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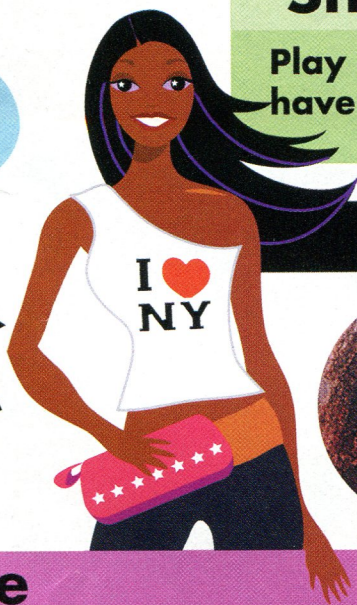


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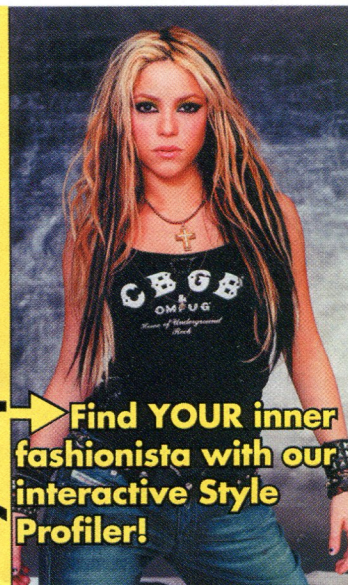
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Striped tube top, Gwen's own. Pin-striped pants, Shawn, \$240. Silver beaded necklace with hematite and black diamond fleur-de-lis pendant, \$160, and silver necklace with Swarovski crystal and black diamond bull's-eye pendant, \$95, Tommassini. Wristband, Fine, \$8. Multistranded pearl and chain bracelet, Fausto Puglisi. Jelly bracelets, Cool Stuff, \$6 for 12. Gold earrings, \$88, and custom gold "Rock Steady" brass knuckles, White Trash Charms. Suspenders, Gwen's own.

FASHION EDITOR SUSANNAH CAHN. STYLED BY BROOKE DULIEN FOR MARGARET MALDONADO AGENCY. HAIR BY DANILO AT THE WALL GROUP. MAKEUP BY MATIN FOR LAURA MERCIER. ADDITIONAL MAKEUP BY GWEN STEFANI. FOR DETAILS, SEE SHOPPING GUIDE.

# SHE'S A REBEL

NO ONE TELLS GWEN STEFANI WHAT TO DO—THANK GOD!  
WE GET TO THE ROOTS OF HER ROCK 'N' ROLL STYLE.  
BY GIA KOURLAS. PHOTOGRAPHED BY GILLES BENSIMON

**G**wen Stefani doesn't like to be made over and why should she? "I always do my own makeup and hair," she declares. "Every time I've experimented, it's been a disaster." Once you get past the obvious—that her powerful vocals have been a trademark of No Doubt for 15 years and that she writes most of the music herself—the coolest thing about Gwen is that totally original look. And at 32, she says she's having more fun with her look—and her life—than ever. No Doubt's latest album, *Rock Steady*, is an irresistible dance party in disc form, and Gwen's relationship with fiancé Gavin Rossdale of Bush seems pretty rock steady too. Great! Because what we *really* wanted to grill Gwen about was her personal style, and, lucky for us, she was willing to play along...

**ELLEGIRL:** Were you a nonconformist in high school?

**GWEN STEFANI:** Well, I think that for young kids, it's all about being like everyone else. So I *had* to have my Izod shirt, and there was the zip-up Op sweatshirt that I wore every day. But when I hit puberty and found music, all of a sudden I just had to be unique. In high school, I did a lot of sewing and thrift-store shopping. My mom sewed a lot of clothes for me growing up, so I spent loads of time at the fabric store. Every dance that came up, we would buy fabric and make my dress. For prom, I remade Grace Kelly's dress from the movie *Rear Window*.

**ELLEGIRL:** Wow, really?

**GS:** My mom made me that dress! [*Laughs*] It was the black velvet with the white chiffon skirt. We also made the dress from *The Sound of Music* when Julie Andrews sings "I Have Confidence." It was tweed with a drop waist, and I wore it the first time I was ever onstage—at a high school talent show.

