

"Heroes of The counterculture"

By PAT/SALTY

By which I mean the 1960s-1970s - AND EVEN THE 1950's - COUNTERCULTURE. THAT - TO THE BABY BOOMERS - WAS THE COUNTERCULTURE, THOUGH I GUESS THERE WERE/ARE OTHERS.

FIRST, LET ME LIST A FEW OF THEIR NAMES (SENSE SO MANY - MOST, IN FACT - OF THEM ARE DEAD NOW, WE'LL CALL IT THE ROLL CALL OF THE - MOSTLY - DEAD);

ALAN GINSBERG, JACK KAPOAC, AND THE "BEATS", DR. TIMOTHY LEARY AND THE "TURN ON, TUNE IN, AND DROP OUT" L.S.D. CROWD (INCLUDING KEN KESSEY AND HIS MERRY PRANKSTERS); CARLOS CASTENADA AND HIS "YAKI WAY OF KNOWLEDGE / DON JUAN" BOOKS, HUNTER THOMSON AND HIS "GONZO JOURNALIST" WRITINGS, ABIE HOFFMAN AND HIS "STEAL THIS BOOK" YUPPIE MOVEMENT "COMRADES"; PLUS ALL THE POLITICAL COUNTERCULTURE SYMBOLS AND HEROES SUCH AS CHE GUEVERA, THE S.D.S., AND ROCK N' ROLLERS IN GENERAL, AND SO MUCH - AND SO MANY - MORE.

IN FACT, TOO MANY TO LIST.

MANY WHO WERE ICONS OF THE 60's-70's COUNTERCULTURE AT THE TIME, ARE NOW MAINSTREAM OR SEMI-~~MAIN~~ MAINSTREAM TODAY AND HAVE BEEN FOR YEARS (FOR WHATEVER REASONS).

JAN WENNER AND HIS ROLLING STONE MAGAZINE, WHEN IT FIRST CAME OUT IN 1967, WERE HARD CORE COUNTERCULTURE; HEADQUARTERED IN AND FROM SAN FRANCISCO,

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ROLLING STONE BACK THEN WAS ~~THE~~ CHOCK FULL OF THE "F WORD," STORIES ABOUT DOPE DEALERS AND REVOLUTION AND HARD ROCK AND FULL OF ADS AND PERSONALS HAVING TO DO WITH PRODUCTS SOLD IN "HEADSHOPS," ETC. ETC. ETC. ETC. NOT A CORPORATE SPONSOR IN SIGHT BACK THEN, IT WAS "PURE" IN YOUR FACE COUNTERCULTURE NEWSPAPER / MAGAZINE BACK IN THAT DAY. GO'S RADICAL BILL HAYDEN - A FOUNDING FATHER OF S.D.S. (STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY) LATER BECAME A (FAR POLITICAL LEFT, TO BE SURE) POLITICIAN IN CALIFORNIA AND MARRIED JANE FONDA YEARS BEFORE TED TURNER GOT A HOLD OF HER; THOSE TWO - WENNER AND HAYDEN - ARE STILL ALIVE (AS OF THIS WRITING IN 2009) OTHERS HAVE MOVED ON TO THAT GREAT COUNTERCULTURE IN THE SKY; (DOCTOR) TIM LEARY - THE HARVARD PROFESSOR WHO MADE L.S.D. EXPERIMENTS FAMOUS AND GOT KICKED OUT OF HARVARD FOR SINGING ITS PRAISES, DIED IN 1996 AND INSISTED ON BEING THE FIRST WELL KNOWN PERSON - MAYBE THE FIRST PERSON - TO DIE ON THE (FLEDGING) INTERNET; NOT ALL THAT MANY YOUNGER PEOPLE TODAY EVEN KNOW ABOUT WRITER CARLOS CONSTENEDA AND HIS BOOKS WHICH FOR YEARS WERE ALMOST REQUIRED READING FOR ANYONE IN - OR CURIOUS ABOUT - THE COUNTERCULTURE; CONSTENEDA WAS AN ANTHROPOLOGIST WHO FIRST WROTE AND PUBLISHED A BOOK IN THE EARLY 1960S →

