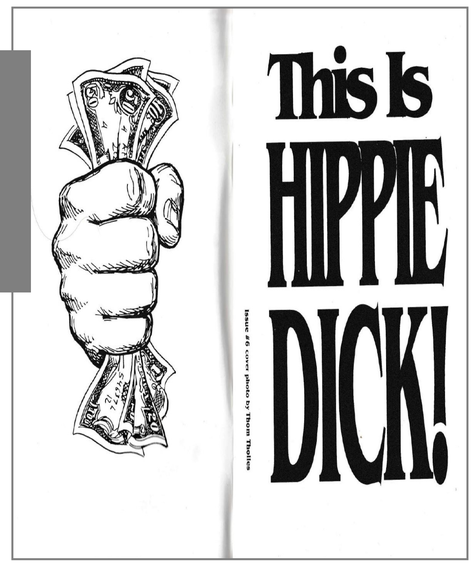
"Soaked in Bleach"

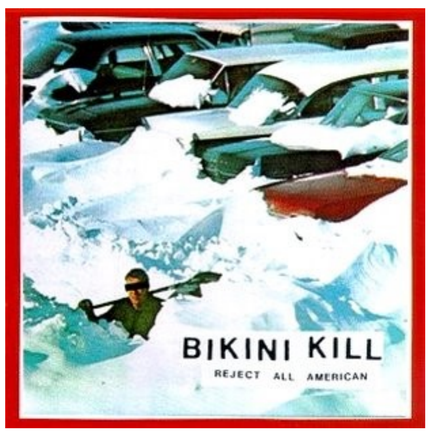
Seattle Music Responds to HIV

At the same time that HIV/AIDS ravaged arts communities around the world, Seattle emerged as the epicenter of Alternative music in the United States. Groups such as Bikini Kill, Nirvana , and Soundgarden took the threat of HIV/AIDS and made music.

"'Cause look; there's another boy genius
Who's fucking gone"

Bikini Kill "RIP" (1996)



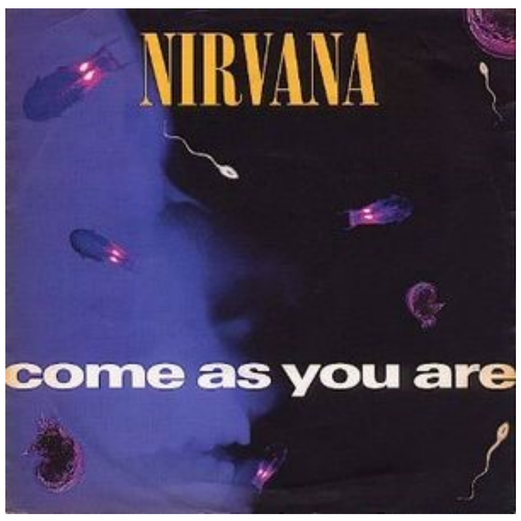


Bikini Kill *Reject All American* (1996)

"Its not fair...its not fair...its not fair."

Olympia's Bikini Kill, one of the original Riot Grrrl bands, released their song "RIP (Rest in Pissed off Ness)" in 1996. Songwriter Kathleen Hanna laments the death of friend and fellow Evergreen State University student, zine artist, and filmmaker Gene Barnes (aka Portia Manson) from AIDS-related Meningitis in 1995. Barnes's notorious gay erotica zine called "Hippie Dick" celebrated the reclaimed the DIY "hippie" aesthetic of Northwest queer communities.

Hippie Dick vol. 6. Accessible through Houston LGBT History.org and as part of the *The Riot Grrrl Collection* at Fales Library and Special Collections, NYU.



"Come As You Are" Nirvana, single 1991.

"Doused in mud, soaked in bleach."

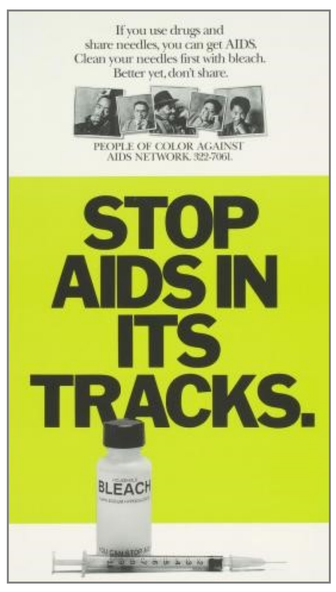
Nirvana "Come as Your Are" (1991)

Bleach

Bleach was a common theme in Nirvana singer Kurt Cobain's lyrics and lent its name to the band's first album release on Seattle's Sub Pop Records in 1989. The band's second single "Come As You Are," from 1991's worldwide sensation *Nevermind,* includes the lyrics "doused in mud, soaked in bleach." Both of these reference San Francisco and Seattle public health campaigns targeting intravenous drug users which suggested cleaning needles in bleach to prevent HIV infection. Kurt Cobain famously struggled with heroin addiction for much of his adult life which put him at greater risk of infection.



San Francisco famous "Bleachman" campaign from 1988. *San Francisco AIDS Foundation, AIDS History Project Ephemera Collection.*



"Stop AIDS In Its Tracks" poster from People of Color Against AIDS Network, circa 1990. Seattle-King County Department of Public Health: Prevention Division / HIV-AIDS Program.



"Bleach Your Works, Before You Get Stoned" Sticker, San Francisco circ. 1989

"What ever happened to the sexual revolution?
I guess that has made its contribution

I'm an H
I'm an H
I'm an H.I.V baby"

"H.I.V Baby" Soundgarden (1990)



"H.I.V. Baby"

Released as part of Sub Pop Records' "Single of the Month Club," the song "H.I.V. Baby" was a B-side released a full year before Soundgarden's multiplatinum album *Badmotorfinger.* A sillier approach to the culture of fear amongst Seattle's young people.



Seattle's local music magazine, The Rocket, Oct. 1988.