



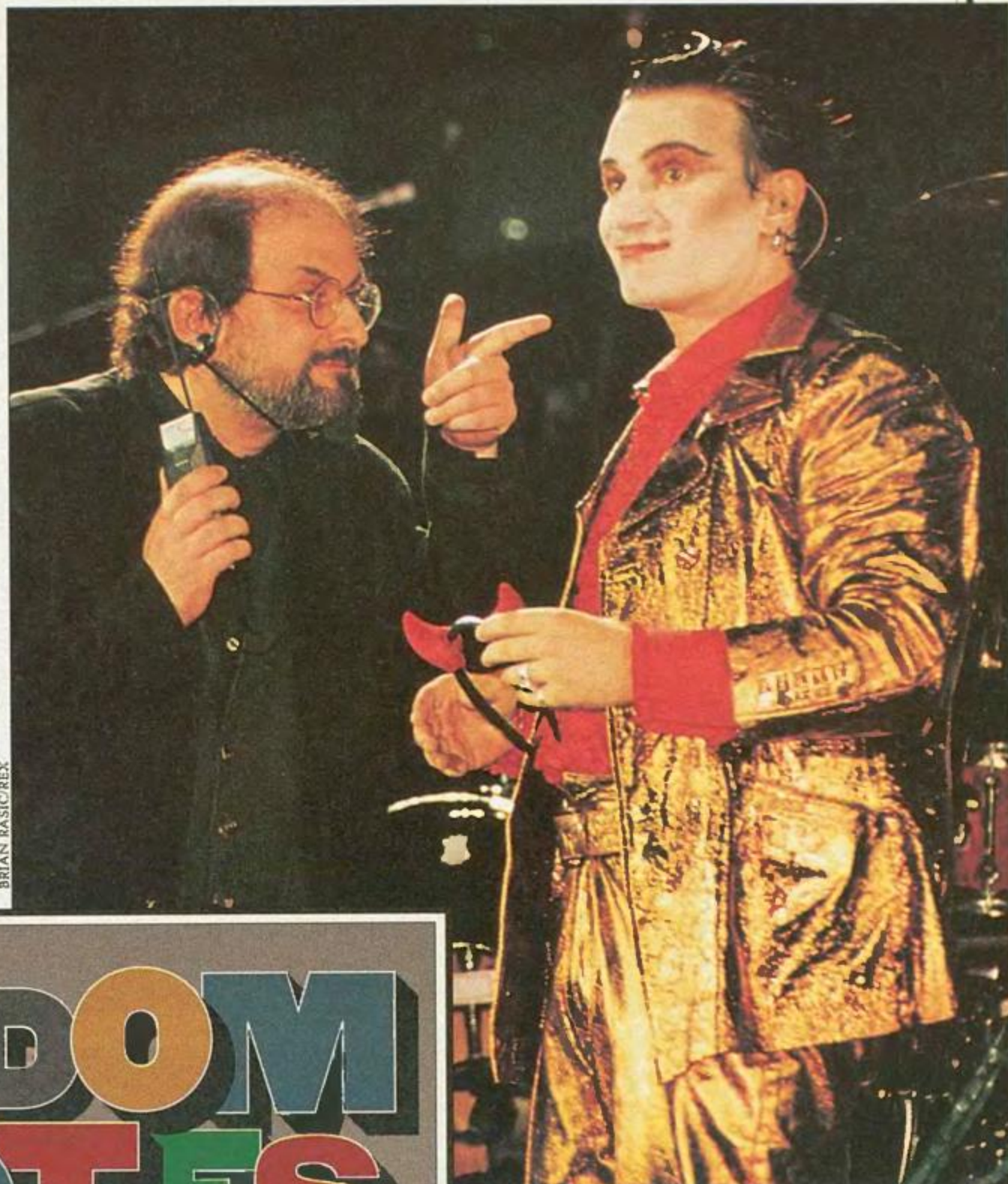
JEFF TISMAN

Media darlings Blind Melon

Lead singer **SHANNON HOON** is philosophical about **BLIND MELON's** yearlong "overnight success." "Well, my ass still itches in the same place, and my pool game is still shitty," says Mr. Potty Mouth. The band's omnipresent single, "No Rain," and a slot on the Neil Young-Soundgarden bill (soon they'll team with Lenny Kravitz) have resulted in a media blizzard. "People are sending me candy baskets and taking credit for things, but they weren't around when we needed them. They know who they are."