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CONCERNING HIS STUDYS OF THE YAKI INDIANS OF MEXICO AND THE SOUTHERN U.S. AND THEIR USE OF PEYOTE AND OTHER DRUGS; HE TOOK SUCH DRUG TRIPS WITH THEM, WROTE ABOUT IT, AND ~~WAS~~ DID FOR PEYOTE AND OTHER NATURAL HALUCINAGINS WHAT COCA-COLA DID FOR SOFT DRINK CONSUMPTION; UNTIL HIS DEATH IN THE LATE 1990'S HE WOULD "MYSTERIOUSLY" PUBLISH A BOOK EVERY COUPLE OF YEARS AFTER THAT; I READ THEM AND MOST PEOPLE I KNEW DID ALSO.

THE LATE KEN KESSEY FIRST CAME OUT WITH THE EARLY 60'S BOOK "ONE FLEW OVER THE COO COO'S NEST" (LATER-IN THE MID 70'S - MADE INTO A GREAT MOVIE WITH JACK NICHOLSON) THEN - LATER - STARTED UP HIS "HAPPENING" GROUP "THE MERRY PRANCERS" FAMOUS FOR THE BOOK "THE ELECTRIC KOO LAID ASID TEST" AND OTHER EVENTS / HAPPENINGS HAVING TO DO WITH GROUP CROSS COUNTRY DAY GLO PAINTED ~~BUSSES~~ BUSS TRIPS, THE HELLS ANGELS, AND OTHER THINGS;

THE LATE WRITER HUNTER THOMSON (WHO, WRACKED BY DECEASE, SHOT HIMSELF TO DEATH AROUND 2007) WAS AND REMAINS PROBABLY THE BEST KNOWN OF THE BUNCH. THOMSON WROTE THE FIRST OFFICIALLY AUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY OF THE BEATLES, THE FIRST BOOK ON THE HELLS ANGELS IN THE MID SIXTYS, "FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS" IN THE EARLY 70'S, AND WAS THE TOP GONZO JERNALIST / ASSIGNMENT WRITER FOR ROLLING STONE MAGIZINE, AMONG OTHER THINGS TOO NUMEROUS TO LIST; →

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HUNTER BASICALLY INVENTED PARTICIPATORY JOURNALISM WHEREBY THE WRITER BECOMES PART OF THE STORY IF NOT AT THE VERY CENTER OF THE REPORT / STORY; "GONZO JOURNALIST" WAS A TERM COINED FOR / BY HIM. IT WAS REALLY THE ONLY WAY FOR A ~~REPORTER~~ JOURNALIST TO REPORT ON THE COUNTERCULTURE TO THE READERS; BY JUMPING WRITE INTO THE MIX HIMSELF AND OBJECTIVELY REPORTING BACK WHAT HAPPENED TO WHO, WHAT, HOW, AND WHERE. IT WASN'T LIKE STRAIGHT / ESTABLISHMENT REPORTING - WHEREBY, IF YOU WANT TO COVER A STORY ABOUT VIETNAM YOU SEND A REPORTER TO VIETNAM - OR WHATEVER. NO; IF YOU WANTED A STORY - A REPORT - ABOUT, SAY, THE GROWING USE OF L.S.D. THEN THEY WOULD SEND A JOURNALIST SUCH AS HUNTER THOMSON TO "COVER" IT. AND THAT MEANT NOT JUST SITTING BACK AND WATCHING PEOPLE TAKE L.S.D. BUT TAKING IT YOURSELF AND REPORTING BACK WHAT ITS EFFECTS WERE; HUNTER OWNED THAT WHOLE THING. HE WAS THE FOUNDING FATHER OF "JUST GO AND DO IT AND REPORT BACK" SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM. GONZO JOURNALISM. ~~IT~~ COULD BE CALLED HUNTER THOMSONISM. DOING THESE ASSIGNMENTS + WRITING ALL THOSE STORIES FOR YEARS APPARENTLY TOOK A TOLL ON HUNTER THOMSON AS IT DOES ON THOSE WHO FOR LONG STRADDLE BOTH WORLDS AT ONCE, OR TRY TO. →

