

# Folds of Policy are stuck in the middle

**NICK KHATTAR**

STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Even though Folds of Policy's third album, *Paradigm City*, was funded and produced entirely by the band, you have to give it to them for sounding so manicured and polished.

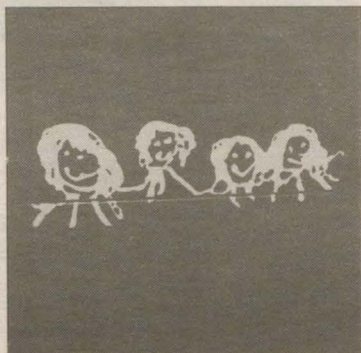
These self-proclaimed "schizo-rockers" have put together an album with an interesting and varying sound. The first song, "Great Slave Lake," starts off with a rustic guitar riff that fades into a repetitive high-hat beat and with mellow vocals.

The single "Bright Lights, Big Cities" is catchy but that could be because it sounds like a Supertramp song. It does come equipped with some 70s rock guitar solo's that may be its saving grace.

In general, the harder barnburners on the album aren't very moving. They just sound a little too post-grunge for an indie band that labels themselves "schizo."

"Schizo" suggest crazy and unpredictable. These songs, although they do seem to move between harder garage rock and folk country, sound too familiar.

Vocalist Jon Landry's vocals sound great when he lets them loose and raspy. "I've Been Called Away" is a beautiful duet with Jon Landry and Jenny Wright. They sing a slow folk ballad in front of an acoustic guitar and harmonica, which captures the



moment of lonely romance.

"The Bear" is one of the few harder songs on the album I really enjoyed. Again Landry's voice here seems less refined than the other tracks. And as the song says "there are forces at work that reasons can't explain", that catch my attention.

Folds of Policy is definitely a talented group of fellows making some good music, but it seems like they're holding out on this album. It's as though they are stuck between deciding if they want to be playing folk rock or grungy, hard rock.

The songs that fall closer to either genre are great, but the others are lacking and uninspiring, and unfortunately, that's what takes shape in this album.

Folds of Policy will be releasing *Paradigm City* on Dec. 1 at The Seahorse Tavern.