

You Gotta Come Down If You Wanna Get High
I perked up on powder
found myself round the bins out back
fettling Kat this bird from Stafford
Burke Hare and the Rabbit Catchers ringing down the alley
Babys Slippin Away
backdroppin frontdroppin spinnin and
splittin
on the train home I got knifed by rastas
good memories great times
keep the faith

The Floater's All-Time Northern Soul Top Ten

Ten: 'Your Love (Came On Like A Bengal Tiger)'—*Rudy & the Sahibs* (Corbett). Only 15 when he recorded this driving stomper—a favourite at the Twisted Wheel—in July 1964, Rudy (real name Edward Kuyper) went on to marry Martha Reeves from the Vandellas in 1968 before leaving showbiz and Martha in 1970 to begin an Aeronautics degree at the University of Chicago and marry Jayne Mansfield's daughter, Mickie Mostly. Kuyper and his wife were killed in a ballooning accident in over Lake Michigan in 1975, where the Kuyper Reef is named for them.

Nine: 'Rootin' Tootin' Zoot Suit'—*Elbert & the Vines* (Sleepy Lagoon). Elbert Hamway recorded this Cleethorpes classic with the mysterious 'Vines', allegedly Smokey's moonlighting Miracles, in 1965. After a journeyman career as a session singer at Philly, Stax and Motown, Elbert joined the Stylistics in 1977 after Charles Burtles' disappearance, but was ousted from the band after being pictured in *Bild am Sonntag* wearing a swastika armband and making Hitler salutes in a Heidelberg hotel, during the band's sell-out 1986 tour of West Germany. In 1999, Elbert was found dead in an armchair in his ramshackle home in Gary, Indiana. Burglars robbing the house had stumbled on his body and called 911—after they had made off with his TV, VCR, collection of Tag Heuer watches and a small safe. The coroner estimated his mummified body had lain there for at least three years before its discovery and was unable to establish a cause of death.

Eight: 'Baby's Slippin' Away'—*Burke Hare & The Rabbit Catchers* (Needle). This Hoboken quintet were briefly promoted by Frank Sinatra's mother, Dolly, before disbanding and fading into obscurity. This 1962 track, their only extant recording, is now regarded as the earliest true 'Northern Soul song' and exists only as a digital transfer of an audio tape recording of the original seven-inch single, now lost along with the tape. Should the vinyl version ever become available, collectors, such as Virgin magnate Richard Branson and the England football captain, Harry Kane, are reputedly prepared to bid six figures.

Seven: 'Butter Bum'—*Corky Pole* (Cottage). Maryland's Corky Pole made a couple of unsuccessful albums for Muscle Shoals based Negro Fist in the late sixties, during which period he also became a militant Black Panther, said by the FBI to be implicated in Jonathan Jackson's 7th August 1970 takeover