

# New Ants album combines punk beat, satirical message

By DEAN LOWMAN

Antmusic, the most popular musical trend in England since Johnny Rotten and the Sex Pistols, has arrived in America.

While Rotten and company urged revolt in the streets against all establishment, Adam and the Ants simply choose to poke fun at the remaining vestiges of British society in their latest release, *Prince Charming*.

Adam Ant recently said the group's second domestic release (the first was *Kings of*

*the Wild Frontier*) would drastically depart from the tribal rock sound which earned the group a huge British following.

Depart, they did. *Prince Charming* possesses enough commercial appeal to gain airplay on America's "progressive" rock stations, yet retains a danceable quality that punkers will love.

Rather than replaying on tried-and-true methods for success, Adam and the Ants venture off in new directions by using a horn section and organ on some selections. This allows the band to get out of the rut of using two predominant drummers album after album.

Side one of *Prince* satirizes common topics of British idolization — the royal family and the American West — but praises the actions of the English street gangs who frequently reflect the fruitlessness of the government's attempt to revive England's economy in "Scorpions."

"*Prince Charming*," obviously a humorous salute to the recently-married future king of England, implores Charles to never "stop being dandy, showing me you're handsome." The prince is also instructed to "respect yourself and all of those around you," thus reflecting the belief that the royal family cares little about the plight of the commoners.

Ant shows the stupidity of British percep-

tions of the American West in "5 Guns West" by saying any man or woman can rise to become leader of the village by being the toughest hombre in town.

Side two allows Ant to express his feelings about critics, politics and fashion without straying far from the top 40 sound that means success in the music world.

"Stand and Deliver," the first single from the album, criticizes the critics who complain about the group's flashy 18th century style costumes by saying "the way you look you'll qualify for next year's old age pension." Later in the tune, the dandy highwaymen urge the nonfollowers to "throw your safety overboard and join our insect nation."

The rap song style, which has recently risen to acceptance in the British music charts, is used to give Ant's political and musical views a wider audience in "Ant Rap." Anarchy is decry as "tragedy and such old hat" while critics are rapped for trying to put a label on the band's music.

Ant brings back an all-time favorite rock expression, a wymoweh, as he includes a subliminal tribute to Robert John's "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" in a short, untitled instrumental track at the end of the second side.

This track will probably not be included on the domestic pressing of the album, which Epic Records says will be released the last week of November. The import, which does include the track, is available at area record stores.

Dean Lowman is a staff writer for *The Daily Tar Heel*.

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