

911 hits with song 'Walk Like a Tarkanian'

by mish tell
entertainment editor

They captured our hearts with *Walk Like A Tarkanian* and now with the release of a new video entitled, *A Season To Remember*, the local Christian music oriented band, 911 continues to express their Rebel spirit.

The members of 911, Carlos Campo, Cathi and T-Bone Demman, Christi and Eric Stretz, Brian Hicks, and John Kling-Biel, spoke with me at a rehearsal session while the group anxiously awaited the debut of their new song on Channel 8 news.

"We used to be called the Sun Song Band," Christi Stretz, vocalist, said on the source of the bands name.

"We wanted a more contemporary name because we played to a younger audience."

One day, while rehearsing, Stretz asked the group about the emergen-

cy number and the band agreed.

Being together for a solid eight years, 911 expressed the pros and cons of having their faith so intertwined with their music.

"Generally, the setting we enjoy works against us," Carlos Campo, vocalist said. "We play to a crowd that's non-Christian — but we like the trading of ideas. We think that Christianity is something God has given us the free will to choose, and we like to present something we feel — the Bible as an alternative way of life, something that

is real and living.

"We try to express what we feel in simple terms," Campo continued. "We do get a lot of people who say we're just another Christian band. But once we get a chance to play, our music and dedication speaks for itself."

Even though the group has had an album released for almost a year, it was not until the band released *Walk Like A Tarkanian*, remake of the Bangles, *Walk Like an Egyptian*, that made 911 a household name in Las Vegas.

"I was in Tower Records when I heard the

Bangles and thought it was a catchy tune," John Kling-Biel, bass guitarist said when I asked who came up with the idea.

"We're all die-hard Rebel fans and one day I just thought *Walk Like a Tarkanian*."

"Brian and I started playing around with it — and then we told Carlos. That's how it all got started."

"Until it started coming together, none of us realized what it was going to be," Campo, the main lyricist of the song, said.

"But, slowly and surely, the lyrics started coming together and once we put

it on tape, we knew it was good. We didn't think it would get the reaction it did!

"I had to call Pure International (The Bangles publishing company) and at first the lady said no way," Cathi Demman, vocalist, said.

Demman sent the tape anyway, and received a warm welcome from the company the day the tape was received. The Bangles now get a nickel for every copy sold.

"The publishing company has been really supportive," Demman said. "It's been played on ABC, NBC, CBS, MTV, CNN, and George Michael's Sports Machine."

Having a hit single being played on all Las Vegas radio stations as well as national TV coverage with a video, many musical doors have been opened for 911. For one thing, we will see more originals on the way with their second album in process.

"We're not closed to doing anything," Demman said.

What is so special about this band is that their lyrics represent an aspect of their life which is happening at the time. And having two married couples in the band, as well as a brother/sister relationship, too, 911 brings a large part of their life into their music.

"We know each other so well, everyone has freedom to be themselves," Demman said.

"It's neat when we travel," Stretz said. "We're not leaving anyone behind. No wives, husbands, or children. When we go, we go as a family."

Because of the high record sales from *Walk Like a Tarkanian*, 911 now has the financial backing to fulfill a dream by spending a month in Japan and traveling through the different prison facilities.

Walk Like a Tarkanian

"[Walk Like a Tarkanian] has been played on ABC, NBC, CBS, [and] MTV"

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