

# John Millionaire

By Abe Molinares, DDSP Public Affairs

## WHAT IS VEGEMITE MADE OUT OF?

This was the \$64,000 question facing Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, PA (DDSP) employee John Kambic, golf and Jimmy Buffet enthusiast, as he sat in the hot seat on the set of *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* With no lifelines left and Meredith Vieira, the host of the weekday version of *Millionaire* waiting for an answer, John could not help of thinking how he arrived in such a predicament.

It all began in September, when watching television with friends. They saw an audition call being held for the popular game show at Harrisburg East Mall. "I'm always trying to call out the answers to any game show we watch, so my girlfriend encouraged me to try out," John says. After completing a multiple choice tests, ranging from science to sports about half of the 900 who auditioned were eliminated. Second, came a personality interview that included a snap shot of John. Producers said they would be in contact with their final picks, and for the next three months, Kambic assumed he had not made the cut.

After a call that Kambic "thought was bull," he flew to New York City for an all expenses paid four nights/ five day trip including limo escort, reservations at a four star hotel, two meals a day, and even a \$50 dollar allowance for the nights he was there. A tour of the set and briefing by the original creator of the show, David Briggs left Kambic excited for the following days competition. He is quick to point out that all the contestants got along, and it was a feeling of general camaraderie with everyone rooting for each other. The twenty- four-year supply technician at Warehouse Five had originally made a goal of aiming for \$8,000. So imagine his surprise when with no lifelines left, and \$64, 000 hanging over his head Kambic had to make a tough decision whether to listen to his phone-a-friend or not, Dr. Jean Dyszel, Assistant Superintendent of the West Shore School District.

"The chair for the actual hot seat is what got me nervous. It's very high, shaky, and uncomfortable. I'm assuming they made it that way on purpose," Kambic said of the high-pressure experience. Choosing to go with his gut, Kambic answered the question and walked away a happy man. For seven months, Dr. Dyszel thought she had lost her friend the question by giving him the wrong answer. Due to the taping and airing difference of the program, only Kambic and his immediate family knew of the winnings, which were kept secret until the airing of the show on July 7th and 8th 2003.

Kambic plans on using the prize money to help his daughters with tuition for school. "I've been driving the same pick-up truck for fourteen years, I can't even imagine buying a new extravagant car. I mean I will get something nice for myself, I just haven't figured it out yet."

Kambic is a current Alternate Radioactive Protection Officer (ARPO) for DDSP Distribution Operations.

And just in case you find yourself stuck with the same question, Kambic's final and correct answer was; yeast extract.

*DDSP employee John Kambic was a contestant on the Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? television show broadcasted in July.*



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