

# RALPH RECORDS

No.5 - APRIL 1980



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Wow!  
These  
RALPH  
Records  
Are  
Really  
NEAT!

HEL  
RALPH!

Now  
I'll  
Never  
Die!!!

6.P.79

**RALPH RECORDS**  
444 Grove St.  
San Francisco 94102

*Tom Zmawski*  
7351 Patton  
Detroit MI  
48228

**RALPH RECORDS**  
444 Grove St.  
San Francisco 94102

Hello. Catalog number five . . . it seems like only yesterday that we were struggling with catalog number four. Looking back at ole number four makes me really see what has happened in the year since then.

ESKIMO finally was released, *Snakefinger* and the *Art Bears* both produced widely acclaimed LP's, the San Francisco compilation, *SUBTERRANEAN MODERN* painted a new picture of music in *The City* and resulted in the signing of *MX-80 Sound* and *Tuxedomoon* to our honored label. WOW!

In short, 1979 was a truly crazy and exciting year. And it was just a warm-up for the Eighties.

Those of you who are not familiar with Ralph Records are in for a wide variety of musical surprises. We have tried to provide a description of our releases to aid you in choosing which of our unique recordings best suite your taste. Describing music with words is a bit bizarre, so we have the *BUY OR DIE* 1980 sampler EP that is yours free for a dollar (to cover postage and packaging). Send your name and address and \$1.00 to:

Almost Free  
Ralph Records  
444 Grove Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Your interest in Ralph Records is greatly appreciated, and in the Eighties we're really going to try to live up to the high expectations you have entrusted us with.

**RALPH RECORDS**



## THIS CATALOG MAY BE YOUR LAST

For years the mail-order operation at Ralph has just been adding names to its mail list without much thought or editing. Finally, the thousands of listings totally swamped the system and changes had to be made.

You have heard of Frank Johnson. He (or it) is the new computer at Cryptic. He will be processing the future mail orders.

The problem is that he is dropping the ENTIRE MAILING LIST and will be making a new one based upon people who purchase products by mail. If you do buy from us by mail . . . no problem. However, if you buy in stores and wish to continue receiving the semi-annual Buy Or Die catalogs, then, unfortunately, you must order something so he (it) views you as a customer (T-Shirts are good possibilities since few stores carry them).

## INFO ON SENDING YOUR TAPES TO RALPH

Have you ever considered sending a tape of your music to ole Ralph "just to see what happens"? If not, you are one of the only ones. Now don't take this wrong. This record company loves hearing what you are doing, and although it hasn't happened yet, someone might actually get to record for Ralph on the basis of a

tape someday. The problem is that there isn't enough time to hear all the tapes. Therefore, we beg and plead that you send us only the best (most original, most commercial, whatever) excerpts from your ten hour opera, three record set of cricket noises, or 90 minutes of a telephone conversation with your friend who is on drugs. **TEN MINUTES IS PLENTY.**

Also, please make sure your name and address is highly visible and readable. All tapes and records will be kept unless otherwise instructed.

And finally, don't let your expectations exceed your sense of reality. That is to say that Ralph Records is not hard-up for music to release. If you are making truly great music, however . . .

## FAN CLUB INFORMATION

The Residents Official Fan Club (W.E.I.R.D.) completed its first year and got out, among other things, a first rate book on the mysterious group. The club suffered some extreme growing pains when more people demanded membership than had been anticipated. Important note . . . the fan club is NOT the same as Ralph Records. The fan club address is: The Residents Official Fan Club (W.E.I.R.D.)/PO Box 4715/North Hollywood CA 91607.

COVER ILLUSTRATION BY  
GARY PANTER

Hello  
Skinny

A NEW RESIDENT  
MOVIE

COMING TO A THEATER NEAR YOU.



**SOMEDAY YOU'LL  
BE KING b/w  
WHITE NIGHT  
MX-80 Sound  
(45) MX-8001-S**

The single from *OUT OF THE TUNNEL* featuring an unreleased "B" side, *WHITE NIGHT*.

cat. #330 .....\$2.00

**SUBTERRANEAN  
MODERN  
Various Artists  
(LP) SM7908**

Three San Francisco based band join *The Residents* for a romp through the modern underground. *Chrome*, *Tuxedomoon*, and *MX-80 Sound* give samples of their unique styles including a version of "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" which was recorded by each of the four. All of the material on this LP was specially recorded for this project. Cuts include "Waterfront Seat", "Possessed", and "Anti-Fade".

