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# ENTERTAINMENT



THE GAP BAND

Way back when Mr. Webster was putting together his now famous dictionary, little did he know that in 1979, three brothers would call themselves the Gap Band. Back in the late sixties, when the Wilson Brothers from the Greenwood-Archer-Pine street neighborhood were putting together a group, little did they know that their band would signify all the words that the dictionary uses to define GAP.

An opening: When they were growing up in the ghettos of Tulsa, music was the tool for their way out. . .the opening. *Passage*: Being involved with people like Ike Turner, D. J. Rogers, and Leon Russell was their passage to Los Angeles and the recording industry. *Hiatus*: This is what the brothers decided to take after an album was released last year. It was what they felt was needed to really do the kind of music they felt they were capable of. This was a time for re-evaluation. And more important, woodshedding. *Breach*: Another part of the hiatus. A time for a complete and total break with the past. A time to start anew. *To make a gap in*: With their debut album on Mercury Records, they intend to make a gap in the music business.

The album was lovingly produced by Lonnie Simmons, and covers the gamut of music from beautifully sung ballads like "You Can Count On Me" to classy disco numbers like "Shake" and "Baby Baba Bogue." Between them, Charles, Ronnie, and Robert Wilson play an incredible array of instruments, and alternate with precision and clarity on vocals.

The music defies classification. It's spiritual, environmental, rock 'n' roll and funky gospel merged into "gappy funk." It draws its inspirations from the ghetto, the church, the rhythm and blues/jazz origins of the deep South, from the modern sounds of contemporary musicians. It's a powerful and unique new sound on the contemporary music scene.

Ronnie Wilson, oldest of the Wilson Brothers, has been undeniably inspired by the heavy gospel background of his youth. His father was a Tulsa minister and his mother led the family in the church choir. "I guess the very first gigs we ever played were in church. Mom and us kids would get up and get ready to sing and Dad would give us one of his famous looks, warning us that if we didn't tear up the church-house and have everybody shoutin' by the time he got up to speak, we were gonna get a whoppin'. Well, we never got a whoppin' cause we never failed. I guess we were his warm-up act." Today, Ronnie plays trumpet, flugelhorn, piano, and percussion for the THE GAP BAND.

Middle brother Charles Wilson, lead vocalist and

the keyboard player for THE GAP BAND, played the trumpet throughout his early life. His brother Ronnie was the family expert on the keyboards and he would taunt Charles unmercifully by refusing to teach him how to play. "My mother and brother played piano like nobody's business and when I was little, I'd wake up all excited and run downstairs to the piano thinking I could play, but nothing would happen so I'd cry." By the time Charles was in the 9th grade, he had secretly learned the keyboards and astonished the family with his virtuosos playing. To this day, his biggest musical influence is his mother.

Bass player Robert Wilson, the youngest member of the group, best exemplifies the drive, the talent and the dreams of THE GAP BAND. Although he is also heavily inspired by the jazz and R&B greats, and has performed with the likes of Leon Russell, Ike Turner and Billy Preston, Robert is particularly influenced by the group Yes. "The inspiration I get from the universal music of Yes is fairy tales and things like that. . .When it all comes into place, that'll be the fairy tale come true for us."

The Album: THE GAP BAND. The Group: THE GAP BAND. Get ready, world!

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

### More Service, Less Cost

Prompt and proper government action can help keep the prices of some things from rising as high as they otherwise might.

One example is the chance the government has to help increase competition among airlines.



Americans would have lower fares with an end-on-end merger of two airlines.

Two major carriers, one that flies primarily within the country, National, and one that flies around the world, Pan Am, would like to merge.

Each of these carriers is "lean" and efficient. Together they can become even more efficient, serving more places at home and abroad. This would present more competition to airlines in the United States and to foreign-flag carriers.

All this can lead to increased services at decreased costs for people flying on the newly merged airline and on all the other airlines with which it competes.

Many people are asking their legislators where they stand on this issue, writing them at the U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515 and the U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.