

MUSIC REVIEW

Cray's blues have flair

by Paul Miniger
Collegian Staff Writer

Putting music into categories is a difficult task. Such an undertaking is made worse when groups are listed as being the same, yet sound different.

The last "blues" album reviewed in the Behrend Collegian was Stevie Ray Vaughn's "Live Alive" LP, on which Stevie Ray and The Double Trouble wailed through 14 songs in a seemingly endless guitar riff. The pinnacle of the album was the live cover of the Jimi Hendrix tune "Voodoo Chile." There is no doubt that the album was great, but was it the blues? I'd say it was probably more rock than blues.

"Strong Persuader" is different. The music sounds more like traditional blues, in that it has a slow tempo, melancholy lyrics, and a folksy guitar. However, it also has a contemporary flair to it—sort of a "city blues."

Most of Cray's hardships are of a modern origin, but are nonetheless, timeless.

This is evident in "Still Around." On the track, Cray croons over the fact that his girlfriend is still in his life. More specifically, she is still in his apartment. "I did my best to love you now do your best to leave." A

touchy situation put together nicely in Cray's bluesy voice.

Another example of this city blues style is in the song "Smoking Gun." Using metaphorical lyrics, Cray describes the feeling of being caught in a love triangle. Since "Smoking Gun" has received considerable airplay, you are probably familiar with his blues guitar style, which is reminiscent of B.B. King, and quite a bit more tame than Stevie Ray Vaughn.

Three other songs on the album are also worthy of praise. These are "I Wonder," "Right Next Door" and "New Blood."

"I Wonder" is probably the best of the three. Its slow beat and crying guitar help to express Cray's lyrics describing a failing romance and its paranoial effects. "I Wonder" is by far the bluestiest song on "Strong Persuader."

Still, the album is not without some let-downs. "More Than I Can Stand" and "I Guess I Showed Her" are the biggest sleepers. Their downfall is probably the result of taking city blues style a bit too far. Thus, the songs sound commercial and quite dull.

For the most part, "Strong Persuader" is a good album. One can find at least five favorites among the ten tracks. And that alone is worth the \$5.99 price tag.



ROBERT CRAY-STRONG PERSUADER

Behrend students have lofty ideas

by Lisa Hahn
Collegian Staff Writer

When a student comes to school, where they live is an important part of their college life. Here at Behrend, residence hall rooms are where a lot of the students live and spend most of their time. In order for the student to feel comfortable and "at home" for eight months out of the year, it is a good idea to fix up the cubicle to make it bearable to live in. When one first steps foot into a residence hall room here, the first question that usually pops into the person's head is, "How in the world am I going to manage living in this small of a space?" The answer lies within each student's creative mind. The trick is being able to turn a cubby hole with painted concrete cinder blocks, bolsters that don't match, one mirror, one set of drawers, a linoleum floor, and one bulletin board into someplace that at best slightly resembles your room at home. However, it is surprising what some students come up with using what little is available.

Lofts seem to be the best way to change the whole dull look of the rooms, and there are many different styles and shapes that lofts are made into. There is the "1" shape loft, the loft that goes across the middle of the room, and then there is the "split" type on either side of the room. These are just a few types around, there are many more considering the number of students and imaginations. Bunk beds can also be used to create more floor space, but lofts are more versatile and give the student the most room.

Another part of the room that most students try to change are the bare walls. A lot of students put up pictures or posters that make their room their own. The walls and bulletin board become an expression of that person's personality plus it makes the room look a whole lot better too.

A big thing that changes the room is whether or not there are decent curtains and a carpet. When

the students first arrive there are many different styles of curtains in the residence halls. There is the "Safari Collection," "The Floral Garden Collection," and many other styles not worth mentioning. Usually when one first steps foot into the residence hall room, the first place the eye goes to is the window where those ominous pieces of material hang. The curtains usually don't cover the windows either, so taking them down completely doesn't make a difference. One can only hope there are no Peeping Toms.