"...light-years ahead of any comparable compilation..."  
New Musical Express

"...\*\*\*1/2"  
Sounds

"...more regional weirdness than a whole crate of NO NEW YORK LPs."  
Trouser Press

cat. #190 .....\$6.00

**OUT OF THE  
TUNNEL  
MX-80 Sound  
(LP) MX-8002-L**

*MX-80 Sound* is a strange band. Not necessarily as in "weird", but more like "hard to put your finger on". In the first place, they are heavy metal. Seriously. They are heavy metal. Glenn O'Brien in *Interview Magazine* said they are "either *The Most Heavy Metal Art Band in the World* or *The Most Arty Heavy Metal Band in the World*." Superficially, snap your fingers and tap your toes, but dare, if you will, to listen on headphones!! Included are "Metro Teens", "Someday You'll Be King", and "Fender Bender".

*MX-80* previously released an album, *Hard*

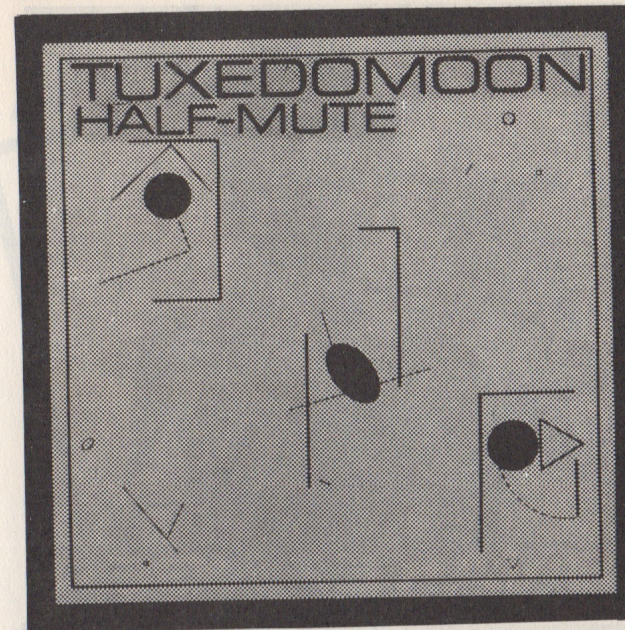
Attack, on *Island Records*. Here is what critics said about it:

"...instant mind-warp. Frightening and funny... with an approach as novel, if not as original as it is possible to be these days."  
Sounds

"...discord with a feeling... an authentically oddball sound... excellent... amazing..."  
Creem

"Wow. *MX-80* is one of the greatest bands in the world today."  
Interview

cat. #130 .....\$6.00



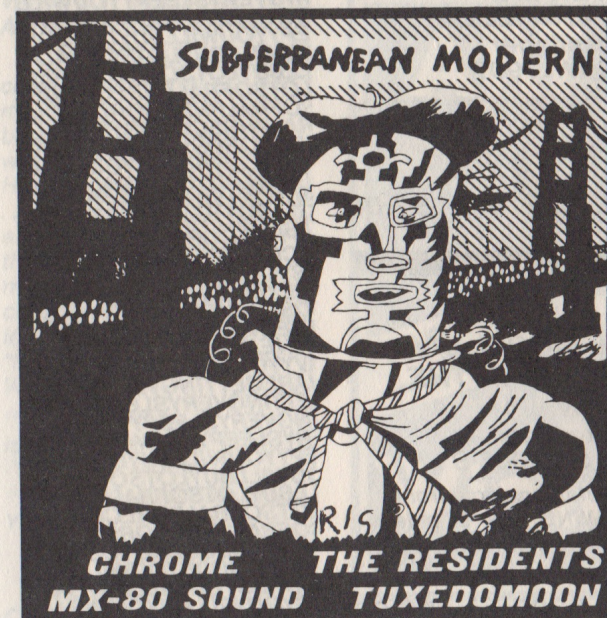
**HALF-MUTE  
Tuxedomoon  
(LP) TX-8004-L**

*Tuxedomoon's* first LP shows a concern for a balance of electronics and human values. The result is a bleak view of life as technological isolation. The disc comes to symbolize the essence of the very problem. The title, "Half-Mute", applies, as the album has many richly produced instrumentals. Tracks include "What Use?", "59 to 1", and "7 Years".

