

Newsweek

2 Number of hours it took for 600,000 people to pre-order the new Harry Potter book from Amazon.com



IN CUSTODY: Townshend (right) in a police car last week

'Who' Do You Believe?

WHEN THE news broke last week that the Who's Pete Townshend was the "legendary rock star" a British tabloid had predicted would be arrested for allegations involving child pornography in an Internet sting, no one wanted to believe it. There's been no more respected or beloved figure in the rock-and-roll

establishment; Townshend's 1969 rock opera "Tommy," moreover, is about a "pinball wizard" who had been sexually abused as a child. Townshend himself believes that he was abused when he was young, and he has recently been denouncing Internet child porn on his Web site.

Townshend, 57, went along quietly with the po-

lice who went to his house. He was released on bail without being charged; that could happen later. Townshend told a British paper that he'd stumbled across child pornography on the Web, and entered one site using his credit card in order to do research for his autobiography. Bob McLachlan, former head of Scotland Yard's pedophilia unit, says that claiming to do research is "a classic defense" of pedophiles. But Matthew Evans, former chairman of the publisher Faber and Faber, for whom Townshend worked as an editor in the early 1980s, told NEWSWEEK that Townshend has been working on a long-planned autobiography, though he "did not want a book contract before he finished." Faber and Evans added, "would be very interested in publishing it."

—GINANNE BROWNELL in London



GWEN STEFANI

THE NO DOUBT FRONTWOMAN SAYS she's doing "freakin' great." With her band's gig at this year's Super Bowl, three Grammy nominations and her marriage to Gavin Rossdale of Bush ... well, no doubt. Last week she tackled questions from NEWSWEEK's Vanessa Juarez.

Last year you opened for U2 at the Super Bowl; this year you're the headliner. What's it like?

It's spectacular to look over the field and see the energy of all the people coming together. And to think U2 was doing it is pretty crazy.

Your Grammy noms—had you ever been nominated for best dance recording?

No [*laughs*]. The thing is, we've been so many different incarnations of ourselves. We've been the garage band, the van-touring band, the bubblegum-pop band—after "Tragic Kingdom" that's what people called us. So to be, like, this dance thing, it *is* surprising, but it's also like, well, everything *else* has happened.

Do you even like going to these award shows?

I love going to them. The first year I was getting out the elevator and there's Elvis Costello, just someone you totally worship. And then Sting walks by and kisses my hand.

What was it like to roll with the Stones last fall?

It was pretty intense. I mean I was on that stage, I know how far it is from one side to the next, and Mick is running and singing and he's ... he's not young [*laughs*]. I was just amazed by his stamina. I mean I was totally out of breath.

So what's next for you?

I definitely want to try and do a film this year. That's my big goal, just do something different.

You have all these artistic ambitions. Tell me about designing your own clothes.

Ever since I can remember I've always been about trying to not have what everyone else has. When I got into the band, I didn't have a lot of money. If I bought s—t at, whatever, Clothetime, I would tear it apart and make it my own.

I have to ask. How is marriage to a rock star?

[*Laughs*] Well, you know, I've been with him for seven years, so ... pretty great. I recommend it highly.



SAY 'SISTERHOOD' Politics makes strange fete-fellows at a 20th-anniversary gala for the Betty Ford Center. Five former First Ladies, Rosalynn Carter, Barbara Bush, Betty Ford, Nancy Reagan and Hillary Clinton (from left to right), assembled for the fund-raiser and requisite photo op. Bipartisanship never looked so good.