

## PLAY DEAD

### pale fire

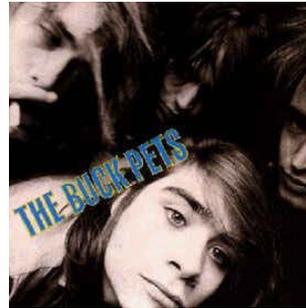


12" single  
c. 1985 Clay Records

Play Dead were an English post-punk group from Oxford that grew out of the fading English punk scene in 1980. Though the band was identified with groups like UK Decay and Sex Gang Children, the band felt they didn't belong under the gothic title. The band made three studio albums for four different small labels—Fresh Records, Jungle Records, Situation 2, and Clay Records—before forming their own label, Tanz, for their final album, *Company Of Justice*, which appeared in 1985.

## THE BUCK PETS

### a little murder



from the LP *The Buck Pets*  
c. 1989 Island Records

The Buck Pets were an American alternative rock band formed in the late 1980s in Dallas, Texas. While they initially gained a degree of support from Island Records for their first LP, 1989's hard edged *The Buck Pets*, on the eve of the release of their 2nd LP *Mercurotones*, Island was bought by PolyGram - the A&R staff was let go, and projects were shelved while the new owners evaluated their new property. During their short tenure, The Buck Pets garnered tour spots with larger acts such as Neil Young (Ragged Glory Tour) and Jane's Addiction, but in the end, they failed to see much commercial success.

## QUITE SIMPLE

### victims



7" Single  
c. 1987 self-released

Quite Simple was a very short-lived Gothic Rock band from The Netherlands. They released only one studio album, 1989's *Unknown Stranger* and one self-released single, "Victims" - from 1987. The band appeared in a compilation called "Made In Brabant" released in 1987 with the songs "Visions" from their studio album & "Neon Lover" which is not released as a single or album.

## CRASH STREET KIDS

### little girls



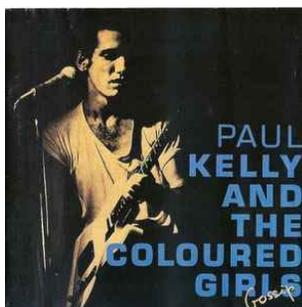
from the LP *Little Girls*  
c. 1982 Fat City Records

Endless gigging throughout the Minneapolis area and the Midwest built this Twin Cities power pop outfit a strong reputation and a devoted fanbase in the early 80's, resulting in the fantastic *Little Girls* LP for the Fat City label in 1982. While the top notch songwriting, playing and production of this album may have never received the attention it was due outside of Minnesota, the influence of Crash Street Kids can be heard in the later recordings of fellow Minneapolis legends The Replacements. One listen to this album will convince you Paul Westerberg took his vocal cues from frontman Melvin James, who we can only assume Westerberg must have seen and maybe even supported live with the Replacements at some point in their early days together. (Nervous Breakdown blog)

**CORN DOLLIES**| **people gone**

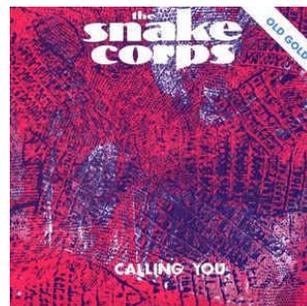
b-side of *Map Of The World* 12" single  
c. 1988 Medium Cool Records

The Corn Dollies were a UK indie band from London, active between 1987 and 1991. After their first Robert Forster-produced release on the Farm label, they released several singles on Medium Cool Records. The debut, "Be Small Again" was an indie hit, reaching No. 28 on the UK Independent Chart. The follow-up, "Forever Steven", reached No. 16 on the UK Charts. The Corn Dollies gained popularity throughout Europe after a tour in 1989, building a strong fanbase in Spain. When Medium Cool collapsed, they moved to Midnight Music, releasing two albums. In support of *Wrecked*, they undertook a national tour supporting Ian McCulloch, but with the album's success being limited, the band split up in 1991.

