

# New Edition has broken up (psyche!)

By Michael Clayton  
YELLIN' REBEL

Johnny Gill has a solo album. Michael Bivins, Ricky Bell, and Ronnie DeVoe have branched out with a trio effort under the name "BELL-BIV-DEVOE." A solo album is soon to be released by the acknowledged leader of New Edition, Ralph Tresvant.

Looks as though gig is up, hunh?

By all appearances, New Edition has disbanded as a group.

The five man ensemble has splintered, each faction drifting apart on the waves of individuality. And if that's what you think, you are one hundred and one percent, totally, completely, thoroughly, absolutely wrong.

New Edition has, in purely business terms, temporarily abandoned efforts as a group to expand the groups mass audience appeal as well as to assuage the appetites of the diverse listeners they've garnered.

*The Plan?* (The plan was revealed last weekend on KCEP Radio Station on the nationally syndicated insider music show *Radio Scope*). The plan is business—good business.

The plan calls for a horizontal and vertical expansion of the individual abilities of each of the group's particular singing/performing talent.

Technically put, this is the art of demographics at it's best. The point being that each splinter cater to the interest of the varied appetites of the wide fan following of

New Edition.

For Gill, this is the entertaining of those who appreciate his very special and mature vocalizations. Gill is the groups balladeer.

Gill can sing his ass off. His rich tenor is virtually unmatched in the industry. Christopher Williams, ("I Talk To Myself," "Promises, Promises...," "One Girl"); Babyface [Kenny Edmonds] ("Whip Appeal," "Soon As I Get Home," "Tender Lover"), and of course, Luther Vandross ("Here And Now") seem to be the only soul balladeers as vocally dynamic as Johnny Gill.

Bell-Biv-Devoe's chart climbing "Poison" seeks to ingratiate the rap/pop audience.

The song is risqué! (Admittedly, it did take a little time to grow on me, but still, it did grow) The song is a perfect dance tune, and listening to it gives the fans some insight as to the steamier side of the use of love/sex as a tool for social climbing.

If anything, the song "Poison" is representative of the groups' awareness of the ulterior motives of overzealous, nubile female fans (groupies) and, the power of physical attachment/sexual chemistry.

Ralph Tresvant's job? Well we all know what Ralph's capable of but will have to wait a little while longer for his specific creation as a soloist.

With the unfurling of each mission the group is to "re-group" and begin a world tour that they hope will have appeal to all of the factions they seek to ingratiate.

Again, business—very good business.

There is no shame in New Edition's effort as the group (and the individual mission each splinter has endeavored to undertake) offers quality, texture, and depth.

(Just as an aside, it is also quite probably a healthy break from the smothering confines that a pop group must endure for sure success.)

Johnny Gill is the first of the splintered factions to release an album. His self-titled effort is a Motown Record Company release and is distributed by MCA.

The album is produced by Jheryl Busby, industry heavyweights Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis (Flyte Time Productions), and L.A. [Reid] and Babyface (LaFace, Inc.).

Jam and Lewis are best known for the successful handling of Janet Jackson, while LaFace has been responsible for the musings of Pebbles, Karyn White, and Bobby Brown.

Gill's album has background (vocals) support from Terry Lewis, Karyn White, Pebbles, Daryl Simmons, After 7 and the Waters sisters.

"Rub You The Right Way" is Gill's first single released from the album, and can be heard on most top ten radio stations in the Vegas Valley.

"Fair Weather Friend" follows "Rub You The Right Way" on the album. It is an up-tempo tune that pleases the ears in both verse and muse.

Easy listening can be found in from the cuts "Wrap My Body Tight," "Feels So Much Better" and "Never Knew Love" ("You will

never know love until you open your heart/come as you are")

For those who take delight in *foreplay* and the creation of a special atmosphere for that *foreplay* to be effective, then side two of Gill's album is the place to begin.

