

**OSBOURNES DON'T HAVE A BUZZ ON RATINGS TAKE A DIP IN SECOND SEASON**

America's favorite heavy-metal family is beginning to look rusty.

Soon after *The Osbournes* launched on MTV last March, the real-life sitcom averaged 5.33 million viewers, a huge number for a cable series.

In the wake of its surprise success, the whacked-out family became a veritable mini-industry and a near-ubiquitous presence on TV and in magazines. Sharon Osbourne's cancer battle merited a highly rated prime-time interview with Barbara Walters. Kelly and Ozzy both released albums. Jack showed up on WB's *Dawson's Creek* and as a judge on

CBS's *Star Search*.

When *The Osbournes* returned for a second MTV season, its debut drew 6.6 million viewers. "The show had a strong premiere, but it's been downhill since then," says Laura Caraccioli-Davis, vice president and director of programming at Starcom Entertainment, a major media-buying firm.

While still a hit, the show is averaging 4.75 million viewers this season to date, a drop of 11 percent from last spring. Similarly, the series has lost some of its sizzle with young viewers, tumbling 10 percent with 18- to 34-year-olds.

"Maybe it's overexposure,"



Jack, newcomer Robert Marcato, Kelly, Sharon, Ozzy (clockwise from top left)

Caraccioli-Davis says. The show "seems less spontaneous because each Osbourne is this celebrity calculating another career move. Then you have Sharon's battle with cancer. You kind of feel if she doesn't make it, there goes the family. That's hardly the stuff of a lighthearted real-life sitcom."



KELLY OSBOURNE is



KELLY OSBOURNE



Bono and Kryk

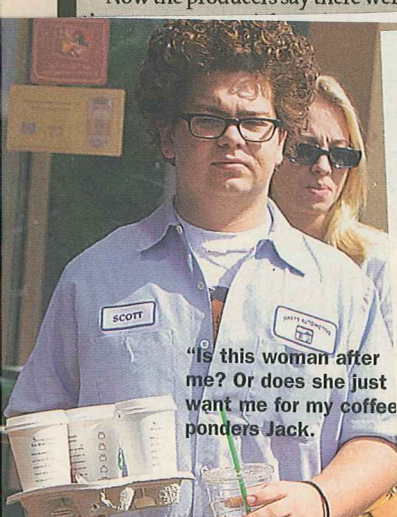
**ROCK FROLICS**

**THE VH IN VHI MEANS VERY HOT AS A CONCERT SHOW GOES BACKSTAGE**  
Last month, VH1 was ready to air *A Night With...*, a special about what goes on backstage at rock concerts between fans and stars. Producers promised it would cover everything from "the inspirational to the salacious." But in the 11th hour, the special was pushed back.

Now the producers say there were ques-

footage from a U2 concert where Bono pulls a fan, Julie Kryk, from the audience to dance and jam on stage. The fan later tells how the experience changed her life.

But there were other concerns as well. "Some of the content was just too explicit, even for [us]," says a VH1 insider. "Some cuts needed to be made." Especially graphic were some of the tales told by notorious groupie Connie Hamzy, immortalized in Grand Funk Railroad's "We're an American Band." Then there was an incident on Blink-182's tour bus involving a couple of fans who make love on board, to the delight of the punk-pop band. The show's executive producer, Steve Rosenbaum, whose company, CameraPlanet, produced the special for VH1, says the cuts won't keep it from being "the sexiest show that's ever been on the network," when it debuts.



"Is this woman after me? Or does she just want me for my coffee" ponders Jack.



**Makeup run** Kelly went home from this trip to the M.A.C. store with Select SPF 15 Foundation, eyeshadow, and Lip Glass.

**DAILY STAR TRACKS**

See who's rockin' the red carpet: Eve in *Star Tracks* we show you the hot celebrity photos around.

What a jackass! When JACK OSBOURNE was 13, he set himself on fire as part of a dare. He put five pairs of jeans on, squirted lighter fluid up his leg, then lit it and jumped into a pool.