Good thing it wasn't a Cat Stevens concert. Writer-on-the-lam **SALMAN RUSHDIE** decided to come out of hiding at a recent U2 gig at London's Wembley Stadium. **BONO**, gussied up in his customary Macphisto alter ego, phoned up Rushdie

from the stage. Rushdie responded, "I'm closer than you think," and chided Bono for wearing "that ridiculous gold lamé suit." Then, to the audience's stunned amazement, the Rushdie strolled out. "I'm not afraid of you," he told Bono, who was wearing a horn get-up on his head. "Real devils don't wear

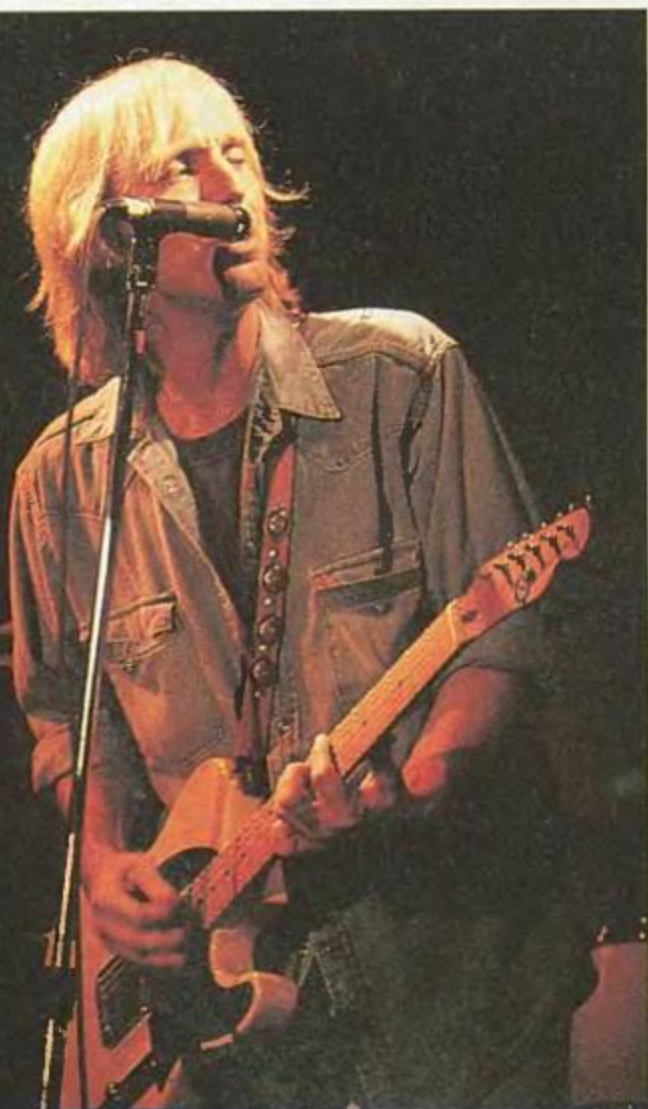


BRIAN RASIG/REX

Salman Rushdie (left) gives Bono Macphisto an earful of fashion advice.

RANDOM NOTES

BY **JANCEE DUNN**



ROBERT MATHEU

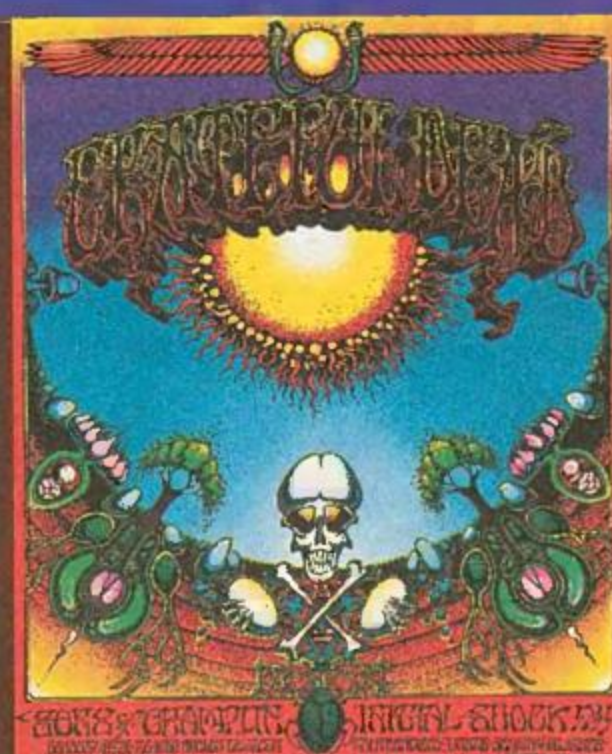


ROBERT MATHEU

Tom Petty, along with Maria McKee and others, raised some big money for a worthy cause.

horns." Bono then kissed Rushdie's hand, and the writer was led offstage to wild applause.

We should do this once a month," said **STAN LYNCH** of **TOM PETTY AND THE HEARTBREAKERS**, after the band launched the Viper Room, the Sunset Strip club co-owned by **JOHNNY DEPP**. Also on the bill: **EVAN DANDO**, a vibrant **MARIA MCKEE** and **SHANE MCGOWAN**, who raised \$14,000 for the Starlight Foundation, a charity for terminally ill children. "I love the idea of clubs in the '30s and '40s," said Depp. "It's some of the only culture we have in Hollywood."



The works of the late artist **Rick Griffin**, creator of **ROLLING STONE's** original logo, are on display at **San Francisco's Best Comics and Rock Art Gallery Ltd.** Griffin's art graced many a poster and album cover for most of rock's royalty, from the **Grateful Dead** and the **Doors** to the **Who**.