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Entertainment

The Style Invitational: A bug’s laugh — cicada ‘art’ winners

Plus new contest Week 1439: Fun with song titles and their vowels

By Pat Myers
June 3, 2021 at 10:01 a.m. EDT



The Washington Post’s Peeps diorama contest may be no more, but we at The Style Invitational chirped right up with our own, decidedly less cutesy replacement featuring the Brood of 2021 — call them the Antipeeps. The Empress didn’t insist on dioramas; any humorous artwork was eligible as long as it included at least one real cicada or nymph exoskeleton.

(Click [here](#) to skip down to this week’s new contest of wordplay on song titles)

The Antipeeps: 17 winning cicada dioramas and more



First place, winner of the Clowning Achievement |

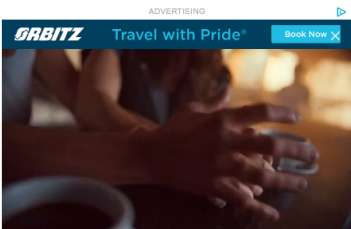
And [this](#) week’s new contest . . .

Week 1439: Vowel Movement: The Musical

Bad Romance > **B D R M N C** > **Bedroom Nice**: Lady Gaga finally finds love.

Moon River > **M N R V R** > **I’m No RV’er**: The Allman Brothers decide they’re not ramblin’ men after all.

Back in 2015, the Empress ran a contest that Loser William Verkuilen remembers fondly, having gotten a couple of blots of ink out of it in [Week 1155](#). It played on movie titles, so Bill suggests we try it with songs: **This week: Choose a song title; remove all the vowels; then add back as many vowels as you like to create a new title. And describe the song, as in the examples above. You might also provide a line or more of lyrics.** You can’t change the order of the consonants, but you may add spaces or punctuation as above. (For our purposes, A, E, I, O and U are always vowels; Y and W also count unless they make a “yuh” or “whuh” sound, as in “yak” or “wax.”)



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Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1439 (no capitals in the Web address). Deadline is Monday, June 14; results appear July 4 in print, July 1 online.

Winner gets the **Clowning Achievement**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives an **eight-color toilet bowl night light** that “turns on with proximity.” Sort of like butt-dialing, we guess. So if you visit the commode after dark, you may feed the Specter of the Fuchsia Abyss. (Or, if you wait a sec, the Turquoise Abyss.) Donated by Jeff Contompasis.

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, “**No ‘Bility**” or “**Punderachiever**.” First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” (**FirStink** for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline “A Bug’s Laugh” is by Jesse Frankovich; Dave Prevar 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](https://twitter.com/StyleInvite) on Twitter.



Content from [Sandy Spring Bank](#)

“There’s nothing I’ve ever needed that I can’t go to them for.”

Sandy Spring Bank provides above-and-beyond financial services for D.C.-area small businesses.

[Read More](#)

The Style Conversational: The Empress’s weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week’s, published late Thursday, June 3, at wapo.st/conv1439.

Still running — deadline Monday night, June 7: our contest for fake trivia about the law. See wapo.st/invite1438

DON’T MISS AN INVITE! [Sign up here](#) to receive a once-a-week email from the Empress as soon as The Style Invitational and Style Conversational go online every Thursday, complete with links to the columns.

1 Comments



By Pat Myers

Pat Myers is editor and judge of The Style Invitational, The Washington Post’s page for clever, edgy humor and wordplay. In the role since December 2003, she has posted and judged more than 700 contests. She also writes the weekly Style Conversational column and runs the Style Invitational Devotees page on Facebook.

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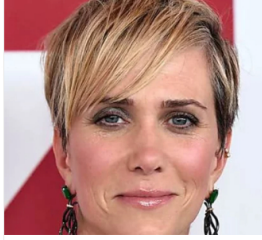


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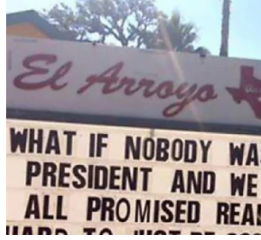
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Deborah Hensley
and Kevin Dopart,
Washington

ET TU, BROODX?



