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Bakalářská práce

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# Grunge: Seattle and Society Michal Nováček

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# Grunge: Seattle and Society Michal Nováček

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Prohlašuji, že jsem práci zpracoval(a) samostatně a použil(a) jen uvedených pramenů a literatury.

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### **1 INTRODUCTION**

Much has been said about the problems of society of nowadays, e.g. the increase of terrorism, the rise of infidelity among married couples, the expansion of individualism, the higher divorce rate, or the increase of individualism. The society is an association of individuals where the phenomenon of individualism<sup>1</sup> is increasing because of the large impact of social networks, which divides people in the real world from each other and creates them their virtual reality. Despite this fact all people have at least one common thing – a world where they live in. There are many influences on the society, e.g. art, mass media or politics. Music as a mental and spiritual force quietly speaks to every person through its universal emotional language. After a long consideration, author has chosen his own topic because of his personal interests in music and his personal visit to Seattle.

This bachelor's thesis deals with the music style Grunge, its roots, description, listeners, as well as with the city Seattle, which is considered as a birthplace of Grunge. Author carried out his own research in Seattle, where he travelled on holiday and made new acquaintances, conducted interviews, collected photographs, and visited a great quantity of interesting places.

Bachelor thesis is divided into two main sections – theoretical section and practical section. In the following theoretical section, a descriptive study of Grunge is provided (e.g. characterization of Grunge, summarization of Grunge bands or description of typical listeners of Grunge). Author has chosen to classify the theoretical section into three subchapters – Generation X, Grunge, and Nirvana. A special chapter has been set aside for Nirvana alone, as the band is considered to be the biggest promoter of Grunge. The second, practical, section will include author's own empirical research of Grunge presently in Seattle and the impacts, legacies and reflections of Grunge on today's society will be summarized.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The belief that the needs of each person are more important than the needs of the whole society or group [1].

# **Theoretical section**

# 2 SOCIAL ANALYSIS OF LISTENERS OF GRUNGE

"Whatever responsibility poor adults may bear for their lot in life – they may not have worked hard enough, saved enough, or made good decisions – children's circumstances are thrust upon them without any sort of choice" (Stiglitz, 2014).

People all over the world have to live together with their own belives, lives, feeings, and opinions on the global issues. The limits between them are being strongly changed (e. g. by the politics, economics and unexpected events over the world) and it is important to imagine and understand them. Incidentally, sociologists tells us that a confilict of cultures, social classes and generations is seen in the present world [2].

It is important to say that every individual is influenced by positive and negative phenomena from society he lives in. The society in the USA is based on freedom, equality, individualism, populism and laissez faire<sup>2</sup> [3]. Some authors claim that the lower number of social movements and labor unions in comparison to any other industrial country makes individualistic society function. This is from a complex and broad view of the society of the USA as a consequence of a weak social system and the welfare state there [4].

In the first chapter of this thesis, the two consecutive generations in the USA of the twentieth century will be introduced – the Baby Boomers Generation and Generation X and their position in the Grunge movement will be explained as well. It could not be said that all people living on our planet belong to the same social class; however, one can say that they belong to a certain generation<sup>3</sup> with their representative political, social and cultural

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> A theory believing that government should intervene as little as possible in the direction of economic affairs [5].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Refers to a group that "came along at the same time," experiencing history from the perspective of the same phase of life – [6].

attitudes [7]. In the following chapter, author will not attempt to compare one generation to the other, but will simply describe each one separately.

The broad field of the study of sociology showed us that people are classified to groups and divided into generations on the basis of their date of birth. Generations are being distinguished by diverse characteristics e.g. the music they listen to as well as the age, the existential possibilities, and the employment.

On the basis of Karl Mannheim, generations are not formed only by birth date proximity; nevertheless, they are characterized by the intersection of three types of location.

"Mannheim explains that a generation is much more than just a group of people born around the same time, he distinguishes between generation location (individuals born in the same historical period and cultural region), generation as actuality (individuals experiencing the same concrete historical problems), and generation unit (groups within the same generation perceiving their shared experiences in different specific ways)." (Faculty of Social Studies Masaryk University, 2007)

It is proved that quintessential listeners of the music style Grunge were Generation X representatives. According to the Mannheim's distinguish of generations in space, Seattle area could constitute the generation around Grunge (this topic will be more described in the practical section of the thesis). Should it be required to describe Generation X, author has to describe preceding Generation, the Baby Boomer. Below, author will briefly characterize Generation X (e.g. their common problems or the basic understanding of Generation X term itself).

#### 2.1 The Baby Boomers Generation

The Baby Boomers Generation is the generation that was born roughly between 1946 and 1964. The largest baby boom was in the USA, Canada and Australia. Because the economic growth in the USA after the Great Depression and World War II, the Baby Boomers were optimistic and had great opportunities in their lives. By reason of WWI there were many refugees in the USA, mainly the increasing Jewish population in the USA. The Baby Boomers were influenced by, e.g. Vietnam War, assassination of President John Kennedy and assassination the leader of the African-American Civil right Movement, Martin Luther King. These events caused protests against violence and war, as the consequence the hippie movement came from. This generation was hard working and successful in completing their personal goals and compared to the previous generations they were more educated. The Movements for Civil and Women's Rights were established in this era. It is widely known that they lived in fear because of the Cold War and Russian nuclear attack and it is true that their children were members of Generation X [8], [9].

#### 2.2 Generation X

Generation X is a generation that was born roughly between 1961 and 1981. The birth rate for this generation was much lower than by preceding the Baby Boomers. The USA was thriving and people knew that they did not have the same chances for life as their parents. They were called additionally as the Post-Boomers, the Twenty-Something's, the Lost Generation and the Baby Busters; being influenced by, e.g. USA thriving, decades of Cold War – the quiet threat of nuclear attack or the discovery of AIDS. Many of their parents were divorcing, causing Generation X discontent with the society, which led to a rebellion, which was seen on the upswing of Grunge in general. Their rebellion against society could be seen in listening to Grunge, non-conform dressing and alternative thinking. Thanks to the Cold War, the Hippie movement was created, which was known for their widespread use of drugs. Once Novoselic (2004) wrote *"in the mid-1960s, smoking marijuana was a political statement, the counterculture's answer to the mainstream "martini crowd". But to many stoners, marijuana was more about escapism than real liberation".* The children of Generation X are often called as members of Generation Y [10], [11].

