

ROCK MUSIC

GRUNGE

RK-GR1 United States 1991

ANTS ARE CAVEMEN

RK – Grunge – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: Guy KYSER ([RK-LY](#))

Rts: Swingin' Danglers Music (BMI)

Perf: **THIN WHITE ROPE**

Guy Kyser (lead vocal & guitar)

Roger Kunkel (vocal & guitar)

John Von Feldt (bass)

Matthew C. Abourzek (drums)

Prod: Tom Mallon

Prod. Co: Sub-Pop Records; Seattle, WA

Rec. Loc: The Loft

Rec. Date: October 30, 1988

Matrix: L37193

Time: 5:00 & (Nos. A2 & A3) 4:42

A. American Releases:

1. Original **33 Single:**

Sub-Pop SP-94 A

Flip Sd: Little Doll

7" 33rpm (Black or purple vinyl)

2. Reissue on **LP:** SPOOR (1995)

Frontier 31064-1

12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 6)

3. Reissue on **CD:** SPOOR (1995)

Frontier 31064-2 (Tk 6)

B. German **33 Single:** (1991)

Sup-Pop 13/ 148

Flip Sd: Little Doll

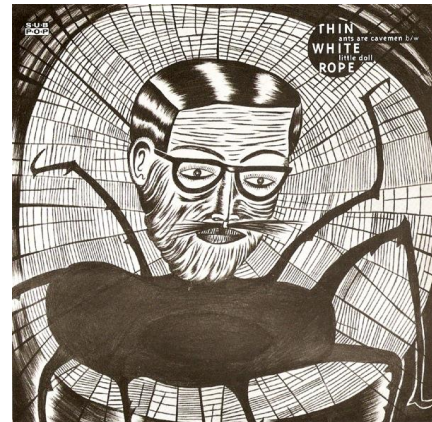
7" 33rpm

C. Spanish Reissue on Compilation **CD:** WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE (1994)

Munster MRCD 046 (Tk 17)

Notes: Distorted guitar then a heavy beat introduces Kyser's rasping voice singing two stanzas and chorus, first about the ants and then about roaches (see under Rock Song Lyrics). This is a highly insistent, intense rant that comes on very strong and doesn't give you a chance to breathe.

The possible inspiration may have been the 1954 Warner Brothers science fiction movie, "Them!," where giant ants mutated due to atomic bomb tests at White Sands, New Mexico and dug cave-like tunnels near Gypsum Hills. Scientists and the military descended a sinkhole entrance shaft on rope and made their way through the tunnels to the queen ant's chamber where they destroyed the eggs with flamethrowers. See movie still below of the scene in the ant-made catacombs when the military attacks.





One critic called this song – “a powerful blast of pounding drums, unnerving bass lines, guitars of psychedelic contortions and of course, Kyser’s burning petrol vocals. You don’t have to understand what ‘Ants are cavemen living in a brand new world’ means to see it all makes perfect twisted sense.” (Sjoblom n.d.)

The band originally formed in Davis, California. Guy Kyser graduated in geology from the University of California in Davis. One writer called his songs – “some of the strangest songs you’ll have heard in many a year... obscure melodies, psychotic/obsessive lyrics.” (Cross 1985) Thin White Rope

have been called the “poets of desert floors and dead end streets.”

Ref: Cross, Nigel 1985, Thin White Rope, *Bucketfull of Brains*, n. 13, London, p. 5-7 & 34

Dr. Lenera 2014, Them!, Film review & summary, HCF Reviews, horrorcultfilms.co.uk

Thin White Rope, Bio, [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thin_White_Rope)

Thin White Rope, Ants Are Cavemen 45, [Discogs](https://www.discogs.com/)

Thin White Rope, Ants Are Cavemen, (5:05), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) (◀COMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE)

Thin White Rope, Spoor LP & CD, [Discogs](https://www.discogs.com/)

Thin White Rope, When Worlds Collide, Spanish CD, [Discogs](https://www.discogs.com/)

