

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

'Nope fiends: Google no-hitters & yups

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1476 we asked you to hunt for some **Googlenopes** — phrases that, in quotes, generate no search results — as well as some **Googleyups**, phrases that are surprisingly or ironically out there. There was also the occasional **GooglewHack**: a phrase that evinced one single hit. All of the entries below checked out when the Empress tried them; search results aren't always consistent for everyone, it seems.

4th place:

All Googleyups: "Ted Cruz looks like a gerbil." "Ted Cruz looks like a weasel." "Ted Cruz looks like a hedgehog." "Ted Cruz looks like a mosquito." **Googlenope:** "Ted Cruz looks senatorial." (*Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.*)

3rd place:

Googlenope: "The Palm is too fancy." **Googlenope:** "The Inn at Little Washington is too fancy." **Googleyup:** "McDonald's is too fancy." (*Kevin Dopart, Washington*)

2nd place and the water bottles labeled 'bong water':

Googlenope: "His comb-over fooled me." (*Coleman Glenn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.*)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

Googleyups: "Was Abraham Lincoln a real person?" (3 hits) "Is Homer Simpson a real person?" (6 hits) "Is Joe Biden a real person?" (3 hits) **Googlenope:** "U.S. education is the finest." (*Richard Lorentz, Woodland Hills, Calif.*)

The end of our 'nopes: Honorable mentions

GOOGLENOPEs: "Putin's playful side." (*Dave Silberstein, College Park; Mark Raffman, Reston*) "Dan Snyder is my favorite ..." (*Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.*) "I do CrossFit, but I don't like to talk about it." (*Marty Gold, Arlington*) "Washington, D.C., snow preparation." (*Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn*) "Your mama's so fatuous ..." (*Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.*) "I wish I'd saved my sweater vests." (*Scott Ableman, McLean*) "I wish there were more trailers before the movie." (*Leif Picoult, Rockville*) "I wish my husband watched more football." (*Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore*) "Not enough people post their Wordle results." (*Andy Schotz, Hagerstown, Md.*) "That Facebook comment changed my mind." (*Frank Mann, Washington*)

GOOGLEYUPS! "Sisyphean vicissitudes," a GooglewHack that showed up in the New York Times (no surprise) sports section (surprise). (*Bill Swedish, Arlington, who last got Invite ink in Week 45, 1994*) "Stinkbug salsa," "dung beetle gravy," "cockroach pâté," "gerbil pot pie": all 'Yups. (*Jonathan Jensen*) "How many calories in a squirrel?" (*Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.*) "Toad whisperer" (6,290 hits). Also: "Horned toad whisperer" (2). (*Dave Prevar, Annapolis*) "Vegetables are smarter than fruits." (*Michael Cohen, Greenbelt*)

GOOGLEWHACKS (one hit): "A wet mule never flies at night." (*John Klayman, Bradenton, Fla.*) "Breath-taking muumuu." (*Jeff Contompasis*) "Underwear-sharing near me." (*Kevin Dopart*)

'YUPS & 'NOPES **Googleyup:** "Donald Trump swimwear" (over 1,000 hits) **Googlenope:** "Bernie Sanders swimwear" (*Ann Martin, Brentwood, Md.*)

Googleyup: "Bluegrass bassoon" **Googleyup:** "Death metal dulcimer" **Googlenope:** "Dixieland harpsichord" (*Jonathan Jensen*)

Googleyup: "I enjoyed my colonoscopy" (10 results) **Googleyup:** "I enjoyed my root canal" (1,300 results!) **Googlenope:** "I enjoyed watching the new 'Sex and the City'" (*Mark Raffman*)

Googleyup: "I found my soulmate on Tinder." **Googleyup:** "I found my



BOB STAAKE/ILLUSTRATION FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1480: Oh, you don't really mean that

GALP: To hastily chug a stein of beer while skiing down the Matterhorn.