#### 2.3 In general about the lost generation

The name was firstly used by Billy Idol who named his punk rock band in London in 1976 as Generation X. The name was popularized by Douglas Coupland in his novel - Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture, which was published in 1991 [12]. After publication, the name for the whole generation was artificially used in demographic and the social sciences. A letter X in the name of the generation represents a goal and it refers to the fact that this generation is lost in their lives and do not have any goal they want to achieve [13].

Generation X was born in the era of 1961 – 1981 to the members of the Baby Boomers Generation. It is known that they were born to nuclear families<sup>4</sup>, which were divorcing in such a significant way, making Generation X negative, cynical, isolated, discontent with society, and rebellious. The sociologists discovered that the rapid divorcing rate was an anomaly [14]. It is true that the morale of the society was decreasing and it is important to say that the family came after WWII massive changes (e.g. an increase of the number of marriages) – religious institutions made the divorce not a taboo or sin, which led to a doubling of divorces in a decade from 1975 to 1985 [15]. Some studies proved that close to 50% of marriages were divorcing peaked around 1980 [16]. There were many reasons for this phenomenon of divorce, e.g.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> A social unit composed of two parents and one or more children (e.g. The Simpsons) [17].

Generation X parent's baby boom causing the increase of marriages or an improvement of the woman's status in the society (an advance of woman in all parts of society led to abandoning the unsatisfied marriages). This made Generation X much more emotionally and family invested because they did not want their children to experience the negative aspects of the era as they did. The sociologist discovered that the rate of divorces has increased the number of unmarried couples because couples are afraid of divorce. However, it is important to say that happy marriage is good for children's mental and physical health. Nowadays, about 40 - 50% of all marriages are now predicted to end in divorce in the USA [18], [19].

The divorce rate was enormous problem of the era of Generation X. All members of Nirvana experienced divorce and for Kurt Cobain as well as for the members of Generation X it was an experience that changed their entire lives even their mental and physical health.

The popular music reflected the changing of political climate and the rising economy; MTV was being accepted, Grunge music was on the peak and hip-hop allowed singers to sing about not so far mentioned phenomena (e.g. police brutality, living a criminal life and be experienced with drugs) [20].

### 2.4 The Characteristics of the lost Generation X

The members of Generation X are well known for their hatred against the consumerism and the society values. A significant number of people were unsatisfied with their lives, working in what Coupland called "low-pay, lowprestige, low-dignity, no-future McJobs<sup>5</sup>" [21]. Thanks to drugs, alcohol and music, they could run away from their daily problems. It is proved that the majority of people were lost in their lives because they did not see any future or prosperity in general [22]. A characteristic behavior of Generation X representatives is known as contempt for the older generation because of their optimism despite of increasing wealth and materialism. It is true that an inequality between rich and poor enormously increased and the wealth of rich people was excessively growing despite the middle-class was growing poorer [23]. Presently, the inequality has grown to a point when more than 50% of whole world wealth is owned by 1% of population [24]. More specific study proved that only 8 men own nowadays the same wealth as a half of the world [25]. Generation X representatives were pessimistic because they lived in fear of Cold War; the huge economic growth stopped and although almost twenty millions of new working places were created, their high salary job visions were not achieved [26]. This fact caused them to stop believing in the American dream<sup>6</sup>, which was based on fulfilling the middle-class needs and the USA society was based on [27].

It is proved that negative relations of Generation X at home and negative future visions made them enormously addicted to drugs (e.g. alcohol, marijuana or even heroin) which often led to the sort of behavior and characteristics that they were stereotyped with, i.e. being apathetic, cynical, whiny, unfocused, and unproductive.

 $<sup>\</sup>frac{5}{2}$  Defined as "a low pay, low prestige, low dignity, low benefit, no-future job in the service sector" [28].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> An American social ideal that stresses egalitarianism and especially material prosperity [29].

#### **3 GRUNGE**

"Where words fail, music speaks" (Hans Christian Andersen, 19<sup>th</sup> century).

Music comes across in waves with its own trends connected with lifestyle, behavior and clothing. As a large spiritual force music changes a considerable number of people's lives. All genres of music create subcultures in society called communities. As the '60s hippies, the '70s punk and the '80s metal movements came, in the early '90s comes one of the hugest waves in popular music ever – Grunge.

The roots of Grunge come from the North-West coast of the USA, from a cold and rainy state of Washington. Just as Chicago, Detroit, Liverpool or New Orleans are connected with particular music style, the city Seattle is linked with the musical style Grunge, which is connected with label SubPop; Grunge was a representative feature of Generation X and the early '90s [30], [31].

The term Grunge was used for the first time by Mark Arm from band Mudhoney in the early '80s and it literally means "dirt" [32]. Mark Arm told that "Grunge was an adjective; it was never meant to be a noun. If [he] was using it, it was never meant to coin a movement, it was just to describe a raw style of rock and roll. Then that term got applied to major-label bands putting out slicksounding records. It's an ill fit (Mark Yarm, 2011). The newly established genre of music was a mixture of punk, rock and metal and is known as the first full punk expression which had mass-market success in the USA [33].

Representative signs of a listener of Grunge are long haircut, alternative living, cynical humor, cafe culture, intolerances toward mass culture, and hate the system people live in. People listening to Grunge were mostly left-wing oriented, contemptuous of fashion, money, society, and never followed any trends [34], [35].

Underground and punk culture began to have the potential to be extremely popular and Nirvana was the true example of that. Year 1991 is considered as the year of an upswing of Grunge after Nirvana released their album Nevermind. Concerning Nirvana's success on the market, huge record labels began looking for Seattle bands to give them recording contracts [36]. Because of punk and underground roots of Grunge, people did not want to listen to the major labels. The interests of big labels in Grunge caused change in a point of view of Grunge listeners as well as Grunge band members on Grunge music. Regarding the interest of major labels, bands began to abominate the term "Grunge". Punk is about freedom [37] and the huge labels did not give the bands their desired freedom because mass culture minimalizes individualism, which was one of the extensive problems the punk scene was fighting against. One of the reasons of the animosity of punk bands towards huge corporations and labels was the fact that the labels made the bands their puppets and the band had to always concur with the label [38].

A large group of people say that the former singer of Nirvana, Kurt Cobain, was a major Grunge promoter. After Nirvana released their second album Nevermind, all people over the world were amazed from the energy that rose from the songs. The Nirvana phenomenon affected enormous number of people and made Nirvana an iconic band of the Grunge movement. Considering Nirvana's unexpected success, another Seattle bands broke through – Mother Love Bone, Mudhoney, Green River, and TAD and even they did not play Grunge they were known as Grunge bands because of their Seattle roots [39].