There are many interesting rooms on Behrend campus and each one is unique. Bill Packwood and Paul Sarkis have the most innovative room I've seen thus far. It's like a study in a 17th-century castle, minus the rigidity. You forget you are in a Behrend College residence hall room once you cross the threshold. There's paneling, bookshelves, posters, paintings, and bunk beds covered by burgun-

dy colored curtains that serve as a canopy for more privacy. Bill said that he, "wanted to make some place look like a den. Dark wood, dark things and lots of stuff to look at." Paul said that he wanted to, "develop a place that was relaxing. As far from the standard room as possible. We tried to escape the coldness of the standard room and give it a little warmth. After all if it's home for eight months you might as well make it look like home."

Packwood and Sarkis designed the layout for the room themselves and then built everything last fall. The room comes equipped with a ceiling fan (for those sweltering days in Erie), a Renoir and a poster of "Bogie" on the back of the door. It certainly seems to have all the comforts of home and that's what they were trying to achieve.

Bill Barnes, another student here at Behrend, has a loft in his room because he wanted to create more

space. He says lofts are good because, "If you are in the room and someone comes in that you don't want to see, you just lay in your loft quietly without them even knowing you're there." He said that, "Lofts are good for people who are natural slobbs because you have more room in which to be a slob." Bill has a split loft with built in ladders. Underneath the loft it's like a little livingroom complete with couch and TV. It's like having two separate rooms in one. At least it's something different than the usual boring residence hall room and lofts can make a good profit once the occupants are done using them.

No matter how the students decorate their rooms, chances are the finished product is better than what they started with. Even if you're stuck with "Safari Collection" curtains and mixed orange and black bolsters, all it takes is a little imagination.

Jones mixes comedy and music

Lynn Popovich
Collegian Staff

Do you like to laugh? Well, on April 22, at the Wintergreen Cafe, there will be a person there to make you do just that. Scott Jones, a musician and comedian, will perform an act unlike anyone ever has. He uses exotic toys, wierd props, and rubber devices in his extraordinary show. He once performed his act in an elementary school and as payment he received a letter from every child in the school. The letters are now on a record and in his shows. There is also a comedy slide show which portrays all the strange images of life on the road. Whenever he would ride down the road on his many trips, he would see funny sights that he wished he had a camera for, so he got one and incorporated it into his creative act. Jones' Comedy Show was made for community colleges and noon shows. Dramatic entrances, which are an important part of the show, are certain show-stoppers.

Scott Jones also plays music which ranges from classical to contemporary, blues to jazz, and rag to rock. Several styles may appear in one selection, and the audience is always kept guessing. He has written more than 100 songs spanning from the categories already mentioned. The main focus of the show is on songs with words. His show also includes a solo from either his piano or his Zodiac Suite—a collection of pieces for each sign. Jones' music comes from the core, and expresses emotions and feelings that his words could not touch. His music is refreshing and up-lifting. The show has a type of sound that makes the audience laugh, cry and tap their toes to the beat. Scott Jones has released four albums of original music and is now recording a collection of his piano solos entitled "The Zodiac Suite." He con-



Scott Jones and friend

tinues to tour extensively by bringing his shows to concert halls and auditoriums with the likes of Steve Landesberg, Al Stewart, Leon Redbone, Richard Belzer, and David Bromberg, as well as to elementary schools, cruise ships in the Caribbean, and even a library in Chipewewa Falls, Wisconsin. When not touring, he often works as a studio musician. He wrote the string, horn, and vocal arrangements for several of LIPPS, INC's platinum and gold albums, which includes the hit "Funkytown."

The Scott Jones Show is an evening of entertainment and surprises.

He plays serious music, says funny things and has a great slide show. His act is a little bit of all things rolled into one spectacular performance. His unforgettable show leaves the audience wanting more and remembering the night for a long time to come. He pulls various techniques and styles into his show. He travels with a great sound system, a toybox, and a computer. You never really know what to expect from the Scott Jones Show (and neither does he!). A smile will be on your face from ear to ear long after the show is over and your mind will carry around a tune.

Behrend goes Hawaiian

Christopher Rapach
Collegian Staff Writer

Just when the campus was beginning to enjoy the sunny days and premature summer activities, winter reminded us that this was Erie and we could not shake its recurring grasp. Fog, drizzle, rain, snow and sleet became a common sight once again. The fraternity of Alpha Phi Omega came to our rescue by holding its second annual Hawaiian Beach Dance. The scheduling of this dance was superb because it gave the college the enjoyment of summer and also made us forget the Erie climate, at least for one night.

