

NEWSMAKERS

All Hail the Queen

TALK ABOUT R-E-S-P-E-C-T. THEY STILL CALLED it "Divas Live," but there was little high-maintenance behavior at the annual VH1 show, which saluted one of showbiz's biggest: **Aretha Franklin**.

No reported snippiness (Mariah Carey, 1998). No debatable lip-synching (Cher, 1999). And no complaining about the band (Diana Ross last year). Instead, performers—from Mary J. Blige to Kid Rock—kowtowed big time to the queen of soul. Still, someone should have shown Franklin some respect and told her the feathers-and-clamdiggers combo didn't quite work. Think!

Thanks to Monica, She Got Her Man

AT LEAST ONE GOOD THING came out of the Lewinsky scandal: **Lisa Gebhart** got hitched. *Who?* In 1996 Gebhart was a student poised to meet the president at a fund-raiser. "I was all beaming, just 10 feet away from him, then someone pushed me from behind, trying to get in there, very rude," Gebhart, 25, recalls. It was Lewinsky, looking to give Clinton a cuddle. Two years later footage

La Diva: Aretha belts it out

Gebhart: Not just a face in the crowd

of that embrace—with Gebhart clearly visible—was all over TV. At the time, Gebhart had just begun an e-mail romance with a British guy who hadn't yet seen her picture. "I e-mailed him, 'Watch the news.'" He

flipped on the telly and fell in love. The couple, who recently appeared on a British TV documentary about online dating, were married last year. Did Monica get an invite?



Brando cameo

'Scary' Stuff

THE WILD ONE'S BACK—well, sort of. After years of seclusion and spotty work (*anyone* see 1998's "Free Money"?), **Marlon Brando** will appear this July in "The Score," and last week agreed to a

cameo in "Scary Movie 2." It's unclear why he's back at work, though the salary for the spoof—\$2 mil for four days' work—ain't too shabby. Still, he reportedly caught

pneumonia, so the scene's off. Hope he's still a contender.

News Switcheroo

SO MUCH FOR SITTING PRETTY. Last week CNN bounced **Willow Bay** from her chair on "Moneyline." The onetime face of Estée Lauder—and an M.B.A. from NYU—will be replaced by the returning **Lou Dobbs**, the CNN vet who quit in a huff two years ago to go dot-com. After that, "Moneyline's" numbers fell 25 percent. CNN will reassign Bay, and Dobbs is ready "to begin winning again." Guess CNN is, too.

B. J. SIGESMUND

Dobbs in, Bay out at 'Moneyline'

