

Dennis Worden

Dennis Worden is a funny, outlandish, bizarre, and inspired man. He's also the creator of **Stickboy**, one of the most pessimistic cartoon characters ever created. If you've not yet seen this man's work, you should. Dennis Worden is, above all, extremely witty. We sent this talented fellow some questions. Here are his responses:



Why do you draw?

Seems to me that the universe conspired to make me draw, even if I stink at it. Ask it why. I actually see everything that happens as a conspiracy of the universe, being as every event is dependent on countless billions of other events.

Who or what inspired you to be a cartoonist?

Punk fanzines and *Weirdo* magazine. The punk 'zines were completely open and easily attainable, which was encouraging for someone who doubted their talent and skill. *Weirdo* was inspiring because editor Robert Crumb's tastes were quirky enough that almost anyone who was different had a shot at getting in. And getting in really inspired me.

Do you make a living drawing cartoons? If not, what are your other occupations?

I make most of my money from cartooning, paintings and other art, but it's a rather pathetic 'living.' I occasionally have to generate some dough from other means—unskilled labor type shit.

Who are your favorite comic artists?

Kaz, Clowes, Roy Tompkins, Wayne, Mary Fleener, Robert Crumb, Peter Bagge, J. R. Williams, John Connell and many more.

Your GOB character is hilarious. What is he supposed to be? Are you still drawing GOB or is he dead?

He's some sort of mutant freak—a deranged human slug. Right now he's in hibernation until some publication shows some interest in him. I've always thought he'd make a good weekly strip.

Your cartoons are full of alienation, aggression, mockery, and hatred. Is this an extension of your own personality?

Absolutely. My cartoons are my journal and my therapy. I don't know what I'd do without them. They've helped me immensely. Without them, I probably would have curled up into a ball and died.

Stickboy, your most popular character, is too vulgar and bizarre to be accepted on the scale of say, a Snoopy or a Garfield. Is this a disregard for mass acceptance on your part? Or do you prefer being an underground artist?

I could care less about being an underground artist. I prefer doing what I want to do and that just happens to be a bit too vulgar for mass acceptance. I truly wish it wasn't.

Are you Stickboy in actuality? If not, is he based on anyone?

I'm pretty much Stickboy, but I'm most of my other characters also. In *Stickboy #5* there is a seven page story featuring me, so I guess people can judge for themselves how much I'm like Stickboy. Other than the story about me, there is a parody of Stickboy by my friend Wayne, a tour of Hell, a strip I did with Mary Fleener, a dream story, a Stickboy tribute by J. R. Williams, record reviews, and lots of odds and ends.

How long does it take from start to finish to complete an issue of Stickboy?

I'm not sure. It's hard to time it, being as I never have just worked on it straight through.

A running theme in your work seems to be nice little characters that suddenly blow up and vent out hatred.

Why does this always seem to happen?

I just like seeing comic characters get really pissed off. Maybe it has something to do with my own temper.

How did you hook up with your pal Mary Fleener (creator of *Slutburger Stories*)?

She saw my first book (*Sir*) reviewed by Matt Groening in a Los Angeles magazine and wrote to me. We just hit it off. She's been a great friend, plus she lives fairly close.

There's a great deal of satire in your work. Why?

Because I'm a satirist and there is just so damn much that needs satirizing. Desperately.

What are your future plans?

To get *Stickboy* and other work out faster. I'm working on a book called *Suburban Teens on Acid* for Iconographix. I may do something with *Eros*. And, of course, there is *Stickboy, The Movie* (I'm just starting a rumor).

What other hobbies do you have?

Music, learning, and body surfing. I have an addiction to collecting records—whenever I have a little extra money, that is. I love finding great new, obscure bands. So, please, any great new obscure bands reading this—SEND ME YOUR RECORDS! I will review them in the next *Stickboy*.

Look for *Stickboy* in hip comic stores—it's funny as hell.



Stickboy IN "PERFECT DAY"

MY FRIENDS
HAVE STARTED
CALLING ME
"MR. NEGATIVE",
THE BUNCH
OF JERKS!

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WHAT DO THEY WANT ME TO BE,
POSITIVE ?! UGH! THERE
AIN'T NOTHIN' MORE REVOLTING
THAN A POSITIVE PERSON !

YOU GOTTA BE A
REAL ASSHOLE
TO BE POSITIVE !



ASSHOLE
ASSHOLE
ASSHOLE

asshole...

HEY MR. NEGATIVE
WHAT'S HAPPENING?

FUME FUME

WHY EVERYTHING
IS HAPPENING !

THIS IS THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL DAY OF
THE REST OF MY LIFE !

AND YOU BEING HERE
TO SHARE IT WITH IS WONDERFUL.
IT'S A PERFECT GIFT FROM
GOD

I'M PERFECT, YOU'RE
PERFECT, THIS MOMENT
IS PERFECT, EVERYTHING
IS PERFECT !

GOD DAMN IS
THIS PERFECT !

GOD FUCKING DAMN
IS THIS PERFECT !

AMBERAS

WOW, I LOVE
YOUR GLOVES !

THANK YOU

WHERE DID YOU
GET THEM ?

THEY WERE
A GIFT...

WELL THEY'RE
FANTASTIC GLOVES !
... SEE YOU LATER

BYE

THIS IS SO HUMILIATING,
I'M NOT WEARING ANY
GLOVES

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