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**Katedra anglického jazyka a literatury**

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**Bakalářská práce**

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*Plzeň, duben 2016*

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*I would like to thank my supervisor Bc. Václav Skyland Kobylak for his advice which helped me to complete this thesis.*

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

It is widely known that the society in the USA is based on individualism. Despite this fact all persons have at least one common thing – the world where they live in. Thanks to the music, people are not alone and the music companies them in their whole life. The Bachelor's Thesis deals with significant number of generations in the USA of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and with the unofficial leader of *the Generation X*, Kurt Cobain.

After a long consideration, the author has chosen his own topic because of his interests in Kurt Cobain and his legacy. The generations are described from historical and political point of view.

During writing of the Thesis, the author must get acquainted with the phenomena influencing and delimiting the American society inclusive the life of Kurt Cobain.

The first chapter generally describes the broad range of the generations in the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the USA. The second chapter concerns with the particular *Generation X*, in which Kurt Cobain belongs. The third chapter is dedicated to the life of Kurt Cobain. The fourth chapter deals with the coincident components of Kurt Cobain and *the Generation X*, including the analysis of the legacy of Kurt Cobain. It is worth mentioning that in the fourth chapter, there is an interview with a man who has been to *Nirvana* in 1993.

The first two chapters are theoretically oriented. In the third chapter, the author will try to practically use the phenomena of the age in Kurt Cobain's life. The fourth chapter is entirely practical where the author analyze the legacy of Kurt Cobain and identical elements of Kurt Cobain and *the Generation X*.

The objective of my Thesis is analyze, to what measure was the life of Kurt Cobain influenced by the era and what legacy left Kurt Cobain to the modern society.

## 2 SUMMARY OF GENERATIONS IN THE USA

There is a significant number of generation all over the world which must live together, having their own beliefs, lives, feelings and opinions on the world. The limits between them are being strongly changed and is important to imagine and understand them. The limits are changed by the politics, economics and unexpected events over the world. Incidentally the sociologists tell us that in the world of the the present, there is a conflict of cultures, social classes and generations seen. [1]

It is widely known that every individual is influenced by positive and negative phenomenon from society in which he lives. The society in the USA is based on freedom, equality, individualism, populism and laissez faire<sup>1</sup>. [2] Lower count of social movements and unions in comparison to any other industrial country, make the individualistic society working. This is from complex and broad view on the society of the USA as a consequence of weak socialism there. [3]

In the first chapter of this Thesis the five basic generations in the USA of the twentieth century will be introduced - the *Traditionalist Generation*, the *Baby Boomers Generation*, the *Generation X*, the *Generation Y* and the *Generation Z*. It could not be said that all people living on our planet belong to the same social classes but it is known that they belong to the same generation<sup>2</sup> having its own specific political, social and cultural attitudes. [4] In the first chapter the author will be trying not to compare the generation each other but he will try to describe them.

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<sup>1</sup> Laissez faire – theory, believing that government should intervene as little as possible in the direction of economic affairs [5]

<sup>2</sup> Generation refers to a group that “came along at the same time,” experiencing history from the perspective of the same phase of life – [6]

## 2.1 The Traditionalist Generation

*The Traditionalist Generation* as generation which was born in 1900 – 1945 to the older generation in American culture. Nowadays, they are either in retirement or deceased because of their highly age. They lives were influenced by many things e.g. the World War II, radio invention, the Great Depression and massive building boom. Sometimes they are called *The Silent Generation*, *Radio Babies*, *Builders and World War II Generation*. They went through the *Great Depression* which led the USA to big economic growth afterwards and made the USA stronger than before. They strong believe in conformity, authority and rules. Their children were members of the *Baby Boomers*. [7] [8]

## 2.2 The Baby Boomers Generation

*The Baby Boomers Generation* as generation which was born in 1946 – 1964. The biggest baby boom was in the USA, Canada and Australia. Because of the economic growth in the USA after the Great Depression and World War II were *the Baby Boomers* optimistic and had great opportunities in their lives. By reason of WWI, there were many refugees in the USA, mainly the Jewish, increasing population in the USA. They were influenced by e.g. Vietnam War, assassination of President John Kennedy and assassination the leader in the African-American Civil right Movement, Martin Luther King. These events caused protests against violence and war from which came the hippie movement. This generation was hard working and successful in completing their personal goals, compared to the previous generations they were more educated. In this era the Movements for Civil Rights and for Women's Rights were established. It is widely known that they lived in fear because of the Cold War and Russian nuclear attack. Their children were members of *the Generation X*. [9] [10]

## 2.3 The Generation X

*The Generation X* as generation which was born in 1961 – 1981. Their birth rate was much lower than by preceding *the Baby Boomers*. The USA was thriving but they knew that they did not have the same chances for live as their parents. They were called also as *the Post-Boomers*, *the Twenty-Something's*, *the Lost Generation* and *the Baby Busters*. They were influenced by e.g. USA thriving, Cold War, discovery of AIDS and threat of nuclear attack. Many of their parents were divorcing and it caused them to be discontent with society and to be rebellious. Thanks to the Cold War the Hippie movement was created and this Generation is well-known for their drug taking. Their children are the members of *the Generation Y*. [11] [12]

## 2.4 The Generation Y

*The Generation Y* as generation which was born in 1980 – 1994. In this era the technology was rapidly developed which means that this generation began to be in contact with each other by mobile phones or social networks. On other hand this made *the Generation Y* much more looking straight ahead and be more individual. They are also called as *the Echo Boomers*, *the Millennial Generation* and *the Generation Next* and *the Generation Why?* They were influenced by e.g. basing the Microsoft as the giant in technologies, the renaissance of the national railroad system called *Amtrak* and general technological and media boom. This generation started to be much more individualistic and affected by their parent divorce, they started to have bigger respect to family. They wanted to have performance-based-remuneration. Their children are the members of *the Generation Z*. [13] [14] [15]

## 2.5 The Generation Z

*The Generation Z* as the generation of nowadays, which was born in 1995 – 2010. This generation is living in the era of technology and massive world connection, doing many things together – multitasking – e.g. watch TV, listen to music, surfing on the internet and writing on Facebook with friends. They are also called *the Generation K*, after Katniss Everdeen, fictional character of the film *Hunger Games* because they think that the rules on the world are rigged. They strictly do not trust the government and think that politicians do not care about ordinary people. The sociologists claimed that because of the technologies, which connect the world, *the Generation Z* is very individualistic and lonely. It is known that they will be influenced by ecological, economic and human catastrophes, job insecurity and increasing social inequality. [16] [17] [18]

There was the enumeration of significant number of generations of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the USA above. In a fact that this Thesis deals with Kurt Cobain, who was born on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 1967, and was member of the unsatisfied *Generation X*, *Generation X* will be more described below.

