

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Cheer hilarity for the Commanders +

BY PAT MYERS

In Week 1475 the Empress asked for **songs and cheers for the newly named Washington Commanders** — or, for those who don't do football, for any other D.C. institution. See the online Invite for lots more, including several videos.

4th place:

*Sung to "Lady Madonna"*  
Come on, Commanders, we'd like to see you win  
Though we know you'll likely take it on the chin.  
You've got the money and the coaching staff  
But our won-lost record's good for just a laugh.

The coaches say we need a wide receiver,  
Or maybe it's free safeties that we lack,  
But then the word comes down from Mister Snyder:  
"Buy a quarterback!"

Come on, Commanders, you'll be 13 and 4  
If Mrs. Snyder shows the owner to the do-oor.  
(*Jerry Birchmore, Springfield*)

3rd place:

**The Textile Museum**  
(to "Be Our Guest")  
See a dress! See a dress!  
Smaller crowds, not so much stress;  
Where've we got 'em? Foggy Bottom!  
(Once was 23rd and S.)  
Hey, you mugs, come see rugs!  
Natural History rocks and bugs  
Are so boring — we've got satin,  
Crepes and denims, lacy tatin!  
Dig a robe, peep a sash from our Asian costume stash,  
Skip the WashMon's thousand steps (well, more or less);  
And while they're still replacing all that Air and Spacing,  
Reassess! Decompress! See a dress!  
(*Duncan Stevens, Vienna*)

2nd place and the turkey-leg-motif thigh-high socks:

To "Maria" from "West Side Story"  
They've finally revealed our team's new name:  
Commanders, Commanders, Commanders, Commanders.  
Like a 7-10 record, it's pretty lame.  
Commanders, Commanders, Commanders...  
Commanders, we're rebranded as the Commanders!  
An uninspiring name,  
At least it's not a shame...ful slur  
Dan Snyder, we've got to get rid of Dan Snyder!  
The guy is such a schmuck,  
I'd like him to go f...ar away!  
Let's cele ... brate this ugly chapter's ending  
(Though we still have a few lawsuits pending.)  
Seriously? Two years to come up with...  
Commanders?  
The most "meh" name I've ever heard:  
Com-mand-ers. (*Marty Gold, Arlington — see Marty's video in the online Invite*)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

Oh, Danny boy, the fans, the fans are falling  
Out of the stands at shoddy FedEx Field  
And your behavior, truly quite appalling,  
'Tis just your ownership we pray you'll yield.  
But come ye back, Commanders, into old D.C.  
We may rename you once we're Snyder-free,  
Though with his stench, his team's initials, we agree,  
Oh, Danny boy, how well they fit: the WC.  
(*Jeff Shirley, Richmond*)

SIS BOOM BLAH: Honorable mentions

**FedEx Field Fight Song**  
(to "We Will Rock You")  
Buddy, we're the fans of the Eagles, the Giants,  
The Bucs, gonna fill up the stands Sunday!  
We'll take over the place, there's lots of space,  
Since D.C.'s own fans will not show their face!  
We sing: We will, we will mock you!  
We will, we will mock you!

Buddy, you're the boss man, dross man,  
Take another loss, there's no positive gloss Sunday,  
You got staff to debase, you're in last place,  
Gotta hire lawyers to help with your case.  
We sing: We will, we will- mock you!  
...  
(*Mark Raffman, Reston*)



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Week 1479: It's WordleVite!  
Write a phrase of 5-letter words

**PUFFY PASTY PARTY**  
First beach get-together of the summer

**LIVIN' LARGE, LOSER**  
Winning a magnet in the Invite

You knew we couldn't ignore this thing: Yes, of course, the Empress plays her daily Wordle grid — usually as soon as a new one drops at midnight, courtesy of the ubiquitous game's new corporate overlord, the New York Times. She does not, however, announce to the world each day that she guessed the word in four tries (okay, maybe a few times when she got it in two).

