Justin:** Yeah, for sure.

[music plays in the background]

**Sydnee:** Question number 12: Ben Carson and the My Pillow guy think that which of the following extremely toxic poisons is a secret cure for COVID-19?

Is it A, arsenic; B, oleander; C, cyanide; or D, strychnine?

[music ends]

**Justin:** Umm...

**Sydnee:** Come on, Justin. Ben Carson and the My Pillow guy agree.

**Justin:** Is it oleander?

**Sydnee:** That is correct!

[bell dings]

**Justin:** Yes! I was waiting for you to talk about, um—I was waiting for you to say, uh... [snaps fingers] what's that other thing? The thing that everybody was—uh, hydro—you know, the thing! Everybody was, like—

**Sydnee:** Hydroxychloroquine?

**Justin:** Yeah, there we go.

**Sydnee:** No. Well, that's not an extremely toxic poison. That's just a medication that—

**Justin:** Oh no, but it was a word that came into my head.

**Sydnee:** Ahh, okay. No, I was trying to just throw you off with other poisons. They were not telling you to take arsenic, cyanide, or strychnine.

**Justin:** Yet.

**Sydnee:** They were telling you to take oleandrine, which is a derivative of oleander, which is an extremely toxic poison, cardiac glycoside, which if you take too much can kill you.

**Justin:** I'm—I'm worried that the My Pillow guy may not even have my best interests at heart. You know what I mean?

**Sydnee:** [laughs quietly] I don't think—I don't think you can apply malicious intent. I just think it's that we shouldn't take medical advice from the My Pillow guy.

**Justin:** Fair.

**Sydnee:** There's a lot of advice you shouldn't take from me.

**Justin:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** there are many—you know what I don't know a lot about? Pillows.  
[laughs]

**Justin:** Can I tell you something? I got—I got one of his pillows before the heel turn that he made, where everybody knew he was a bad person. And it's not even that good of a pillow, also. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] So maybe you shouldn't take pillow advice from him!

**Justin:** Even the pillow isn't that good.

**Sydnee:** I'm just saying, you shouldn't also take pillow advice from me. I don't know anything about pillows. I sleep on whatever pillow Justin puts under my head.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Or not. Or my daughter takes from me, so I just sleep on the mattress.

**Justin:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Justin:** That's a very—what you said about me—

**Sydnee:** This is why you need to donate, so I can get another pillow.

**Justin:** What you said about me putting whatever pillow under your head was very strange, and I'm not gonna editorialize on it at all.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] No, I—can I?

**Justin:** Yeah, sure!

**Sydnee:** 'Cause I didn't mean to sound strange. Because you are always into finding a better sleep experience, and so you tend to get new pillows more frequently than me, and I'll try your—like, the one you didn't like, I always try. To see if, like, "Well, maybe it'd be better than this other pillow."

'Cause I'm not picky. I can sleep anywhere, on anything.

**Justin:** I sleep—I sleep in a bad way that, like, I've done a good amount of research on it, everyone agrees is bad for you to sleep on your stomach. It's not good to do, so it's hard to find a pillow designed in my terrible, dangerous way of sleeping. Uh, so yeah, I have struggled.

But this is not about that.

**Sydnee:** No. I just take your hand-me-down pillows, so I know a lot about that.

**Justin:** Sleep-me-down.

**Sydnee:** Mm-hmm. Question number 13.

**Justin:** Yes.

[music plays in the background]

**Sydnee:** While all of the following were attempted, which was considered the gold standard of care for a patient suffering from nostalgia? Which, if you remember, were clogged animal spirits in the memory center of your brain.

**Justin:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Back in the 1700's. So, all of these were attempted, but which was the gold standard, the one that worked best?

Was it A, wine and mercury; B, dairy products; C, putting the patient up high in a tower; D, returning them home; or E, bloodletting.

[music ends]

**Justin:** It was returning them home, right?

**Sydnee:** That is correct.

[bell dings]

**Justin:** Yes!

**Sydnee:** The only cure for nostalgia.

**Justin:** Yeah, go back!

**Sydnee:** Send 'em back home.

**Justin:** Go back.

**Sydnee:** That's the only thing you could do.

**Justin:** They got Garbage Pail Kids cards now. Just go back!

**Sydnee:** [laughs] We—

**Justin:** Buy 'em again, see if it fixes it.

**Sydnee:** Well, we used to think that nostalgia was an illness.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** Mostly suffered by soldiers away from home. Other people too, but really focused on soldiers. And they really did attempt all these things, including putting people up in a high tower and having them drink a lot of milk, to see if it fixed it.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** It was an association with the Alps.

