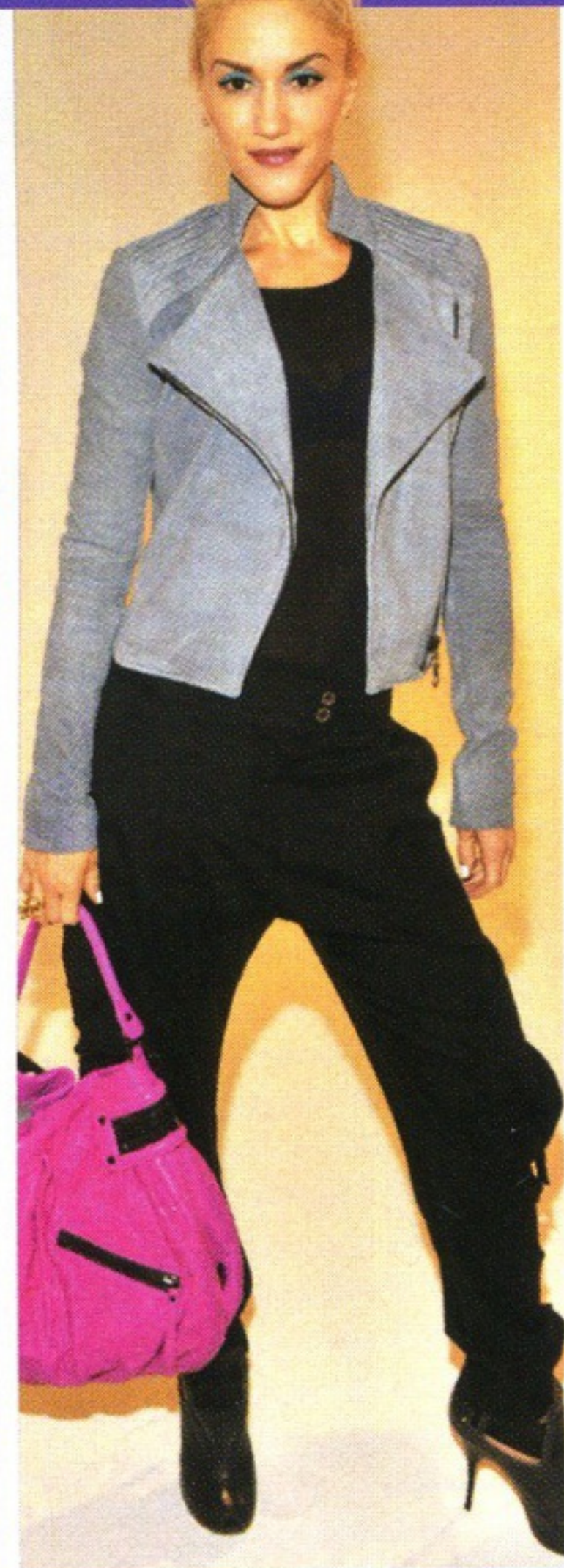


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**CHECK MATE**  
Heading to Kate Hudson's birthday in a Maison Martin Margiela tux jacket and Vivienne Westwood shorts.



