Stellar improvisation highlights performance by Max Roach Quartet

(Continued from page 11)

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By MICHAEL J. GARRISON

Pseudo Echo's good dance music is marred by poor vocals

Pseudo Echo, a good sign that a new band has been noticed. It deserves the plaudits, es- pecially since it has perhaps the best, Joystix of all the songs on an album lacking inter- esting lyrics.

But when Pseudo Echo tries to slow down the pace with lyrical, vocal works, this focuses attention on how much they are like any number of other rock/dance groups - A-Ha, Prince, Mike, and a-la come to mind. Like these other groups, I expect this, their first album, to have three or four hit singles. Of course, also like the others, I expect any future albums to im- mediately collect dust on the shelves.

Pseudo Echo is a really good dance band which is trying to hit the US pop market. Instead, they should probably el- evate their band with dance music or drop Can- ham's vocals. He is well suited to hard driving rhythms, but when the songs sud- denly slow down he does not. On a couple of songs I very specifically liked the refrain better than the song itself. In each of those cases the refrain had a faster beat, and backing vocals from the others drowned out Can- ham's voice.

I am not saying I won't ever play the al- bum, I just expect that a month from now it will be little dusty.