**PAUL KELLY**| **before too long**

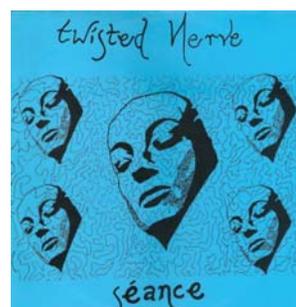
from the LP *Gossip*  
c. 1982 MSI Quality Records

Paul Kelly is an Australian singer-songwriter, guitarist, and harmonica player who has performed solo as well as leading numerous groups such as the Dots, the Coloured Girls, and the Messengers. Kelly's music style has ranged from bluegrass to dub reggae, but his core output straddles folk, rock, and country leanings. His lyrics capture the vastness of the culture and landscape of Australia by chronicling life about him for over 30 years. David Fricke from Rolling Stone calls Kelly "one of the finest songwriters I have ever heard, Australian or otherwise." "Before Too Long" was the first single released by his double album, *Gossip*. Issued in June 1986 on the original White Label Records (a subsidiary of Mushroom Records) it reached No. 15 on the Australian Singles Chart, remaining there for 19 weeks.

**SNAKE CORPS**| **calling you**

12" single  
c. 1989 Midnight Music

Formed in 1984 from the ashes of Sad Lovers & Giants, the London-based Snake Corps blended an original fusion of post-punk with a dynamic guitar and vocal soundscape. Midnight Music, who had been the home of early SL&G, signed the band in 1985 and released their debut album, *Flesh on Flesh* later that year. Two more full-length albums followed - 1990's *Smother Earth* and 1991's *3rd Cup*. The Snake Corps reformed in 2010 playing numerous shows around Europe including supporting slots for post-punk cohorts Chameleons Vox. In Fall 2016, the band released a brand new 4-song EP with hints toward a new full-length studio record to come.

**TWISTED NERVE**| **seance**

12" mini album  
c. 1984 +1 Records

Hailing from Edinburgh Scotland, Twisted Nerve presumably took their name from The Damned song on The Black Album (Chiswick Records, 1980), although it could just have easily come from the British horror flick of the same name (1968). Twisted Nerve had been around for some years before they would record *Seance*. It had been preceded by the Caught in Session 7" (Playlist Records, 1982), the Five Minutes of Fame 7" and the Eyes You Can Drown In 12" (both on Criminal Damage Records, 1983), the latter featuring some rather pleasing art-decoesque cover art. (from Plunder The Tombs)

w/ The Corn Dollies

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## THE FACT | into your heart



from the 12" EP *Always There*  
c. 1986 Tollhaus Records

A virtually unknown band from Germany whose entire catalog consists of one 4-song EP released in 1986 on the tiny German imprint Tollhaus Records (whose first release was the epic "Remembering the Days" of Days of Sorrow, a band just slightly more well known to fans of underground German post-punk and goth). All four tracks of this EP are post-punk gems with a gothic rock hue and plenty of primal energy. "Into Your Heart", the track included here, is a standout.

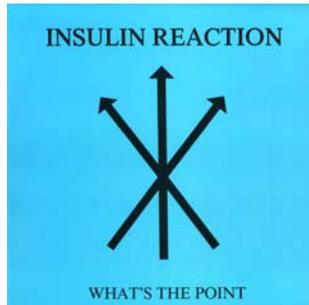
## NEON ROCK GARDEN | only child



from the LP *Perfect Sounds*  
c. 1987 Critical Mass Records

A woefully obscure trio from Hickory, North Carolina Neon Rock Garden made a regional splash with the fantastic Mitch Easter produced album *Perfect Sounds* - which was sadly only released on cassette. The collaboration was a thoroughly appropriate one, given NRG's adoption and/or adaptation of the "New South" sound which skewed heavily to Easter's own troupe, Let's Active and period combos like Dreams So Real, Love Tractor, and Matthew Sweet's Buzz of Delight. The band's hometown of Hickory was nestled due west, halfway between Winston-Salem and Charlotte. In short, this threesome was in very good company, but it was not to be for long, for after *Perfect Sounds* this Neon delight would go dark. (Wilfully Obscure)

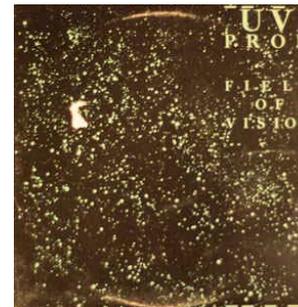
## INSULIN REACTION | secrets



from the LP *What's The Point?*  
c. 1988 Bobok Ltd.

