

# Hunter S. Thompson prepares for war

By Michael Deeds  
Senior Editor

At 7 p.m., Hunter S. Thompson still is groggy from sleep. He mumbles something about sipping whiskey for breakfast. It is time to face another night hidden deep in the mountains of Woody Creek, Colo.

Thompson, 52, will do more than write this evening. The author/sharpshooter/gonzo journalism guru will ponder his future. On April 9, he will appear in State District Court to face possible charges of third degree assault, third degree sexual assault and felony drug possession.

He will stand before the judge not only as Hunter S. Thompson, citizen. But as Hunter S. Thompson -- symbol.

Of drugs. Of guns. Of disdain for the law. Of everything wild, extreme and faintly unruly in American society today, yesterday, and Thompson hopes, tomorrow.

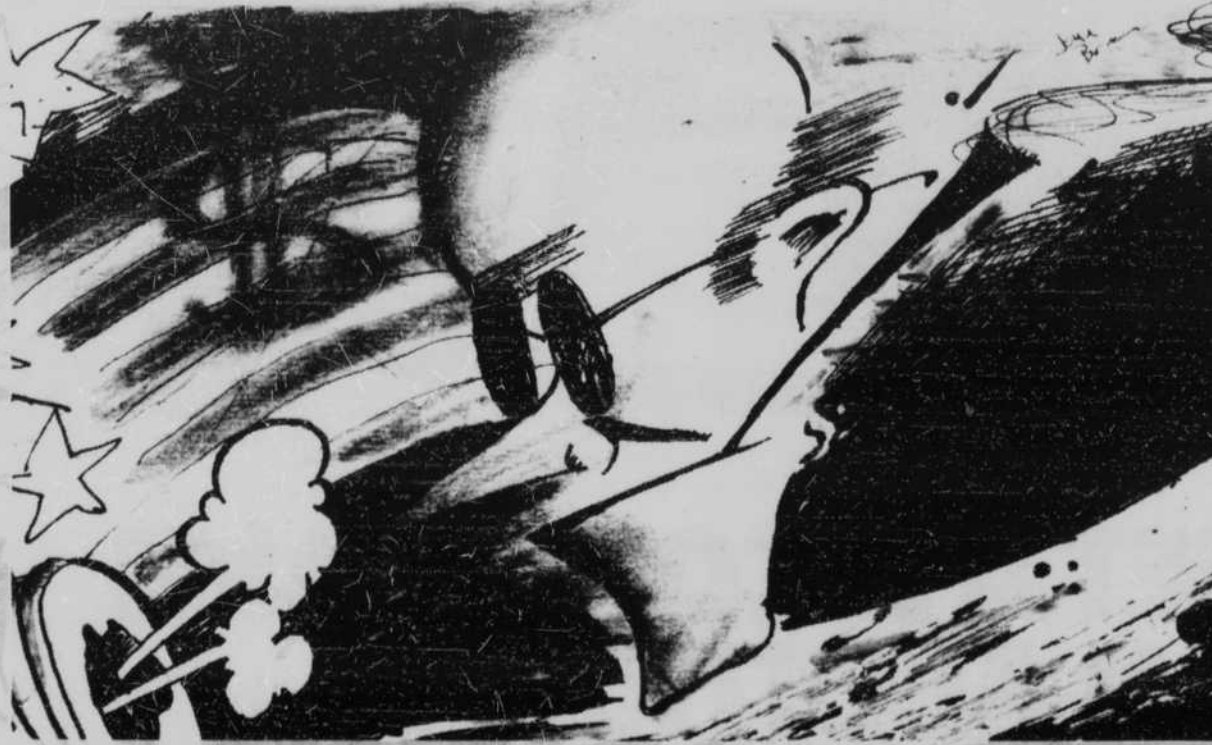
But times are changing. "It's a grim and ugly spirit in the wind," he muses. "This is the '90s. It is an era of punishment."

And punishment may well be on the way for Thompson, who for 20 years has played with madness in his daily life, as well as in best-sellers like "The Great Shark Hunt" and "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas."

But Thompson admits he has trouble taking the case seriously.

"They're chickenshit drug charges," he complains. "The judge should not have given a search warrant on this."

On Feb. 21, ex-porn producer and occasional star Gail Palmer-Slater visited Thompson as a fan, he says, at his Woody Creek cabin near Aspen, Colo. In an affidavit, Palmer-Slater claimed that during her visit Thompson



threw a glass of cranberry juice and vodka in her direction, twisted her left breast, punched and pushed her. She also stated that she saw Thompson and guests consume what she believed was cocaine.

Based on her statement, the District Attorney's office sent a team of investigators to Thompson's home. After an 11-hour search, Thompson says, the officers left with their evidence.

"I wouldn't pay \$5 for the whole damn thing they have," he fumes. "They say they're going to try to go to court on the strength of what amounts to seeds and residue -- 12-year-old weed found behind the refrigerator.

It's supposed to be useable, and they don't have anything useable. An 11-year-old child couldn't get high on the whole thing."

As for Palmer-Slater, he says, her testimony should not be considered reliable. Thompson recently received a letter from Lee Klein, a Michigan man claiming Palmer-Slater filed another "bogus suit" against him. Thompson says the idea of a publicity scam has crossed his mind, but he hasn't bought it yet.

Nonetheless, the fact remains, according to Thompson -- Palmer-Slater was in no condition to remember the facts.

"She was a drunk woman. I called

a cab. I didn't want her here. She tried to put her arm around me. When I pushed her away, she slipped on the goddamn cranberry juice that she had spilled on the floor. I don't even drink vodka. I was drinking gin."