## 3 THE GENERATION X

The second chapter of this Thesis will describe the unsatisfied and lost *Generation X* in the USA. Lately in the subchapters, there will be the Cold War and influences on *the Generation X* described. The author of this Thesis will also describe *the Generation X* behind the Iron Curtain in the Czech Republic, called *Husákovy děti*.

On the basis of Karl Mannheim, generations are not formed only by birth date proximity but they are formed of the intersection of three types of location: location in life-cycle, location in space, and historical setting. [19]

”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, 2015) [20]

### 3.1 In general about the lost generation

The name was firstly used by Billy Idol who named his punk rock band – Generation X. The name was popularized by Douglas Coupland in his novel - *Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture*, which was published in 1991. After the book publication, the name for the generation was artificially used in demographic and the social sciences. The letter X in the name of this generation means goal and it refers to a fact that this generation is lost in their live because they do not have any goal which they want to achieve. [21]

*The Generation X* was born in the era of 1961 – 1981 to the members of *the Baby Boomers Generation*. They were born into nuclear families<sup>3</sup> which were divorcing in such a significant way, making them negative, cynical isolated, discontent with society and rebellious. The sociologists find out that the rapid divorcing rate was an anomaly. [22] It is widely known that the family came after WWII big changes – religious institutions made the divorce not a taboo or sin, doubling the number of divorces from 1975 – 1985. [23] On the one hand, the number of marriages was after WWII increasing but on the other hand, it also caused the increase of divorce. The studies proved that close to 50% of marriages were divorcing, peaked around 1980. [24] There were many reasons for this phenomenon of divorce e.g. the baby boom of their parents, causing increasing of marriages; improving the rights of woman which lead to abandoning the unsatisfied marriages. This made *the Generation X* much more emotionally and family invested because they did not want their children to suffer as they. The sociologist discovered that the divorce has increased the number of unmarried couples. Nowadays, the USA has the biggest number of

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<sup>3</sup> Family, consisting of married parents and their two or three children (e.g. The Simpsons) [28]

divorces in industrially advanced countries – three point two percent per 1,000 people in total. [25] [26]

### 3.2 The Characteristics of the Lost Generation X

Nowadays, there is around 19 million people in the USA who belongs to *the Generation X* comparing to 72 million of *the Baby Boomers*. On this comparison is seen the big birth rate variance, reasoning the name of previously generation *the Baby Boomers*. [27]

The members of *the Generation X* are well known for their hatred against the consumerism society and the society values. A significant number of people is unsatisfied in their lives, working in low-pay, low-prestige, low-dignity, no-future McJobs<sup>4</sup>. [29] Thanks to drugs alcohol and music, they can run away from their daily problems. It is widely known that the majority of people are lost in their lives because they do not see any future or prosperity at all. The members of this lost generation are known for hating the older generation because of their optimism, caused by their increasing wealth and materialism. [30] *The Generation X* was pessimistic because they lived in fear of Cold War; the big economic growth stopped and although almost twenty millions of new working places were created, their high salary job visions were not fulfilled. [31] In this fact they stopped to believe in the American dream which was based on fulfilling the middle-class dreams. [32]

The basic characteristic of *the Generation X* majority is being apathetic, cynical, whiny, unfocused and unproductive. It is known that their bad relations at their home and bad future visions made them enormous addicted to drugs e.g. alcohol, marihuana or heroin. There was huge increase of heroin users from 68,000 in 1993 to 325,000 in 1997. [33]

There were many issues, influencing the lost generation which will be described lately. However, the author of this Thesis will from historical point of

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<sup>4</sup> Defined as „a low pay, low prestige, low dignity, low benefit, no-future job in the service sector.“ [34]

view describe the USA and the USSR struggles, including the look over the Iron Curtain, in the Czechoslovakia, in the 1970's.

### **3.3 AIDS crisis**

Firstly, the virus was detected in 1959 from a man Kinshasa in Democratic Republic of Congo. From the least mid-to late 1970's the AIDS<sup>5</sup> virus had threaten the USA, making the people afraid. In 1983, scientists had discovered the virus that causes AIDS – HIV. The virus was spread in the gay community, making the AIDS epidemic in the USA. Despite of AIDS epidemics, the gays started protesting in the street, clarifying information about the AIDS to the society. [35]

### **3.4 Fights for the rights**

In the 1970's, there were struggles for equality, creating a large-scale of social movements which were closely tied together. They protested against capitalism, imperialism, racism and sexism. [36] Three basic social movements will be described below.

#### **3.4.1 The black equality**

The population in the USA was separated into two nations – the black and the whites. The blacks were experienced with injustice and racism. They could not vote and they were considered as “the black trash” of the society. In this fact the civil rights movements for the blacks were established, led by the Martin Luther King who was assassinated in 1968. Thanks to Martin Luther King the USA started to be the land of freedom and justice, causing the blacks to be better educated and employed. Thanks to the struggles for the rights of blacks, have in the USA black president nowadays. [37]

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<sup>5</sup> AIDS – Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome



### 3.4.2 The feminism

Because of the old-school sexism, the second wave of movements for woman's right began in the 1960's. Thanks to feministic organizations the woman rights made better, woman had much more freedom to set their own opinions and thoughts. Due to this reason their social positions were improved, making them more self-confident. Kurt Cobain and Courtney Love were the new faces of feminism in 1992. [38] Nowadays, the sociologists discover that two-thirds of divorces in the USA are initiated by women. [39]

### 3.4.3 The gay and lesbians movements

In the USA, there were always people proud of tolerance but gays were for them too "different", too "queer", too "abnormal", too "deviant", too "perverted" and too "inverted". [40] There were particularly LGBT/Q<sup>6</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. [41]

## 3.5 The military superpower USA and Cold War

"To catch up with and overtake America". (*Old USSR slogan*) [42]

The USA is the modern superpower over the world, involving in the world conflicts. They won the WWII against Nazism which was the reason for the enormous economic growth in the USA afterwards. There was only one war in the era of *the Generation X*, where the USA was waged against communism, the war against Vietnam from 1955 - 1975. [43] Because of the *Vietnam War*, the new movement in the USA among young people was developed, called themselves *Hippie*. They were called as "Flower Children" and they were widely known for their motto – "Make love, not war". [44] Hippie is

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<sup>6</sup> LGBT/Q as initialism, meaning Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer or Questioning [46]

identified by unusual clothes, long hair and sexual freedom. On the grounds of the Vietnam War, the society lost confidence in the state institutions. [45]

After the WWII the USA and the USSR became the world superpowers. They started to be competitive because of the USSR concupiscence after power. On the one side stayed the USA which wanted freedom for the freed countries, by way of the Marshall Plan, but on the other side stayed the USSR, wanted control over the lands. For no reason at all the USSR occupied the Eastern Europe, by means of the Iron Curtain, which was the beginning of the struggle - capitalism versus communism; Ronald Regan versus Michail Sergejevič Gorbačov. Both countries had sundry perspectives on the word and its working. After the WWII they started to arm and to have conflicts with each other which affected the society all over the world. Their struggles were seen in militarism, space races and economics. [47]

Because of Pilsen liberation from Nacizm by the USA, there was built “Thank you, America” Memorial. Nowadays, owing to bad state, it was sawn-off by diamond saw. It will be replaced by a new one in several months. [48]

On the grounds of the Iron Curtain, the Eastern Europe was isolated from the whole world. People over the Iron Curtain were highly manipulated by the USSR which caused worsening the USA and the USSR relationships. The author will try in the final subchapter describe the generation in the Czechoslovakia, over the Iron Curtain, at the time of 1970's, called *Husákovy děti*.

