Siouxsie and the Banshees try to cover too much ground

By DONALD VEE

Siouxsie and the Banshees' latest release, "Through the Looking Glass," is an entire album of cover songs. The source range from The Doors to Brian Ferry, and, as would be expected, the results are quite schizophrenic.

Side one opens with the quirky "This Town Ain't Big Enough for Both of Us," written by one of the Mud brothers (of the group Stakkat). The group sounds comfortable with the wackiness of the song, perhaps fumbling at more difficulties later in the album.

The band recovers on "The Hall of Mirrors," an appropriate song given the title of the album. Here Siouxsie's brooding voice sounds more at home, giving the album a darker tone continues on the next track, "Trust in Me," but once again Siouxsie manages to work up some of the most successful cover on the album. Here Siouxsie is as though the band wandered through a dreamland, giving it new life and a fresh view. A cover version often even outshines the original, as demonstrated by many artists over the years. At worst, covers are simple imitation of the originals. Although Siouxsie and the Banshees avoid the latter, they do not inject much enthusiasm or originality into most of these songs. Let us hope that they focus their energy and abilities better on their next album.

Although exploration by a band is certainly welcome, with experimentation comes some failures, and much of "Through the Looking Glass" falls flat. It is a shame, though the band wandered through a looking glass into a strange land and started to try on costumes, few of which fit well. Unless you are a rabid Siouxsie fan, refrain from getting this album and you get the simple.

Siouxsie: Percussionist extraordinaire, Max Roach performs at Nightstage

THE MAX ROACH QUARTET

By MARK ROMAN

Max Roach has long been considered the leading man of jazz percussion. His reputation stems not only from his ability as a drummer, but also from his talent as a jazz musician. Shere technical prowess aside, Max Roach compiles cycles of startling fluidity and precision. The performances given by his quartet Tuesday evening showcased both his talent as a jazz composer, and the improvisational abilities of the other musicians in the group.

The current lineup of the quartet (one has been fired since the late 1970s) is Max Roach on drums, Oudrin Poe on tenor sax, Cecil Bridgewater on trombone, and Calvin Hill on stand-up electric bass. They used no amplification for the instruments, except for the bass amp, which was turned down to match the other instruments. This was an ideal arrangement for Nightstage, where the very shallow room allows even those in the back to enjoy the subtleties of acoustic music.

The line up started with Roach performing solo on several pieces before being joined by the other musicians. Given his talent, Roach feels no need to hide behind a large array of drums, cymbals, and assorted percussion toys. He performed three short pieces, each of which was like a melody layered over the rhythm of the high hat cymbals. The rhythm changed from a syncopated swing to a straight forward beat and then back again, flowing smoothly through the high hat as he layered rhythms on to the toms and crash (Please turn to page 12)

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For further information, please call: 576-3871.

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GALA comes out for 5-day program of films, speakers, poetry, music, and comedy promoting Gay and Lesbian Awareness at MIT

Monday, April 20: HISTORY

4:30pm, Rm. 2-190 Film/Video: Transfer: the persecution of Indians & gays by the Nazis

5:30pm, Rm. 2-190 Film/Video: Before Stonewall: the gay & lesbian liberation movement 1969-1985

Tuesday, April 21: AIDS, SEXUALITY AND CIVIL RIGHTS

4:00pm, Rm. 2-190 Gilbert Goets, American Society for AIDS Action Committee Director

7:00pm, Senor House: Women, Men, Homosexuals, Nazis: "New House Defender" from Munich, Germany Living groups discussing about sexuality.

Wednesday, April 22: RE-THINKING THE FAMILY, RE-THINKING RELIGION

4:30pm, Rm. 2-190 Film/Video: We Are Family: The Families We Choose

7:00pm, Chaplaincy Basement: Panel on Religion and Homosexuality

Thursday, April 23: THE POLITICS OF DIVERSITY

4:00pm, Rm. 4-163 David Halpern, MIT Literature Faculty, "The Construction of Homosexuality"

Film/The Times of Henry Mck: a tribute to the first openly gay elected official in the U.S. assassination

8:00pm, Rm. 4-163 John Buch, The Police Men Theater Committee

Sheils Deldasrca, Boston NOW Lesbian Rights Task Force

Friday, April 24: "GAY DAYS": A CELEBRATION OF LESBIAN & GAY CULTURE

4:30pm, Rm. 2-190 Post Kate Ruskin reads her work. Wine & cheese at 5:30 pm.

10:00-10:30pm, Rm. 18-290 Jonny Perry, GALA, comics extraordinaire

The Gimlets, defensive pop-socialist cabaret band.

GALA is sponsored by ArtsProfolio, with the support of the Cheney Room Program, the Council for the Arts at MIT, Dean for Humanities, and Social Sciences, Dean for Student Affairs, Dean for Liberal Arts. For more information call 253-8008 for more info.

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GALA at MIT