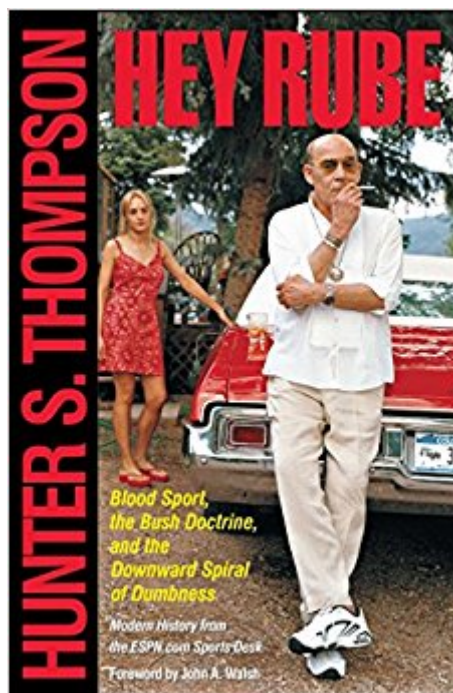




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Hey Rube: Blood Sport, The Bush Doctrine, And The Downward Spiral Of Dumbness Modern History From The Sports Desk



Synopsis

Sports, politics, and sex collide in Hunter S. Thompson's wildly popular ESPN.com columns. From the author of *Stalking the Wild Billies* and father of "Gonzo" journalism comes *The Unabomber of Contemporary Letters*. Insightful, incendiary, outrageously brilliant, such was the man who galvanized American journalism with his radical ideas and gonzo tactics. For over half a century, Hunter S. Thompson devastated his readers with his acerbic wit and uncanny grasp of politics and history. His reign as "The Unabomber of contemporary letters" is more legendary than ever with *The Unabomber of Contemporary Letters*. Fear, greed, and action abound in this hilarious, thought-provoking compilation as Thompson doles out searing indictments and uproarious rants while providing commentary on politics, sex, and sports—at times all in the same column. With an enlightening foreword by ESPN executive editor John Walsh, critics' favorites, and never-before-published columns, *The Unabomber of Contemporary Letters* follows Thompson through the beginning of the new century, revealing his queasiness over the 2000 election ("rigged and fixed from the start"); his take on professional sports (to improve Major League Baseball "eliminate the pitcher"); and his myriad controversial opinions and brutally honest observations on issues plaguing America—including the Bush administration and the inequities within the American judicial system. *The Unabomber of Contemporary Letters* gives us a lasting look at the gonzo journalist in his most organic form—unbridled, astute, and irreverent.

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Customer Reviews

This collection of rants and reflections, taken from the king of gonzo journalism's new sports column at ESPN.com, displays an energy and humor lacking in some of his more recent collections and

should please both his old and new fans enormously. Thompson has admitted being as much a sports fanatic as a political junkie, and these columns offer many hard-hitting but indisputable sportswriter insights, such as how a Sports Illustrated cover on Boston Red Sox star Nomar Garciaparra featured a "cynically homoerotic image." A sidebar on "New Rules for Baseball" ("Eliminate the Pitcher") is not only funny but also an astute critique of how boring he believes baseball has become. But Thompson never loses sight of his bigger picture: "The only true Blood Sport in this country is high-end Politics." His view of George Bush — "a half-bright football coach who goes into a big game without a Game Plan" — "can sometimes be repetitious. But he hasn't lost his skill as a reporter: e.g., his description of the "exact moment" when he knew Gore would never win Florida — "when the Bush family appeared on TV "hooting & sneering at the dumbness of the whole world" that they would let Florida slip away. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Thompson is, of course, the author of several New York Times best-selling books, including *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* (1972), which is perhaps his most readily recognized one. He is the great and famous practitioner of so-called gonzo journalism, which means, at least by the definition set here in his latest collection of journalistic pieces, commentary in which his ruminations go far past the thought-provoking into the realms of the audacious, preposterous, and outrageous. Specifically, what is collected here are Thompson's popular ESPN.com columns; more specifically, the essays are about sports events and figures and what sports means in today's society, but he uses the broad subject of sports to launch into commenting humorously, fiercely, and quite intelligently on politics and sex. He calls being a politician "living in Public Housing

A fantastic collection of many of the columns that Thompson wrote during his later years for ESPN. Funny, incisive, engaging and a great read all-around.

I find it disheartening to hear complaints about HST's later writing. I'm a lifelong fan and value his entire career. Later in life he stopped making seminal books but this can surely be traced to his disdain for the second Bush administration. Sure Nixon was a villain but *W* was a testament to just how far into decline we have actually fallen to. For a self proclaimed patriot and grandfather of the American Dream, it's hard to engage in satirical commentary when things have gotten so sad.

HUNTER NEVER LETS YOU DOWN OR DISAPPOINTS! GREAT READ...MANY LAUGHS! WE MISS HIM!

Great bathroom book. Pardon the toilet humor:) This is a fast read it is funny and entertaining. If you liked leaving Las Vegas you will like this book, or if you are a democrat and a sports fan. Btw I thought Leaving Las Vegas was alright, and I'm not a dem and I still enjoyed it immensely. A trip back to the early 2000s/90s as seen through his eyes. He is a funny dude with original insights.

Although I own everything HST has written I am happily in awe reading the short verse of this book. Wishing that I had given two s***s about sports and gambling on sports in the early 2k years. I read this a decade and change later and remember the specifics of the games he talks about and the twisted underworld from which they were brought. It takes a special mind to be able to speak of politics and sports in the same column.

This book (2004) and "Kingdom of Fear" (2003) appear to be the last of HST's books. While "Hey Rube" contains lengthy discussions of gambling on professional football and basketball (including "March Madness"), "Kingdom of Fear" is more far-ranging, containing everything from Thompson's reminiscences of his youth to his (highly negative) thoughts on George W. Bush. The quality of the writing of the recent pieces in both books is not quite up to that of his best from the past, but is still infinitely better than the mindless slop produced by other contemporary "writers." The man was an artist. As always, one of the disturbing things about Thompson is his ability to assess politics correctly in real time. Reading back, you think "Why didn't people take this man seriously at the time?" "Indeed," as Doc would say.

Classic Hunter Thompson, more about sports than i would prefer but has the outrageous stories and hilarious Gonzo view that Hunter delivers flawlessly.

Just received the advanced publishers un-edited copy. Full of unread Thompson with his original typing quirks. Any fan must obtain this copy. Why the cuts were made to the final I'll never know as this final stab by Thompson was as sardonically brilliant as the Campaign book. And thats saying a lot (sentence for H)

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