The hugest four Seattle music groups playing Grunge were Nirvana (which is described more in the following chapter), Pearl Jam, Soundgarden, and Stone Temple Pilots. Known for typical loud and dirty guitar sound, energetic songs, long hair, and ripped jeans. Their lyrics were always angst-filled, angry, frustrated, sad, and depressive. Bands wanted to indicate, e.g. high abortion rates, enormous number of people thinking individualistic, people's democratic rights to free speech, and discrimination of LGBT [40].

#### 4 NIRVANA

The trio settled on the name Nirvana which means a state of freedom from suffering and rebirth [41] and which is literally from Sanskrit translated as "a blowing out". Many other explanations of the name could be found such as "the extinction of desire, passion, illusion and the empirical self and attainment of rest, truth and unchanging being" [42]. The choice of name carries with it a certain irony, or perhaps sarcasm compared to the actual musical qualities of the band. Cobain (1987) was heard that *"[He] wanted a name that was kind of beautiful or nice and pretty instead of a mean, raunchy punk rock name like the Angry Samoans"* [43].

## 4.1 Life of the members of Nirvana

### 4.1.1 Kurt Cobain

"What emerges...is the life story of someone who never grew up, someone whose maturation was half done before he was twentyone, someone who extracted art from a perpetual adolescence that was over much too soon" (Charles R. Cross, 2001).

Kurt Donald Cobain was born on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 1967, in Aberdeen to his parents Wendy and Donald Cobain. Thanks to fact that Kurt Cobain was the first child all over of Cobain's family, he got used to be in the spotlight. He was a solicitous brother and he always had positive relationships with his younger sister, Kimberly Cobain, who was born on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 1970 [44].

Aberdeen is a small timber town in the northwest coast of the USA. The town is located in the state Washington and has population around 16,000 people<sup>7</sup> [45]. In retrospect the region went through crisis – lodging industry languished because of the foreign competition, causing the growth of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Official town pages at: <u>http://www.aberdeenwa.gov/</u>.

unemployment, alcoholism, domestic violence and suicides in the Aberdeen area [46].

Kurt Cobain's health problems began when he was a child, being diagnosed as hyperactive and prescribed the drug Ritalin. It was known that Cobain suffered from manic depression, which manifested when he was nine years old [47], [48].

However, even the Cobains belonged to Baby Boomers generation, a generation which had many options to earn money after Second World War and Great Depression, they did not earn much – Donald Cobain worked as a mechanic and his wife, Wendy Cobain, as the majority of American woman was at home as a homemaker [49].

Despite of Cobain's happy childhood, the darker sides of the time affected the Cobains too – they divorced in 1975 when Cobain was eight. Kurt Cobain officially declared that the divorce destroyed his life and it was one of the reasons he became self-destructive, neurotic and nihilistic [50]. Cobain met his band mate, Christ Novoselic, for the first time at Aberdeen High.

# 4.1.2 Christ Anthony Novoselic

As Novoselic is best known as a founding member of Nirvana; after Nirvana discontinued playing, Novoselic has devoted much of his time to activism and he became one of the rock music's most politically minded musicians. He is a founder of JAMPAC (Joints Artists and Music Promotions Political Action Committee), which was a proactive organization that advocated on behalf of Washington State's music community. JAMPAC improved relationships between Seattle club owners and low-ages hosts; causing the liberation of the public from Erotic Music Law<sup>8</sup>. In 2004 he published his first book "Of Grunge & Government: Let's Fix This Broken Democracy!" Novoselic participated in numerous community projects and he is now an active member of his local democratic party, the Wahkiakum County Democrats [51], [52].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> In 1992, a law that would allow courts to declare certain albums "erotic" by their content was founded and would make it illegal to sell those albums to those under the age of 18 [53].

#### 4.1.3 Dave Grohl

After Cobain's suicide which led to disbanding of Nirvana, Grohl found his identity in recording his own records and playing in bands, e.g. Queens of the Stone Age and Tenacious D. In 1995, he established as a guitarist the band which is considered as one of the most experienced and influencing bands of nowadays – Foo Fightes. One interesting fact is that Grohl experienced a unique historical milestone when he replaced himself on the top of the Billboard Modern Rock chart; "You know You're Right" by Nirvana was replaced by "All My Life" by Foo Fighters [54].

The trio recorded six records and their second record, Nevermind, made them celebrities. In the following chapter, author will terse describe two Nirvana's records; the first record they have ever made – Bleach and their most successful record – Nevermind.

# 4.2 Brief synopsis of Nirvana's records

## 4.2.1 Bleach

Nirvana began preparation on their first album in 1988. They were practicing for hours in a day. In a fact that Novoselic wanted to have more time for playing he quit his job. Kurt Cobain wrote most of lyrics before the night of the recording, however, it is not appreciable [55], [56]. In February 1989, after thirty hours of work Bleach was recorded and released by a record label Sub Pop (full name Subterranean Pop). It was recorded by Seattle's independent label SubPop by which more of Generation X groups collaborated, e.g. TAD, L7, Mudhoney or Soundgarden. Although Cobain's not big experience on Bleach, the album was greatly accepted by critics, making the upswing of Grunge in general [57].

#### 4.2.2 Nevermind

Their second record was finished in the middle of June 1991 and recorded by another record label than the album Bleach – Geffen records. Cobain said that *"Every time [he] look back at the best times in this band it was right before Nevermind came out"* (Sandford, 2004). Regarding his statement, history of Nirvana can be divided on the time before and the time after *Nevermind* was released. There is seen an enormous success the record Nevermind achieved. The record just changed the whole life of the band members. On this album appeared the song "Smells like teen spirit", which was the anthem of the unsatisfied Generation X and is described as a beautiful display of anarchy and destruction [58], [59].

The record Nevermind made from Nirvana the iconic band of Grunge movement [60]. A representative example of the reason that the society wanted some change was when Nirvana's album Nevermind skipped Michael Jackson's album Dangerous in January 1992, and made from Nevermind an epitome of Grunge. Michael Jackson was a representative of the old musical business where paying for chart positions was a common phenomenon. However, Nirvana located the top of Billboard chart because of their success. Even the most expensive and by massive labels supported interprets such as Michael Jackson and Madonna could not be compared after their stardom stagnation to the unheard and fresh interprets as Nirvana. Nirvana reacted on a similar problematic manner when they named their song "Pay to play" as a reaction on Seattle club scene where was a common process that the band has to pay to the club owner for their own concert [61].