**ELLEGIRL:** Do you still have that tweed dress?

**GS:** I have *all* the dresses we made.

**ELLEGIRL:** What happened to that '40s dress you wore in the "Don't Speak" video?

**GS:** I have it. I got that at a thrift store, like five years before we shot the video. It smelled so bad that I never wore it. It's beautiful fabric—that really old rayon that just hangs beautifully. But it's a *real* mess!

**ELLEGIRL:** Did your mom sew pretty much all of your dresses or did you also?

**GS:** My mom—but I made a lot of my own stuff, too. I could never do zippers very well. When we were on tour right after the first record came out, I made three or four dresses, which were all from the same pattern that I'd created myself. It was kind of a corset-style drop waist, and it looked like there was a white blouse underneath. Really cartoony—red, blue and yellow, with a cheerleader skirt. I had my boxer shorts and my fishnets and Doc Martens. I had my little vibe going on.

**ELLEGIRL:** Have you ever thought about starting your own clothing line?

**GS:** Yeah! I want to. I talk about it all the time, especially now that I'm inspired again. But it's hard to do a lot of things at once well. That's why I haven't had a kid yet. I want to do that well, and I want to be a good wife, but I'm so busy and I have so much passion for what I'm doing... I'm having a great time! [*Laughs*] So I think if I do a clothing line, it has to be like everything else I do—it has to be homegrown, it has to be real. I wouldn't just do it to make money, because I could do that easily. All I have to do is say the words—"Here's my accessory line" and it would be nuts. I love that our fans get inspired and show up in their homemade gear. That is the coolest thing—I will never get sick of that. They inspire me.

**ELLEGIRL:** Who else inspires you? Let's play a word association game with the names of some stylish ladies.

**GS:** I don't know everybody, but okay.

**ELLEGIRL:** Grace Kelly.

**GS:** Gorgeous.

**ELLEGIRL:** Stevie Nicks.

**GS:** I love her. Cool as hell. I relate to her *a lot*. There are a lot of similarities in the stories of our bands. [*Laughs*]

**ELLEGIRL:** True enough. Veronica Lake?

**GS:** The "Hey Baby" video, because I tried to copy her hair! [*Laughs*]

**ELLEGIRL:** Debbie Harry?

**GS:** Me on the last record. I really tried to rip her off *hard* on that one.

**ELLEGIRL:** Jean Harlow?

**GS:** She was dope-ass—she had those skinny eyebrows >



"NO DOUBT'S  
NEVER DONE  
ANYTHING  
ANYONE TOLD US  
TO DO, LIKE I DON'T  
WEAR ANYTHING  
ANYONE TELLS  
ME TO WEAR."

Ribbed NO DOUBT tank top, available at [nodoubt.com](http://nodoubt.com), \$16. Striped cotton pants, Greyantics, \$95. Leather pumps, Stephane Kelian. Leather cap, Jennifer Scott for Apropos, \$150. Leather charm belt, Gwen's own. Jelly bracelets, Cool Stuff, \$6 for 12. Striped canvas cuff, Paul & Joe, \$93. Gold earrings, \$88, and charm bracelet, White Trash Charms.



# GWEN'S STYLE TIME LINE



1992

"Here, I'm sitting on my grandma's roof. I was really influenced by videos—especially Dexy's Midnight Runners' 'Come On Eileen.' I was super into overalls."

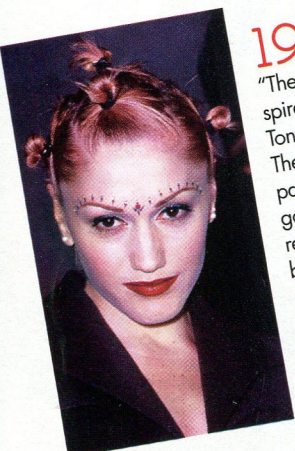
1996

"Everything that I wear is just featuring what I like about myself and hiding what I hate. I've never had a big chest, so I could wear little shirts like this. My bra would show so I started studding them. Everything was for a reason."



