

# Fans of Rube Goldberg can see and touch his crazy inventions up close

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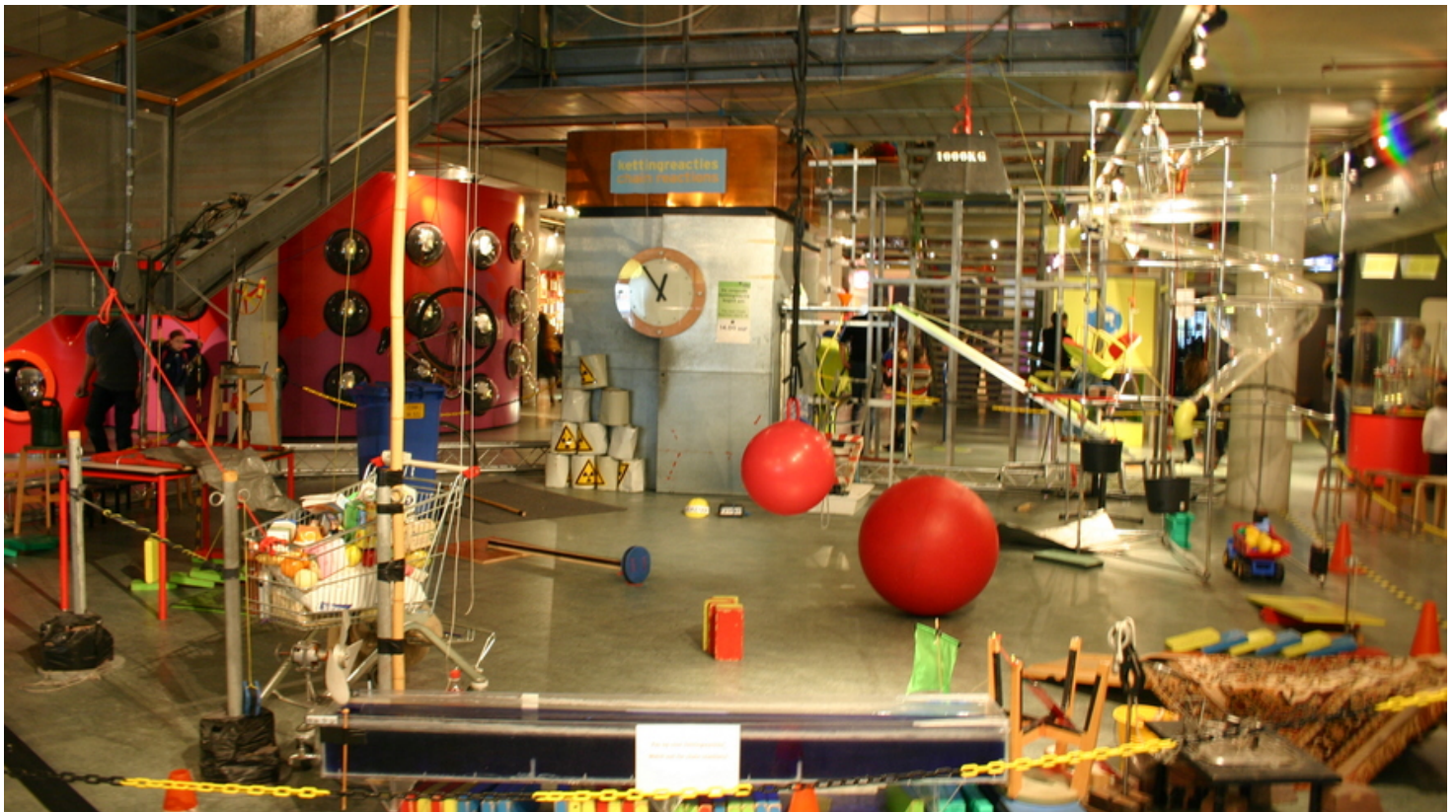


Image 1. A giant Rube Goldberg machine. Photo: Ryan Somma/Flickr/Creative Commons

