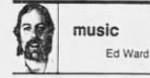


Rude Records upcoming release brewing a storm of controversy

War has broken out this week in the world of Austin rock 'n' roll. The Skunks learned last week that some tapes the band cut in 1978 for Bobby Earl Smith and Joe Gracy were about to be released as an album on Smith's Rude Records label. Head Skunk Jesse Sublett distributed a flyer to record stores on Friday calling the album "an inferior production of inferior recordings," and claiming that "there were no artists' releases secured for this album." The flyer was headlined "BOYCOTT BOGUS SKUNKS LP."



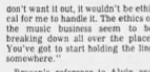
music Ed Ward

Smith realated with his own flyer, dated May 2, and headlined "RABID SKUNKS!" On this flyer, Smith charged that "name sorry (unprintable) signed Jesse Sublett's name to a poster and passed it out all over Austin," called the other flyer "full of lies," and asserted that he and Gracy do, in fact, have releases signed by the band, including Sublett. Smith's flyer says these releases were signed in a room at the Driskill Hotel, where the Skunks met Gracy and Smith and their "Philadelphia lawyer" there "for cocktails."

In fact, Sublett remembers that he did indeed sign something. However, he says he is not at all certain what the nature of that something was. Smith could not be reached to show anyone copies of these papers or to comment on the situation. However, Sublett says his publishing company, Cheap Girl, affiliated with BMI, has never been contacted for permission to release these recordings.

"It's a piece of garbage," Sublett told me, "and a ripoff not only for the Skunks, but for the consumer." KLRZ is not playing it. "It's called," said program director Glenn Mason, "and we have some of the same songs, with far better sound quality, on other, authorized, Skunks records. At this point, we have no plans to add it."

Nor are Austin's retail outlets rushing to stock Rude Records' first release. "It comes down to ethics," Inner Sanctum's Joe Bryan said. "Alvin Crow and Marcia Ball were very upset when I carried Smith's previous albums on the Big Wheel label, but they never got to me before I stocked them. I'm now going to bundle them up and return them. But this here is too much. The band came in and begged me not to handle it, and I figured, well, if the artists



Carl Perkins coming to Soap Creek.

don't want it out, it wouldn't be ethical for me to handle it. The ethics of the music business seem to be breaking down all over the place. You've got to start hiding the line somewhere."

Bryan's reference to Alvin and Marcia is fairly telling. "Both artists were surprised to find albums of their work," a demo tape Alvin and his Neon Angels cut will before their Longnecks Records album, and a Gracy-recorded live last performance of Freda and the Firelogs, which included Marcia and Bobby Earl, "released on Smith's label last fall," says Carlyn Majewski, who manages both. "They had discussed releases were signed, and there has been no compensation rendered for either album."

The Freda album is of markedly poor sound quality, and the word is that the Skunks album isn't going to win any audiophile awards either. Inner Sanctum, Zebra, Disc and Discount Records aren't handling them, but Sound Warehouse is. How much longer the record will be available depends on what action the Skunks take — whether a compromise can be worked out, or whether legal measures will have to be taken.

New York, New York, it's a Heck-a-Town: But then, Austin isn't New York, and Bete Skyler, Joe "King" Carrasco, D Day's De Lillies, and plenty of other musicians in town don't want it to be, which



Standing Waves playing at Duke's tonight.



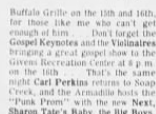
Buffala Grille bringing Bob Scaggs.

it why they've been trying to get people to join with the Coalition Against the Mismanagement of Austin in protesting the zoning changes that would allow the 16-story hotel building to be erected on the lot where Armadillo World Headquarters now stands. "It's not a 'save the Armadillo' movement so much as it is a 'no more skyscrapers cutting off the view' movement," explained Beto, who's running for Governor in 1990. "The Armadillo people aren't involved in this at all." The Coalition would like interested people to show up at Thursday's City Council meeting to support the protest of the zoning change.

The Beat Goes On: It looked like an empty month, but this is Austin, and the beat sure does go on. Tonight, Joe "King" Carrasco and the Standing Waves play at Duke's, and

tomorrow night the Chickadeets play their last gig ever. There. That'll be a dance party, with DJery Jack Turlington, better known as Skylab, providing the disc-spinning. Say goodbye to one of Austin's weirdest, but most lovable bands. And if you'd like to help Salvation Sandwiches pay for their appeal they got handed for selling sandwiches on campus, as well as help celebrate the opening of the E.E. Rider Beer Garden at Manor Road and Lakeway, they'll be having a 3-B party from noon onwards on Thursday. Admission is free, but donations will be requested (aided, edily by a 10-cent tax-exempt) and music will be provided by W.C. Clark, the Scammers, Spur of the Moment, and Elaine Burrell and her 3-B Revue. What's this a-B? Beer, Barbeque, and Belly-dancing, so they

say. Deron Bissett, a local Simon Key Robinson fan, got a warm welcome from the singer after the show at the Super Drum the other night. Bissett brought some souvenirs from the past to show Smokey, and just about flipped him out with them. "I don't even have 10th anniversary!" Robinson exclaimed, looking at a copy of the 1961 album "The Fabulous Milt Jackson." He does now — Bissett had an extra, and it's in the mail to his old right now. Did I mention that Gary Stewart has re-released at Antone's, and Albert King will be there instead on Friday and Saturday? Or that the Ozark Mountain Daredevils have hurriedly booked into the Opera House Saturday night? Or that Leo Kottke and Townes Van Zandt are playing the Armadillo Saturday as well? Just check it out! Townes is also going to play the



Buffala Grille on the 10th and 16th, for those like me who can't get enough of him. Don't forget the Gospel Keynotes and the Voltaires bringing a great gospel show to the Given Recreation Center at 8 p.m. on the 10th. That's the same night Carl Perkins returns to Soap Creek, and the Armadillo hosts the "Frank Prem" with the new Next, Sharon Tate's Baby, the Big Boys, Reactors and Dicks, all for \$1.75, with the first two ladies or reasonable facilities (except attending receiving complimentary plastic bouquets). And on the 13th, Clifton Chener returns to Antone's, which has also booked Antone's at the Wheel for the 20th, Elvin Bishop for the 20th, George Jones for the 30th, and B.B. King and Bobby "Blue" Bland for the 31st. Well... You already know that the Crusaders, with special guest vocalists, Max Handy Crawford will be at the Special Events Center on the 10th, and that Bee "Tuxedo Mandarino" Scaggs plays there on the 20th. And the seldom-seen Handkeres Sisters play throughout 1980 on Thursday, with a special performance on 10th, when they play the Hellfire Club. And that's it for Wednesday. Keep those toes tapping in it, and I'll fill you in on Saturday!

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