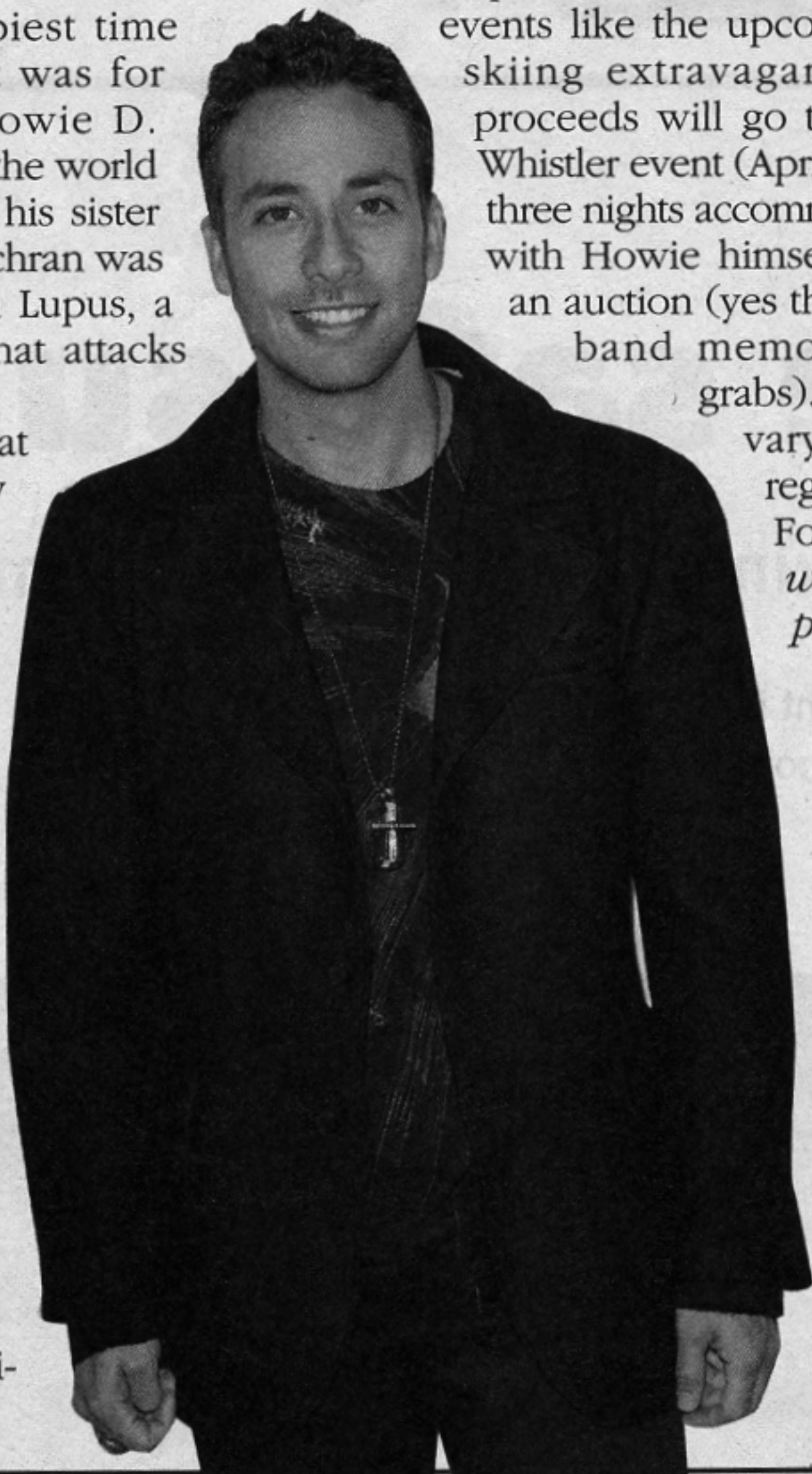


Backstreet Lupus Fundraiser

It took four years for the Backstreet Boys to crack the U.S. market. But they finally did with their 1997 hit "Quite Playing Games with My Heart." It should have been the happiest time in their lives, and it was for everyone except Howie D. While he was touring the world and winning awards, his sister Caroline Dorough-Cochran was losing her battle with Lupus, a debilitating disease that attacks the immune system.

"I got the news that I had to come see my sister," says Howie, recalling the day his boy band won their first MTV award in '98. "But by the time I got there, I had literally missed her passing by an hour. It made me step back and take a look at life and realize that I'm very blessed and fortunate to have the success that I have had, but at the end of the day, success doesn't mean much without family, love and happiness."



Which is why he started the Dorough Lupus Foundation. And one of the ways his non-profit organization raises money for Lupus research is through big charity events like the upcoming Howie D. skiing extravaganza, where all proceeds will go to the DLF. The Whistler event (April 27-30) includes three nights accommodation, a party with Howie himself spinning and an auction (yes there will be boy-band memorabilia up for grabs). Package prices

vary and you must register beforehand. For more info, visit www.doroughlupusfoundation.org

- Sarah Rowland,
24 hours

- Getty
Howie D. started the Dorough Lupus Foundation after losing his sister to Lupus.