

Cobain victim of success

Teens, adults can take in read about musician, grunge and all

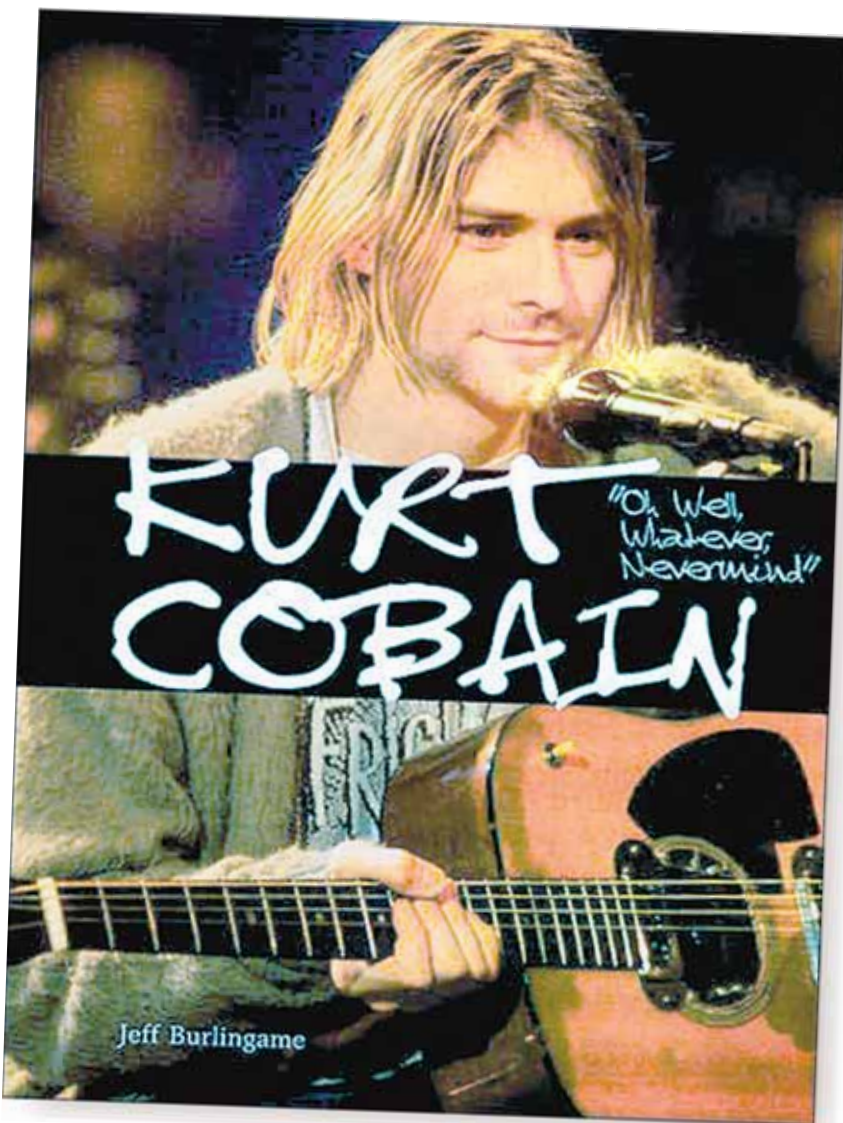
By DOUG ESSER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Growing up in Aberdeen, Wash., Jeff Burlingame was briefly a teenage friend of Kurt Cobain.

While Cobain flashed across the grunge music sky with the band Nirvana and burned out in his 1994 suicide in Seattle, Burlingame went to college and became the arts and entertainment editor at The Daily World newspaper in Aberdeen.

Burlingame's biography, "Kurt Cobain: Oh Well, Whatever, Nevermind," offers insights about growing up in the timber town on the Washington coast and how Cobain became a musician and a celebrity.

Burlingame says he has some never-before-told stories, rare photos and two drawings made by Cobain when he was 12 or 13.



"Kurt Cobain: Oh Well, Whatever, Nevermind" by Jeff Burlingame (Enslow Publishers, 160 Pages, \$27.93)

The goal is to introduce Cobain to readers who weren't even born when he was around, telling how passionate art was created by a skinny, introverted kid from a small town in the middle of nowhere who went on to change the course of music history.