In recent weeks the E was pelted with suggestions to turn the puzzle into a Style Invitational contest — and after a one-two Loser punch from, first, David Kleinbard ("Nah, we're a humor contest, not a puzzle") and then Melissa Balmain ("Well, hmm, your examples are pretty persuasive"), we're holding our breath and going with **this week's contest: Write a phrase or sentence consisting of two to six five-letter words or names, as in Melissa's examples above, then define it or say something funny about it** (that's how it's going to be more than a puzzle, capisce?).

**AND the Wordle part:** As the words progress from first to last, you'll note which letters are in common with the final word. **Once a letter is in the right, "green" place — the same place as it is in the final word (like the P in "pouty" above) — your subsequent words must keep those letters in their right places.** You *may* reuse a "gray" letter that doesn't appear in the final word. And you may use the letter a second time in the word, as in Wordle. **Also, alas:** Unlike the elegant Wordle grid, we won't be able to present your word series as a multicolored graphic (unless it's the winner); **just give us the words, in a single line,** and the E will figure out the progression. **More essential details in this week's Style Conversational, wapo.st/conv1479.**

**Submit up to 25 entries** at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1479](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1479) (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, March 21; results appear April 10 in print, April 7 online.

**Winner gets the Clowning Achievement,** our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives — not in season but by November they'd be stale — a box of **Day of the Dead-themed Pop-Tarts**, found on a clearance rack by the Famed Jeff Contompasis of Ashburn, Va. Bet they have it all over Halloween sugar-bomb equivalents like Count Chocula Monster Marshmallows.

**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 new 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](http://wapo.st/inviteFAQ). The headline "Cheer Hilarity" is by Chris Doyle; Jeff Contompasis wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://on.fb.me/invdev); "like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://bit.ly/inkofday).

**The Style Conversational:** Along with more info on Week 1479, the Empress's online column includes "A Czar Is Born," a mini-history of the Invitational under her imperial predecessor, Gene Weingarten, written as part of a surprise tribute. See [wapo.st/conv1479](http://wapo.st/conv1479).

Cheer for Cherry Blossoms

Tourists make for thrilled consumers!  
Come this spring, we'll show our bloomers!  
(*Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn*)

The National Zoo

(To "If I Only Had a Brain")  
You can while away the hours  
As Xiao Qi Ji devours  
Kaboodles of bamboo;  
Pardon our propaganda  
But you'll find a cuddly panda  
Only at the National Zoo!

We have many awesome mammals,  
(Alas, we're out of camels,  
Likewise, the kangaroo)  
But cheer up! If you wanna  
Come hang out with our iguana,  
He'll be waitin' here for you!

Oh, I can't tell you why  
The people flock to see  
All the animals in our menagerie  
Perhaps the key?  
Admission's free!

So if you are kinda fonda  
The sloth or anaconda,  
Here's whatcha gotta do:  
Come enjoy all our species —  
Yep, we clean up all their feces  
See you at the National Zoo!  
(*Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.*)

**Commanders Cheer**  
Go, Commanders, lead your troops  
**Together to the front!**  
Hit 'em once, hit 'em twice!

Hit 'em three times, punt!  
(*Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase*)

Metrorail

(To "Old Folks at Home" a.k.a. "Swanee River")  
Way down beneath the frenzied drivers,  
Far, far below;  
Come join the rush-to-work survivors;  
Street traffic's much too slow!  
Those delays will make you nervous;  
Metro saves you time!  
Oops! Escalator's out of service;  
You'll have a long, long climb.  
(*Beverley Sharp*)

The Sackler Gallery Cheer

Our name's up high! We're overjoyed!  
We're pushing art, not opioid!  
(*Kevin Dopart, Washington*)

It's the COMMANDERS Anagram Cheer!

