



Billy Orton

RETIRED PRESS
SECRETARY /
OBSCURE
NOVELIST

WWW.BILLYORTON.COM

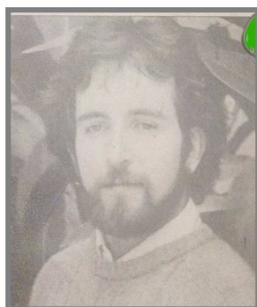
BIOGRAPHY

As a child... Born in **Albany NY**, Billy's family moved to **California** after freezing while watching the 1963 **Rose Parade**. During the parade, Billy's mom said, "They're not even wearing sweaters." Two months later, the family lived in Los Angeles.



As a teen... Billy graduated public K-thru-8 and high school, in **Huntington Beach**, where he was editor of the high school newspaper. Billy started his first job (at Carl's Jr) on his 16th birthday, and later worked for a hot air balloonist, and as a janitor.

In his 20s... Billy was Editor-in-Chief of his college daily paper, sat as a student member on the faculty's Academic Senate, and ran for college president as leader of the Gummy Party. He earned a history degree from CSULB in 1991. After college, Billy edited community tabloids, was art director for magazines, and headed a marketing department. Billy married at 27.



In his 30s... Billy served as a press secretary and district director to four California state lawmakers. Billy also worked as an office manager, and as a website designer/programmer for **Politiken**, the biggest newspaper in Copenhagen, Denmark.

In his 40s... As a single working dad, Billy spent four years as communications consultant for the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, and six years as a district representative for a California state Senator.



As his 50s began... While working for the State Senate, Billy finished his first novel at 50. At 53, after finishing two more novels, Billy suffered a stroke, and figured three was as many books he'd be able to write. As an exercise, Billy wrote and published the opening third of his fourth novel, **Lambchop Battles the Sexist Pigs**. The book appeared online on Jan 19, 2017, one day before the Inauguration, to ask, "What happen is hate wins? What's the White House *like* for people who work, visit or live there?" Billy's free books: www.smashwords.com/books/view/442089.

Decades as a volunteer... Billy served eleven years helping to run five certified farmers markets. He was on an advisory board for a school serving homeless kids, and brought fruit and vegetables each week from the farmers. He also served on an art museum board, and a city committee on historical preservation. After a stroke, Billy got back on his feet by cleaning tables and pouring coffee for the homeless, and volunteering for a state Senate campaign.

At the federal level... Since 2003, Billy has been a **Local Board Member** for the **U.S. Selective Service System**. If there ever is a draft, those who appeal their draft status must appear before a Local Board to ask to no be called-up. Federal law says no volunteer can serve more than 20 years.

Now retired... Billy started 2015 hunting for work, after his last boss exited the California state Senate. (All of the staff got sacked, which is politics.) The year ended with a stroke and brain surgery. He could barely walk or speak, and could not read or write. Billy's counts himself as the luckiest soul in America. Everyone faces hardship, but in 2016, while everyone endured a miserable presidential election, Billy simply had to learn to walk, speak, read, and write. Billy is okay if his last job title is as "Obscure Novelist." It matters not what you do, but simply that you do something. Just never give up.



EDITED 20 MAY 2018