

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

No-hit wonders: Winning Googlenopes

BY PAT MYERS

In **Week 1305**, the Empress asked you to find some interesting **Googlenopes** — phrases that don't generate any Google hits, or "ghits," as they're now sometimes called. She also invited interesting **Googleyups**, phrases that are surprisingly out there already, as well as a set of Nopes and Yups provided together for irony. Some of the Googleyups below are **Googlehacks** — just one hit. (The ones below worked at press time, at least for the E.)

4th place

Googleyup: **"Cows are smarter than you think"** (a Googlehack)
 Googleyup: **"Pigs are smarter than you think"**
 Googlenope: **"Betsy DeVos is smarter than you think"** (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

3rd place

Googleyup: **"Does your virginity grow back?"** (101 results) (Mike Burch, Nashville)

2nd place and the winner of the risqué 'Meat Romney' barbecue apron:

Googlehack: **"Sarah Huckabee Sanders always tells the truth."** (The whole sentence: **"Sarah Huckabee Sanders always tells the truth about absolutely nothing."**) (Lorna Jerome, Waldorf, Md., who will have the option to choose a less crude prize, like plastic dog poop)

And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

Googlenope: **"No one invites me to Linkedin."** (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring)

'Nopes were dashed: Honorable mentions

Googleyup: **"I miss Karl Rove"** (and indeed, a few of the 67 hits were sincere — but others included **"I miss Karl Rove and Dick Cheney like a necromancer misses the Black Plague"**) (Josh Feldblyum, Philadelphia)

Googlenope: **"Chasidic twerking videos"** (Google asked helpfully, **"Did you mean: 'Hasidic twerking videos'?"**) Fortunately, that was also a Googlenope. (Daphne Steinberg, Alexandria)

Googleyup: **"Please pull my fingernails out"**
 Googleyup: **"Please kick me in the shins"**
 Googleyup: **"Please scream in my ear"**

Googlenope: **"Please bring me airline food"** (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Googlehack: **"Antioxidant properties of donuts"** (Mike Gips, Bethesda) (It's also a Googlenope with the spelling "doughnuts")

Googleyup: **"Facebook makes me stupid"**
 Googlenope: **"Facebook makes me smart"** (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Googleyup: **"Adam Sandler's oeuvre"** (although at least one refers to **"the all-out idiocy of Adam Sandler's oeuvre"**) (Mike Gips)

Googlenope: **"That controversial Hallmark Christmas movie"** (Larry McClemons, Annandale, Va.)

Googlenope: **"Your Mama is so monogamous"** (Eric Nelkin)

Googlenope: **"The comments section really advances the discussion"** (Mike Gips)

Googleyup: **"Do vegetarians eat carnivorous plants?"**
 Googlenope: **"Do carnivorous plants eat vegetarians?"** (Mark Raffman)

Googlenope: **"How to unblock Rachel from Card Services"** (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

Googleyup: **"Louis Armstrong sucked"**
 Googleyup: **"Billie Holiday sucked"**
 Googleyup: **"Frank Sinatra sucked"**
 Googleyup: **"Ray Charles sucked"**
 Googlenope: **"Ella Fitzgerald sucked"** (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

Googlehack: **"Sexy Ruth Bader Ginsburg Halloween costume"** (referring to a lame gag in a flop movie of 2012) (Bill Dorner)
 Googlenope: **"Trendy new German restaurant"** (Jonathan Jensen)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1309: The Year in Redo, Part 1

Winner of Week 1268, *bogus trivia about the media:*
Jeff Bezos meant to buy only a single issue of The Washington Post, but he didn't have any small bills on him at the time. (Robert Schechter)

Winner of Week 1255, *neologisms including the letter block S-A-N-T in any order:*
Am-Nasty International: The president's new name for the State Department. (Ann Martin)

Winner of Week 1279, *"real" directions:*
How to meditate:
 1. Close your eyes and relax.
 2. You're not doing it right. (Mark Raffman)

Did you ever read the results of a Style Invitational contest and go, "Ohhhh — now I see what they wanted"? ("They" being the one woman who's ever going to see your entry unless it gets ink.) This week and next, the Empress gives you another shot with our annual retrospective contest. This week we'll cover 25 Invite contests from last November through May, encompassing such perennials as obit poems, foal "breeding" and various neologism contests, plus some one-offs like Yelp reviews for odd places, or good-natured modern curses.

Enter (or reenter) any Style Invitational contest from Week 1255 through Week 1281, except for Weeks 1257 and 1258, last year's do-overs, and Week 1260, the 2018 "Year in Preview" (we'll preview 2019 later). You may enter multiple contests as long as you don't submit more than 25 entries in all. For contests asking you to use that week's paper, use papers and online articles dated Dec. 6-17. For the obit poems, Week 1261, continue to write about people who died in 2017. You may resubmit non-inking entries from earlier contests.

