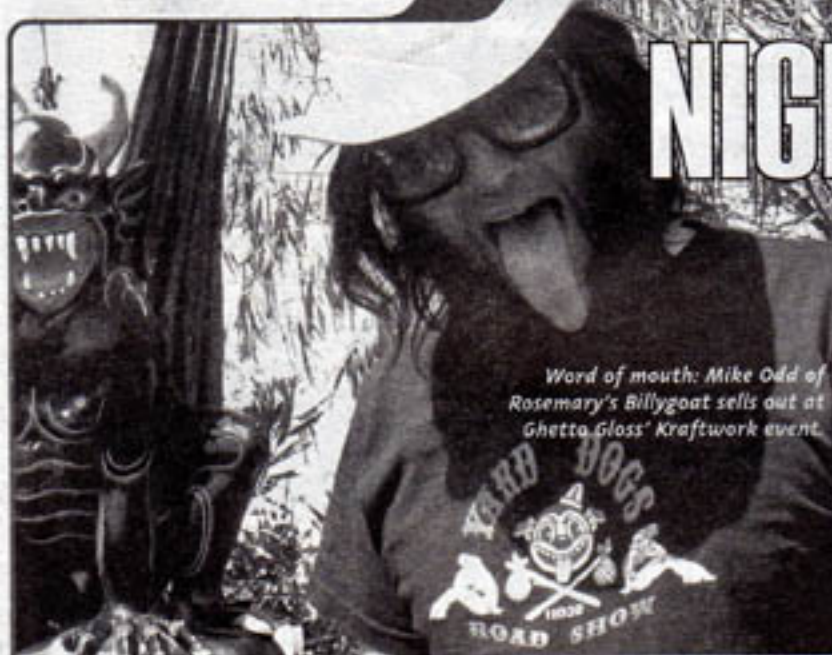


## NIGHTRANGER

BY LINA LECARO



Word of mouth: Mike Odd of Rosemary's Billygoat sells out at Ghetto Gloss' Kraftwork event.

Social ease: Phantom Planet's Alex Greenwald at the Roxy



PHOTOS BY LINA LECARO

### Sunset Smackdown

The competition for Sunset Strip supremacy is getting stiffer, especially on Mondays, thanks to **Frankie & Andy's Social Club** at **The Roxy**. Hosted by **Andy Dick** and sound man extraordinaire **Frank O'Reilly**, the party's opening night a few weeks back saw **Paris Hilton** and on-again publicity man **Elliot Mintz** making one of their first postsentencing appearances to see her "friends" **Phantom Planet**. We caught the second Social gig two weeks later, and the band proved they know how to keep a crowd's attention no matter what star enters their orbit — though hits like "Big Brat," *The O.C.* theme "California," and the sweet li'l ode to the Valley girl shop-stop "Galleria" got the bubbliest crowd reactions (literally ... a young fan blew soap suds at the stage nonstop). We were blown away by their new material as well, especially the stuff that had **Alex Greenwald** pouncing at the keyboards. O'Reilly works the boards for P.P. and now the Roxy, but many might remember him as the **Viper Room's** longtime sound engineer; he was hired back when **Johnny Depp** was owner and left the club only a few months ago, apparently not on the best of terms. (O'Reilly used to throw his Social at the V-Room with the bar manager, **Tommy Black**, and though venue politics ended the partnership, it didn't end the friendship: Black's band **Golden State** played opening night.) O'Reilly tells us future Socials will be "kind of like *Saturday Night Live* in reverse," with comedy skits by the always-demented Dick and music from the pair's biggie band friends. (**The Stranglers'** **Hugh Cornwell** will play next month; check the Roxy Web site for dates.) That's a formula sure to hold its own against Strip staples like **Metal Skool** at **Key Club** and indie 103.1's **Check One ... Two** at **Viper** — which, incidentally, celebrated its first anniversary this week. Talk about manic Mondays.

### clowns to the left, hipsters to the right

What's scarier than a pit full of punks? Try a heap of a hundred or so too-hip VIPs all scrambling to find their keys and cars after a bumbling valet service loses 'em and mixes up the parking stubs. That's exactly what we got stuck in after the block party for **Melrose Place's Diesel** store opening last week. The fete was the very definition of fabulous: copious amounts of food and champagne, gorgeous party goers (who were especially fun to watch as they straddled a mechanical bull in the middle of the bash), and scorching live music (by **Hot Hot Heat**). But the valet fiasco was unforgettable: **Nightranger** waited for nearly two excruciating yet strangely entertaining hours amid ranting models, irate industry types and familiar faces including **Everybody Hates Chris'** **Tichina Arnold**, **American Idol's** **Constantine Maroulis**, **Wilson Cruz** (the gay guy from *My So-Called Life*) and bloated rich boy **Brandon Davis** (who flashed big bills at the valets and still had to wait with us non-millionaires ... *ha!*). And while it was cool to see everyone on a level playing — uh, parking — field, we were so traumatized by the malevolent B-list mob scene, we canceled plans for the following night — including the benefit for **Carlos Santana's** **Milagro**

Foundation at **Avalon** and **Reebok's Old School vs. New School DJ Battle** in **Beverly Hills**. (**Lindsay Lohan** was scheduled to spin, but pulled out after her accident the week before.) Drunk drama queens • incompetent valets • Reasons to cab it next time!

### more in store ...

We needed retail therapy, and Silver Lake boutique **Ghetto Gloss** came through with its monthly **Kraftworks** fair: Bands including kiddie music makers **The Squee-Gees** played while vendors **Rosemary's Billygoat** and **Baby Rab** hawked everything from biker baby clothes to satanic belt buckles. G.G. owner **Flora Boes**, who holds the shoppy-do the first Sat. of the month in the store's parking lot, gave us the scoop on her latest project too: **The Locker Room**, a traveling art exhibit to feature gym locker installations by the likes of **Robert Williams** and **Dennis Hopper**. When the show gets going in '08, there'll be a book, a documentary and a charity — **The HeArt Foundation** — that benefits. She's putting out the call for school-scarred artists this week. See [www.thelockerroomproject.com](http://www.thelockerroomproject.com) for the **Cliff's Notes**. ☐