

HIGH TIMES

INTERVIEWS

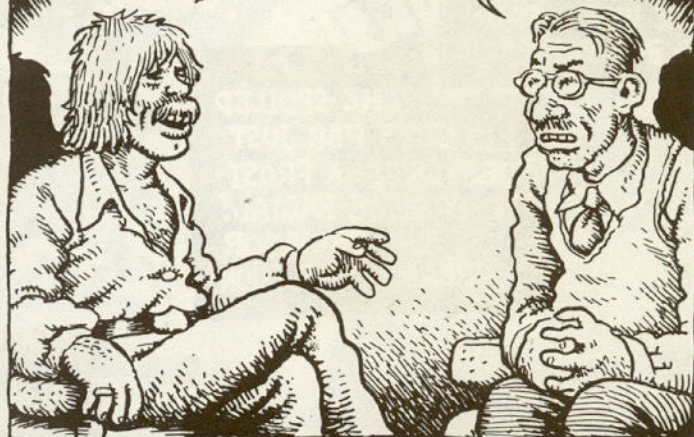
R. CRUMB

By R. Crumb

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UHH, SHOULD I CALL YOU "R.", "ROBERT", "BOB" OR WHAT? WHAT DO PEOPLE USUALLY CALL YOU?

YOU CAN CALL ME "MR. CRUMB"... LET'S KEEP IT FORMAL...



AAH HA HA...
ALRITE!!
AHA AHA...
OKAY, BOB!
AHA...

WHAT A WISEGUY!!

?



BOB, YOU'RE KNOWN AS A RECLUSIVE KIND OF A DUDE... SOME ONE WHO RARELY GIVES INTERVIEWS OR MAKES PUBLIC APPEARANCES... WHY, THEN, HAVE YOU CONSENTED TO THIS INTERVIEW WITH "HIGH TIMES"?

I NEED THE MONEY... SEE, I OWE THE I.R.S. THIRTY-THOUSAND DOLLARS... I'M TRYING TO GET THE MONEY TOGETHER TO PAY IT OFF...



OH AHA HA HA...
REALLY? THAT'S
A TOUGH SPOT,
MAN!!

YOU'RE NOT
KIDDING!
WHY, I —

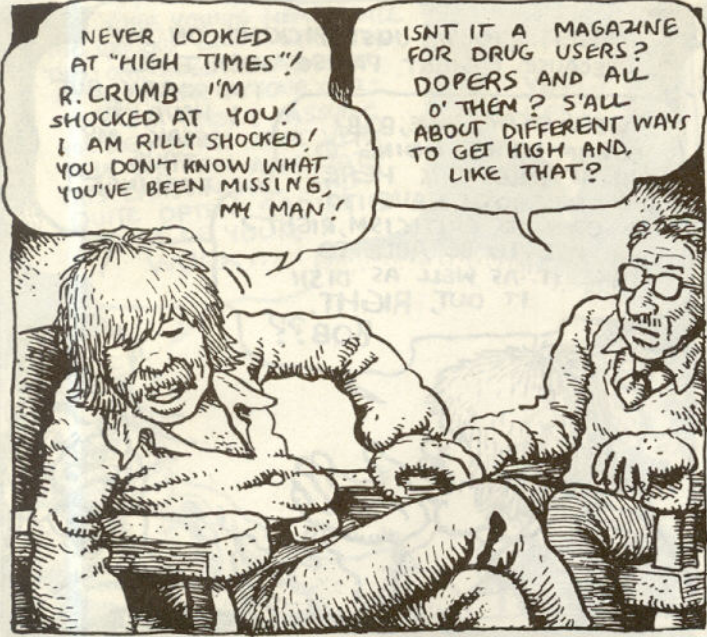
BUT, LET ME
ASK YOU SOME-
THING, BOB



WHAT DO YOU
THINK OF "HIGH
TIMES"... I MEAN,
AS A MAGAZINE...
WHAT'S YOUR
OPINION OF IT?

