

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

skiploader



Skiploader: Kevin Higgins (guitar, Vocals), Craig Koozer (bass), Jeff Turner (drums), Tom Ackerman (vocals, guitar)

"I've always liked the idea of taking risks lyrically," explains Skiploader front man Tom Ackerman. "Although at first I was pretty guarded - showing only the side I wanted people to see - I'm now trying to get at what's really there."

Skiploader's debut EP, anxious, restless (Geffen Records) presents Ackerman's soulbaring lyrics couched in driving rhythms and minimalist guitar womp. The Portland, Oregon, quartet - Ackerman, guitarist-vocalist Kevin Higgins,

bassist Craig Koozer, and drummer Jeff Turner -- economically combines intensity with melodic sophistication to produce songs that grab your attention and hold into it.

Skiploader goes a step further. Rather than surrender to formula, the band courts risk by turning against rock convention. They avoid power chords, guitar solos, and other trappings of pop songwriting, in favor of cropped songs that pack intensity and communicate emotion without pandering to the listener. It's terse, it'd edgy, but is it punk?

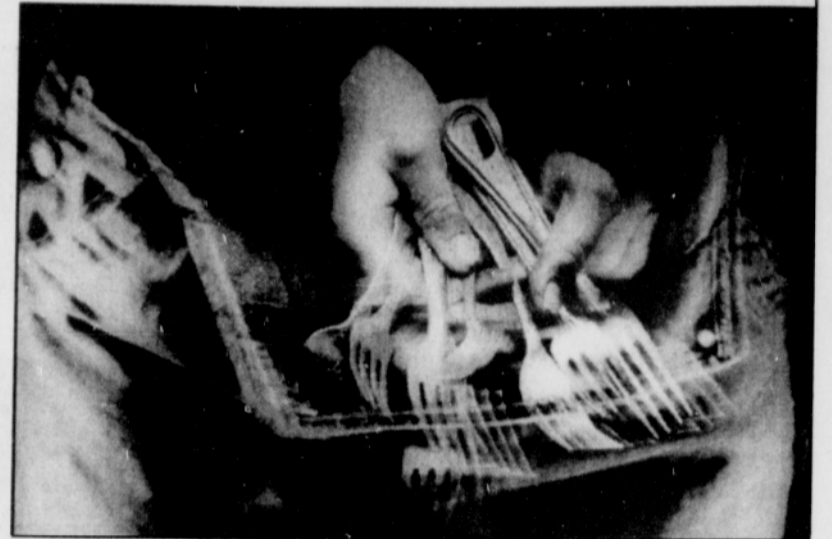
"I always thought 'punk' meant freedom of expression," Ackerman explains. "Now it's come to be a marketing tool -- some body piercing, some Manic panic, and power chords cranked out in 4/4 time make you a punk band. Punk rock has become the heavy metal of the '90's: a bunch of stupid people dressing funny." Ackerman's principles are a throwback to the bands that have inspired him for years.

Steven Beals Exhibit To Open

One of the Northwest's most successful and talented photographers, Steven Beals of Caelestis Productions, 807 N. Russell, will exhibit a private collection of black and white images entitled Facets of Humanity.

The show opens June 1, between 6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. at the Acanthus Gallery, 120 N.W. Ninth Ave. A preview showing will be held on May 31 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Contact Mark Wooley at 224-6722 for details and private showings.

A native of the Northwest, Beals works with the region's largest corporations, including Nike, U.S. West, the U.S. Department of Defense, as well as The Hearst Corp. and their many publications. Beals periodical-



A photograph by renowned artist Steven Beals whose works will go on exhibit in Portland.

ly works out of New York and directs both film and television. The personal collection re-