New name! Same team! One thing's clear!  
When was the start of all this mess?  
Back in '99: **COME MR. DAN S.!** (*Dave Zarrow, Reston*)

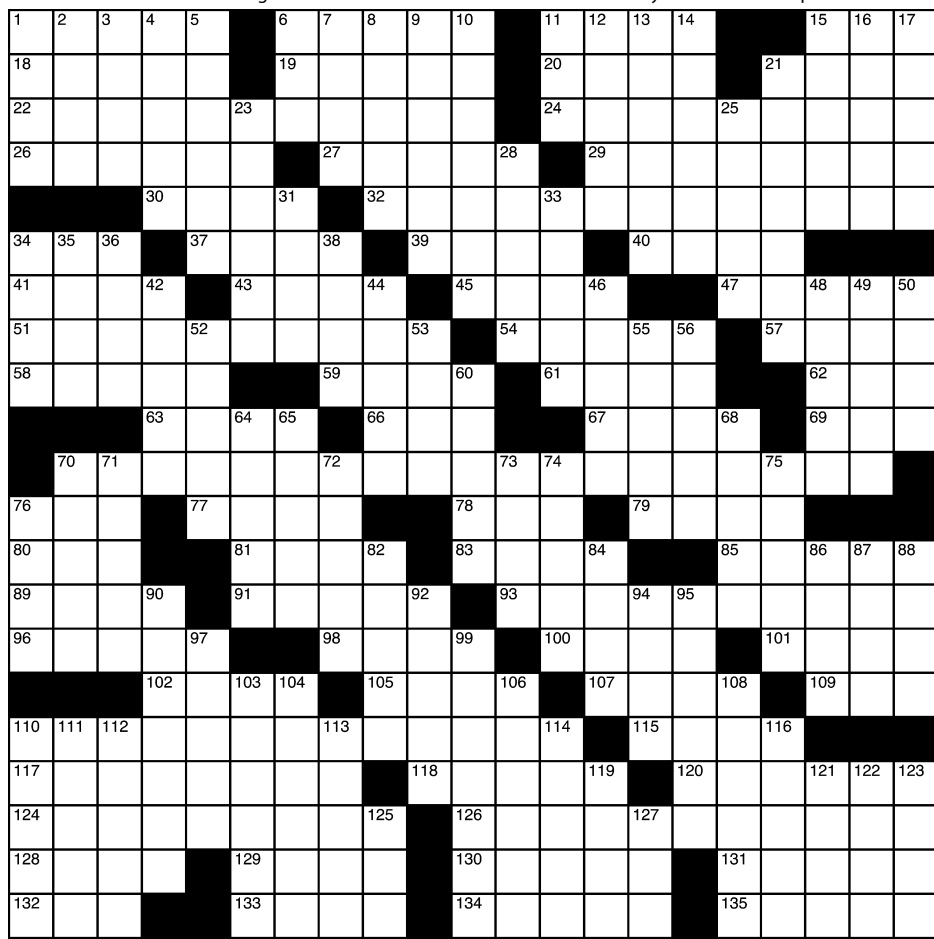
Let's more honorable mentions in the online Invite at wapo.st/invite1479.

**Still running** — deadline Monday night, March 14: our contest to write a poem using only a list of the 1,000 most common words. See [wapo.st/invite1478](http://wapo.st/invite1478).