1997

"The bindi look was inspired by [bandmate] Tony Kanal's mom. They would go to Indian parties and she'd look gorgeous! But the only reason I did those little balls in my hair—besides that I copied Björk—is that I was growing my hair out and nothing looked good."



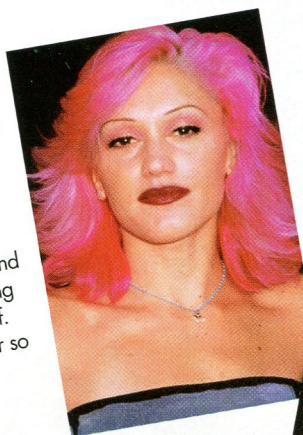
1998

"That's not real dye, it's this awesome powder stuff from Urban Decay."



1999

"This was the phase of 'aargh!' Gavin and I broke up for, like, a week, and I dyed my hair pink. I got braces, too, and I cut my bangs because I thought my braces didn't go with fancier hair—I needed more 'kid' hair. Then I went to the fashion awards and it was a nightmare. Everybody was taking closeup pictures! So I had them taken off. But I couldn't sing too well in them either so it wasn't a fashion statement."



"I really tried to rip off Debbie Harry! I did her hair and that asymmetrical tank top, which is so frustrating because I did that for two years on tour and now it's everywhere."

2000



and attitude. She was ahead of her time.

**ELLEGIRL:** Madonna?

**GS:** I can't give you one word. I have to give you a long-winded explanation of my relationship with her. [Laughs]

**ELLEGIRL:** Yes, please.

**GS:** When I was in high school, I was really into ska music. And if you're 15 or 16, there are a lot of rules—if something is really popular, you're like, "I'm *not* into that."

Madonna was huge, and I was really into Fishbone. I was like, Madonna? Whatever. But I think that secretly I was interested. I went to her concert in '87 at Anaheim Stadium, because the guy I was in love with—Tony [Kanal, No Doubt's bass player]—his mom worked for the city and got free tickets. So we went and we kissed in the parking lot and saw that show. It was amazing. But I was never really a huge fan of hers until recently. I just look at her body of work now...and I have a whole lot of respect for her. I *know* what it's like to be a girl in a man's world. I've met her a few times. She is such a cool girl. The thing is that I relate more to someone like Deborah Harry, because she was in a band. It's like two different worlds. But as far as paving a little space for some girls to come after her [*Expels breath*]—Madonna did that.

**ELLEGIRL:** What do you think of Britney Spears and her image these days?

**GS:** There's room for everybody, and there's always room for pure entertainment. But I am surprised at how fast she's moved on. I think when you're in a band, the cool thing is that you have more time to grow. Like I only just *started* wearing high heels, and I'm 32. I feel

like I never was comfortable with my sexual side. My whole image was based on...I want to be a guy, but I want to wear a lot of makeup. I want to do my hair and wear cute clothes, but when I get onstage, I want to rock out. But lately I feel that if I want to show a sexier side—and if you put on high heels, then you automatically do—it's *okay*. I've earned my way.

**ELLEGIRL:** It's like a rite of passage?

**GS:** Exactly. I feel that some of the younger artists should just hold on to their youth a little longer—it's like, dude, you have so much ahead of you! But I can't say anything—I could never imagine myself having commercial success at that age. I would go crazy.

**ELLEGIRL:** If you hadn't gotten into music, would you be a makeup artist?

**GS:** I *was* a makeup artist. I worked at a department store at the Anaheim Plaza, which was a pretty low-grade mall with dollar stores. Different types of *she*-males would come in wanting to get their makeup done. [Laughs] It was such a rewarding job—to help people feel better about themselves by putting on a little of this and a little of that? So great. Anyway, if I weren't in music, I would have completed college. I can't imagine going back now. I learned all the important things I needed so I wouldn't feel like a stupid person—but as far as art classes go, I'd love to go back.

**ELLEGIRL:** Your style is so immaculate, so put together. Do you ever just kick back in a sweatshirt and no makeup?

**GS:** [*In wonder*] Immaculate! Oh, dude, *yeah*. Of course I do. On tour, for the most part, I have two outfits that I wear every night onstage. I just rotate the col-

ors. During the day, I wear my workout clothes. Publicity time is really fun because it's all about clothes, and lately I'm really into it again. I feel all energized. I went to the fabric store to make a skirt for my sister's wedding and I freaked out! I was like, Oh my God, I haven't been here in so long! I bought fabric and had loads of pants made.

