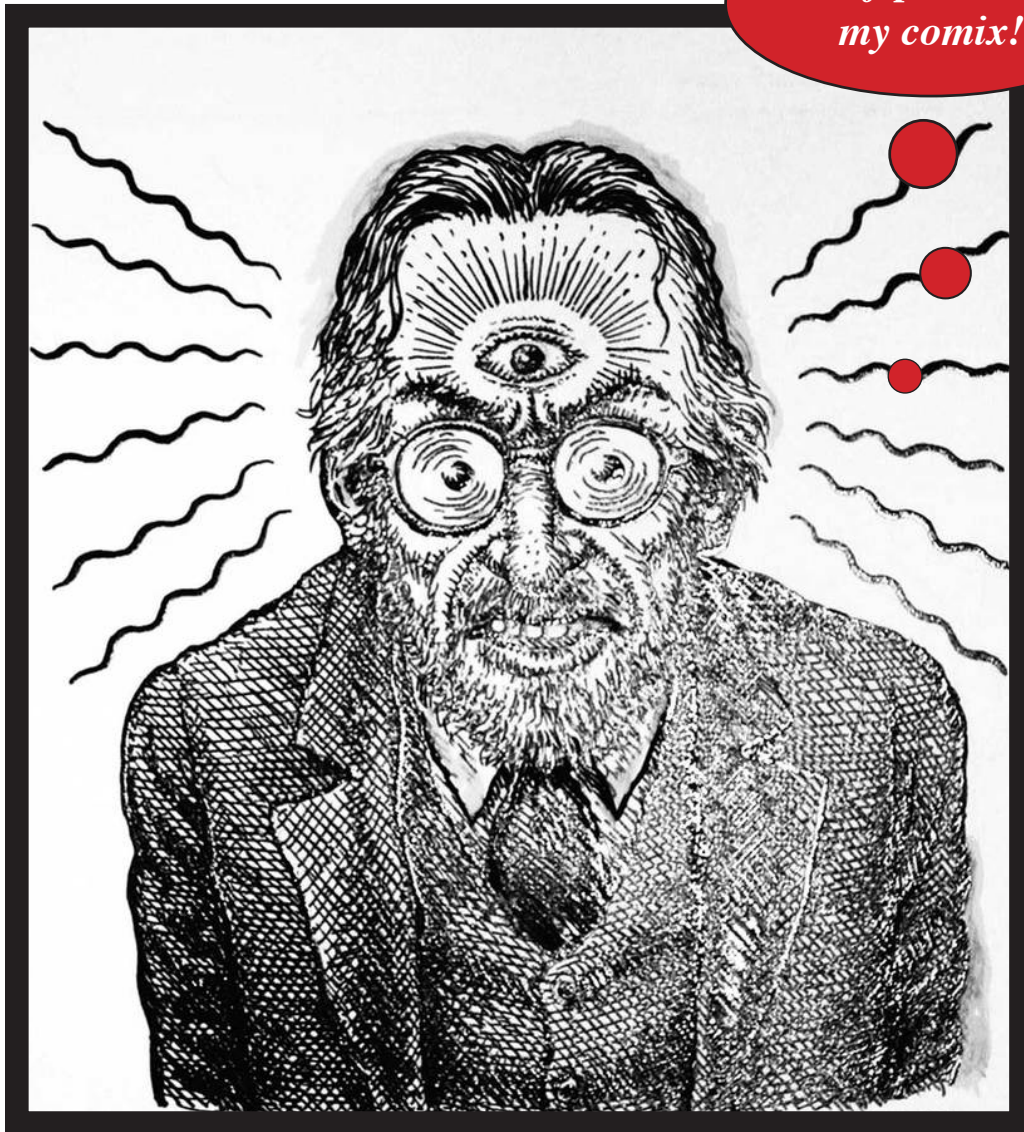


PWR Newsletter



*I self-published
my comix!*



R. Crumb

(August 30, 1943 –)



PUBLISHED WRITERS OF ROSSMOOR



PUBLISHED WRITERS OF ROSSMOOR



A Club to Celebrate and Support Aspiring and Published Authors



May 6, 2017

Volume VI, Issue 5

Board Members

President: Duke Robinson
Vice President: Patricia Keith-Spiegel
Secretary: Dorothy Pritchett
Treasurer: Nazli Monahan
Programs: Ron Wren
Publicity: Barbara Kirbach

Coordinators

Membership: Julie Blade
Channel 28: Joanna Kraus
Featured Authors: Barbara Kirbach
Room Setup: Bud Sisson
Archives: Sandy Foreman
Website: John Braggio
Author Events: Karl Livengood

Newsletter Editor: Paul Weisser

Board Member Backups

President: Patricia Keith-Spiegel
Vice President: The Board
Secretary: Barbara Kirbach
Treasurer: Frances Chin
Programs: Vacant
Publicity: Ron Wren

Coordinator Backups

Membership: Dorothy Pritchett
Channel 28: Frances Chin
Featured Authors: Diana Smith
Room Setup: Vacant
Archives: Vacant
Website: Vacant
Author Events: Judy Dillingham

Newsletter Backup Editor: Vacant

Coming up!
Our monthly PWR meeting
This Saturday, May 6, 2017
From 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
In the Fairway Room at Creekside Clubhouse

Come early and enjoy complimentary coffee!