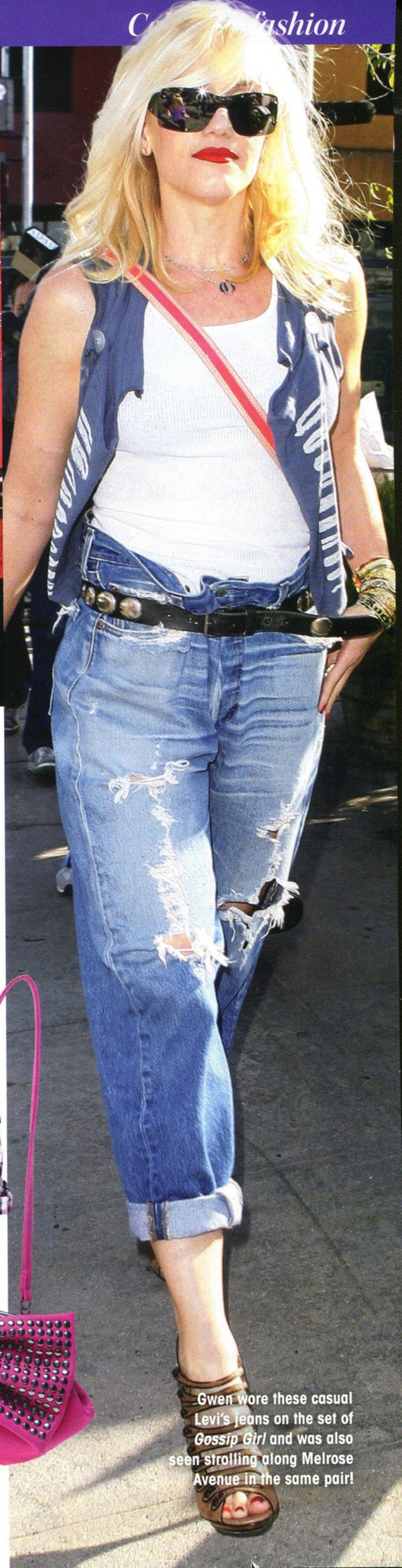
**LADY OF L.A.M.B.**  
Giving the models a run for their money, designer Gwen poses for the presentation of her L.A.M.B. fashion brand.



**POP COLOUR**  
The singer mixes L.A.M.B.'s bold and classic colours to watch hubby Gavin Rossdale at the Donate Life Concert.



**SEXY MAMA**  
Gwen glams up for Fashion Group International's Night of Stars with YSL patent Trib Twos and a L.A.M.B. clutch.



# It GIRL

*Gwen Stefani*

ON STAGE OR HANGING WITH THE FAM, GWEN ROCKS A STYLISH WARDROBE



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SASKIA @ STRANDBAGS

◀ Her signature style

Gwen wore these casual Levi's jeans on the set of *Gossip Girl* and was also seen strolling along Melrose Avenue in the same pair!



# *Why we love* **GWEN**

Lead singer, solo artist, fashion designer, fragrance diva and mum – it's hard to believe Gwen Stefani wasn't cool in high school!



Gwen with Vogue editor Anna Wintour in New York in September

'I just want to make stuff that I want to wear,' says the star of her brand L.A.M.B.



The designer prepares to show her spring 2010 L.A.M.B. collection in New York in September

**G**wen Stefani is a force of nature, having found success with her band No Doubt, as a solo artist and with her fashion lines L.A.M.B. and Harajuku Lovers. *OK!* caught up with the 40-year-old to talk style, body hang-ups and awkward teenage years...

**What were you like back in school?**

I was very passive and a goody two-shoes Catholic girl. And I wasn't very good at school, not because I didn't try, but because it was academically hard for me. I was really into music and I started my band No Doubt. By the time I got into [high] school I had just started to get cuter. I had always been this chubby girl and then I grew and I got into ninth grade and I was really into Madness and those kind of ska bands – that defined who I was and my look. I was really into making clothes.

**What did you look like back then?**

Like a rounder version of who I am now. I had a really short bob and wore hoop earrings and was really into Marilyn Monroe and Grace Kelly and old Hollywood stars and all the ska bands.

**Was your size an issue for you then?**

I was never really a shy person, but during those

teenage years you always have your insecurities, and I can remember feeling not happy with the way I looked, wanting not to be fat. But everybody feels that way. I remember it being really hard for me, because I always had to deal with it, I always had to struggle with it, so it'd be this boring thing I hated. And I remember thinking that I wished I could be like that girl over there who was so skinny and got to eat whatever she wanted.

**You're quite a fitness fanatic now. Is that something that started then?**

I always had to exercise. I was really chubby in sixth grade and then I kind of got it off, and then it came back. Then I was kind of like, 'You know what? I've had enough of this up and down thing' – and I got on the swim team and I was determined not to be that chubby girl anymore. And ever since then I've been able to control it, but it sucks. I've spent a lot of time wasted on it, thinking about it. Nowadays I just try to realise how stupid it is, because nobody cares – except me. People like me no matter if I'm five pounds heavier or not. It's so dumb.

