

PEARL JAM: SPECIAL 16 PAGE SECTION!

HIT PARADER

HIT PARADER

00045



MARCH 1995

PEARL JAM

VEDDER GETS

MAD

THE EXCLUSIVE INSIDE SCOOP!

PLUS:

- SOUNDGARDEN • CANDLEBOX • PANTERA • VAN HALEN • DANZIG • OFFSPRING • METALLICA • SLAYER • GILBY CLARKE • NINE INCH NAILS • ANIMAL BAG • MOIST • GREEN DAY • ROLLINS BAND • QUEENSRYCHE • PAGE & PLANT • AEROSMITH • MEGADETH



\$3.95/£2.50UK

DANZIG

BY HANK PETERS

DEALING WITH
THE DEVIL

*"I've heard that I'm
some sort of racist
just because
I'm proud of
being white."*

Glenn Danzig: "All I ask is that people judge this music fairly."

Glenn Danzig may well be the most misunderstood man in rock and roll. If truth be known, Glenn has turned these myriad misconceptions into quite a profitable little career for himself in recent days—though he'd be the last one on earth to admit to cashing in on people's misunderstandings of his derring do. He's been called a racist, a satanist and just about any other "ist" you can think of that would place him squarely out of the public mainstream. But the black-clad, muscular Mr. Danzig couldn't care less. With the surprise success of his band's 1993 release **Thrall: Demonsweatlive**, which featured the MTV fave *Mother*, Danzig went instantly from underground status to the top of the hard rock heap. More than a decade's worth of struggle and neglect seemed to vanish overnight. But with more public acclaim came greater scrutiny, and certain statements that Glenn got away with when he was only consulting with his cult following of years past, suddenly began to make the mainstream media break out in hives.

There were comments that seemed to indicate that Danzig was a white supremacist. There were other statements that seemed to condone—if not outwardly support—beliefs that, shall we say, fall well outside of the traditional Judeo-Christian religious sphere. There were still other remarks destined to inflame the hearts and souls of Generation X—a group of kids desperately seeking someone, *anyone*, who could verbalize their hopes and dreams and help give their lives meaning. All the while Glenn Danzig was enjoying every moment in the spotlight. After so long a struggle just to get his viewpoints and his music heard, being swept up in such a frenetic media hurricane was more than he could have hoped for.

"It's been a very interesting experience," he said with a sly grin. "I've listened to and read just about everything that's been said about us. Some of it has been fair, and some of it has been rather ridiculous. I've heard that I'm some sort of racist just because I state that I'm proud of being white. I've never said anything against the blacks or Hispanics, and I certainly mean them no harm. But why should I be criticized for stating pride in what I am. Somebody must speak up for the white man in the country."

Danzig has done just that on a number of the songs which appear on the band's new album, **Danzig 4**. His statements are strong, yet truthful, digressing from the "politically correct" liberal guidelines that seem to pervade so much of contemporary music. While we're not indicating that Danzig's remarks will endear him to the Rush Limbaugh/Ronald Reagan conservatives out there (who probably *hate* everything Danzig stands for—just on principle), he realizes he's flying straight into the wind of current media sentiment. Nothing could make him happier. Throughout the band's new disc, Glenn tackles the difficult topics, from gang warfare to race relations, head-on. And if you take the time to listen to what he says with an open mind, it's hard to disagree with his points of view.

"All I've ever asked is that people judge this music fairly," he said. "In the past

Glenn's mind, such an attitude is both ridiculous and pathetic.

"I have heard that from people," he said. "And as far as I'm concerned, if that's the way they feel, I don't need them. Why do we have to stay at a certain level of acceptance for them to appreciate us? If they can't grow with us, if they obviously feel the music has been compromised one bit because MTV has started to play it, then they can go screw themselves. Maybe they should remember how many times MTV played our videos in the previous five years; the fact is they *didn't* play them! I'm not going to begin apologizing to anyone for any success that may have come our way in the last couple of years. I know we haven't compromised one bit. All you've got to do to realize that is listen to the new album."

Indeed, the songs contained on **Danzig 4** are as powerful, heavy and uncompromising

as one would expect from Glenn and his boys. On such new tracks as *Brand New God*, *Until You Call On The Dark* and *Going Down To Die*, the band has laid down as powerful and unrelenting a musical attack as can be heard *anywhere* on the music scene. A few years ago much of this would have been labeled under the catch-all phrase "heavy metal"—harsh, brutal, guitar driven rock. Today, however, it's hard to figure out exactly what to call Danzig's musical



The boys enjoy the feel of platinum.

they've been so caught up in the image, or the rumors, that the lyrics and the music itself has been often overlooked. That's just unbelievably stupid. One of the things that bothers me most these days is that people tend to be so superficial, they'll react to what they *think* you mean and what they *think* you said rather than finding out what the truth is."

One such topic that's been getting Glenn's goat in recent days is the fact that some of his band's long-time supporters feel "betrayed" by the group's current success. The singer admits to being more than a little bothered by those who approach him with the news that they feel he "sold out" to MTV when the vid clip for *Mother* began to appear with startling regularity on the vid clip channel. They also have expressed dismay that MTV's two teenage miscreants, Beavis & Butt-head seem to have embraced Danzig with an almost unnatural fervor. To

diatribes. There's so much going on in virtually every song the band performs—both musically and lyrically—that a "mere" musical classification seem to be a gross injustice. Even Glenn himself is hard pressed to know where he and his his music fit into today's rock scene.

"I can't say it's something I take time thinking about very often," he said. "It's my job to make the music. It's *your* job in the media to insist that it must be categorized for some unknown reason. Why must it fit into some neat little box that will then be compared to this band's music and then that band's? That is totally ridiculous. The whole point of music, and certainly the whole point of what we do, is to try and create something new, something that's very different. I guess some people are comfortable with that concept, and some people just aren't. I guess I can live with that."