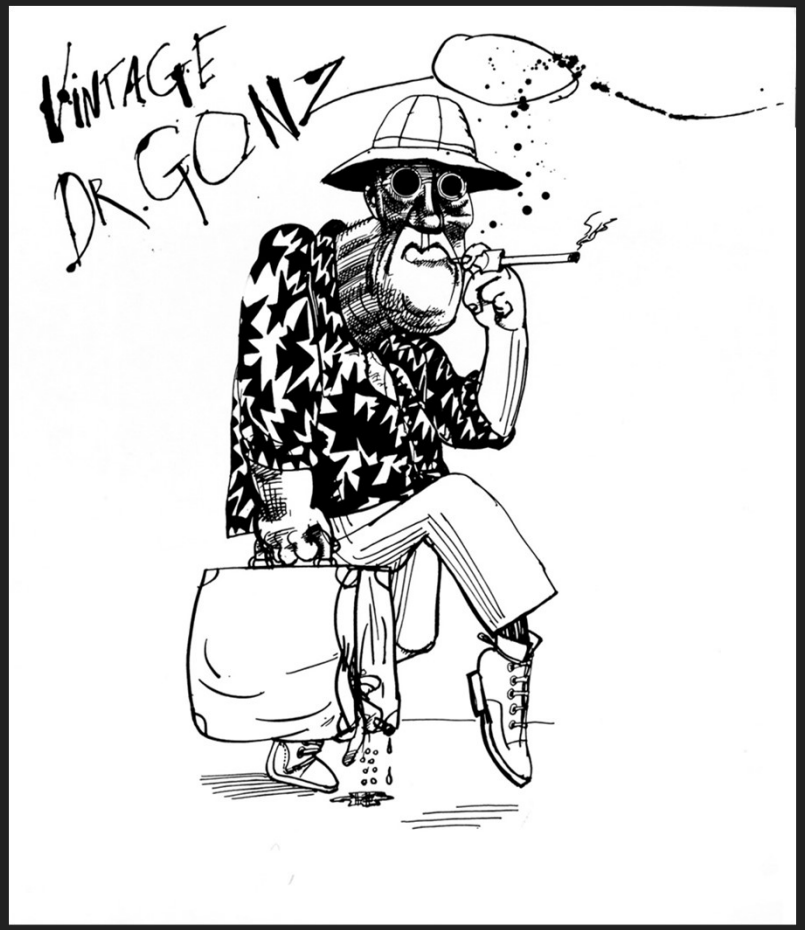
Hunter S. Thompson

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VINTAGE
DR.GONZ

The man, the myth, the legend!

- American author and journalist.
- 1937, Kentucky
- Hells Angels book
- Ran unsuccessfully for sheriff of Pitkin County, Colorado
- Kentucky Derby and lots of drugs
- Sub-genre of new journalism called Gonzo
- Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas
- Intense dislike for Richard Nixon
- Fear and Loathing in the Campaign trail
- Rolling Stone political correspondent
- 2005, Woody Creek, Colorado

Genius round the world stands hand in hand and one shock of recognition runs the whole circle round

Strange title?

Quote attributed to Art Linkletter

But is actually Herman Melville (of Moby Dick fame)

Larger passage celebrating Nathaniel Hawthorne

Essentially means that if you recognize genius in one person, it inspires other geniuses to greater heights.

Summary

Excerpt from Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas

Hunter S Thompson trying to score acid from Timothy Leary (author and psychologist, advocated psychedelic drugs)

During The Great San Francisco Acid Wave

The Fillmore Auditorium - given free sample

“All this white stuff on my sleeve is LSD.” (Thompson, 104)

“... but no explanation, no mix of words or music or memories can touch that sense of knowing that you were there and alive in that corner of time and the world. Whatever it meant….” (Thompson, 104)

Jacket Copy for Fear & Loathing in Las Vegas: A Savage Journey to the Heart of the American Dream

- Intended to be 250 words for Sports Illustrated
- Travel with Chicano lawyer Oscar Acosta
- 3+ detours while trying to explain how and why Fear & Loathing came to be
- Motorcycle race, “Vegas thing”, Gonzo journalism, failed experiment
- “Because the writer must be a participant in the scene, while he is writing it.” (Thompson, 209)
- “... frenzied experiment, a fine idea that went crazy about half-way through…” (Thompson, 212)
- “A vile epitaph for the drug culture of the sixties,...” (Thompson, 213)
- Nixon and Mitchel - bureaucratic fascism
- Has many names for sheep.

Gonzo: The Life and Works of Hunter S. Thompson

- Hit most of the major plot beats of his life.
- His friends, relatives, acquaintances speak of his mannerisms and ideology
- His two vicious extremes
- Hells Angels didn’t just document but immersed.
- Literary and political importance - middle of Vietnam war and Civil Rights movement.
- Describes intoxication elaborately.
- “Patriot, knew the Constitution and cared about it.” (Gonzo)
- Hostage to the character, trapped in Gonzo, addicted to Raoul Duke.
- Romantic end on own terms

Connections

- Should not separate his lifestyle from his work.
- Writing style - stream of consciousness, sounds unedited, honed through rewriting The Great Gatsby multiple times.
- Writing was his solace and way of decompressing at the end of a tough day.
- Politics - observations and predictions of war, elections
- Nixon - hated that crook. (First term, Cambodia, Kent State, Watergate)
- George W. Bush (planet is doomed)
- Mix of clear observations and fantastical inventions. Both muddled together.
- Infantile approach to politics.

My Stance

- Makes drugs sound like a lot of fun until you're on them, then you see bats.
- Idealist like Terry Pratchett's character Sam Vimes but Vimes is more hopeful. HST is already expecting disappointment.
- Quintessential mid-twentieth century popular author. Fear & Loathing in Las Vegas is the epitome of the drug experience novel of that time and place.
- Invented entire genre (Gonzo) but also popularized drug vocabulary.
- Parallel between Orwell (A Clergyman's Daughter) and HST's Hell's Angels. Participation with the subjects of the writing.

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