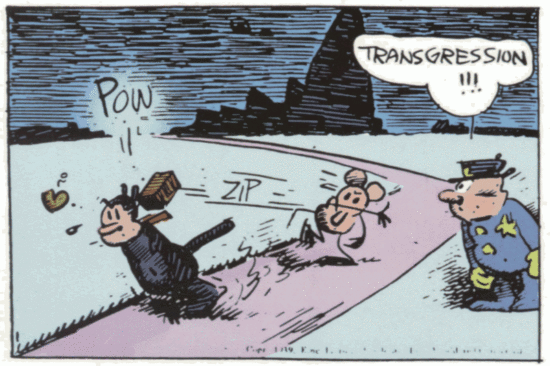
# SERIOCOMIC (42)

Published Date : October 16, 2019  
Author : mkeifetz

*One in a weekly* [*series of enthusiastic posts*](http://hilobrow.com/tag/seriocomic/)*, contributed by HILOBROW friends and regulars, on the topic of our favorite comic books, comic strips, and graphic novels.*

\*



**KRAZY KAT**

The *Krazy Kat* that found me — that grabbed me, that knocked me insensible, and made me its possession, the lil angil — was a mere five strips in a history of comics by Jerry Robinson which my mother brought home when I was eight. In 1974.

I read these strips to distraction long before I read the text of the book, which as I think on it, I may never have read. And long before I read any of the other strips in the collection. *Krazy Kat* (serialized 1914–1944) spoke my language.

Literally, the text was the fractured Span/Yinglish and Franglais/Hays office slang that was becoming my own secret tongue. But, deeper still, its ever-changing landscapes: mad desert plants and hoosegows and mesas like the Chrysler building; clashing crosshatches and skewed lines spoke to directly to the perceptual terrors of my childhood.

In life, plainly, there are eternal verities, and there is constant flux; but which is which? These lines were skewed for me, child of chaos in the heart of the shabby bohème. They didn’t seem to match up right with the experience of any of the other people. They matched with *Krazy*’s crowquill lines, though.

In George Herriman’s world, Coconino County, only three things are certain. A mouse (Ignatz) seeks, obsessively, to brain a cat (Krazy) with a brick. A sentimental police dog (Offisa Pup) finds this improper. And a cat who will conform to no particular identity, perceives the bricks as love. This made sense to me as a set of verities. Nothing is certain except three things which make no sense.

No single artwork has ever spoken to me in quite the same way; spoken directly to the orthogonal perception in which I stewed. The ground itself changes crosshatching as you walk. But glom ye to these three absurd facts, and they will see you through: A mouse, a dog, and cat, pursuing their nonsensical agenda at rather than with each other, aeterne.

Before last week, I had never read a word of *Krazy Kat* kultural kriticism, and had no idea that to a one, the experts describe Ignatz’s feeling for Krazy — the hurling of the brick — as a repeated act of loathing. I can’t even imagine what it feels like to perceive the brick this way. They all say it. It must be so. And yet. The brick is love, lil angil. And I will stake my orthogonally crosshatched view of this against all the world. Because it was forged in the krucible of *Krazy Kat*.

