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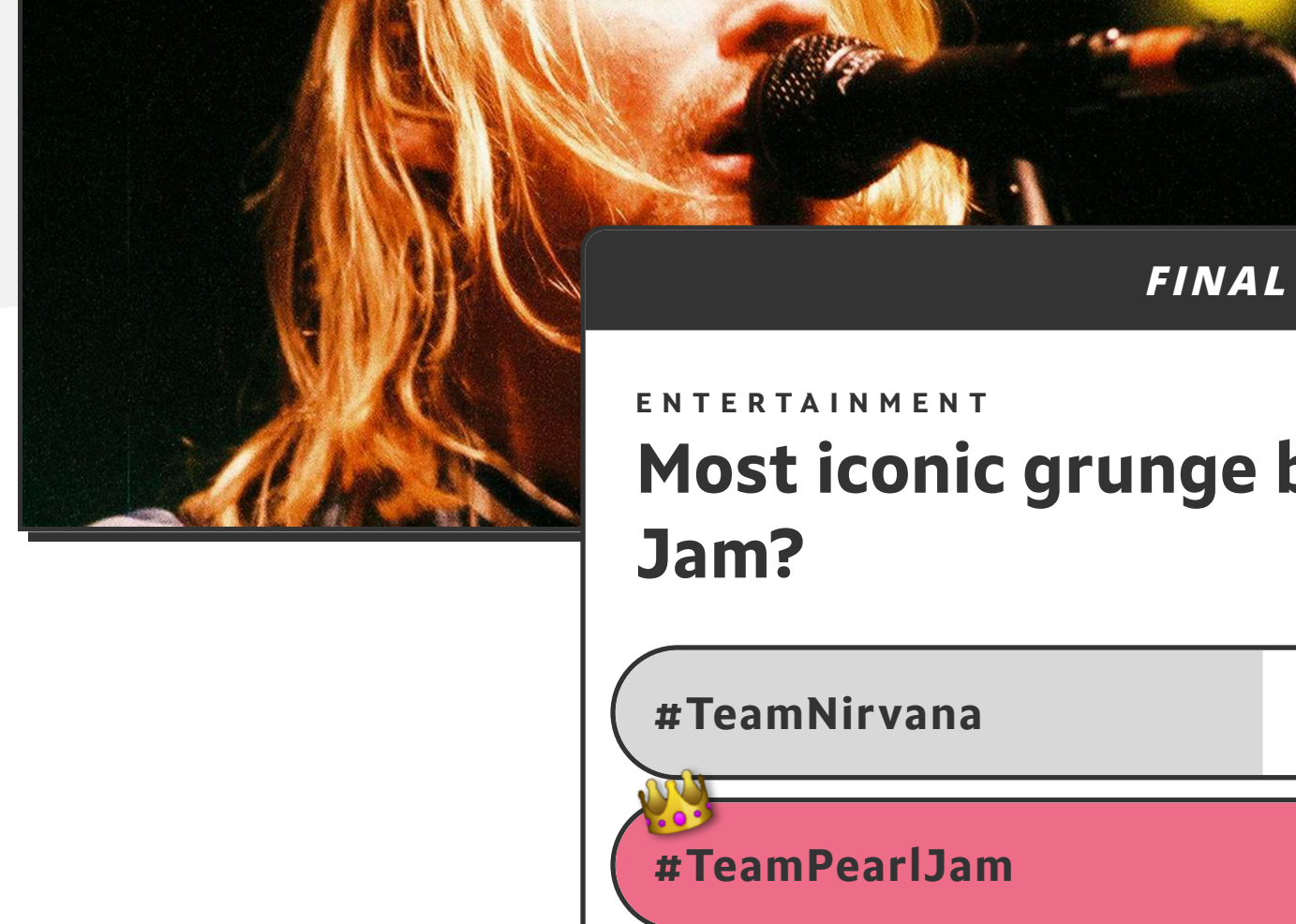
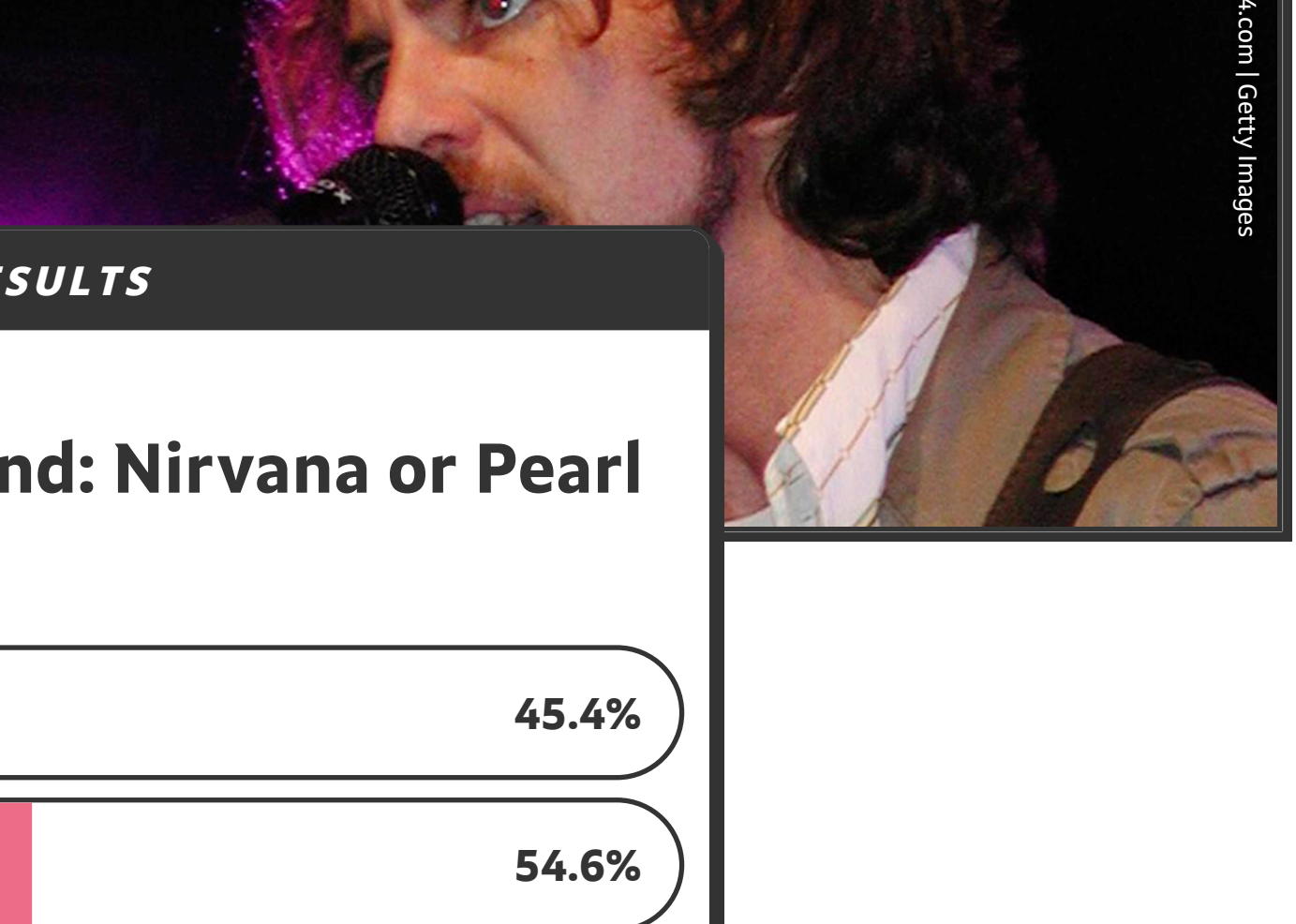
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## Most iconic grunge band: Nirvana or Pearl Jam?

