

# Rock group pushes drugs and Gorbachov

by Mark Burdman

Are Satanic rock-music groups really Soviet cultural *spetsnaz* agents, deployed to destroy the West?

Judging from the activities of the British rock group "The Shamen," that would seem to be the case. The Shamen push drugs, attack Jesus Christ and organized religion, hate the United States, and revere Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov. Their new album release is entitled, "In Gorbachov We Trust." The cover of the album shows the Soviet leader with a crown of thorns on his head. The company that released the album is called Demon Records. The album was released with the number, "Fiend 666," a reference to the number accorded Satan in the Apocalypse.

The release of "In Gorbachov We Trust" early this year coincides with a growing trend among spokesmen for the "New Age" Satanist movement to publicly idolize Gorbachov as a New Age "pathfinder," as is stated in the November 1988 edition of the German publication *2000: Magazine for New Consciousness*. Whether Gorbachov personally survives in power or not, these Aquarians believe, as *2000* magazine claims, that "from Russia, comes the hope of the world."

The Shamen's managers have been concretizing plans for concert tours to East Germany (in late March-April), the Soviet Union (at some point between late April and early June), and Poland (no details finalized). It is also planning a concert tour of major cities in West Germany, for the late March-early April period.

## Promoting witchcraft

The Shamen's name is supposed to connote the plural of the word "shaman." A "shaman," a cross between a witch-doctor and a magician, derives from the Mongolian word shamane. According to the Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English, "Shamanism" is the "religion of Siberian tribes involving belief in secondary gods and in power of shamans or priests to influence these."

Founded in 1987, The Shamen see themselves adapting, to the world of rock and roll, the practices of control utilized in primitive societies by shamans. According to one individual familiar with the group, they believe that "shamanism is the culture, the religion revolving around an environment in which witch-doctors exist, a society centered around people who are shamans." One conservative vicar of the Church of England has denounced the group as "Satanic," and has ap-

pealed to parents to keep their children away from concerts of The Shamen.

According to a review in the London *Independent* Jan. 27, the group combines 1960s "psychedelicisms" with the music popular in the "Acid House" movement of the U.K., which grew up in the mid-1980s around the use of hallucinogenic drugs. The album contains "blatant propaganda for drugs." One song has a chorus, "M-D-M-A-Zing," identified by the *Independent* as a "pun on the chemical abbreviation of the drug Ecstasy." "Ecstasy" is a particularly dangerous blend of PCP and "crack" that has become the hottest fad in the rock/drug counterculture and the jet-set.

Reviewer Andy Gill stresses that the group is "for" Gorbachov, but against both Jesus Christ and the United States. Their best-selling song, "Jesus Is a Lie," is described by Gill as a "cheeky riposte" to the "Jesus is alive" campaign of Christian religious organizations.

The case of The Shamen is not an isolated phenomenon. A number of rock groups are planning to visit the Soviet Union in March, for a big "peace and *perestroika*" concert, officially patronized by Gorbachov's wife Raisa.

One participant in that scheduled event, Beatles guitarist Paul McCartney, has released an album for circulation in the U.S.S.R. only, with the title, "Back in the U.S.S.R." McCartney has also taken part in a call-in show of the Russian Language Service of the BBC, in which callers phone in from the U.S.S.R. He is the only person outside of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to have been accorded this dubious distinction.

The Beatles, who came from Liverpool, were the group around whom the satanic drug-rock scene was really launched, especially with their mid-1960s "Sergeant Pepper" album. Beatles leader John Lennon boasted that the group was "more popular than Jesus Christ."

Liverpool has recently hosted another version of "rock n' roll *spetsnaz*," this time of the Russian-born variety. On Jan. 30, the Leningrad group "Pop Mechanica" gave a performance in Liverpool. A review in the London *Guardian* Feb. 1 said the performance was "a reclamation of the dionysiac traditions of ancient Greece recreated by Soviet musicians inspired by Mayakovsky and *perestroika*." (Mayakovsky was the official poet of Soviet Russia in the early Bolshevik years. He was tied into degenerate cultural circles, East and West, and was a close friend of Marinetti, the poet of Italian Fascism.)

*Guardian* reviewer Bill Harpe wrote, under the title, "A circus of pop and *perestroika*": "The spirit of madness in art is not to be dismissed lightly. Indeed, it is not to be dismissed at all—for much of the most ancient and sophisticated of art has roots in divine madness. And just such a divine madness returned to Liverpool when the Leningrad group Pop Mechanica took to the stage." Group leader Sergei Kuriokhin conducted the group "something in the manner of a wild dancing Russian peasant," Harpe commented.