The upswing of Nevermind caused that Kurt Cobain began being "a demigod" for Generation X, which exerted pressure and critical expectation on him to do things he hated (e.g. making autograph and doing interviews). He never meant to become an icon and it could be said that his stardom was caused by a combination of the right timing and a good music. Cobain was not prepared for as an extraordinary fame, which caused big expectations being put on him, because of his youth – he was closely watched and had to fulfill

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the responsibilities of celebrity he did not want to do, which led to drug abusing to ameliorate his situation, causing stigmatizing him for the rest of his life [62].

### 4.3 Grunge or Roll

Kurt Cobain was definitely a complicated person and musical genius. He is described as a negative, tormented but also charismatic "black star". Thanks to his underground roots, he did not want to be famous and successful as his lifelong rival who was on the top of the opposite side of the rock culture, Axl Rose [63].

Regardless their hostility they were once alike in a few ways, e.g. both were musical demigods with a small town origin and drug users. On one side stood Rose as a self-confident, sexist and rich man and on the other side Cobain as a loser, anti-hero, feminist, and nihilist [64].

Axl Rose was alienated because he was a reflection of the true example of a man who Nirvana was fighting against – sexist, racist and he embodied the big corporate rock personality.

Because of a glutted market, the natural choice of people is created making the market open for new objects and projects. Before Grunge made its gap between artist and audience, the fans were divided into other distinct factions, e.g. the younger ones followed the mainstream glitter glam rock bands (Marc Bolan, Gary Glitter) and the older, more self-conscious teenagers were into more esoteric glam artists (Bowie, Lou Reed) [65], [66].

Cobain did not want to divide people from each other and he is wellknown for his last words "Peace, Love, Empathy", nevertheless, Rose's common behavior caused Cobain to divide their fans. When Cobain was asked if Nirvana and Guns N' Roses could cooperate on a concert together, answered with "No, kid, you're really wrong. Those people are total sexist jerks, and the reason we're playing this show is fighting homophobia in a real small way. The guy is a fucking sexist and a racist and a homophobe, and you can't be on his side and be on our side. I'm sorry that I have to divide this up *like this, but it's something you can't ignore. And besides they can't write good music*" (Cobain, 1993) [67].

Their negative relationship was seen when Nirvana declined Guns N'Roses offer to support them on tour and Rose repaid it when he declined to be godfather of Cobain's new born child, Frances Bean Cobain [68].

#### 4.4 Kurt Cobain and his role in the Grunge movement

Kurt Cobain was involuntarily chosen as the spokesman for Generation X because Cobain's music and lyrics spoke about the troubled society of the 1990s no matter how famous Cobain was. Cobain was a common man with common troubles, which were easily heard in his natural and uncomplicated songs. His disgruntlement about life is heard in the scream within his songs which was loudly speaking to the whole generation [69].

Many parents at the time did not like Cobain because of his negative influence on their children caused by a stereotype made by the mass media. It is true that a result of the stereotype was seen when the local council rejected a proposal to rename a famous local bridge (Young Street Bridge) after Cobain in 2011. The bridge is famous for its appearance in Nirvana's song "Something in the way". The reason of the rejection was that the public did not want to leave a legacy of someone who is stigmatized for his drug taking, nihilism and suicide [70], [71]. Nevertheless, the public made Cobain's memorial (Kurt Cobain Landing) very close to the bridge with some of his quotes and pictures as a place of tribute and respect towards Cobain [72]. The establishment was squeamish about a monument named after someone who shot himself, pastor Don Eden expressed in KXRO Radio's broadcasting of "Is this the legacy we want to leave to our children?" [73] In conclusion, a common behavior of society can be seen here. We can observe how is the society full of deeply-rooted prejudice and stereotypes and how do people usually recognize and remember only the negative aspects of life. A common behavior of musician is being rebellious, which makes the social pressure falling on them, causing them to be drug addicted to overcome their depressions and fame because not every single human being is capable to handle fame. Without any anomalous behavior musicians could not reflect the common problems because the public needs a distinct person to be influenced by.

The divorce of Cobain's parents and his frequent moving from relative to relative caused his isolation, loneliness, and unbalance. Kurt Cobain was found dead on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1994 at his home at Lake Washington Boulevard East in Seattle and his death was investigated with the conclusion of suicide. Cobain went to a better place at 27 and entered to a rock hall of fame such as Jimi Hendrix, Jim Morrison, Janis Joplin, and others taken his own life while still being an active member of the rock culture [74]. This fact was a huge misfortune for the world of Grunge and for the members of Generation X; however, it is not accurate to say that Grunge died with Kurt Cobain [75]. Five albums worth of musician's reflection of the world will last forever and even Cobain does not live nowadays, he will be remembered as an icon for a particular group of people – musicians and he will persist as a sign of 1990s [76]. Not only was the world influenced by the suicide of Kurt Cobain near the peak of his career. After Cobain committed suicide, Novoselic and Grohl did not go to the seclusion; nevertheless, they are influential people of nowadays and it can be said that every Nirvana's member enhanced the world itself.

#### **Practical section**

#### **5 GRUNGE SUBCULTURE IN SEATTLE**

Seattle as a seaport and lumber city would not be extremely famous if Kurt Cobain and his associates from the northern Washington state area had not established the band Nirvana and made a major influence on the field of popular music in the 1990s in this city of roughly a half-million people.

Grunge was at the beginning a mixture of punk, metal and rock but it slightly diverse. It was not a reflection of government antagonism with a "kill rock stars" attitude as punk. Musicians were not charismatically dressed as glam rockers, hard tones were not used as in metal, and musicians were not telling everyone what do they hate (e.g. parents, system, school) as in hardcore [77].

First of all, the music style was known as an alternative rock or an indie rock, which is an abbreviation for independent rock; rock which is independent from major record labels and studios. There were four major record labels – Universal, Sony, Warner and EMI – indie rock would like to be independent from. Afterwards the mainstream acceptance, the general public began to call the new musical style "Grunge". As Novoselic (2004) wrote that *"independence is not isolation and the term alternative as a name for a genre of music was an instant anachronism; the name cancelled itself out"*.

