

HUNTER S. THOMPSON

Fear and Loathing in Elko

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Rolling Stone

A Wild and Ugly Night With
Thomas... Bad Craziness in
Sexual Harassment Then
Christmas Flashback and

Judge Clarence
Sheep Country...
and Now... A Nasty
a Nation of Jailers



PUBLIC ENEMY
NIRVANA

RS 622

'ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS'

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R.E.M.'s lead singer/activist joins Jackson Browne, Natalie Merchant, Lou Reed, Phoebe Snow and Deee-Lite's Lady Miss Kier to celebrate human rights. Also noted: Paula Abdul; Sinéad O'Connor; Van Halen.

R O C K & R O L L

BILLY BRAGG *By Jeff Giles* 9
On his winning new album, *Don't Try This at Home*, the Briton who once thought singles "a bourgeois conspiracy by the music industry" makes his peace with pop.

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You thought the cold war was over after forty years? You were wrong. The enemy may have vanished, but the arms industry is still winning important victories on the home front.

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FEAR AND LOATHING IN ELKO
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It was just another night on the high desert of Nevada. Doctor Thompson was headed for Elko, driving a red 454 V-8 convertible eighty-eight miles an hour through a drenching, blinding rain when he first saw the sheep. Then he met the Judge. And that was only the beginning.

F E A T U R E S T O R I E S

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Controversy and turmoil have followed Chuck D, Flavor Flav and Terminator X from *Bum Rush* to *Apocalypse*. Now the platinum-selling rappers want control.

NIRVANA *By Chris Mundy* 38
"Smells Like Teen Spirit" is logging hours and hours of MTV airplay, and *Nevermind* has already sold 1.5 million copies - but this is still the band that got booted from its own record-release party.

R E V I E W S

LOU REED *By David Fricke* 43
Reed's most affecting, emotionally direct solo work in nearly a decade, *Magic and Loss* is about death - and how to live with it. Also reviewed: New releases by Belinda Carlisle, Jody Watley, John Prine, Matthew Sweet and Miracle Legion.

JFK *By Peter Travers* 48
The best and worst of Oliver Stone in one volatile package, *JFK*, starring the ever-reassuring Kevin Costner, is riveting bunk.

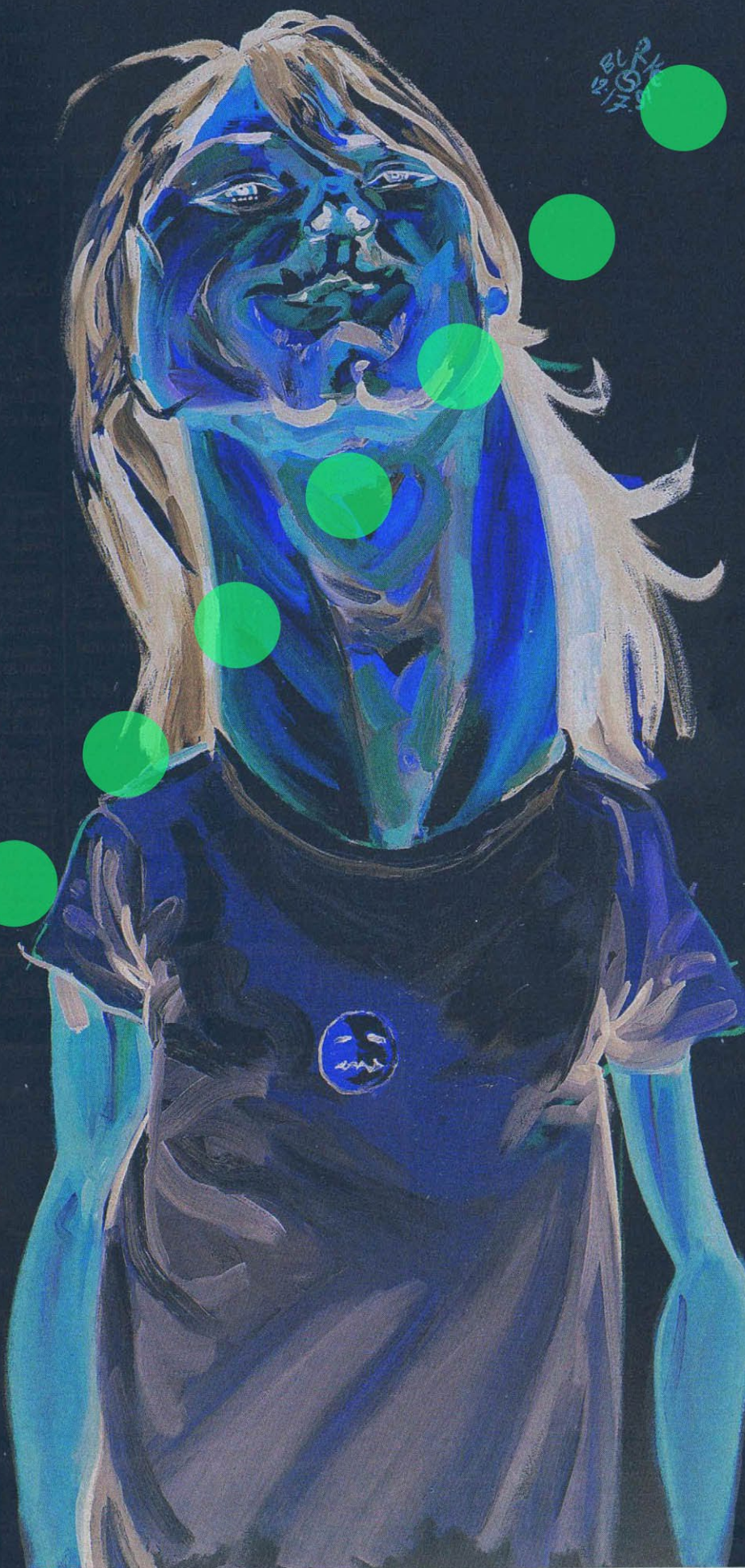
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COVER: Ralph Steadman is responsible for putting Hunter S. Thompson behind the wheel. Lettering by Dennis Ortiz-Lopez.

