



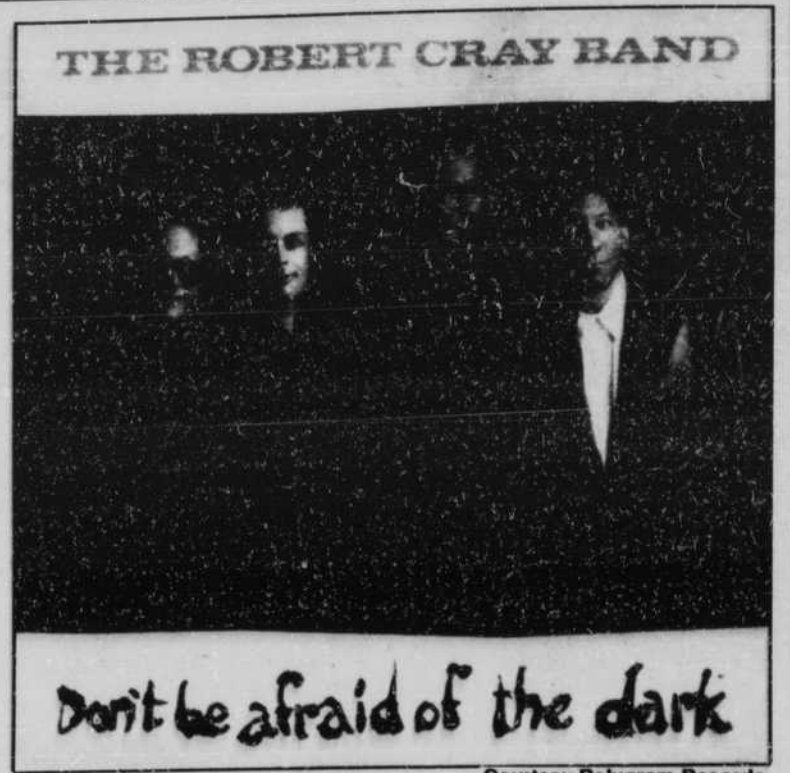
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### 3 exhibitions on display at Sheldon

Three exhibitions are now on display at the Sheldon Art Gallery. Keith Jacobshagen, a professor of art at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, completed 41 paintings while on a sabbatical last year. These works, entitled "The Valley Series," documents the artist's experiences in the Big Blue, Missouri, Platte and Salt River valleys. "Midwestern Visions: Constructed Realities" brings together seven artists from five states. The artists use nontraditional materials in their work, such as wire, sticks, glass, marble and stones. "Three Portfolios," by Paul Strand, displays 40 photographs that embrace a variety of subjects including landscapes, portraits, still-lives and architecture. Strand is recognized as a major force in American photography, and is noted for his sophisticated printing techniques and sensuous surface detail.



Courtesy Polygram Records

### Cray's newest album called disappointing

By Ken Havlat  
Staff Reporter

The Robert Cray Band  
Don't Be Afraid of the Dark  
Hightone/Mercury

Robert Cray is the most important figure in blues music right now, but his new album is a bit of a disappointment.

Cray's newest release, "Don't Be Afraid of the Dark," seeks to keep him and the band at the level of popularity that "Strong Persuader," his previous release, brought him.

"Strong Persuader," with the hit single, "Smoking Gun," converted legions of people to the magic of blues.

The new album is made up of the same formula that made "Strong Persuader" such a success with silky vocals, occasional guitar solos and a fine brass section.

The only problem is the songs lack structure and depth.

Cray technically writes the script on blues guitar. Any listen to the "Showdown" album proves that.

"Don't Be Afraid of the Dark" fails to break any new ground for the band. Producers Bruce Bromberg and Dennis Walker apparently wanted to recreate the "Strong Persuader" sound since it showed previous success.

Less emphasis on Peter Boe's keyboards would have helped make the sound grittier and given the music more determination. Drummer David Olson is hardly heard from. As always, Richard Cousins' bass is reliable.

Perhaps a little less lamenting for failed love affairs would have sufficed. On the title song, Cray sings about being worried that his woman will not go out with him at night, so he debates whether it is worth it.

On both "Acting This Way" and "Gotta Change the Rules," Cray seems to have concern only for himself, and he wants to stay away from those evil women. The blues usually deal with hurting, but Cray is only singing about it from one side.

"Across the Line" features a terrific guitar solo while both "At Last" and "Laugh Out Loud" are throwaways.

The Memphis Horns bring development to the album creating an inviting atmosphere. They allow more songs to be keepers than throwaways.

Hopefully, the next Robert Cray Band album will have a little less polish on it. The blues is fueled by the raw determination and guts of those who perform it. Robert Cray is one of those rare few who can make a difference.

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**A CONTEMPORARY PRESENTATION**

### Cliff Notes parody fails; book compared to hog slop

By Micki Haller  
Senior Editor

Jump Off the Cliff Notes  
Gina Cascone and Annette Cascone  
Bart, New York

### book REVIEW

Every once in a while, a great parody comes along that makes people laugh, cry and think.

"Jump Off the Cliff Notes" is not that parody, but a book that belongs in the bathroom reading shelf. Or in the toilet.

The Cascones try very hard to "poke irreverent fun" at the revered institution of Cliff Notes, but wind up relying on scatological humor and pomposity.

The "Moby Dick" Cliff Notes begin quite well with a pseudo-scientific astrological explanation for Herman Melville's obsession with the great whale.

The first four and a half sentences make up a promising start, but by the middle of the fifth sentence, the authors make the obvious phallic reference to Moby Dick: "... from day one, little Hermie had a hard-on for fish."

See CLIFF on 14

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