

FOUR PAGES OF THE INSIDE STORIES START HERE

HOT COPY

By LINDA STASI

with A.J. BENZA and MICHAEL LEWITTES



Kissed Off

Once Emmis Broadcasting — the company that owns hip-hop radio station HOT-97 — officially acquired KISS-FM last week — we had a feeling everything wasn't going to shake out too well for popular hip-hop jocks D.J. Red Alert and Wendy Williams. And sadly, we were right.

Red Alert, the redheaded impresario of KISS-FM's weekend rap show and a long-time staple of the hip-hop community, is gone from the station, and Williams, the popular morning host, has been stripped of her "Top Nine at 9" countdown. Matter of fact, Emmis has said goodbye to all rap music on the show. The reason for the gag on rap? Sources tell us Emmis made the decision after an in-house survey showed only 15% of KISS' core listeners liked hip hop. Its new managers also decided that they didn't want KISS to clash with HOT 97's hip-hop line-up.

We did hear, however, that Emmis offered to give Red Alert a show on HOT 97 — but he turned them down. And in case you didn't notice, Jeff Foxx, the morning jock who got the ax and was replaced by Williams, is back again and doing a heck of a lot more talking in the morning now that Emmis is running things. We also hear station manager Charles Warfield is peddling his résumé, now that Judy Ellis (executive VP of Emmis) has taken over as station manager of both KISS and HOT 97.

Celebrity Gods

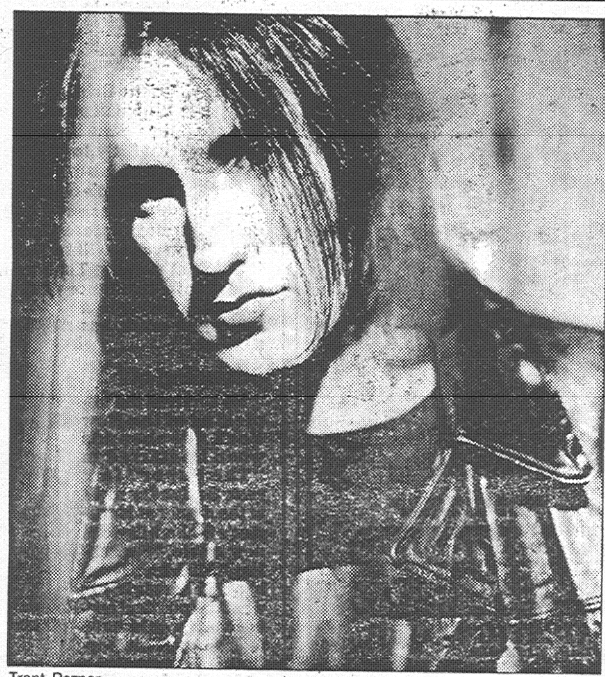
This isn't just some sort of myth — it's the truth. We hear a number of celebs are putting together an album titled "Mythology," in which they're going to read — not sing — about a number of mythological gods and goddesses.

So far, George Clinton, Suzanne Vega and character actor Wally Shawn are among those who have already stepped up to the mike. But sources say the list will continue and very likely include artist Julian Schnabel and Iggy Pop among others.

Each celeb is picking his or her god or goddess based on who they feel they have an affinity for. Vega read about Athena, goddess of wisdom; Shawn did Pan, god of the forests, and Clinton has read about Dionysus, god of wine. Go figure. A source told us when Clinton recorded his take on Dionysus, "it was a colorful and bawdy version."

The passages weren't just from classical texts. They also read from more contemporary writings about the gods as well as from original pieces.

The album is due out in March.



Trent Reznor

Mosh Mess in Mass.

Madison Square Garden security personnel should pay very close attention to the following article concerning out-of-control rock group Nine Inch Nails. The band's tour hits the Garden tomorrow and Friday night and, if everything goes like it did at the band's Boston show last weekend, the security force might want to apply for hazardous duty pay.

We hear the band's Saturday night show at the Boston Garden wasn't going so great until frontman Trent Reznor took matters into his own hands and used a little reverse psychology on his audience. Reznor was unhappy with the crowd's lethargy and even angrier about the absence of a "mosh pit" at the foot of the stage. (For the rock-impaired, a mosh pit is where band devotees meet to drink and drug and constantly slam into each other until severe injuries force the crowd to pass you atop their heads into the waiting hands of security.) Anyhow, while a video screen featuring a slide show of decaying animals and war footage lowered in front of the stage, Reznor delivered a cryptic message that spurred the audience into action. "The show must go on," he said. "This isn't for me, it's for you."

With that, several thousand people began ripping the choice seats from their bolts and passing them to the back of the arena until a nice mosh pit was formed. No need to do the same here. We hear the Garden has already made plans to feature a pit to Trent's specs.

Surf's Up

It's easy enough to follow a rock group, but it isn't that easy to get close to its members. Let alone hand them some papers you'd really like them to see.

And it's a lot more difficult if those papers are a legal complaint. But through Swiss artist H.R. Giger's attorneys, the group Danzig was handed papers last week by a process server who was actually body-surfed onto the stage at Roseland.

We're told a number of process servers were in attendance at the concert with the sole purpose of being body-surfed on stage, but only one — which is all you really need — made it up to hand papers to

frontman Glenn Danzig. A spokeswoman for Danzig claims the papers weren't directly handed to him, but were found in the stage's pit. The complaint stems from the artist's contention that the group was allowed to use his artwork for their album "Danzig III, How the Gods Kill" — but not for T-shirts, posters, or anything else.

Giger, who won an Oscar for his designs in the film "Alien," is seeking \$3 million from Danzig and Giant Merchandising. He claims there was copyright infringement, breach of contract and assorted other legal blah, blah, blahs. The case is in U.S. District Court in Manhattan.

SOUND BITES

Satchel Of Joy For The Lees

NEW BABY: As far as we know, not many Major League Baseball players have named their children after the great African-American pitcher Satchel Paige. But now — following in the steps of Woody Allen — another Hollywood director has done so. We hear that Spike and Tonya Lee have chosen the name for their baby daughter, born late Sunday night. ...

STABBING THEMSELVES: Upcoming Columbia recording artists, Stabbing Westward, may find themselves unable to latch onto another touring gig with an established band after what they told a writer from Seconds magazine. The band was asked in the upcoming issue what they learned while recently on tour with Depeche Mode. "Rich people do a lot of drugs," was their reply. ... **WORD PROBLEMS:** Kevin Smith, whose shoestring budget flick "Clerks" has been a homer for Miramax, has made a deal with Universal to do a Generation X film about kids at shopping malls. Smith told a source of ours at Joe Allen's that the film, titled "Mall Rack," won't be under fire for explicit language like "Clerks" was. Smith said he toned down his act because "the studio doesn't want to risk an NC-17 ... and also, my mom won't like it!" And we thought this generation was going to hell in a handbasket. ... **NO WORRIES:** Hector "Macho" Camacho can't have any respect for his next opponent, Todd Foster. The boxers will fight for the Junior Middleweight championship in Atlantic City Jan. 14, but Camacho ain't exactly training for the bout. He's been at Scores all week, and last Saturday spent the night paying for table dances with five girls at a time. That's at \$100 a pop. ... **OUT THERE:** We're going out on a limb here, but we don't see the new solo album from rock legend Jon Anderson exactly blazing the Billboard charts. We hear Anderson's inspiration for "Change We Must" was complete silence. The album is the result of the rocker's taking a week-long retreat of silence in Kauai.