KURT COBAIN OF NIRVANA *Illustration by Philip Burke*



The Year in Review

THE 1991 YEARBOOK WAS A GREAT ISSUE — not as good as Michael Stipe's dancing, but a great issue nonetheless (RS 619/620).

JOHN MARKOTAY
Centralia, Illinois

I WAS COMPLETELY PISSED OFF WHEN I noticed the members of Slayer referred to as "the burly Satanists" (On the Road). Just because they do extremely heavy music doesn't mean they're satanic.

BEKI CLARK
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

R.E.M. MADE MORE THAN THE TWO APPEARANCES you noted in your yearbook. They also appeared on *Saturday Night Live* on April 13th, and they were great. Eight or nine million people watched it. I guess you folks missed it. From now on, pay more attention.

G.E. SMITH
Music Director
'Saturday Night Live'
New York City

We were referring specifically to full-length concert appearances. We also failed to mention any Georgia living-room, rehearsal-space or garage get-togethers that the band might have played. — Ed.

DAVID FRICKE'S CHARACTERIZATION of Garth Brooks as the "Vanilla Ice of country music" is just plain foolish (The Year in Records). Unlike Vanilla Ice, Brooks is a bona fide musician, guitarist, vocalist and songwriter. And please, do not hold Willie Nelson up as some sort of standard-bearer. I'm a fan of Nelson's, but he's as close to being bankrupt artistically as he is financially.

ERIC STAMBERG
Highland Park, New Jersey

WHAT A POMPOUS, PRETENTIOUS and predictable lot most rock stars are (Correspondence, Love Letters & Advice). The only original work of any merit was Steven Tyler's pun-filled, sit-down stand-up routine.

BERT ECCLES
Montreal, Quebec

The Home Front

IT WAS COMPELLING TO READ ABOUT those courageous men fighting AIDS ("The Home Front," RS 619/620). It's time for us to wake up and face our responsibilities to find a cure for this epidemic. It has taken too many precious lives. Senators like Jesse Helms — who block leg-

islation that would help the victims of this horrible disease — should read this article.

PAUL J. CRAWFORD
Max Meadows, Virginia

AS I READ YOUR ARTICLE ABOUT AIDS, I felt some disappointment because you profiled homosexual men but not any heterosexual victims. There are still a surprisingly large number of people who believe that only gay men get AIDS and that heterosexuals are immune. You are perpetuating this false (and fatal) myth.

JANET LEE
Burnaby, British Columbia

JOHN COLAPINTO WRITES THAT Bruce's "voice [was] flattened by his chronic fatigue." His doctor had suggested that his problem wasn't only physical but that his "exhaustion might be a symptom of depression." Bruce may very well have been suffering from an episode of major depression. Major depression only adds to the loneliness, isolation, helplessness and hopelessness that one may feel any time during the course of the disease. There is no reason why this additional suffering should go untreated.

JACOB ABRAHAM, M.D.
Resident Psychiatrist
Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center
New York City

Mark Morris

I DO NOT FOLLOW MODERN DANCE, BUT after reading your article on Mark Morris (RS 619/620), I may start paying more attention. So he's eccentric, gay and

talented — when did being ordinary qualify you for a MacArthur Foundation Award? Tell Mr. Morris if he's ever in Austin, Texas, I'd be happy to drink some beer with him, and who knows? I might even take him to the Broken Spoke, a country & western honky-tonk that is stuck in a Forties time frame.

GREG SUNDBERG
Universal City, Texas

Sebastião Salgado

THANK YOU FOR SEBASTIÃO SALGADO'S photograph of the Mali kid's being weighed to calculate his rations ("The Visionary Light," RS 619/620). I cried and cried and cried.

KAREN HETZEL
Lakeside, California

Okay, so Vanilla Ice's 'Extremely Live' was not the first live rap album (June, RS 619/620). Boogie Down Productions' 'Live Hardcore Worldwide' preceded it.

