

NATIONAL

The following are 60 of the Billboard top 100 pop hits for the year 1988. Five of George Michael's singles made the chart in a single year. Secondary text is color coded as follows:

NOTES ■

COMMENTARY ■

NATIONAL HEADLINES ■

YEAR OF GEORGE MICHAEL

Surveying the past year in commercial pop music, 1988 was the year of George Michael. According to Billboard's year-end annual chart tallies, Mr. Michael's album "Faith" was the No. 1 pop album and compact disk and its title song the top single of 1988. Mr. Michael finished as the year's top album artist and its top singles artist.

Mr. Michael's achievement was all the more impressive because the singer, songwriter and producer does not belong to part of a broader trend. His artful studio pop has almost nothing stylistically in common with the metal rock that dominated the charts for most of the year. No less than six of the year's top 20 albums could be categorized as hard-to-heavy metal rock.

— Source: New York Times, Stephen Holden

"One More Try" was the third consecutive #1 single from the Faith album. "One More Try" debuted at an impressive #40 the week of April 16, 1988, and matching the speed of "Father Figure", reached #1 by its seventh week, May 28, 1988, this time staying there for three consecutive weeks. "One More Try" was the second-longest running #1 of 1988, tied with "Every Rose Has Its Thorn" by Poison, and behind the four-week run of Steve Winwood's "Roll With It". — Source: Wikipedia

CRYSTAL MYSTERIES

Whether there is or is not a Santa Claus is a matter of personal predilection, but there has been no choice about another seasonal proposition: no two snowflakes are alike. How many parents have been pleased to astonish their children with that assertion of crystalline infinity?

Now it's the parent's turn to be astonished. A letter in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society describes the belief in no-two-alike as "a bit of folk wisdom generally accepted even among those few regarded as experts in the subject." But it is no more. The author, Dr. Nancy Knight, a scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, reports finding a matching pair in a snowstorm over Wisconsin. She was collecting flakes on a research flight, exposing a glass slide to pick up crystals. A photo revealed the similarity of the two of them.

What's the significance of the her discovery? "Nothing cosmic," Dr. Knight says. "It's not going to solve the greenhouse effect." The real challenge that she sees is explaining how two crystals grew the same. A myth demolished, but nature's mystery survives.

— Source: New York Times

In the U.S., "Father Figure" became George Michael's sixth number one single (counting #1 singles garnered as half of Wham!). "Father Figure" debuted at #49 on January 16, 1988, while "Faith" was still prominent (at #9) in the top tier of the chart. In the subsequent weeks, "Father Figure" was a surefire hit, reaching #1 by its seventh week, February 27, 1988, staying at the top for two weeks. Altogether, the single spent 6 weeks in the Top 10, 9 weeks in the Top 20, and 14 weeks in the Top 40. — Source: Wikipedia

