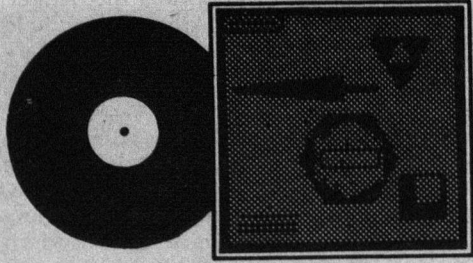


ROUNDAABOUT

by Nate LaRoi



Culture Club
Colour by Numbers
Virgin-Epic 1983

It may be that when "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me?" and "Time (Clock of the Heart)" cascaded into the top ten on both sides of the Atlantic, the bedrock underlying Culture Club's already unstable musical direction was irrevocably shifted. Or it may be that Culture Club, as a band of more calculation than conviction, simply wishes to keep its fashion stance as ambiguous as Boy George's sexuality.

In any case, the Culture Club of *Colour by Number* is quite another entity from that which gained a foothold with *Kissing to be Clever*. The cheerful nods to Motown, Funk, and Calypso are still there, for those

of the tenacity and inclination to seek them out. But such elements are now heavily obscured beneath a creamy pop veneer combining velvety synthesized strings with layers of georgish, er, gorgeous harmonies. And while *Colour by Numbers* doesn't present microwaved leftovers from a cultural melting pot as *Kissing to be Clever* sometimes did, its candyfloss sweetness does suggest a closer affinity to Americana MOR than its dance-oriented predecessor was ever willing to admit.

Certainly, given the calculated androgyny of the Boy George image and the high-style backdrop of Culture Club's music, it would be easy to assign George and company to the same dustbin defined by, or at least associated with, Duran Duran and Wham. This would unfairly overlook Culture Club's talents, though, for however fashion-conscious they may be, they are also pop craftsmen of very high calibre. The band's increasingly overt commerciality (witness the ridiculously catchy "Kharma Chameleon") may invite a certain disdain, but the very shrewdness of their tactics may also provoke a reluctant admiration.

Boy George, in turn, as challenged and confronted by backing vocalist Helen Terry, is developing into a splendid singer of considerable soul. Unfortunately, however, it's abundantly obvious that what matters for Boy George is not so much *what* he sings as *how* he sings it. That George can sing of anything and everything with the

same dripping passion with which he sings of dreams and love, doesn't exactly place his sincerity beyond question either. Indeed, as a natural target for banner-waving punks and breast-beating Tarzans, he may be little more than the pop *poseur* his detractors always took him for.

But while George may, at times, appear pathetically self-ignorant ("I'm a man who doesn't know - how to sell a contradiction") he's also capable of a clear thinking insight that, breaking through the romantic haze, intrudes just long enough to acknowledge the superficiality of his own pose ("Dance with the counterfeit - The plastic smiles and the microheat - I'll meet you there").

That George, whose "Do You Really Want To Hurt Me" appeared to open whole regions of sensitivity unavailable to those of the macho persuasion, should end up as trapped in superficiality as anyone else, is perhaps the ultimate irony of his self-constructed persona.

Where that leaves Culture Club is not exactly clear. What is clear is that this is a band with a firm grip at the pulse of either pop-aesthetic '84 or *Love American Style* what is not clear is whether the band will ever become in any sense socially significant. In the meantime, however, *Colour by Numbers* is a pleasant way or passing the time. But not a whole lot more.



"Now Black Sabbath... they were nihilists."

3 DAY SALE of COPI CARDS

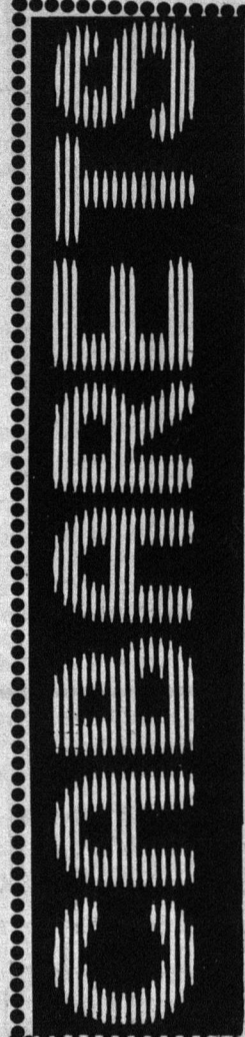
JANUARY 25, 26, 27, 1984

SAVE 5% ON YOUR PHOTO COPYING

\$10.00 value card for \$9.50
\$20.00 value card for \$19.00

CARDS CAN BE PURCHASED AT:

- PRINTING SERVICES SATELLITES
CIVIL ENGINEERING • RM 114 - 8:00 A.M. - 10 P.M.
EDUCATION BLDG. • RM. B105 - 8:00 A.M. - 10 P.M.
TORY BLDG. • RM. B29 - 8:30 A.M. - 4 P.M.
- CAMERON LIBRARY • FINES OFFICE • 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
CHECK POINT/INFORMATION 5:00 P.M. TO CLOSING
- RUTHERFORD CIRCULATION DESK - LIBRARY HRS.
- EDUCATION (John H. Coutts Library)
CIRCULATION DESK - LIBRARY HRS.

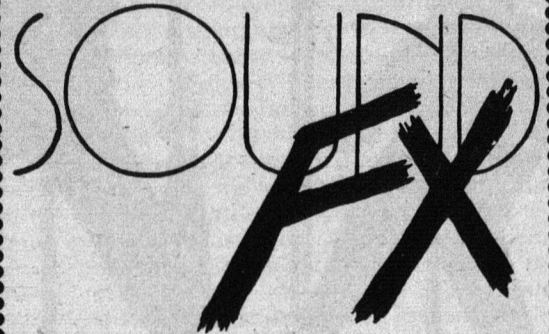


DINWOODIE
2nd Floor SUB

Proof of age required.

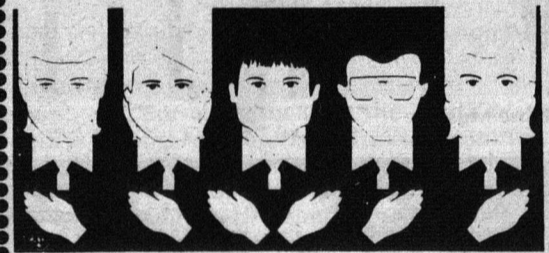
Tickets are available from the SUB Box Office (2nd Floor SUB) and various club members. NOTE: These events are open only to U of A students, staff, and guests.

Business Students' Assoc. presents



Advance \$6.00

Proceeds to Business Grad '84



Saturday, January 28

UP & COMING
• 20 Feet
• February 3
• February 4
• NEO A4

The North Power Plant

is pleased to present

- Wednesday, January 25
U of A JAZZ TRIO
- Friday, January 27
BUNNIE'S DISCO
- Saturday, January 28
LANCE JACK and his DISCO SHACK
- Wednesday, February 1
U of A JAZZ TRIO
- Friday, February 3
BUNNIE'S DISCO
- Saturday, February 4
KRUCIAL STEPPERS LIVE REGGAE BAND
- Wednesday, February 8
U of A JAZZ TRIO
- Friday, February 10
RON & DON COUNTRY & WESTERN
- Saturday, February 11
BUNNIE'S DISCO

All entertainment
8 PM - Closing.
For Information Call 432-3101

GSA members, social
members & guests
are welcome after 3 PM