About *Tuxedomoon's* work on *Subterranean Modern*, critics said:

"...all the appeal and accessibility of, say, *Gary Numan*, despite their massive superiority in terms of complexity and sheer inventive imagination... as musically engrossing as anything produced this year."  
New Musical Express

cat. #140 .....\$6.00



**WHAT USE?  
b/w CRASH  
Tuxedomoon  
(45) TX-8003-S**

The single from the album, *HALF-MUTE*. *CRASH* on the "B" side is not on any other record.

cat. #340 .....\$2.00

**CHEWING HIDES THE SOUND**

**Snakefinger (LP) SNK7909**

This is Mr. Snake's debut LP and sets him up as a highly talented, uncompromising, new pop artist. Produced by Snakefinger and The Residents. The dozen tracks include "Who is the Culprit and Who is the Victim?", "The Model", and "Kill the Great Raven".

"... quite magnificent... powerful and important new music..."

Sounds

"... a manifest gift for rewired pop..."

Snakefinger could start a lot of big changes..."

Interview

**CHEWING HIDES THE SOUND**



**SNAKEFINGER**

cat. #120 ..... \$6.00

**KILL THE GREAT RAVEN b/w WHAT WILBER?**  
Snakefinger  
(45) WIL7907

The first single from the LP, CHEWING HIDES THE SOUND.

cat. #321 ..... \$2.00



**THE SPOT b/w SMELLY TONGUES**  
Snakefinger  
(45) RR7805

Snakefinger's first solo outing for Ralph. Produced by The Residents. These songs are not on any domestic LP. Blue vinyl (while they last).

cat. #320 ..... \$2.00

**THE MODEL b/w TALKING IN THE TOWN**  
Snakefinger  
(45) SN-8005-S

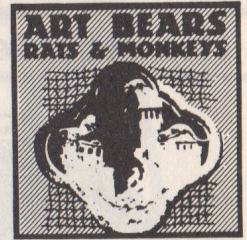
Another single from CHEWING. The "B" side is not on any other record.

cat. #322 ..... \$2.00

RYHEAVY YOU ARE GETTING  
AVY YOU ARE GETTING VERY  
JARE GETTING VERY SLEEP  
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OU WILL BUY LOTS OF RALPH  
LL BUY LOTS OF RALPH REC  
LOTS OF RALPH RECORDS  
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CORDS YOU WILL BUY ONLY  
SYOU WILL BUY ONLY RALP  
WILL BUY ONLY RALPH REC



**ART BEARS (Fred Frith)**



**RATS & MONKEYS b/w COLLAPSE**  
Art Bears  
(45) RR7904

The single from WINTER SONGS with an Art Bears "B" side is found nowhere else.

cat. #350 ..... \$2.00

**WINTER SONGS Art Bears (LP) RR7905**

The Art Bears is composed of three musicians who have become legendary for their work with British groups Henry Cow and Slapp Happy... Fred Frith, Chris Cutler, and Dagmar Krause. This, their second album, is a marvelously rich and well crafted series of songs including "The Skeleton", "Rats & Monkeys", and "3 Wheels".