Nirvana and Pearl Jam are arguably the most well-known pioneers of the grunge movement. Pearl Jam's debut album, "Ten," actually came out right before Nirvana's breakthrough sophomore effort "Nevermind." Pearl Jam took on darker issues, like school shootings in "Jeremy." And to this day, music critics often argue Pearl Jam is the most influential grunge band. Still—Nirvana became an iconic band with "Smells Like Teen Spirit," an anthem for teen angst. And Kurt Cobain remains a beloved artist. **Which grunge band remains the best?** 🗳️

By Deron Dalton  
Published 2/20/19

Music Deron Dalton Rock Grunge Nirvana

**FINAL RESULTS**

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### Most iconic grunge band: Nirvana or Pearl Jam?



#TeamNirvana

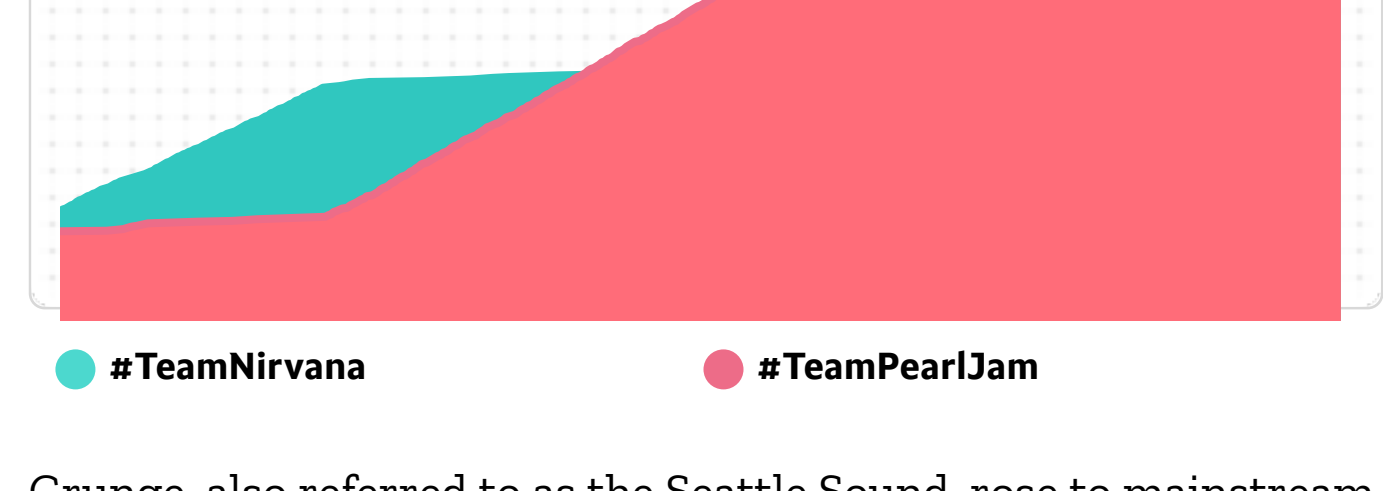
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#TeamPearlJam

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Grunge, also referred to as the Seattle Sound, rose to mainstream prominence thanks to Nirvana and Pearl Jam's breakout albums. Soundgarden and Alice in Chains are also pioneers, but Nirvana and Pearl Jam really broke grunge into the mainstream. Naturally, the two bands have been pitted up against each other, but who's honestly the best grunge band?

<https://web.archive.org/web/20201026044345/http://www.complex.com/music/2012/09/the-50-greatest-beefs-in-rock-music-history/nirvana-v-pearl-jam>

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### #TeamNirvana

Loudwire ranked Nirvana as the top grunge band of all time.

Chad Childers wrote:

*It's hard to argue against Nirvana as the No. 1 act of our 10 Best Grunge Bands list, as they essentially put the genre on the map with their 1991 classic, 'Nevermind.' But things didn't stop with 'Smells Like Teen Spirit,' as 'Come As You Are,' 'Lithium' and their 'In Utero' favorites 'Heart Shaped Box' and 'Rape Me' are good as they come in the grunge world.*

Unfortunately, popular lead singer Kurt Cobain died in 1994. Many consider Cobain a hero of the grunge movement and rock music in general. To this day, Nirvana's second studio album is an all-time best-seller. Just look at [Billboard's](#) Top 200 Albums chart.

Below are some notable lyrics to arguably the most popular song of the genre, "Smells Like Teen Spirit," per [Genius](#).

♪ Load up on guns, bring your friends. It's fun to lose and to pretend. She's overboard and self-assured. Oh no I know, a dirty word. With the lights out it's less dangerous. Here we are now, entertain us. I feel stupid and contagious. Here we are now, entertain us. A mulatto, an albino. A mosquito, my libido, yeah.♪

Watch the music video for Nirvana's legendary hit "Smells Like Teen Spirit" below.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20201026044345/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTWKbfoikeg>

### #TeamPearlJam

Not everyone is on Nirvana's bandwagon as the most influential or greatest grunge band. Pearl Jam holds greater significance for many music critics, though Nirvana had a more popular following in the '90s. Still, Pearl Jam also sold records and had a lasting impact on both grunge and rock.

