

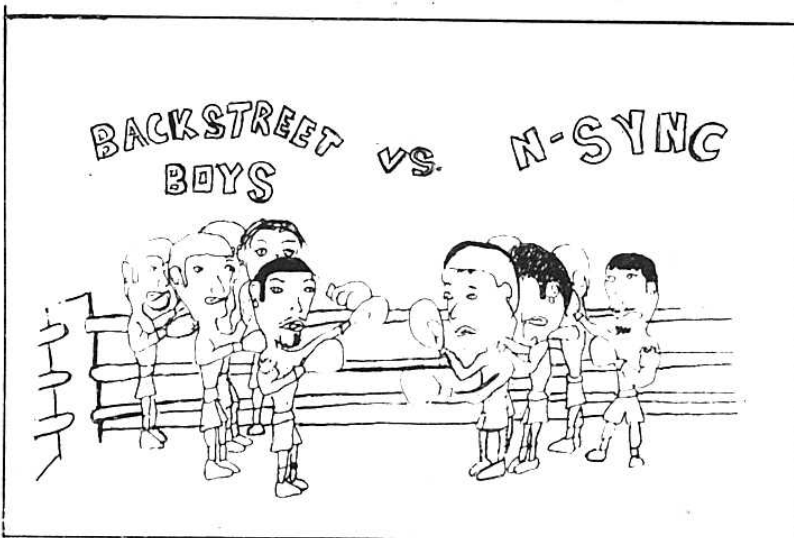
Show me the meaning of liking 'N Sync

by Lindsey Parsons

First, let's get one thing straight: I'm not a violent person and I don't find myself in many arguments. However, when I'm right, I know I'm right, and I know I'm right about this one thing. The Backstreet Boys are the best group there is. Yes, they are even better than 'N Sync. Of course this isn't anything unusual coming from me since the words Backstreet Boys' better and I can't see why everyone else doesn't.

Now, all of you 'N Sync fans who are in a big tizzy over this right now, just wait one second. I'm not an 'N Sync-hating Backstreet Boys fan. In fact, I enjoy 'N Sync, too. I own both of their CDs and sat in floor level seats at their concert last year. Simply, I like the Backstreet Boys better and I can't see why everyone else doesn't.

Let's think this over. The Backstreet Boys are basically the foundation that started this whole rebirth of pop thing. (Or at least the only one that is still around.) In a way, they are responsible for



the success of 'N Sync, as well as 98 Degrees, Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera, and so on and so on. I guess if imitation is the best form of flattery, they have had more than their share of compliments. They lead the way in a business that is stronger than ever and have been for over 7 years. That's right, 7 years, which is far longer than any average, run-of-

the-mill pop group. In my book, they have taken over the reign that the Beatles and the Beach Boys held in their era of music.

Why is this? How have they managed to stay on top? Well, because they're good and actually have talent! They weren't brought together simply because of their good looks and charming personalities (though it didn't hurt), but

because of the great abilities they possess.

If they were merely "reincarnating" New Kids on the Block as many like to think, their turn at the game would have been over years ago. Instead, they are producing music that people of all

continued to page 15

Tearin' up the Backstreet Boys

by Nikki Wood

Here it comes!!! The invasion of the boy bands. If anyone could have given us that kind of warning, then perhaps we would have hidden under the furniture before it hit, and stayed there until it was over.

Like many others, I felt this way about all the new teen idols-to-be popping one after another onto the scene. I even felt animosity towards the two leading groups: 'N Sync and the Backstreet Boys.

Whenever their videos came on popular music channels, I quickly found the clicker, and whenever they assaulted radio waves, I found a CD. Then came the fateful day when I was in a skating rink and an upbeat song with a snappy dance rhythm began to pulse out of the speakers. Over and over came the cool, teenage voices. "And I want you back."

When the song had ended, I went to the DJ and asked the name of the artist. I was shocked, and

continued to page 15

Muggles, wizards, quidditch spell magic in Harry Potter

Vonda Carmack

For those of you who don't know who Harry Potter is, he is the main character of a book series written by J.K. Rowling that has been topping the world's best seller list for months. The books were number one on Barnes and Noble's and Amazon.com's best seller lists and have made Harry Potter the newest craze.

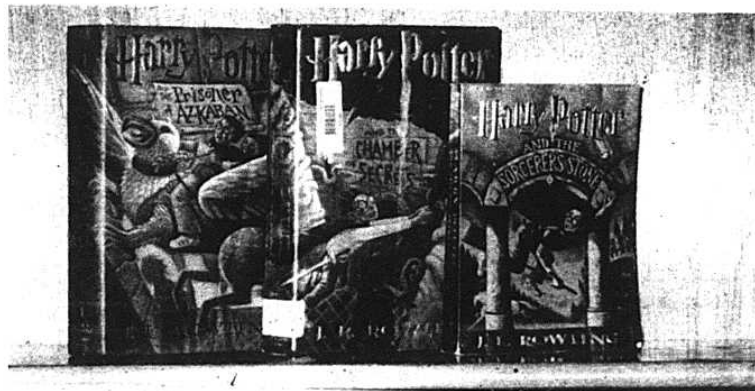
Rowling's next book Harry Potter #4, still untitled, was the #1 best seller for weeks, and comes out on July 8.

The Harry Potter series has captivated the nation and gained the interest of not only young children, but also teenagers and adults.

English teacher Susan Norton even reads them. "I like them because the kids are smarter than the adults."

The popularity of the books is amazing considering that the books are written for ages 9-12 and are about a young boy who finds out he is a wizard.

When asked about the popular



The Harry Potter series has been on the New York Bestseller list for months. On May 23, the fourth installment, untitled, was still #1 on amazon.com's bestseller list.

series Ms. Janet Wells, RCHS librarian, said, "I haven't got a chance to read them because I can't keep them in the library."

The series begins with the book *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* with 11 year-old Harry Potter living with his uncle, aunt and cousin, the Dursleys, because his parents died in a car

crash.

The Dursleys treat him awful. He lives in a room under the stairs amongst spiders, and for his birthday receives presents like a pair of his uncle's old socks. On his eleventh birthday a letter arrives in the mail saying that Harry has been accepted into Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

ardry.

The story goes on to tell that Harry's parents didn't die in a car crash, but that they were wizards, and were killed by an evil wizard called Voldemort and that Harry is a wizard, too. Harry also finds out that he is quite famous in the magic world.

On the night of his parents'

death, Voldemort tried to kill Harry, only one year-old at the time, yet he survived with only a scar in the shape of a lightning bolt on his forehead to remind him of that night. That night Voldemort inexplicably lost his powers and almost died, and hadn't been seen since.

The three books in the series, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, and *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of the Azkaban* are filled with magic, wizards, witches, and wands. Each tells about one year of Harry's life, beginning with his eleventh birthday, and his adventures and exploits during that year.

How can these books be so popular with so many? The answer is still elusive to me! I began to read *The Sorcerer's Stone* in class out of sheer boredom and then I was completely hooked. I felt silly reading a book that my ten year old cousin would read but I kept on reading. Just try one and you will be hooked, too!