THE ROBERT CRAY BAND "Strong Persuader" (Mercury)

When you want some rock and roll blues in your life, The Robert Cray Band can deliver the good stuff. This is its first album on Mercury.

Guitarist/vocalist/songwriter Robert Cray was born in Georgia in 1953. In the seventies Cray's band was the touring band for Texas guitarist Albert Collins. 1980, Cray's group released the album "Who's Been Talkin'."

In 1983 Cray released the album "Bad Influence" which was a success in Europe. The followup, "False Accusations" hit the American album charts in 1985.

Current members of the band are: Richard Cousins on bass, Peter Boe on keyboards and David Olson on drums. The Memphis Horns (yep, they're still around) play on Cray's latest

Most of the stuff here was written by Cray and producer Dennis Walker. The opening track, "Smoking Gun," is cleanly played blues/rock, and we can easily hear the influence of one of Cray's buddies, Eric Clapton. The horns are right on time on ' Guess I Showed Her," destined to be another story-song classic from the Cray/Walker team.

This album, which is mostly free of synthesized razzle-dazzle effects which mar the efforts of many an artist, could be Cray's biggest seller to date.

Other cuts: "Right Next Door (Because Of Me)," "Nothin' But A Woman," "Still Around," "New Blood."

JENNY BURTON "Souvenirs" (Atlantic)

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You Like" back in 1984 is back with a new album titled "Souvenirs."

"One More Shot," by an artist billed as C-Bank. This single was big on the dance charts in 1983. The success of that single led directly to Jenny's worldwide

signing with Atlantic. Her first album for Atlantic was "In Black And White," an album full of dance tunes that sounded like "One More Shot." Her followup album was notable for one track that sounded like a clone of Jocelyn Brown's "Someboo Else's Guy."

with producers Preston and Alan Glass and John Luongo. I find this a better time for an album like her dullest and most ordinary Enjoy Adult Fun in our Exotic | sounding album yet.

Guest Room where your Do You Want It Bad Enuff" the same sort of stuff we've heard on every S.O.S. Band Mirrored Ceilings — X-Rated Movies | album since 1984. I hope nobody mistakes this for a Pointer Sisters track, since her voice sounds lot like one of the Pointers on this l one. "Anticipation" is just the sort

of formula-pop we've come to expect from Dan Hartman, wrote the tune.

Her rendition of Stevie in 1970.) Wonder's classic "Until You Come New York City, hooked up with Back To Me (That's What I'm Gon- it is apparently difficult to find a "Lovin' Ev'ry Minute Of It," "The hip-hop music producer John na Do)" is a disappointment, Robie a few years ago and sang especially in comparison with the Me" in stereo. Neither this album and more. lead vocals on a 12-inch titled hit version by Aretha Franklin. What an uninspired arrange-

Robert Cray

The album does have sales potential though. Some fans of Whitney Houston may find this album quite suitable.

SOUNDS

BEN E. KING "The Best Of Ben E. King And Ben E. King With The Drifters"

With Ben E. King's "Stand By Me" single in the top ten again after 25 years and the Christmas season upon us, there is hardly this, which features all of Ben E. King's top-40 chart singles plus classics he sang with The

Benjamin Nelson was the lead singer for The Drifters from 1959-1960. This album includes three Lieber/Stoller-produced Drifters classics, "Save The Last Dance For Me," "I Count The !. V-103's Top Twenty

- . Girlfriend
- . Contro
- 3. Victory
- 4. Stop the Love 5. Love You Down
- 6. Rapture
- 7. Once Bitten Twice Shy 8. Come Share My Love
- 9. Once in a Life Time Groove
- 10. Jimmy Lee
- 11. Sexy 12. Facts of Love
- 13. Love is Forever
- 14. I'm Not Perfect 15. Misunderstanding
- 16. Ike's Rap/Hey Girl 17. As We Lay
- 18. Shiver
- 19. Goldmine
- 20. Candy

Luther Vandross Ready for the World Anita Baker Vesta Williams Miki Howard **New Edition** Aretha Franklin Klymaxx Jeff Lorber **Billy Ocean** Grace Jones D-Train Isaac Hayes Shirley Murdock George Benson

The Pointer Sisters

Bobby Brown

Janet Jackson

Kool and the Gang

Tears" and "This Magic Moment," which were among their biggest

And of course, Ben E. King's exist. solo hits: "Spanish Harlem," "Stand By Me" and "Amor" from 1961, "Don't Play That Song" from don't forget "Young Boy Blues."