As cultural relativism told us that all cultural beliefs are equally valid and that truth itself is relative, depending on the cultural environment, the subculture of Grunge listeners will be more described below [78].

For Grunge dress was typical flannel shirts and Doc Marten-brand footwear or sneakers. The impact of Grunge and Nirvana was massive and many people began to copy Cobain's flannel shirt fashion. Tad Doyle told about the reason of Grunge style of clothing that: *"People were wearing flannel here long before* Grunge *came out. It's cold here. It's cheap and effective clothing apparatus for living in the Northwest"* (Mark Yarm, 2011). Not only were people united through a sign of recognition – clothing; they were also united by one of the world's expression of feelings – music.

However, even if the bands will play timeless, perfect and deeply felt music, without their carefree subculture from which they were supported and driven, the upswing of Grunge would not have ever happened. Buzz Osborne and Christ Novoselic established the Seattle subculture of unsatisfied, careless, carefree, equal thinking rebels for which was typical their inner anger reflected in the scream in Grunge songs. The subculture began to have a common goal, Grunge, which was the main reason for the creation of social change. According to the Mannheim's distinguishing of generations, the Grunge subculture itself could be described as generation due to location because it is a true example of individuals born in the same historical period and cultural region.

In addition to the Mannheim's distinguishing of generations, it is important to mention Turner and Killian's (1993) identification of four types of crowds – casual crowds (people in the same place at the same time, e.g. people standing in line at the market), conventional crowds (people who come together for a scheduled event, e.g. to see a rock concert), expressive crowds (people joining together to express emotion, e.g. birthday party), and the final one, acting crowds (people who focus on specific goal or action, e.g. protest or riot). According to Turner and Killian, the Grunge movement evolved from conventional crowd to the acting crowd because entirely music connected the people at the beginning of Grunge, thereafter was the movement, alternatively subculture, with own specific goals, which was the movement diversified from. [79].

It is necessary that the subculture in which a group knows one another could be, from a certain point of view, called an enclave is important for the success of the band. Because of no impact of social networks, people were more physically and reciprocally interconnected which an advantage was causing an increase of the people in the subculture. The best chance for the people to beg connected was to go to the concert and enjoy their life together. The band members were people like the others, people that "you knew", i.e. people knew the band members from their real life, e.g. guitarist worked as a janitor at the high school or singer was a cook at people's favorite restaurant, etc.

The boom of Grunge was caused by the interconnected subculture which reflected the discontent of people; because the market was not as overwhelmed as at the present, people's attention was only pointed toward Grunge; nowadays, this massive boom is impossible because there is such enormous number of artists available on the market, making it possible for people to make wider selections but decreasing the change of the massive boom of the individual.

#### 5.1 Individualism and anti-corporate activism

People cannot listen to Nirvana on the internet, which caused selling of millions of cd's and cassettes of the band at the time. If people wanted to see Nirvana, they had to go to the concert to see them live. A phenomenon of full clubs and no free space between audience and the band led to energetic performance, which was typical for Nirvana and attracted thousand to their concerts to let down all the bars, worries and simply enjoy life.

Yet the phenomenon of individualism is more apparent because of the social networks. Grunge bands were struggling against phenomena of individualism which was developing in the 1980s' and it is widespread in the public of the present. There is a huge number of communities around the world which are reciprocally connected through social networks (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or Reddit), but people are not so actively physically interconnected, and they know each other only superficially, i.e. they know a huge number of people from the internet who they will not ever actually meet and who they blindly idealize.

Nirvana was truly a phenomenon; they came from nowhere and found themselves on the top of popular culture. It should be said that there is an antagonism which was seen on Kurt Cobain in his subsequent life. The Grunge was not only about the music style, but it was about a state of mind; Grunge band members did not want fame or success, however, the criterion of success of a band is their fame. Kurt Cobain as many of Grunge band members was struggling against major labels, but paradoxically the major labels gave them their listeners. In the case that there was no internet where people could listen to their favorite bands, the famous bands were dependent on the big recording companies to produce their records and to promote them worldwide. The revolt against big labels was typical for Grunge bands when bands did not sign contracts with big labels; they recorded and released their records independently. As Novoselic (2004) wrote that "without rebels, rabblerousers, malcontents, or whatever label we choose apply, the culture would remain static."

To advocate any certain way of anti-corporate activism has to be mentioned that the general public is in such a significant way influenced by the band. The band is controlled from behind by the labels under cover of anonymity and people are influenced by the band itself because the public opinion is subconsciously influenced by the celebrity. According to this fact, the major labels are in control over the public and its opinion, which is the phenomenon the corporatocracy<sup>14</sup>, wants. It is not positive behavior by any corporation to hide in undercover and to want to control the public through their visible foot soldier - bands, but in the today's individualistic world the fights for each individual in the general public is being made. Corporations definitely need every individual from mankind; according to some authors, the individual can be influenced by four factors - environmental factors (family, friends or neighborhood), mass media (newspapers, radio or television), interest groups (nongovernmental organizations, religious groups), and opinion leaders (political leaders or celebrities and musicians) [80]. The mass media are often considered to be the most powerful of all these tools, and is something Nirvana and other Grunge bands seemed keenly aware of.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Rule by an oligarchy of corporate elites through the manipulation of a formal democracy [81].

Some of Generation X representatives claimed that Generation X should be renamed to Generation MTV because the majority of the people from Generation X were accompanied by MTV in their youth. The true example of anti-corporate activism was when Nirvana had to lip-synching with live vocals on British music chart television program "Top of the Pops" on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 1991. They performed with changed lyrics, Kurt Cobain was singing in lower key and the rest of Nirvana played on their instruments as visible to see that they are doing lip-synch.

It could be said that one of the causation of inner anger against major labels was small city origin of the band. None of the members of Seattle bands could ever imagine that they can make from a roughly half a million city such a massive success as they did and they were not accustomed to the major labels. One of the reasons of stigmatizing big labels in Seattle was their deficiency and a want of them in the city.

Silicon Valley, on the West Coast of the United States, is best known as a place where the modern technologies are being developed and to where the successful and rich people are moving to invest capital. The costs are on the peak in the area and the want of free space is highly visible there. From author's personal research follows that Silicon Valley is moving to inexpensive Seattle. The phenomena of the price increasing in Seattle will be more described lately.

Thanks to Grunge's massive success, the musicians could share their opinions, openly reflect on delicate problems of the society and support the oppressed and disadvantaged ones, e.g. women and LGBT. In the following chapter, the selected phenomena Grunge was struggling for will be briefly described.