The Hawaiian Beach Dance was held on Saturday, April 4. The dance took place in the Wintergreen Cafe from 10pm to 2am. When you paid the one dollar admission cover charge, you were given a Hawaiian lei and entered Behrend's own tropical island. To the left of the entrance was the Mocktail Bar which served Near Beer, Fuzzy Navels, Pina Coladas, and Mai Tais for a small charge of 25 cents each drink. You even had the choice of drinking from a glass or an authentic coconut shell. Stanley Smith was the Alpha Phi Omega brother who was given responsibility of bartender. His ex-

perience brought in about twenty dollars.

The music was provided by Alpha Phi Omega's own disc jockey Lon Higley. His own island of music was set up in the far left corner of the Cafe. His selections ranged from the 50's up to the 80's, and he included all kinds of music. You know there was a wide selection when you heard "Itsy, Bitsy, Teeny, Weeny, Yellow Polka-Dot-Bikini," "You Be Illin'," and "Walk This Way" all in the same night. If one was observing the activities of the dancers then they would have seen groups of friends performing dance routines, doing cartwheels, line dances, and Mambo lines. When the music slowed down, you could see the groups clasped arm-in-arm swaying back and forth to the music, and couples becoming closer as they danced. There was an occasional interruption when the music skipped, however this just showed how energetic the dancing audience was.

Throughout the night, contests were being performed and prizes were given out. The prizes were compliments of Domino's Pizza, Pepsi-Cola Co., Wendy's, and the Y.M.C.A. The contests were: Best Tan, Best Outfit, Chugging, and Limbo. The Best Tan Winner was

Russell McDaid, Best Outfit went to Edward Applegate and second place went to Richard McCartney. The Chugging Team that won consisted of: Eric Connors, Ted Cinker, Brian (Sil) Vecellio, and Sean Kersten. The four well deserved the case of Pepsi because, well, if you have ever tasted Near-Ber you know why. The Limbo Winner was Bill Packwood, and Kara Davis came in second.

The decorations were also very commendable. All the way from the two homemade palm trees, to the decor of the Mock Bar, and the swinging glitterball; everything was well thought out and executed perfectly. The dance was planned by a committee in Alpha Phi Omega and headed by Jim Thomas. The night concluded with the APO brothers singing the theme to Gilligan's Island. Hopefully, next time they will warn us about their singing!

Whether an individual came to dance, sit in the lounging area and meet their friends, taste the Mocktails, enter the contests, or just to get laid, Alpha Phi Omega succeeded in chasing away the winter grayness that had set in the previous week. And for this the campus was definitely ready for some APO summer fun.

Classical music scheduled

by Liza Hahn
Collegian Staff Writer

If some students were asked what their favorite kind of music was, very few would say classical. Classical music is something you are forced to listen to in a music appreciation class and the only one who appreciates it is the music teacher. Nevertheless, classical music has evolved and survived for hundreds of years, stimulating and soothing millions of people. If students were also asked who their favorite musical group is, most would probably answer something like U2 or Bon Jovi. It's doubtful that many would say The Alard Quartet, yet The Alard Quartet has been entertaining crowds for 25 years, longer than most musical

groups around today.

The Alard Quartet is one of a distinguished line of quartets to emerge from the Julliard School of Music. It was formed in 1954 by Hans Letz and the next year it received the Young Artist Award of the National Federation of Music Clubs. In 1984, the Alard Quartet celebrated the 25th year its four present members have played together. The Alard Quartet has been residing at the Pennsylvania State University since 1962. Its repertoire includes some unusual and seldom heard works which span 400 years of literature.