Side two give us "My, My, My." It is an opening tease in which Gill conveys to his love interest his delight at seeing her. ("My, my, my/you sure look good tonight.") "Lady Dujour" follows, and goes further in enhancing anticipated passion. ("You drive me crazy, my Lady Dujour...I'm anticipating my Lady Dujour...everything I ever wanted...") *If you've ever showered first then you will understand the anticipation of passion that Gill is describing.* "Lady Dujour" is smooth and seductive, sultry and sensuous, a great effort!

Next is "Just Another Lonely

Night" ("I can see you in each drop of rain as it falls/all through the night/hard memories keep me awake/it's been so long since I held you tight/I thought I had you out of my heart, but I don't know-w/I imagine you here with me, but I guess it's going to be just another lonely night/wanting your love...")

Giving My All To You," Let's Spend The Night" both go all the way...then the albums ends with a warm reprise of "My, My, My."

If this album is anyway indicative of what to expect from the New Edition splinters, then the group will surely succeeded in the world tour that they have planned. And just as an added spice to the effort, the possibility of Bobby Brown re-joining New Edition for it's world tour as was reported on *Radio Scope* would answer the prayers of millions of loyal fans the world over.

## George Howard to perform at Ham Hall May 6

By Lori Gallinger  
YELLIN' REBEL

May promises to be a hellacious month for jazz enthusiasts. On May 6, the master of the alto sax, George Howard will take a bow in Artemis Ham Hall while on May 18 "Jazz Under the Stars" will shine at Spring Mountain Ranch.

Howard's lyrically soprano sax has sung in venues around the world, from the Playboy Jazz Festival to Carnegie Hall. In his meteoric rise he has gained acclaim on the adult, contemporary, black and even pop charts.

"I am an artist with a wide variety of training and experience, and I can play all kinds of music. And I'm happy with what I'm playing now... when a guy like Stanley Turrentine, whom you've grown up idolizing, tells you that *he* likes what you're doing, that's something else!"

The May 6 concert will combine jazz, wine and art with a tasting featuring the wines of Creston Manor and an art show sponsored by Kneeland Gallery displaying 20 pieces of contemporary art. The wine tasting and art show begin at 7:00 p.m. and George Howard will take the stage at 8:30.

Friday, May 18 will yield a different experience as Fattburger, Richard Elliot and Tom Grant groove with "Jazz Under the Stars." Saxman Richard Elliot has piloted a kamikaze solo career that has landed him at the top of the jazz and contemporary charts. He will be joined by the colorful (and cholesterol rich) Fattburger and the



George Howard

premiere jazz keyboardist, Tom Grant.

Under the stars at the Spring Mountain Ranch, located in Red Rock Canyon, this promises to be a stellar performance. Tickets are \$19.50, plus service charge, with the show lifting off at 7.00 p.m.

Tickets for both shows are available at the Artemis Ham Box Office, DePaulis Music, Vesely Music, the Upper Ear and all Ticketron locations. They are sponsored by Prime Cable, Valley Bank of Nevada and the Las Vegas Sun and produced by Michael Schivo Presents.

## UNLV Jazz Ensemble wins first place

The UNLV Jazz Ensemble won first place over 18 other competing Jazz Ensemble at the Fullerton Jazz Festival Saturday, April 7. According to Frank Gagliardi, the Ensemble's director, by winning over all the excellent competition from Arizona, Oregon, and California the Ensemble is now quali-

fied to enter the national competition April 26-29 in Oakland.

"One of the judges was internationally known composer and arranger, Bob Florence. Six members of the band," Gagliardi said, "were picked as outstanding musicians. They were: Darin Thomas, trumpet; Steve Barclay, bass; Neil

Maxa, trombone; Jerald Gray, bass trombone; Joe Malone, drums; Tony Micheletty, saxophone. I am so pleased with the quality of the band, this year and I'm confident of a fine performance and particular I want to thank not only the hard core jazz fans but the whole community that has given us so mus support."



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