This obscure Southern California group is notable for including two ex-members of dark punk band Peace Corpse (Tracy Lee Garcia and Julianna Towns). Unlike Peace Corpse however, Insulin Reaction is dark post-punk very much in the early Cure vein. Other than their 1991 release featuring Tracy's switch from bass to guitar, they originally used two bassists, a drummer, and a keyboardist. With two basses, the songs have a dark, ominous quality to them with very few bright, treblous noises appearing.

## UV PROM | mobile home murder



from the EP *Field Of Vision*  
c. 1985 Cenotaph Records

Another seriously obscure, yet fantastic band from North Carolina. This short-lived four piece produced only one slab of recorded material - the excellent Don Dixon produced *Field Of Vision* EP in 1985. UV Prom was also noted for their lineage to two more established icons of the Southeastern underground scene. Vocalist Joe Romweber was the older brother of Flat Duo Jets frontman Dexter Romweber and his sister Sara Romweber was a member of Let's Active and a founding member of Snatches of Pink.

**PERFECT VISION**

## | swim to me

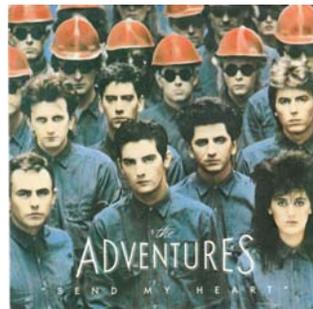


from the EP *Our Broken Crown*  
c. 1984 Leave It Art Records

Perfect Vision were a Cambridge based post-punk four-piece combining new electronic technologies with twin guitars, funky bass lines and strong male vocals by two singers whose voices offered very different qualities. Extremely prolific, the band put out a series of releases on both cassette and vinyl formats in a four year period (1983-1986) before eventually folding when career opportunities took band members in different directions. Their debut vinyl release, the 12" vinyl EP *Our Broken Crown*, gained national exposure when played by John Peel on his late night Radio 1 show.

**THE ADVENTURES**

## | send my heart

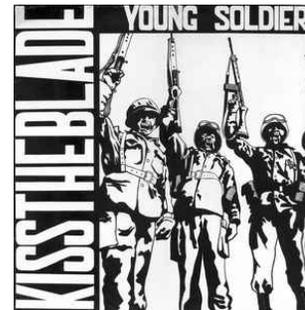


from the LP *Theodore and Friends*  
c. 1985 Chrysalis Records

The Northern Ireland band The Adventures formed in the early 80's from the ashes of two earlier Belfast bands Starjets and Tango Brigade. They were signed to Chrysalis Records in 1984 and released two well received singles before releasing their debut full length the following year. Managed by Simon Fuller, The Adventures were the support band of Tears For Fears for their world tour in 1985. After one album at Chrysalis, they were signed by Elektra where they scored their biggest hit "Broken Land", a No. 20 hit in the U.K. and the most played song on BBC Radio 1 in 1988. They released two albums at Elektra and for their fourth and last album they were signed to Polydor. Due to lack of success, Polydor dropped them and soon after they disbanded. They regrouped briefly in 2007 and again in 2009 for some gigs in Belfast.

**KISS THE BLADE**

## | young soldier

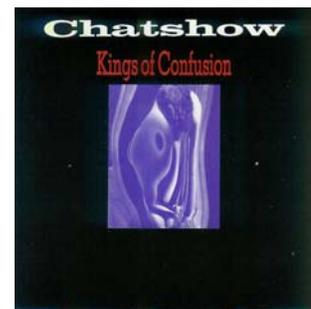


12" single  
c. 1986 Incision Records

Kiss The Blade was formed in Gloucestershire, UK in 1984 and had a lot of Radio 1 airplay by Janice Long. "The Party's Begun" was the first single and "Young Soldier" (a protest song against the Falkland Islands war) followed. The post-punk gothic quartet was fronted by vocalist/guitarist Terry Elcock and guitarist Tim J. Broughton. Their scant output was limited to just two 12" vinyl singles - both released on the tiny UK imprint Incision Records.