Thin White Rope, When Worlds Collide, Spanish CD, [CDUniverse](https://www.cduniverse.com/) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Sjoblom, Peter n.d., The Ones That Got Away – A Tribute to Thin White Rope, Deep Water Acres, [dwacres](http://dwacres.com)

RK-GR2 United States 1993

ANTS ARE CAVEMEN

RK – Grunge – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: Guy KYSER (RK-LY)

Rts: Swingin' Dangers Music (BMI)

Perf: THIN WHITE ROPE

Guy Kyser (lead vocal & guitar)

Roger Kunkel (vocal & guitar)

Stooert Odom (vocal & bass)

Matthew C. Abourzek (drums)

Prod. Co: Frontier Records; Sun Valley, CA

Rec. Loc: Democraze; Gent, Belgium

Rec. Date: June 28, 1992

Time: 5:50

A. American Releases:

1. **LP:** THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY (1993)

Frontier 01866.34642-1

2X12" 33rpm (Disc 2 – Sd 1 – Bd 3)

2. **CD:** THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY (1993)

Frontier 01866.34642-2 (2XCDs) (CD 2 -Tk 3)

3. Reissue **CD:** THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY (2002)

Frontier 31052-2 (2XCDs) (CD 2 -Tk 3)

B. British **CD:** THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY (1993)

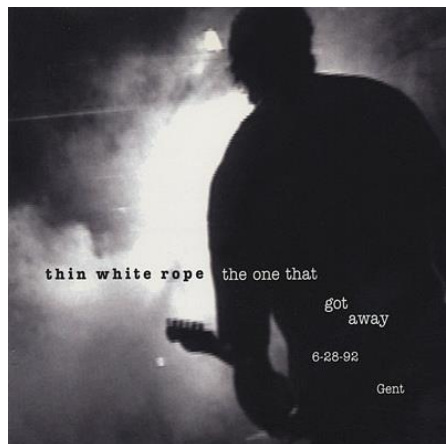
Diablo DIAB 829 (2XCDs) (CD 2 -Tk 3)

Notes: This is a second, slightly longer live recording of the piece.

There might well be other official recordings or bootlegs of this piece, but it was not possible to track them down.

Ref: Thin White Rope, Bio, [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thin_White_Rope)

Thin White Rope, The One That Got Away LP & CDs, [Discogs](https://www.discogs.com/)



RK-GR3 United States 1992

BEER DRINKIN' CAVEMEN FROM MARS

RK – Grunge – Vocal & Instrumental – Caveman Pic Cover

Comp: GAS HUFFER ([RK-LY](#))

Rts: Lead Head Music

Perf: GAS HUFFER

Matt Wright (vocal)
Tom Price (guitar)
Don Blackstone (bass)
Joe Newton (drums)

Prod. Co: Sub Pop

Rec. Co: Avast

Rec. Date: July 1992

Time: 2:07

A. American **45:** Sub Pop SP 163 B

Flip Sd: Hot Cakes
7" 45rpm (green vinyl)

B. German **EP:** Musical Tragedies MT-237 or

Musical Tragedies EFA 11396-06
7" 45rpm (EP) (Sd 1 – Bd 2)

Notes: Gas Huffer was an American garage rock band from Washington state. Active from 1989 to 2006. The photo of the band (l. to r.): Don Blackstone, Tom Price, Matt Wright, and Joe Newton.

This is another crash-bang intense offering.