### **3.5.1 “The Generation X” over the Iron Curtain**

The name of the generation in 1970's in the Czechoslovakia, behind the Iron Curtain, was *Husákovy děti*. The name was created because of Gustav Husák, the appointed president of the Czechoslovakia in the 1975. A decade after the Czechoslovakia was liberated from Nacizm, other big occupation started. The USSR began to occupy the Czechoslovakia, calling it the Normalization. [49]

It led to a significant number of censorship which was widely seen when the Chernobyl catastrophe happened. About the catastrophe, the mass media made only short news in the bottom of the page where was written that “The USSR minister council announced that there was accident in the nuclear power station Chernobyl yesterday. It is the first type of this accident in the USSR. This accident happened in the other countries more than once.”<sup>7</sup> This article was written in the newspaper *Svobodné slovo* attended with footnote that in the USA there was only 2300 accidents, breakdowns and failures in 1979. [50]

The significant number of people in the Czechoslovakia had similar characteristics as the members of *the Generation X* which will be described lately. The biggest difference between *the Generation X* and the generation *Husákovy děti* is that people from *the Generation X* lived in the age of capitalism and people from *Husákovy děti* lived in the age of communism. Despite the USSR annexation of the Czechoslovakia, people must live normal life. Due to this situation they started to have double life. [52] It is widely known that the only thing that the power could not take from the people was the sense of humor, which they utilized. The majority of people started to be cynical, unsatisfied and hate the most of things connected to communism which led to the Velvet Revolution lately. It is known that the government created strong socialism and people lived in high-powered communism propaganda. [53]

After the Velvet Revolution, when the Iron Curtain collapsed, the USA turned into the absolute leading power over the world.

In this chapter *the Generation X* was introduced which was the generation to which Kurt Cobain belongs. As cultural relativism told us that an individual person’s beliefs and activities should be understood by other in terms of that individual’s own culture, in the next chapter of this Thesis the author will introduce Kurt Cobain’s life, which life was influenced by his inner family problems and the culture of that era. [54]

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<sup>7</sup> Volný překlad autora – more about it in ENDNOTES [51]

## 4 KURT COBAIN AS THE SPOKESMAN OF UNSATISFIED GENERATION

“What emerges...is the life story of someone who never grew up, someone whose maturation was half done before he was twenty-one, someone who extracted art from a perpetual adolescence that was over much too soon.” [55]

### 4.1 The birth of a star

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 Cobain was the first children all over of his family, he got used to that he was in the spotlight. He was solicitous brother and he always had good relationships with his younger sister, Kimberly Cobain, who was born on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 1970 [56]

Aberdeen is a small timber town in the northwest coast of the USA. It is located in the state Washington and has population around 16,000 people<sup>8</sup>. [57]

Like many other people in the age of the 1970's, Kurt Cobain's uncle Chuck Fradenburg and Cobain's aunt Mary Earl were musicians. When Cobain was seven years old, his aunt Mary Earl gave him his first records - bands *Beatles* and *Monkees* and some years after, she showed him bands like *Aerosmith*, *Led Zeppelin* and *Black Sabbath*. [58]

It is widely known that Kurt Cobain's health problems began when he was child. He had been diagnosed as hyperactive, taken the drug *Ritalin* – sort of speed, which may helped him. When Cobain was nine years old, the manic depressive came out, accompanied him for the rest of his life. [59] [60]

As early as Kurt Cobain was in a second grade, he began to draw. Although his family liked his painting, he was not satisfied with them and

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<sup>8</sup> Official town pages at: <http://www.aberdeenwa.gov/>

discontent with his work accompanied his lately life. Once his mother told about him that “[He] would never be happy about his art. [He] would never be satisfied with it, like typical artists are.” (*Wendy Cobain, 1976*) [61]

However, even the Cobains belong to *Baby Boomers* generation, the generation which had after Second World War and Great Depression many options to earn money, they had bad job – Donald Cobain worked as a mechanic in a job called “more deadly than war” [62] and his wife, Wendy Cobain, was like the majority of American woman at home as a homemaker. [63]

The darker sides of *Generation X* 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 why he started being self-destructive, neurotic and nihilistic. The divorce put him out of countenance and for the following reason, when he was young, he wrote his first depressive expression of his feelings on the wall “I hate Mom, I hate Dad, Dad hates Mom, Mom hates Dad, it simply makes you want to be sad.” [64]

Kurt Cobain’s problems with family began growing in the year of 1978 when his father Donald Cobain married his new wife Jenny Cobain. She was very nice and likeable but Cobain did not trust her kindness. Cobain began to hate his stepmother, stepbrother and stepsister. [65]

## **4.2 First steps in a musical career**

When was Cobain in the fourth grade, he started smoking marihuana. It is widely known that *Generation X* had smoked marihuana in such a greatly extent and peaked the marihuana smoking after school – at 03:00 p.m.<sup>9</sup> Thanks to his father’s divorce they started to have problems each other because of his strict upbringing [66] and marihuana helped Cobain to run away from his problematic situation. In this reason he had been shuffled between

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<sup>9</sup> Value, discovered by scientists [68]

relatives to put inner family relations right, which was another part making his big lately complex problems. [67]

Before Kurt Cobain started being musician, he got his first second-hand guitar from his uncle. It can be set that it was the first step to become a musician. Kurt Cobain started to be interested in punk rock, making his life easier because punk is about freedom. [69]

When Cobain was in eighth grade, in his cartoons appeared the word heroin for the first time. This was the sign that he could have problems with heroin taking lately. [70]

In tenth grade Kurt Cobain saw his first rock band rehearsal, the band *Melvins*, and met there their leader, Buzz Osborne, with whom he started being friend. Cobain felt better and not alone because he found himself in punk rock. [71]

### **4.3 The beginning of Cobain's biggest musical friendship**

Cobain met Christ Novoselic for the first time at Aberdeen High.