01 FAITH by George Michael

02 NEED YOU TONIGHT by INXS

03 GOT MY MIND SET ON YOU by George Harrison

04 NEVER GONNA GIVE YOU UP by Rick Astley

05 SWEET CHILD O' MINE by Guns N' Roses

06 SO EMOTIONAL by Whitney Houston

07 HEAVEN IS A PLACE ON EARTH by Belinda Carlisle

08 COULD'VE BEEN by Tiffany

09 HANDS TO HEAVEN by Breathe

10 ROLL WITH IT by Steve Winwood

11 ONE MORE TRY by George Michael

12 WISHING WELL by Terence Trent d'Arby

13 ANYTHING FOR YOU by Gloria Estefan & Miami Sound Machine

14 THE FLAME by Cheap Trick

15 GET OUTTA MY DREAMS, GET INTO MY CAR by Billy Ocean

16 SEASONS CHANGE by Expose

17 IS THIS LOVE by Whitesnake

18 WILD, WILD WEST by Escape Club

19 POUR SOME SUGAR ON ME by Def Leppard

20 I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU by Taylor Dayne

21 MAN IN THE MIRROR by Michael Jackson

22 SHAKE YOUR LOVE by Debbie Gibson

23 SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE by Robert Palmer

24 HOLD ON TO THE NIGHTS by Richard Marx

25 HUNGRY EYES by Eric Carnen

26 SHATTERED DREAMS by Johnny Hates Jazz

27 FATHER FIGURE by George Michael

28 NAUGHTY GIRLS (NEED LOVE TOO) by Samantha Fox

29 A GROOVY KIND OF LOVE by Phil Collins

30 LOVE BITES by Def Leppard

31 ENDLESS SUMMER NIGHTS by Richard Marx

32 FOOLISH BEAT by Debbie Gibson

33 WHERE DO BROKEN HEARTS GO by Whitney Houston

34 ANGEL by Aerosmith

35 HAZY SHADE OF WINTER by Bangles

36 THE WAY YOU MAKE ME FEEL by Michael Jackson

37 DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY by Bobby McFerrin

38 MAKE ME LOSE CONTROL by Eric Carnen

39 RED RED WINE by UB40

40 SHE'S LIKE THE WIND by Patric Swayze

41 BAD MEDICINE by Bon Jovi

42 KOKOMO by Beach Boys

43 I DON'T WANNA GO ON WITH YOU LIKE THAT by Elton John

44 TOGETHER FOREVER by Rick Astley

45 MONKEY by George Michael

46 DEVIL INSIDE by INXS

47 SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER by Richard Marx

48 I DON'T WANNA LIVE WITHOUT YOUR LOVE by Chicago

49 THE LOCOMOTION by Kylie Minogue

50 WHAT HAVE I DONE TO DESERVE THIS? by Pet Shop Boys & Dusty Springfield

51 MAKE IT REAL by Jets

52 WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND by Information Society

53 TELL IT TO MY HEART by Taylor Dayne

54 OUT OF THE BLUE by Debbie Gibson

55 DON'T YOU WANT ME by Jody Watley

56 DESIRE by U2

57 I GET WEAK by Belinda Carlisle

58 SIGN YOUR NAME by Terence Trent d'Arby

59 I WANT TO BE YOUR MAN by Roger

60 GIRLFRIEND by Pebbles

SINGER JAMES BROWN RECEIVES 6-YEAR SENTENCE IN CAR CHASE

AIKEN, S.C., Dec. 15 (AP) — The soul singer James Brown was sentenced to six years in prison today for failing to stop for the police in a two state automobile chase. But he was acquitted of assault with intent to kill.

Mr. Brown's lawyer, Bill Weeks, had argued that the prospect of arresting a celebrity caused the police to overreact in their pursuit of Mr. Brown. But the prosecutor, Robert Harte, said that Mr. Brown admitted that he failed to obey a police officer's command to pull over.

An Aiken County jury deliberated more than three hours before finding Mr. Brown guilty of two counts of aggravated assault and of eluding the police. Mr. Brown testified wednesday that he did not stop because he feared for his life. "I was scared to death," Mr. Brown said. "I went to Vietnam and I wasn't that frightened."

— Source: New York Times

2 BOYS HELD IN CRACK CASE

BOSTON, Dec. 14 (AP) — Two boys, 10 and 13 years old, have been charged in Dorchester District Court with operating a sidewalk business peddling crack. They were arrested Friday. — Source: New York Times

TEACHERS HELD IN MANHATTAN AND BROOKLYN: SEPERATE ARRESTS INVOLVE HANDGUN AND DRUGS

Two New York City schoolteachers were arrested yesterday, one for illegally possessing a handgun that the police said had been found by a student and that the teacher had offered to buy, and the other on drug charges.

[Shirley Smith], whose students said had warned them about drugs was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana and cocaine after an investigation begun by a tip to a school official, the police said.

They said she was the kind of teacher who bought them little presents, lent lunch money, and borrowed library books for them. She also warned them away from drugs, they said.

"She said not to use drugs because you'll end up in the streets, a bum," said Yessenia Rivera, 12. "I don't believe she did it," said Andre Cruz, 11. "I feel broken up. She used to treat us like a mother."

— Source: New York Times

3 AGENTS AND PLAYER CHARGED IN FRAUD OF COLLEGES

A Federal grand jury indicted three agents today, finding that improper payments and threats of violence were used to induce dozens of athletes to sign professional management contracts while they were in college.

In addition, Cris Carter, a player for the Philadelphia Eagles of the National Football League, was indicted on charges of mail fraud and obstruction of justice in connection with payments he received from the agents.

— Source: New York Times

My mother maintains that there is no correlation between my name and the pop star's. "Mom I had to ask you who I was named after," to which she replies, "you were named after my father ... and Michael just because it sounded good." "Kissing a Fool" was George Michael's 5th single in the top 100. It wasn't in the top sixty.