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NEVER a band to align themselves with the mood of the times, when THE WOLFGANG PRESS bring out a club-oriented track, you can be pretty damn sure it's not going to be any high-spirited paean to rave culture. If anything, "Time", remixed by Martin Young from their forthcoming "Queer" LP, gives the impression that it's coming down off a bad trip, a sip of cold coffee at five in the morning.

"Time" sees them at their starkest and most alienating yet, its minimal backbone of

THE WOLFGANG PRESS

a beat intermittently leaking esoteric radiation signals, gusts of slipstream racing across the speakers and the odd glow of sampled guitar. TWP are out on their own, as ever. This does tend to cause a problem as Mick Allen (voice, bass) is only too aware.

"When we started, it was like at year dot; we didn't look back and take from everything, whereas I think most groups do. Sometimes it works and you can build on that, but we've had no such foundation. We've always tried to go from where we stood onwards and because there's no reference, people find that difficult."

How distanced do they feel from the current scene?

"We've been aware of what's going on, obviously, but there's some good stuff and you take it in, but

you don't consciously say, 'That's a good idea, we'll try and do that'. The subject matter is still nothing to do with what's going on at the moment.

"The lyrics are just thoughts in time. I have certain subject matters that come to me, but I write in such a way that when it becomes too direct, so I try and contradict everything in the next line. What 'Time' is about, to me, is that each of us has a certain amount of time allotted to us in this life, and what the f*** do you do with that?"

The record barely answers the question. The two voices cutting across each other, almost imperceptibly, sound unnaturally dispassionate, like they've got nothing to do but wait for it all to end. They sound hopelessly lost, as if they've forgotten the question in the first place.



"I get embarrassed with emotions as well, in the sense of trying to be on top of every emotion. I wanted it to be really deadpan, as if it was the voice of God, or something.

"You try and say something simple the more you go on. We've indulged in the past and tried to be too clever at times. We're trying much more to make a simple statement musically, and I think we've achieved that better than before."

JONATHAN SELZER