It is well-known that rock and roll is about being rebellious, which makes the social pressure falling on Cobain's figure. In this reason his hatred grew toward teachers and classmates, which made him much more complicated and cynical. Cobain started to have suicide thoughts but he did not want to commit a suicide, without any sex experience. Cobain knew a half-retarded girl with whom he wanted to have sex. Despite his sexual desire, he was disgusted by himself and run away. The next day the rumors have started and he was called the "retard fucker" which made him much more aggressive and seclusive. [72] For this reason Cobain smoked a lot of marihuana which caused his school leaving but it improves his mental condition. [73]

Osborne helped Cobain to begin with his musical career when they established Cobain's first group, named *Fecal Matter* in 1985. Cobain began despising everything because without job his life got worse. [74]

Kurt Cobain's first concert was with Dale Crover on drums and Buzz Osborne on bass. It was improvisation with Cobain's poetry; they called themselves *Brown Cow*. By now had Cobain tried heroin for his first time, making Cobain highly neurotic and affected. [75]

It is known that Kurt Cobain wanted to form a band with Chris Novoselic but Novoselic did not seem interested in it. Until then Cobain gave Christ Novoselic his *Fecal Matter* tape, Novoselic was not convinced. [76] [77]

#### **4.4 Christ Anthony Novoselic**

Christ Anthony Novoselic was born on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1965, in Compton, California to his parents Krist Novoselic and Maria Novoselic. As a significant number of East-European immigrants, his parents moved to the USA in 1963 because of the Iron Curtain. The Novoselics had moved from place to place and settled in Aberdeen in 1979 when Chris Novoselic was fourteen. Christ Novoselic was influenced by bands like *Led Zeppelin*, *Devo*, *Black Sabbath* and *Aerosmith*. [78]

Novoselic had depressions because of bad Aberdeen's weather and no friends at all, so he was sent back to his relatives to Croatia in 1980 where he started being influenced by *punk rock* groups like *Sex Pistols* and *the Ramones*. Novoselic came home after a year. Despite his visit to relatives, his state of mind did not change. Thanks to music, alcohol and marijuana he could escape the reality. This made him well-known as a weird, drunk guy. His problems with alcohol were seen in *Nirvana* lately because of Novoselic influenced group's alcohol usage. [79]

Like many young people Christ Novoselic took the McJob at the Taco Bell and met Buzz Osborne who showed him some cool and new music – *Vibrator*, *Sex Pistols*, *Black Flag*, *Circle Jerks*, which Novoselic liked. Novoselic and Cobain were caught by the punk lately because it took time to grab them. Novoselic discovered punk fanzines as *Maximumrocknroll* and political hardcore bands like *MDC* and started to study things about anarchism

and animal rights which they lately influenced both of them. [80] As a large group of people from *Generation X* Christ Novoselic was influenced by his parent's divorce in 1983 and in the same year he graduated from high school. Novoselic and Osborne started to form punk community around Aberdeen where all friends were together and got to know each other. [81]

#### **4.5 Creation of “grungy” Nirvana**

In winter of 1987 Kurt Cobain with Christ Novoselic found a new drummer – Aaron Burckhard who was more to metal and won't practice so the relationships were not so good in their band. They had their first concert on a house party in Olympia and played first grunge songs, which made the people confused because they did not hear anything like this before. [82]

This trio settled on *Nirvana* which means a state of freedom from suffering and rebirth [83] and is being from Sanskrit translated literally as “*a blowing out*”. It is also well known that the name has many other explanations as “the extinction of desire, passion, illusion and the empirical self and attainment of rest, truth and unchanging being.” [84] Cobain was being 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.” (*Cobain, 1987*) [85]

Because Cobain had no job, he played guitar for 12 hours a day and never leave apartment. It was hard time for Cobain, he smoked a lot marihuana and did heroin a few times. At this time he started to feel terrible pain in his stomach which chased him for his live. The disease was identified as Crohn disease lately and was the reason for Cobain's heroin addiction. [86]

At that time had *Nirvana* problems with drummers so they changed a few persons on the drums and with Dale Crover recorded their first demo, which had great reviews and was good accepted by critics, all people talked about Cobain's brilliant voice but for some people it was too “hard.” They dubbed off a lot of cassettes and sent them to a large amount of labels. After recording they changed drummer again to Chad Channing. [87]



## 4.6 Grunge

A large group of people said that Kurt Cobain was the biggest promoter of grunge. The roots of grunge are from the North-West coast of the USA, from the Washington state. This music style is connected with label *SubPop* and it is typical feature *the Generation X* and for the '90s. [88]

The term *Grunge* was firstly used by Mark Arm from band *Mudhoney* in the early '80s and it literally means "the dirt". [89]

The musical groups which played grunge were e.g. *Nirvana*, *Pearl Jam*, *Soundgarden* and *Stone temple pilots*, for which were typical loud and dirty guitar sound, long hair and ripped jeans. Grunge lyrics are always angst-filled, angry, frustrated, sad and depressive. This music style is linked with drug taking, cynical humor and rebellion against preceding *Baby Boomers* generation. The people listening to grunge are contemptuous of fashion, money and society and never follow trends. [90] [91]

## 4.7 Bleach

*Nirvana* began preparation for their first album in 1988. They were practicing for hours in a day. In a fact that Novoselic wanted to have more time for *Nirvana*, he quit his job. Kurt Cobain wrote most of lyrics before the night of recording. [92] On December 24, 1988 *Nirvana* began working on *Bleach*, which was recorded in *Reciprocal Recording*, in Seattle. *Bleach* was named because *Nirvana* saw anti-AIDS campaign in San Francisco where people went with signs "bleach your works" meaning to clean needles with bleach to kill the AIDS virus. Pavitt, the founder of *SubPop*, told about that "We were contemplating how bleach could become the most valuable substance on earth." (*Pavitt, 1989*) [93] On February, 1989, after thirty hours of work, *Bleach* was done and released on *Sub Pop 200*. Thanks to their friend, Jason

Everman, they could pay for their record because nobody had \$606.17. Although Cobain was not so experienced on *Bleach*, the album was greatly accepted by critics, making the upswing of grunge at all. [94]

*Nirvana* went on their first U.S. tour in June of 1989. [95]

Kurt Cobain started with collaborating with Mark Lanegan in August 1989, whose band, the *Screaming Trees*, frequently played in Olympia. His collaboration with Lanegan resulted into an informal blues band where Kurt Cobain was acquainted with Lanegan's song "*Where Did You Sleep Last Night*" which Cobain later sang on show *Unplugged in New York* and it is for large group of people considered as one of Cobain's greatest voice performance. [96]