**CHAT SHOW**

## | kings of confusion



12" single  
c. 1987 Federation Records

This is the third single by the short-lived, Oxford based group Chatshow. They released four singles between 1986-1987, but dissolved before they got around to recording a full length LP. Their first 12" single was released on Play Dead's Tanz Records. They also supported **Play Dead** for at least one tour, and you can get a sense of the influence that was picked up along the way.

w/ Perfect Vision

(feed) →

## PARTY DAY | let us shine



from the compilation *Torn In Two*  
c. 1986 Torment Records

After forming in 1982, the UK band Party Day released their first single, "Row the Boat Ashore" c/w "Poison" on their own label, Party Day Records in 1983. Their second single, "The Spider" was described as "Excellent punk junk howl" and was played extensively on John Peel's BBC Radio 1 program. After the first album *Glasshouse*, there was a change in personnel with guitarist Martin Steele leaving due to ill-health. Other members came in for the completion of album #2 (1986's *Simplicity*). By 1988 the band broke up after abandoning their unfinished third album. "Let Us Shine", the track included here, was released on the 1986 UK goth/post-punk compilation *Torn In Two*.

## MUSIC FOR PLEASURE | the human factor



7" Single  
c. 1980 Rage Records

Music for Pleasure formed in Leeds England in 1979. Originally signed to Rockburgh Records, the band and contributed the song "The Human Factor" to Rockburgh's seminal Northern bands compilation *Hicks from the Sticks* in 1980. In 1982 the band signed to Polydor Records and released the single "Switchback", followed by their first album *Into the Rain* which was co-produced by Mike Hedges. Several more singles followed, as well as a 2nd LP, 1985's *Blacklands*, before the band was ultimately dropped by Polydor.

## VICIOUS PINK | cccan't you see



12" single  
c. 1984 Parlophone Records

With a catchy sound and a penchant for highly provocative and sexualized lyrics, Vicious Pink's music was aimed toward clubs rather than commercial hits. The group consisted of two members, English/French singer Josephine Warden and keyboardist Brian Moss. The duo began as backing vocalists for Soft Cell, then known as the Vicious Pink Phenomenon. Although they had started releasing music in 1982, they failed to attract much attention until the release of the single "Cccan't You See" and its instrumental B-side "8:15 to Nowhere" in 1984. Over the next two years, both sides of this single accrued play in clubs on both sides of the Atlantic.

## I START COUNTING | lose him



7" Single  
c. 1988 Mute Records

I Start Counting was a North London music duo consisting of David Baker and Simon Leonard. In 1982, they began to DJ together which led them to form the I Start Counting project. Leonard specialized in the technology side and Baker was biased toward the musical side of the project. A series of well received demos led to Mute Records signing the duo in 1984. In 1986, the group recorded their debut album titled *My Translucent Hands*, and the following year they supported Erasure on their European tour. The band's second album was released in June 1989, titled *Fused*. It included a new version of the track "Lose Him", made up of sampled voices instead of a recorded singer.

w/ Play Dead

(feed) →

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- 4 **TWISTED NERVE** seance
- 5 **THE FACT** into your heart
- 6 **INSULIN REACTION** secrets
- 7 **KISS THE BLADE** young soldier
- 8 **CHAT SHOW** kings of confusion
- 9 **PARTY DAY** let us shine
- 10 **VICIOUS PINK** cccan't you see
- 11 **MUSIC FOR PLEASURE** the human factor
- 12 **I START COUNTING** lose him
- 13 **PERFECT VISION** swim to me
- 14 **THE ADVENTURES** send my heart
- 15 **NEON ROCK GARDEN** only child
- 16 **THE CORN DOLLIES** people gone
- 17 **UV PROM** mobile home murder
- 18 **PAUL KELLY** before too long
- 19 **THE BUCK PETS** a little murder
- 20 **CRASH STREET KIDS** little girls





THE 80S UNDERGROUND

deep cuts vol. 7

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TRAY CARD  
(4 5/8" x 5 15/16")