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The Amazing Vincent Perez Effect

'Crow' star has a flock of fans

Vincent Perez, who stars in Miramax's upcoming "The Crow: City of Angels," appeared at the Sci-Fi Convention in Atlanta last week and caused lots of ordinary people to carry on like mad things.

For two days, women were knock-knock-knocking at his hotel door. At the convention itself, more than 1,000 admirers lined up for a warm handshake and an autograph. One woman of a certain age offered Perez \$500 if he would go to dinner with her and her husband, a man of an even more certain age. Vincent just laughed.

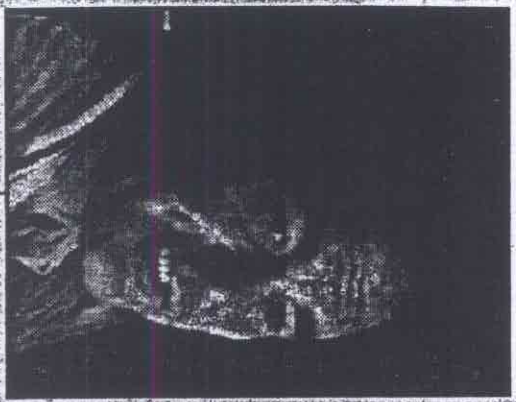
And, of course, there were the usual types who opened their blouses and asked Perez to sign here — right over their rapidly beating hearts.

Vincent wisely kept his signature confined to paper.

It happened in Hollywood. People are still talking about that contretemps between filmmaker Oliver Stone and writer Gore Vidal. At a dinner party last week Stone turned to Vidal and said, "You know, I'm preparing a film about Alexander the Great, and I'd love to have some input on the script from you."

Vidal replied: "I'd never work for you. You distorted Kennedy, you distorted Nixon, and you lack the one quality a director needs most — talent!" Stone looked as if

GOSSIP Liz Smith



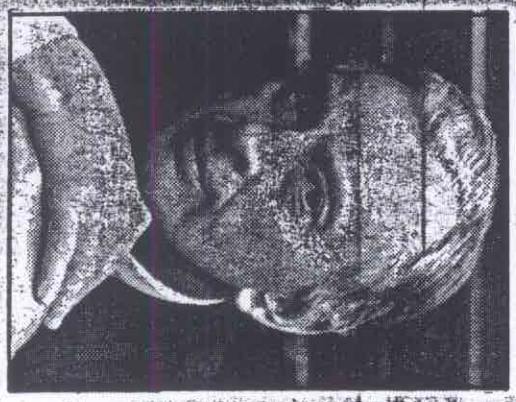
Oliver Stone, still reeling from the Gore Vidal treatment

he had been slugged and attempted to sputter out some sort of response, but Vidal remained imperiously immovable.

Later, after the two men had been reseated far away from each other, Stone tried to laugh it off, saying Vidal was "just kidding."

Kathie Lee Gifford is suffering the torments of the damned these days — or at least the torments of the terminally dramatic. The latest onslaught of bad news came from TV Guide, which polled readers on whether Kathie Lee should be "dumped" as Regis Philbin's co-host. A significant 56 percent said yes, she should be put out of her misery.

But the TV show "Extra"



Gore Vidal leveled one of his venomous putdowns at Stone

decided to poll its viewers on the same subject, and there was quite a difference. A whopping 59 percent called in to say Kathie Lee should stay.

Well, of course, she should stay. Kathie Lee gives that little "edge" to morning TV. Will she burst into tears, fly into a rage or just give us the latest on Godly and Cassidy? Admit it, love her or loathe her, it's hard to look away. And that's entertainment!

Rosie O'Donnell is everywhere! This week she is the big star on People magazine's multitecleb cover about Hollywood moms. Madonna, Jane Seymour and Christie Brinkley are merely satellites circling the supernova

Rosie! Next up for the new queen of daytime TV is the cover of Newsweek and, after that, Entertainment Weekly. If this is overexposure (and it is, a little) it couldn't happen to a sweeter woman.

Remember the old days, when going to TV sounded the death knell for a film career? But sitting behind a desk schmoozing with celebs for an hour a day has increased O'Donnell's value immeasurably. Hollywood liked her before. Hollywood wants her now.

Pamela Anderson Lee and her hubby, rocker Tommy Lee, are having lots of fun with their new baby, Brandon. The infant has already appeared as a sunglasses, cigar-holding prop in some wild and wacky photos of Pam and Tommy.

And though it is amusing to see the publicity-mad spirit of Jayne Mansfield living on through Pamela, we must remind Mr. and Mrs. Lee — Brandon is a baby, not a toy. Enough already. Walk an ocelot down the street if you need attention.

Jon Bon Jovi appears on the cover of Time Out magazine's London edition, sporting a neat, sexy goatee. But just to balance things out, he's posed inside stripped to the waist and looking as smooth as a baby's bottom. All that famous chest hair is gone!

This column was compiled by Denis Ferrara and St. Clair Pugh. Liz Smith is travelling.