## 4.8 Nirvana in Europe

*Nirvana* began with *TAD* their *Bleach* European tour in Newcastle, England on October 20, 1989. The name of tour was used by British concert promoters to describe the differences between Nirvana's "heavy" sound and the heft of 300-pound Tad Doyle from group *TAD*. [97]

They played thirty-six shows in forty-two days, having so many fans on their concerts which made a big pressure on both groups. [98]

Chris Novoselic and Shelly Hykas married in their apartment in Tacoma on December 30, 1989. Nowadays, people begin talking about *Nirvana*. On April 27, Cobain called Tracy Marander on her birthday to tell her that he did not want to live together but still he wanted to be in relationship. Their relationship lasted for month and afterwards Cobain started to find a dynamic and artistic girlfriend. [99]

By summer 1990 *Sub Pop* started having financial problems and they hit rock bottom. Cobain wanted to stay by *Sub Pop* because of their similar thoughts in that times began *Nirvana* taking attention of major labels. They had begun problems with their drummer Chad Channing because they were not

satisfied with his drumming so they fired him. On March 1990 they must canceled their U.K. tour. [100]

## 4.9 David Eric Grohl

David Eric Grohl was born on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 1969, in Warren, Ohio to his parents James and Virginia Grohl. Grohl has a sister, Lisa Grohl, which is three years older than he is. His parents divorced when Grohl was six and supposedly the divorce has not affected him so much. He was raised by his mother. [101]

It can be told that the beginning of Grohl's musical career began when he was twelve years old because he started playing guitar. His aunt Tracy Bradford introduced him the *punk* and took them on shows seeing bands like *Naked Raygun*, *Rights of the Accused*, *Channel Three* and *Violent Apathy*. Dave Grohl said about that "From then on we were totally punk. We went home and bought *Maximumrocknroll* and tried to figure it all out." (David Grohl, [1990]) [102] [103]

Dave Grohl was classical member of youth, he smoked marihuana in a significant way which began to affect his grades. He started to play drums in his first band *Freak Baby*. He got through hardcore and punk bands called *Fast*, *Dain Bramage* and *Scream* which played in the area of Washington D.C. Grohl ended with school in his junior year when he was seventeen. He did two-month U.S. tour in October of 1987 with *Scream* which learned him a lot. They had many tours and toured the U.S. and Europe until the middle of September 1990. [104]

When he was in San Francisco on tour, he met in backstage Kurt Cobain and Christ Novoselic. Grohl also got to know with Buzz Osborne as they. As many young people of his age, Dave Grohl had problems with money and because of inner group problems, *Scream* was not playing. In that fact he wanted to play somewhere, he talked with Osborne who gave Grohl number to Novoselic. Afterwards their call, Grohl quickly moved to Seattle. [105]

After Cobain and Novoselic met with Grohl, they knew that he is the right guy for drumming. Novoselic told about Grohl that "He was a hard hitter. He was really dynamic. He was so bright, so hot, so vital. He rocked." (*Novoselic, 1990*) [106] [107]

Grohl began to live with Cobain in small, dirty and smelly apartment. Living together helped Cobain with his psychical problems, making Cobain's behaviour more socialized. After a few weeks, *Nirvana* played their first show with Grohl at the North Shore Surf Club in Olympia. *Nirvana* was famous at the time and the show had been sold out. They started their European tour with L.A. rockers *L7*. Because Cobain suffered from his stomach ache and the only thing that helped him was sleep, he started to be narcoleptic. [108]

Thank to *Nirvana's* popularity, so many music labels were interested in. They must settle their financial disputes with *Sup Pop* with whom *Geffen records*, their new record label, helped. Because of Cobain's stomach ache, he went to a doctor to do some tests. The doctor did not help him and according to this experience he took heroin, as a medicament for his pain, again in the winter 1990. Because of that Cobain told his heroin experiences among to Grohl and Novoselic, they started to be worried about his addiction. [109]

#### **4.10 Courtney Love, Nevermind**

The band signed contract with *Geffen records* on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1991, moving to Los Angeles to record there their new album. *Nevermind* was recorded at *Sound City* studios in California in May and June, 1991. At the time Cobain started to be heroin addicted which destroyed his whole life. [110]

### 4.10.1 Courtney Love

Courtney Michelle Love Cobain was born on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1964, in San Francisco, California. She was also the product of broken home, her parent divorced when she was only 5 years old. Love was raised by mother, making a few college attempts and after her failure she began to travel, earning money as a stripper in 16. In consideration of this experience, she was not afraid of negative phenomena of the society e.g. drug taking and she had no moral which is seen in her behavior. She established music group *Hole* in 1989. Love firstly met Cobain at the Satyricon club in Portland, Ohio. It is widely known that she was a strong feminist, playing on Rock against rape benefit in 1993. [111]

### 4.11 Recording of Nevermind

The record was finished in the mid of June, being recorded by the *Geffen records* company. Cobain said that Every time [he] look back at the best times in this band it was right before *Nevermind* came out. But is hardly known that *Nirvana's* history can be divided on the time before and the time after *Nevermind* was released because their second album *Nevermind* just made them world-famous. On this album is the song *Smells like teen spirit* which was the anthem of the unsatisfied *Generation X*. Nobody belived that *Nevermind* would be so successful. [112]

*Nirvana* began with their *Nevermind* tour on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 1991. They played for overcrowded clubs and festivals all over the world. *Nevermind* was first album on the *Billboard* chart skipping *Michaels Jackson* album *Dangerous* in January, 1992, making Cobain to be very famous, closed and introverted because of the stress and the pressure falling on him. He started being "demigod" for the *Generation X* and for this reason the public pushed him so hard. Cobain was not prepared for so big fame because of his age and his inner psychical struggles. Punk is about being freedom and rebellion against

the society. When Cobain started to be popular and the society put on him big expectations, he was closely watched and must fulfill the responsibilities e.g. public relations and giving signatures. [113]

The beginning investment into *Nevermind* was \$550,000, earning \$50 million which was the reflection of fame of *Nirvana*. *Nevermind* had been sold for over 600,000 records which made this album platinum. [114]

Because Cobain's stomach ache went worse, he slowly started to be heroin addicted because heroin helped him with fighting against his illness and with fame balancing. A large group of people blamed Love for that she got Cobain to do heroin. They did heroin together what made them to be much more paranoid and neurotic. [115]

*Nirvana* played a lot of concerts all over the world because everybody wanted to hear *Nirvana* and see the idol - *Kurt Cobain*. They both fell to heroin. [116]

In 1992, when *Nirvana* played concert on *Saturday Night Live* Love found out that she was pregnant. Because of their oncoming child, they both were convinced to stop with taking heroin not to have retarded or deformed child as Cobain always think. [117]

