## STREET SCENE

## Cray's 'Sweet Potato Pie' has Memphis flavor

R&B singer Robert Cray feels for children who are growing up in the late 1990s.

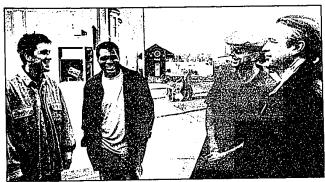
"I was reading in the newspaper and watching situations on I'v where young kids go out and do crazy things. Then the first person who's interviewed is the kid's, parents who commit the crimg, or the victim's parents. It's like, 'Don't you see what you're doing?"

"I' can't even envision the things that are going on. When I was comin' up. I'm glod I had a guitar. This is a whole dangerous world out here with the kids. That's the terrible thing.

Cray, who has no children, included a song on his latest albuim "Sweet Potato Pie," which warns youths about the dangers of street life.

For "Sweet Potato Pie," which was released last year, Robert Cray and his band - keyboardist Jim Pugh, bassist Karl Sevardia and drummer Kevin Hayes traveled to Memphis to record.

"First of all, we wanted to get out of the Bay area. I figured we could concentrate a little bit more on the music rather than we're going to have for dinner every night," said Cray who had



Playing Ann Arbor: The Robert Cray Band — from left, drummer Kevin Hayes, guitarist I singer Robert Cray, keyboardist Jim Pugh, and bassist Karl Sevareid — perform as part of the Ann Arbor Summer Festival on Monday, June 22, at the Power Center for the Performing Arts.

just returned from a Brazilian tour.

"Toe often dreamt about what tour about what to the studios in Memphis when many of my musical heroes like spirit of that time is still there

somewhat and making this album in the city was a great experience for all of us." While in Memphis, Cray took advantage of the location and invited his old friends the Mem-phis Horna to play on "Sweet Potato Pie."

Potato Pie."

"For us and our love of that Stax sound, there's no better people to have on your record than the originators of that sound."

Credited with a major role in the resurgence of blues and roots music, Cray scored his first hit, "Smoking Gun." in the last 1980s. Since then, he has performed with Chuck Berry, Keil Richards, Eric Clapton and Tina Turner. In 1986, Cray performed in "Hail! Hail! Rock in 'Roll," a concert and film tribute to Berry. A year later, Clapton covered "Bad Influence" on his album 'August' and invited him to play on subsequent albums "Journey-

man" and "24 Nights." The duo
co-wrote "Old Love," which
appeared on Clapton's 1992
Grammy Award-winning album
"Unplugged."
Cray will return to the area to
perform as part of the Ann Arbor
Summer Festival on Monday,
June 22. He explained that fans
can expect a variety of material.
"We're mixin' it up pretty good.
We're going way back and doing
some things from 'Sweet Fotato
Pie'. We're travelling as a quartet
so it should be a lot of fun."

Robert Cray Band performs at 8 p.m. Monday, June 22, as part of the Ann Arbor Summer Festival at the Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor, Tickets range from \$18.427 for the all-ages show. Call (734) 764-5258 for more information. To read more about Cray, visit his Web site at http://www.rosebudUS.com/cray.html

## Ann Wilson puts her 'Heart' into tour

Ann Wilson of the rock band Heart was itching to get back on the road. There was one problem, however. Her sister Nancy could-

treart was itching to get back on the road. There was one problem, however. Her sister Nancy could not make it.

I'had just been climbing the wallst wanting to go out for a while now but my sister is really trying to have a baby. Finally I just kind of said, 'Well would you mind. If I just go out without you?: She said, 'Make yourself happy.'

This is the first time that feart will tour without Nancy Wilson. Ann Wilson admitted that she would have done it sooner but she wasn't confident enough to do it.

I'glues it took me until now to feel I could do it by myself. I wasn't sure if people would accept just one of us without the other. That's why we're calling it 'Heart featuring Ann Wilson.' I wanted people to know before they buy their tickets that it's just going to bo me."

stuff. That should be kind of cool to hear that stuff again."
On stage Wilson will be joined by guitarist Howard Leese, a 22-year member of Heart, guitarist Vocallat Frank Cox, furmer Ben Smith, bassist don Bayless, and rhythm guitarist Scott (Joson, Nancy Wilson's former guitar tech.

"People should expect to see a vital and living band that's all guidance old stuff one more time to get their buck. I want to be real clear on that. We're not only playing Heart classics. We're the stage of the saking people to expand their minds."

Wilson will also bring along Wednesday, June 23, at the Toledo and \$24.50 for the all-ages shony. Wellnesday, June 47.50 p.m. Wednesday, June 47.50 p.m. Wednes

asking people to espans arminds."
Wilson will also bring along her 7-year-old daughter Marie and 7-week-old baby boy John Dustin.
"I wouldn't do it any other way. I just believe in keeping families solid. I see a lot of other artists going out on tour and leaving

they have a dysfunctional family."
Wilson said that as soon as herister has a baby she will rejoin Heart.
"Nancy and I have been talking about it. As soon as I get back and the summer tour's over, we're going to start writing again."
Heart featuring Ann Wilson, with special guests The Tubes featuring Fee Waybill, have two area appearances - 7:30 p.m. Threado, June 23, at the Toldo Zoo in Toledo. Tichets are \$20 and \$24.50 for the all-ages show; and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 24, at Fine Knob Music Theare, 1-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Tournship. Theets are 1-76 and Sasnacow Note, Index-pendence Township. Tickets are \$22.50 pavilion and \$12.50 lawn for the all-ages show. For more information about either show, call (248) 645-6666. "