\*\*\*

**SERIOCOMIC:** Mimi Lipson on [LITTLE LULU](http://hilobrow.com/2019/01/02/seriocomic-1/) | Sara Ryan on [AMPHIGOREY](http://hilobrow.com/2019/01/09/seriocomic-2/) | Gary Panter on [THE NUT BROS./THE SQUIRREL CAGE](http://hilobrow.com/2019/01/16/seriocomic-3/) | Gordon Dahlquist on [POGO](http://hilobrow.com/2019/01/23/seriocomic-4/) | Robert Wringham on [VIZ](http://hilobrow.com/2019/01/30/seriocomic-5/) | Matthew De Abaitua on [CAPTAIN BRITAIN](http://hilobrow.com/2019/02/06/seriocomic-6/) | Jessamyn West on [FUN HOME](http://hilobrow.com/2019/02/13/seriocomic-7/) | Bradley Peterson on [HELLBOY](http://hilobrow.com/2019/02/20/seriocomic-8/) | Stephanie Burt on [KITTY PRYDE RETURNS](http://hilobrow.com/2019/02/27/seriocomic-9/) | Jenny Davidson on [OOR WULLIE](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/03/06/seriocomic-10/) | Luc Sante on [MARSUPILAMI](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/03/13/seriocomic-11/) | Susan Roe on [BLOOM COUNTY](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/03/20/seriocomic-12/) | Marilyn Berlin Snell on [CHARLES ADDAMS](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/03/27/seriocomic-13/) | Deb Chachra on [ARKHAM ASYLUM](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/04/03/seriocomic-14/) | Judith Zissman on [ERNIE POOK’S COMEEK](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/04/10/seriocomic-15/) | Alexandra Lange on [BETTY (ARCHIE)](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/04/17/seriocomic-16/) | Catherine Newman on [VERONICA (ARCHIE)](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/04/24/seriocomic-17/) | Josh Glenn on [SPIRE CHRISTIAN COMICS](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/05/01/seriocomic-18/) | Adam McGovern on [THE CREW](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/05/08/seriocomic-19/) | William Nericcio on [ERRATA STIGMATA](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/05/15/seriocomic-20/) | Chelsey Johnson on [DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/05/22/seriocomic-21/) | Sherri Wasserman on [TANK GIRL](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/05/30/seriocomic-22/) | Tom Nealon on [MEGATON MAN](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/06/06/seriocomic-23/) | Erin M. Routson on [THE WEDDING OF SCOTT SUMMERS & JEAN GREY](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/06/12/seriocomic-24/) | Douglas Wolk on [FRANK IN THE RIVER](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/06/19/seriocomic-25/) | Annie Nocenti on [DICK TRACY](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/06/26/seriocomic-26/) | James Parker on [2000 AD](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/07/03/seriocomic-27/) | Adrienne Crew on [NUTS](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/07/10/seriocomic-28/) | Vanessa Berry on [MEAT CAKE](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/07/17/seriocomic-29/) | John Holbo on [WITZEND](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/07/24/seriocomic-30/) | Michael Campochiaro on [SPIDER-WOMAN](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/07/31/seriocomic-31/) | Miranda Mellis on [RED SONJA & BÊLIT](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/08/07/seriocomic-32/) | Michael Grasso on [THE NEW MUTANTS](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/08/14/seriocomic-33/) | Ty Burr on [BINKY BROWN](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/08/21/seriocomic-34/) | Bishakh Som on [AMAR CHITRA KATHA](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/08/28/seriocomic-35/) | Mark Kingwell on [CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/09/04/seriocomic-36/) | Brian Berger on [JIMBO](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/09/11/seriocomic-37/) | Kenya (Robinson) on [AGENT 355](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/09/18/seriocomic-38/) | Seth on [THE ETERNALS ANNUAL](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/09/25/seriocomic-39/) | Susannah Breslin on [SLASHER](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/10/02/seriocomic-40/) | Lisa Kahlden on [JACK CHICK TRACTS](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/10/09/seriocomic-41/) | Mandy Keifetz on [KRAZY KAT](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/10/16/seriocomic-42/) | Tom Devlin on [DUM-DUM POSSE READER](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/10/23/seriocomic-43/) | Eric Reynolds on [ACTION COMICS #460](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/10/30/seriocomic-44/) | Rick Pinchera on [EIGHTBALL #16](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/11/06/seriocomic-45/) | Juan Recondo on [DAYTRIPPER](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/11/13/seriocomic-46/) | Elizabeth Foy Larsen on [ROZ CHAST](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/11/20/seriocomic-47/) | J.E. Anckorn on [HALO JONES](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/11/27/seriocomic-48/) | Deborah Wassertzug on [GREAT POP THINGS](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/12/04/seriocomic-49/) | Peggy Nelson on [MAD MOVIE SATIRES](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/12/11/seriocomic-50/) | Holly Interlandi on [ANGEL SANCTUARY](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/12/18/seriocomic-51/) | Karen Green on [THE SMITHSONIAN COLLECTION OF NEWSPAPER COMICS](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/12/25/seriocomic-52/).

