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## Hardcore jollies

 by [JOHNSON CUMMINS](#)

March 3, 2011

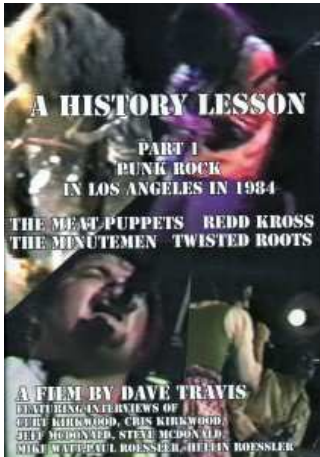


My mailbox has been spilling over lately with seriously righteous hardcore and punk rock jams, so I'm going to do a bit of early spring cleaning this week in hopes of hiping you to some seriously boss tuneage.

First up, any fan of punk rock in its most deserved format, vinyl, is going to want to stick their needle in the grooves of the recently remastered and reissued records pumped out by the fine folks at the Porterhouse Prime Vinyl label. Headed up by Circle Jerks/Bad Religion guitarist Greg Hetson and Montreal ex-pat Steve Kravac, a former member of My Dog Popper, Porterhouse has been putting a new shine on the early Circle Jerks and X catalogues that will instantly have you putting your original copies up on the 'bay. Their most recent release is the reissue of the out-of-print classic L.A. punk record *More Fun in the New World*, by X. Although X's classic debut *Los Angeles* is often touted as their high water mark, my go-to record from the band has always been this fourth release. Gone is the punk rock vitriol as the band still bares their teeth but digs far deeper to the roots of rock 'n' roll with incredible songwriting that goes far beyond the tight parameters of punk. The remastering easily beats the tinny sound of your scratched original pressing, with extra thump and bright detail squeezed into this 180-gram slice of perfection. Keep your eyes peeled for the X box set from Porterhouse, featuring their first four releases, coming out in the next couple of months.

Another punk slice of wax that hit the bins lately is the re-release of the 1983 Cleveland/Akron hardcore compilation *The New Hope*. Regional compilations are often overlooked in the history of hardcore but blazers like D.C.'s *Flex Your Head*, Northern California's *Not So Quiet on the Western Front*, *This Is*

*Boston, Not L.A.*, Montreal's own *Primitive Air-Raid* and the recently vinylized *T.O. Hardcore '83* are finally starting to command the respect they truly deserve. Keep your eyes peeled for *The New Hope* on the Smog Veil label and get your face melted by the gnashing attack of unsung hardcore heroes Zero Defex, the Guns and Positive Violence.



Another nugget that has gnawed away at my Paypal account is the new DVD *A History Lesson Part 1: Punk Rock in Los Angeles in 1984*, from Historical Records. It features live performances by and interviews with Minutemen, Meat Puppets, Redd Kross and Twisted Roots in their prime. Although the video and sound quality are admittedly a little rough, this is utterly mandatory viewing for the rampant fan of some of the most fearsome bands to spring from the L.A. punk scene.

Hitting closer to home is the new seven-inch *Look Busy, Do Nothing* from local hardcore band Slobs on the Cowabunga! label. Four major ragers here that are sure to scratch that early-'80s hard-core itch. Live, these guys know how to pulverize, and thankfully they keep everything riding firmly in the red on this record with their Reagan-era jammers just scorching at 45 revolutions per minute. ■

**CURRENT OBSESSION: JESU, HEART ACHE/DETHRONED. [JONATHAN.CUMMINS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JONATHAN.CUMMINS@GMAIL.COM)**

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