**ELLE GIRL:** What do you think about the way Joan Rivers and everyone else—including this magazine—critique celebrity fashion?

**GS:** I get totally seduced by it all. I love to open *People* to see what everyone's wearing. But it's different when it's me. What's that one I always get in? "When bad clothes happen to good people." [*Laughs*] I kind of find that a compliment. The clothes they consider bad I usually like!

**ELLE GIRL:** Does Gavin have a favorite outfit?

**GS:** He has really good taste. He's influenced me a lot, to grow up a bit with the way I dress. He's really anti bright colors—everything that I am! [*Laughs*] He doesn't have a favorite outfit. But I definitely try to dress to impress him. He influences me when I'm shopping. I think, Will he like this?

**ELLE GIRL:** Do you go for more conservative things now?

**GS:** Maybe I just don't go for the really bright colors as much. [*Laughs*] That's a younger thing anyway. I have to grow up. I can't just stay the same forever.

**ELLE GIRL:** How have you evolved as a songwriter?

**GS:** With the last album, *Return of Saturn*, I decided I just wanted to get really good at writing. I started keeping a journal and I'd never done that. I got the lyrics and poems of Joni Mitchell, which are just so genius—the most beautiful way of putting thoughts down. She really inspired me. And then Gavin told me about Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar* and I was so inspired by that—and by her journals. But with *Rock Steady*, we wanted to be a little more free and anything goes. I tried to make my writing more conversational. I didn't get into my whole "being inspired" thing—I would be inspired by a day, a moment. And I didn't labor over it, I tried to write it that afternoon and record it.

**ELLE GIRL:** You've collaborated with so many great people—Eve and Moby, and now Prince and Sly and Robbie on *Rock Steady*. Who else would you like to work with?



Striped cotton T-shirt, Juicy Couture, \$48. Vermeil anchor necklace, White Trash Charms, \$215. Wristband and suspenders, Gwen's own.

**GS:** The Thompson Twins. I would love to make a rap song with those guys. Or have them remix one of our tracks.

**ELLE GIRL:** You grew up in the '80s but don't seem embarrassed by '80s fashion. Do you really like it?

**GS:** I love the idea of something that's really bad becoming really good again. The '80s were an awesome time for music. And plus it was the backdrop of my life, so of course I love it and embrace it!

**ELLE GIRL:** Did you have fun on *TRL* in December?

**GS:** Yeah. We've been on so many times, but we were so excited and nervous. I didn't think I could get that nervous again! We kind of came off as nerds, but oh well.

**ELLE GIRL:** Do you still consider yourself kind of dorky?

**GS:** [*Pauses and giggles*] I'm pretty cool now. I always get really freaked out when I start thinking about how people see me. It's a weird lifestyle. We have this web fan forum, and you can read everything the fans have to say. There's a lot of negative stuff, and I don't know if I'm going to read it anymore.

No Doubt's never done anything that anyone's told us to do. Like I don't wear anything that anyone tells me to wear. The whole idea of our band is freedom—creating something on your own. To try to get better and

grow. It frustrates me when people get that wrong and think that they own you. The idea of fans is amazing, because they give you your life, but the idea of anyone, a fan or not, trying to tell you what music you should do? I don't do it for anyone except for myself in the first place. It's an art. □



"John Galliano called me and I said, 'I want to look like I'm going to the prom in the '50s, and I'm not a fan of anything below my waist, so make it work!' He sent me a drawing of the dress with me in it! Then he flew out all these people to dress me for the Grammys. It was a total Cinderella moment."



"Oh, I love this look. This is a satin Members Only jacket—it has words from *Rock Steady* on it."

2001

"That was at the Billboard Awards. I wore that shirt again on *TRL* but I cut it off and put diamonds all over it. It's just a thrift-store shirt but I think it is so damn cute."





