

Continued From p. 1B)

nam-545,000 by the time Nixon began "winding down the war" in 1969. It officially ended in 1975. Some 58,000 American personnel had been killed and 304,000 wounded in the war. About half of these were blacks. More than 2,500 were women. For network news, the war was show business for more than a decade.

While "Coming Home" set the stage for the war's Hollywood debut, it was Francis Ford Coppola's "Apocalypse Now" that made it a show business contender the same year. Although preceded by "The Deer Hunter," Coppola's film was the first real epic about Vietnam. It had Brando, and a cast of thousands, against a backdrop of spectacular combat effects. It racked up millions.

Naturally, black actors were not given prominent roles in any of the blockbuster films. It fell to PBS television to enlighten the country about the role of black soldiers. "Bloods: An Oral History of the Vietnam War" documented the suffering of black servicemen. It shocked most Americans to learn that black soldiers had done much of the fighting and dying in the war. And "Bloods" was filmed with actual black veterans-not a cast of Hollywood actors.

Commercial television's re-



Scene From "Tour Of Duty"

cently ventured into Vietnam with "Tour of Duty," an hour-long CBS series that tries to depict the painful war as it was. To its credit, the network agreed with producers to feature black actors in ongoing, sympathetic roles. However, "Tour of Duty" is on opposite NBC's puffball sitcom "The Cosby Show." That might affect whether the combat drama becomes a hit or miss. Meantime, Hollywood has struck back with a monster hit

of its own. "Good Morning Vietnam" is currently burning up the Big Screen and racking up Big Bucks. The film, based on the escapades of a real DJ during the war, seems headed for a sure Oscar nomination.

"Good Morning Vietnam" also features black actors in prominent roles. So, what's next? Well, we can be sure Hollywood will milk the war for all it's worth-now that they know it's box office.

## Riffs and Takes

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Bass Concerto, 1981. Lent by the artist, courtesy Cordier & Ekstrom, Inc., New York. Organized by the North Carolina Museum of Art.

## Wall Street Dancing

Charlotte -NC - Wall Street Danceworks, a dance company that presents cutting-edge dance and theater works, will perform in NCB Performance Place at Spirit Square Center for the Arts on Saturday, February 6, at 8:15 p.m. This performance is sponsored by WTVI, Channel 42, and Spirit Square.

Single tickets are on sale for this evening of dance and are \$12 and \$10 and go on sale on Monday. Discounts are available for groups of 20 or more, senior adults and all full-time students. For ticket information, call the Spirit Square Box Office at 704-376-8883, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. weekdays and 12-5 p.m. Saturdays.

Wall Street Danceworks is primarily three, talented dancers who have traveled individually throughout the world, bringing to the company a wide variety of dance training and experiences. In addition to presenting their own innovative choreography, this young company's repertoire also includes works by Diane Markham of the North Carolina School of the Arts and Austin Hartel from Pilobolus. Wall Street Danceworks was founded in 1983 and is based in Asheville, NC.

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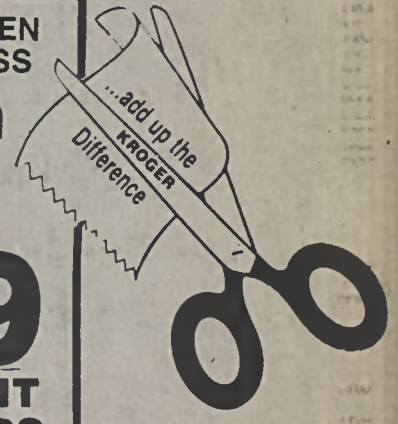
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