May's Speaker: Ed Addeo on Being Compensated for Your Writing

BY BARBARA KIRBACH



Barbara Kirbach

At our meeting on Saturday, May 6th, from 10:00 A.M. to noon in the Fairway Room at Creekside, we will hear about the many ways to write and be compensated for our work from Edmond G. Addeo, the author of *How I Almost Made a Fortune as an Author*. Ed has been a successful novelist, editor, ghostwriter, playwright, historian, and advertising executive.

In his 40-year career, Ed had many successes and failures as he struggled to write while raising a family—two equally demanding jobs.

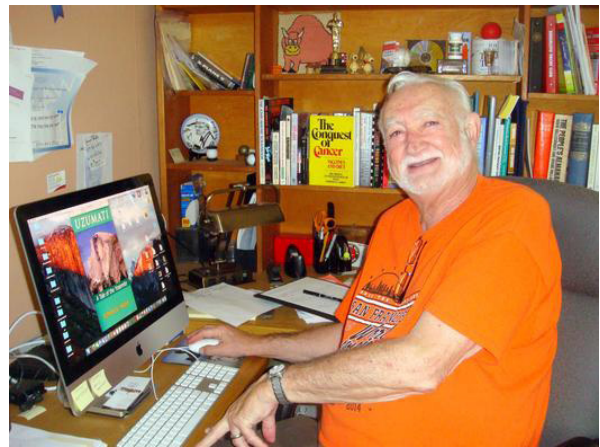
Among other things, he will relate how his first novel, *The Midnight Special*, received front-page raves from the *New York Times*—only to have the publisher declare bankruptcy.

Program Chair Ron Wren promises that Ed, who is his friend, will bring all his infectious brand of humor to his

stories about his exploits.

In 1964, Ed received his first Chaucer Award for Best Historical Fiction for co-authoring *Low and Outside*, in which he brings to life the struggles of a Triple A baseball player who never quite makes it to the major leagues. At the time, it was one of the first adult baseball books and earned Ed an appearance on the *Today Show*.

In 2015, Ed received his second Chaucer Award for Best Historical Fiction for his book *Uzumati: Epic Tale of Early Yosemite*, which spans thousands of years, from the migration of the Miwok tribe southward from the base of Mt. Shasta to the Mariposa Indian War of 1851. When white men entered the valley to do battle with the legendary Chief Tenaya Uzumati, they mistakenly pronounced his name “Yosemite”—hence the name.



Ed Addeo

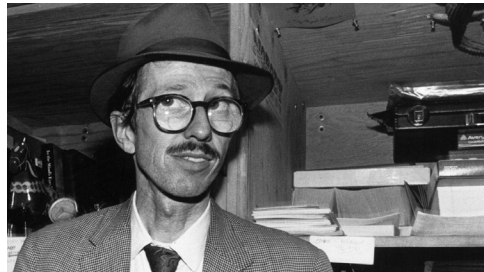
Most recently, Ed has been promoting his book *The Woman Who Cured Cancer*, which honors the work of Dr. Virginia Wheeler, M.D., who pioneered

