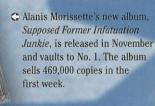
MusiRews

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



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



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





→ 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.



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