It's been a full decade since the Empress put up a list of obscure words and asked you to be proudly ignorant of their meanings. Since then, some generous downsizing neighbors thought of her and her weird job, and gave her their "Compact Edition" of the Oxford English Dictionary — in which the complete text of the full-size version (10 volumes, 15,490 pages) has been "reproduced micrographically" as 4,116 pages of ittybityeenyweeny text, which you peer at, still squintily, with a big magnifying glass included in the two-volume slipcase. So the E dove in at random to produce the following list, which is augmented by similar words offered by Loser Mike Gips, who'd suggested she bring back the contest. **This week: "Define" inaccurately and humorously any of the words in the list below**, as in Bob Staake's example above. Feel free to use it in a sentence or otherwise be funny. Meanwhile: Do you know the real meaning of any of this week's words?

- agonistarch
- agruw
- aiel
- anglewitch
- batie-bummil
- battologist
- bawrel
- cag-mag
- cervylle
- chekkelbone
- cotty
- cowhuby
- dartre
- dashee
- doob
- eftersoons
- enaluron
- epithymy
- fankle
- fistmeal
- fladge
- fritinancy
- gallack
- galligaskins
- galp
- hardhaw
- impanate
- iracund
- ithand
- jusson
- knowperts
- krobylos
- lerwa
- limbeck
- lurdan
- lushburg
- mesonoxian
- nobodaddy
- rantipole
- sprauchle
- stoach
- sweven
- tripudiant
- trandal
- tryall
- wayzgoose

Well, good for you. Go fladge your fankle. **Submit up to 25 entries** at wapo.st/enter-invite-1480 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, March 28; results appear April 17 in print, April 14 online. Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a big fat electronic **Easy button**: Push this big red button, and it will announce, "That was easy!" It's perfect for that moment you might want to brag just for a second after making that big sale, or if you need a bit of reassurance after deciding to eat those last three doughnuts, or after dumping your significant other — just think how quickly you'll be reviled by everyone you meet! Other runners-up win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "A Small Jester of Appreciation" or "Close, but Ceci N'est Pas un Cigare." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/inviteFAQ. The headline "Nope Fiends" was submitted by both Tom Witte and Jesse Frankovich; Chris Doyle wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev; "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at bit.ly/inkofday; and follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new OED contest and set of results. See this week's, with some classic OED ink, at wapo.st/conv1480.



When you come in second in this week's contest, push this button to brag.

soulmate on Bumble." **Googlenope:** "I found my soulmate with Date Lab." (*Jesse Frankovich*)

Googleyup: "Maus' banned in Tennessee"; **Googlenope:** "Mein Kampf" banned in Tennessee" (*Kevin Dopart*)

Googleyup: "Clothing-optional bar mitzvah." **Googlenope:** "Clothing-optional bat mitzvah." (*Craig Dykstra, Centreville*)

Googleyup: "I wish I had done more drugs." **GooglewHack:** "I wish I had drunk more beer." **Googlenope:** "I wish I had donated more to charity."

(*Pam Shermeyer, Lathrup Village, Mich.*)

Googleyup: "Trump praises Putin as genius" (19,900); **Googlenope:** "Putin praises Trump as genius" (*Drew Bennett, Rogers, Ark.*)

Googleyup: "Donald Trump has a sense of humor." (8 hits) **Googleyup:** "Mike Pence has a sense of humor." (3 hits) **Googleyup:** "Vladimir Putin has a sense of humor." (3 hits) **Googlenope:** "Dan Snyder has a sense of humor." (*Frank Mann*)

Googleyups: "I miss my long commute"; "I miss my cubicle"; "I miss my boss." **Googlenope:** "I miss my staff meetings." (*Scott Ableman*)

