

Bangles' breakup is just separation

ROCK ON



ETHLIE ANN VARE

They won't call it a disbandment, but the four gals in the Bangles have agreed to disagree for the foreseeable future.

After nine years together — yielding two platinum albums and the recent No. 1 hit "Eternal Flame" — the members of the Los Angeles-based group are going to tackle solo projects while they decide whether or not to break up permanently.

"It had become like a marriage," said vocalist Susanna Hoffs. "A long marriage." The current status — indefinite hiatus — is more a legal separation than a divorce, say the band's managers.

Hoffs, Michael Steele, and Vicki and Debbi Peterson are individually signed to CBS Records.

• That other L.A. all-girl band, the Go-Gos, split into fragments of vary-

ing success after their run at the charts. Currently, Charlotte Caffey is back on radio with her new band, the Graces, while Belinda Carlisle, Jane Wiedlin and Gina Schock have all had records out.

The only Go-Go not yet making solo waves is Kathy Valentine, probably the most serious musician of the bunch. But that may yet come: Her new band, Juke Box Jury, is playing

around Hollywood to appreciative crowds. One fan at a recent gig was David Bowie's guitarist, Earl Slick, whose own new band Dirty White Boy will have a PolyGram LP out in February.

• Speaking of noted session guitarists: Steve Vai, most recently hooked up with David Lee Roth's band, has joined the multi-platinum Whitesnake.

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