



Tellitron

Not A Nightmare Just A Bad Dream

(<http://www.myspace.com/tellitron>)

★★★★★

Evansville native Thomas Ellis' solo project Tellitron has been active for a number of years, he is even playing some live gigs in Illinois. Nonetheless, *Not A Nightmare* is the first I've heard and it's a sturdy set of 9 well-composed songs. Tellitron's energetic rock/electronic hybrid echoes dark 80's post-punk icons like Peter Murphy or early Ministry with plenty of live instrumentation and a proto-synthpop vibe.

The dramatic and propulsive "A Reunion (To End All Reunions)" opens and is certainly a highlight; as is "Loyalty to the Band" which wrestles its anthemic melody into your head with startling ease. "10:22" is a darkened and claustrophobic post-punk mantra that could almost be Public Image meets Bauhaus. The remaining tracks also harken back with eighties stylings, yet never lapse fully into a 'retro' category. Surprisingly developed songwriting, solid production and a lot of fun to listen to, Tellitron's grooves are both accessible and edgy.

—Todd Zachritz



Hangmen

East Of Western

(Acetate Records)

★★★★★

Now counting former Supersuckers guitarist Ron Heathman amongst their ranks, this Los Angeles quartet raises the bar with *East Of Western*. Opening with the driving freight train garage punk of "Homesick Blues," the band moves swiftly into the Gun Cub-styled swamp blues of "I'm Your Man." "Had A Girl" is a rough-and-tumble ballad that works too. In fact, this whole album is made up of all expertly paced rockers with the ideal amount of grit and dirt. Yet, it has enough melody and spark to remain interesting and accessible. It is a grand album from a band at their peak.

—Todd Zachritz



Ufomammut

Oro: Opus Primum

(Neurot Recordings)

★★★★★

This veteran Italian group has been garnering some notice these days and with good reason. Now signed to the esteemed Neurot Recordings label, Ufomammut's 6th album opens with the epic "Empireum." It is a 13-minute slab of mammoth instrumental riff that's equal parts down-tuned stoner metal and evil post-Sunn drone. "Aureum" is even heavier with spacey electronic elements complimenting the crushing guitars and sparse drumming. Think SWANS meets Hawkwind. "Infearnatural" slow-churns in the style of Neurosis. It is sludgy, slow and grinding. Other cuts like the mantric "Magickon," echo this direction. Ufomammut are a crushingly heavy act, focused on low and slow assaults and *Oro* is a massive juggernaut of seething power. I'm impressed.

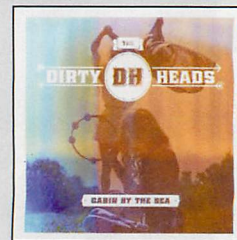
—Todd Zachritz

The Dirty Heads

"Cabin by the Sea"

(EMG)

What happens when you throw the rhythmic stylings of a pseudo-dub inspired reggae five piece with the cool delivery of a hip hop lyricist? Then, add some California pop and sunshine that's peppered ever so sweetly with punk licks and a cloud of smoke into a blender, and turn it on puree? You will be able to pour yourself a refreshing glass of The Dirty Heads. Coming off the success of the single "Lay Me Down," *Cabin by the Sea* is sure to provide the anyone a smile on their face and a calm in their souls.



The Hague

"Black Rabbit"

(Self-Released)

Black Rabbit is an ambient lullaby of an album. The soothing melodies and peaceful measures evoke a sense of serenity that wasn't found without a troubling journey beforehand. It is the sort of feeling of success that only comes through certain trials and tribulations, bringing it all together into a complete picture. Pop syncopation, coupled with the haunting wails of a violin make this a great album for easy listening fans.



The Skavengers

"Self-Titled"

(Self-Released)

You always had those friends in high school that had bought their own second hand musical equipment from yards sales and pawn shops with the high fledged dreams of not caring whether you like what they are playing or not. In the same token, The Skavengers put together all the songs they have spent their career forming into one complete album of what they see as their version of fun actually being.

—Chase Meneely