Vice's Brendan Kelly wrote:

*I headed to Wikipedia and Billboard.com to lazily conduct what passes for research in 2015, sure that the numbers would back up my bullshit gut reaction: that Pearl Jam is the band that really wielded the influence, and were it not for the tragic and poetic death of Kurt Cobain (and subsequent mythologizing and conspiracy theories), that Pearl Jam would now be seen as the band that ousted hair metal and forever changed radio, whereas Nirvana would be seen (rightly) as a vastly cooler, but significantly less culturally important act.*

Below are some significant lyrics to PJ's big breakthrough single "Jeremy," per [Genius](#).

♪ At home drawin' pictures of mountain tops. With him on top, lemon yellow sun. Arms raised in a "v." And the dead lay in pools of maroon below. Daddy didn't give attention, to the fact that mommy didn't care. King Jeremy the wicked. Ruled his world.♪

Watch the music video for Pearl Jam's iconic "Jeremy" below.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20201026044345/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MS91knuzoOA>

### #TeamNirvana

Nirvana Family argues the band is the grunge GOAT.

### #TeamPearlJam

PJ Fam says the band is the real pioneer of grunge.

### #TeamNirvana

Listen to Nirvana's commercially successful "Nevermind" below.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20201026044345/https://open.spotify.com/album/2guirTSEqLizK7j9iiMTTZ>

### #TeamPearlJam

Listen to Pearl Jam's commercially successful "Ten" below.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20201026044345/https://open.spotify.com/album/5B4PYA7wNN4WdEXdIJu88a>

**FINAL RESULTS**

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### Most iconic grunge band: Nirvana or Pearl Jam?

#TeamNirvana

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READ TIME: 3 MINUTES

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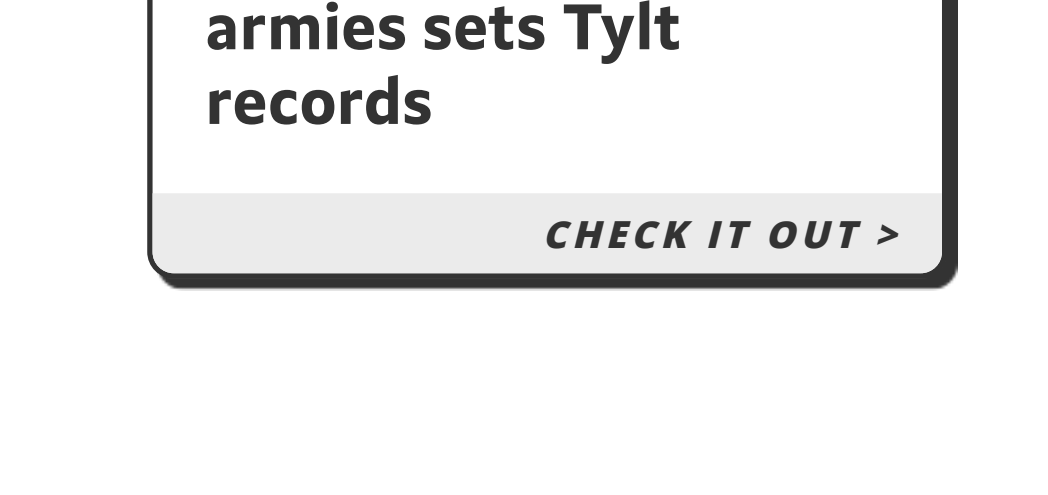
LISTEN TIME: 58 MINUTES

PODCAST

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### 10 Years of One Direction and Directioners

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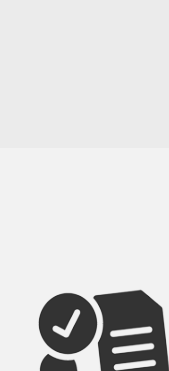
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INSIGHTS

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### The power of fan armies sets Tylt records

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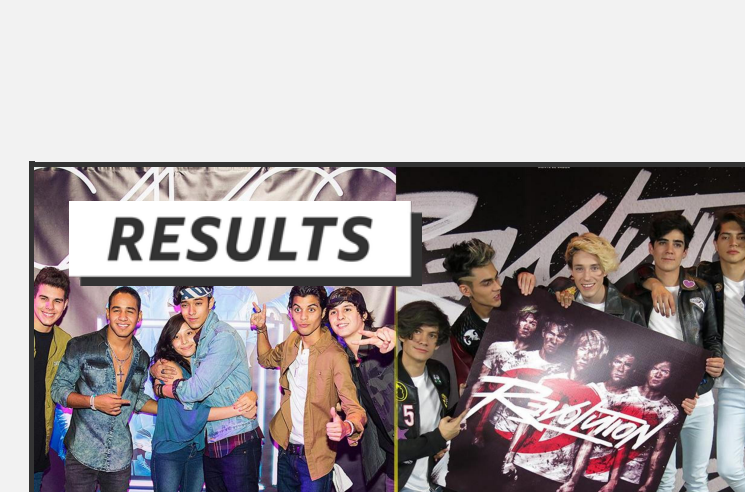


