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Odd new band Propaganda's first effort an eerie success

By Scott Harrah
 Staff Reporter

Propaganda, "A Secret Wish,"
Island Records
 "Art" rock, like films and literature in the avant-garde set, often has its share of pretensions. So it's not every day that we get to see and hear aesthetic creations that convey obscure meanings and messages that are straightforward and bizarre simultaneously.



Courtesy Island Records

Record Review

Propaganda, an eerie new British foursome, is one of the few bands that fit the above description.

Discovered by Frankie Goes to Hollywood's producer, Trevor Horn, Propaganda gained a dedicated following in Europe with their debut effort, "A Secret Wish." On these shores they have released a video to their single "Duel" on MTV. The video presents a deceiving image of the band, for it makes them look like another band who sings cotton candy pop love songs. But the rest of their album has a completely different approach.

The cover of "A Secret Wish" shows a wire dress form with numerous holes, which is a representation of the album's dismal theme. Most of the lyrics are surrealistic puns on the elements of human nature: imagination, love, envy, greed and, most of all, unfulfilled desires. Like the zig-zag pattern on the dress form, the lyrics tell of a world where people wander through a maze of discontent, only to be confronted with empty holes and emotional voids that are never filled.

On "Dream Within a Dream," the first cut, lead vocalist Claudia Brucker solemnly chants, "All that we've seen is a dream within a dream," as the band creates a steady backdrop of gloomy synthesized arias, techno percussion and electronic orchestration.

Suddenly, she starts to talk-sing her way through the lyrics: *The most merciful thing in the world is the inability of the human mind to correlate all its contents.*

That may sound a bit hokey, but they manage to pull off this type of attitude in an entertaining and often melodic manner.

The lyrics to the following tracks,

"The Murder of Love," and "Jewel" are less cerebral and poetic, but the music is phenomenal. They start to sound like a jaunty new-wave orchestra on a weird acid trip, and by the time the pop single "Duel" ends the first side, you'll renounce any preconceived notions you may have had after viewing their lackluster video.

Side two's "Machinery" is a throbbing tune about technology which states that "the dark religions are departed and sweet science reigns." Oddness also reigns, for the song gets increas-

ingly unusual with more electronic rhythms that sound like well-produced tracks to a multi-million dollar science fiction film.

The fact that those rhythms emanate from the instruments of a neophyte band makes them even more interesting.

"A Secret Wish" grants everything it tries to and more. It is the ultimate experimental experience, making Propaganda one of the more delightfully indoctrinated bands on the new music scene these days.

G.P.A.: 4.0

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Application forms are available at the Student Activities Financial Service Office, 222 Nebraska Union; ASUN Office, 115 Nebraska Union, or the East CAP Office, Nebraska East Union and should be returned by the applicant in person to 222 Nebraska Union. Students must bring their student I.D. cards at the time of application. Students who are unable to personally return their application to the Student Activities Financial Services Office should contact Kim Underdahl Room 222 Nebraska Union (ph. 472-2181) before September 27, 1985 for other arrangements.

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