### 5.2 Grunge struggles

The typical characteristic of musicians is that they openly reflect delicate problems of the society in their songs. According to this issue, they are considered as rebels and they are not extremely accepted by the general public. Much of prejudice, intolerance and disgust is seen on the public when musicians speak about delicate theme, which the general public did not want to hear about, e.g. abortion, individualism, corporatocracy<del>.</del>

As Plato and Aristotle distinguished the society into classes, the modern society at the present is based on equality and freedom [82]. In today's world massive variances with equality are seen; on the one hand the USA as a land of freedom where people have the same social status and on the other hand India where is seen a natural hierarchy of humanity. The USA would not be considered as a land of freedom until the struggles for improvement of women's, African-American, minority or LGBT's rights did not happen.

One important fact to mention is that by the end of millennium, from November 26<sup>th</sup> to December 6<sup>th</sup> in 1999, a protest causing a shutdown of the World Trade Organization<sup>16</sup> (WTO) happened in Seattle. Tens of thousands of ordinary working people were taking part in the protest and riots to express concerns and send message out through corporate media about devastating consequences on working families, the environment, and life itself in Seattle [83]. It was one of the moments of anti-globalization movement against corporate greed – for a better world. This event proved that the people in the USA are struggling for an improvement of democracy, livelihoods, environment and human rights. This protest is well-known as a not handled situation by the National Guard, who made a battleground from the protests (e.g. firing rubber bullets, hurting many civilians and locking a great amount of people in jail). The Hollywood star film, like the event, named "Battle in Seattle" and a book "The battle of the story of the battle of Seattle" were made [84].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Itself described as an organization for trade opening; a forum for governments to negotiate trade agreements; a place for them to settle trade disputes; a place where member of governments try to sort out the trade problems they face each other [85].

One knows that every era has its own problems and crisis, which people are being influenced by – in the era of Grunge, the problems were, e.g. high abortion rates, enormous number of people thinking individualistic, implementation of democratic rights to free speech, LGBT's rights or the want of information about AIDS. Below, author will describe the phenomena reflected in Grunge music and as well as phenomena which implementation Grunge improved to everyday life ever since.

#### 5.2.1 AIDS crisis

The first mention of AIDS decease is from a man named Kinshasa in Democratic Republic of Congo in 1959. In the USA was the want of information about AIDS<sup>17</sup> because from the least mid-to late 1970's the AIDS virus had massively threat the USA causing the increase of public's dismay of the unknown decease by then. In 1983, scientists discovered the virus that causes AIDS – HIV. The virus epidemic in the USA was spread in the gay community at the time of Grunge [86].

Nirvana's critical opinion on the epidemic of AIDS was seen by appellation their first album, Bleach, as an indication of Nirvana's reflection of the public's dismay. In the name of the record was portrayed the crisis of the general public because the record was named when Nirvana saw anti-AIDS campaign in San Francisco where people protested on the street with signs "bleach your works" which was a propagation of the drug user's awareness to clean their needles to kill the AIDS virus. Pavitt (1989), the founder of SubPop, told about that "[They] were contemplating how bleach could become the most valuable substance on earth."

In retrospect, the magnitude of the AIDS phenomena was seen in parallel with Mudhoney's sarcastic song "Touch me I'm Sick". A paradox and contradiction is represented in the lyrics between rock'n'roll sex life and the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> An abbreviation for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

AIDS virus, which is sexually transmitted. The song was released at the same time as Nirvana's Bleach [87].

## 5.2.2 Feminism

Self-confident and assertive, this is how the majority of modern women could be described in the emancipated today's world, but before this women's renascence happened the riots and protest antecede, which were the reason of an inception of the improvement of women's rights and their status in society.

Because of old-school sexism, the second wave of movements for women's right began in the 1960's. Thanks to feministic organizations, the women's rights were being improved and women had much more freedom to set their own opinions and thoughts. Due to this reason their social position was improving, making them more self-confident. During the early 1990s, American women began again to fight [88] and Kurt Cobain and his wife Courtney Love were the representative leaders of the positive progress of the women's rights in the USA in 1992 [89].

The bands from Seattle changed the whole point of view on women in bands. It was extraordinary to have women in the band before; however, the women's position in the band had improved in the 1990s. Kurt Cobain was at the origin of the Riot Grrrl<sup>19</sup>, which is alternative underground feminist punk movement from the West Coast of the USA of the '90s; they were activists, publishers and performers, making sexism, anti-consumer and do-it-yourself revolution as well as a struggle for the right of women to make individual decisions [90], [91].

When Nirvana's third album, Incesticide, was released, Cobain was the icon of the struggle for equality well-known for his statement *"If any of you in any way hate homosexuals, people of a different color, or women, please do* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> "Girl" came from a desire to focus on childhood, a time when girls have the strongest self-esteem and belief in themselves; "grrrl" represented the anger behind the movement [93] .

this one favor for us... Don't come to our shows and don't buy our records" (Kurt Cobain, 1992) [92].

One should notice that one band from Seattle which was at inception of Grunge, and after its break-up originated Pearl Jam and Mudhoney, reflected delicate phenomena of the Northwest area of the USA; they named themselves "Green River" which caused a stir in the public because of their name. The band wanted to highlight a serial killer who was killing women only and who was given name Green River Killer because he buried killed women along the banks of Green River, a 65-mile stretch of water in Seattle. He was found guilty of killing at least 49 women in two decades before he was caught in 2001, having sex with many of his victims before their killing [94], [95].

### 5.2.3 Marijuana

Author from his personal finding discovered that the alternative-thinking, derived from Grunge era, has to be seen in Seattle and it was one of the reasons that marijuana is legalized in the state of Washington. One should object that consuming marijuana in public is with a fine up to \$50 in Seattle. However, the possession of small amounts of marijuana is legalized from 2012. Since 1998, marijuana could be medically used by patients with certain debilitating conditions due to approving "I-692". Since 2011, according to "Ordinance 123661" the manufacture, production, processing, possession, transportation, delivery, dispensing, application, or administration of marijuana must comply with all applicable City laws does not constitute an exemption from compliance with applicable state and federal regulations [96]. According to "I-502", which was approved in 2012, marijuana is under Liquor and Cannabis Board<sup>20</sup> supervision. On July 8, 2014 began sales of recreational marijuana to the public in Seattle [97]. It could be said that marijuana is to a large extent legalized. In this case is seen the progressive behavior and the alternative-thinking without any stereotypes and with much freedom in Seattle.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> An organization for promoting public safety and trust through fair administration and enforcement of liquor, tobacco and marihuana [100].