**MORE ENTHUSIASM at HILOBROW**

**KLAATU YOU (2020 weekly):** [ZARDOZ](http://www.hilobrow.com/2020/01/01/klaatu-enthusiasm-1/) | [METROPOLIS](http://www.hilobrow.com/2020/01/08/klaatu-enthusiasm-2/) | [DARK STAR](http://www.hilobrow.com/2020/02/05/klaatu-enthusiasm-6/) | SINS OF THE FLESHAPOIDS | SOLARIS | [& dozens of other pre-STAR WARS sci-fi movies](http://www.hilobrow.com/tag/klaatu-enthusiasm/). **CONVOY YOUR ENTHUSIASM (2019):** [THE TAKING OF PELHAM ONE TWO THREE](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/08/07/convoy-your-enthusiasm-7/) | [ROLLERBALL](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/08/18/convoy-your-enthusiasm-18/) | [BLACK SUNDAY](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/08/04/convoy-your-enthusiasm-4/) | [SORCERER](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/08/06/convoy-your-enthusiasm-6/) | [STRAIGHT TIME](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/08/11/convoy-your-enthusiasm-11/) | [& 20 other Seventies (1974–1983) action movies](http://www.hilobrow.com/tag/convoy-enthusiasm/). **SERIOCOMIC (2019 weekly):** [LITTLE LULU](http://hilobrow.com/2019/01/02/seriocomic-1/) | [VIZ](http://hilobrow.com/2019/01/30/seriocomic-5/) | [MARSUPILAMI](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/03/13/seriocomic-11/) | [ERNIE POOK’S COMEEK](http://www.hilobrow.com/2019/04/10/seriocomic-15/) | [HELLBOY](http://hilobrow.com/2019/02/20/seriocomic-8/) | [& dozens of other comics.](http://hilobrow.com/tag/seriocomic/) **TUBE YOUR ENTHUSIASM (2018):** [LOONEY TUNES](http://hilobrow.com/2018/08/01/tube-your-enthusiasm-1/) | [THREE STOOGES](http://hilobrow.com/2018/08/02/tube-your-enthusiasm-2/) | [THE AVENGERS](http://hilobrow.com/2018/08/19/tube-your-enthusiasm-19/) | [ROCKY & BULLWINKLE](http://hilobrow.com/2018/08/04/tube-your-enthusiasm-4/) | [THE TWILIGHT ZONE](http://hilobrow.com/2018/08/05/tube-your-enthusiasm-5/) | [& 20 other Fifties (1954–1963) TV shows](http://hilobrow.com/tag/tube-enthusiasm/). **WOWEE ZOWEE (2018 weekly):** [UNISEX](http://hilobrow.com/2018/01/03/wowee-zowee-1/) | [UNDER THE PINK](http://hilobrow.com/2018/01/10/wowee-zowee-2/) | [DUMMY](http://hilobrow.com/2018/01/17/wowee-zowee-3/) | [AMOR PROHIBIDO](http://hilobrow.com/2018/01/24/wowee-zowee-4/) | [HIPS AND MAKERS](http://hilobrow.com/2018/01/24/wowee-zowee-4/) | [& dozens of other Nineties (1994–2003) albums](http://hilobrow.com/tag/wowee-zowee/). **KLUTE YOUR ENTHUSIASM (2017):** [THE KILLERS](http://hilobrow.com/2017/08/01/klute-your-enthusiasm-1/) | [BANDE À PART (BAND OF OUTSIDERS)](http://hilobrow.com/2017/08/02/klute-your-enthusiasm-2/) | [ALPHAVILLE](http://hilobrow.com/2017/08/03/klute-your-enthusiasm-3/) | [HARPER](http://hilobrow.com/2017/08/04/klute-your-enthusiasm-4/) | [BLOW-UP](http://hilobrow.com/2017/08/05/klute-your-enthusiasm-5/) | [& 20 other Sixties (1964–1973) neo-noir movies](http://hilobrow.com/tag/klute-enthusiasm/). **#SQUADGOALS (2017 weekly):** [THE WILD BUNCH](http://hilobrow.com/2017/01/04/squadgoals-1/) | [BOWIE’S BAND](http://hilobrow.com/2017/01/18/squadgoals-3/) | [THE BLOOMSBURY GROUP](http://hilobrow.com/2017/02/15/squadgoals-7/) | [THE HONG KONG CAVALIERS](http://hilobrow.com/2017/02/22/squadgoals-8/) | [VI ÄR BÄST!](http://hilobrow.com/2017/03/29/squadgoals-13/) & [dozens of other squads](http://hilobrow.com/tag/squadgoals/). **GROK MY ENTHUSIASM (2016 