"My name is Inigo Cicada. Seventeen years ago, you squished my father. Prepare to die!"

-- The Princess Brood

Lee Graham, Rockville, Md.



"People say *we're* scary when we come up out of the ground?"

Hildy Zampella, Alexandria, Va.



Lost 4th season episode (1970)

The Cycle With Cicadas

Baris: There must be thousands.

Kirk: Hundreds of thousands.

Spock: One million seven hundred seventy-one thousand five hundred sixty-one.

Donna Saady, Rockville, Md.



Cicadas at the Barricade -- from Les Bzz

Lani and Eleanor Jacobson, Herndon, Va.



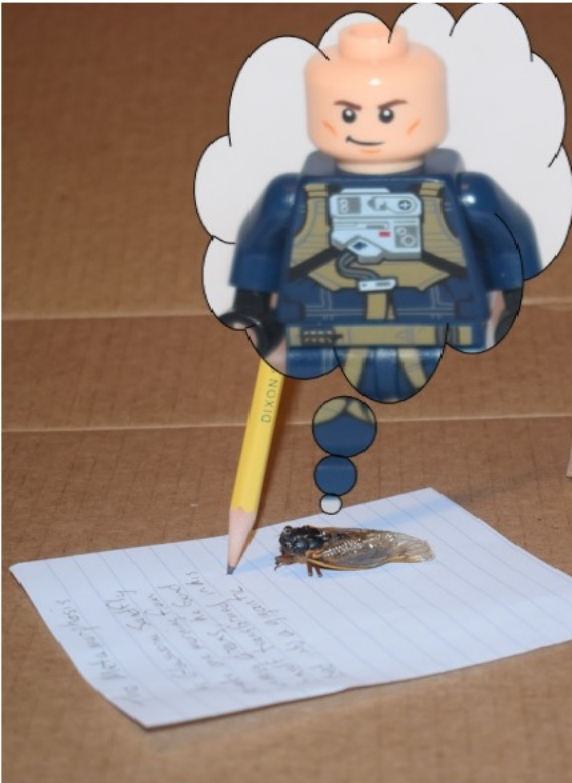
BREWED X

Kevin Dopart, Washington



After 17 years, the reign of the Peeps diorama comes to an end.

Craig Dykstra, Centreville, Va.



**“As Gregor awoke one morning from uneasy dreams, he found himself transformed in his bed into an enormous human.” --
*Franz Cicafka***

Todd DeLap, Fairfax, Va.