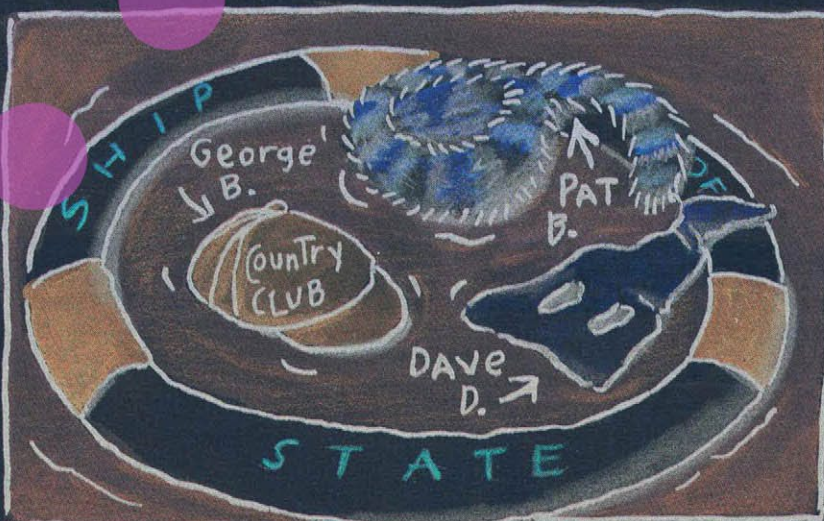
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RALPH J. GLEASON (1917-1975)

Natalie Merchant and Michael Stipe in Boston

NATALIE MERCHANT described it as "one of the most moving days I will probably ever experience in my life."

She and a collection of artists, among them LOU REED, MICHAEL STIPE, PHOEBE SNOW, LADY MISS KIER and JACKSON BROWNE, made a pilgrimage to Boston for the fourth annual Reebok Human Rights Awards. "The most prevalent and unacknowl-



Silent night, my ass. SINÉAD O'CONNOR chatted with Ireland's 'Hot Press' about America: 1) "There isn't any American culture." Hmmm. 2) "In Ireland you'd get home without being murdered or raped. You can't in America. That happens all the time." Ah. 3) "You don't go for drinks. Chances are the person will be a fuckin' psycho. All psychos go to live in L.A." Got it.

EUGENE SHAW/STAR FILE



Reebok Human Rights Award

PAUL ROBICHAU

goes hand in hand with political power, and Jimmy Carter is one person who has risen above that."

If you're an up-and-coming band but haven't made a record, it's good to have the next best thing - friends in GUNS N' ROSES.

FRANK WHITE



From left: Hoon, Slash and Duff

RANDOM NOTES

BY CHRIS MUNDY



Above: Phoebe Snow (left) and Lady Miss Kier at the Reebok Awards

edged discrimination is by the rich and powerful against the poor and weak," said former president Jimmy Carter in his keynote address for the event, which honored a remarkable group of humanitarians who have dedicated themselves to the cause of freedom worldwide. The day, in fact, provoked conversations in the least likely places. "After Carter's speech, I commended him, and he asked me if it was too harsh," says Stipe. "I said, 'No.' Honesty is not something that

That pretty much sums up life for BLIND MELON, whose lead singer, SHANNON HOON, croons with childhood friend AXL ROSE in G n' R's video "Don't Cry" and whose band was given a jolt by SLASH and DUFF at a show at New York's Limelight that happened to correspond with the ubiquitous rock kings' three-night Madison Square Garden stay.

Warming the very cockles of the hearts of music fans, romantics and publicity firms everywhere, WHITNEY HOUSTON

hinted at a career decision to wed BOBBY BROWN. Backstage at the Billboard Music Awards, Houston, whose "Star-Spangled Banner" at last year's Super Bowl introduced the country to the art of patriotic pantomime, caused a stir by flashing a large rock on her finger but failed to mouth a date for the potential pop nuptials.

Below: Brown and Houston, giddy with love



EUGENE SHAW/STAR FILE

I got the band into it," says SAMMY HAGAR about VAN HALEN's free Dallas concert, which seemed to shut down a major chunk of Texas. "For a while they were joking, 'You can go do it by yourself,' and I said, 'Sure.' Then they'd say, 'We'll

go, too. No solo shit.' Because they know I've been chomping on a solo show." The stemmed from a throat-induced promotion of original Monsters of Rock, which drew an estimated 50,000 fans to the city but helped the city's political clout. "The next time we let us announce it until we have a show," says Hagar. "Before we just took a chance on the radio station and announced it." It would be a big deal in other towns. If it goes well, he'll be out of office.

NOTABLE

ten-man group that was murdered in London, stating, "It is in the fight drawing fifteen tourages of NAUGHTY BOYS, the Emerald City night club. 1st show with PUBLISHEDLY assaulted a woman on another floor of the CHECKER called a unauthorized radio