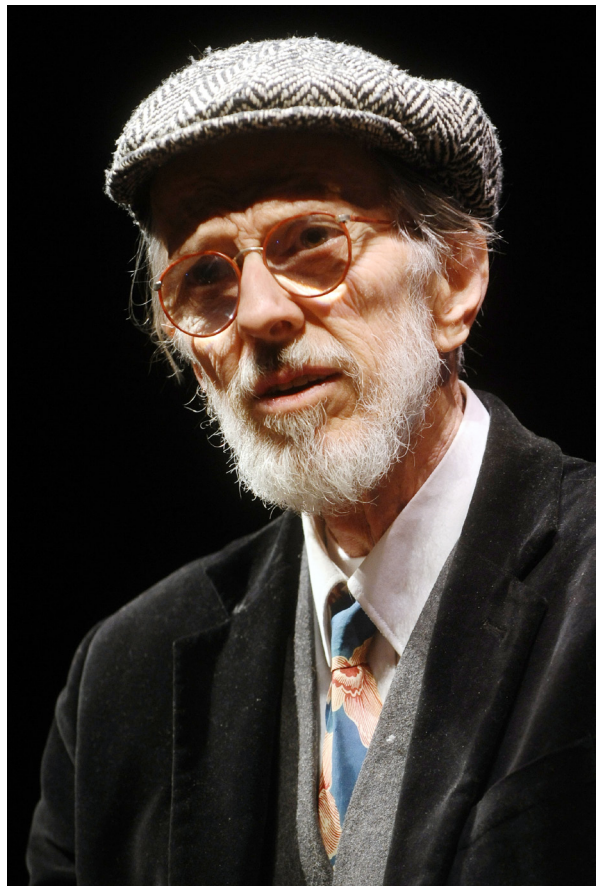
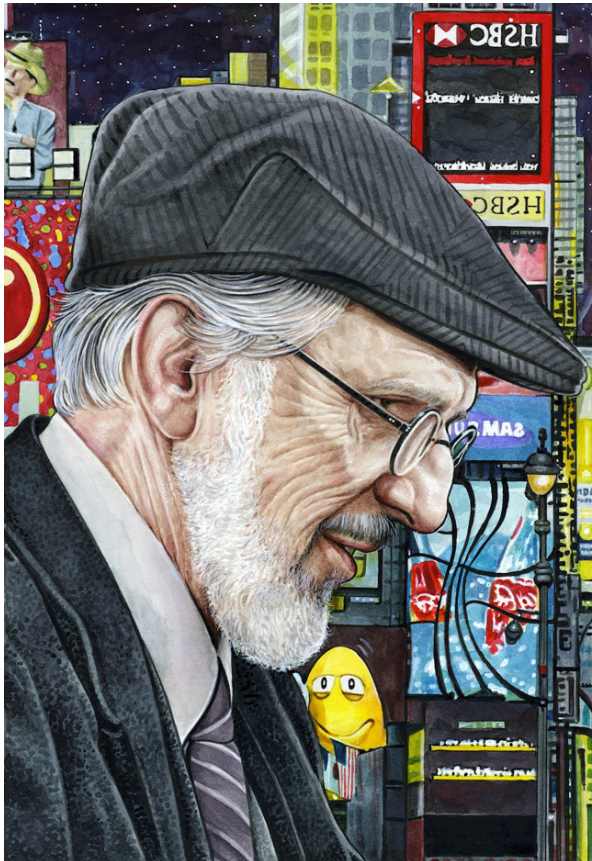
(continued on page 4)

the development of a vaccine that has a 90% cure rate. Ed worked in Wheeler's lab and lived at her home in La Jolla, California. When he was convinced that she wasn't a quack, he wrote the book on her behalf. □

For more information on the program, contact ronwren@aol.com

For more information on PWR, visit www.rossmoor-writers.com





The President's Page

BY DUKE ROBINSON



Duke Robinson

Working on a book? Thinking about writing one? It's not too soon to explore your publishing options.

In early 1994, I finished my first book and began the traditional search for an agent. A year later, I was fortunate to sign a contract with Warner Books (Time Warner). Sometime in 1997, I unpacked a box of the hardback edition. While ultimately satisfying, the process took three long, tedious years.

I did not follow that path again. Nor did I turn to self-publishing, where you pay a printer real money for 500 to 2,000 copies of your book, store them in your garage, and peddle those you can to family, friends, and neighbors. You might see your printed book in three weeks, not years, but self-publishing can be a tough and costly row to hoe. And if you want to sell more than 25 copies, it's a publishing form that is punishing and seldom satisfying.

In 2011, getting close to eighty, with rough drafts of four books on my desk,

I not only wanted to avoid the anxiety of traditional publishing, but also to minimize the possibility that those books would be published after I was dead and gone. So I chose the new, middle-road form of publishing: Print on Demand (POD).

In POD publishing, you upload your manuscript online (or you get someone else to do it for you)—sending it to a company such as CreateSpace, an arm of Amazon.com, which most of us in PWR have used and found both manageable and satisfying. If you go POD, you will see your printed book in about three months.

With any POD publisher, you can upload your files yourself—which is not easy, unless you have proofreading, editing, interior design, and cover design skills. Or you can call on professionals, either your publisher's or those of local publishers such as Big Hat Press in Lafayette or Alive Publishing in Alamo. Either way, you pay anywhere from \$300 to \$2,000+, depending on the services you purchase.

(One cautionary note about CreateSpace: as some of our guest speakers, including Maria Roden, the owner of Orinda Books, have pointed out, many independent bookstores will not stock books that have been published by a subsidiary of Amazon, which they regard as putting brick-and-mortar bookstores out of business.)

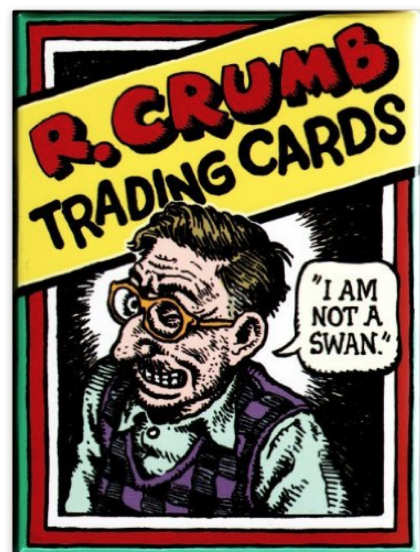
Some of you have asked me, "What will I earn from each copy of my book that I sell myself, or that is sold by my

publisher?" Here's an oversimplified, ballpark estimate of what you will make on a paperback of 300 pages priced at \$15:

From self-publishing: \$15 per copy.

