

Music News

OROP/Shooting Star



◀ Singer and actor Frank Sinatra dies at the age of 82 on May 14, 1998.

➔ Thanks in part to their 42-city tour, The Backstreet Boys' self-titled album sells nine million copies making it the third best-selling album of the year.



AP Photo/Rick Hanner



▶ Sharp and Sony introduce portable MiniDisc recorders. This digital alternative to audiocassettes records customized music compilations and doesn't skip when bumped.



◀ Alanis Morissette's new album, *Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie*, is released in November and vaults to No. 1. The album sells 469,000 copies in the first week.

➔ In January 1999, the group 'N Sync wins Favorite New Pop/Rock Artist at the American Music Awards.



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◀ The Dixie Chicks' *Wide Open Spaces* is the fastest-selling debut album by a country music group. The group wins the Vocal Group of the Year award from the Country Music Association.



AP Photo/Michael S. Green

➔ Nineteen-year-old Usher is named *Billboard* Music Awards' Artist of the Year and R&B Artist of the Year. Touring with Janet Jackson and making television and movie appearances has heightened Usher's popularity.



AP Photo/Joey Terrill



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▶ Spice Girl Geri Halliwell, better known as Ginger Spice, announces in May 1998 that she is leaving the popular group for creative reasons.