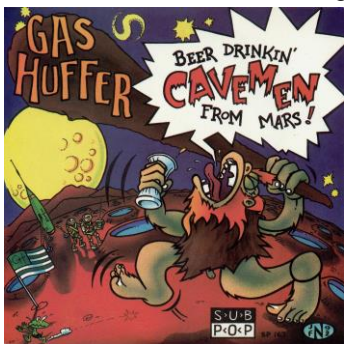
Ref: Gas Huffer, Bio, [Wikipedia](#)

Gas Huffer, Beer Drinkin' Cavemen from Mars, (2:04), [YouTube](#) (◀ **COMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE**)

Gas Huffer, Beer Drinkin' Cavemen from Mars, Sub Pop 45, [45cat](#)

Gas Huffer, Beer Drinkin' Cavemen from Mars, Sub Pop 45, [subpop](#)

Gas Huffer, Beer Drinkin' Cavemen from Mars, German 45, [Discogs](#)



RK-GR4 Canada 1995

CAVES

RK – Grunge – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: Russell WILSON, Malcolm BURN, Tom WILSON, & (?) ROSS ([RK-LY](#))

Rts: Thomas Cunningham Wilson Music/Sony Music Publ. Canada (SOCAN)/ Neeha (ASCAP)

Perf: JUNKHOUSE

Tom Wilson (vocal)
Dan Achen (guitar)
Ethan Allen (mandolin)
Russell Wilson (bass)
Ray Farrugia (drums)

Prod: Malcolm Burn

Prod. Co: Sony Music Entertainment (Canada) Inc.;
North York, Ontario

Rec. Loc: Charlie Sexton's Cave (Arc Studio);
Austin, TX

Time: 4:28

1. **CD:** BIRTHDAY BOY

Sony EK 80228 (Club Edition) (Tk 6)

2. **CD:** BIRTHDAY BOY

Sony EPC 481203 2 (Tk 6)

Notes: Junkhouse are a Canadian alternative rock band formed in 1989 in Hamilton, Ontario.

A lazy-paced grunge song with a somewhat morbid chorus –



One day I'll slip back into the cave
One day I'll hide deep inside the grave
And it's just one step in the ground
And I'll be gone.

Stanza 3 says that –

Underneath the ground
There's never any crime.

Roch Parisien wrote – “Caves” thick atmosphere explores the inner recesses that we retreat to in times of trauma, sometimes losing our way -- a song dedicated to legendary 13th Floor Elevators casualty Roky Erickson. (Parisien 2016)

This song was written in Austin, Texas and the recording was made in Charlie Sexton's Cave in Austin, also known as the Arc Studio.

Ref: Birthday Boy (album), [Wikipedia](#)

Junkhouse, Bio, [Wikipedia](#)

Junkhouse, Birthday Boy CD, [Discogs](#)

Junkhouse, Caves, (4:32), [YouTube](#) (◀ **COMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE**)

Kliebhan, Bernd 1998, Spelão Musik, (Unpublished list of recorded cave music], p. 15

LeBlanc, Larry 1995, Junkhouse Delivers a “Birthday Boy,” Billboard, Sept. 9, 1995, p.77, [Google.fr](#)

Parisien, Roch 2016, Junkhouse, Birthday Boy, Review, [Allmusic](#)

RK-GR5 United States 2002

FAMOUS STRONG MAN COMES OUT OF CAVE

RK – Indie – Grunge – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: DOUBLE U

Perf: **THE DOUBLE U**

Matt Hall (vocal & guitar)

Linda Hagood (guitar & keyboards)

Alex Behr (bass)

Chris Holden (drums)

Prod. Co: Emperor Jones Records

Time: 3:08

CD: WHITE NIGHT, FLOATING ANCHOR

Emperor Jones EJ 52 (Tk 13)

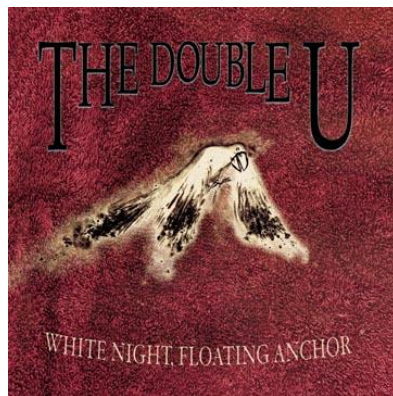
Notes: The sample provided a deliberate plodding beat, imitating the steps of the strong man, someone whispers and mumbles the unintelligible lyrics.