"Kurt Cobain" also is a brief history of the grunge music scene in Seattle in the 1980s and early 1990s when Nirvana rose to fame along with Pearl Jam, Soundgarden and other bands.

The book is written for readers 12 and older, a benefit for anyone who appreciates a simple, straightforward style. With a glossary, index, end notes and suggestions for further reading, it would be ideal for middle and high school libraries.

But how do you tell young people about an artist who also was a heroin addict and suicide victim? Burlingame doesn't ignore the negatives, but he is sensitive to his readers.

A reference to marijuana is followed by a statement that it's an illegal drug, and heroin is a drug that kills many of its users. Cobain is quoted saying he lied about his heroin use because he didn't want his fans to follow his example.

Upon Cobain's death, his mother told an Aberdeen newspaper reporter,

"I told him not to join that stupid club," a reference, Burlingame writes, to Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix and Jim Morrison: drug-using popular musicians who died young.

Cobain's death at 27, when his band was at the height of its popularity, drew more attention to his music. It remains popular and influential.

Burlingame writes that grunge music combined the fast tempos of rock with the loud distorted guitars of heavy metal.

"Yet, underneath all the noise and sometimes hard-to-understand words, the songs themselves were melodic, memorable, and energetic," Burlingame writes. "Cobain's songs were a lot more poetic and catchy" than the music from most Seattle bands at the time.

The album *Nevermind* sold more than 14 million copies.

"When a band writes a song with quiet verses followed by powerfully

loud choruses, there is a good chance they have been influenced by Nirvana," Burlingame writes.

Cobain was Rolling Stone magazine's artist of the decade for the 1990s.

Forbes.com listed Cobain as the top-earning dead celebrity for 2006 at an estimated \$50 million after his widow, Courtney Love, sold 25 percent of Nirvana's song catalog.

Cobain wanted young people to hear his music, but he couldn't live with pressures that came with success.

He may be an icon, but he was also a Generation X kid who drew cartoons for his grandparents, suffered through his parent's divorce, was given Ritalin and worked briefly as a janitor at Aberdeen High School, where he had been a dropout.

He also was caught by police as he was spray-painting "Ain't got no watchamacallit" on the side of a bank.

Celebrity chef pens recipe of his life

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On his TV shows, chef Gordon Ramsay comes across as arrogant, bullying, impatient and foul-mouthed.

But his new autobiography, "Roasting in Hell's Kitchen," offers a clue that there's a human being inside after all.

A human being who learned to hate his father for beating his wife and children, yet yearned to impress him, and shed tears at the old man's funeral.

A young man with dreams of sports stardom whose professional soccer career was cut down by a knee injury.

A man driven to perfection, striving to succeed in the tough world of professional cooking despite his father's derisive assertion that cooking is for poofs.

One thing that Gordon Ramsay is not is a poof.

He has a beautiful wife and children, big house, flashy car, several successful restaurants, a collection of Michelin stars and TV shows; he plays soccer for charity events and runs marathons, and he still worries it isn't enough.

He remains driven by the memory of his father, a frustrated small-time singer who couldn't hold a job.

"There was no way I wanted to be a pathetic dreamer like him for the rest of my life. I wanted to be the best at whatever I did, not

the kind of guy that people secretly laugh at behind his back."

Ramsay's TV persona is loud and bullying, something that surprised even him when he first allowed British television to film in one of his kitchens. Invited to a preview, he reports: "Seeing myself on the screen for the first time I thought ... is that really me?"

But it was great for business. Soon the phones were smoking. Half the callers complained about his language and behavior and the other half said they wanted to eat at the restaurant of anyone so passionate about food.

Being dictatorial in a kitchen is, of course, a cheffy tradition. And while Ramsay may appear extreme to outsiders, he seems to inspire loyalty in his staff.

Indeed, at one point when a friend was fired, Ramsay announced he was quitting also.

"On the spot, forty-six members of the staff walked out, and in doing so effectively closed down two of London's best restaurants," he reports.

"I have always had a loyal staff," he wrote, despite "ludicrous allegations that I am a bully."

