

DIVERSIONS



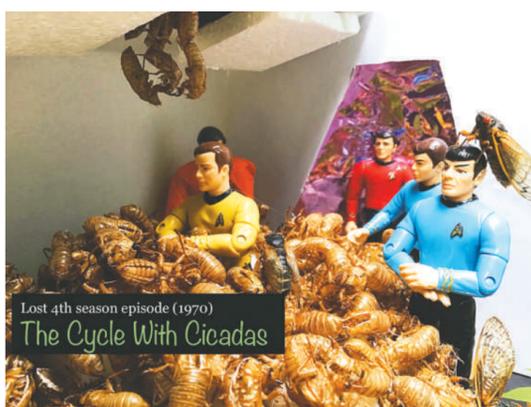
Winner of the Clowning Achievement: “Et tu, BroodX?”
Deborah Hensley and Kevin Dopart, Washington



Second place: “My name is Inigo Cicada. Seventeen years ago, you squished my father. Prepare to die!” – The Princess Brood
Lee Graham, Rockville, Md.



Third place: “People say WE'RE scary when we come up out of the ground?”
Hildy Zampella, Alexandria, Va.



Fourth place: 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.

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

A Bug’s Laugh:
Winning cicada ‘art’

BY PAT MYERS

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. See a dozen more at wapo.st/invite1439. **Still running — deadline Monday night, June 7: our contest for fake trivia about the law. See wapo.st/invite1438.**

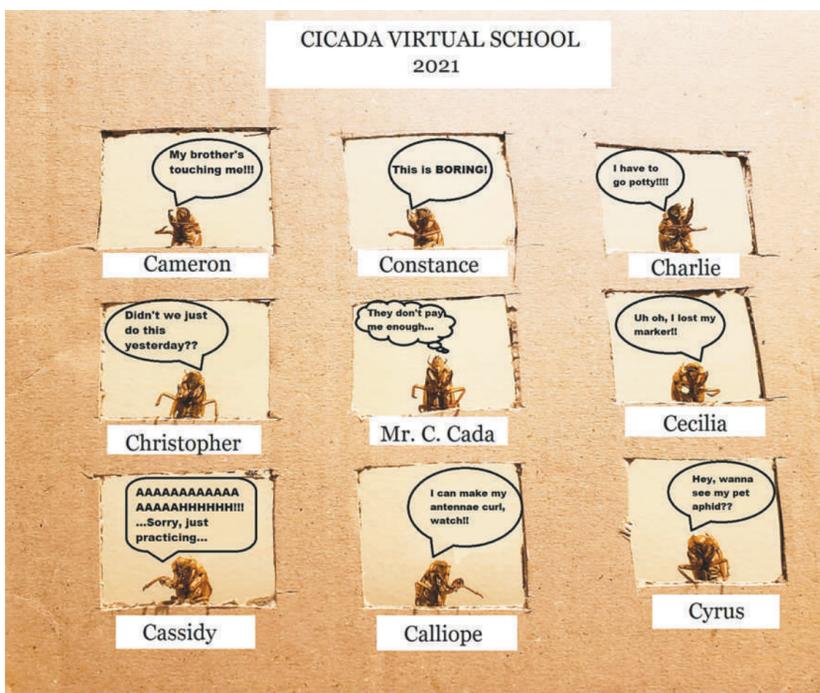
BUZZ OFF: HONORABLE MENTIONS



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



It’s a long wait for jolly old Saint Nicada, but he won’t let the little nymphs down.
Suzie Gay, San Diego, and Jack and Robin Ford, Fort Washington, Md.



Sarah Walsh and 7-year-old Ziva Walsh, Rockville, Md.



Kevin Dopart, Washington

New for 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.”)

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. 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 contest and set of results. See this week’s at wapo.st/conv1439.