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SANDRA GONZALEZ: Once you go Backstreet, you can never go back

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March 5, 2009 - 12:52 PM

Sandra Gonzalez
The Monitor

It was September 10, 1998, and the MTV Video Music Awards were going to be the talk of the hallways the next day. Unless she wanted to be severely left out of conversations the next day, no sixth-grader in her right mind would miss this show. Social reasons aside, I didn't have a particular artist I was rooting for. That is, until I saw the Backstreet Boys perform their song "Everybody."

That was the day I fell in love with Nick Carter.

Save your energy, hold back that eye roll and spare me the snark. It's silly, I know. But with days until New Kids on the Block fans across the Valley get a chance to see the objects of their teenage affection perform at Dodge Arena, I've recently found myself reflecting on my own boy band past - and present.

I'll do this AA style in case you haven't deduced this already. Hi, my name is Sandra, and I'm STILL a Backstreet Boys fan and a part of me will always love Nick Carter.

It's not like I haven't moved on. I've had many fantasy boyfriends since Nick, like bald and beautiful Wentworth Miller of *Prison Break* and recently I've adopted the moniker Mrs. Dean Winchester. But any girl - and sometimes boy, for that matter - will tell you that there's nothing like your first major celebrity crush. There's something about them that sends familiar butterflies of excitement fluttering through you even after years pass and you've "grow up."

Speaking with pop culture expert Elayne Rapping this week gave me much insight into this love, but I had a feeling that Rapping was a strong enough lady to resist the urges of celebrity crushes because she was able to speak so analytically about them.

The entire time I spoke with Rapping, who had some very interesting theories about why boy band fans hang on to the past, I kept thinking to myself that I was the exception. That my reasons for loving Nick Carter back then - and now - were totally different, and that I was now an adult woman who would not cry and shriek if I met or spoke to him.

But when I started discussing with my colleagues Amy and Zackover who was the best boy band, I found myself getting niled up like I did when I used to have the same conversation over lunch with 'N Sync fans when I was 10. To my surprise, I hadn't left my Backstreet devotion behind as much as I had led myself to believe.

Of course, my arguments defending the boys were a little more mature now, and I would cite the band's musical ability instead of their dreaminess and the fact that they're still making music even years after the boy band dust has settled. I did, however, surprise my ostensibly mature self when the only comeback I could think of to Amy's charge that "New Kids on the Block were better" was "Yeah, better at sucking." I had myself convinced those days were gone.

Sure, I still have a box - er, two - of BSB merchandise under my bed. I also can't get myself to toss the over 50 videos of Backstreet TV appearances gathering dust in a drawer underneath my TV, some dating back to the band's early days overseas, which were acquired via eBay and other top-secret connections.

The return of these thought-to-be-extinct feelings made me accept the fact that stuffing these items under my bed

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Sandra Gonzalez

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Britters wrote:

Can i just say i love you? This article totally rocks. As a Backstreet fan (and Nkotb- i love them too, just not AS much hehe) definitely can relate to having to "grow up" a little bit. But you know as soon as i hear that BSB is coming to town or that they have an appearance on tv- or anything to that nature- i totally reverberate right back to teenybopper status. And i can still tell you all their b-days, and "fave" colors, and all that great highly knowledgeable stuff that will surely come in handy in my lifetime :)And i'd do it proudly if anyone were to ask!

Great article!

3/8/2009 11:05:53 PM

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sagarmatha wrote:

Bingo. Money making machine. Not music making. Thank you for making my point.

3/7/2009 7:26:32 AM

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omgnotagain wrote:

hu? what? ilvjoemc...did you hear someone trying to make a comment? I just hear a bunch of noise and static :-)

3/6/2009 11:15:27 AM

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sagarmatha wrote:

And for God's sake, don't compare either of them, or anyone like them, to anything having to do with real music. Being in a contrived, MTV generated band, and I use the term loosely, does not have anything to do with being talented.

3/6/2009 8:19:17 AM

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ilvjoemc wrote:

Yes, please don't compare them. BSB claims that NKOTB made it hard for them to make it. I have news for them without NKOTB there never would have been BSB. The only reason they were created was because their creator rented planes to NKOTB and saw a money making machine.

3/5/2009 3:05:12 PM

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omgnotagain wrote:

dont compare BSB to NKOTB please!!!!!!!

3/6/2009 2:55:45 AM

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