



## ARTIST OF THE WEEK

By Lady Essence

When the music trade magazines reviewed War's first album in 1971 they called the group an Afro-Cuban-Jazz-Rock-Blues Band. War's music is no more easily pigeonholed today than it was then.

Appealing to blacks, whites and Hispanics in almost equal proportion, War has accumulated six platinum albums, ten gold albums, two platinum singles and nine gold singles and a total of worldwide record sales in excess of 25 million.

The beginnings of War can be traced to Howard Scott's garage in Long Beach, California, where a group called Nightshift grew out of a web of friendship and family ties. Except for Papa Dee Allen, all of the band's members were native Californians and infused with the state's sunny optimism and blurred ethnic mix. They began to play clubs around Los Angeles and in no time at all, acquired a formidable reputation as one of the city's tightest and most versatile club and back-up bands in the late sixties.

Eric Burdon, who began his career with the Animals, was looking for a new band when Jerry Goldstein and Steve Gold, the producers and managers of War to this day, put him together with Nightshift. His friend, who was sleeping on Burdon's couch at the time, Danish born harmonicist, Lee Oskar, jammed with the group one night and sud-



# WAR

**RCA**  
Records and Tapes

denly all the pieces were in place. They have never known anything but success. Their first release with Burdon, the single "Spill the Wine" from his landmark ERIC BURDON DECLARES WAR lp, was a major hit, crossing over in all directions. They released a second album with Burdon, BLACK MAN'S BURDON but found themselves on their own at the midst of a European tour when the exhausted lead singer was unable to go on. Always professional, War finished the dates by themselves and won rave reviews in the process.

War signed with United Artists Records as a solo act and after a self-titled debut lp, broke wide open with their second album, ALL DAY MUSIC. A dizzying succession of platinum albums, top ten singles, and sold-out tours followed. Musically they were leading American pop music toward a true melding of disparate elements. With its molten synthesis of Latin, R&B, rock and electronics, War presaged and prepared the way for what came to be known as disco in the late seventies.

With singles like "Slippin' Into Darkness," "The World Is A Ghetto," and "Why Can't We Be Friends?" a song which made history when it was beamed into space during a joint U.S./Soviet venture in 1976, and "Cisco Kid," War tapped a musical motherlode and defined funk for all time.

## TROPICANA SITE FOR TELEVISED PBS FUNDRAISING

The Tropicana Hotel will be the site of a major fund raising event for PBS (Public Broadcasting Service), Mar. 23-24, as Charles Simon and One Up Productions announces their up-coming production of "Starfest: The Stars Salute Public Television."

"Starfest" will be taped on Mar. 23 & 24 in the hotel's Fountain Theatre and will feature such renowned stars as Gregory Hines, Diahann Carroll, Roberta Peters, Rich Little, Shields & Yarnell and Anthony Newley. Additional guest stars and a featured host are to be announced shortly.

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