

Cobain Mourned By Fans, Industryites In Memorials, Music Stores

BY CARRIE BORZILLO

SEATTLE—In the days following the death of Nirvana front man Kurt Cobain, fans of the groundbreaking musician flooded radio stations here with calls, hoping to find some sense in his suicide, and flocked to record stores to buy Nirvana's albums.

At a private memorial service held April 10 at a Seattle church, some 250 people gathered to mourn Cobain. Among those in attendance were Geffen president Ed Rosenblatt, GM Bill Bennett, national college director Rochelle Fox, director of artist and media relations Bryn Bridenthal, and A&R executive Mark Kates; Gold Mountain Entertainment's John Silva, John Cutcliffe, and Michael Meisel; Capitol president/CEO Gary Gersh; Atlantic president Danny Goldberg; R.E.M.'s Peter Dinklage, and Sub Pop founders Bruce Pavitt and Jonathan Poseman.

Radio responded rapidly to Cobain's fans. Even Seattle talk stations such as KING-AM and KIRO held open phones to discuss Cobain, suicide, drugs, and hopelessness.

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SEARCH FOR COLLECTIBLES

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Hugh Jones, marketing director at the three-store Cellophane Square chain, said, "All three stores sold about a few hundred CDs, singles, and vinyl by the previous [of Seattle] because the

and white letters. Within seconds, store employees removed the sign.

One caller on KISW said there should not be a public memorial for someone who killed himself. "He made his child fatherless and totally copped out," said the caller.

The public memorial for Cobain started with approximately 5,000 fans camping out, lighting incense, playing hackysack, and passing out flares. It later turned into a mass of tears and lit candles as a taped message was played from Cobain's widow, Courtney Love of the punk rock band Hole. The choked-up Love read large portions of the suicide note Cobain left behind.

Also in a taped message, Nirvana bassist Krist Novoselic thanked people for their concern and urged the crowd to follow their dreams. "Catch a groove and



Fans leaped into the fountain at the Seattle Center's Flag Pavilion as Nirvana music played on the P.A., following a public memorial service April 10 in memory of the band's front man, Kurt Cobain. (Billboard photo)

let it flow out of your heart. That's where the music will always be,"

COBAIN DEATH SPURS RUSH AT RETAIL

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counts around the country (Billboard, April 2).

RUN ON PRODUCT

Independent retailers catering to the punk-oriented audience noted a run on Nirvana product the weekend of April 9-10.

"It's all kids," Ron Jackson, co-owner of Besway Pop in Las Vegas, says of the buyers. "The posters and collectibles are selling better than the records... It's like people are saying, 'Hey, maybe this stuff won't be around. It's almost like an infant legend kind of thing... Now he's Sid Vicious.'"

Gay Cronley, manager of Magnolia Thunderpussy Records in Columbus, Ohio, says, "They've bought everything. T-shirts and posters, too... Everybody's trying to cash in, make sure they get everything, because they think it's going to be worth something."

At Tower Records' Sunset Strip store in Hollywood, Calif., clerk Helen Howard reports that only the new album copies in stock, but the store

Nirvana originals "Come As You Are" and "All Apologies," as well as a number of covers. Cobain was backed by the Meat Puppets' Chris and Curt Kirkwood on their songs "Plateaus" and "Lake Of Fire." Also covered were David Bowie's "The Man Who Sold The World," Leadbelly's "Where Did You Sleep Last Night," and "Jesus Don't Want Me For A Sunbeam," by Cobain favorite the Vaselines. When Nirvana performed Dec. 30 at the Great Western Forum in Los Angeles, he dedicated the latter track to deceased actor River Phoenix.

The band also was featured performing electric on MTV's "Live And Loud," which was taped Dec. 13 and broadcast on New Year's Eve. Also, Nirvana has been the subject of several Westwood One live concert specials.

According to Steve Albini, who recorded the "In Utero" sessions, there are six to eight uncompleted songs that were not included on the album.

One song, "Martini," written by Nirvana drummer Dave Grohl, is

said Novoselic.