weekly):** [THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF LUNCH](http://hilobrow.com/2016/01/13/grok-my-enthusiasm-1/) | [WEEKEND](http://hilobrow.com/2016/01/20/grok-my-enthusiasm-2/) | [MILLION YEAR PICNIC](http://hilobrow.com/2016/01/27/grok-my-enthusiasm-3/) | [LA BARONNE EMILE D’ERLANGER](http://hilobrow.com/2016/02/03/grok-my-enthusiasm-4/) | [THE SURVIVAL SAMPLER](http://hilobrow.com/2016/02/10/grok-my-enthusiasm-5/) | [& dozens more one-off enthusiasms](http://hilobrow.com/tag/grok-enthusiasm/). **QUIRK YOUR ENTHUSIASM (2016):** [“Tainted Love”](http://hilobrow.com/2016/08/01/quirk-your-enthusiasm-1/) | [“Metal”](http://hilobrow.com/2016/08/02/quirk-your-enthusiasm-2/) | [“Frankie Teardrop”](http://hilobrow.com/2016/08/03/quirk-your-enthusiasm-3/) | [“Savoir Faire”](http://hilobrow.com/2016/08/04/quirk-your-enthusiasm-4/) | [“Broken English”](http://hilobrow.com/2016/08/05/quirk-your-enthusiasm-5/) | [& 20 other Seventies (1974–1983) new wave singles](http://hilobrow.com/tag/quirk-enthusiasm/). **CROM YOUR ENTHUSIASM (2015):** [DARKER THAN YOU THINK](http://hilobrow.com/2015/08/03/crom-your-enthusiasm-1/) | [THE SWORD IN THE STONE](http://hilobrow.com/2015/08/04/crom-your-enthusiasm-2/) | [OUT OF THE SILENT PLANET](http://hilobrow.com/2015/08/05/crom-your-enthusiasm-3/) | [THIEVES’ HOUSE](http://hilobrow.com/2015/08/06/crom-your-enthusiasm-4/) | [QUEEN OF THE BLACK COAST](http://hilobrow.com/2015/08/07/crom-your-enthusiasm-5/) | [& 20 other Thirties (1934–1943) fantasy novels](http://hilobrow.com/tag/crom-enthusiasm/). **KERN YOUR ENTHUSIASM (2014):** [ALDINE ITALIC](http://hilobrow.com/2014/08/01/kern-your-enthusiasm-1/) | [DATA 70](http://hilobrow.com/2014/08/02/kern-your-enthusiasm-2/) | [TORONTO SUBWAY](http://hilobrow.com/2014/08/03/kern-your-enthusiasm-3/) | [JOHNSTON’S “HAMLET”](http://hilobrow.com/2014/08/04/kern-your-enthusiasm-4/) | [TODD KLONE](http://hilobrow.com/2014/08/05/kern-your-enthusiasm-5/) | [& 20 other typefaces](http://hilobrow.com/tag/kern-enthusiasm/). **HERC YOUR ENTHUSIASM (2013):** [“Spoonin’ Rap”](http://hilobrow.com/2013/07/29/herc-1/) | [“Rapper’s Delight”](http://hilobrow.com/2013/07/30/herc-2/) | [“Rappin’ Blow”](http://hilobrow.com/2013/07/31/herc-3/) | [“The Incredible Fulk”](http://hilobrow.com/2013/08/01/herc-4/) | [“The Adventures of Super Rhyme”](http://hilobrow.com/2013/08/02/herc-5/) | [& 20 other Seventies (1974–1983) hip-hop songs](http://hilobrow.com/tag/herc-enthusiasm/). **KIRK YOUR ENTHUSIASM (2012):** [Justice or vengeance?](http://hilobrow.com/2012/07/30/kirk-your-enthusiasm-1/) | [Kirk teaches his drill thrall to kiss](http://hilobrow.com/2012/07/31/kirk-your-enthusiasm-2/) | [“KHAAAAAN!”](http://hilobrow.com/2012/08/01/kirk-your-enthusiasm-3/) | [“No kill I”](http://hilobrow.com/2012/08/02/kirk-your-enthusiasm-4/) | [Kirk browbeats NOMAD](http://hilobrow.com/2012/08/03/kirk-your-enthusiasm-5/) | [& 20 other Captain Kirk scenes](http://hilobrow.com/tag/kirk-enthusiasm/). **KIRB YOUR ENTHUSIASM (2011):** [THE ETERNALS](http://hilobrow.com/2011/02/21/kirb-your-enthusiasm-1/) | [BLACK MAGIC](http://hilobrow.com/2011/02/21/kirb-your-enthusiasm-2/) | [DEMON](http://hilobrow.com/2011/02/22/kirb-your-enthusiasm-3/) | [OMAC](http://hilobrow.com/2011/02/22/kirb-your-enthusiasm-4/) | [CAPTAIN AMERICA](http://hilobrow.com/2011/02/23/kirb-your-enthusiasm-5/) | [& 20 other Jack Kirby panels](http://hilobrow.com/tag/kirb-enthusiasm/).