

Crumb's golden pen chastizes Fritz, his cat

Robert Crumb is a genius. Anything his pen touches turns to comic gold. And his newest work, *The People's Comics*, joins the unmatched list of classics he's already produced.

The cover of *The People's Comics* (A Comic for the Broad Masses!) is tremendous—there's no other description for it. It features a dollar-sign-bedecked tank surrounded by bushes. From the bushes all sorts of arms are reaching out to wreck devilment on the tank. The people's attack on capitalism includes a thumbed nose, sugar in the gas tank, itch powder sprayed into the tank, removing the treads, throwing a monkey wrench into the works and blowing off the head of a soldier of capitalism. A good cover, right? But it's even better after you know what the rest of the comic has to offer.

bart becker bells letters

The first story features Shuman and Human in a one-pager called "On the Street." Shuman runs up against a bum who rails at him in total gibberish. And Shuman's only reprisal is: "It's not my fault."

But that's just the warm-up. 'Cause look out! In the next story "the great man tells all" in "The Confessions of R. Crumb." In the first panel a stylized Crumb lays it on the line. "My life's an open book! . . . up to a point," he says.

In the story, Crumb flashes back to his childhood,

where he is tossed out on the street at an early age. The little Crumb warns that "someday when I'm a big man, they'll be sorry!"

And then the American Dream comes true, depicted by "The R. Crumb Successe\$ story . . . or How I Made the Big Skins with a Kareer in Kartooning."

But the bulk of *The People's Comics* is taken up with "Fritz the Cat, 'Superstar.'" It deals of course, with Crumb's formerly lovable, always obnoxious Fritz.

R. Crumb is obviously disgusted by the shabby treatment afforded his character in the movie, *Fritz the Cat*.

"Superstar" deals with Fritz the sell-out. It's a sad story because Crumb, thanks to the movie, has lost control of Fritz. And Crumb is deservedly angry about it.

So Fritz is pictured doing his income tax, worrying that he's getting facial wrinkles, selling-out the counter-culture on a talk show and generally being self-centered and despicable. Now Fritz has always been obnoxious and insincere. But it used to be possible to relate to him.

Now it's impossible. He's into making more money. And it hurts Crumb to see it. So at the story's end, he eliminates the problem. A female ostrich, enraged at the "new" Fritz, offs him with an ice pick.

It's Crumb at his finest, doing what's best for the people. And the title of the comic takes on more meaning with Fritz's death.

I doubt that Robert Crumb favors killing anybody, but cartoon violence is another baby. And getting rid of the character that Fritz has been distorted into is

acceptable to Crumb and me.

The back page of the comic is No. 1 in the "Brilliant American Maniacs Series." It features a delightful anecdote told by a fidgety character named Crazy Ed.

So Robert Crumb has done it again. His genius lies in an ability to scrutinize American life carefully and then transfer it to the printed page. For the past several years he's been drawing the best possible documentary of American life.

And he sticks to his principles, too.



short stuff

Zoology seminar

A Zoology seminar will sponsor Martin Peterson, of the UNL Anthropology Department, at 3:30 p.m. today in Bessey Hall auditorium.

Women's softball

The Women's intercollegiate softball team will start tryouts on March 1, at the Women's Physical Education Building. For further information, contact the coach, Myreen Loveless, 236 WPE. Practices will be Monday-Wednesday-Friday, at 4:30 p.m.

Volunteer needs

The Y-Pal Program needs men and women to be companions to young boys and

girls, ages six to 14.

A VISTA worker needs someone one day a week for three to four hours to help take a lady into town to get groceries.

The University Red Cross needs volunteers to help teach both normal and handicapped children how to swim. Time: Thursday, 4:15-5:15 at YWCA, 1432 N St.

For more information about these or any volunteer opportunities contact the

Student Volunteer Bureau, 200 Union, phone 472-2486.

The Lincoln Action Program needs people to help with some recreational programs for Lincoln juveniles. Persons are needed to help with office, clerical and research work in housing and health problems.

ROYAL GROVE

Draws

5¢

Mon-Thurs
7-8:30 pm

This Week
LAST CHANCE

340 W. Cornhusker

THE ULTIMATE IN ENTERTAINMENT

HOLLYWOOD THEATRE
IN THE GLASS MENAGERIE
12th & Q Street • Phone 475-6626

"A COCKEYED MASTERPIECE!"

—Joseph Morze, *Time*, Newsweek

MASH

STARRING
ELLIOTT GOULD
DONALD SUTHERLAND

12:45-3:00 • 5:15-7:30 • 9:45

VINE THEATRE
IN THE GLASS MENAGERIE
12th & Q Street • Phone 475-6626

The MARX BROS.

"DUCKSOUP"

LAFFS! LAFFS!

PLUS: W. C. "Man on the Flying

FIELDS Trapeze"

Sole 1:00-4:25 11:00-1:25
7:00-9:25 8:10-10:45

SPECIAL MATINEE

PRICES TIL 6 PM

Adults \$1.50 Kids \$.75

daily nebraskan

Editor-in-Chief: Tom Lansworth, Managing Editor: Cheryl Westcott, News Editor: Michael (O.J.) Nelson.

The *Daily Nebraskan* is published by the Publications Committee on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday throughout the fall and spring semesters except holidays and vacations.

Copyright 1973. The *Daily Nebraskan*. Material may be reprinted without permission if attributed to the *Daily Nebraskan*, excepting material covered by another copyright.

Second class postage paid at Lincoln, Nebraska.
Address: The *Daily Nebraskan*/34 Nebraska Union/14th & R Streets/Lincoln, Nebr. 68508. Telephone: 402/472/2588.

Call **KUHL INSURANCE AGENCY**
for Auto and Motorcycle coverage..
even if you've been refused, cancelled
or need an SR22 filing.

309 North 27th

475-2609

Olston Independent VW Specialists, Inc.

2435 N.33

Factory-trained mechanics

Engine Wheel Balancing	Brakes
Major and Minor Repairs	Tune-ups
VW Parts	Front Ends

467-2397

What is the University's commitment to teaching?

A statement in regard to this question will be presented by Dr. Virginia Y. Trotter, Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs, at an open forum presented by the Teaching Council. All interested persons are invited to attend on Tuesday, February 27, 3:30 pm; 112 Hamilton Hall.

Weekday Special

20%

With This Coupon

Filet or Sirloin

Regularly \$1.78

Includes tossed salad or jello
baked Idaho potato and Texas toast
(beverage extra)

\$1.42

One coupon good for entire party

Monday thru Thursday — Next 2 Weeks

Steak-O-Rama

244 N. 12th St.—Lincoln