And these are songs have Maurice White have all hit the Magic's Rap Attack," a twocharts with "Stand By Me," and record set with more fun from Tom Jones and Sylvester have hit Run-D.M.C., Word Of Mouth, the charts with "I (Who Have Spyder-D and more. Nothing)." And don't forget Aretha's memorable "Spanish Harlem" from 1971. (She also Da-Di yourself on over to your recorded "Don't Play That Song"

A fine compilation. However, version of Ben E. King's "Stand By Show," "All The Way To Heaven"

nor the current movie soundtrack album contains a stereo version, although a stereo version does

Music Notes

Are you a Force M.D.'s fan? 1962, "I (Who Have Nothing)" Tommy Boy Records is refrom 1963 and even "Super- packaging and re-releasing their natural Thing (Part 1)" from 1975. first album, "Love Letters," in All of these songs hit the top 40 time for the holidays. It includes on the R&B and pop charts. And "Let Me Love You" and "Tears."

Rap Ain't Dead Yet Departbeen recorded again and again ment: Plenty of rap compilation by many artists. Spyder Turner, albums are available now. For John Lennon, Mickey Gilley, and example, volume two of "Mr.

If you're into Doug E. Fresh And The Get Fresh Crew, La-Difavorite record store and get all their recent hits on their new "Oh, My God!" album. It includes

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Always glad to hear of one of our local jazz musicians getting a break, and it seems as though Gary Thomas may have gotten that bigtime offer.

The scenario reads like a fairy tale. It all started when Dennis Chambers recommended Gary to Miles Davis. Evidently tenor saxophonist Bob Berg is slated to leave the Davis band, and Miles is looking for a replacement.

So, Gary is home one day a Miles' office querying where was week or so ago, when the phone the tape requested. rings, and Miles' agent is on the phone, asking Gary to send in a been sent, and to where, Miles tape so it can be used as an himself got on the phone and

Delighted, Gary got one in the mail posthaste, but unfortunatey, sent to a postoffice box used by Miles. This merely delayed things, in fact, Miles had not alacrity, whereupon Miles told thing. received the tape as of this him to call back when all was in

just another one of those things callback, Gary played for Miles where you get your hopes up, but on the phone. nothing happens. But, earlier this Davis listened intently, then

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AND ALL THAT JAZZ

After explaining that it had asked Gary could he arrange to do a sort of audition on the

Gary, of course, said yes with readiness. Didn't take too long to Gary began to think this was get this together, and on the

week, the phone rang, and it was made the simple comment:

Well, Gary crestfallen, figuring he had failed to interest Miles. But then, the agent got on the phone and asked Gary to join Miles next week out in Los Angeles. He promised to be sending a package by express which should give more information on the entire

And so it was that on Wednesday of this week, Gary was on pins and needles, waiting for that express package to arrive. And sure enough, it arrived that morning — but no one heard the doorbell ring, and the package was not delivered.

You can imagine, it was panic time, but a few phone calls straightened things out — the package would be delivered that very afternoon. The entire household was alerted.

Around two o'clock in the afternoon, we called Gary, since we had heard glimmerings about this offer to join the Davis band. and while we were discussing — the doorbell rang at Gary's

The package had arrived, and would I hold the phone while he picked it up.

Would I? Is the Pope Catholic? Hastily ripping off the wrap ings, Gary came back to the phone to tell me that the package contained tapes of some of Miles and the group, so that he could become familiar with their music prior to joining them on the

Could hear the happiness in Gary's voice as he finally leaves next week for Los Angeles to hook up with the Miles Davis

Don't think there is a signed contract yet, or any thing of this nature, so it's still a bit of a gamble — but then, Columbus took a chance, and look at what he

And, as we said in the begin-

wishes you all the best. * * *

As an aside, when we original- student) ly heard of the Davis search, it was intimated that it was Gary Bartz who would be going out to the coast, so we called Gary at VIP SEATING AVAILABLE — CALL 444-3535 ON OR AFTER JAN. 5, 1987 his home in Baltimore.



Charles Covington

Mrs. Bartz, his mother, came earlier this week, and he will be on the line to tell me that Gary on tour for a while. had just left for New York where So, efforts began to bring in there was a big party going on Reuben Brown from D.C. as last night. When we asked about pianist with Bartz at the Jazz the Miles gig, she chuckled.

"Gary has played with Miles before, and wants none of it," she told us. And sure enough, crossed. was listening to WDCU the other night, and Bless Bess, they trumpeter Woody Shaw might played an album with Gary and

All of which prompted me to the group. query about the weekend gig at Woody and Leon Thomas will the Jazz Closet. Yes, Gary would be cutting an album with Gary, be there, along with Geoff possibly within the next three or Harper, bass, and Steve four weeks, and it will be sort of Williams, drums.

But, Bob Butta is still out o town. Actually, he someplace in the state of Oregon. Gary talked with him

Closet this weekend. Last word we got was that Reuben would appear — we have our fingers

The other possibility is that show up at the Jazz Closet this weekend to sit in with Gary and

like a rehearsal. As Mrs. Bartz put it, Woody has been on hiatus for the past three weeks, and

Continued on page 6



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