

## HUNTINGTON STATION

**Writing His Way Into Comic Books**By Emaad Khwaja/[info@longislandernews.com](mailto:info@longislandernews.com)

Robert V. Conte has dedicated his whole life to comics.

At the age of 16, he took up a job a Collectors Kingdom in Huntington Station. From 1987-1990, he managed the store. Collectors Kingdom, he said, was a “source of happiness” for him during his parents’ separation.

Now the president of Manhattan Comics & More, Conte returned to Collectors Kingdom on April 25 to sign copies of a new DVD release, “The Story of Rock n Roll Comics.” “I’m honored to return to the store that inspired a poor 16-year-old kid to make his dream come true,” Conte said.

Born in Mineola and now calling New York City home, Conte has written the liner notes to over 20 remastered and repackaged KISS albums. He has also won the R.I.A.A. award for his contributions to KISS’s 1996 album “You Wanted the Best, You Got the Best.”

“Rock n Roll Comics #9,” a biography on KISS, was Conte’s first comic. The comic was actually published in Collectors Kingdom.

Conte has also written several other comics, including Godzilla, G.I. Joe, and James Bond. He’s also met rock stars like Ozzy Osbourne, Carlos Santana and Gene Simmons during his career.

One of Conte’s comics, “Rock N Roll Comics #12: New Kids on the Block” faced legal troubles after it was published. Conte had written unauthorized biographies of several other rock stars in the past, however the ’80s pop group “New Kids on the Block” was not pleased with the entry Conte wrote about them. The New Kids proceeded to sue Revolutionary Comics, publisher of Rock N Roll Comics. The case fell before U.S. District Judge John S. Rhoades.

“It was the first published comic book that went to the Supreme Court,” Conte said. “[We] claimed that [we] were protected by the First Amendment, and they actually sided with us.”

In his ruling, Rhoades ruled the comics could be legally sold because they were “part biography and part satire.”

As a youth, Conte attended St. Anthony’s High School in South Huntington from 1984-1988 and was part of the first co-ed graduating class. Although Conte found it difficult to integrate with his peers, he felt his education was “superb” and continues to be “grateful to many teachers.”

Conte is currently working on a new graphic novel, entitled “She Abused Me.” This story is said to detail six chapters of personal accounts of his relationships with several women.

“I’ve [been with] several women who have abused me, whether it be physically, emotionally, or verbally,” said Conte. “The purpose of [the novel] is to show that not only women are abused in relationships, but also sometimes men.”

The novel is slated for a 2014 release.

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Robert V. Conte started a lengthy career in comics at Collectors Kingdom in Huntington Station, which he visited on April 25.

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