[music plays in the background]

Uh, question number 14: which other animal-based test for vaccine and drug contamination did the LAL, or Limulus Amoebocyte Lysate test, derived from the blue blood of horseshoe crabs, replace?

So, we now use this horseshoe crab test, but what other animal-based test did we use before that? Before we got this?

Was it A, the elephant inflammation test; B, the prairie dog fever test; C, the rabbit pyrogen test; or D, the sloth sedimentation rate gambit?

[music ends]

**Justin:** You wish it was D, but it is C.

[bell dings]

**Sydnee:** It is C, the rabbit pyrogen test. That is correct.

**Justin:** You—oh, and by the way folks, I wish you could've seen how proud Syd was of herself when she read the one about sloths.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Justin:** 'Cause it—beaming! Like she just watched our child graduate from Princeton!

**Sydnee:** I liked—it—

**Justin:** What a thrill she had, at reading her own—

**Sydnee:** —just tickled me when I came up—I was trying to make up different—all of these are fake except the rabbit pyrogen test. But I thought sloth sedimentation rate... hmm... gambit. [laughs]

**Justin:** [laughs quietly]

**Sydnee:** I wish that was a real thing, but it's not. No, we used to—before we figured out that the blood of horseshoe crabs will coagulate in the presence of certain bacterial toxins, endotoxins, showing us that there's bacteria there and that something is contaminated, before we figured all that out, we used to just inject stuff into rabbits and see if they got fevers.

**Justin:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** Which... was bad for rabbits. So, this test that we have now with horseshoe crabs typically does not kill the horseshoe crab, although unfortunately sometimes it can. Typically it does not, so. More humane. Thank you, horseshoe crabs. You are wonderful. We love you.

**Justin:** Yes.

**Sydnee:** You're on our pin.

**Justin:** Thanks, horseshoe crabs. And a shirt.

**Sydnee:** And a shirt.

**Justin:** [crosstalk] Merchandise horseshoe crabs.

**Sydnee:** We really love horseshoe crabs.

[music plays in the background]

Question number 15: where does the bioluminescent bacteria *Photobacterium luminescens*, responsible for the angel's glow, live?

[pause]

[music ends]

You don't get a choice. I mean, what am I gonna say, like...

**Justin:** In wounds?

**Sydnee:** Cleveland, Orlando? [laughs quietly]

**Justin:** In wounds?

**Sydnee:** Ye—okay. It can live in wounds, but that's not where it—that is not where it's trying to be. The bacteria—yes, the angel's glow is because it was in wounds, but where—where does it reside?

**Justin:** In the ground.

**Sydnee:** No.

**Justin:** Where?

[sad trombone plays]

**Sydnee:** In the gut of nematodes.

**Justin:** Ohh!

**Sydnee:** Remember? From the heterorhabditis family.

**Justin:** Yes. Wow, that was a tough one!

**Sydnee:** Yeah, sorry.

**Justin:** [crosstalk]

**Sydnee:** So it lives—it lives inside a parasitic worm. The bacteria that glows, that made the wounds glow during the Civil War that was called the angel's glow, and they thought it was, you know... spiritual. Uh, it was really just this bioluminescent bacteria that lives inside the gut of a nematode, and then it pukes it up. You know, and then it glows.

As a bonus, do you remember where the parasitic nematodes would be? 'Cause they weren't just in the wound. That's not good enough. Typically, where are they?

**Justin:** In the... in the feet.

[pause]

**Sydnee:** They live inside a hollowed-out insect larva. How do—why—of course I remember this.

**Justin:** Yeah, 'cause you nasty!

**Sydnee:** I know. It was the nastiest thing!

**Justin:** That's two points I missed out on.



**Sydnee:** I'm really sorry.

**Justin:** I'm spiraling.

**Sydnee:** I'm really sorry. The bacteria live inside the parasitic worm, which lives inside the insect larva.

**Justin:** Ugh! That's so grody.

**Sydnee:** Right?! Right?!

**Justin:** I mean, it's grody!

**Sydnee:** I know. It's all—and it was all inside the wounds, and then made 'em glow.

[music plays in the background]

Question number 16: how does Pliny the Elder recommend treating dropsy. I think this is hard, because all of these things are something Pliny the Elder has recommended, and you have to remember which one was for dropsy.

**Justin:** It's not happening. But I will try.

**Sydnee:** Okay. A, drink boar's urine; B, drink bat blood; C, eat a deep fried canary; D, put some weasel ashes on it; or C—no, E—[laughs quietly] went backwards. Onion suppository.