"... fascinating... iconoclastic and brilliant."  
Record World  
"... Best Rock Album of the Year"  
The Lobe

cat. #150 ..... \$7.00

ART BEARS

FRED FRITH

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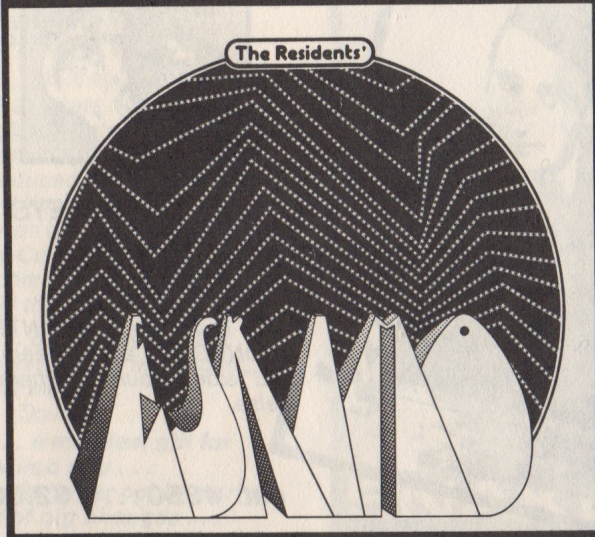
DAGMAR KRAUSE

CHRIS CUTLER

---

Winter Songs

## The Residents' ESKIMO



### ESKIMO The Residents (LP) ESK7906

Their sixth album, *ESKIMO*, tells legends and adventures entirely through the usage of sound. It is a moody piece of abstract music punctuated by primitive vocals and rhythms. One of the most original recordings in existence today.

"...without doubt one of the most important albums ever made, if not the most important..."

*New Musical Express*

"...a shocking album of great beauty and intensity."

*Sounds*

cat. #105 .....\$7.00

### MEET THE RESIDENTS The Residents (LP) RR0677

The Residents first LP. Enough said.

"...if MEET THE BEATLES started it all, MEET THE RESIDENTS ends it."

*One Dollar Magazine*

cat. #100 .....\$6.00



Snakefinger

### SATISFACTION b/w LOSER = WEED The Residents (45) RR7803

Recorded in 1976, this is one of the all-time, big, independent hits of the late Seventies. A pre-punk masterpiece of intensity never again equaled. These songs are not available on any other record. Yellow vinyl (while they last).

cat. #300 .....\$2.00



THE RESIDENTS

### DISKOMO b/w GOOSEBUMP The Residents (Disco 12" 45) RZ-8006-D

Side one is bouncing disco version of The Residents own opus, *ESKIMO*. Side two is over 14 minutes of *The Residents and Snakefinger* goosing Mother Goose... and doing it with a huge assortment of toy musical instruments. Must be heard to be believed.

cat. #200 .....\$4.00



THE RESIDENTS

THE RESIDENTS - NOT AVAILABLE



**NOT AVAILABLE**  
**The Residents**  
**(LP) RR1174**

The Residents second LP. Delayed four years before release (it actually came out in 1978. The record looms like a complex opera concerning a character named "Edweena" whose effect on four men nearly destroys them all.

"... some of the most haunting music The Residents have ever produced ..."

New Music Express

"... an eerie tension that is overwhelming ... a musical stream of consciousness ..."

The Washington Post

cat. #101 ..... \$6.00



THE THIRD REICH 'N ROLL

**THE THIRD REICH 'N ROLL**

**The Residents**  
**(LP) RR1075**

Sixties rock n' roll has never been treated so ruthlessly, or so lovingly, as The Residents now classic, hair-pulling Third Reich 'N Roll. This album has been a major force on the direction of new pop, predating "Punk", "New Wave", and "No Wave" by over two years.

"...unqualified masterpiece ... outrageously iconoclastic ..."

Sounds

cat. #102 ..... \$6.00

**FINGERPRINCE**

**The Residents**  
**(LP) RR1276**

The fourth album. Side one is a collection of eight songs, including "You Yesyesyes", that clearly illustrates one of The Residents directions ... that of New Pop musicians. Side two shows another direction entirely, which, in retrospect, points toward Eskimo. "Six Things to a Cycle" is a percussive ballet piece which stands as an independent musical work recognized even beyond Residents fandom.

"... Fingerprince is a masterpiece."

Pacific Sun

cat. #103 ..... \$6.00

**DUCK STAB/ BUSTER & GLEN**

**The Residents**  
**(LP) RR0278**

Fourteen Residents tracks in "nearly pop" styling. Originally two EP's (only one of which, Duck Stab, was released on disk). Includes "Constantinople", "Hello Skinny", "Blue Rosebuds", others.

