

# Arts & Entertainment



Courtesy of Agency For The Performing Arts  
Wendy O. Williams

## Queen of sleaze returns

### Wendy's back in town to saw at Royal Grove

From Staff Reports

She's back. Yes, Wendy O. Williams, rock's reigning queen of sleaze, returns to Lincoln Tuesday night at the Royal Grove. Tickets are \$6 and are available at Dirt Cheap and Pickles. Tickets are \$8 the day of the show.

Don't miss this dominatrix of the decibels. Get out and see the Evel Knievel of rock strut her heavy-metal mama stuff.

If you don't know much about this goddess of the gutter, here's a listing of all the things she's done in chronological order:

- 1) Won local talent contest and made performing debut on the "Howdy Doody Show" at age 6.
- 2) Age 14 — Won a scholarship to Eastman School of Music.
- 3) Ran away from home at age 16.
- 4) During the next few years:
  - a) worked as a macrobiotic cook in London and Amsterdam.
  - b) danced with gypsy dance troupe throughout Europe.
  - c) worked as a lifeguard in Florida.
  - d) lived in a tent in Boulder, Colo.
  - e) worked as a dominatrix in live sex show in New York.
  - f) studied with a mystic guru in Himalayas.
- 5) 1978 — created legendary shock rock group Plasmatics with systems designer and conceptual artist (Yale MFA holder) Rod Swenson.
- 6) Concert banned in London by Greater London Council.
- 7) 1979 — drove a car loaded with explosives into exploding stage at end of show on Pier 62 NYC in front of 15,000 people (live coverage by all networks).
- 8) World Domination Tour.
- 9) 1980-81 — On TV shows: "SCTV," "Fridays," "Solid Gold," "Entertainment Tonight" and many others.
- 10) Arrested in Milwaukee on obscenity charges. Two days later, arrested on same charges in Cleveland. Refusing to plea bargain, both went to trial and Wendy won.
- 11) 1982 — blew up car on "Tom Snyder Show," New York, and blew up Mercedes on "Musikladen" TV show, Germany.
- 12) Made People Magazine's "Best Dressed List."
- 13) Recorded speed-metal cover of

Tammy Wynette's "Stand By Your Man" with Lemmy Kilmister from UK's notorious Motorhead.

14) Drove school bus through two walls of 100 televisions for video premiered on MTV.

15) Released first Wendy O. Williams album without the Plasmatics name. It was produced by Gene Simmons of Kiss.

16) Transferred from moving car to rope ladder hanging from airplane (without a safety harness) before car went over cliff for video of "It's My Life." On cover "Vegetarian Times."

17) Opened in live stage version of "Rocky Horror Show" starring Wendy O. Williams in St. Louis, Mo. The show became the longest-running show in St. Louis in 25 years.

18) Malcolm Dome of Kerrang! picked Williams' album as best album of the year.

19) 1985 — nominated for Grammy Award as Best Female Rock Vocal Performance of The Year.

20) February 1986 — release of second album under Wendy O. name, "Kommander of Kaos," On cover Whole Life Times.

21) Chainsawed her way onto Joan River's Show. Performed two songs and showed off new tattoo.

22) Prepared for release of most devastating album of all time, "Maggots: The Record," the ninth anniversary Wendy O. Williams/Plasmatics album squirming its way into the living rooms of the world.

More Wendy O. Williams information:

The Plasmatics were put together as the back-up band for WENDY O. in 1978 as the vehicle to rattle the cage of no sweat, formularized corporate rock 'n' roll. Wendy and the band made their rock and roll debut at New York's CBGB's in 1978 and soon were doing four-night stands, two shows per night, at the historic club to pack in the cult of dedicated fans that quickly developed. The first recorded single, "Butcher Baby," featured the sound of a chainsaw cutting through a guitar. This has become one of Wendy O.'s most famous trademarks. During the course of the three albums and three EPs released under the Plasmatics name, more than 16 musicians alternately played on the records and toured with the band.

## Assault after Suicidal Tendencies was apparently not related to band

By Kevin Cowan  
Staff Reporter

An assault after the controversial Suicidal Tendencies concert that sent one man to the hospital was not a direct result of the performance, the man said.

Charles Logan, 2310 Bretagne Drive, sustained head injuries when he and a friend were allegedly attacked after leaving the concert at Chesterfield Bottomsley & Potts Tuesday.

Logan said he thought the unknown attackers were just there to start a fight.

"They didn't seem like the types who would like the music," he said.

The encounter started when the alleged assailants were picking on a friend of Logan's, Al Wilson, a UNL sophomore.

Leaving the concert about 11:30 p.m., Logan and his friend were confronted in a parking lot and threatened. The assailants then produced baseball bats and nunchucks, and chased the two. Wilson escaped injury. The attackers caught Logan, fractured his skull and gave him a cut above his eye.

Logan was admitted to Lincoln

General Hospital and released on Thursday.

Although the attackers' license-plate number was obtained, police reports say that no one has been arrested and no charges have been filed.

Controversy before the concert concerning the band's history of provoking the crowd to violence was raised by articles in the Lincoln Star, the Lincoln Journal and the Daily Nebraskan.

Brady Wiebeck, manager of Chesterfield's, could not be reached for comment.

## Signal, listening area increase

### KRNU, KZUM boost power

By Geoff McMurtry  
Staff Reporter

Getting away from commercial radio in Lincoln soon will be easier.