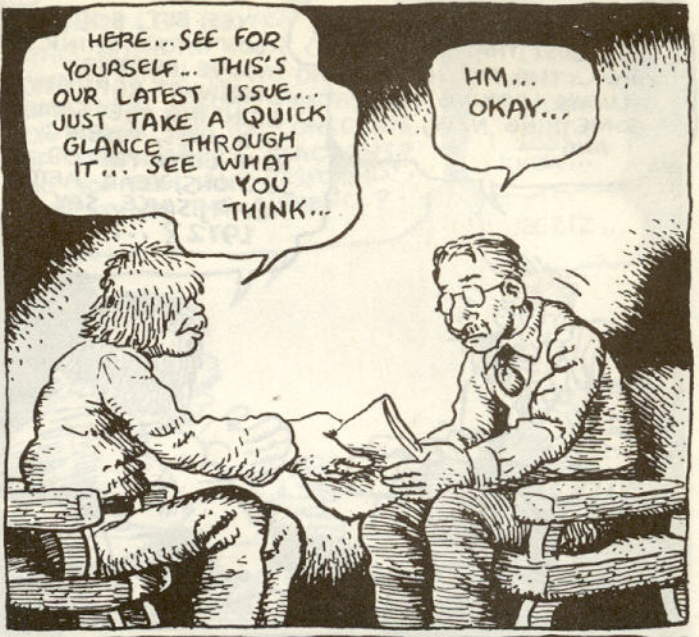
"HIGH TIMES"? I... UH...
I'VE NEVER SEEN IT...
OH, I'VE SEEN IT ON
THE NEWSTANDS BUT
I'VE NEVER LOOKED AT
IT... SO, I REALLY
HAVE NO OPINION OF
IT... NOW, ABOUT MY
DEBT TO THE I.R.S.,
I —





NEVER LOOKED AT "HIGH TIMES"! R. CRUMB I'M SHOCKED AT YOU! I AM RILLY SHOCKED! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING, MY MAN!

ISNT IT A MAGAZINE FOR DRUG USERS? DOPERS AND ALL O' THEM? S'ALL ABOUT DIFFERENT WAYS TO GET HIGH AND, LIKE THAT?

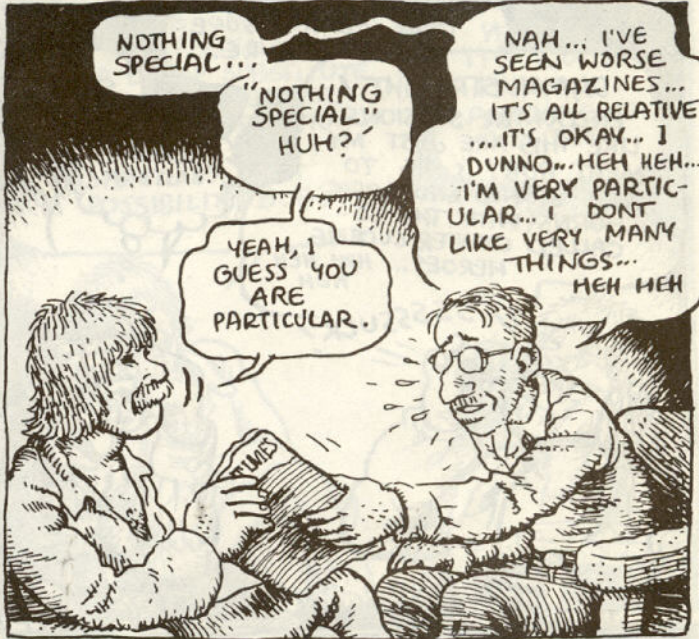


HERE... SEE FOR YOURSELF... THIS'S OUR LATEST ISSUE... JUST TAKE A QUICK GLANCE THROUGH IT... SEE WHAT YOU THINK...

HM... OKAY...



HM... SOME NICE GRAPHICS...
HM...