[music ends]

**Justin:** [sighs heavily] There's literally no way.

**Sydnee:** No, you're just gue—I know this is a hard one.

**Justin:** Uh, deep fried canary.

**Sydnee:** I'm so sorry. That is the—that is the cure for a hangover.

[sad trombone plays]

**Justin:** Hmm, of course. How could I not remember any of Pliny's wild cures!

**Sydnee:** You wouldn't want to try an onion suppository unless you had hemorrhoids. Putting weasel ashes on it is only good for your eye when you have a cataract in there. Drinking bat blood is the cure for snake bites, so you do indeed want to drink boar's urine when you have dropsy. I'm so sorry.

**Justin:** Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:** You really seem bummed. You're not really trying to win this, are you?

**Justin:** I am trying to win it!

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Justin:** I'm coming back! I smell a comeback. They got harder in the second half.

**Sydnee:** Here. You're gonna get this.

[music plays in the background]

Which of the following does mewing supposedly fix? Mewing?

**Justin:** Yes!

**Sydnee:** Crooked teeth—A, crooked teeth; B, sleep apnea; C, COPD; D, unattractive face shape; or E, all of the above?

[music ends]

**Justin:** Hey, folks. Listen.

**Sydnee:** [laughs]

**Justin:** It's E! What did I tell you? It's E!

**Sydnee:** That's right. If you just position your mouth with your tongue in the roof of your mouth at all times, you can fix all of these things, [holding back laughter] including your unattractive face shape. As a bonus...

[saxophone sting plays]

... which of these has mewing actually been scientifically proven to fix?

**Justin:** Is the answer none of them?

[bell dings]

**Sydnee:** That's correct. None of the above.

**Justin:** Okay, got it. That was a little easier.

**Sydnee:** That was Sydnee's little soapbox moment.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** Alright. Question number 18, we're almost at the end.

**Justin:** Okay.

[music plays in the background]

**Sydnee:** Which of the following was not the focus of a blue light experiment by AJ Pleasonton? If you remember, AJ Pleasonton believed that blue light could cure things or make things grow better, or whatever. And so he put blue glass up in places, and then... had the light exposed to the things. Which of these things?

Cows, pigs, sheep, grapes, or humans? Which was not one of his experiments?

[music ends]

Cows, pigs, sheep, grapes, or humans?

**Justin:** Sheep?

**Sydnee:** That is correct!

[bell dings]

**Justin:** Yes!

**Sydnee:** He started with grapes, he went to pigs, then to cows, and then finally to humans, and he—he declared that it all worked. Sadly—

**Justin:** If only he had tried sheep, he would've found out that it was not real.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Sadly, it did not work. Blue light does not make you grow bigger or better or... juicier.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Sydnee:** If you're a grape.

**Justin:** If you're a grape. Or a me that just wants a little—a little more juice back there, you know?

[music plays in the background]

**Sydnee:** [laughs] Question number 19: which of the following did Pliny the Elder *not* claim as an effect of St. John's Wort?

**Justin:** These Pliny ones are so unfair.

**Sydnee:** I know, I know they're hard.

**Justin:** Okay.

**Sydnee:** Which one of these things does Pliny say St. John's Wort can't do? It can do all these things but one.

A, stop bleeding; B, act as a diuretic, make you pee, get fluid off; C, stop diarrhea; D, fix a sore throat; or E, sciatica?

[music ends]

Which one does it not work for?

**Justin:** I feel like the diarrhea—uh, diure—um, um... diuretic is actually a trick that I, uh—a trick that you're trying to play on me, 'cause those two seem to be contrar—contrary. Uh, I'm gonna go with sore throat.

**Sydnee:** Hey, you're right!

**Justin:** Yay!

[bell dings]

**Sydnee:** I thought you were gonna be wrong, there. That's right, Pliny said if you take St. John's Wort it'll stop your bleeding, it'll make you pee, but it'll stop your diarrhea, and it'll fix your sciatica.

**Justin:** Huge.

**Sydnee:** But it cannot help your sore throat.

**Justin:** Huge.

**Sydnee:** He had lots of other treatments for that, I am certain, and they were probably nasty. Last question.

**Justin:** Last question.

**Sydnee:** Number 20. You're gonna get this right, I feel.

**Justin:** Bring it home.

**Sydnee:** I feel like everybody's gonna get this one.

**Justin:** Bring it home.

**Sydnee:** If you've had a rough quiz, don't worry.

**Justin:** A nice grounder to round it out.

[music plays in the background]

**Sydnee:** Which of the following will happen when you get a COVID-19 vaccine?

**Justin:** Hmm.

**Sydnee:** A, you will be microchipped and Bill Gates will follow you; B, you will be susceptible to the influences of 5G; C, you will gain superhuman strength and abilities that defy physics and the constraints of mortality alike; or D, you will develop an immune response to the novel coronavirus, protecting you from infection, hospitalization, and death, as well as bringing humanity one step closer to achieving a level of group immunity that will protect the medically vulnerable, those who do not yet have access to the vaccine, and those who are too young or unable to receive it due to an allergy, thereby making it possible that we can all hug each other again as soon as possible!