Kurt Cobain and Courtney Love got married in Waikiki on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 1992. Their friends were happy because they thought that they stop with heroin taking when they expect child. [118]

Because of the fact that Cobain was lead singer, he wanted to have more money from *Nevermind*, changing terms of their recording contract. Despite they did not have any inner group problems with Grohl, that time they did. A large group of people thought that it was Love's fault. Due to Cobain's heroin addiction, he took heroin for months. Instead of going out on the tour, Cobain went on rehab where his stomach very hurt. [119]

## 4.12 Vanity (Af)fair

Vanity Fair is a monthly American magazine of culture, fashion and politics. There appeared insulting article about the Cobain's drug problems in September, 1992. They described Love as a "train-wreck personality" who "isn't particularly interested in the consequences of her actions." [120] [121] The Cobains were discussed for their drug habits and because of this article, their daughter was taken from them to Love's sister. [122] Cobain hated the idea that someone is slandering him and when someone maligned his family it made him very angry. There were anonymous calls in Vanity Fair, threatening the editors. Frances Bean Cobain was born on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 1992, being addicted to heroin. In this fact of their heroin addiction, the state has taken them their daughter and they could be with her only with social worker assistance. Because of Cobain's bad health conditions, there were rumors that *Nirvana* is breaking and will not play on Reading festival, 1992. Cobain must struggle with the rumors, telling not to trust everything you read. [123]

There's nothing better than having a baby. I've always loved children. I used to work summers at the YMCA and be in charge of, like, 30 preschool kids. I knew that when I had a child, I'd be overwhelmed, and it's true... I can't tell you how much my attitude has changed since we've got Frances. Holding my baby is the best drug in the world. (*Kurt Cobain, 1992*) [124] [125]

## 4.13 Grunge N'Roll

The behaviors between Kurt Cobain and Axl Rose, singer of Guns N'Roses, were very aggressive. There are several things which were for them similar e.g. both were rockstars from a small town, addicted to drugs. On one hand stood self-confident, sexist and rich Rose and on the other hand Cobain, who was loser, anti-hero, feminist and nihilist. Cobain answered a question, if *Nirvana* and *Guns N'Roses* can cooperate on concert together that "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) [126] It is also highly known that Rose decline to be godfather of their new born child Frances Bean Cobain. Despite their struggles, Rose wore *Nirvana's* hat in interview. [127]

#### 4.14 The era of a black star

Both of these albums were not successful as *Nevermind*. Because of the alternative music genre that Nirvana played, each album has its own specific characteristic. Between the release of *Nevermind* and their third album, *In Utero*, Cobain had become "demigod", a heroin addict and they were with Love very discussed couple because of their addiction. [128] Thank to birth of his daughter, he could better fight with his heroin addiction.

*Nirvana* recorded their album, *Incesticide*, on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 1992. [129] The album is compilation of rare songs, outtakes and songs from B sides of singles. It is specified with whole new sound and it is known as the most experimental album of *Nirvana*. It was produced by Steve Albini and recorded in *Geffen Records*. On the album, there is seen Cobain's big depressive expression. Cobain wanted to confess about his relationship with father to audience. This album was the beginning of indie-rock. [130]

Thanks to the reason that Kurt Cobain was professional rock musician, he spent with Courtney Love a million dollars in 1992. Cobain's dreams came true and his janitor works were in the past. [131]

Cobain was paranoid because of the fame. Once he answered on question – What is like to be famous that "The only thing I can think of is paranoia – it makes you feel like someone's watching you." (Cobain, 1992) [132] [133]

Despite Cobain has seen a significant number of specialist for his stomach in 1993, they did not help him. Cobain knew that one of the ways of



killing the pain is heroin. *Nirvana* did not play a tour from 1992 to 1993, preparing their next album. [134]

Their third and last album is *In Utero*, which was released on September 21<sup>st</sup>, was the heaviest and most aggressive album of *Nirvana*. It was finished on Cobain's 26<sup>th</sup> birthday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. The latest recorded session was *MTV Unplugged in New York*. It is acoustic live concert which was in such a significant way accepted with the critics. Their album *Unplugged in New York* is widely known for its funeral atmosphere and Cobain's brilliant voice performance. [135]

#### **4.15 Forever 27 Club**

The information about the suicide of Kurt Cobain are not so clear. It is not widely known how Kurt Cobain has finished his life. At the rest of his life, he spent time on rehab. There are only speculations about what followed after. But what is clear is that he shot himself with Remington Model 11 20-gauge and he was found in his own residence. The reason for his suicide is no clear and the society is disputing with the coincidences. Nobody knows what actually happened because he was alone. There exist speculations that he was killed by hired killer. These speculations are well-known when the celebrity dies e.g. Michael Jackson. [136]

In this chapter the life of Kurt Cobain, was introduced. Kurt Cobain died young, 27 years old. Because of his suicide, he entered to the "Forever 27 Club" as e.g. Jimmy Hendrix, Amy Winehouse and Jim Morrison. Despite their early decease, their legacies will live on this planet forever. The last chapter of this Thesis deals with the identical issues of Kurt Cobain and the *Generation X* and it also deals with the relinquished issues of Kurt Cobain which he had left to the society of nowadays.

## 5 ANALYSIS OF NIRVANA AND THE GENERATION X

In the final chapter of this Thesis, the author will describe the coincident components of Kurt Cobain and *the Generation X*. The author will try analysing the influence of Nirvana on the contemporary society. Information in the final chapter will be derived from the preceding chapters. In the end of the final chapter, there will be the interview with Brett who has been to Nirvana in 1993, describing how much had *Nirvana* influenced him.

### 5.1 Kurt Cobain and the Generation X

#### 5.1.1 Cobain at all

Kurt Cobain was very complicated person and a musical genius. He is well-known as a negative, tormented and charismatic black star. He was not like the other people who wished the fame and success. Thanks to the underground roots of Kurt Cobain, he did not want to be famous and successful. Despite his popularity, he was unsatisfied, deepening his inner personal struggles and depressions. [137]

Cobain did not want to be leader or spokesman of *the Generation X*, he was involuntarily chosen. Cobain was common man, whose family and everyday problems were like problems of the rest of the society in the 1980's. It is widely known that his life disgruntlement is being heard by the scream in his songs which spoke to the whole generation. A large group of parents, especially the members of the *Baby Boomers*, did not like him because of his bad influence on their children. Cobain's hometown, Aberdeen, decided not to rename a famous bridge from his song "*Something in the Way*" to Cobain's bridge in 2011. The reason for their displeasure of renaming was that they did not want to leave the legacy of someone who is widely known for his drug taking, nihilism and suicide. [138]