How on earth are you going to find these old contests? Piece of cake, even if you don't subscribe to this paper (though you should, you know). Go to the Loser Community's own website, **nrars.org**, click on **"Master Contest List,"** and scroll way down to Week 1255 and below. Read the thumbnail contest descriptions, then click on the "E" icon for the online version of the week's contest, or the "WP" for the print version. And check the results of that week's contest (usually four weeks down the chart) to make sure your idea didn't already get ink. Please give the week number plus a brief ID of the contest your entry is for (e.g., "Week 1291, bad product spokespeople"). See this week's Style Conversational column at **wapo.st/conv1309** for other ways (maybe better ones for you) to see all the contests.

Submit entries at **wapo.st/enter-invite-1309** (all lowercase) — NOT the entry forms for those old contests.

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives one of our favorite prizes ever: It was picked up in Ukraine, from a Kiev street vendor, by Invite Fan but Not a Loser Rex Moser. Though Rex can't read Russian or Ukrainian, he didn't have any trouble recognizing the face of Vladimir **Putin in full color on a roll of toilet paper**. The accompanying wording turns out to translate to "Putin is a [ahem]-head" — a catcall that became popular among soccer fans during the annexation of 2014, and is also widespread (presumably more discreetly) in Russia. **Other runners-up** win our "You Gotta Play to Lose" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grocery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "We've Seen Better" or "Idiot Card." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, Dec. 17;** results published Jan. 6 (online Thursday, Jan. 3). See general contest rules and guidelines at **wapo.st/InvRules**. The headline "No-Hit Wonders" was suggested by both Jeff Contompassis and Jesse Frankovich; Chris Doyle and Jesse both suggested this week's honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees on Facebook at **on.fb.me/invdev**. "Like" Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at **bit.ly/inkofday**; follow **@StyleInvite** on Twitter.



From Kiev, this week's second prize. (The Russian obscenity is hidden in the photo; what's shown says "la la la.")

Googleyup: **"What wine pairs well with dog?"**
 Googlenope: **"What wine pairs well with porcupine?"** (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)
 Googleyup: **"Our calm four-year-**

old" — but they all refer to dogs (Mark Richardson, Takoma Park)

Googlehack: **"Cannot wait to see Washington in the summer"** (and it referred to Washington state) (Duncan Stevens)

Googlenope: **"Empress of the Style Invitational action figure"**

Googleyup: **"Gene Weingarten action figure"** (Bill Dorner)

Googlenope: **"I didn't deserve ink."** (Andy Schotz, Hagerstown, Md.)

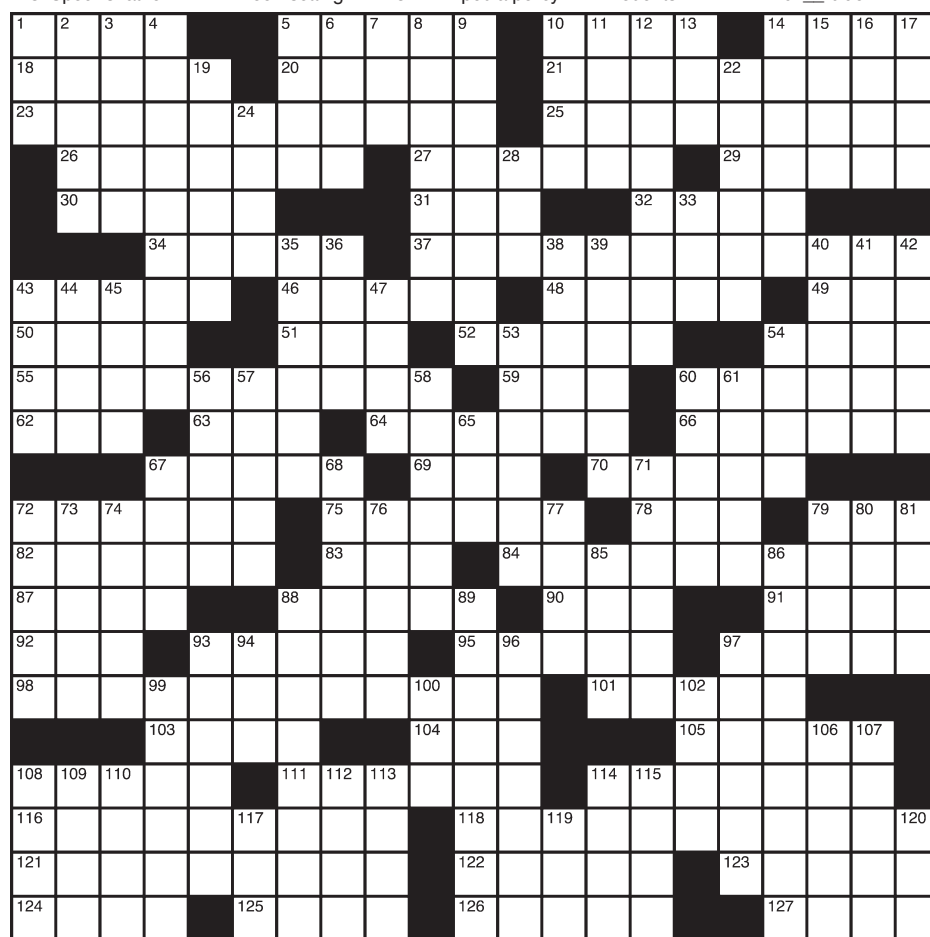
Googlehack: **"Everybody loves the Empress"** (Gregory Koch, Falls Church) (That single hit, alas, refers to Empress Elisabeth of Austria, 1837-98. Not a whole lot of love for empresses out there, we guess.)

