

ROCK MUSIC

GARAGE BE A CAVEMAN

MUSIC BACKGROUND:

The co-song-writer on this one, Gary Paxton, was best known as Skip of Skip and Flip and later as the lead singer of the Hollywood Argyles on their famous 1960 hit, "Alley Oop." This particular song in 1965 was actually his fourth encounter with a "caveman" theme. He had written the answer song, "Alley Oop Was a Two-Dab Man" in 1962 and in 1965 just before the first release of this one he did a remake of the 1960 hit, "Alley Oop '66" with the New Hollywood Argyles.

This song is in the worst tradition of "caveman" songs with lyrics that are not only thoroughly predictable and misogynous but also dull and uninspired. The first two stanzas should make this clear –

Oh, oh, oh, oh!
You gotta treat a woman rough
You gotta treat a woman tough
Be a cave man – oh, oh, oh
Keep her in line

Oh, oh, oh, oh!
You gotta pull her by the hair
Hold her tighter than a grizzly bear
Be a cave man – oh, oh, oh
Keep her in line



VARIOUS VERSIONS OF BE A CAVEMAN In chronological order of Release

RK-GA-BC1 United States 1965

BE A CAVE MAN

Rock 'n' Roll – Garage – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: Gary PAXTON & William POWELL ([LY-RK](#))

Rts: Garpax Music Inc. & Limelight Music (BMI)

Perf: **THE AVENGERS**

Gerry Blake (vocal & rhythm guitar)
Greg Likens (vocal & lead guitar)
Henry Gonzales (vocal & rhythm guitar)
Kenny Zigoures (bass)



Gary Bernard (drums)
Prod. Co: Star-Burst Records; Hollywood, CA
 & (LP) Archive International Productions

Rel. Date: Nov. 1965

Time: 1:53

1. Original Single **45:**

Star-Burst SB-125

Flip Sd: Broken Hearts Ahead

2. Reissue on Bootleg Compilation **LP:** BOULDERS – VOL. 1 (1980)

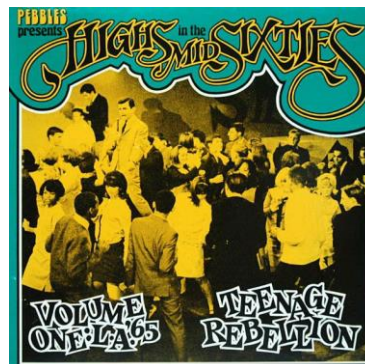
Max MLP 1

12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 6)

3. Reissue on Compilation **LP:** HIGHS IN THE MID-SIXTIES –
 VOL. 1 – LA ' 65 (1983)

Archive International Productions AIP-10003

12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 1)



Notes: This garage band took its name from the British TV fantasy-adventure series of the early 60s. It is not known if they are the same ones who cut singles on MGM and Jubilee in 1966-67 but they are certainly not to be confused with the British group of that name in 1967 or with the late 70s group from San Francisco. Gary Paxton produced several L.A. groups in the mid-60s, but the extent of his involvement here is unknown.

Here's what Gerry Blake said about "Be A Cave Man" –

"I'm not sure we even thought about how politically incorrect Caveman was. We just liked the song. It would get people dancing for sure. I don't think the girls thought much about it either. It was a different time back then. It was just music. We weren't dragging any girls behind the stage by the hair. Although some of them might have gone for it! By the way, the "monkey" sounds was one of us trying to make monkey sounds. Didn't cut it. So Gary Paxton just looped it and sped the recording up. I was the Tarzan yell." (Blake 2015)
 "The Avengers did not secure a hit record, but their song 'Be a Caveman' has become legendary in garage circuits for having bizarre lyrics and the recording ending with a speeded-up jungle scream." (Anon. 2013)

Tamarkin in his review of this compilation album calls this one "hilariously sexist." Sexist it is, but funny it is not. The sort of stuff that's been resurrected years later and labeled "garage punk"; stuff that at the time would have simply been written off as "trash." Some collectors call this one "a classic" (Moerer 1983) and The Avengers "seminal West Coast hardcore."

The [audio sample](#) uses short, accelerated clips from the 1970 prehistoric people film, "When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth," starring Victoria Vitry and Robin Hawdon.

Ref: Anon. 2013, The Avengers (US band), Bio, [citizendium](#)

The Avengers, Be a Caveman 45, [Discogs](#)

The Avengers, Be a Caveman, (1:53), [YouTube](#) (◀ **COMPLETE AUDIO-VIDEO SAMPLE**)

Be a Caveman, Lyrics, [nitrolyrics](#)

Blake, Gerry 2015, The Avengers, Be a Caveman, [opulentconceptions](#)

Craig Moerer Auction, *Goldmine*, n. 84, May 1983, p. 108

Tamarkin, Jeff, The Second Time Around, *Goldmine*, v. 10, Issue 2, n. 93, Feb. 1984, p. 121