From a traditional publisher: 75¢ to \$1 per copy.

From a POD publisher: \$8 to \$10 per copy when you sell it directly; \$5 to \$6 per copy when you sell it online. □



Vegetarian Circle

BY GENE GORDON



Gene Gordon

Vegetarian Writer of the Month: John Robbins

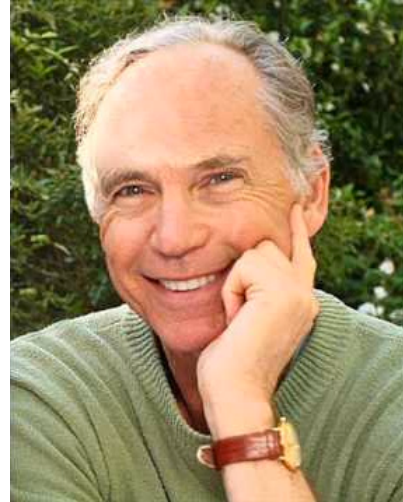
John Robbins is an American author who writes about nutrition, the environment, and animal rights. He is best known for *Diet for a New America* (1987), which discusses how our diets severely impact the planet while causing unimaginable cruelty to animals. Robbins also points out the connections between diet and health.

Robbins's own diet is entirely free of ice cream, although he could have had all he wanted whenever he wanted it, since he is the only son of Irma Robbins, founder of Baskin-Robbins. John was groomed to take over this ice cream empire, but he chose to walk away from it and all its immense wealth.

Instead, he wanted to “pursue the deeper American Dream...of a society at peace

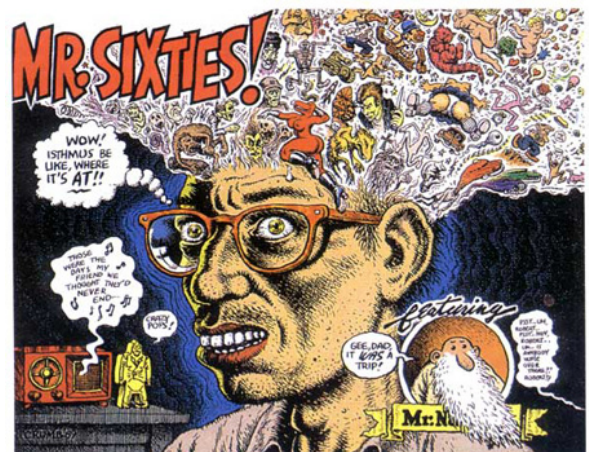
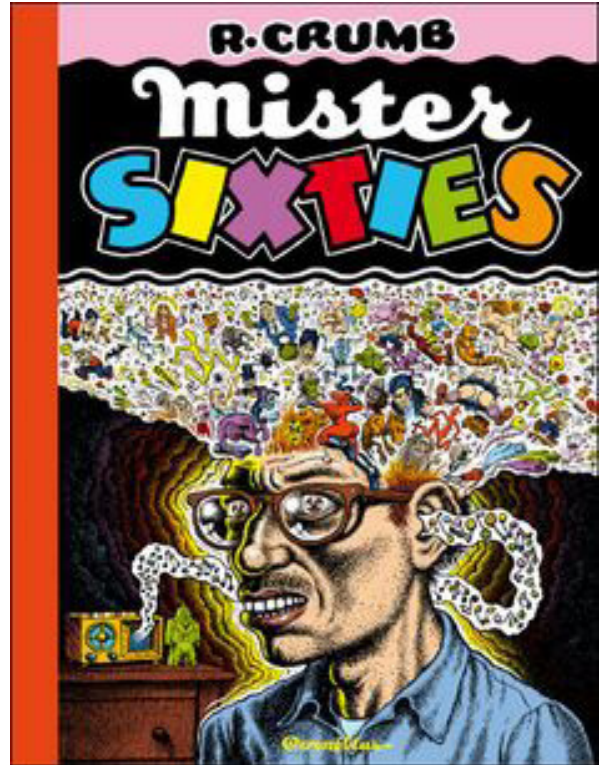
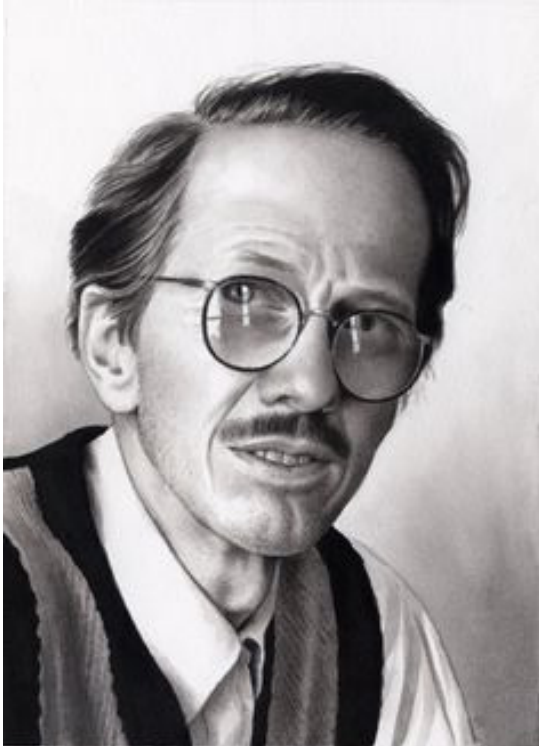
with its conscience because it respects and lives in harmony with all life forms.”