Still running — deadline Monday, Dec. 10: Our contest for captions for Bob Staake cartoons. See wapo.st/invite1308.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

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| "CULINARY SCHOOL" By PAUL COULTER | 88 Takes from a deck | 124 Firm employees: Abbr. | 15 Bind, in a way | 58 Words indicating a delay | 88 Easy paces |
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| 1 8 for O, e.g. | 91 "I see" | 126 Some NCOs | 17 Mil. bigwigs | 61 Euripides tragedy | 93 Saddle-holding bands |
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| 18 Excel | 97 Holders of roasts | 2 Choreographer | 28 ___rock | 71 Two-time Tony winner | 99 AT&T and Verizon |
| 20 Autumn color | 98 Nasty group of directors? | 3 Japanese-American | 33 Modern address | 72 Zeno, notably | 100 Dept. of Justice bigwigs |
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| 23 Pie company exec? | 103 Part of Q.E.D. | 5 Intimidates | 36 Gullible sort | 74 Bullion unit | 106 Still |
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| 29 Film units | 111 Work (out) | 9 Traitors | 42 Injured, in a way | 80 "... we forget" | 110 Without ___ riskily |
| 30 Michelangelo masterpiece | 114 Inflexible | 10 Crazy | 43 Drummer Ulrich | 81 God with a quiver | 112 Farm females |
| 31 MSN competitor | 116 Stadium for a boxing match? | 11 Like a flimsy excuse | 44 "Am ___ late?" | 85 Hardly haute cuisine | 113 "Not to mention ..." |
| 32 Cooking fat | 118 Journalists covering a spicy story? | 12 Backstage theater workers | 45 Hang loosely | 86 Large South American rodents | 114 Came down |
| 34 Guadalajara girls | 121 Wood preservatives | 13 An MRI may reveal a torn one | 47 Place for an honoree | 115 "Vaya con ___" | 117 Bit of heckling |
| 37 Neighborhood with meat purveyors? | 122 Farm refrain | 14 "Fiddler on the Roof" setting | 53 Collection of heir pieces? | 119 "Andy Capp" cartoonist | 120 ___ blue |
| 43 Air freshener scent | 123 Spock's father | | 54 Blunt blade | | |
| 46 Performed, in Shakespeare | | | 56 Do-nothing | | |
| 48 How surprise party guests should arrive | | | 57 Wikipedia policy | | |



12/9/18 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2018 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Dec. 9: This year, you might be working through some issues involving self-discipline and organization. Understand that you can't help but lag at times. If you are single, someone you care about could find you to be a little crazy as you attempt to work through these issues. Someone you choose to be with now might not be the person you want to be with a year from now. If you are attached, your sweetie will support you in whatever you want to do. Know that you need to be just as nurturing with them. Capricorn has a lot of opinions.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 What is great about you is the way in which you accept and execute responsibility. Suddenly, you might find yourself in charge of a holiday gathering or event. Use your energy and imagination to ensure that a good time is had by all.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 You could be unaware of how demanding you are. You also might be somewhat remote and distant. Do not be surprised if a loved one tries to provoke an argument in an attempt to encourage you to focus on them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 One-on-one relating seems to be extremely gratifying to you at the moment. Whether you are wrapping presents with someone, watching a holiday movie or even just enjoying a glass of eggnog, you radiate contentment.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 You could be close to your limit with handling holiday errands and to-dos. Distract yourself for the day and grab your favorite person. Go off to the movies together. Indulge in a non-holiday activity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 Dive into the day with the intention of clearing out as much as you possibly can. Your pace could be unusually hectic, leaving you with little time to just gaze at holiday decorations. What you complete could free you up for more time to enjoy the holiday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 You could be trying to lift someone's spirits, but be careful, as you might drain yourself in the process. Take better care of yourself in general. Go off and take a brisk walk with the dog or go skating. You will feel much better.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 You might be more anchored than you realize. When someone encourages you to try something totally new, your answer easily could be "no." Your routine and habits stabilize you, but you also love adventure. Go for it, even if it is not on your terms.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 Your intensity melts others' resistance quickly. The question remains: Do you want to charm them into being more responsive? You like intensity. You understand that to feel good, you sometimes need to feel bad. Let a friend have some space.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 Be aware of your discipline when it comes to indulgences. You could discover that making something a habit might take some time. As long as you are willing to go overboard, go for it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 Wherever you are, others wish they were there, too. You seem to let go of the seriousness you are usually associated with. Confusion surrounds your plans or a conversation. For some reason, the situation suddenly hits you as hysterical.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 Vanish for a day. Do not be findable. With the holidays approaching, you have a built-in excuse. You might need some downtime alone or with one special person. Keep a lid on your spending, and you will be a lot happier in the long run.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 A particular group of friends are serious-minded, but they are fun to be with. Get together with this particular circle and toss yourself into what is happening. You might want to hear some holiday music, so make it a possibility.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

