

Manufactured

Boy bands edge out greed as root of all evil

BY RUBEN DELUNA
The Battalion

A phenomenon is sweeping this great nation. It is more disturbing than Tom Green's lone testicle and harder to understand than a Florida election ballot. The ongoing popularity of boy bands in America continues to baffle the male population. For every estrogen-filled reason to like a boy band, there are a couple of reasons to vote them off this great island we call Earth.

More boy bands are in existence today than people who actually voted this year. However, the epitome of everything evil about a boy band can be seen in none other than the reigning kings 'NSync. Take, for example, the resident heartthrob Justin Timberlake, who, with an iron fist and a supple afro, continues to lead the dictatorship he calls a band. His power comes from the fact that he gets more ladies' undergarments thrown at him than Cindy Crawford in a WNBA locker room, but what girls see in this guy is beyond all comprehension. Think about it: skinny, big curly hair, unique fashion sense, squeaky voice — where have people seen this before in American pop culture? This description also fits none other than Screech Powers from the television show "Saved By The Bell." As any devoted fan could tell you, Screech was a far cry from a ladies' man. The only action he ever got was from his nerd counterpart Violet, which is not saying much since she was played by the ever-revolting Tori Spelling. What do I have to change my major to in order to get the job of teen heartthrob?

Of course, Timberlake and the excessive amount of pagan idol worship he inspires among teenage girls are not the only problems with boy bands. Many people have qualms with the idea of all boy bands being manufactured and fake. Take for instance Lance Bass, who coincidentally sings bass for N' Sync. How

made-up is this name? If all musicians were named after the way they sing, Michael Bolton would have to change his name to "Michael Crap." Plus, Alanis "Shrill and Occasionally Annoying" just doesn't seem to have the same ring.

The makeup of a boy band is formulaic, and it includes such personality types as "the shy one" and "the bad boy." While trying to appeal to all aspects of the teenage social structure, record labels are doing nothing more than glorifying the qualities and physical characteristics they think boys should try to emulate. The same way Playboy and Hustler magazines set harsh goals and unneeded pressures on six-year-old girls, boy bands do the same for the male counterparts. If record companies are going to continue pandering to stereotypes, they may as well throw in a new band member who is disabled and confined to a wheelchair.

Their next hit single "Timmy!" will go straight to the top of the charts.

Since The Beatles, girls have made pop icons the target of their desires. The chances of the boy band fad vanishing from our culture are about as likely as hearing the phrase, "And the Oscar for Best Actor goes to: Keanu Reaves." The resentment most men harbor toward boy bands is rooted in the fact that deep down, they would like nothing more than to get the same attention and adoration from girls. Most would settle for being the guy with the deep voice who speaks at random throughout the songs. When else can men say, "Baby, you did me wrong, but I still need your sweet loving" and not get a restraining order? So, people will have to accept the boy bands.



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