Members of the Alard Quartet include Joanne Zagst-violinist, Donald Hopkins-violinist, Raymond Page-viola player, and Leonard Feldman who plays cello. This group of performers has got-

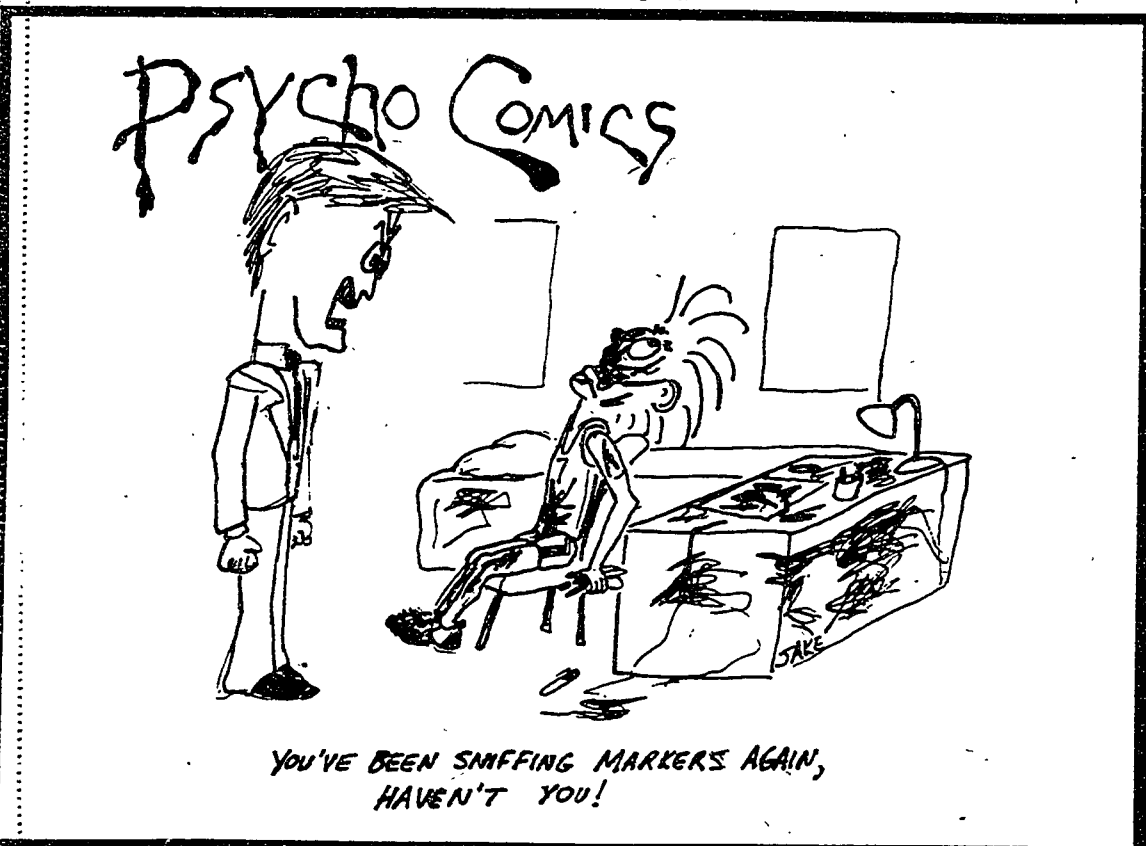
ten rave reviews from many sources such as Paul Kresh-Stero Review who says they are, "Excellent, highly polished and exceptionally expressive." The London Times exclaims that, "These players speak with authority and persuasion," and The New York Times says that the quartet is, "Four admirably balanced instrumentalists who bring vitality, cohesion and solid musicianship to their readings."

The Alard Quartet has toured many parts of the world including North and South America, Europe, and the Pacific. It has performed in many famous concert halls from the Brahmsaal in Vienna, to the Dubrovnik Festival in Yugoslavia and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam to Auckland'd Town Hall, Mexico City's Palace de Bellas Artes and now Behrend College's Reed Lecture Hall. The Alard Quartet has performed as soloist with the Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and Denver Symphony Orchestras and has been a regular participant on the American Music Festival of the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., and the AKI Festival of Contemporary Music at the Cleveland Museum.

If you follow the solid reputation of the Alard Quartet you can't go wrong. Widen your spectrum of music and broaden your involvement in the Arts. Come see the Alard Quartet April 16th at 8:00 p.m. in the Reed Lecture Hall. It will be an enjoyable and memorable evening.



The Alard quartet.



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