L LANDSCAPING



**BROODY
GIULIANI**

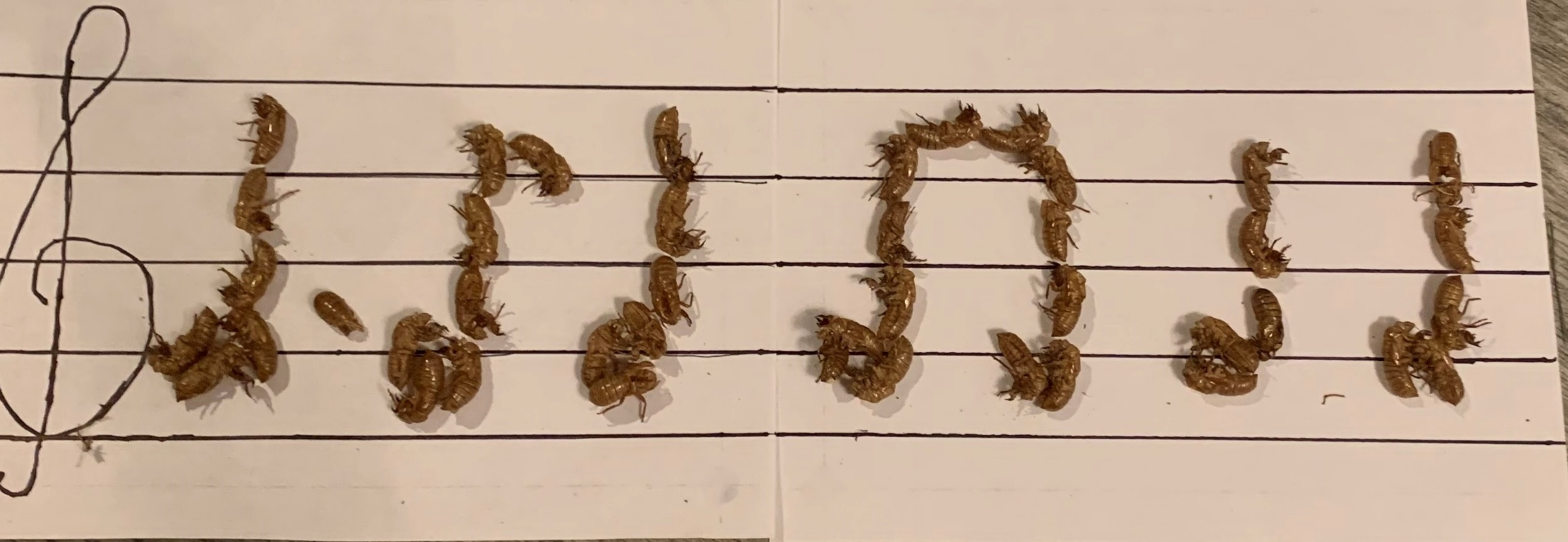
Jesse Frankovich,
Lansing, Mich.

June 2021

S	M	W	T	F	S
1 		2  8:30 out of EXOSKELETON	3	4 Go to MAPLE w/Squish	5 TREE WEEK ①
6 TREE ②	7 TREE ③	8 TREE ④	9 WEEK ⑤	10 WEEK ⑥	11 WEEK ⑦
12 END ⑧ SPEND NIGHT AT SQUISH'S IN OAK TREE	13 Go to A Bug's Life w/Squish, Buzz & Dee STAY UP IN TREE	14 BUZZ 5:30 Go to Coco's	15	16 BUZZ 5:30 Go to BEEMOVIE w/Hemiptera	17
18 FIVE-STAR BUZZING CAMP STARTS →	19	20 	21	22	23
24	25 Go to party at Sycamore w/Squish + Buzz BUZZING CAMP ENDS → BUZZING CAMP ENDS	26 Go to Maple Tree w/Squish + Buzz see The Fly	27 COME HOME FROM MAPLE TREE BUZZ at Local Park	28 ① START WORK BUZZ 5:30	29 Squish's House 6-8 BUZZING at maple tree WORK
30 BUZZ 5:30 at White Oak					

Cyclical InsectLife

Julia Shawhan, Silver Spring, Md.