"... never ceases to amaze and amuse."

Record World

"... like Walt Disney on mescaline."

New Musical Express

"... another unnatural masterpiece."

Wet Magazine

cat. #104 ..... \$6.00

DUCK STAB/BUSTER & GLEN (LP)



**NIBBLES**

**The Residents**  
**(LP) Ralph/Virgin VR3**

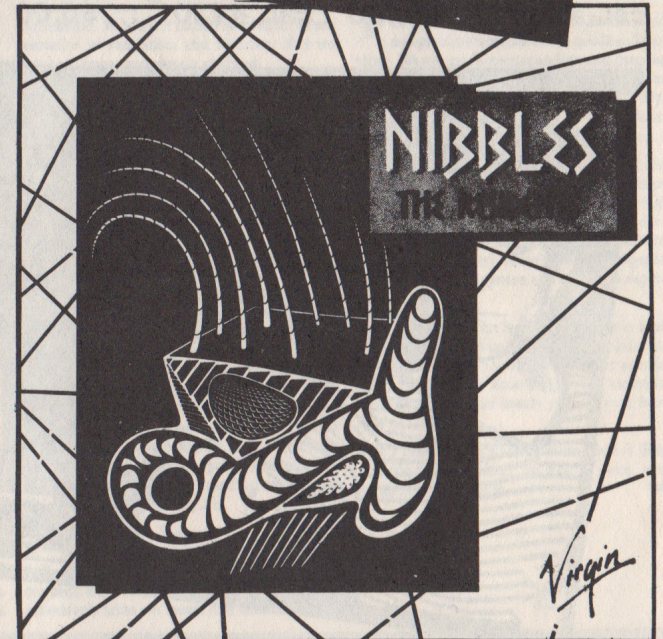
This is an import from the UK which is distributed by Virgin Records. It contains 13 tracks from the first five Residents LPs, Santa Dog '78, and Snakefinger's The Spot. Not released in the USA.

"... \*\*\*\* (highest rating)"  
Sounds

"Even people who find The Residents albums quite unlistenable won't be able to resist this collection."

New Musical Express

cat. #106 ..... \$7.00



## T-SHIRTS

Shirts are available in these sizes:

XS S M L XL

Failure to specify shirt size means you get a Medium.

### SANTA DOG

cat. #420 ..... \$6.00

### TUXEDOMOON

cat. #440 ..... \$6.00

### MEET THE RESIDENTS

cat. #400 ..... \$6.00

### ESKIMO (black shirt)

cat. #415 ..... \$6.00

### OUT OF THE TUNNEL

cat. #435 ..... \$6.00

### BUY OR DIE #1

cat. #405 ..... \$6.00

### RESIDENTS FOR PRESIDENTS

cat. #425 ..... \$6.00

### CHEWING HIDES THE SOUND

cat. #450 ..... \$6.00

### BUSTER & GLEN

cat. #410 ..... \$6.00

### ROZZ TOX (black shirt)

cat. #430 ..... \$6.00

### BUY OR DIE #5

cat. #445 ..... \$6.00



Gary Panter

## THE ROZZ-TOX MANIFESTO

**ITEM 1:** The avant-garde is no corpus. It merely lies in shock after an unfortunate bout with its own petard. It feigns sleep but one eye glitters and an involuntary twitch in the corner of the mouth belies a suppressed snicker. The giggle of coming awake at one's own funeral dressed in atomic TV beatnik furniture. A mutant with a mission.

**ITEM 2:** There are twenty years left in the twentieth century. Twenty years to reap the rewards and calamities that have been put in motion in this period. At this time a current of aesthetic function is emerging: the inevitable culmination of concepts and experiments pioneered and conducted in this century. We declare society an amusement park and one to be dead reckoned with.

**ITEM 3:** A deadly texture and tone have taken the cereal Nirvana: a misanthrope born of capital realities, tendencies and inter-office memos. Sightless businessmen-posed-entertainers shovel up tons of soulless Saturday morning animation. Would that you could make cost-effective the rubbery genius that was the Saturday morning of our youth.

