

Deal

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Science fiction is probably the best example for this type of book. At this moment, I have before me a 1958 Signet paperback by Horace Coon called *43,000 Years Later*, "the amazing report of three explorers who discover our Earth, destroyed in the 20th Century, in the year 45,000." This book is "As realistic as tomorrow's headlines, as shocking as a nuclear explosion... a book you owe it to yourself to read."

With 42,980 years to go, I heartily agree. I only wish I had time to read it.

Here's a list of places in the Eugene/Springfield area where you might find the paperback of your dreams:

Granny's, 1712 Main St., Springfield. A place to go for mysteries and detective novels.

Western Exchange, 225 River Rd. 50,000 paperbacks, stacked to make you go blind. Steamy southern novels.

Bargain Barn, 2611 River Rd. One of the best selections of used bowling balls in the area.

Goodwill Industries, 72 E. 11th St., 1181 Fairfield. Good titles, low prices.

St. Vincent de Paul, 110 E. 11th, 501 Main St. Bad titles, lower prices.

Salvation Army, 451 W. 11th, Mill and Main in Springfield. Worst titles, lowest prices.

By Eric Maloney
Photos by Erich Boekelheide



Cray band eyes national exposure

By GLEN OZONWOOD

Gov. Straub predicts Oregon will someday become a national culture center. Groups like the Robert Cray Band might help the state achieve that goal.

The Eugene-based band is on the road a lot, playing up and down the coast and as far east as Montana.

"When you're doing this business," says Curtis Salgado, harp player for the group, "you have to do the road and make connections."

The band is a merger of the old Cray Band and another Eugene group, the Nighthawks. Besides Salgado, pianist David Stewart survived the switch from the Nighthawks. Guitarist Robert Cray, bassist Richard Cousins and drummer Tom Murphy came from the old Cray Band.

"We got to play a lot of different kinds of blues now," says Cray, assessing what the merger has meant musically. "I learned to play by listening to guitar players, Curtis by listening to harmonica pieces and Stewart from a different aspect, the piano."

Stewart's piano replaced the old Cray Band's organ, a change Cray enjoys.

"I like the piano because there are a whole lot of things you can do. There are a lot of blues based around the piano."

The band's sound, ranging from an old Fleetwood Mac style to a B.B. King type of music, is proving commercially viable. They're

booked 'til November, a schedule attributed to the merger.

"The merger has a lot to do with the stability," says Salgado. "The gigs were open a long time ago but the Nighthawks had other things they wanted to do."

Salgado says some members of the Nighthawks didn't want to travel and so he went on the road with the Cray Band when the

Hawks were on vacation. According to Cray, the combination worked.

"There were gigs we couldn't get," he says, "unless Curtis was with us."

The band is currently negotiating a recording contract, something that fits well with Cray's plans for the band.

"I'd like to get some vinyl out,"

he says, "and just keep on playing. The main thing about this band is that we all feel if we can't play the blues, we ain't going to play no music period."

But the band's version of the blues is proving easy to sell and Stewart says it's nice to travel to a different town and have people want to hear you.

"The Nighthawks never got that

moral boost because they never went on the road. They never went to strange clubs and got that neat feedback from people looking to hear something different.

The group travels a lot, but Cray says Eugene will be homebase for a while.

"You've got to have a place where you can kick back and lead a normal life," says Cray. "Besides, we're at an advantage up here: When we go down to the Bay Area, we're an out-of-town band. If we were to move there we'd get mixed up with the thousands of bands already there and we wouldn't mean jack-diddley."

Cousins says Cray is right.

"Up here we can be big fish and throw our weight around a bit."

According to Cousins, the new group, which formed in December, combines the best of both bands.

"The Nighthawks were really commercially viable for what they were doing," he says. "They used to book themselves. The Cray Band wasn't as viable, but we did a lot more road work."

Cousins says the merger didn't take long to get used to.

"The band's had basically the same ideas — not fuckin' around on stage, putting on some clothes, trying to sound good — so it hasn't been that much of a change."

So the Cray Band hopes Straub's prediction comes true. It has the talent, and the drive, to take advantage of national attention should it turn this way.



Robert Cray (lead guitar, right) has a new band and new hopes for a recording contract. Other band members are Curtis Salgado (harp), David Stewart (piano), Tom Murphy (drums) and Richard Cousins (bass).

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