## 5.1.2 Broken families

The scientists proved that the significant number of people from *the Generation X* came from the broken homes. On the grounds of this phenomenon, the moral of the society was decreasing. It is widely known that Kurt Cobain came from divorced family which made him typical *Generation X* representative. Incidentally everyone, who was in *Nirvana* had come from a broken home which reflects the rate of divorces in the USA. [139] Because of the divorce of Cobain's parents, he hated them, writing in his journal that

"I like to blame my parents generation for coming so close to social change then giving up after a few successful efforts by the media & Government to deface the movement by using Mansons and other Hippie representatives as propaganda examples on how they were nothing but unpatriotic, communist, satanic, inhuman diseases. and in turn the baby boomers become the ultimate, conforming, Yuppie hypocrites a generation has ever produced." [140]

## 5.1.3 AIDS

It is widely known that for the *Generation X* era was typical the AIDS epidemic and threat. Thanks to gay protest in the streets, the majority of people were even more informed about the disease. Despite that their first album had to have other name, *Too Many Humans*, when they saw anti-AIDS campaign in the streets of San Francisco, they renamed it *Bleach*.

## 5.1.4 Equality

By means of songs, the artist can express his thoughts and opinions, so do Kurt Cobain. Cobain is well-known fighter for human equality. *Nirvana's* song *Polly* was about real story - about a girl who was kidnapped, tortured and raped until she escaped. Cobain wanted the society to think and get to know about negative phenomena of the society e.g. rape in *Nirvana's* song *Rape*

me. When the album *Incesticide* was released, Cobain was the icon for the struggle for equality, known for his statement “If any of you in any way hate homosexuals, people of a different color, or women, please do this one favor for us... Don’t come to our shows and don’t buy our records.” (*Kurt Cobain, 1992*). [141] He contributed to the woman emancipation, improving their opportunities e.g. working on the same high-salary jobs as men and having the same rights in the USA of nowadays.

## **5.2 The Legacy of Nirvana**

It is known that Nirvana influenced a whole generation over the world. Although the influence of *Nirvana* was strongest at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the author of this Thesis will describe their influence on the society nowadays.

### **5.2.1 Veganism**

Being vegan is for the society of nowadays popular. A large group of people do not want animals suffering. They strictly believe that the animals are living beings which have the right to life. Despite of breeding improvement, there is still a majority of factory farms where the animals are living in cramped conditions, making them stressed and suffered. The significant number of eco-warriors is struggling against e.g. calf taking and illegal mink farms. Cobain struggled for the rights of animals in the song “*Something in the Way*” e.g. verse “*It’s okay to eat fish cause they don’t have any feelings*” (*Something in the way, Nevermind, 1991*) [142]

### **5.2.2 Clothing**

It is widely known that musical style is not only about music at all but it is specified by phenomena e.g. conventions and clothing. The last fashion trends

tend back to ripped jeans which were typical for the grunge music. The look of distress denim made the people look rebellious and independent because of the era of individual nowadays. It is known that the boots, called sneakers, which were common for the grunge are modern and fashionable.

### **5.2.3 Groups and musical styles**

*Nirvana* was one of the most successful alternative rock groups in the history, popularizing the underground music to pop culture. Because of their influence in grunge at the time, new musical genres were derived. Thanks to them, the rebellion was widespread in music which influenced e.g. hip-hop as one of the most rebellious musical genres nowadays.

Despite Cobain's death, drummer of *Nirvana*, Dave Grohl, began his own musical career, establishing musical group *Foo Fighters* in 1995. Nowadays, they are well-known as one of the best musical groups and for a large group of people Grohl is the most experienced living musician.

Nowadays, the grunge is not popular as before but *Nirvana* has inspired a significant number of musical groups e.g. *Radiohead*, *Green day* and *Weezer*. *Nirvana's* shows were full of energy and Cobain did there great show e.g. jumping in the crowd and breaking guitars which made their concerts full of energy.

It is widely known that Cobain's suicide, when he was only 27 years old, affected a large group of people for who he was idol. Nowadays, it is impossible to see *Nirvana* live and it can be only discuss whether *Nirvana* will be famous at the present. However, the author of this Thesis found a man who has been to *Nirvana* and made the interview with him.

### 5.3 The interview with Brett

The author interviewed Brett, guy who has been to Nirvana's concert in 1993, asking him on his statements and if there is still any influence of *Nirvana* in his life these days.

What's your name? How old are you and where do you live?

*Brett, 34, western Massachusetts, USA*

At the time, was Nirvana your favourite band? Did you belong to any bunch (party)?

*Nirvana was probably my favorite band at the time. I was heavily into Nevermind when it was out. When I saw them in 1993, I only knew Heart Shaped Box as I didn't have In Utero yet. I was excited to hear all the Nevermind songs I knew, plus the song Sliver. I remember watching them through their guitars up in the air at the end of the show and thinking how much fun that looked!*

When did you first see Nirvana? Where it was? How old were you?  
*I saw Nirvana in Fitchburg, Massachusetts on November 12, 1993 at the Wallace Civic Center. I was 12 years old and only saw them once. It was the first concert I ever attended!*

How did you feel beeing to Nirvana? Do you remember any played songs?

*Drain You was the second song and I was so happy to hear it because it was one of my favorites. Other than that, I remember the band making jokes between songs and having a fun time. I was pretty young and it was my first concert so I was quite overwhelmed with the types of people there since they were all older than me but I loved the music so much that I didn't mind having to deal with drunk people!*

There must be such a beautiful atmosphere, can you describe it?  
*I wasn't up close but the venue wasn't too big so I could certainly see. I have distinct memories of watching them play. I didn't know that Pat Smear was in the band so I was curious about the funny guy on stage with them.*

What do you think about Nirvana today? Do you listen anytime to Nirvana now?

*Favorite band, for life. I go through phases where I listen more than others but this past year has been a great year for new material surfacing and the documentary coming out, so I've been listening to Nirvana a lot again.*

Are you from Generation X (borned from 1960 - 1980)?

*I was born in 1981, so I guess not 😊*

How did you feel at the time of your youth? (cold war, small hope of your good future, divorced marriages)

*I saw Nirvana at a time in my life when my parents were divorcing and remarrying and other stressful things were going on. Music was always the beacon of light in my life, and Nirvana was one of my favorite bands for almost two years at the time that I saw them in 1993. My mother took me to the concert because she knows how much I liked them. I am very grateful I got to see them. But then Kurt Cobain died six months later. I was still very young at the time, and losing a musical hero like that was very influential to me. Now more than twenty years later, Nirvana is my favorite band still and I collect material of theirs. I am a HUGE fan. If Kurt Cobain hadn't died, who knows if I would still be a fan? I don't really enjoy the other music I was listening to around that age any more, but I still love Nirvana more than any other musical act ever. [143]*

## 6 CONCLUSION

The USA is a land of freedom nowadays. The music is “universal language” which helps people to be better connected and to share their feelings and opinions in the harder times.

