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CHAT ROOM



From the heart: surgery more than expected

remember telling my friends just a few days before my surgery "It's not that big a deal. I'll be back to normal in just a couple of weeks." I explained that I would be having a heart valve repair and that I had the best doctor in the country doing the procedure. I knew from the time I was young that my mitral valve wasn't in the best of shape and that something would have to be done someday but it never stopped me from being active. As a child I was very involved when the dance and as an adult I've participated in a variety of bike tours across the state.

dance and as an adult I've participated in a variety of bike tours across the state.

The morning of my surgery, Feb. 23, and the weeks that followed seem like a dream to me now. What was supposed to be a three hour precedure, turned out to be 28 hours of stress and uncertainty for me and my family. The surgeon attempted to repair my mitral aleve tut wasn't happy with the results. Ho explained to my family that the valve was in worse shape than he had expected and he was taking me back into surgery to replace the valve with mechanical one. This meant more waiting and werrying for them and more aneathesia for me. When the surgeon finished the replacement he sent my family home for some much needed rest. Little did thy know they would be backin the weiting room yield a few hours later. As a sister received a phone call at 5 a.m. from my doctor. They were taking me back into the operating room yet again but this time it was for complications from internal bleeding. The dectors couldn't figure out where it was coming from but mysteriously, the bleeding subsided and finally my body was able to rest.

Surrounded by supporters

I can remember waking up from my surgery having no idea what I had

Please See CHAT ROOM, B2

The Teen Music Scene

Boys

Cencert Infe: Scheduled to play the stree in the fell. Visit http://www.backstreetboys.com for more information. Whe are they? Howle Dorough, Nick Corter, A.J. McLoan, Birlan Littrell and Koyin Richardson. What you should know Perents of teenage glifs probably know all there needs to know – earl then same – about the heartthrobs du jour. The group's latest album, Mill-lennium, "sold 1.133,505 copies the first week of reloase, smashing the record sot by Gorth Brooks.

Score brownie politics: Littrell had heart surgery lost year, and the guys really do play instruments. Littrell and Richardson are cousins.

ly do play instruments, Littrell and Richardson are cousins. Sample lyrics: "Ain't nothin' but a party/Tell me why?/Ain't nothin' but a

Please see BOYS, BZ



Britney Spears

Concert lafe: The show, originally scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 24, at the State Theatre, 21.5 Woodward Ave, Detroit, is postponed until Sunday, Sept. 12. The all-ages show is sold out, but more tickets may be released closer to the show. Call (31.3) 96.1-5451 or visit http://www.statetheater.com for more information.

(313) 961-5451 or visit http://www.statetheatr.com for more information. Who is she? A Louisiena teen who dreamed of being a star since she was in kindergerten. What you should know: Her debut album, — Beby One More Time, has sold more than two million copies. Like members of 'N Sync, she is a former cast member of the 'Mickey Mouso Glub.' Score brownie points: Spears lost in the final round of 'Star Search.' She is a model for Toramy Hilliger and has a television show in the works. Sample lyrics: 'My loneities as television show in the works. Sample lyrics: 'My loneities at television show in the works. Sample lyrics: 'My loneities and the work of the work

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
BYAY WAITE:

Ten-orionted harmony-driven pop is all the
rage. Look at the Backstreet Boys' latest album,
for example. In its first week of release, "Millennium" seld more than 1.1 million copies.

Britney Spears' album; "...Baby One More
Time" has been certified quadruple platinum,
while N Syne and 98 Degrees have both sold millions of albums.
Gil Wachsman, vice chairman of Musicland
Stores Corporation, caid these sales figures show
teens atter tho market.

"The performance of the Backstreet Boys'
release reflects the heavy shopping habits of the
teen demographic, which will grow in numbers
until 2020. Young people shopped at our stores in
full force because they want a hot new release in
their hands the same day it is available."

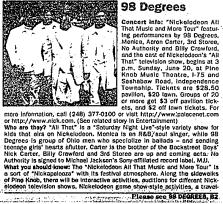
The average age is 13-18 years at shows by
Backstreet Boys, 'N Syne and 98 Degrees, but are
these cancerts and albums appropriate for young
children?

We've compiled an easy-to-read chart for parents that describe a little bit about the groups
and their lyries. There's even fun facts thrown in
that parents can use to impress their children.

'N Sync

Concert Info: 'N Sync,
Jordan Knight, Five
and Billy Crawford, perform Saturday, July 31,
at the Pentiles Silverdome. Showtime is 8
p.m. Tickets are
\$32.50, For more Infomatten, call (248) 4561600 or (248) 6456666.
Who are they? 'N Sync
is a group of Orlando,
Fin, men – Jo Chasez,
Justin Timbertako,
Chris 'Kirkpetrick,
Lance Bass and Tony Fatone, Jordan Knight is a former
momber of New Kids on the Block. Five is from the Unitod Kingdom.
What you should know: Timberdake and Chasez are fore

member of New Kids on the Block. Five is from the Unit-ed Kingdom.
What you should know: Timberlake and Chasez are for-mer stars of the "Mickey Mouse Citub." Kirkpatrick has funity dyed hair and braids.
Score brownie points: The man wearing the burnry ears in 'N Sync's '1 Drive Myself Crazy' video is the group's bodyguard. Timberlake is amored to be dating Britney Spears, and Fatone is, a Superman nut who, wears the



Ten contestants vie for Miss Farmington crown

Wednesday evening of Founder's Festival week is traditionally the night Miss Farmington/Oakland County is crowned on stage at Vladimir's Ban-quet Center in Farmington Hills. It is the opening event of the festival.

This July 7 reigning queen Erin
Cogswell will pass the crown to her
predecessor. Who will she be?
Ten contestants are vying for that
honor. Here's a thumbnail sketch of
each.
Pam Walk of Novi is a 19-year-old
sophomore at Oakland University in
Rochester Hills. Her platform is Drugs

and Youth. She is sponsored by
Kathryn Tristain of Airborne International.
Michelle Miller of Farmington
Hills, 19, is a sophomore at the University of Kentucky. A singer, her platform is Cancer.
Madonna Emond is a recent graduate (Classor 1999) of Morcy High
is Normal? Metro Bank is her sponsor.
Sarah Burkett, 20, of Novi, attends

Please See MISS FARMINGTON, B2



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