Could it be that the lyrics are talking about Heracles, the Ancient Greek hero, who came out of the cave of the Nemean lion after choking it to death and skinning its pelt for a coat. (See under Spoken Word – Adult Fiction – Mythology – *The Twelve Labors of Heracles*)

Ref: The Double U, Bio, [thedoubleu](#)

The Double U, White Flight, Floating Anchor CD, [Allmusic](#) (◀ **AUDIO SAMPLE**)

The Double U, White Flight, Floating Anchor CD, [Discogs](#)



SEE UNDER ROCKABILLY –

RK United States 1988

GONNA FIND A CAVE

RK – Grunge – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: (Credited to Banana Splits) Buddy SCOTT & Jimmy RADCLIFFE

Perf: **GIRL TROUBLE**

VARIOUS VERSIONS OF

PLATO'S CAVE

RK-GR6 United States 1998

PLATO'S CAVE

RK – Grunge – Vocal & Instrumental

Mus: Diamond Fist WERNY

Lyr: Todd WERNEY ([RK-LY](#))

Perf: **DIAMOND FIST WERNY**

Todd Werny (vocal & guitar)

Kevin Tone (bass)

Tim Soba (drums)

Prod: Kevin Suggs & Kevin Tone

Prod. Co: Rudy Records; San Francisco, CA

Time: 5:16

CD: ENCHANTED PARKWAY

Rudy RR9801 (Tk 4)

Notes: A jumpy, grunge song with clinky rhythm where the lyrics make a clear reference to Plato's *Allegory of the Cave* –

People living in a cave
Completely in the dark,
No one sees a thing.
Only shadows cast.
Fires to the walls,
Are people who control.

The long coda carries on the rhythm adding hard steady beats.

For complete lyrics see under Rock Song Lyrics E to Z.

For more information about Plato's *Allegory of the Cave* see under Spoken Word – Adult Fiction – Prose-English – Philosophy.

Ref: Diamond Fist Werny, Bio, Bandopedia, [wikidot](#)

Diamond Fist Werny, Enchanted Parkway CD, [Allmusic](#)

Diamond Fist Werny, Enchanted Parkway CD, [Discogs](#)

Diamond Fist Werny, Plato's Cave, Lyrics, [letssingit](#)

Diamond Fist Werny, Plato's Cave, (5:19), [YouTube](#) (◀COMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE)



RK-GR7 United States 2000

PLATO'S CAVE (REMIX)

RK – Grunge – Vocal & Instrumental

Mus: Diamond Fist WERNY

Lyr: Todd WERNEY ([RK-LY](#))

Remix: D. A. SEBASSTIAN

Perf: **DIAMOND FIST WERNY**

Todd Werny (vocal & guitar)

Kevin Tone (bass)

Tim Soba (drums)

Prod. Co: Rudy Records; San Francisco, CA

Time: 4:56

CD: LONG VIEW TO THE SKY

Rudy RR0001 (Tk 4)

Notes: A remix with more upbeat rhythm remake of their earlier recording of "Plato's Cave" (see just above). The 30-second sample had only the jumpy, nervous rhythm instrumental, no vocal.

One critic spoke of this album – "With his ritualistic chantings in an unknown tongue, Werny could be a caveman admiring his cave paintings with a torch, vocal reverb building standing waves that expand, filling the cave, crystallizing the images in English -- "Like a bird/ Beautiful bird/ Outside my window" -- as synth washes like happy tears and sampled sitar etch the moment into a woodblock suitable for ink." (Hamlin 2016)



D. A. SEBASSTIAN



Ref: Diamond Fist Werny, Bio, Bandopedia, [wikidot](#)
Diamond Fist Werny, Long View to the Sky CD, [Discogs](#)
Hamlin, Andrew 2016, Diamond Fist Werny, Long View to the Sky CD, Review, [Allmusic](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

caveinspiredmusic.com