Koo Koo

Koo-koo, Debbie Harry on Chrysalis Records

The first thing that iritates me about this album is its sheer pretension: what more perfectly trendy thing for one of NYC’s trendiest couples — Debbie Harry and Chris Stein of Blondie — to do than team up with darlings of the disco funk world, Chic, members Bernard Edwards and Nile Rodgers. This seems more than a little patronizing and an effort to get in with all possible in-crowds, to your reviewer’s jaded eye. On top of all this, it’s a boring record from people with great track records, which is not much of an apology.

The record is produced and packaged with Debbie Harry as the chief selling point. It’s got her plastered on the bizarre cover and the in-sleeve, and her voice is used to great effect in every song except one where she’s so dull you wouldn’t be mean to do disco/rap stuff — her voice is harsh and strident in the extreme, and it effectively blots out Edwards’s and Rodgers’s instrumental work.

All Harry’s previous suavoir fane and “sidewalk sociology” which made Blondie’s albums so sophisticatedly tongue-in-cheek, go for nothing here; there’s even a quotation from Poe on the sleeve — “Does it hurt here?” Blair proceeds to kiss him here it hurts. Sound familiar?

In Raiders of the Lost Ark, the heroine kisses the injured hero where it doesn’t hurt. This scene might be plagiarism, except that Steven Spielberg was the director of Raiders and the executive producer of Continental Divide, and Lawrence Kasden, one of the writers of Raiders, cowrote the script. The romantic sequences are difficult to write, but Spielberg and Kasden should know, since they scripted both. Now admittedly, original lyrical material by Raitclers of the Love Ark, the heroine kisses the injured hero where it doesn’t hurt here — ”I’d rather lie down in the street / And get hit by a big Mack truck” — and “Backfired,” which moves along and shows some of the energy which is good disco’s saving grace, even suggest the dance floor.

Both these songs are by Rodgers and Edwards, and generally the tracks they pen are not the worst thing. Both tracks are not the worst thing — for example, the egregiously wordy “Jump, Jump” and “Inner City Spill over,” which is their conception of the modern urban ballad, I imagine — are cocktail party backdrops, music you wouldn’t even notice in the average supermarket rock lodge.

The collaborations between the Big Four — Rodgers, Edwards, Stein, and Harry — are musically confused, and Harry flounders with the raps. She did so much better collaboration on it’s the dreamer of a song that it’s hard to understand why everything here fails so miserably. “Rapture” had the appealing sound of a white girl going white headlong into something totally new, exciting her own silliness through the verve and unique flavor she brought to a non-white genre.

Go back to popland, Debbie, I want more “Atomic”s and “Call Me”s clogging the airwaves.

HELIOL

The UA News is published regularly in the campus media. The Undergraduate Association uses it as a way of communicating important news to the student body. Many opportunities for involvement in the UA News are open and will be posted in the UA News. Deliver all items to the UA News, Room 401 of the Student Center.

Space is available to campus organizations for screenprinting. All submissions should be sent to the UA News, Room 401, on Friday prior to the issue in which announcement is to appear. Deliver all items to the UA Office, Room 401 of the Student Center.

‘84 Council Petitions

Petitions for the class of 1984 Council are now available in the UA Office. Forty signatures are necessary, and everyone but elected officers must file a new petition to remain a member after the petition deadline, Friday, October 22. New Members are encouraged to help with class t-shirts, the class ring, newsletter and class social events. Bring your petitions and fresh ideas to the UA Office, W30-401. Still sure you want to join? Come by one of our meetings; the meetings are open and posted on the UA Bulletin Board in Lobby 7. Anyone can attend — hope to see you soon.

Speak Up & Be Heard

The Undergraduate Student Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP) will host a special forum to discuss the recommendation of the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) by the President and programs subcommittee. FACULTY MEMBERS WILL BE PRESENT!

The forum is in the Bush Room (10-105) at 7 PM on Wednesday, September 30. All students are urged to attend.

General Assembly

General Assembly elections will be held in living rooms throughout September. Each independent living group has one representative, and each dormitory has approximately one representative for every forty residuals. Off-campus reps are elected by getting a petition-form signed by forty off-campus residents. Talk to your house president for details.

The UA will hold its first regular meeting on October 7 & 8. Meetings are every two weeks in 15 Debbie Harry Buildings. There are five regular meetings and one Saturday symposium at East- ducate House scheduled for the fall term. Each meeting will feature a particular person or group and discuss issues of importance to undergraduates at MIT.

This year should be progressive and exciting — join the GAT!

Can You Solve An International Crisis?

The International Relations Club’s Central American Crisis Simulation will give you an opportunity to use your negotiating skills to lead a nation safely through a crisis. A crisis simulation is a huge interactive “game” that dynamically explores the influences of domestic policy, international diplomacy, military action and media reporters of different nations and try to resolve important issues. This simulation is also Foreign Intervention in El Salvador. The objective is to have a lot of fun playing the game while learning about the complexities and dynamics of international relations and crisis resolution.

The simulation begins at 6:30pm on Friday, October 22, in room 5-233 and will run until 10:30pm. It will resume on Saturday at 10:00 am and run until mid-afternoon. Try to come early but late comers will be welcomed. Everyone is welcome to participate and, of course, there will be no admission charge.

Attention

Class of 1985

Petitions are now available for membership on this year’s Freshman Council. All you need do is get 40 signatures and you’re on! The Council will hold its first regular meeting on October 7 & 8. Meetings are every two weeks in 15 Debbie Harry Buildings. There are five regular meetings and one Saturday symposium at East- ducate House scheduled for the fall term. Each meeting will feature a particular person or group and discuss issues of importance to undergraduates at MIT.

Get Involved

During September, we are involved in organizing and planning for the coming year. We have lots of projects available. Now is the time for elections and committee appointments. We need qualified volunteers to help. You’ll find it easy to get involved, and you’ll make new friends and develop valuable managerial skills and talents. All interested are welcome to participate. There will be no admission charge.

Homecoming Date Changed

After conferring with the first fall Social Council meeting, homecoming was changed to October 22. Workers are now preparing for this date. Please voice your ideas for homecoming by coming to the fall Social Council meeting every Monday at 7pm in Room 407. Exclusive Board members, are also open to all students; they are held on Tuesday at 7pm in the UA office. (W20-401), for information, contact either Skip Butler, 267-6997, or Angie Melville, x-5093.

UROP Office Opening

Office help is needed starting September 29. The University Graduate Opportunities Program (UROP) offers the opportunity to work on research projects and to voice ideas or any questions you have about the program. Call 262-8931 for more information.

STOP BY

The UA has many projects in the works, and we need new members. It’s never too early to voice any ideas or would like to help, if you have suggestions, please contact John DeRubertis (UAP), Ken Dumais (UAVP), Joyce Pollock (Secretary), or Mary Asmussen (Special Projects Director). The UA office is located on the 4th floor of the Student Center. Room W20-461. Telephone x-23699. THE TECH PAGE 7 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1981