There are seen the differences between Kurt Cobain and *Nirvana*. On one hand there is a father who loves his daughter and on the other hand there is a brilliant musician, addicted to heroin. Kurt Cobain was full of paradox and was one of the bad guys, people are glad listen to.

The objective of this Thesis was to analyze, what legacy did Kurt Cobain left to the modern society. From my research follows that even grunge is not popular as it was in the 1990's, grunge was important for all people over the world and the legacy of one music genre, which was leading in particular era, is still staying.

From the third chapter follows that Cobain was common person with regular problems at home. These problems made him enormous cynical and reclusive. Because of his easy and naturalistic language in his songs, people can imagine their own thoughts in the songs which was one of the reason of his success. A large group of people believe that Kurt Cobain helped to fight against iniquity and for equality.

The author discovered that Cobain influenced the modern era in a significant way e.g. veganism, clothing, music groups. Despite his drug addiction, he was the icon for many young people, changing their lives. Cobain changed point of view on the world many people.

The author dedicated his research to political and historical issues, influencing the Generation X. It can be said that there is a big amount of views from which can be this problem described e.g. economic, educational and political. The author tries to describe phenomena from his own point of view, referred by the sources.



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## **FILM SOURCES**

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## 9 ABSTRACT

It is widely known that every individual is influenced by the era, in which he lives in. Kurt Cobain, as a common boy who became superstar, is the proof of it. Cobain was influenced by many phenomena which the author describes. The Thesis contains description of Kurt Cobain's self-destructive life and the analysis of components, he left to the modern society. The first two chapters are theoretical and describe the generations in the USA. In the third chapter, the author tries to discover what phenomena influenced Cobain's life. The fourth chapter is entirely practical. The author explains why Cobain is considered as the "Voice of *the Generation X*." In the final chapter, there is the interview with Brett, who has been to *Nirvana*. The goal of this thesis was discovering that even the "grunge is dead", his legacy still lives.

## 10 RESUMÉ

Je známo, že každý jednatlivec je ovlivňován dobou, ve které žije. Kurt Cobain, jako obyčejný chlapec, který se ze dne na den stal světovou celebritou, je toho důkazem. Tato práce se zabývá popisem jevů, které tvarovaly generace napříč Amerikou. Kurt Cobain byl typickým představitelem ztracené Generace X. Cobain se stal i přes svůj odpor vůči popkultuře „mluvčím své generace“ a z důvodu své nadčasovosti zanechal i po své brzké smrti odkaz nastávajícím generacím. Tato práce se zabývá popisem amerických generací ve 20. století, výzkumem vlivů doby na život Kurta Cobaina a v poslední kapitole popisuje dědictví, které Kurt Cobain zanechal novodobé společnosti. Cílem této práce je dokázat, že i přes to, že grunge již nepatří mezi mainstreamové hudební žánry, jeho odkaz v dnešní společnosti stále přetrvává.

11 APPENDICES



*Nirvana's rare photo, 1987 [145]*



*Nirvana's logo [146]*



*Their most famous album – Nevermind [147]*

Underneath the bridge  
The tarp has sprung a leak  
And the animals I've trapped  
Have all become my pets  
And I'm living off of grass  
And the drippings from the ceiling  
*It's okay to eat fish*  
*'Cause they don't have any feelings*

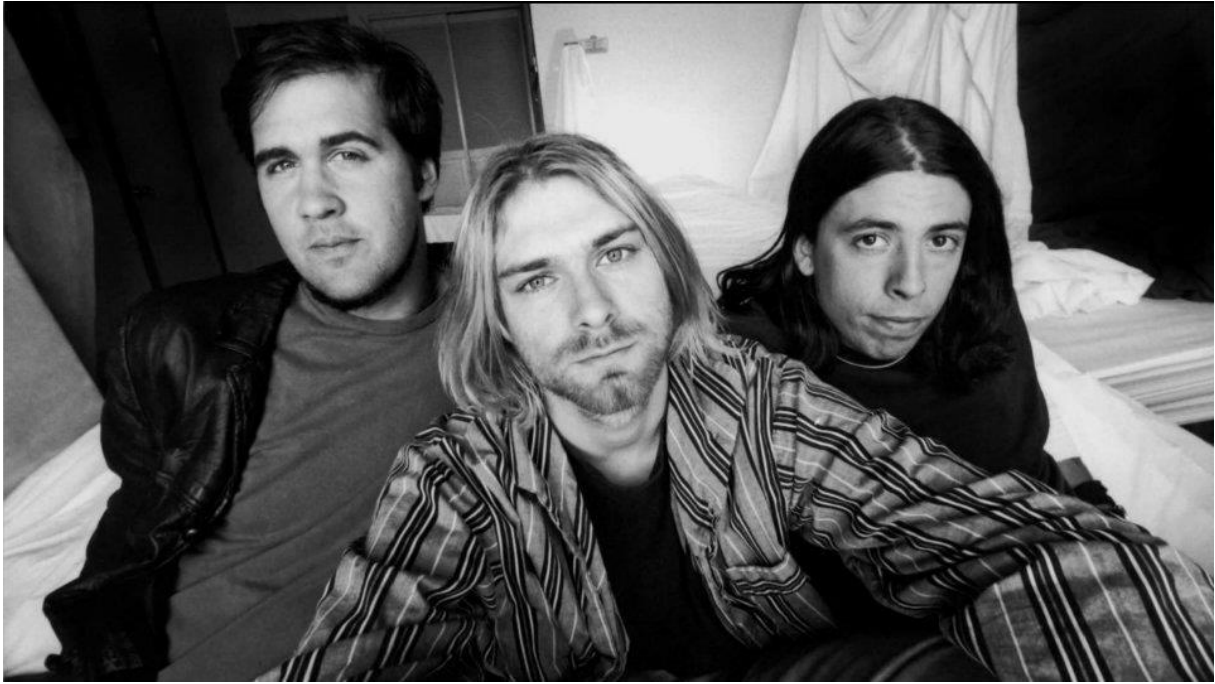
Something in the way, mmm  
Something in the way, yeah, mmm

Underneath the bridge  
The tarp has sprung a leak  
And the animals I've trapped  
Have all become my pets  
And I'm living off of grass  
And the drippings from the ceiling  
*It's okay to eat fish*  
*'Cause they don't have any feelings*

Something in the way, mmm  
Something in the way, yeah, mmm

*Something in the way, 1992 [148]*





*Nirvana, 1993 [149]*