John has written ten books on the meat and dairy industries, factory farming, organic food, genetically modified food, world hunger, and human health. He advocates a plant-based vegan diet. □



John Robbins





PWR Featured Author of the Month: Addie Mattox

BY BARBARA KIRBACH



Addie Mattox

Addie Mattox, PWR's Featured Author in the Library throughout May, celebrated the publication of her second novel, *Saigon USA*, at a book party on Sunday, April 30, in the Fireside Room of the Gateway Clubhouse.

Saigon USA was inspired by Loc Barnes, Rossmoor resident and realtor. After writing Loc's story at the request of her family, Addie became intrigued by the challenges Vietnamese people faced in escaping their country after the fall to the Communists. She interviewed immigrants living in California, Wisconsin, and Australia, including Vietnamese Americans Tony To and Tran Robinson.

The story, set in 1990, centers around Callie O'Neil, who is a middle-school English teacher during the day and an English as a Second Language

(ESL) teacher at night. When Tran, the only Vietnamese student in the school, is victimized by bullies, Callie inadvertently becomes involved. Soon, her relationship extends to Tran's family, which leads to romance and difficult decisions.

At night, Callie's adult students pour out their lives in their memoirs. Cam, one of the best writers in the class, invites Callie to her family's reunion, where multigenerational family members weave a colorful pattern of their Vietnamese pasts and American presents. Some of these individuals are bitter, some are confused, but many are hopeful and thriving in their adopted country.



Saigon USA delves into the hearts, hopes, pasts, and futures of an American family. The older members hold on firmly to their Vietnamese roots; the

(continued on page 11)

middle generation has one foot in each country; and the youngest ones are thoroughly American.

Addie is well known in Rossmoor as a pickleball player and instructor. She has won many tournaments, including the Senior Nationals. Before she discovered pickleball, she was a dedicated tennis player. Her first novel, *Hot Air and Love*, features a female hot air balloon pilot in Kenya.

Addie attended the University of Toronto and later graduated from California State University, Los Angeles. She completed UCLA's Masters Program in English as a Second Language and taught foreign adults in Los Angeles to speak English.

In 1971, she joined IBM as a market support analyst and earned an MBA from Pepperdine University. At a technology trade show, she met Gray Mattox, whom she married in 1974.

Addie later opened an independent consulting firm, specializing in automated office systems. Her clients included several oil and gas companies, who hired her to work in Canada, England, France, Peru, and Scotland.

In the 1980s, Addie and Gray opened a B&B in Glen Ellen, just north of Sonoma. She describes those years as incredibly challenging, since she continued to work as a full-time consultant while cooking "gourmet" breakfasts for her guests.

The couple moved to Rossmoor in 2006 to be close to their daughter, son-

in-law, and two granddaughters, who live in Orinda.

Saigon USA may be purchased through Amazon and is available for checkout at the Rossmoor Library.

Addie may be contacted at amattox@earthlink.net. □

(For more information about PWR's Featured Author Program, contact Barbara Kirbach at blkirbach@gmail.com or visit our website at www.Rossmoor-writers.com)



Grab Bag

Plays

Joanna H. Kraus was recently the guest of Utah Valley University, where she had the privilege of seeing a premiere of her latest play, *Me2*, a production of another play, *Christabel and the Amazing Pedal Power Challenge* (Dramatic Publishing), and a staged reading of a commissioned play, *Tamales and Roses*, which will be produced in 2018.

For information about Joanna's new children's book, *Blue Toboggan*, visit www.joannakraus.com/.

Spare Books

Tricia Spiegel wishes to remind PWR members that if you have books that you no longer need that might be helpful to other members and their writing projects, please put them on the designated table at our Saturday morning meeting for those who might like them.

All books are to be free, with the idea that you take only one before our meeting is adjourned. After that, take as many that are left as you think you will use.

Membership in PWR

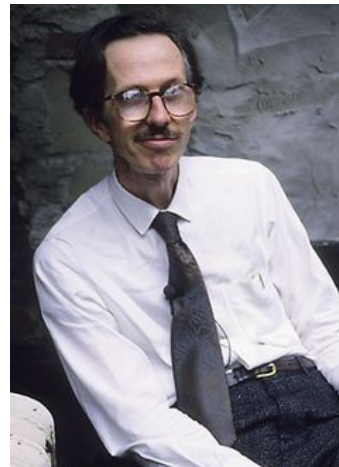
PWR exists to help those who have published or hope to publish. Our members are authors looking forward to publishing as well as those who already have been through the process. If you

ever hear people say that to attend PWR meetings or to be a member one must have published a book, please tactfully set them straight.

