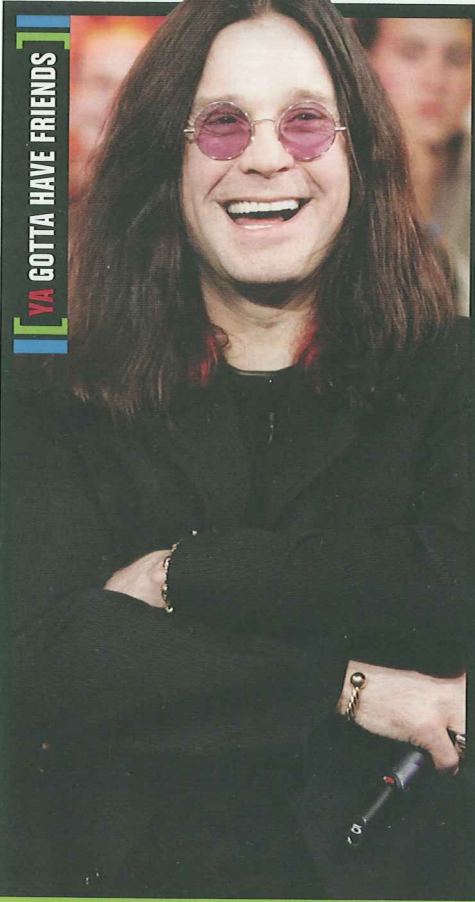


Rosie O'Donnell's bitchy k
sneer, Céline Dion's reality

YA GOTTA HAVE FRIENDS



KNEE JERK REACTION

Ozzy Osbourne always travels with two close friends – a pair of smiley-face tattoos on his kneecaps. The Prince of Darkness likes to chat with his tats in order to combat loneliness. “I hate being alone... So, I just got two little faces on my knees. When I’m pissing people off they don’t want to talk to me so I can always pretend they’re alive and talk to them.” His knees might also be the only two who can understand exactly what he’s saying.

BEN THERE, DONE THAT

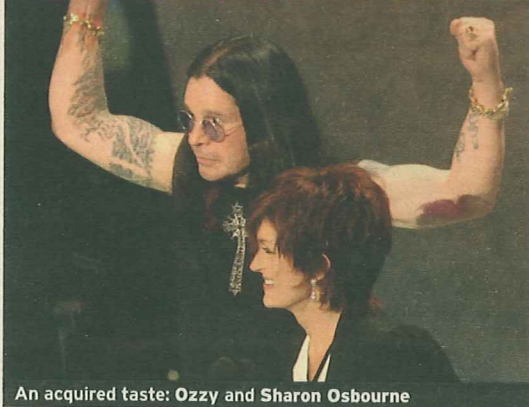
Ben Affleck will be making his directorial debut. *Gone, Baby, Gone*, the story of two detectives on the hunt for a kidnapped girl, will start shooting in Boston this fall. Normally I’m opposed to actors becoming directors but I support anything that will keep Ben off the big screen.

ODDS ON ODD COUPLE

Ananova reports that bookies are confident that Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne will remain together in 2005. And few people are willing to bet otherwise. Last year bookies got it wrong when they predicted a split between the David and Victoria (Posh Spice) Beckhams.



CHEERS & JEERS



An acquired taste: Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne

CHEERS to Patricia Heaton's standing ovation at the American Music Awards January 13. Well, not really an ovation—she stood and walked out, despite having agreed to introduce a segment in the ABC broadcast. Her reason: She was offended by what she later called the “vulgar and disgusting” show, from the obscenity-spewing Osbournes to lewd presenter Ryan Seacrest. Look, we like the Osbournes, and as for Seacrest, well, we like the Osbournes. And normally we’d say Heaton should have stuck by her deal. But this time, she was right: Dick Clark’s ABC event was clearly attempting to mimic the anything-goes style of the MTV Video Music Awards—and that’s not what Heaton (or, probably, the AMA’s audience) showed up for.

JEERS to TV’s latest fugitive. Singer Bobby Brown disregarded a Georgia court order to remain in the state pending an upcoming trial on a 1996 misdemeanor DUI charge. Why did he skip? To appear on the AMA in Los Angeles. Brown surrendered four days later, but he should have taken a cue from Heaton and skipped the show altogether.

CHEERS to hometown pride. NBC’s *The West Wing* owes a lot to one place—and it’s not Washington, D.C.

Worth repeating

“I’d like to thank my parents, who always taught me [that] when you have the opportunity to annoy someone, you should do so.” —Larry David, of HBO’s *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, accepting a Golden Globe award for best TV comedy

“You have no idea how many men I’ve had to sleep with to get this award.”

—Kim Cattrall, the bawdy Samantha of HBO’s *Sex and the City*, accepting a Golden Globe award for best supporting actress in a TV series

If it weren’t for Dayton, Ohio, *Wing* wouldn’t exist as we know it: Stars Martin Sheen, Allison Janney and sometime cast member Rob Lowe all hail from Dayton. So it was fitting that Dayton figured prominently in the January 15 episode. And the fact that the editor of this column attended the same Dayton high school as Sheen had no influence on this Cheer. Well, maybe a little...

STYLE COUNSEL

Liza’s Back is the name of Ms. Minnelli’s latest CD, and judging by her appearance—that is, her *look*—on CBS’s *Late Late Show With Craig Kilborn* January 21, the title is right on the mark. Svelte (she’s lost 108 pounds in the last couple of years) and in a tailored black suit, Minnelli was ravishing. Yes, marriage really must agree with her.

OS RUELAS/ADN/WIREIMAGE.COM

Iron Man cometh

Why does Ozzy do it? After 33 years of heavy rocking, drink and drug addictions, jail time, bird-biting, car and hotel trashing and the utter surreality of reality TV stardom, nobody expects **Ozzy Osbourne** to still be alive let alone continue to haul his chubby butt on stage for a rawk show. But the aging anti-Christ cometh anyway to serve up tunes from his 13-album solo career, which — c’mon fans, ya gotta admit — all share pretty much the same riffs as *Paranoid* or *Iron Man* or one of the other Sab classics, without actually copying them. The white trash be-in conjures Sunday at GM Place.

Pentangle, along with Steeleye Span and Fairport Convention, founded the remarkable British folk-rock movement in the late ’60s. Pentangle’s master guitarist **John Renbourn** and entrancing singer **Jacqui McShee** appear at WISE Hall, Sunday.



Ozzy rocks GM Place Sunday.

Built to Spill, known as much for its catchy pop jingles as for its dense and out-side epics, has just released a new four-song EP, *Centre of the Universe*, which