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

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|--|--|---|
| <p>"Hi, Cl" By MARK McCLAIN</p> <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Wood that means "raft" in Spanish</p> <p>6 Small openings</p> <p>11 B-boy connector</p> <p>15 TV father of Rod and Todd Flanders</p> <p>18 Japanese brew</p> <p>19 Virtuous sort</p> <p>20 Words said with a finger wag</p> <p>21 Vatican figure</p> <p>22 Disturbance on the cruise ship pool deck?</p> <p>24 Bet using inside info</p> <p>26 Chicken tikka ___: curry dish</p> <p>27 Fixed look</p> <p>29 Pleasure seeker</p> <p>30 Not as much</p> <p>32 Youth organization skills contest?</p> <p>34 5 mL in recipes</p> <p>37 Avoid</p> <p>39 Cork coin word</p> <p>40 Cowboys or Broncos</p> <p>41 Lotion additive</p> <p>43 Prep for publication</p> <p>45 Oxford notables</p> <p>47 Valleys</p> <p>51 Fraud involving bedding?</p> <p>54 Rigs on the road</p> <p>57 Put in the mail</p> <p>58 Surrey racecourse town</p> <p>59 Massive</p> <p>61 Pack (down)</p> <p>62 Poetic tribute</p> <p>63 The Arno runs through it</p> <p>66 Overnight spot</p> <p>67 Resorts with springs</p> <p>69 "Stat!"</p> <p>70 Prison guard's subjugation, slangily?</p> <p>76 Run out of juice</p> <p>77 Bro and sis</p> <p>78 Shoe part</p> <p>79 Texter's "Too funny!"</p> <p>80 "Do ___ solid"</p> <p>81 Bouncy tune</p> <p>83 Quaint oath</p> <p>85 Montague teen</p> <p>89 Island that's the westernmost point of Alaska</p> <p>91 More than one would hope to pay</p> <p>93 Hardly a bountiful burg?</p> | <p>96 Seventh-century pope</p> <p>98 Arduous journey</p> <p>100 Red-wearing duck triplet</p> <p>101 Minor quarrel</p> <p>102 ___ High Stadium</p> <p>105 Blockhead</p> <p>107 Strong lager</p> <p>109 ___Caps</p> <p>110 Transport for old-fashioned folks?</p> <p>115 Puckery</p> <p>117 Audio tape making a comeback</p> <p>118 Living room staples</p> <p>120 Low tie</p> <p>124 Observed Passover, in a way</p> <p>126 Passenger leaving Edinburgh Airport?</p> <p>128 They may be black or yellow</p> <p>129 Fleck with a banjo</p> <p>130 Heist film series</p> <p>131 Full of passion</p> <p>132 Martini order</p> <p>133 God of love</p> <p>134 Earth, in some sci-fi</p> <p>135 Over-___: sports bet</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Lip help</p> <p>2 Sri Lanka locale</p> <p>3 Blokes</p> <p>4 Submerged ridge</p> <p>5 Supermarket sections</p> <p>6 The Big Ten's Nittany Lions: Abbr.</p> <p>7 Clumsy sorts</p> <p>8 Splits</p> <p>9 Wrap around</p> <p>10 MLB's ___ era</p> <p>11 Actress</p> <p>12 Russian city that hosted the 2014 Olympics</p> <p>13 Purpose</p> <p>14 Pester</p> <p>15 Tag cry</p> <p>16 Anglican</p> <p>17 Poor essay's lack</p> <p>21 Tropical toppers</p> <p>23 Nut from the tropics</p> <p>25 Wanderer</p> <p>28 Continental coins</p> <p>31 Brewski</p> <p>33 Basic principle</p> <p>34 Sticky or ticker</p> <p>35 Minor error</p> <p>36 D.C. veterans</p> <p>38 French Riviera city</p> <p>42 Emulate Monroe and DiMaggio</p> <p>44 Easy putt</p> <p>46 Many a tennis winner</p> <p>48 Spaghetti</p> <p>49 Fund for the long haul</p> <p>50 Meal in a bowl</p> <p>52 Forgets about, maybe</p> <p>53 Artistic Chinese dynasty</p> <p>55 Push forward</p> | <p>56 Jerk</p> <p>60 Monetary nickname based on a Roman numeral</p> <p>64 Heads out of port</p> <p>65 Scope</p> <p>68 Spine-tingling, maybe</p> <p>70 Connect with</p> <p>71 Hershey's ___ bar</p> <p>72 Dots on some charts</p> <p>73 Confused states</p> <p>74 Give lessons</p> <p>75 Ancestry</p> <p>76 Key of Brahms' Symphony No. 2</p> <p>82 Phone service outfit</p> <p>84 Apply crudely</p> <p>86 Janitorial tools</p> <p>87 Scottish Gaelic John</p> <p>88 "I'm ___ your scheme!"</p> <p>90 Bares, in a way</p> <p>92 Golf shop array</p> <p>94 Modernists, briefly</p> <p>95 Leader that rhymes with a storm</p> <p>97 Small greenish songbird</p> <p>99 Deteriorate</p> <p>103 Doesn't disturb</p> <p>104 Old Testament queen</p> <p>106 Cover with graffiti</p> <p>108 Panda's skill, in a 2008 film</p> <p>110 Burn badly</p> <p>111 Arabian Peninsula land</p> <p>112 Words before some dates</p> <p>113 Green with Grammys</p> <p>114 More red, but not visibly</p> <p>116 Epoxy, e.g.</p> <p>119 Cast topper, usually</p> <p>121 Prevented a return from</p> <p>122 Tales of the past</p> <p>123 Astronomical dist.</p> <p>125 Coll. dorm figures</p> <p>127 Words with nutshell and pickle</p> |
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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

**Happy Birthday | March 13:** You are reserved but determined. You are caring and sensitive to the needs of others. You are an independent thinker who is always generous. This is a year of work and construction, which means you might build something external and physical, or it might be an internal structure in your life.