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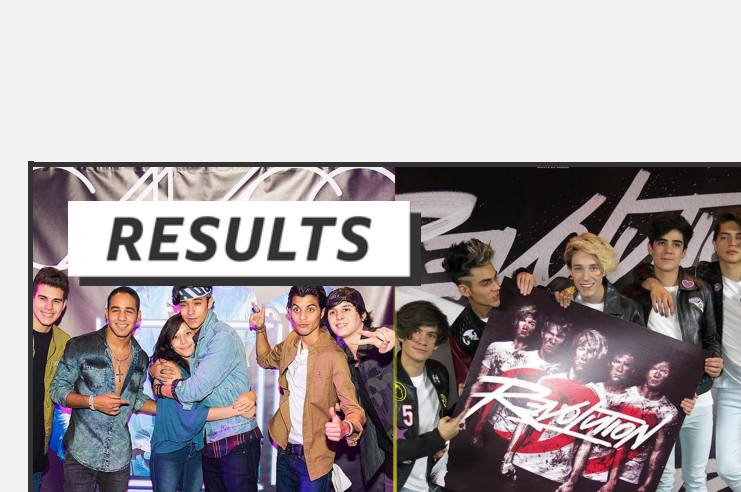


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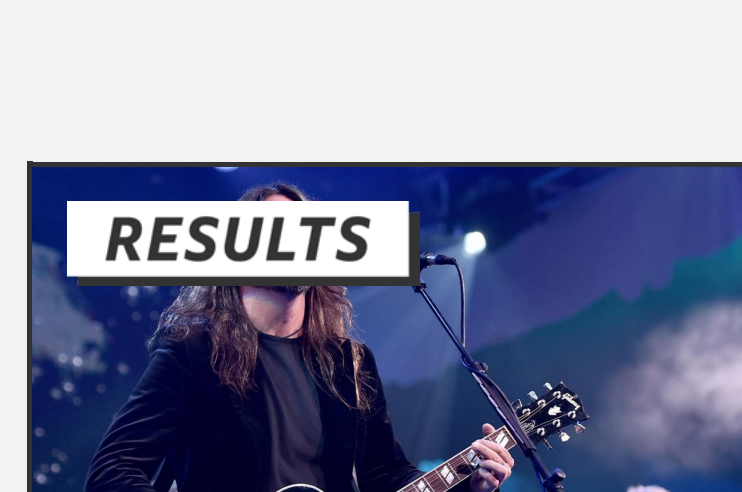
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### Who deserves to be in the Hall of Fame more: Journey or Pearl Jam?



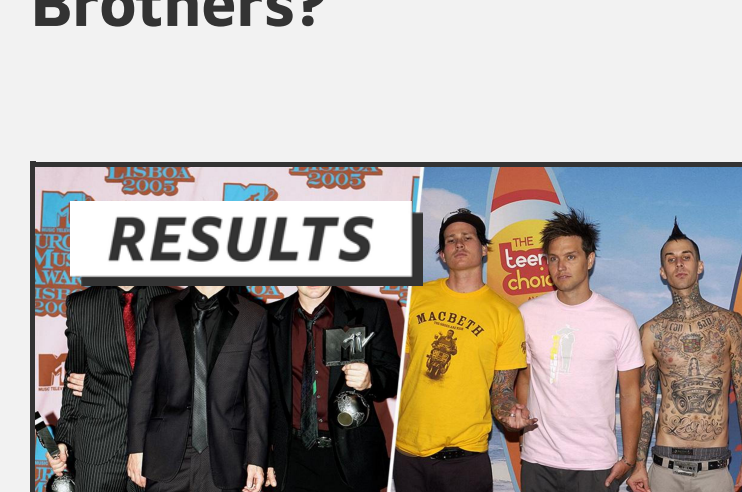
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### Best grunge band: Nirvana or Pearl Jam?