KZUM, Lincoln's public access station, and KRNU, the UNL station, both have FCC permission to increase their output. KRNU made the switch from 10 watts to 100 in January. KZUM will increase from 10 watts to 1,500 in mid-May. KZUM was expected to raise its power on April 24, but delays in equipment deliveries pushed the date back.

What this means to the listener is that both stations will now be heard clearly throughout Lincoln and in nearby

areas. Rick Alloway, KRNU station manager and faculty adviser, said 10 watts could be picked up, in theory, all over Lincoln, but some areas didn't receive the signal or got weak reception. The power increase eliminates those problems and stretches the listening radius 20 to 30 miles out of town.

Increasing KZUM's wattage from 10 to 1,500 watts will give it a strong, clear signal that is expected to cover Lancaster County, said P.T. Martin, KZUM program director. Geography makes it difficult to tell how far the signal will reach, but, she said, KZUM hopes to be heard as far as Crete.

Along with the increases, both stations will broadcast in stereo. KRNU switched in January.

These increases in power will expand the stations' listening area, but not by as much as it would seem. Increasing KRNU's output from 10 watts to 100, for example, will not increase the area by 10 times.

It will give a stronger signal, and will make the signal easier to pick up. Even with the power increases, KZUM and KRNU still won't have as strong a signal as commercial stations, such as Z-92 which has a 100,000-watt output, Martin said.

## The right-wing Lenny Bruce blasts infamous gibes on air

### New York DJ Howard Stern earns acclaim for bigotry

KZUM radio DJ and Lincoln's one and only celebrity socialist **Ron Kurtenbach** has been synonymous with the word controversy in the past two weeks — all because he used the "F" word after 10 p.m. and affronted some liberals. (**Abbie Hoffman** would never use such language!)

But way up in the Big Apple, the jaded ears of Manhattan have been listening to a DJ who would probably sound more at home in rural Nebraska — and makes Kurtenbach's case seem tame.

#### Howard Stern.

Stern has been called the fascist answer to **Lenny Bruce**, and everyone from the new Fox-TV network to "Grandpa Munster" **Al Lewis** has been standing behind his infamous gibes aimed at degrading blacks, Jews, homosexuals and women.

With gems like "would you trust a black surgeon to operate on your brain?" he has been deified by a predominantly straight, white, male adolescent audience.

The FCC has warned Stern and told him to lay off the remarks, but his fans are right behind him and concur with his belief that it's his First Amendment right to say whatever the f--- he wants. At Fox-TV, according to the Village Voice, Stern is planning to do a pilot for a weekly talk show. Last week, MTV aired coverage of a Stern rally in New York, where teen-age headbanger boys and Grandpa Munster stood and intoned "F--- the FCC" for America to see on the airwaves. MTV DJ **Mark Goodman** smiled with amusement as he read cue cards about Saint Stern, the bad-boy broadcaster of working-class cult status. Suddenly hatred had become hip.

The Voice reported that the FCC enlarged its scope of taboo to include "patently offensive ref-

erences to sex or excretory organs." Voice columnist **Richard Goldstein** wrote, "The complaints that inspired this policy shift came not from civil-rights groups, whose entreaties on behalf of the Fairness Doctrine have gone unheeded by the FCC, but from fundamentalist ministers."

Part of the controversy lies in the fact that Stern was only warned by the FCC, but it told the Justice Department to pursue criminal charges against KPFK, the Pacifica station that aired a segment from "Jerker," an explicit off-off Broadway play about safe sex.



Harrah's Hollywood

by Scott Harrah

It's easy to understand Stern's apotheosis. The white teen-age male is an appalling breed — and a grotesquely paradoxical one. Fueled by suburban values about machismo, males reach the age of 16, cruise O Street looking for nookie, and whenever they can't find any, go on a quest looking to kick some "nigger or faggot" ass. Perhaps they've found an outlet in Stern, a rebel who says all the things they would get detention slips for if they decided to mutter them in study hall.

We have to remember that when we're talking about the teen-age male, we have to overlook all sense of logic. After all, these are the people who pride themselves on all the virtues they learned from Boy Scouts and Little League. When they see **Bon Jovi's** "Wanted Dead or Alive" video on MTV, they shout cries of "kick ass" when **Jon** brushes back his tresses,

squints his heavily lined, mascara-caked eyes, strokes his Spandex crotch and croons, "I'm a cowboy" like a fashion model on a testosterone binge. Now that's what I call a real American man.

But the real question is: Is Stern truly a rebel or merely a mouthpiece for ignorance and white male supremacy? And why is he getting offers for talk shows and rallies endorsed by celebrities? (If you can call Grandpa Munster a star.) Or perhaps he's just an insincere right-wing poseur like the Weekly World News' **Ed Anger**, dripping with shock value all in the name of sick humor.

Stern has the constitutional right to say what he wants as long as he uses nicer words, and he'll probably gain an even larger cult following than he already has if he goes prime time, nationwide, simply because he's offensive enough to get attention. Cooperation and time will tell.

"The game is always to see how close he comes to a line that can never be seen," Goldstein wrote. "(A)nd if that means he has to use the word homosexual instead of fag on Letterman, the bad boy is infinitely cooperative."

We should not censor Stern's views — idiocy needs to be exposed even when it is blatantly put on for press. If we follow the old **Jean Genet** creed that says crime is beauty and the Warholesque belief that publicity is virtuous, we can dismiss Stern as a picayune tool of media hype. What's more unsettling is the fact that Stern merely reinforces and romanticizes attitudes that existed long before he came into the limelight. As Stern makes his brand of fascism fashionable, perhaps the public will be forced to take an inventory of these values and see them for the social maladies they are.