#### 5.2.4 LGBT in Seattle

In the USA people were always proud of tolerance, however, gays were for them too "different", too "queer", too "abnormal", too "deviant", too "perverted" and too "inverted" [98]. There were particularly LGBT/Q<sup>21</sup> protest movements in the 1960's and 1970's which wanted the "marriage equality" for them. This era is known as the era of Gay Liberation [99].

Since 1970's struggles for equality were creating a large-scale of social movements, which were closely tied together protesting against capitalism, imperialism, racism, and sexism [102].

The USA as a home of many distinct people from the general public will not be without any protests unless LGBT will not be supported, nondiscriminated and greatly accepted. As San Francisco, Portland, Minneapolis or New York are suitable places for LGBT [103], author discovered that Seattle is considered as one of the convenient place for LGBT as well. According a particular research, Seattle is considered as the most LGBT-friendly gay city in America with a 100 percent score on the Human Right's Campaign index [104].

From author's personal research follows that Seattle is a place where many alternative-thinking, LGBT, hearty, and good mood people live. To investigate why this phenomenon occurs, it is important to say that one of the reasons could be that Grunge massively supported LGBT people and because of Grunge's struggles against hatred, a fearlessness of people to live naturally and to accept the others appears in Seattle. Seattle's Capitol Hill, which is a part of town, is considered as a home for the culture of hipsters, students, artists, musicians as well as for many of LGBT in Seattle with restaurants, bars and clubs [105].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> An abbreviation for Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning [101].

#### 5.3 Grunge and Seattle at the present

As the weather on the planet is changing, the society changes as well. The musical style called as Grunge came from Seattle in 1990s, supported by the majority of young people (e.g. visiting concerts, wearing flannel or supporting of LGBT's and women's right) not only from the north of the USA. It can be said that representative listener of Grunge was characterized by above-mentioned criteria; in a fact that people are influencing each other, Grunge influenced a great number of people living in the era of 1990s. Author made his own empirical research in Seattle about the legacies of Grunge, Seattle itself, origin of Grunge, and as well as a research if the Grunge is still visible at the place of its origin.

In Seattle is seen how fast the world is developing. The scientists called the era of nowadays the 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution where new working places, new brands and new technologies are being developed, leading to a sophisticated technological society. As the lumber industry was in crisis in the 1990s, from author's personal research was found that new working places were created by new technological companies moving to Seattle from highly expensive Silicon Valley.

Grunge originated because of no bright prospects of people and because of rainy Seattle weather, people were hiding in rehearsal rooms and practicing for hours. Because of no goal in their lives, people felt unnecessary, which led to drug abusing. The American government supported all the people to achieve by very idealized middle-class "American dream", nevertheless, if man did not live up to expectations of his bright prospects of life or even if man did not have any bright prospects as middle-class representative, unemployment, lack of education and drug abuse could develop, leading to rebellion and social disorders. However, not only the government causes the problems of a common man, each individual is being influenced by his family and the era as well.

Author discovered that it is different at the present – the age needs the people and the big corporations want to give people a feeling that they are

needed for an exchange for people's time and their hard work. A research from 2015 showed us that the USA is on the 16<sup>th</sup> place in the world in terms of the average of annual hours actually worked per worker with number 1790 [106]. This fact shows us the negative aspects of the time at the present – people do not have any time for their own business and they are contingent on the corporations.

Rebels have never been popular with the general public; however, in the fast-moving and refined times they become unfashionable. Increase the price of accommodation, food and clothing caused the need for sharing, which is widespread by the youth at the present (e.g. accommodation sharing or car sharing). The author's personal findings showed that the situation in postindustrial society of nowadays caused decreasing of the number of rebels because of a hard work in return for an average life. As written in theoretical section, the number of people from middle class in the USA is decreasing, which led to a widening of a gap between the rich and poor people and maybe a vision of future rebellion. If anyone wants to be a rebel, he has to move under the best of conditions to Seattle periphery because of the high price of accommodation in Seattle.

Author discovered that the era requires people who do not ask, struggle or have own opinions, which is common description of rebels. The big corporations take all of people's time and people do not have any chance and time to protest. However, if there will be any significant problem, people will not stay discontent without any display of disagreement with the situation; the voice of the majority is very important, strong and needed in the modern age. The voice of the public was seen on one of the significant problems in the USA nowadays on the newly elected president Donald Trump. His behavior full of controversy as well as his election was accompanied by protests. It is important to say that both candidates used different factor to promote themselves – on one hand, Hillary Clinton, was supported by the majority of opinion leaders, celebrities (e.g. Madonna, Beyonce or Meryl Streep) [107]. However, Donald Trump used the mass media to achieve his votes through really strong populism<sup>22</sup>. One should say that the contemporary status in the USA could be reflected in the lyrics of the musicians in the future and because of people's discontent with their newly elected president, the rebels could anew come back to life. As Novoselic (2004) wrote *"while many in [the US] nation disparage those who diverge from the status quo, it's people who made their own way that created the United States."* 

Seattle as Grunge birthplace is well-known for its landmarks, e.g. Space Needle, Capitol Hill, Pike Place Market and Lake Union. As a place of tribute and respect towards Grunge and rock'n'roll, the MoPOP (fully named as Museum of Pop Culture) was created in Seattle where author personally collected many interesting photographs (see appendix), improved his knowledge about Grunge and grunge bands and met new acquaintances. MoPOP museum is dedicated to the history of popular music with precious expositions, explanatory information, and an exhibition of personal things of representative persons from the Grunge and rock'n'roll movements, e.g. Kurt Cobain or Jimmy Hendrix. A whole exposition is set aside to Jimmy Hendrix because Seattle was his birth city and naturally, an enormous exposition is dedicated to Nirvana and Kurt Cobain where e.g. clothing, smashed guitars and Cobain's letters can be found. A huge pillar constructed from guitars appears at the beginning of the first exposition.