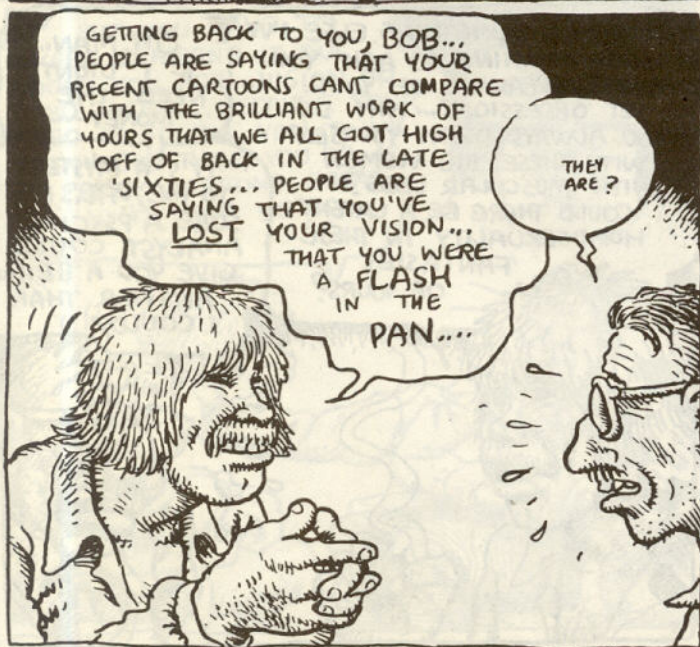


NOTHING SPECIAL...

"NOTHING SPECIAL" HUH?

YEAH, I GUESS YOU ARE PARTICULAR.

NAH... I'VE SEEN WORSE MAGAZINES... IT'S ALL RELATIVE ...IT'S OKAY... I DUNNO... HEH HEH... I'M VERY PARTICULAR... I DONT LIKE VERY MANY THINGS... HEH HEH



GETTING BACK TO YOU, BOB... PEOPLE ARE SAYING THAT YOUR RECENT CARTOONS CANT COMPARE WITH THE BRILLIANT WORK OF YOURS THAT WE ALL GOT HIGH OFF OF BACK IN THE LATE 'SIXTIES... PEOPLE ARE SAYING THAT YOU'VE LOST YOUR VISION... THAT YOU WERE A FLASH IN THE PAN...

THEY ARE?



IS IT POSSIBLE THAT YOU CANT HANDLE THE 'SEVENTIES? COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE A HAS-BEEN? R. CRUMB, ARE YOU BURNED OUT??

OH GOD!

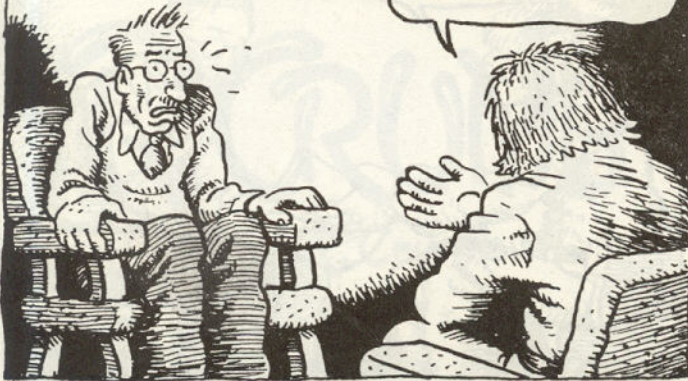
I...I DON'T THINK SO... IT'S JUST THAT...YOU KNOW...THE PUBLIC IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING NEW, AND—

YES, BUT, BOB, DON'T YOU THINK YOU'VE BECOME SOMEWHAT REPETITIOUS, GRINDING THE SAME OLD AXES, PUSHING YOUR LITTLE PET OBSESSIONS, YEAR AFTER YEAR, SINCE, SAY, 1972? ...

PHEH... YOU'RE JUST PICKING ON ME BECAUSE I DIDN'T PRAISE "HIGH TIMES"

I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO SPEAK MY TRUE FEELINGS...

WELL, OKAY...FINE, BOB! BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO TELL IT LIKE IT IS HERE, THEN WE BOTH HAVE TO BE OPEN TO CRITICISM, RIGHT? WE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO TAKE IT AS WELL AS DISH IT OUT, RIGHT, BOB??