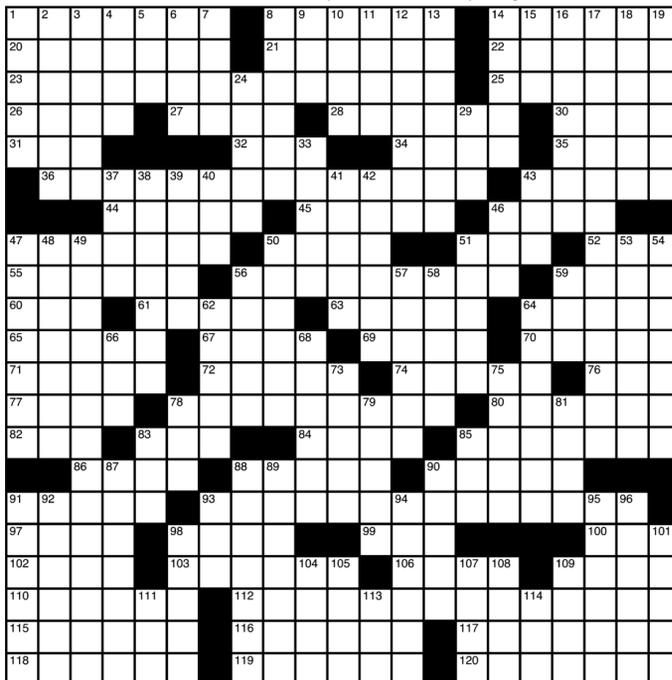
And Last: **Googlenope:** "Jeff Bezos reads The Washington Post" (*Jesse Frankovich*) **And Even Laster:** **Googlenope:** "The Style Invitational used to be funnier" (*Craig Dykstra*) **And Lastest of All:** **Googlenope:** "The Empress is a fair judge." (*Dave Prevar*)

More at wapo.st/invite1480. **Still running; deadline Monday night, March 21: Write a Wordle-style phrase of five-letter words. See wapo.st/invite1479.**

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- "FREAKONOMICS" By ED SESSA
- ACROSS
- 1 Big do
- 8 Attacks
- 14 Discusses, with "out"
- 20 Traditional Eastern garments
- 21 Arch support
- 22 1974 Top 10
- 23 "Surgeon freaks out over higher ..."
- 25 Dish out messily, as goulash
- 26 Email clutter
- 27 Nerve cell
- 28 Bring comfort to
- 30 Jared of "Fight Club"
- 31 Luv
- 32 TV Drs. Isles and Quincy
- 34 Build-it-yourself furniture chain
- 35 Scott in an 1857 case
- 36 "Cattle rancher freaks out over ..."
- 43 Estate planning list
- 44 White option, briefly
- 45 "... go down to the seas again": Masefield
- 46 Put on notice
- 47 Ones at home on the range
- 50 Stock seller, often
- 51 Hesitant sounds
- 52 Vaccine safety agcy.
- 55 It may accompany vertigo
- 56 "Landscape freaks out over cut back ..."
- 59 Open, as an envelope
- 60 Write "mispell," e.g.
- 61 Hard-to-move type
- 63 Hawks
- 64 Popeye's stop
- 65 Country singer
- 67 Mekong River land
- 69 Grammy, alternatively
- 70 All, in scores
- 71 Curved moldings
- 72 Ski resort near Montpelier
- 74 "Let me sleep on it"
- 76 Dr. Seuss' Sam-
- 77 Billionth: Pref.
- 78 "Shrimper captain freaks out over ..."
- 80 Punk rock's Joey or Dee Dee
- 82 No. on a landscaper's doc
- 84 Newspaper stand
- 85 Some fictional turtles
- 86 Name in early Genesis chapters
- 88 Auricle, in anatomy
- 90 Sombbrero wearer's title, often
- 91 Breakfast strips
- 93 "Restaurant owner freaks out over ..."
- 97 Aunties' mates
- 98 Card relative?
- 99 NBA great Ming
- 100 La-la preceder
- 102 New Mexico art colony
- 103 Julie with multiple Tonys and Emmys
- 106 TribeCa
- neighbor
- 109 How many ER orders are given
- 110 Perceptiveness
- 112 "Car rental agency franchisee freaks out over ..."
- 115 Common workday starting hr.
- 116 "Swan Lake" heroine
- 117 Longtime "General Hospital" actress
- 118 Major course
- 119 Affirmatives
- 120 Taco truck fare
- name
- 9 Letter abbr.
- 10 General — chicken
- 11 Just okay
- 12 Tin mints
- 13 Radon detection aid
- 14 Book before Joel
- 15 Minor league rink org.
- 16 Burn sans flames
- 17 "Ballonist freaks out over ..."
- 18 Stage attention-getter
- 19 Church councils
- 24 Bedouin, e.g.
- 29 With it, old-style
- 33 Tackled moguls
- 37 Folk legend Phil
- 38 Cocktail hour array
- 39 Gold measure
- 40 Woolf's — Dalloway
- 41 Salon and Slate
- 42 Large serving bowl
- 43 Is down with
- 83 Sickly looking
- negotiations
- 47 Buttercup relative
- 48 Krypton, for one
- 49 "Electrician freaks out over drop in his ..."
- 50 Chill
- 51 Retract
- 53 A long ways off
- 54 Now and then
- 56 "Perfectly Good Guitar" singer John
- 57 Attacked via email
- 58 Arm bones
- 59 "Law & Order: ..."
- 62 Daily Planet name
- 64 Gorged oneself
- 66 Sign of summer
- 68 Passes out
- 73 College sports ailer
- 75 Netflix title puggle dog
- 78 ... de guerre:
- 111 ... Ba
- 113 Paris Jazz Festival saison
- 114 Seat holders
- 85 Travis Tritt's "Tell ... Was Dreaming"
- 87 FBI file
- 88 Original name of a classic NOLA sandwich
- 89 Offer an unwelcome opinion, maybe
- 90 Left one's seat
- 91 Lighter fluid
- 92 Pain relief brand
- 93 "Argo" spy org.
- 94 Cuts partner
- 95 Fifth-century enemy of Rome
- 96 Explicit, in a way
- 98 What's done for fun?
- 101 On the briny
- 104 Dire day for Caesar
- 105 Pepper et al.: Abbr.
- 107 Pressure
- 108 ... consequence
- 109 "Beat it!"
- 111 ... Ba
- 113 Paris Jazz Festival saison
- 114 Seat holders