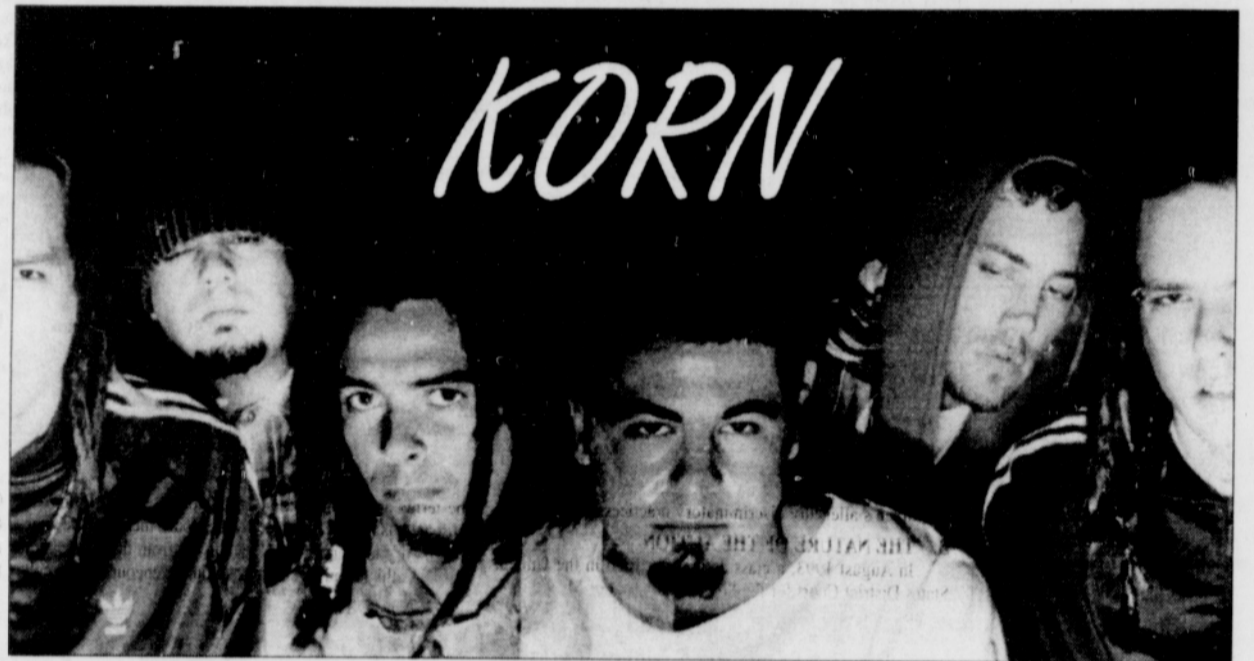
fects his non-commercial interest and commitment to photography.



The Last Poets

Legendary proto-rappers The Last Poets, touring the east and the midwest behind the release of their new album, *Holy Terror* (released by Rykodisc on April 18), played in hometown New York City on April 13. The musical luminaries who came out in force to pay their respects included Public Enemy's Chuck D, members of Onyx, and Vernon Reid. In the photo (beginning from the left) are: jazz producer Onaje Allan Gumbs, the Last Poets's Don Babatunde Eaton, Onyx's Sonnee, that Last Poets's Abiodun Oyewole, Onyx's Sticky Fingaz, (unknown), Chuck D, and Onyx's Fredro Starr. Kneeling in front is the Last Poets's Umar Bin Hassan. The Last Poets also perform the title track of "Panther," Melvin and Mario Van Peebles's new movie about the Black Panthers, which opened nationally on May 3.

Photo credit: Sue Kwon



Korn is on tour and you should care. 2,500+ records are being sold per week. Korn is playing to audiences of 3,000 and more and bringing everyone to their feet. Korn recently played a sold out show in NYC in spite of the fact that nearby a triple whammy bill (featuring members of Nirvana and Pearl Jam) was taking place. Infact, many Korn fans were left on the street with nowhere to go. The show was brilliant. Korn sales in NYC went up 50% after that show and I didn't buy'em. No need to keep your ears to the ground, Korn is shucking all hopes for a personal life and will be touring 'til they drop. Call me for further bad puns, review tickets and interview requests. Heather Davis (310) 449-2873.

Photo credit Stephen Stickler

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