

# Entertainment



## ARTIST OF THE WEEK

By Lady Essence

The Bar-Kays have consistently stayed one step ahead of the trend while retaining the best of their rich background. They are one of the longest-running funk acts in the business.

The band started when its original members were all in junior high in Memphis. After being signed by the legendary Stax Records in the 60's, they had numerous duties such as the Stax House band, Otis Redding's back-up group, and a recording act in their own right. Just as their career was moving into high gear, tragedy struck — an airplane crash in Wisconsin which took the lives of Redding and all of the Bar-Kays except James Alexander, who was on another flight.

It took Alexander about a year to reform the group, but soon the Bar-Kays were back, turning out a number of their own hits while also backing acts like Issac Hayes, The Staples Singers, Carla Thomas, Johnnie Taylor and others.

When Stax Records declared bankruptcy, the Bar-Kays found themselves innocently involved in the surrounding red tape. Once the litigation was resolved in 1976, the band signed with Mercury Records. Their first LP for the label, *Too Hot To Stop*, included the Top 5 R&B and Top 40 pop hit "Shake Your Rump To The Funk" and the Top 10 R&B hit title song. Their next album, *Flying High On Your Love*, went gold. Since then, they've had a host of dynamite albums such as *Light of Life*, *Injoy*, *As One* and *Night Cruisin'* as well as such memorable singles as "Let's



## BAR-KAYS

PolyGram Records

Have Some Fun," "Attitudes," "I'll Dance," "Move Your Boogie Body," "Today Is The Day" and many more.

Their latest LP, *Propositions*, sports a "new-wave-funk" sound; starting with the synthesized, up-to-

date sounds of "Propositions" and "Tripping Out," followed by the always present Bar-Kays' funk in "Do It," and "She Talks To Me With Her Body," and last but not least, their classic balladry which can be found in "Anticipation" and "I Can't Believe You're Leaving Me."

The Bar-Kays have been making music with incredible currency and appeal and that's what has kept them in the front running with the leaders of the modern funk sound.



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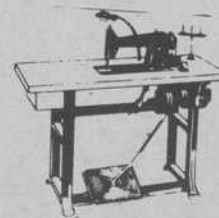
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## Holiday Festival Planned For LV Strip

The First Annual "Holiday Festival" featuring Christmas From Around The World, has been set for Las Vegas. General Chairman Pete Barbuti announced he festival will be held Dec. 21 thru 23 on the center of the Las Vegas Strip.

Each booth will project the holiday season from the four corners of the world. A large tent will feature entertainment of the season with a full array of top stars to local groups and a drama group portrayal of the first Christmas.