Concerns, Questions, & Suggestions

If you are a member or potential member of this club, the board members want you not only to be informed about club matters but also to have your voice heard. Whenever you have a question, concern, or suggestion about what we are or are not doing, please contact us by e-mail or the website template, or talk to us at one of our Saturday meetings. □





From the Editor



Paul Weisser

R. Crumb, Self-Publisher

Robert Dennis Crumb, who has usually signed his works R. Crumb, was the most radical, polarizing, and influential cartoonist of the late twentieth century. He has also been among the most autobiographical of cartoonists, with his immense oeuvre forming a kind of drawn diary.

Crumb was born on August 30, 1943, in Philadelphia to a Catholic household of English and Scottish ancestry. His father, Charles V. Crumb, authored the book *Training People Effectively*, and was a *Combat* illustrator for twenty years in the U.S. Marine Corps. His mother, Beatrice, was a housewife who reportedly abused diet pills and amphetamines.

Charles and Beatrice's marriage was an unhappy one, so Robert and his four siblings (two brothers and two sisters) were frequent witnesses to their

parents' arguments. Both of Robert's brothers suffered from mental illness, with his older brother, Charles Junior, becoming a permanent shut-in and eventually committing suicide.

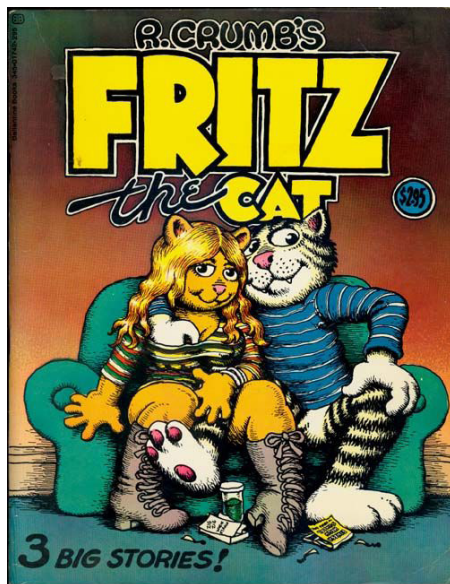


When Robert was 12, the Crumb family moved from Pennsylvania to Milford, Delaware. In school, he was an average student whose teachers strongly discouraged him from cartooning—to which he was drawn from an early age, with strong encouragement and feedback from his siblings, especially Charles.



(continued on page 15)

Inspired by the works of Walt Kelly (“Pogo”) and the Fleischer brothers (“Popeye,” “Betty Boop,” and “Koko the Clown”), Crumb and his brothers started drawing their own comics. In 1958, when Robert was fifteen, the brothers self-published three issues of *Foo* in imitation of Harvey Kurtzman’s satirical work in *Mad* magazine. They sold them door-to-door with little success, souring Robert for a time on the comic-book business.



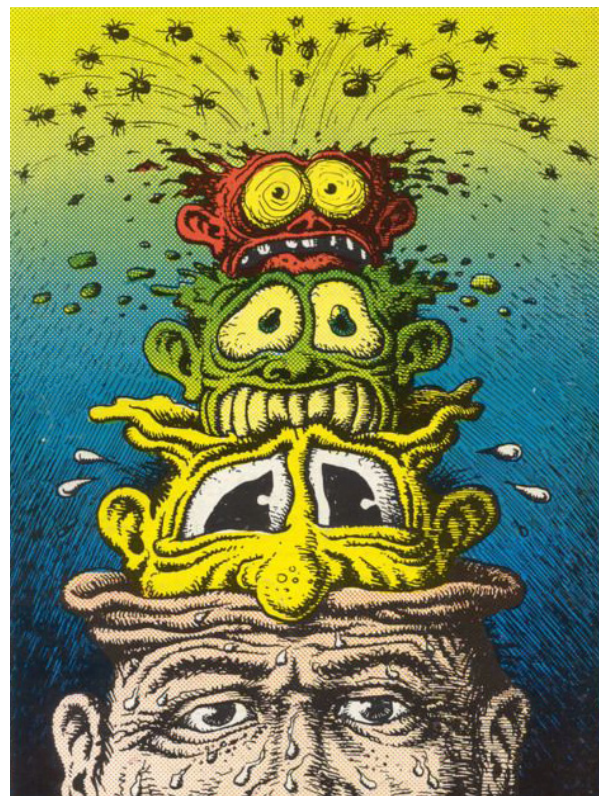
When Crumb graduated from high school, he left home with \$40 in his pocket, given to him by his father. His first job, in 1962 at the age of 19, was drawing novelty greeting cards for American Greetings in Cleveland, Ohio. He stayed with the company for four years, producing hundreds of cards for the company’s Hi-Brow line.

