

In tribute to Kurt Cobain, *Radio One* is to broadcast the three sessions Nirvana recorded for the station in 1989, 1990 and 1991 on its Evening Session from Monday to Thursday this week. John Peel will repeat another exclusive session recorded by the Seattle band in November 1991. MTV replaced a planned Elton John *Urplugged* with a Nirvana session last weekend and turned over the first hour of its *Alternative Nation* show last Tuesday night to back-to-back Nirvana videos. *NME* and *Melody Maker* remade last week's issues at the 11th hour with covers commemorating the late singer, while *Select* and *Voxer* all planning tributes for their next issues.



MCA puts hold on Nirvana releases

MCA has scrapped its Nirvana release schedule following the death of frontman Kurt Cobain.

MCA commercial director John Pearson says the label has been devastated by news of the 27-year-old's death in Seattle last Friday. The release of the Nirvana single *Penny Royal Tea* on May 3 has been scrapped and all further releases postponed indefinitely.

Sales rocketed on the Saturday immediately after Cobain's death, but MCA has made no attempt to cash in on the tragedy, Pearson insists.

All 8,000 Nirvana units held at the company's distributor BMG run out by Monday.

"No stock was available all last week and we will increase manufacture, but only to meet the demand that already exists," adds Pearson.

"We do not plan any special campaigns or promotions, such an idea would be disgusting and distasteful."

An MCA spokesman says the label is

distancing itself from a sales sheet issued to retailers by Pinnacle Imports, which highlighted 12 Cobain-linked titles - including import CDs of *Lithium* and *Smells Like Teen Spirit* for £4.35, a limited pink vinyl LP of *Bleach* for £6.65 and a *Come As You Are* picture disc for £1.99 - beneath a picture of Cobain, his wife Courtney Love, their daughter, and the legend "Kurt Cobain - RIP".

Pinnacle Imports managing director David Peck denies his company is acting in bad taste, but is simply attempting to meet demand.

"There is always a judgement to be made about when you should release product (following an artist's death). The feeling from the people we spoke to was the titles should be made available and should be heard," he says.

Multiple retailers all reported a surge in interest for Nirvana imports and for the band's four albums *Bleach*, *Utero*, *Incesticide* and the double

platinum *Nevermind*. HMV says Nirvana album sales increased threefold in its larger stores last week and both *Nevermind* and *Utero* are expected to rise to the Top 30 today (Monday). The other titles are likely to re-enter the Top 75.

Tower Records managing director Ken Stockolow says that staff played Nirvana tracks non-stop last Saturday, which had a "phenomenal" effect on sales. "Although we had the very best intentions it is virtually impossible not to be seen to be exploiting his death," he says.

City Slang Records' RTM-distributed album by Courtney Love's band Hole, *Live Through This*, was released as planned last week.

It was expected to enter the Top 20 this week. Love's planned promotional visit to the UK has been cancelled, however. Riverman-promoted tours by both Nirvana and Hole this month were cancelled a fortnight ago.

NEWSFILE

VH-1 appoints launch agency

MTV Europe's new UK music channel VH-1 has appointed ad agency Rainey Kelly Campbell Roalfo to work on its launch this autumn. The national 24-hour channel, which will target 25- to 49-year-olds, will be available on satellite and cable.

Hendrix Jr sues over rights

Jimmi Hendrix Jr, the son of the legendary guitarist, is suing his grandfather Al Hendrix over rights to the Hendrix estate. The first lawsuit seeks confirmation from a Californian district court of a successful Swedish paternity suit, which would give Jimmi Jr the rights to the assets of Hendrix's estate. The second lawsuit alleges Al Hendrix and his representatives concealed information to deprive Jimmi Jr of his rightful legacy. Al Hendrix confirms that he will fight the lawsuits. The actions follow a year after Al Hendrix lodged lawsuits against Interflit BVI, Elber BV and Bella Godiva over rights to the assets of the Hendrix estate. The cases are due to reach the courts next year.

Shocked case goes to High Court

Michelle Shocked's five-year legal battle against her former manager Martin Goldschmidt will continue with a High Court hearing in April next year. The London-based singer-songwriter launched an action against *Cooking Vinyl* boss Goldschmidt in 1989, claiming breach of management agreement, but this was struck out in 1991. Goldschmidt won a counter-claim in 1992, and was awarded damages, with Shocked ordered to pay £75,000. But Shocked successfully applied for the judgment to be set aside and has paid £103,000 into the court to resurrect her case.

Deceptive boss to manage DJs

Deceptive Records' general manager Tony Smith has launched *Misappropriate Management*, with Radio One DJ Steve Lamacq and Kiss FM's Dave Pearce as its first two clients. Smith will run the company in tandem with Deceptive, the label part-owned by Lamacq. Smith, who left RCA's marketing department in January, says the management company will represent its clients for voice-over, radio and TV work.

Fire aims sampler at Japan and US

Fire is issuing a 20-track sampler to highlight its acts and catalogue in the US and Japan. The album, which includes tracks by artists such as Thrush, Gigolo Aunts, Blue Aeroplanes and Pulp, is also being released on mail order, priced £6. Copies are available from 21A Maury Road, London N16 7BP or on 081-805 9522.

Taylor's moves to BMG

Taylor's has moved its label distribution to BMG and changed its name to Target Sales and Marketing. The company, which retains its office in Beckenham, Kent, will continue to offer marketing and sales.

FRONTLINE OUTLINES ALL THAT'S HOT AT RETAIL - p6



Pumpin' Italo House with that 'oooDeer' chant.

Deadly Sins

We are going on down

Remixed by Bottom Dollar & Matthew Roberts

Released 18th April on 12", 7", MC, CD • Available via PolyGram, Amato, Sub Level, Empire & Mo's