RK-GA-BC2 United States 1986

BE A CAVEMAN

RK – Punk – Vocal & Instrumental – Caveman Pic Cover

Comp: Gary PAXTON & William POWELL

(Incorrectly credited to The Avengers)

Perf: **THE DWARVES**

Julius Seizure [aka. Paul Cafaro] (vocal & guitar)

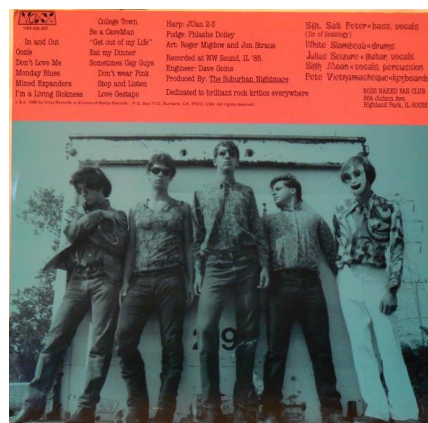
Pete Vietnamacheque (keyboards)

Sgt. Salt Peter [aka. Peter Straus] (bass)

Sigh Moan [aka. Andrew Simon] (vocal &

percussion)

White Slambeau (drums)



Prod: The Suburban Nightmare [aka. The Dwarves]

Prod. Co: Bomp! Records; Burbank, CA

Rec. Co: WW Sound

Time: 1:13

1. Original **LP:** HORROR STORIES

Vox 200.037 (stereo) (black vinyl)

12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 2)

2. Reissue **LP:** HORROR STORIES (1992)

Vox VXS 200.037 (stereo) (white vinyl)

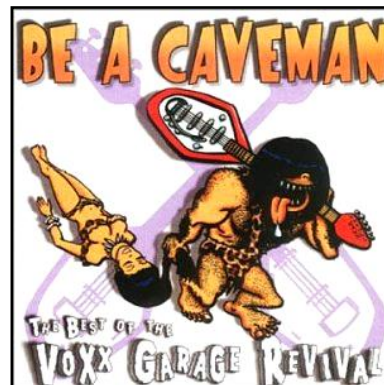
12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 2)

3. Reissue **CD:** HORROR STORIES (1992)

Vox VCD 2037 (Tk 8)

4. Reissue on Compilation **CD:** BE A CAVEMAN – THE BEST OF
THE VOXX GARAGE REVIVAL (2000) ([PC-CM](#))

Vox (?) (Tk 27)



Notes: This version of Paxton and Powell's song is incorrectly credited here to The Avengers, who did the original recording in 1965. From beginning to end this is a raucous, garbled punk howl where the lyrics are totally buried.

Everyone in this teenage group found it necessary to hide behind pseudonyms. From the label publicity – "Formerly 'Suburban Nightmare', they've grown wilder and more primitive on this their second album."

The catalog number of the 1992 reissue LP is the same, but only four group members are pictured on the rear of the jacket whereas five appeared on the earlier 1986 LP release and on side 2 two selections have been replaced by a new selection.

Julius Seizure (aka Paul Cafaro & Blag Dahlia) also did the vocal on the punk rock anthem, "Punk Rock Caveman Living in a Prehistoric Age" (see under Rock Music – Punk).

Ref: Dwarves (band), Bio, [Wikipedia](#)

The Dwarves, Be a Caveman, (1:16), [YouTube](#) ([◀COMPLETE AUDIO-VIDEO SAMPLE](#))

The Dwarves, Horror Stories LP & CD, [Discogs](#)

RK-GA-BC3 United States 1987

BE A CAVEMAN

RK – Garage – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: Gary PAXTON & William POWELL ([LY-RK](#))

Rts: Limelight Music (BMI)

Perf: **THE GRAVEDIGGER V**

Leighton [aka. Leighton Koizumi] (vocal)

Ted Friedman (vocal & lead Guitar)

John Hanrattie (rhythm guitar)

Tom Ward (vocal & bass)

David Anderson (drums)

Prod: Greg Shaw

Prod. Co: Bomp! Records; Burbank, CA

Rec. Co: Silvery Moon; Hollywood, CA

Time: 1:32

1. Compilation **LP:** THE MIRROR CRACKED

Vox VXS 200.038 (stereo)

12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 3)

2. Reissue Compilation **CD:** ALL BLACK AND HAIRY/ THE MIRROR CRACKED (1994)

Vox vcd 2025 (Tk 16)



Notes: From the label publicity – "Out of the caves of San Diego crawled this primitive teenage band, leering and snarling their songs of ugly girls and ghoulish desire. Later evolved into The Morlocks."

One fan wrote – "As every garage fan knows, the band that most exemplified the true meaning of 'Prime-evil' during the garage-boom period of the underground mid-eighties was none other than the Gravedigger

Five.” (Bond 1990) After seeing the all-girl band The Pandoras play they decided to give it a try and later they were to play on stage with The Pandoras (see The Pandoras rock song under Rock Music – Punk). This was an outtake from their first album, *All Black and Hairy*, which includes, “Stoneage Stomp” (see under Marginal Cave Music – Rock).