**MOON ALERT:** Avoid shopping or making important decisions from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. After that, the Moon moves from Cancer into Leo.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
You might be interested in the welfare of those who are in prison or in a hospital. You might make others aware of the plight of people who are trapped in some way.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
You might choose to work on behalf of a charitable institution because you want to benefit others. Or perhaps you are concerned about the welfare of a friend because you feel sensitive to the needs of others.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
If you can use your influence with people in power to help those in need, you will do so. Or perhaps you feel that it is hopeless. You might just feel world-weary.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
You have a genuine concern for those who are less fortunate, especially people who are living in other countries or distant places. You want to help them if possible. You also want to raise the awareness of their situation to others.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
You will be generous to others, especially if they are less fortunate than you, because you feel a genuine concern for them. This could be someone close to you, perhaps your partner or a close friend; or it could be a stranger in another country. Avoid financial decisions during the Moon Alert.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
You want to help someone close to you because you feel they need your support. You might feel more concerned about them than your own needs. However, remember to

take care of yourself first, or you will be of no use to anyone else.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
Something might make you world-weary and discouraged about your ability to help people who are suffering. The problem seems to be overwhelming. Forget eagle mind and focus on mouse mind. Start with small steps.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
You are sensitive to the needs of your own children or children who are strangers. You are also more in touch with your creative energy, which is why you might become involved in artistic activities.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
You feel sympathetic to a family member. If you can help this person, you will. Some of you might also explore an interest in the occult or paranormal activity —

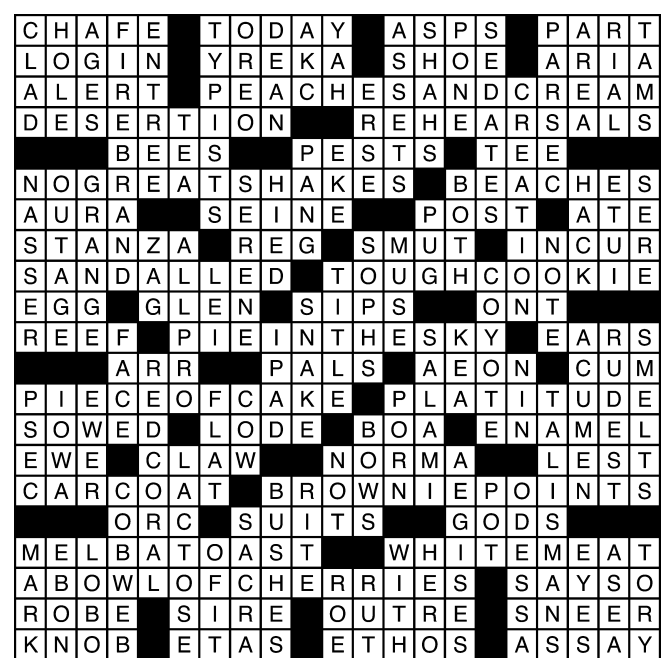
anything from Ouija boards to seeking out a psychic.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
Your imagination is heightened, which is why you might spend a lot of time daydreaming or being lost in a fantasy world. You feel a need to escape your daily obligations. Relax, this is temporary.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
If making financial decisions or shopping, be aware of the Moon Alert. Meanwhile, you want to help others, which is a noble aspiration, but you need to be grounded to be effective.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
The Sun is lined up with your ruler Neptune, which greatly stimulates your awareness. It makes you more sensitive to others and more concerned with the benefit of their welfare than your own.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



3/6/22