The vigil included comments from Reverend Stephen Twoles, the minister who conducted a private memorial service; Larry Smith, Cobain's uncle by marriage; a representative from the Crisis Clinic in Seattle; and three Seattle DJs, KNDD's Marco Collins, KISW's Damen Stewart, and KRXR's Scott Vanderpool.

Smith recalls stories of Cobain's youth, including a time when Cobain, his grandfather, and Smith were fishing. Smith recalled Cobain screaming; when asked what was going on, Cobain replied, "Just strengthening my vocal chords."

Swarms of fans then dove into the fountain at the Seattle Center as Nirvana's music was played over the PA system.

A representative at a Seattle ra-

dio station said Love showed up at the Seattle Center after most of the crowd had gone home.

Surprisingly, Sub Pop's sixth anniversary party April 9 at the famed Crocodile Cafe wasn't as solemn as most expected.

Velocity Girl, Pond, and Sunny Day Real Estate played to the crowd, which included retailers, journalists, radio professionals, and members of various bands such as Love Battery, the Posies, Silksworn, Young Fresh Fellows, and the Walkabouts.

At the beginning of the party, a news crew was camped out front, interviewing guests about the media coverage of Cobain's death.

But inside, talk of Cobain's suicide was at a minimum, perhaps out of respect; Poseman said a few words in memory of the artist at the beginning of the party.

Nirvana bassist Krist Novoselic said the track was pulled from the album because it didn't fit the mood: "Things are kind of loose and screwy up to that point, so we thought we would tighten things up a little bit."

Another track, "Verse Chorus Verse," appeared, unlisted, on Arista's "No Alternative."

There also may be unreleased material and several alternate takes from the "Nevermind" sessions, as well as earlier sessions with producer Butch Vig. In a September 1993 interview with Billboard, Novoselic said that "some songs never made it" on "Nevermind."

NO ALBUM PLANNED

A source at Geffen says another Nirvana album is "something that we haven't even considered... To throw another collection together right now would be inappropriate."

So far, there have been no U.S. commercial singles from "In Utero." DGC had considered a single, with B sides drawn from the "Unplugged" sessions, but those plans are in doubt.

really a lot around." He added that while some "In Utero" outtakes exist, "Those were all considered really minor tracks—in fact, Kurt didn't even want them out in the United States."

While many of Nirvana's scattered singles and assorted recordings were released on "Incesticide," some material remains uncollected.

The Sub Pop track "Spank Thru," heard on the out-of-print "Sub Pop 200" album, is unavailable, as are such DGC-era recordings as "Even In His Youth" and "Carmageddon." The group also recorded a variety of single sides and album tracks for such indie labels as Touch And Go, Communion, C/Z, Kill Rock Stars, and The Kerr Records.

Two live tracks recorded at the Paramount Theater in Seattle on Halloween 1991 surfaced on the "Come As You Are" commercial CD-5, but the rest of the concert is still unissued.

The discovery of Cobain's body came four days before the April 12 release of the debut DGC album.