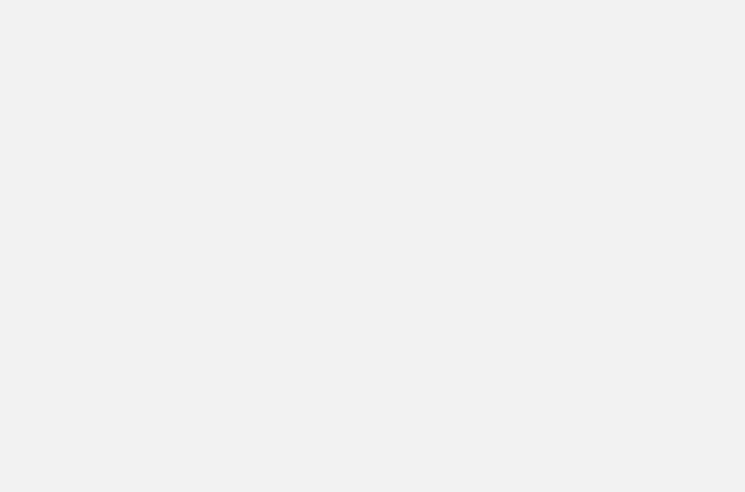
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### Best boy band of 2017 so far: BTS or the Vamps?



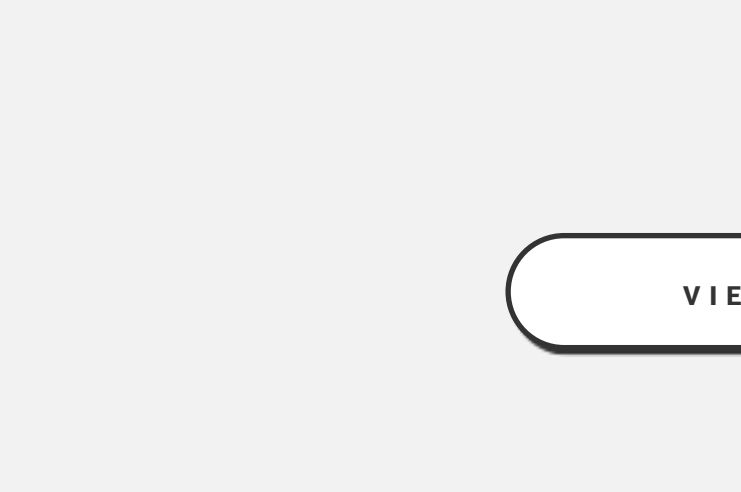
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### Which pop-rock boy band do you miss more: One Direction or Jonas Brothers?




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### Favorite Latin pop boy band: CNCO or CD9?



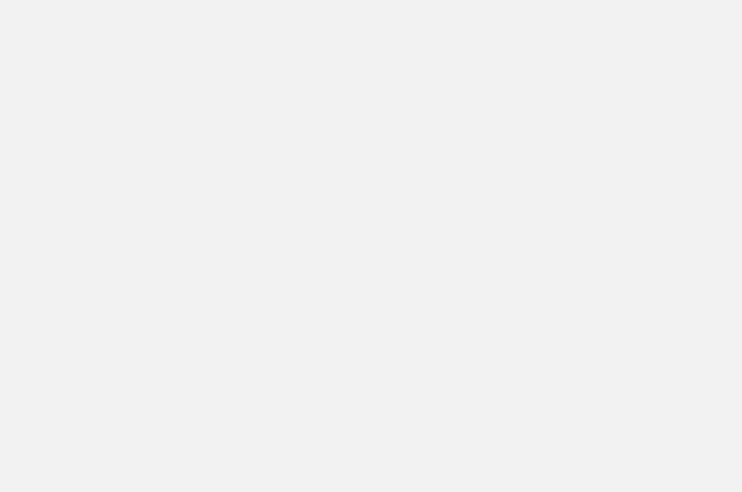
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### Ultimate Latin pop boy band: CNCO or CD9?



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### Which is your favorite Dave Grohl band: Nirvana or Foo Fighters?



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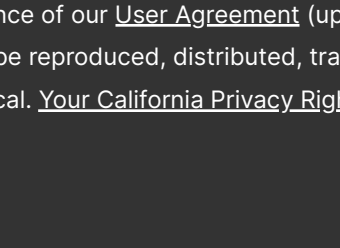
### More iconic punk rock band: Green Day or Blink-182?

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