

Back in the 70s when punk was first making an appearance, it was not a complete scene. There was a small cluster of people that participated. Centering in on the city of Chicago, punk grew from the city's history of blues and rock and roll. In the 8 episode series directed by Dave Grohl entitled "Sonic Highways", Grohl says "...You can hear the roots of blues and rock and roll, but there's also an evolution into the world of punk rock." Punk originated because many people were tired of mainstream life. They felt fed up with common American life and felt the need to rebel. "Punk is a rebellion against dullness." (Sharon White). They found punk as a way to express the rebellion they felt.

Punk was seen as an outlet or a way to express the feelings of the people involved. Punks thought the average American life was bland and boring and wanted to create their own scene and make it interesting. The punk rockers expressed frustration and rebellion towards things like authority and mainstream music and style. Punks were tired of the "American Dream". A suburban home, white picket fence, and a functional, middle-class family. They were bored with sitting around watching people all live the same lives, they wanted to be separated from the people that lived a boring, average life. A lot of people would say that they wouldn't get into the culture because they had to, they did it because they had no other choice. Jason Narducy of the band Verboten says, "No one got famous playing punk rock, you were doing it cause you had to." This is not to be seen in the way that people were being forced to play punk rock, but it is being said that this was the only way to express the feelings and emotions of punk players. Punk rockers felt music and style was a great way to express their disapproval of the average life.

The punk lifestyle came with its risks in the past. Punk rockers were looked down upon by the majority of society. They were outcasts. "It was kind of scary to be a punk rocker in Chicago back then. You'd walk down the street with your leather jacket and your short hair and the heavy metal people thought this was their doom. They'd say 'What the fuck are you doing you fags?'" The words of Jeff Pezzati, lead singer of Naked Rayguns, shows just how different punk rock was viewed by the public and even members of different music scenes.

Participating in punk culture was risky. In Chicago, there were many clubs that allowed punk bands to perform shows but many of these were "mysteriously" burned down. In one club that was burned to the ground, investigators later found the owner of the club beaten to death among to remains of the club. Punk was viewed as bad and unhealthy by many people. A lot of parents and people of authority did not approve of punk culture and so it's no wonder bad things happened to places and people reinforcing the idea of the punk rock lifestyle.

Looking more at the music side, Naked Rayguns was one of the most influential bands in Chicago. The group created an outlet for so many people and gave many

people a new view on how to create something through their feelings towards society since they felt it was boring. They did this by having spaces like clubs for punk rockers to come to watch them perform and express themselves. They made music their fans could listen to and relate to in order to express the feelings and emotions they felt. "The music actually meant something to people it gave a lot of people something to believe in. It gave people a platform to believe in and to express their self." These words from Wattie Buchan of Exploited show how influential and helpful the punk rock culture was to people.

Punk rock was a very distinct community. Because it was looked down upon, it wasn't a very large group. In the words of Mike Roche of TSOL, "You knew right away when somebody was on your team and there wasn't many. You know, it was a secret kind of music and it was different." This shows that the punk culture was tight-knit and every member stuck close together. Most likely because the beliefs of punks were so strong and they all wanted to do their best to spice up life rather than fitting into the basic life of an average American.

The punk rock scene was very unique and interesting in the 70s. Since it was just beginning, a lot of people were not ready or accepting of the culture. The punk rockers had found their own way of expressing creativity and showing their beliefs and feelings to society. Though they were looked down upon and sometimes even seen as a danger to some, they never stopped doing what they wanted and pursuing what they dreamed of doing. Nowadays, punk is not as hard to come across and it is seen as more of a regular music genre. Even though punk has been popularized and more accepted, its history will never fade and many punk rockers of today will never stop rebelling in their own way.