So who is that inside Gordon Ramsay?

The book is a tale of a complex man driven to produce the best food possible, but who cherishes his mom, wife and children, is loyal to friends and inspires loyalty, and takes pride in recognition.

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Author Grimes' novel 'Dust' nothing to sneeze at

By MARY CAMPBELL
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Martha Grimes is a fine writer whose new novel, "Dust," continues the series her fans seem to like most, the whodunits featuring Richard Jury of Scotland Yard.

Jury's friend Melrose Plant is in it, too, though not the rest of his pals, most of whom can be annoying.

Jury says of Plant, "He's not some crazy who's running around London thinking he's Sherlock Holmes."

Then Grimes chimes in: "Actually, he was, but Jury saw no

reason to share that with DI Aguilar."

Detective Inspector Lu Aguilar is Jury's latest romantic interest, and the book starts as though it's about their sex life.

The two are like a magnet and metal, flying together from the moment they meet.

Despite that, "Dust" is a murder mystery.

Billy Maples, 30-ish and a wealthy heir, has been shot dead in a swanky hotel room. A waiter finds him, with a partly eaten dinner, when he delivers coffee for two later in the evening.

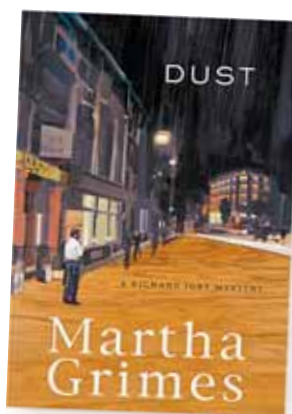
Jury interviews people who

knew Maples but seems to be getting nowhere.

Suddenly, he develops a remarkable theory involving long-delayed revenge and Kindertransport, in which German children were sent to safety in England shortly before World War II.

Jury explains who did the murder and how. His wonderfully drawn sergeant, Wiggins, isn't sure of the "who" in the motive, and some readers might have the same problem.

And something happens at the very end that seems to promise that this book will have a sequel, and it can't come too soon.




"Dust" by Martha Grimes (Viking, 342 pages, \$25.95)

Take some time to "Walk and Talk" with Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews

Want to casually talk to the Mayor? Then here is your chance!

The Mayor will be walking on the track Wednesday Mornings from 7:00 - 8:00 a.m. and on Thursday evenings from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. beginning January 10th. Take some time to visit with her, discuss community issues and share your ideas! Have some fun and get to know Franklin's Mayor - first hand!



PUBLISHERS WEEKLY BEST SELLERS

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. "Plum Lovin'" by Janet Evanovich (St. Martin's)
2. "For One More Day" by Mitch Albom (Hyperion)
3. "Cross" by James Patterson (Little, Brown)
4. "The Hunters" by W.E.B. Griffin (Putnam)
5. "Next" by Michael Crichton (HarperCollins)
6. "Shadow Dance" by Julie Garwood (Ballantine Books)
7. "Exile" by Richard North Patterson (Holt)
8. "Dear John" by Nicholas

- Sparks (Warner)
9. "Hannibal Rising" by Thomas Harris (Delacorte)
 10. "Stalemate" by Iris Johansen (Bantam)

NONFICTION/GENERAL

1. "You: On A Diet: The Owner's Manual for Waist Management" by Michael F. Roizen, Mehmet C. Oz (Free Press)
2. "The Audacity of Hope" by Barack Obama (Crown)
3. "The Best Life Diet" by Bob Greene (Simon & Schuster)
4. "The Proper Care and Feeding

- of Marriage" by Dr. Laura Schlessinger (HarperCollins)
5. "Jim Cramer's Mad Money: Watch TV, Get Rich" by James J. Cramer (Simon & Schuster)
 6. "The Innocent Man: Murder and Injustice in a Small Town" by John Grisham (Doubleday)
 7. "Marley & Me" by John Grogan (Morrow)
 8. "The Secret" by Rhonda Byrne (Atria/Beyond Words)
 9. "Cesar's Way" by Cesar Millan, Melissa Jo Peltier (Harmony)
 10. "About Alice" by Calvin Trillin (Random House)




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