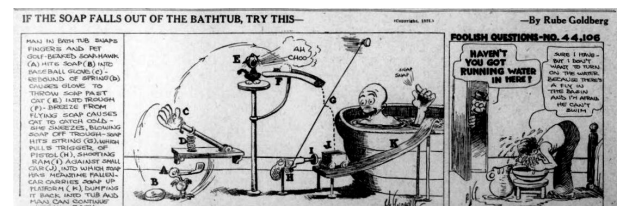
Cartoonist Rube Goldberg is famous for his wonderfully silly machines. Even though Goldberg died back in 1970, his wacky inventions are as well-loved today as ever. The complicated devices had a huge number of working parts. They also had goofy purposes. For example, one stuck a stamp on an envelope. Another wiped your mouth at breakfast.

Goldberg did not actually build these machines in real life. However, he did create very detailed illustrations showing how they could be built. The machines do work.

Years after his death, the cartoonist's name is still linked with wild inventions.

## Goldberg's Professor Butts Is A Star

Now, his work is being celebrated in a museum exhibition. The show is at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia.



The exhibit is called "The Art of Rube Goldberg." It is the first large-scale overview of Goldberg's work in years. It provides a chance to learn more about the life of the groundbreaking artist.

Goldberg started out as an engineer. Then, he quit his job to become a cartoonist and writer.

Goldberg is most famous for cartoons starring professor Lucifer Gorgonzola Butts. This fictional character was an inventor of ridiculous machines. Butts' silly inventions tackled all of life's smallest chores in crazy ways.

The cartoons sparked the imagination of many would-be scientists, inventors and engineers. Many kids became interested in science or inventing because of Goldberg.

### **Wacky Machine Building Contest**

To celebrate that influence, the museum is hosting a Rube Goldberg Machine Contest. The contest is for high schoolers. Students are being challenged to build their own wacky machines. Similar contests have been held for 30 years.



The exhibit presents lots of Goldberg's drawings. It also shows his influence on popular culture. Toys and board games were based on Goldberg's work. He also worked with The Three Stooges on the 1930 film "Soup to Nuts."

Visitors to the museum can play mad scientist themselves. They can touch and play with Rube Goldberg machines. They can even create their own crazy devices.

Want to experience Goldberg's special silliness without leaving your chair? Rubegoldberg.com has a lot of information on the cartoonist.

## Quiz

- 1 Which detail from the article shows that Rube Goldberg created some wacky inventions?
- (A) For example, one stuck a stamp on an envelope. Another wiped your mouth at breakfast.
  - (B) However, he did create very detailed illustrations showing how they could be built. The machines do work.
  - (C) Students are being challenged to build their own wacky machines. Similar contests have been held for 30 years.
  - (D) They can touch and play with Rube Goldberg machines. They can even create their own crazy devices.
- 2 Read the section "Goldberg's Professor Butts Is A Star."
- Which selection explains how Goldberg's work influenced others?
- (A) Now, his work is being celebrated in a museum exhibition. The show is at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia.
  - (B) The exhibit is called "The Art of Rube Goldberg." It is the first large-scale overview of Goldberg's work in years. It provides a chance to learn more about the life of the groundbreaking artist.
  - (C) Goldberg started out as an engineer. Then, he quit his job to become a cartoonist and writer.
  - (D) The cartoons sparked the imagination of many would-be scientists, inventors and engineers. Many kids became interested in science or inventing because of Goldberg.
- 3 Select the sentence that summarizes the article.
- (A) A new museum exhibit about Rube Goldberg will have a contest to see who can make the craziest machine.
  - (B) A new museum exhibit will teach people about Rube Goldberg's life and display his silly machines.
  - (C) Rube Goldberg worked as an engineer before he quit his job to become a cartoonist and a writer.
  - (D) Rube Goldberg was a famous cartoonist who would eventually work with the Three Stooges.
- 4 How does the information in the section "Wacky Machine Building Contest" support the main idea of the article?
- (A) It lists all of the rules students must follow in order to win the Rube Goldberg Machine Contest.
  - (B) It describes some of the things visitors can see and do in the exhibit about Goldberg.
  - (C) It highlights Goldberg's most famous inventions and explains what they do.
  - (D) It explains the reasons why Goldberg decided to leave his job to become a cartoonist.