Dissatisfied with greeting card work, Crumb tried to sell cartoons (many about the bohemian Fritz the Cat, who

later became a countercultural icon), but comic book companies still showed little interest in his work.



In June 1965, Crumb began taking LSD, which was still legal at that time. In January 1967, he moved to San Francisco to join the psychedelic poster artists who were starting to gain some fame and notoriety.

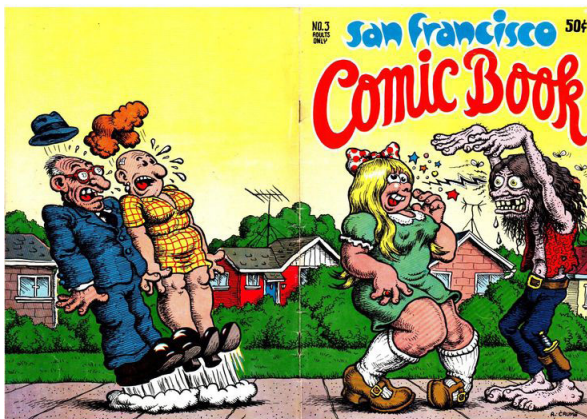


(continued on page 16)

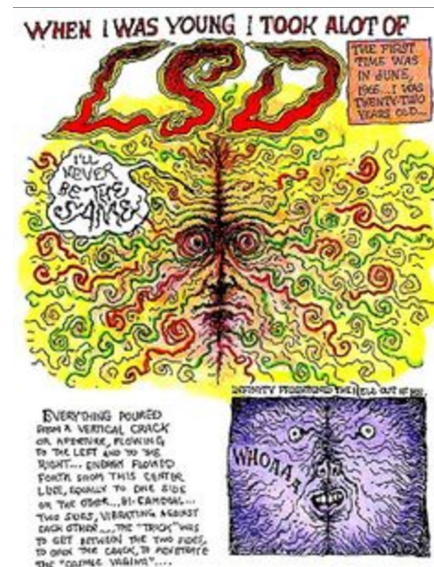
Most importantly, Crumb met cartoonist S. Clay Wilson, an art school graduate who saw himself as a rebel against middle-class American values and whose comics were violent and grotesque. Wilson's attitude inspired Crumb to give up the idea of the cartoonist-as-entertainer and to focus on comics as open, uncensored self-expression.



Later, Crumb noted that when he first saw Wilson's work, "the content was something like I'd never seen before..., a nightmare vision of hell-on-Earth.... Suddenly my own work seemed insipid."



Crumb's cartoons soon became sexually explicit, sometimes even pornographic. That led to a feminist backlash against his comics because they became more violently misogynistic as he graphically poured his sexual fantasies onto the printed page. In his stories, women might be raped, dismembered, mutilated, and murdered—sometimes all at once. However, as one of his friends noted, Crumb used "coarseness quite deliberately in order to get across a view of social hypocrisy."



During his years of LSD use, Crumb created a number of his best-known characters, including spiritual guru Mr. Natural, oversexed African-American stereotype Angelfood McSpade, and the images from his Keep on Truckin' strip.

Crumb was a founder of the first successful underground comix publication, Zap Comix, contributing to all 16 issues.

(continued on page 17)



Critics have noted that Crumb's human characters tend to be introverts, whereas his animal characters tend to be extroverts. What his humans only yearn for, his animals go out and grab. For some reason, he needed animal masks to express the more aggressive and pleasure-loving side of himself.

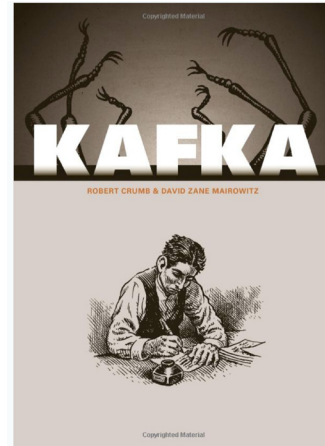


In the early 1980s, he collaborated with writer Charles Bukowski on a series of comic books that featured Crumb's art and Bukowski's writing.

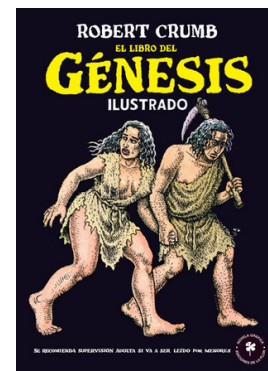
In 1991, Crumb was inducted into the comic book industry's Will Eisner Comic Book Hall of Fame. He has remained active right up to the present time.

In 1993, he collaborated with David

Mairowitz, a graduate of UC Berkeley's Department of Dramatic Art, on a book entitled *Introducing Kafka*, which was later republished as *R. Crumb's Kafka*.



