

- Critiques two tendencies:
- In academia, a disdain for decorative, literary writing
- In journalism, a desire to write plainly and leave out all colour.
- Elmore Leonard suggests ways to strip back writing and leave the writer invisible. But it's not always a good thing to be invisible.

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Like many a second rate poet – or musician, for that matter – who died young, Bangs has become something of a cult figure. His following, however, is limited to the set of music writers who admire his gonzo style – a Beat-derived spew of words that aims for Kerouac and occasionally rises to the level of the execrable Charles Bukowski. It's insultingly indulgent, the kind of adolescent self-aggrandisement – now widely influential in music publications – that makes it impossible for literate human beings to take rock criticism at all seriously.

— *DeCurtis, 2000*

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