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SAXAPHONE DEMONSTRATIONS



NORMAN SALANT

AMERICA UNDERGROUND

ROBERT PAYES

**AGENT ORANGE: "Everything Turns Grey"
b/w "Pipeline" (Poshboy)**

Ventures meet Blue Oyster Cult (really!) on two sides by this LA post-punk trio. The garage-rock classic on the A-side is speedy and catchy, and their version of the oft-covered "Pipeline" is nothing short of righteous.

MISFITS: 3 Hits from Hell EP (Plan 9)

"London Dungeon" is dark, Doorsy and atypically mute for these New Jersey horror punks, which may be why it's one of their best songs. "Horror Hotel" and "Ghoul's Night Out" are parapunk bashers and pretty good, too.

ONYX: "Call of the Wild" b/w "S.O.S." (Nu-Age)

"Call of the Wild"'s throbbing bass hook makes it the best song Public Image Ltd. never wrote. This Boston mystery duo's previous single ("Jet Set" b/w "Saturn 09") is also worth checking out.

PELL MELL: Rhyming Guitars EP (Indoor)

Like the Raybeats, this Seattle quartet (now a trio) recalls the glory days of Ventures instrumentals. Unlike the Raybs, Pell Mell goes for a rough, fast approach (especially on "Spy vs. Spy") which is half their attractiveness.

**PRETTY POISON: "No Tears" b/w "Sakii"
(Svengali flexidisc)**

It's one thing even to *think* of covering a Tuxedomoon song, never mind improving on the original. But this furious remake of "No Tears" leaves the Tuxmen in the dust. And singer Jade Starling is *much* better looking than Tuxedomoon's Winston Tong.

PYLON: "Crazy" b/w "M Train" (DB)

This was virtually a two-sided hit for Pylon; almost every college radio station and rock club was playing it. "Crazy" explores new avenues of melodicism, while "M Train" summarizes the stark dance rhythms of the *Gyrate* LP. One of the year's best, period.

**QUIET ROOM: "She Sits Alone" b/w "Pictures
in the Attic" (Win)**

The Black Forest comes to Silicon Valley—another way of saying these California synth boys have beaten Ultravox at their own game. Lush and romantic (*not* electronic disco, though), and unnerving around the edges.

**R.E.M.: "Radio Free Europe" b/w "Sitting
Still" (Two-Tone)**

Puzzling, edgy pop from the town that gave us Pylon, the 52 girls and umpty-ump other great bands. Rough production only adds to its appeal. Prelude to an IRS contract. Way to go.

**NORMAN SALANT: Saxophone Demonstra-
tions EP (Alive)**

Between studio dates with Romeo Void and the Residents, Salant found time to commit his experiments with massed, minimalist-riff saxes to vinyl. His collapsing of Blondie's "Accidents Never Happen" is a hoot.

WRINKLEMUZIK: Wrinklemuzik EP (Exit)

The wrinkle in Kenn Lowy's music is that he plays it all himself, in real time on guitar, synthesizer and electronic beat. He does a great Frippertronics routine, but the deceptively simple riffs of "A Move to the Right" made my short hairs stand on end. Favorite synthesizer record of the year.