



Marc Morrison, Shooting Star

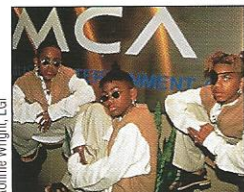
EMI Records releases *Live* at the BBC a two-disc set of radio concerts recorded by the Beatles in the early '60s. "Free as a Bird," an original unfinished track by the late John Lennon, is finished, mixed with the live voices of Paul, George, and Ringo, and included in the set.



Nominated for best female vocalist, country singer Mary Chapin Carpenter croons at the Country Music Awards ceremony, but loses to Pam Tillis. Carpenter's album *Stones in the Road* tops the country charts.



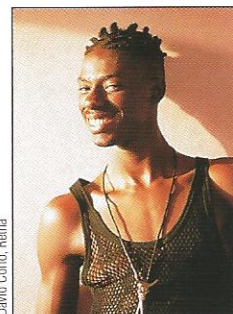
Jay Blakesberg, Retna



Ronnie Wright, LGI

It's a year of hits for buzz band, Gin Blossoms. Their top-selling album *New Miserable Experience*, covers "Hey Jealousy," "Found Out About You," and "Until I Fall Away."

Dismissed as kiddie artists, three 12-year-old rappers who go by the name of Immature, get a new sound. Album *Playtime Is Over* and hits "Never Lie" and "Constantly" pump them up to stardom.



David Corio, Retna



Katie Layko, Shooting Star

Hailed as the crown prince of reggae, Buju Banton's album, *Voice of Jamaica*, pumps the party with "Walk Like a Champion" and "Man a Look Yuh."

Hit single "Cryin'" wins MTV's Video of the Year award for singer Steven Tyler and metal band Aerosmith, who ride a wave of success and release their new album *Big Ones*.

The rock-spectacle Rolling Stones tour, named after their album *Voodoo Lounge*, combines a light show, computer animation, video blowups, and gigantic inflatable props. Millions watch the Stones prance through their classic and current hits like "Love Is Strong." *Voodoo Lounge* becomes the highest grossing tour in history with \$115 million in ticket sales.



Scott Weiner, Retna

The Canadian band Cowboy Junkies, whose big hit this year is "Sweet James," sings of isolation and despair on their latest album *Pale Sun/Crescent Moon*.



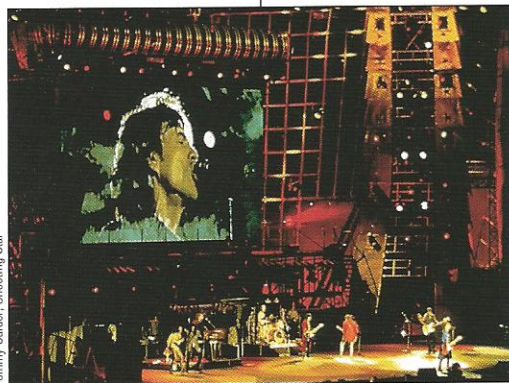
Deniz Kalkavan, Retna

Powered to the top with their pure pop sound, Swedish quartet Ace of Base tops the charts with *The Sign*. Their sound is a contagious blend of reggae-splashed pop known as "China Reggae."

Mascis emerges as a prolific and versatile songwriter for the punk-rock band Dinosaur Jr. with "Outta Hand" and major hit "Feel the Pain," both on their latest album *Without a Sound*.



Larry Busacca, Retna



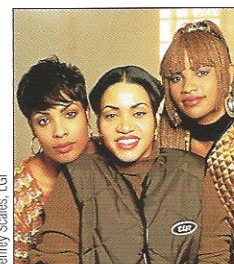
Tommy Calder, Shooting Star

The Benedictine Monks of Santo Domingo de Silos release their CD, *Chant*. Heavy rotation on MTV turns the collection of ancient Gregorian chants into an unexpected best-seller.



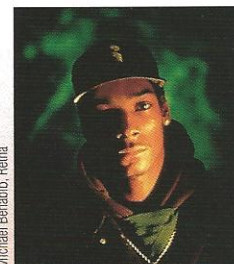
Niels Van Iperen, Retna

Irish rock foursome, the Cranberries, tour the United States playing the sad, pretty melodies from their second hit album, *No Need to Argue*.



Jeffrey Scates, LGI

Rappers with a self-reliant attitude, Salt-N-Pepa keep their *Very Necessary* vibe going this year with hits "Shoop" and "Whatta Man" which wins them, along with En Vogue, an MTV Music Award.



Michael Benabib, Retna

Rapper Snoop Doggy Dogg's performance makes the movie soundtrack *Above the Rim* a best-seller. His video "It's a Doggy Dogg World," which reunites all the '70s black exploitation film stars, wins an MTV Music Award.