**ITEM 4:** We say enough to the instigators of game show design for we are sick and dizzy. Show us the backs of these monstrous façades, for even bare plywood is a healthier texture. Oh you seekers of the new who run terrified from history into the clutches of an eternal life where no electric shaver can be built to last.

**ITEM 5:** Close the bars! We require well-lit media centers that serve soft drinks and milk. We require that top-40 radio stop it. And this for extant executive entertainers: We know when to laugh. Machines don't, and it is irritation to hear them laugh at the wrong time. They laugh at nothing and nothing isn't funny.

**ITEM 6:** Find the evil-doers, the merchant peddlers of Pavlovia who use our unmentionable parts against us. Will you hide behind a scrim of two-dimensional phosphorescence when Biology exacts its reward?

**ITEM 7:** Profound faith in glamour is a surefire way to not see that you kill what you eat. We believe and worship a two-dimensional world. No god printers save us when we

stand naked and brainless before an unpromising and impartial physicality. We are sick now/get wise to the media. Join the art police. We call for the posting of cow pictures in every fast-food franchise. And for vegetarians: recordings of screaming vegetables at every salad bar.

**ITEM 8:** Beautiful and effective communicative marketing and aesthetic media are not innately evil: merely seductive. However, seductive aesthetics and media are prone to undermine common sense and vision in a capitalistic culture. Our own creations have shamed us. Teaching us that the hand and opinion of the individual are not as legitimate as that of opinion transmuted and inflated by broadcast... especially when that opinion is on 80-pound coated stock, in full color... or when that opinion steals invisibly and incomprehensibly into a box in our homes. We are overawed and superstitious still. Would that society reveled in certain varieties of vandalism and disarray. May we mow our lawns and remain civilized.

**ITEM 9:** It is unfortunate and unacceptable that vile and lazy do-nothings are given unwarranted credence for mouthing such foul and mean clichés as "rip-off" and "sell-out." They have no understanding of our economy and the time it takes society to go. Confess and shut up! Capitalism good or ill is the river in which we sink or swim. Inspiration has always been born of recombination.

**ITEM 10:** In a capitalistic society such as the one in which we live aesthetics as an endeavor flows through a body which is built of free enterprise and various illnesses. In boom times art may be supported by wildcat speculation or by excess funds in the form of grants from the state or patronship as a tax write-off. Currently we are suffering from a lean economy. By necessity we must be self-supporting. Popular media are bigger than fine art media. Aesthetic mediums must infiltrate popular mediums. We are building a business-based art movement. This is not new. Admitting it is.

**ITEM 11:** Business: 1. To create a pseudo-avant-garde that is cost-effective. 2. To create merchandising platforms on popular communication and entertainment media. 3. To extensively mine our recent and ancient past for

icons worth remembering and permutating: re-combo archaeology.

**ITEM 12:** Waiting for art talent scouts? There are no art talent scouts. Face it, no one will seek you out. No one gives a shit.

**ITEM 13:** Market saturation was reached in the sixties—everyone knows that Fine Elitist Art is of diminishing utility. There is no more reward for maintaining or joining an elite and sterile crew.

**ITEM 14:** Elitist art cannot help the emergent complex through its painful and potentially stupidly dangerous adolescence. Start or support primitive industry, propaganda to no dogma, and environmental jars.

**ITEM 15:** Law: If you want a better media go make it.

**ITEM 16:** We are born capitalists and manufacturers of alternative goods and services. We are made propagandists and propose an antimedia to no dogma. We call for popular environmental manipulators, primitive industry, an avant-garde placed squarely in the entertainment field, for archaeologists and synthesizers.

**ITEM 17:** A call for mutant intuition and wrestling is real. A current that synthesizes idea and entertainment... an antimedia that creates, participates and services a broader-based lunatic fringe and one that is capable of finishing the century outright. An avant-garde that has no mean diversion and stocks the supermarket.

**ITEM 18:** Our lack of popularity in high school has led us to think and thinking has led us to this. No war is waged here: only a strain, a virus, a toxoid, a Rozz-Toxoid. The emergent complex asks for just twenty years of your time. Now stand and sing...

**FINAL NOTE:** Capitalism good or ill is the river in which we sink or swim, and stocks the supermarket.

