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## FOSTER SYLVERS & HY-TECH

*"Hotline, hotline  
Calling on the hotline  
For your love, for your love."*

"I heard 'Hotline' on the radio three days ago," says Foster Sylvers, who sang the bubble-gum pop hit years ago. "It was funny. Those were good days."

Now he's headed for even better days, says the former lead singer of the Sylvers, a '70s family group that rivaled the Jackson 5 with a long string of hits. Due to his fame, Foster has toured the world, topped the charts, played pick-up basketball with superstars. Though he's still in his 20's, he has worked in this business for 18 years.

"I'm a young veteran," he says. With his new album, **Prime Time**, Sylvers presents a sonic revolution --- a fiery combination of funk, humor and Hip Hop.

This is Sylvers' debut for A&M Records following a three year recording hiatus. During the break, Sylvers kept his chops shape by producing consistently for other artists and writing songs for his own group.

On this album, Sylvers set out to make personal statements with his lyrics and music. Each song distinctly comments on a different subject.

For example, "Girl Vs. Boy" comments on the age-old problem of men and women connecting. "Prime Time" was inspired by simple street slang. "Back in Ohio, they used to call girls 'Prime,'" explains Foster. "I liked that expression the first time I heard it. I don't like the new slang they have out now. Like saying a girl is 'dope.' or 'That girl's stupid.' Those don't sound like compliments. If someone calls me stupid, we have a problem."

Overall the album illustrates a return to a basic idiom of rhythm and blues --- funk. "We're all funkateers," Sylvers proclaims, referring to his Hy-Tech creative collaborators and band-mates, John Ferguson and Kamal. (Ferguson, like Sylvers, is from Los Angeles, while Kamal is a Detroit native.)

Sylvers says that the three of them wanted to create a sound that drew upon their strengths and distinguished them from the mainstream style of today. Because he was a child-star, Sylvers was fortunate enough to receive personal instruction and encouragement from funk legends like George Clinton and Bootsy Collins. "I learned a lot from George and Bootsy let me play his star bass one time," Sylvers recalled. Such exposure is reflected in his musical taste.

"I like a heavy bass line. And I love harmony," says Sylvers. "I'll even make the bass line do a harmony part. I notice a lot of the Hip Hop songs have no color, no harmonies. Our sound mixes color with a beat."

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