# ELLE girl

To  
ella  
Girls

w/love  
Gwen

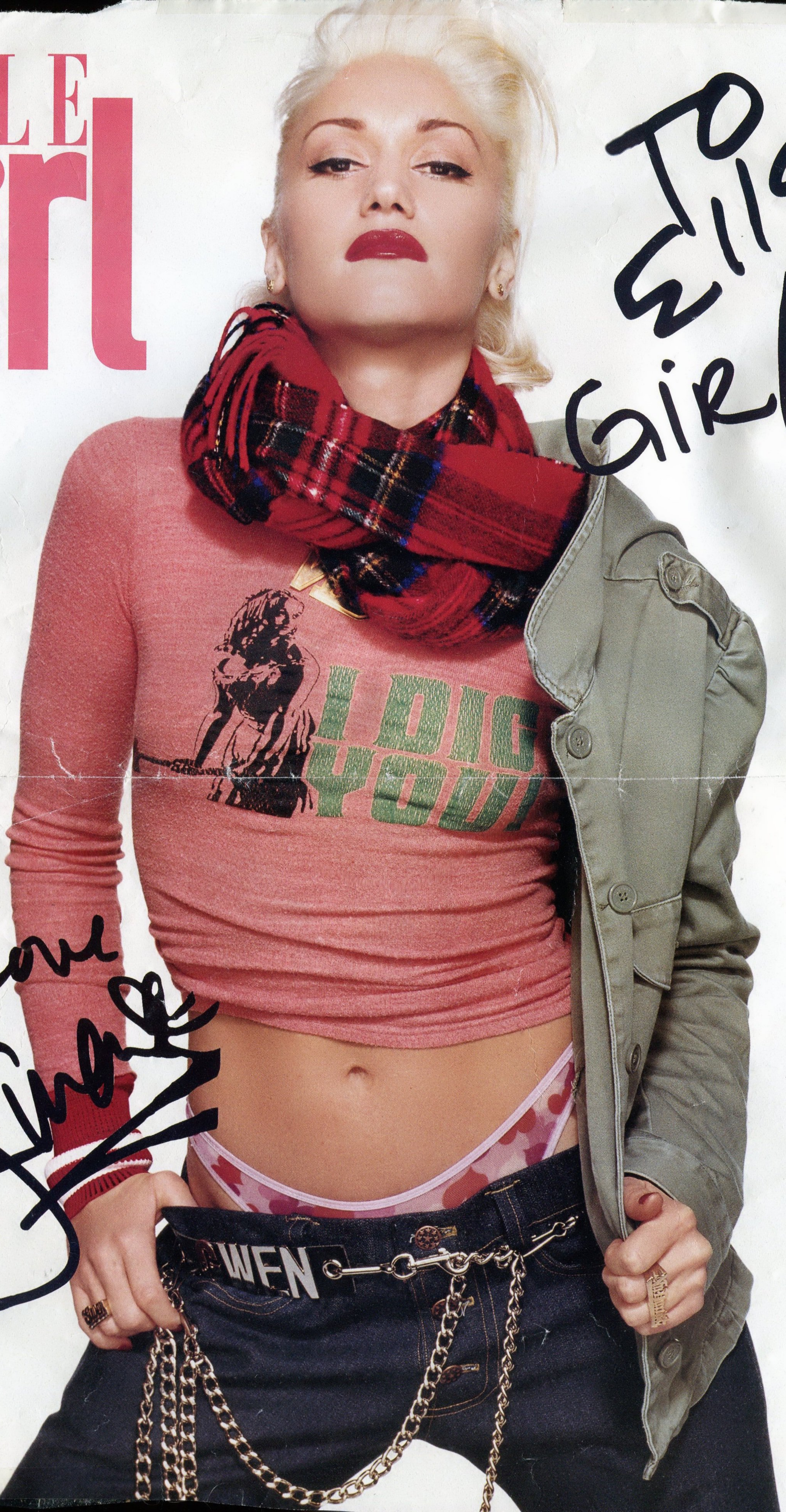


PHOTO: GILLES BENSMON; CLOTHING: T-SHIRT, HYSTERIC GLAMOUR; ARMY JACKET, CUD NAVY; JEANS, HEATHERETTE; SCARF, TOMMY HILFGER; GOLD NECKLACE AND EARRINGS, WHITE TRASH CHARMS, ALL OTHER ACCESSORIES, GWEN'S C