

# Gonzo king ready for Geritol and quiet park

**The Curse of Lono**  
 By Hunter S. Thompson  
 Illustrated by Ralph Steadman  
 Bantam Books, 1983, paperback

review by Greg Harris

Poor Hunter: either he has, at last, thoroughly pickled his brain with a pot-

pourri of booze and illegal chemicals, or he's gone senile. Why else would the Granddaddy of Gonzo Journalism journey to Hawaii - certainly a place to be feared and loathed as much as Las Vegas or the Campaign Trail - and return with something as drab as *The Curse of Lono*? There's something annoying, sad, and

pitiful about viewing pictures of someone else's boring vacation, especially if you admire the person for the exciting and terrible scrapbooks they brought back from adventures in earlier years.

Ah, well. Maybe living life on the edge while exposing insidiousness should be left to younger, more irresponsible writers who don't care much about reputation, or dangerous health risks.

*Running* magazine, a periodical aimed at people Thompson calls "Body-Nazis", sends the journalist, and illustrator Ralph Steadman out to cover the annual 26-mile Honolulu Marathon. Thompson brings his fiancée and Steadman brings his wife and young daughter, all of whom assume they're in for a holiday of fun in the sun.

From the moment they arrive, however, they realize they aren't. Both parties disembark from separate but equally discomfiting flights. Steadman injures himself the same day and returns to England soon after. Covering the race has little appeal. The weather is unceasingly wet, and finally the group is trapped in a raging storm on one of the smaller islands for most of the last half of the holiday.

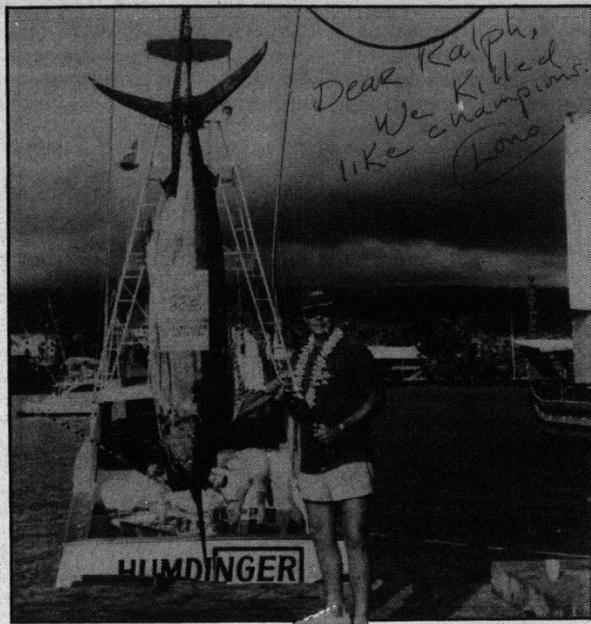
As for insightful social commentary, there's some, but very little. "Run for your

life, sport," advises Thompson, "because that's all you have left. The same people who burned their draft cards in the sixties and got lost in the seventies are now into running. When politics failed and personal relationships proved unmanageable... after Ted Kennedy got Stassenized and Jimmy Carter put the fork to everybody who ever believed anything he said about anything at all, and after the nation turned en masse to the atavistic wisdom of Ronald Reagan."

Thompson also makes an effort to probe the roots of racial tension on the islands, but is clearly more eager to tell us how he caught a 308 pound marlin. This man is definitely moving into his twilight years.

While Steadman's artwork is stunning, the lacklustre narrative and \$10.95 cost make this a book important only to die-hard devotees. One gets the sneaking impression Thompson knows this is a rip-off when he says early on: "The time has come to write books - or even movies, for those who can keep a straight face. Because there is money in these things; and there is no money in journalism."

If money's the scam, Hunter, give us the ol' frenzied, bad-craziness of your books of old - or something completely different.



Fewer drug and alcohol binges for Hunter - more fishing



"I have clinched and closed with the naked North, I have learned to defy and defend; Shoulder to shoulder we have fought it out - yet the wild must win in the end."

\*Robert Service

The black sheep of Canadian liquors.

Soft-spoken and smooth, its northern flavour simmers just below the surface, waiting to be discovered. Straight, on the rocks, or mixed, Yukon Jack is a breed apart; unlike any liqueur you've ever tasted.

## Yukon Jack



Concocted with fine Canadian Whisky.

## CABARETS

Absolutely no minors admitted

DINWOODIE Tickets are available from the SUB Box Office (2nd Floor SUB) and various club members. NOTE: These events are open only to U of A students, staff, and guests.

U of A Mineral Engineering  
present

Friday,  
December 2;  
8 PM.

20

feet

THE  
FITZENS

NDP Club  
present

## SUBTLE & HINTS

Saturday, December 3; 8 PM.

RECREATION STUDENT'S  
presents

## Powder Blues

BAND

in  
**DINWOODIE LOUNGE  
DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>, '83**

ADVANCED  
TICKETS

NOW ON SALE!!!  
FROM  
**\$8.00 CLUB MEMBER**  
in CAB  
DEC. 1-9, '83

\$1000. AT DOOR  
DOORS OPEN AT 8:00 PM  
NO MINORS ALLOWED

**Friday, December 9**  
3 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
**SANTA STOMP**  
presented by ESS

all proceeds to the Christmas Bureau  
&  
Another Don't Drive Home Event  
8 p.m. to Midnight  
presented by Tae Kwon Do