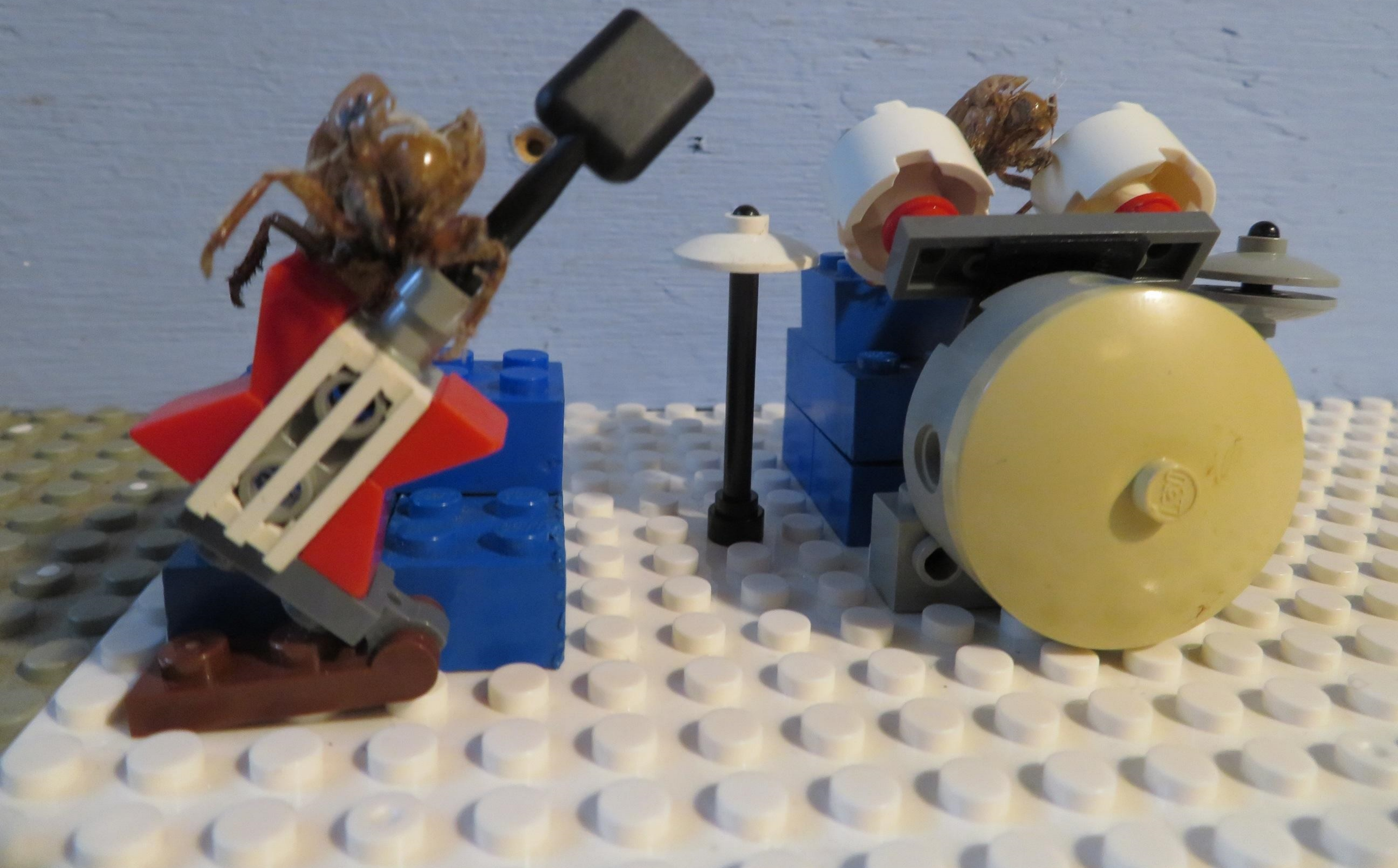


GLORIA IN EX-SHELLSIS!

Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.

CICADIAN RHYTHM SECTION

Art Grinath, Takoma Park, Md.





A plague on both the houses. (Deborah Hensley and Kevin Dopart, Washington)



“Shall we mate?” “Yes, let’s mate.” (They do not move.) -- “Mating for Godot
(Frank Mann and 10-year-old Lida Mann, Washington)

Creeps



Kevin Dopot, Washington

CICADA VIRTUAL SCHOOL

2021

My brother's
touching me!!!

Cameron

This is **BORING!**

Constance

I have to
go potty!!!!

Charlie

Didn't we just
do this
yesterday??

Christopher

They don't pay
me enough...

Mr. C. Cada

Uh oh, I lost my
marker!!

Cecilia

AAAAAAAAAAAAA
AAAAHHHHHH!!!
...Sorry, just
practicing...

Cassidy

I can make my
antennae curl,
watch!!

Calliope

Hey, wanna
see my pet
aphid??

Cyrus



**It's been a long wait for jolly old Saint Nicada,
but he won't let the little nymphs down.**

**Suzi Gay, San Diego
Jack and Robin Ford, Fort Washington, Md.**