ARTIST	ALBUM	GENRE	PRICE
SOUNDTRACK	THE PIANO		
SOUNDTRACK	SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE		
NOE STONEMAN	UNPLUGGED - AND SEATED		
GABRIEL BARRACLOUGH	UNBORN		
THE	TALK		
THE	MTV UNPLUGGED		
METALLICA	METALLICA		
BROOKS & DUNN	HARD WORKIN' MAN		
TOOL	UNDERDOG		
BARRY CHAPIN CARPENTER	COME ON COME ON		
SHANE	PRONOUNCED JAH-NRY		
GEORGE STRAIT	PURE COUNTRY (SOUNDTRACK)		
RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE	RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE		
SHAUNNIE O'NEAL	SHAG DIESEL		
BASTYARD	FOR THE COOL IN YOU		
SARAH McLACHLAN	FUMBLING TOWARDS ECSTASY		
SPICE GILL	I STILL BELIEVE IN YOU		
ESCAPE	HUMANITY COMM AT '08A		
DFC	THINGS IN THE HOOD		
ELVIS COSTELLO	BRUTAL YOUTH		
EASY-E	(IT'S ON (DR. DRE 187UM) KILLA (EP)		
DEEP FOREST	DEEP FOREST		
GEORGE STRAIT	EASY COME, EASY GO		
DWIGHT YOAKAM	THIS TIME		
MELISSA ETHERIDGE	YES I AM		
WILLIAMS/PERLMAN	SCHINDLER'S LIST (SOUNDTRACK)		
K7	EWING BATTIA SWING		
QUEEN LATIFAH	BLACK REIGN		
SOUNDTRACK	THREESOME		
NEAL MCCOY	NO DOUBT ABOUT IT		
FRANK SINATRA	DUETS		
CLAY WALKER	CLAY WALKER		
VARIOUS ARTISTS	A TRIBUTE TO CURTIS MAYFIELD		
STING	TEN SUMMONER'S TALES		
SHERYL CROW	TUESDAY NIGHT MUSIC CLUB		
SOUNDTRACK	DD: THE MIGHTY DUCKS		
CYPRESS HILL	BLACK SUNDAY		
THE BRAND NEW HEAVIES	BROTHER SISTER		
DR. DRE	THE CHRONIC		
A TRIBE CALLED QUEST	MIDNIGHT MARAUDERS		

Price is suggested retail price for shipment of 1 million units. \$200,000 for EPs, with multiple-platinum (5x) for CDs, and all other CD prices are equivalent prices, which are projected from wholesale prices. One indicates date of release. * denotes CD. © 1994, Billboard/SPN Communications, and SoundScan, Inc.

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Hugh Jones, marketing director at the three-store Cellophane Square chain, said, "All three stores sold about a few hundred CDs, singles, and vinyl by the morning [of April 9]—even the \$100 interview CD of Nirvana."

"It's a pathetic scene," said Chris Simmons, a buyer at the Tower Records on Mercer Street in Seattle. "Everything is going out the door. If people were really fans, they would've had this stuff already."

"Bleach" sold out at the Mercer Street Tower and the Tower in Seattle's U-District April 8.

A few hours after the King County Medical Examiner confirmed Cobain's suicide April 8, the only Nirvana titles left at Park Ave Records on Queen Ann Street were two "Heart Shaped Box" import CD singles.

"Lots of people have been coming in, asking about what happened," says Tanya Bafton, a salesperson at the store. "But no one is surprised, just sad."

The Warehouse Entertainment store on 45th Street in Seattle sold 20 Nirvana CDs by the end of the day April 8, according to a salesperson there.

At Tower Books on Mercer, employees and customers were outraged when a representative from the Seattle Times posted a display next to the newspapers which read, "Nirvana Singer Dead, Kurt Cobain's Suicide" in large black

Independent... the park-oriented... run on Nirvana... of April 9-10.

"It's all kids," owner of Benway... says of the buyers... collectibles are... records... It's like 'Hey, maybe this... around. It's almost... end kind of thing... cious."

Gay Cronley, manager of Thunderpussy Book... Ohio, says, "They... thing, T-shirts and... Everybody's trying... sure they get even... they think it's go... something."

At Tower Records... store in Hollywood... on Howard reports... album remains in... has sold out of all... recordings.

One-stop also re... traffic began Friday... burg, GM of Abbey... is L.A.: "It's a sad... that's the way it... here is big, and, with... in Santa Ana [Calif... lanta, and Milwaukee... very large [as well]."

FORTHCOMING

With the breakthrough... "vermind" and single... Teen Spirit," Nirvana... mainstream door for... other acts, including... Soundgarden, and... of which topped the... Nirvana's wake.

Although there is... tion about what poten... leaves might be in... clear that one music... will never reach fruit... ment, Michael Stipe... that he and Cobain... project in the works b... recorded."

The most likely ca... lease in the band's... mance on "MTV's... which ran repeatedly... weekend. Included in