One should take a tour made by Ms. Charity Drewery through Seattle called "Stalking Seattle" with stops by remarkable and important places of the era of Grunge, e.g. the house of Kurt Cobain, Paramount Theatre, rehearsal room of Pearl Jam/Soundgarden, a house from the movie "Singles" or the clubs where Nirvana and other Grunge bands played – Crocodile Café, Hard Rock Café or Central Saloon. Ms. Drewery knows a great quantity of interesting facts about the era of Grunge and Generation X and she is a very experienced guide. The tour helped the author to see places he will never find on his own.

<sup>22</sup> A believer in the rights, wisdom, or virtues of the common people [108].

It can be said that Grunge is a legacy itself – the musical style left us a part of history, developed a way thinking of the public and connected people on the world. Because of its massive und unexpected boom two decades ago, there are not millions of people listening to the old-fashioned music style as before. However, there is still a group of people listening to Grunge at the present. Nowadays, a representative listener to Grunge can be a person who lived in the era of Grunge and did not ever change his favorite music style, or alternatively it can be the minority of people who do not like the modern music and who do like listening to the music of 1990s.

Such as scars are visible for the rest of the life, a misfortune of Kurt Cobain's early passing will last forever. Thanks to many good-mood and alternative-thinking people who are looking for a better world, everyone will find a haven in Seattle.

### 6 CONCLUSION

The music as a "universal language" helps people to be closely connected, to share their feelings and to improve their mood in the harder times. The majority of people in the 1990s perceived a significant shift in music and popular culture and began listening to Grunge, coming particularly from Seattle. Seattle is one of the most genuine cities in the USA for all the people where the legacy of Grunge is still being felt.

The objective of this thesis was to analyze what legacy did Grunge left to the modern society and if Grunge is still visible at the place of its origin. Author includes a review from his personal research in Seattle, a descriptive study of Grunge itself and explains the phenomenon of Generation X. From author's research follows that even Grunge is not popular as in the 1990s. The music style was an important object of the era and a reflection of discontent of the youth at the time. Author discovered that the two Nirvana members are still active in the public life and they are trying with their best intentions to improve the world. A several places have been built up to pay for Grunge's respect. There are people in the Seattle who can introduce to you the era of Grunge. Author describes phenomena in theoretical section referring to below mentioned sources and makes his own research and reflection in the practical section. The most problematic part was to complete a background for the data derived from author's personal research, however, he used some of his previous discoveries.

To mention some of the greatest rock music artist of all time: Pearl Jam, Alice in Chains, Soundgarden, and Nirvana. It is known that the most highlighted and by public chosen representative of Grunge movement was Kurt Cobain from Nirvana, whom was dedicated a whole chapter and who has been chosen as a spokesman of the youth. His early decease accompanied with stereotypes made by mass media reflected his inner psychological problems and it was a massive misfortune for the whole world.

The typical listeners to Grunge were Generation X representatives, described in the first chapter of the practical section. Grunge, coming from the

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Seattle music scene, is introduced in the second chapter and the third chapter digs deeper to Nirvana and Kurt Cobain and there is introduced Cobain's role in the Grunge movement. In the practical section are reflected author's thoughts of the phenomena of Grunge from broad range of views as well as an introduction of author's finding from Seattle. Author tries to reflect the reasons of the upswing of Grunge and reproduce in the practical section.

The extent of this bachelor's thesis is not complete. There is a big amount of views the phenomenon of Generation X can be described, e.g. economic or political angle where author see a space for an extension.

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### 9 ABSTRACT

The bachelor's thesis is mainly focused on city Seattle and one of Seattle's representative legacies – music style grunge. The purpose of this thesis was to demonstrate how the enormous success of the music style Grunge affected the city Seattle and if the legacies of grunge are still visible at the place of its origin.

Bachelor's thesis is divided into two sections. In the theoretical section, author describes the musical style grunge, orients his attention on one of the most important music group from the grunge movement and studies the representative listeners to the grunge from sociological point of view. In the practical section, author is finding the legacies of grunge at the place of its origin, reflecting the reasons of the enormous success of grunge and reproducing his findings from his personal visit to Seattle.

## 10 RESUMÉ

Tato bakalářská práce se zaměřuje na město Seattle a s ním spojeným hudebním stylem grunge. Cílem této práce bylo demonstrovat, jak masivní úspěch hudebního stylu grunge přímo ovlivnil město Seattle jako takové a zda jsou výdobytky grunge k vidění v místě jako vzniku.

Bakalářská práce je rozdělena do dvou částí. V teoretické části se autor zabývá deskripcí hudebního stylu jako takového, zaměřuje se na jednu z nejvýznamnějších hudebních skupin hrajících grunge a ze sociologického pohledu se poohlíží po typických posluchačích grunge. V praktické části autor hledá výdobytky grunge v místě jeho geneze, zamýšlí se nad důvodem ohromného úspěchu grunge a reprodukuje své poznatky ze své osobní cesty do Seattlu.

## **11 APPENDICES**



Michal Nováček. 2016. One of the Seattle's dominant - Space Needle and Jimmy Hendrix statue [photographs]. (author's own private collection)



Michal Nováček. 2016. Mt. Rainier - a beautiful stratovulcano in the Seattle area [photograph]. (author's own private collection)



Michal Nováček. 2016. Genuine Seattle on the traffic light button [photograph]. (author's own private collection)



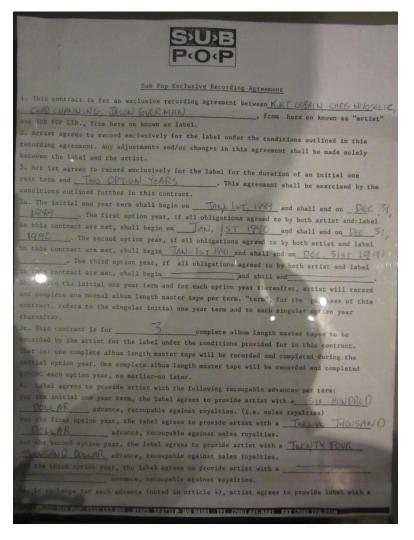
Michal Nováček. 2016. Central Saloon - one of the still working clubs Nirvana played [photograph]. (author's own private collection)



Michal Nováček. 2016. Kurt Cobain's Memorial Bench next to his house [photograph]. (author's own private collection)



Michal Nováček. 2016. Former rehearsal room of Soundgarden and Pearl Jam [photograph]. (author's own private collection)



Michal Nováček. 2016. Bleach recording contract [photograph]. (author's own private collection)



Michal Nováček. 2016. Kurt Cobain's guitar and pullover [photograph]. (author's own private collection)