



Kurt Cobain, left, with other Nirvana members

Cobain's inevitab

By Eric Olson

It all seems so inevitable now.

The most exhilarating and heartbreaking thing about Kurt Cobain's music was the gentleness within the roar, the genius of spirit mixed with obvious pain, the voice one step from the edge.

Kurt Cobain grew up in the rough logging town of Aberdeen, Washington, surrounded by unemployment, violence, divorce, alcohol and drugs. Cobain's parents divorced when he was eight, an event that affected him emotionally for years. Punk music offered an escape, an outlet for the rage. The band

he formed, Nirvana, eventually signed to Sup Pop, a small Seattle record label. Their first release, "Bleach" (1989), combined an inspired sense of melody with an often out-of-control intensity. Within the alternative scene at least, a real anticipation for Nirvana's next release began to develop.

Throughout the 1980s, alternative and underground bands faced well-defined career limitations. If a band was talented and lucky, a few critics might champion their cause, enlightened fans might turn on friends, and the band might sell out a small hall or two. Occasionally, a group like U2 or REM would break big, but that took years of

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