Either way, Thompson must face the charges that will be brought on by District Attorney Milt Blakey -- that is, if Blakey is around to perform his duties.

Republican millionaire Wink Jaffee, a long-time enemy of Thompson's, recently announced he was outraged by Blakey's search of Thompson's home. Jaffee will serve on a committee to recall the district attorney.

Thompson says he is pleased with

the support he has gotten, including the phone call from Jaffee.

"Most of the people are calling wanting to help. That cheers me up. It's fun."

But Thompson sees little that strikes him as funny today.

"This is all the result of not paying attention to politics and leaving a punishment-oriented Republican administration in power for what looks like it might be 16 years," Thompson says. "All over the country, the prisons are full. We have more people in prison in this country than in any other country in the world."

"One factor is, this goddamn crack has given decent recreational users like me, or anybody like me, a bad name. In the '70s, when we did pay some attention to politics... we got a lot of laws changed. In the '80s, the trend was reversed."

And the '90s?

"This is the generation of swine," Thompson says. "We're turning into a neo-fascist, totally money-oriented nation. It just gets more crime and punishment oriented. This is the first time they've come after me specifically. They picked the wrong case to do it on. It's a weak case."

Thompson gets a little excited when he talks about politics and Republicans. He becomes more reflective when he thinks of District Attorney Blakey.

"I get a little bit of a personal feeling myself," he smirks. "I'd like to march the guy through the streets of Aspen with swastikas painted all over him, naked. Behind him an old German army jeep..."

Thompson trickles off in thought for a moment.

"They're coming after me. I have

See GONZO on 10

# MTV, colleges team up to 'Save the Earth'

By Julie Naughton  
Senior Reporter

MTV and Ecology Now hope to create greater awareness of environmental issues at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, according to Melissa Keitges, MTV's UNL student representative.

"We'd like to encourage people to recycle everyday," Keitges said.

Today through Friday, MTV and its 20 representative college campuses will be sponsoring their first "Save the Earth" campaign. The campus

campaigns are a cooperative effort with MTV's broadcasted "Global Environmental" public-service campaign.

During the week-long campaign at UNL, booths will be set up in the Nebraska Union's Main Lounge between 12:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. to collect recyclable materials.

Keitges and Ecology Now will be showing MTV-provided public service announcements and giving away MTV merchandise, as well as information about what students can do to protect the environment. They will

collect aluminum, non-biodegradable paper products (such as newspaper) and plastic bottles.

Keitges and Ecology Now then will take the materials to a local recycling plant.

MTV will shoot their annual "School's Out" weekend program at the college gathering the highest total of recyclable material. The "School's Out" weekend will be shown during the month of May on MTV.

"I'd like to see the University of Nebraska win," Keitges said. "I think it'd be neat if MTV could come here

and film us partying. It would show them that we're not the cowboys a lot of people think we are."

Keitges said this is the first time MTV has "combined a benefit and a promotion."

"MTV recently decided that the environment will be the primary cause that they will work for," Keitges said.

MTV needed a co-sponsoring student organization, and according to Keitges, Ecology Now was a "logical choice."

"They are the most active student

environmental group, and have done a lot of things towards promoting environmental awareness," Keitges said.

Keitges said the group has been busy but they were "happy to squeeze this one in."

Participating schools include New Jersey's Rutgers University, New York's Cornell University, Alabama's Auburn University, the University of Southern California, the University of Colorado and Arizona State University.

# Former Bunnyman McCulloch debuts with haunting vocals, harmonious guitar

By Brian Meves  
Staff Reporter

Ian McCulloch  
"Candleland"  
Sire

Ian McCulloch made a wise choice when he decided to quit Echo and The Bunnymen and pursue a solo career.

McCulloch's debut solo album, "Candleland" does justice to the talent he had been boxing up with the Bunnymen.

"Candleland" is a complete effort by McCulloch. On the album, McCulloch plays guitar and handles all of the vocals, and Ray Shulman plays bass and the keyboards.

The entire album is dominated by McCulloch's original vocals that border on greatness. At times, he sings in a happy mode, but most of the time in a eerie haunting voice.

You almost can feel the songs permeating your soul.

Not to go overlooked on "Candleland" is the excellent use of guitars and keyboards. McCulloch stirs his harmonious guitar in and out of every

song, putting to rest any critics who said he couldn't play guitar.

On "The Cape," he surprises everybody by playing some Jesus and Mary Chain-esque distorted guitar riffs throughout the song. Also in the beginning a New Order-like keyboard sound can be heard.

It is obvious that McCulloch still



is feeling the effects from the recent death of his father. The entire album, including the cover, is surrounded with a sad blackness which radiates among most of the songs. Although many of the songs are sad, they still are entertaining. All of the songs are very good, and the lyrics express McCulloch's intelligence.

Lyricaly, McCulloch concentrates on heavy subject matters: death, past

remembrances and reincarnation.

The best song, "Faith and Healing" starts with electronic drum beats and synthesizer sounds, similar to New Order, which add variety to the song. McCulloch's vocals flood over the music subtly letting you almost forget about the music. The chorus mourns:

"Lost all reason and belonging/  
Can't do right for doing wrong and I don't like the way I'm feeling/Need your faith, faith and healing"

On the song, "Candleland," McCulloch is joined by Elizabeth Frazer from the Cocteau Twins on backing vocals. Frazer adds a beautiful high-pitched voice to put some diversity in the album.

McCulloch has more than proven that he can be successful without the Bunnymen. He has so much talent that it would be best if he stayed solo so he could concentrate on his own ideas.

"Candleland" is an enjoyable album from start to finish. But don't expect to come away feeling happy, because it was not made to make you feel that way.



Courtesy of Sire