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HUNTER WAS A REAL OLD WORLD TYPE JOURNALIST GENTLEMAN; A highly INTELLIGENT PROFESSIONAL WHO ALWAYS STAYED ~~FOR~~ FOCUSED ON GETTING THE STORY NO MATTER WHAT IT TOOK. HE WAS A REPORTERS REPORTER UNLIKE ALL THESE NEW AGE ESTABLISHMENT REPORTER TWITS WITH THEIR BLOW DRIED HAIR AND CORPORATE INSTINCTS. HE WAS A REAL MANS MAN AT ALL TIMES - EVEN WHEN HE WAS DOWN ON HIS HANDS AND KNEES VOMITING UP GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT SUBSTANCES. EVEN WHEN HE WAS OUTSIDE SOMEWHERE SHOOTING THE LIVING SHIT OUT OF SOME TREE OR GARBAGE CAN, IN ORDER TO VENT his OWN FEARS AND LOATHINGS AND EMOTIONS.

REMEMBER, TOO, THAT WHAT IS ALL LUMPED TOGETHER TODAY AS THE 1960'S/1970'S "COUNTERCULTURE" WAS A WHOLE

ALTERNATE LIFESTYLE, A WHOLE ALTERNATE REALITY, FOR MILLIONS UPON MILLIONS OF PEOPLE AND THAT - EXCEPT FOR A VERY VERY FEW SUCH AS HUNTER THOMSON, THE MEDIA WAS TOTALLY UNABLE TO REPORT ON ANY OF IT FROM THE INSIDE. FROM THE OUTSIDE, SURE; FROM THE SIDELINES, OF COURSE - BUT FROM THE INSIDE?

HUNTER THOMSON WAS THE FIRST, THE BEST, AND PRACTICALLY THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE MEDIA THAT COULD AND DID PULL THAT OFF. IT WASN'T EASY AND HE DID IT OVER & OVER AGAIN. FOR THAT, HE DESERVES TO BE COMMENDED AND REMEMBERED; REST IN PEACE, HUNTER! →

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IT CAN ALSO NOT BE STATED CLEARLY OR OFTEN ENOUGH HOW ALL THESE COUNTERCULTURE PEOPLE WERE SO OFTEN IN TROUBLE WITH THE POLICE AND AUTHORITIES AT THE TIME. REPORTER (ON THE COUNTER-CULTURE) HUNTER THOMSON HIMSELF ~~WAS~~ HAD CONSTANT "RUN INS" WITH THE POLICE AND AUTHORITIES; WHO THOUGHT HE WAS AN OUTLAW BIKER / HELLS ANGEL BECAUSE HE HAD TO RIDE WITH THEM + HANG OUT WITH THEM TO GET THE REAL STORY, OR COPS WHO THOUGHT HE WAS A DOPE DEALER BECAUSE ~~OF~~ OF HOW HE WENT ABOUT HIS REPORTING, ETC. ETC. ETC.

TIMOTHY LEARY GOT ARRESTED AND JAILED; THE LIST IS AS LONG AS IT WAS - AND ALWAYS FOREVER WILL BE - PREDICTABLE; THOSE WHO RUN WITH THE ~~WOLVES~~ ELK RISK GETTING ATTACKED BY THE WOLVES - EVEN IF ONE IS NOT AN ELK ONESELF. ITS AN AGE OLD REALITY. MANY YOUNGER PEOPLE - LIKE OLDER ONES BEFORE THEM - GLAMORIZE THE LIFE AND WORK OF PEOPLE LIKE TIM LEARY AND HUNTER THOMSON - BUT IT WAS ALSO A HARD + DIFFICULT COUNTERCULTURE ROAD TO TRAVEL; NOT ALWAYS MENTIONED IN HIS BOOKS AND STORIES WAS HUNTER'S MANY BAD EXPERIENCES IN ACTUALLY GATHERING UP THE INFORMATION TO WRITE THEM; THE TIMES HE WAS BEATEN UP, ROBBED, THREATENED WITH DEATH + BODILY INJURY, ETC. AS RINGO ONCE SANG IT; "IT DONT COME EASY" XXX