

Don't say 'good-bye' to Earl

by Nikki Wood

Who would have guessed that a song containing the lyrics, "Earl had to die," would have caused so much controversy? That is exactly what has happened with The Dixie Chicks' new song, "Goodbye Earl".

The song, which tells the story of two best friends who poison an abusive husband, has been banned from many country and western stations across the U.S. It seems that because the song takes a light-hearted view of such a serious situation, many people are offended by it.

Perhaps it was foolish to release a tune like "Goodbye Earl" onto the mass airwaves of a country brimming with zero tolerance policies. Maybe we just can't see the humor in it; after all, murder isn't funny.

But what about when some

one takes a serious stance? Garth Brooks did so when he released his song "The Thunder Rolls" in

mid 90's. Brooks' song tells the story of a woman who plans to kill an overbearing, unfaithful husband. Although they lyrics never say

that she actually murders him, the song was banned all over the nation.

It seems that whether domestic violence is taken seriously or comically, people just want to sweep it under the rug and forget about it. In today's society, that just isn't possible. When a problem has gotten to the point that popular music artists are addressing it in their songs, then perhaps the time has come to listen.

The time has come for the American people to listen to the music and the message.



"Show me the meaning..."

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age, genders, and backgrounds enjoy. You can even witness grown men, my dad for example (sorry, Dad), tapping their feet or singing along to their songs.

The Backstreet Boys can break age barriers and are a great discussion topic. Most everyone likes them, even though they may not admit it. Just look, you're reading this story, aren't you? So, there must be something about them that peaks your interest.

But, if you are skeptical about them being better than 'N Sync, here are a few things that 'N Sync followed the Backstreet Boys in doing. Maybe these will change your mind. The Backstreet Boys were the first to perform on Saturday Night Live (they performed twice though), to grace the cover of Rolling Stone magazine (again two times), sell tickets for every show on the same day (but, tickets sold out for the Backstreet Boys), break the number of records sold in the first week, and sue their management. 'N Sync obviously wanted to be so much like the Backstreet Boys that they even switched to the same record label.

Maybe it's just a coincidence, but a couple of 'N Sync's songs are very similar to those by the Backstreet Boys, too. For example, "I Wanna Be with You" is a song on the Backstreet Boys' first CD, and "I Just Wanna Be with You" is on the first 'N Sync album. Also, the first single off 'N Sync's new album, "Bye Bye Bye," has nearly the same message as the Backstreet Boys' "Don't Want You Back." Funny, huh?

Even though the Backstreet Boys have been around long enough to gain respect in the music industry, there are still those who doubt that they do, in fact, have talent. There are those who still-how dare them-say that 'N Sync is more talented or-ugh-better. This debate is almost as controversial as which came first, the chicken or the egg. A decision may never be reached, but why can't we just accept that? Why must we all agree on one group? Individuality makes the world go 'round, and there is plenty of room out there for two good "boy bands." Just no more, please. My decisions are hard enough as it is.

"Tearin' up the Backstreet Boys"

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I'll admit, a little embarrassed, to find that it was 'N Sync. So there it was: I liked a "boy band."

The world didn't end, and I didn't die, and I decided that it wouldn't hurt to sample all that the other leading group, the BSB, a shorter name for the Backstreet Boys (isn't it cute?), had to offer.

After watching concerts and listening to CDs, I came to the realization that this lame group only produced two songs that I could stand. Two out of roughly 40. I didn't like those numbers one bit.

'N Sync, on the other hand, produced hit after hit that I found myself tapping my foot to, and even singing in the shower. With hard hitting dance and hip hop beats, 'N Sync just seemed to be in sync with my tastes.

As I accepted their existence on this planet on, I began to tolerate their interviews on popular shows; not just 'N Sync, but both bands. Consistently, BSB seemed overly manicured, under personalized, and even robotic in their comments and responses. Everything they were asked to do seemed to be old hat to them. But 'N Sync was different.

Lively and fresh, this cooler group held the audience and the interviewers more at attention than Backstreet ever hoped to. Their responses were candid and they seemed to show their true personalities to the people they talked to.

When Backstreet released their new *Millennium* album, it seemed that my heroes were temporarily forgotten. *Millennium* topped the charts week after week, and all looked lost. Then suddenly, from amidst legal turmoil and record label separation, 'N Sync released their new masterpiece: *No Strings Attached*.

When "Bye Bye Bye," the first single off the album hit the airwaves, I was up and dancing. The new track, "It's Gotta Be Me," has caused similar compulsive movements in my limbs, and I am not the only one.

No Strings Attached has shattered every sales record to date, and it remains at the top of the charts. Apparently, people are in love with 'N Sync, and I can see why.

Just when we thought that things couldn't get any better than having the new album, 'N Sync announced that they would be touring with Pink and Sissq, and that they would be stopping in our very own Lexington, Kentucky. Even though they don't have Backstreet's hometown advantage here, I don't think that they could get any warmer welcome. Even if you didn't pay out perfectly good money to see the Backstreet Boys when they were here last year, and who could blame you, it will be worth it to see 'N Sync.

When the summer heat's on, romance and adventure are only a video store away

Ten weeks worth of hot summer days blaze ahead of us. What to do when the heat's on, and you only want to stay in the air-conditioning? Head to the video store and begin the task of viewing the best, most notable movies of all time. Below you'll find the American Film Institute's Top Five:

1. **Citizen Kane** (1941)—Orson Welles stars in this film noted for its innovative structure and photography; it traces the empty rise to power of a William Randolph Hearst-like character.
2. **Casablanca** (1942)—Humphrey Bogart is Rick Blaine, an expatriot living in French Morocco during WWII. Ingrid Bergman is the love of a lifetime he must give up.
3. **The Godfather** (1972)—Marlon Brando is Vito Corleone, the sympathetic patriarch of a mob family in the late '40s. Al Pacino stars as Michael Corleone; James Caan, as Santino. Diane Keaton plays Kay, Michael's deluded wife.
4. **Gone With the Wind** (1939)—Vivien Leigh as Scarlett O'Hara; Clark Gable as Rhett Butler. An epic romance set across the backdrop of Civil War and Reconstruction.
5. **Lawrence of Arabia** (1962)—Peter O'Toole, Omar Sharif, and Alec Guinness star in the grand story of T.E. Lawrence, a British officer who leads an Arab revolt against the Turks in WWI.

compiled from www.afl100movies.com



Several students participated in the Spring Talent Show on May 19, 2000. Shown Above: Brodhead Baptist Church's youth group performed a skit about the Crucifixion. At Right: Sophomore Amber Thacker and Senior Matt Smith performed "Thank God I Found You," by Mariah Carey and 98 Degrees.

