

SOUNDS

FAUNTS ★★★½

Feel Love Thinking Of
(FRIENDLY FIRE; friendlyfirerecordings.com)

WHO? The third album from this Edmonton, Alberta, Canada-based five-piece, and first with new bassist Scott Gallant.

SOUNDS LIKE? A healthy mixture of '90s shoegaze and post-millennium indie-rock moodiness (and a good amount of bleeps and bleeps, too).

HOW IS IT? It's an engaging listen, from the Postal Service-esque title track to the My Bloody Valentine homage "It Hurts Me All The Time." This could be a sleeper hit of 2009.

ROCKS LIKE: THE POSTAL SERVICE
AUTOLUX, MATT PDND PA

THE HELIGOATS ★★★

The End Of All-Purpose EP
(GREYDAY; greydayrecords.com)

WHO? In addition to having one of the worst band names we've heard in a while, the Heligoats are former Troubled Hubble frontman Chris Dtepk'a's new project.

SOUNDS LIKE? Ironically, kinda like the Mountain Goats, only with bigger, Eastern European-flavored instrumentation.

HOW IS IT? Dtepk'a's got a knack for finding the right vocal melody for himself, but his lyrics don't really live up to the music. Maybe the full-length (due later this year) will make up for it.

ROCKS LIKE: THE MOUNTAIN GOATS
TROUBLED HUBBLE
THE DECEMBERISTS

VETIVER ★★★

Tight Knit (SUB POP; subpop.com)

WHO? San Francisco freak folkers with their third proper full-length (we're not counting last year's covers album, *Thing Of The Past*) and first disc for indie monolith Sub Pop.

SOUNDS LIKE? Well-constructed, wispy indie-folk with vamping melodies that allow for some creative improv (dig the piano outro in "Through The Front Door").

HOW IS IT? Vetiver have previously been a little too left-of-center for any huge acclaim, but with *Tight Knit*, expect the blogosphere (ugh, shoot us now just for typing that word) to light up.

ROCKS LIKE: FLEET FOXES, WILCO
GODD OLD WAR