**So do you think you were a cool kid?**

No. I don't even think I'm cool now. [Laughs] Ever since I was a little girl I've been into the same things. We'd come home from school and I would say to my friends, 'Go ask your mum if we can borrow some make-up', and we'd put on make-up and play with Barbie dolls and dress up. I'm still doing the same thing now – putting on make-up and dressing up!

**Did your fashion sense stand out in school?**

Yeah, I think I did. Because I was into ska, I was a ska-girl and there was a look you would follow – clothes from the '50s and '60s, little tights and little pencil skirts and little sweaters. I didn't make it up, it was a look from the ska days, which was like a whole movement that happened in England in

the '70s and '80s and then we discovered it. It was very underground. There were hardly any other ska-girls at my school. There were mods and definitely a lot of ska-boys.

'I WAS A GOODY TWO-SHOES CATHOLIC GIRL AT SCHOOL'

**What about your platinum hair – when did that start?**

That didn't come till way later. I always coloured my hair but I never went platinum, because I couldn't afford to have it done and get it done over and over again. And I don't think my mum would have been really happy if I came home and had it done, but I always wanted to do it because I was always into Marilyn Monroe and the old Hollywood starlets. But when Tony [from No Doubt] broke up with me, actually that's when I had it done. I was probably 25. That was right before *The Tragic Kingdom* came out. We'd already been a band for nine years then. ▶



Gwen's autumn collection, which she showed at New York Fashion Week on February 11 (left), was based on the 'vintage, naughty Hollywood girl'



**Do you care what people say about your style?**

Um, it's never nice to hear criticism, but it's really not that important to me. I'll wear what I want to. I think style is an extension of your personality and your mood and a lot of times I know that I'll be getting into the fashion police pages or something like that. I know that, but it doesn't make me change my outfit or wear something different.

**Could anybody make you change your outfit?**

My husband [Gavin Rossdale]! He doesn't like certain colours, like he really hates that beige-y sort of nude colour and he didn't like it when I was wearing those yellow bondage pants... and I still don't agree with him! He would never ask me to take something off, but I definitely dress for him and I definitely want him to like me and think that I look cute. So he's definitely changed my style over the years, because I know what he likes. But that's what you do when you love someone.

same things since the dawn of time. I swear to God, our spring collection is the same shit I was making when I went on the first No Doubt tour. Obviously now it's a bit more updated, more 'fashion' than the shit I used to make when I didn't have any money. But I don't feel ashamed of those time periods because I look back and think that's exactly where I was at, and I think it defines who you are.

**'MY HUSBAND HAS DEFINITELY CHANGED MY STYLE'**

**You've been doing the same thing as many celebs – launching perfume, dolls, clothing lines. Is it about good business to you?**

No, it's not. I hate the business part of everything, but I enjoy creating things. I actually started L.A.M.B., my clothing line, because I was anticipating that in my life there's going to be a point where I'm not going to be doing this anymore and I want to have something that's creative and fun to do and that I'm passionate about and I think I can be really good at. So I started it and I can do it when I have a family, so I was just kind of doing it to have something to do in the future. As far as all the other stuff, I started another line, Harajuku Lovers, that's inspired by Japanese culture, and it has the dolls and everything, but everything is about the lyrics. It's a line of novelty things created and based on the songs. So it's inspired by the music and it's for the fans instead of doing a T-shirt with my face on it, like bands do.



The singer enjoys a holiday in St Barts with her family, including fashionable tot Zuma, in January

INTERVIEW BY SOFIE KYHL/CELEBRITYTEXT PHOTOGRAPHS BY TODD PLITT/CONTOUR BY GETTY IMAGES, GETTY, SCOPE, PICTURE MEDIA

**Do you spend hours getting ready to go out?**

I love the whole process of getting ready and I look forward to it – if I didn't I couldn't do what I do. And I'm definitely like that. You should see my closet – it's really insane! It's really hard to get ready, [because] there are so many choices.

**Have you had any fashion disasters?**

I dyed my hair bright pink once, but I didn't mean for it to be so bright! I was really going for the cotton candy colour. I don't get embarrassed about it, I just think, 'Wow, that was that girl then and I'm glad I don't have her issues anymore.'

**I'm sure there've been a lot of tragedies in the world of style for you?**

My stylist will tell you that I've been wearing the

OK!