A live version of this song was included on side 2 of this album (see just below).

Ref: Bond, James 1990, Grave-Digger V, *Whatwave* (Fanzine), n. 19½, London, Ontario, p. u

Gravedigger Five, Bio, [Wikipedia](#)

The Gravedigger V, Be a Caveman, (1:32), [YouTube](#) (◀COMPLETE AUDIO-VIDEO SAMPLE)

The Gravedigger V, The Mirror Cracked LP, [Discogs](#)

The Gravedigger V, The Mirror Cracked LP, [rateyourmusic](#)

The Gravedigger V, All Black and Hairy & The Mirror Cracked CD, [Discogs](#)

RK-GA-BC4 United States 1987

BE A CAVEMAN (Live)

RK – Garage – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: Gary PAXTON & William POWELL (LY-RK)

Rts: Limelight Music (BMI)

Perf: **THE GRAVEDIGGER V**

Leighton [aka. Leighton Koizumi] (vocal)

Ted Friedman (vocal & lead Guitar)

John Hanrattie (rhythm guitar)

Tom Ward (vocal & bass)

David Anderson (drums)

Prod. Co: Bomp! Records; Burbank, CA

Rec. Date: June 16, 1984

Time: (?)

1. Compilation **LP:** THE MIRROR CRACKED

Vox VXS 200.038 (stereo)

12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 4)

2. Reissue Compilation **CD:** ALL BLACK AND HAIRY/ THE MIRROR CRACKED (1994)

Vox vcd 2025 (Tk 24)

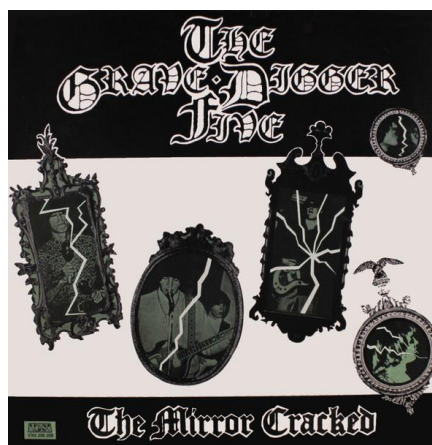
Notes: All the tracks on side 2 were recorded live at the Rave-Up on June 16, 1984.

Ref: Gravedigger Five, Bio, [Wikipedia](#)

The Gravedigger V, The Mirror Cracked LP, [Discogs](#)

The Gravedigger V, The Mirror Cracked LP, [rateyourmusic](#)

The Gravedigger V, All Black and Hairy & The Mirror Cracked CD, [Discogs](#)



RK-GA-BC5 United Kingdom 1987

BE A CAVEMAN

RK – Garage – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: Gary PAXTON & William POWELL

(LY-RK)

Rts: Garpax Music/ Limelight Music (BMI)

Perf: **UG & THE CAVEMEN**

Bal Croce (vocal)

Mark Hosking (guitar)

Debbie Green

Prod. Co: Media Burn Records; London

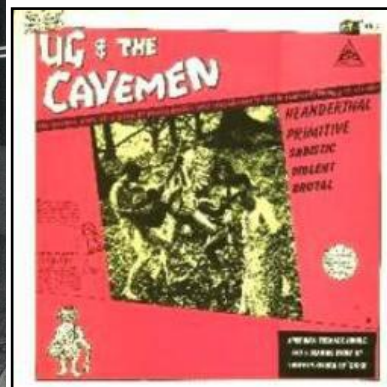
Time: 2:13

LP: UG & THE CAVEMEN

Bal CROCE

Media Burn MB 16

12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 4)



Notes: This British version gives the song a different twist by having the lyrics sung with a British accent.

Ref: Ug & the Cavemen, Be a Caveman, (2:13), [YouTube](#) (◀COMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE)

Ug & the Cavemen, Short Note, oldschool-psychobilly.de

Ug & the Cavemen, Ug & the Cavemen LP, [Discogs](#)

RK-GA-BC6 France 1988

BE A CAVEMAN

RK – Garage – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: Gary PAXTON & William POWELL (LY-RK)

Rts: Limelight Music (BMI)

Perf: THE TREMBLES

Darius Napolitano (vocal)

Paul Napolitano (guitar)

John Marinacci (bass)

Geg Stefani (drums)

Prod. Co: (?) Mental Records

Liner Notes: (in French) Peter Barry

(English Trans.) Shakin' Louie Louie

Time: 1:47

LP: TANT QU'IL AURA DU ROCK: THE COMPILATION-VOL.1

Stop It Baby Rds/STOP 02

12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 2)

Notes: This recording was previously unreleased. The Trembles, who came from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, had done a self-produced single for Mental Records in 1986.

Ref: Tant qu'il aura du rock: The Compilation – Vol. 1, [Discogs](#)

Tant qu'il aura du rock: The Compilation – Vol. 1, theecaveman.blogspot.fr



caveinspiredmusic.com