In 2006 and 2007, Crumb was among the artists honored in the exhibition "Masters of American Comics" at the Jewish Museum in New York City. In the fall of 2008, the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia hosted a major exhibition of Crumb's work, which was favorably reviewed in the *New York Times* and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.



In 2009, after four years of work, Crumb produced *The Book of Genesis*, an unabridged illustrated graphic novel version of the biblical Book of Genesis.

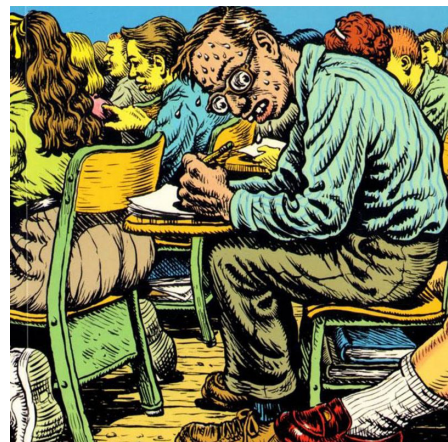
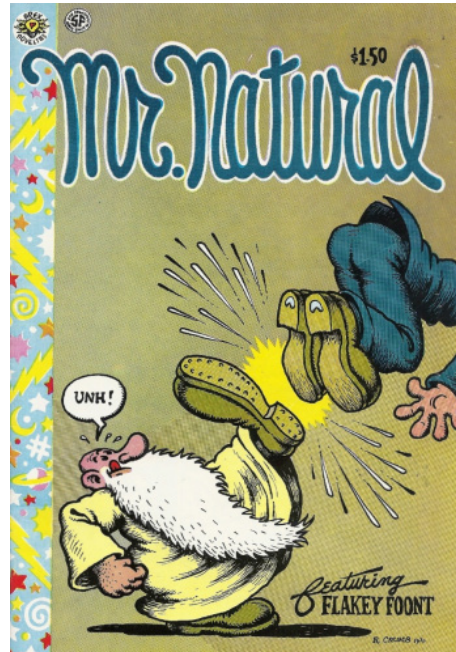
In addition to his cartooning, Crumb

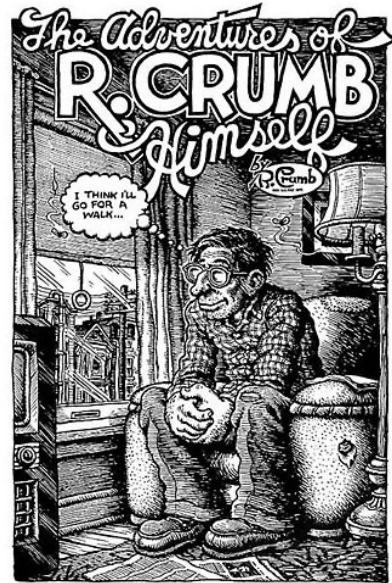
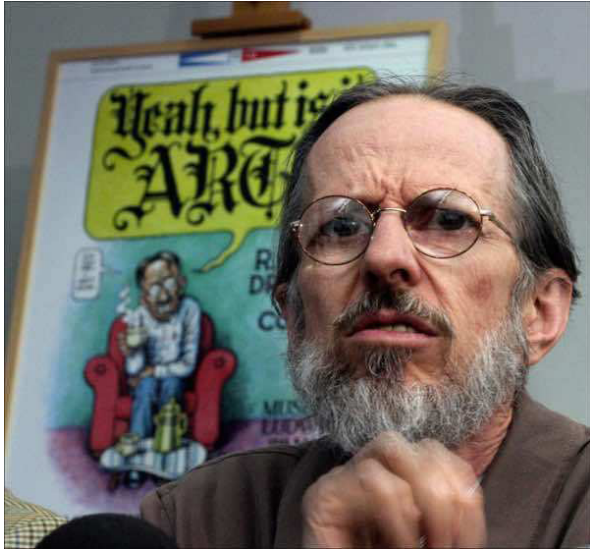
(continued on page 18)

plays the banjo with his band, The Cheap Suit Serenaders, who play songs from, and in the style of, the 1920s

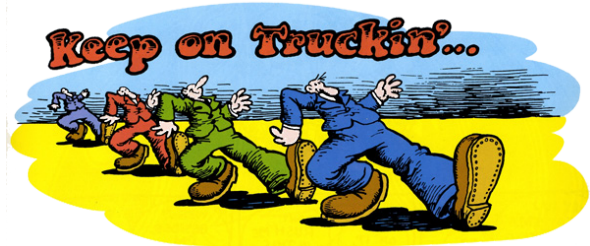


Since 1991, Crumb has lived in the south of France with his second wife, cartoonist Aline Kominsky-Crumb, with whom he frequently collaborates. Their daughter, Sophie Crumb, has also followed a cartooning career. □





Thought for the Month



— R. Crumb



PWR Newsletter



*I self-published
my comix!*



R. Crumb

(August 30, 1943 –)



PUBLISHED WRITERS OF ROSSMOOR