[music ends]

**Justin:** It seems like you've written E, here. All of the above. You've written E, all of the above.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] I did not put that!

**Justin:** I'm gonna go with E, all of the above!

**Sydnee:** I did not put that on there.

**Justin:** Oh, no, it's D.

[bell dings]

**Sydnee:** That's right.

**Justin:** So go get your COVID vaccine. And you know what? Ask somebody. You know that one person. You know who it is in your life that maybe didn't get it yet. You know who.

**Sydnee:** And a lot of people—the majority of people just maybe need a little push.

**Justin:** Just a nudge!

**Sydnee:** Just—just a little nudge in the right direction.

**Justin:** That's what we've learned about vaccine hesitancy. Like, there's a dye in the wool group that ain't gonna get it no matter what, but there's some who you can reach, so maybe go give 'em a nudge.

Um, that is gonna do it for us. I—for those competing with Justin, I got 17 out of a possible 24 points, I believe. There was one bonus point in the first round, and then three in the second round, so 17 out of 24 was my final score.

**Sydnee:** That's pretty good, Justin.

**Justin:** Not bad. Not bad.

**Sydnee:** I mean, you are a cohost of the show.

**Justin:** Yes, but again, I'm coming up with jokes and looking at meters. It's all very—[Maximumfun.org/join](https://Maximumfun.org/join). This is our last chance to talk to you about this before the pledge drive ends. Um, so please don't hesitate, 'cause you will forget about it. You'll think about other things to do. Right now, take the opportunity to go to [Maximumfun.org/join](https://Maximumfun.org/join). It'll only take a second. And, um, you can help support the stuff that you love, and make sure that there's more of it, and then it gets better. Um, and it honestly does mean so much to us that you have supported us so much over the past ten years and made this possible.

**Sydnee:** Yeah. I mean, really, I don't think without your support, without your help, I don't know that we would've been able to keep this show going at all for this long, and I certainly don't think that I would feel like we could produce the kind of content we can, um, now. So, thank you.

**Justin:** And every year, after the pledge drive, people start—there are people that fall off, there are people that can't keep up with it, there are people that cancel, there are people that—whatever. I mean, the numbers dwindle each year, so we need fresh—fresh bodies in the fight. Or if you've had the, uh, you know, drop off earlier, maybe there's a chance to hop back on, if it's financially a little easier for you. We know the past year has been—and obviously this goes without saying, but the past year's been an absolute nightmare. If you've been financially hurt by it in a way that makes it impossible for you to give, there's no—absolutely no judgment on our part.

**Sydnee:** We still love having you as a listener.

**Justin:** Not that you need an internet stranger [wheezes] to pardon you! But consider yourself pardoned.

**Sydnee:** We appreciate everybody who listens to the show, of course, whether you donate or not. And again, if you aren't in a position to, sharing our show, tweeting about it, talking about what it means to you, it really—it helps us because, you know, it motivates other people who maybe are in that position, like, "You know what? Actually you're right, I do love this thing, and I would like to support it. Thank you for inspiring me."

**Justin:** And if you do, you know, feel free to tweet at us with the Max Fun Drive hashtag so we can say thanks. Um, and—

**Sydnee:** And let us know how you do on the quiz.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** If you want to. You don't have to.

**Justin:** Yes, but that's a great—you know.

**Sydnee:** But if you want to tweet out your score, if you wanna brag—

**Justin:** And if you wanna throw in the [Maximumfun.com/join](http://Maximumfun.com/join) link in there, that's great, too.

**Sydnee:** [laughs] If you want—if you did better than Justin, especially.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Sydnee:** And you wanna let him know.

**Justin:** Um, thanks so much listening. Oh! Thanks to The Taxpayers for the use of their song, "Medicines," as the intro and outro of our program, and thanks to you for listening! We'll be back with you next week. Until then, my name is Justin McElroy.

**Sydnee:** I'm Sydnee McElroy.



**Justin:** And, as always, don't drill a hole in your head!

[theme music plays]

Maximumfun.org.

Comedy and Culture.

Artist Owned.

Audience Supported.