

## **Bonus: no. NOT EVER**

Kate Boyd and Cristien Storm of the Seattle-based collaborative group If You Don't They Will discuss "no. NOT EVER", an interactive, immersive presentation of cultural resistance to white nationalism practiced by Western rural and suburban groups throughout the 80s and 90s.

### **Home Alive and Self Defense in the 90s**

[Home Alive](#) wrote curriculum, organized benefit concerts and CD's, taught self defense classes, made connections with other organizations, and inspired and empowered a lot of people in Seattle and worldwide.

As people gained access to personal power they gained in classes and workshops that Home Alive and other organizations offered, they gained confidence and became teachers and demonstrators themselves, at sliding scale classes that did not require uniforms and provided basic acceptance of people. In Portland, people could find such instruction with Staci Cotler, who taught sliding scale classes for years at Open Hand, gave demonstrations at punk shows and traveled as far as South America to teach self defense to sex workers. Arika O trained for two years with Cotler, who then spent 17 years leading trainings and workshops across Europe and the United Kingdom. Self defense, especially queer-centered self defense for vulnerable people, was her activism and service to community.

"In 2010, due to the continuous financial up- and down-swings that seem inherent in the functioning of small nonprofits, [Home Alive](#) folks decided to close down the nonprofit aspect of the organization."

**The Gits** were a rock band who formed in 1986 on the Antioch College campus in Yellow Springs, Ohio; they named themselves after a [Monty Python](#) sketch, originally called the Sniveling Rat-Faced Gits. Mia Zapata on vocals was originally from Louisville, Kentucky; drummer Steve Moriarty grew up in Indiana, bassist Matt Dresdner was from New Jersey and guitarist Andrew Kessler aka Joe Spleen was from Brooklyn. They moved to Seattle in the late 80s, lived in a house called the Rat House and quickly became the center of a Seattle music scene until [Mia's murder](#) shattered the band. The band released two full-length studio albums: [Frenching the Bully](#), and [Enter: The Conquering Chicken](#), which was in production at the time of Mia's murder and posthumously released, both originally on [C/Z Records](#) and reissued on [Broken Rekids](#). Lots of band footage, interviews with band members, friends, other musicians, and photos are featured in a [2005 documentary](#) directed and produced by Kerri O'Kane.

### **Rural Anti-Racist Organizing**

The Coalition for Human Dignity and the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment worked with around 120 different groups and task forces; their histories are included in the [no. NOT EVER presentation](#). Oregon is home to the [Rural Organizing Project](#), which formed in 1992. Across the state, the ROP supports multi-issue, rural-centered grassroots organizing, with a mission to support the autonomy and primary leadership of local human dignity groups.