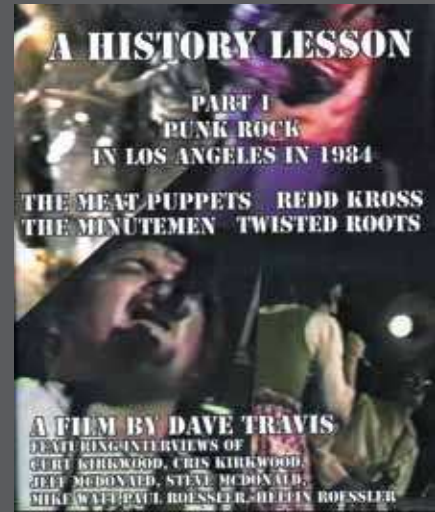


**BOOK REVIEW:: Brian Walsby's
"Manchild 5: Rapid Pack with Sirens Howling"**
(Bifocal Media)

Brian Walsby was a nerdy kid from Simi Valley who in the early eighties had a penchant for scribbling punk rock cartoons involving Peanuts characters – “You’re a Skinhead Charlie Brown!”-- and mailing them off to about every home grown punk rock fanzine for publication. It was strictly a high volume affair when compared with the painstaking intricacy of some of his contemporaries, i.e., Brian “Pushead” Schroeder or Nick Blinko (Rudimentary Peni). Walsby’s artistry matured and he gained considerable notoriety by drawing the album cover for 7 Second’s “Walk Together, Rock Together” (1985). About the same time, Walsby became so enamored with North Carolina’s cross-over thrash act Corrosion of Conformity when they came to town that, on a whim, he left the safe confines of his parents’ home in Southern California suburbia and moved to the relative wilds of a punk rock squat in North Carolina. Manchild 5 Rapid Pack with Sirens Howling provides a highly personal reflection (in cartoon and in prose) of Walsby’s Diaspora to his adopted hometown of Raleigh as well as a documentation of the Durham, Raleigh, and Chapel Hill punk rock scene in the 1980s and 1990s. Clearly, the North Carolina’s “Triangle” was not a major epicenter for American grown punk rock such as was New York or Los Angeles – but this area birthed the aforementioned C.O.C. as well as other nationally-known touring acts such as Honor Roll and The Ugly Americans. (Honor Roll were actually from Richmond, VA, but Walsby plays fast and loose with his geography.) Nonetheless, this beautifully rendered book is clearly a labor of love and probably would never have been completed absent the wide-eyed wonder of a nineteen year-old kid who turned his back on Simi Valley and sank his roots deep into the fertile soil of North Carolina.

Highly recommended. – Joe Henderson

DVD Review



A HISTORY LESSON: PART 1
a film by Dave Travis

The VHS riddled sounds of the amazing lo-fi captures of Dave Travis in his film A HISTORY LESSON : PART 1 left me in a state of a flashback. A flashback to those days when high tech digital video and audio were a mere dream in all of our AV geek heads. It made me remember why I fell in love with the then sprouting punk scene of yore. DIY, plain and simple. And it works for the film in such a positive way. After all this was a small growing L.A. scene of the 80’s.

This installment features REDD KROSS, THE MEAT PUPPETS, THE MINUTEMEN, and TWISTED ROOTS. All give great insight into what was happening and who was influencing what. So DIY, that I believe some footage was actually shot with a Betamax/ VHS machine with a camera rigged to it! (not like a mini Flip video camera). Watching D. BOON going all out at his prime in this film is worth the watch alone. Seeing venues like Cathy De Grande, almost brought a tear to my eye. This is A true History Lesson of the beginnings of Los Angeles punk.

“You were either working people to get to the show, or playing the show, and anything else wasn’t reality” says MIKE WATT. It was a way of life, for the unsung early punk heroes of the time. Neglected by the mass media, but creating a movement that has lasted decades. PAUL ROESSLER and HELEN KILLER’s interviews were a great addition to the film, and the Kirkwood brothers of the MEAT PUPPETS, have some great stories to tell, that had me smiling and beyond intrigued. Never got to see TWISTED ROOTS live, and was a real treat to be able to see them in this flick. The live REDD KROSS footage, is awesome, loud and proud! I forgot how great their live shows were back then.

Mr. Travis has put together a great piece of history in this video. It’s a DIY adventure into L.A.’s punk past. No big time Hollywood effects of titles, just a straight up documentary of the punk scene that came from Los Angeles. Kudos to Mr. Travis, I can’t wait for Part II.

Get this film!

~Rusty Needles