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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | March 20: You have excellent people skills. You enjoy the company of others, plus you relish stimulating situations. You avoid boring routine. People love your adventurous spirit! This is a slower-paced year. Examine your closest relationships, your needs and what makes you happy.

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or important decisions from 8:30 a.m. to noon. After that, the Moon moves from Libra into Scorpio.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) As this day wears on, it gets better and better. You feel pleased, confident and happy to have a warm feeling in your tummy. Basically, your inner optimism is boosted, and you feel like a winner.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Don't get so carried away with enthusiasm when dealing with groups and friends that you overlook important details. Remember: What the large print giveth, the small print taketh away.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Because you feel confident about plans for your career, you will impress bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs. They see you as someone who is ready for the mantle of success.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You're making big plans in many areas of your life, including travel, higher education, medicine and the law. You believe in what's possible for the future, and you intend to make it a reality.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Discussions about shared property, inheritances and anything you own jointly with others will benefit you. One minor caveat: Respect your own self-interests and don't give away the farm.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) This is a great day for a serious discussion with partners and close friends, because people are confident and friendly. It's easier for people to be tolerant of other viewpoints, which can build to workable solutions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) This is a great day for business and commercial activity. Work-related travel is also on the books. You're enthusiastic about big ideas related to your job or perhaps even your health. Meanwhile, a pet will be a source of joy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You might be excited about social outings, vacations, playful activities with kids and sports events. That's because everyone is upbeat and enthusiastic. People from different backgrounds will unite in a positive way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) This is the perfect day for a gathering at home of family and friends or a meeting with a specific purpose. People are confident and enthusiastic, which promotes tolerance of different views. In turn, this will lead to positive

results and productivity. **CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You will enjoy the company of siblings, relatives and neighbors. It's a great day for a short trip as well as meetings with others. Whatever plans you make will be ambitious and confident. Organize things around you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You're not afraid to think big. You are quick to see the most advantageous course of action, which means you will speed up any kind of process that is taking place. Oh yes, you'll get results.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Mercury and Jupiter are lined up in your sign, which makes you tolerant when dealing with others. It also gives you the ability to inspire people, which is why you will be a Pied Piper for those who want to follow your direction.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