YEAH YEAH ... SURE SURE...

DAMN STRAIGHT! ENCOUNTER SESSIONS LIKE THIS ARE JUST MY MEAT, BOB! I DIG TO GET STONED AND LOCK HORNS WITH THE SO-CALLED COUNTER-CULTURE HEROES... HEH HEH

SIGH...

SLICK BASTARD

SSSSUCK!



WANT SOME? S'GOOD SHIT...

NAH... NO THANKS, I—

OH! THAT'S RIGHT... YOU DON'T SMOKE GRASS ANYMORE... NOW, JUST WHY IS THAT, BOB? YOU'RE NOT AGAINST PEOPLE ENJOYING LIFE, ARE YOU?



I DUNNO... I GOT TIRED OF BEING STONED... IT STOPPED BEING FUN, OR EVEN INTERESTING... BUT THAT'S NOT TO SAY—

MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY DOING IT AGAIN... MIGHT PUT SOME OF THE OLD SPARK... THE OLD VISION... BACK IN YOUR COMICS! HEH HEH!

SSSSUCK!



OH YES, SOMETHING ELSE I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU ABOUT, SPEAKING OF YOUR PET OBSESSIONS... WHY DO YOU ALWAYS DRAW YOURSELF WITH THESE BIG WOMEN WITH MUSCULAR LEGS? COULD THERE BE A LATENT HOMOSEXUALITY IN THESE FANTASIES OF YOURS?

OH, MAN... IF I DIDN'T NEED THE MONEY—

IT'S A MYSTERY TO ME, PAL... I'M SURE A PSYCHO-ANALYST COULD GIVE YOU A BETTER ANSWER THAN I COULD!



I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD ALL THE VARIOUS CRITICISMS OF THE ONE-SIDED TREATMENT OF WOMEN IN YOUR CARTOONS... AND, I ASSUME YOU'RE AWARE THAT VERY FEW WOMEN APPRECIATE THIS CHAUVINISTIC AND QUITE OFTEN SADISTIC ASPECT OF YOUR WORK...

YES... YES...



NOW LET ME ASK YOU THIS, BOB... IN YOUR OWN MIND, WHEN YOU'RE DRAWING OUT THESE SEXUAL FANTASIES OF YOURS, ARE YOU CONSCIOUS OF THE READER'S REACTIONS? DO YOU FEEL ANY RESPONSIBILITY TO THE AUDIENCE?

I... I DON'T KNOW... I DON'T KNOW...

JEEZIZ...



I'D REALLY LIKE TO KNOW WHAT SOCIAL VALUE YOU THINK THESE PERSONAL MASTURBATION FANTASIES MIGHT HAVE... I MEAN, THIS STUFF OF YOURS IS DISSEMINATED TO THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE... SURELY, YOU'RE AWARE OF THE POWER OF THE MEDIUM IN WHICH YOU WORK!

OH YES... ALL TOO AWARE...



MAYBE... MAYBE THE SEX FANTASIES ARE JUST A CHEAP SUBSTITUTE FOR LACK OF A BETTER SOURCE OF INSPIRATION... A LACK OF TRUE VISION... IS THAT A POSSIBILITY, BOB??

YES... YES, IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE... ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE...



BUT YOU HAVE TO KEEP CRANKING IT OUT, DON'T YOU, BOB... VISION OR NO VISION... BECAUSE YOUR EGO IS SO BIG, YOU THINK ANY OLD THING YOU DO IS PRETTY DOGGONE GREAT, ISN'T THAT SO??

PROBABLEE...

DON'T TOUCH ME!



ALL THE PRAISE AND GLORY THAT WAS HEAPED ON YOUR HEAD IN THE 'SIXTIES... YOU REALLY ATE IT UP, DIDN'T YOU, BOB... YOU WERE ONLY TOO EAGER TO BELIEVE ALL THE FLATTERY, THE MAGAZINE ARTICLES, PROCLAIMING THE NEW BOY GENIUS OF "UNDERGROUND COMIX"!

INDEED... INDEED... OH YOU'RE BRILLIANT...

