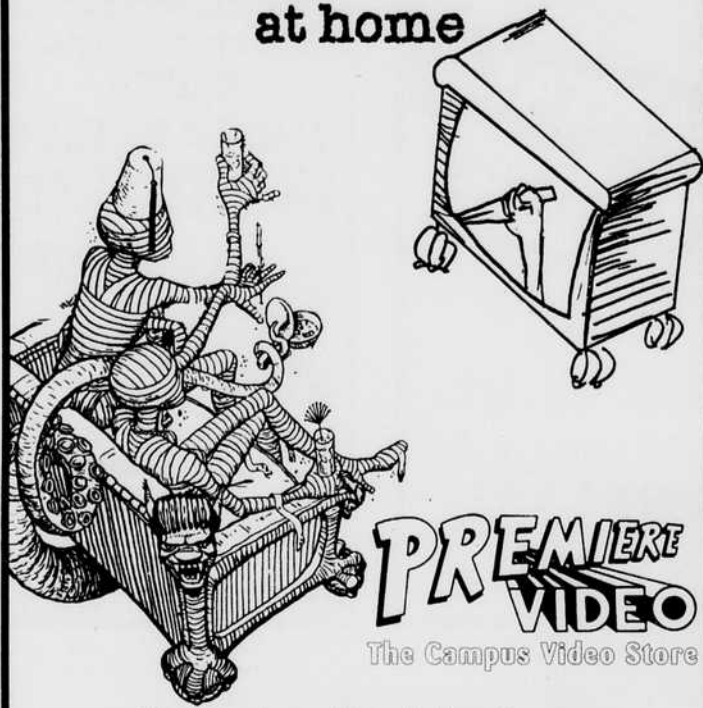


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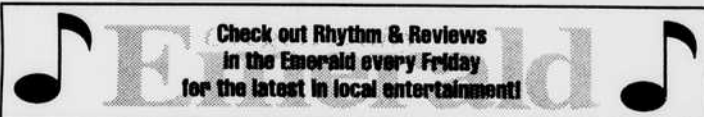


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FRIGHTENING FOWL

Spooky albums full of gore, bore

A pair of ghoulish albums are just in time to cash in on the Halloween hoopla

By Casey Kelly
for the Emerald

Listen up boys and ghouls, just in time for your Halloween debauchery come two CDs featuring some spooky sounds that are sure to set your annual Halloween costume party on fire.

Satan's Pilgrims, those cape-wearing, three guitar-bearing purveyors of reverb-drenched surf rock are back with a brand new disc chock-full of scary sounds.

That's right, Portland's premiere all-instrumental band has released its fourth full-length album, the appropriately titled "Creature Feature."

The CD begins with a spooky sample of film legend Peter Lorre promising that "tonight we will hear about everyone that you have always been terrified of." It then immediately moves into the eerie opening track, "Ghoulash." Combining a steady beat with that famous Pilgrims' triple-guitar twang and some swirling wind sound effects, "Ghoulash" gets the record off to a fine start.



Creature Feature
Satan's Pilgrim's

RATING:

★★★★★



Halloween Hootenanny

Various artists

RATING:

★★★★★

Next in line is the much faster "Scorpio 6" featuring Dave Pilgrim on the Hammond organ, a high-pitched musical monstrosity. With its mile-a-minute, guitar-driven melody, "Scorpio 6" is probably one of the best tunes these lads have ever recorded.

"Vampiro," propelled by John Pilgrim's steady bass line, is guar-

anteed to bring even the deadest of the dead back to life. But if that doesn't do it for you, then there's always the title track, "Creature Feature." Once again, the Pilgrims combine a haunting rhythm section anchored by drummer Ted E. Pilgrim with three reverberating guitars to create a song that captures that supernatural feeling you get while watching a scary movie in a dark, cold theater.

Throughout their almost seven years of existence, the Pilgrims have always managed to avoid stagnation by combining various musical genres with their traditional surf sounds.

Released in 1995, "Soul Pilgrim" had a touch of soul that made the Pilgrims sound more unique and original than the excess of Dick Dale and Ventures clones that comprise 95 percent of modern surf rock. On other records, the Pilgrims' ability to combine musical styles from garage rock to jazz has kept them sounding as fresh and innovative as the first wave of surf musicians.

With "Creature Feature," the Pilgrims take their sound one step further, adding spooky samples and zany sound effects to their musical cauldron. Recorded by Larry Crane — the man behind Elliott Smith's Oscar-nominated song "Miss Misery" — this CD features arguably the best production of the Pilgrims' career. Crane is one of the best in the business when it comes to capturing the energy of a band's live performance on record.

"Halloween Hootenanny," another Halloween-themed CD featuring 19 tracks by 16 bands, is out now on Rob Zombie's Zombie-a-go-go Records.

Although Zombie is best known for the now defunct death metal band White Zombie, "Halloween Hootenanny" includes a whole slew of today's premiere rockabilly and surf bands, including Satan's Pilgrims.

The Pilgrims' track, "Grave-walk," sounds like an outtake from "Creature Feature." While it didn't quite make it onto the full-length CD, it still has that great Pilgrims' dance party feel to it. Blending a steadfast rhythm section with some excellent guitar work, it is easily one of the best tracks on this compilation.

The highlight of the CD, however, is provided by Rocket From The Crypt, San Diego's ultra-hip masters of garage rock. "I Drink Blood" combines distorted vocals with guitars that are loud as hell. The result is an energetic blast of sound that will blow you away.

The worst song of the CD, ironically, was the only one that featured Zombie himself. Collaborating with southern California surf rockers The Ghastly Ones on "Halloween (She Get So Mean)," Zombie's guttural vocals ruin an otherwise decent instrumental surf tune. Perhaps Zombie would be better off if he stuck to the pseudo-satanic speed metal of White Zombie.

Although "Halloween Hootenanny" includes good tracks by RFTC, the Bomboras and Southern Culture On The Skids, the overall quality of the record is disappointing. The majority of the bands, including the once revered Reverend Horton Heat, provide little more than poor musicianship and cliché vocals.

The costume was so good...

even Farmer
John didn't
recognize his
horse, Ed.

Is that you, Ed?



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