

ENTERTAINMENT

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Starship: It's still rock & roll

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After two name changes, shakedowns in the line-up, and a startling yet successful new "pop" sound, many fans may wonder which direction the Starship is taking.

But Craig Chaquico, the group's guitarist, said that the Starship remains loyal to their rock 'n' roll roots. "This band can still rock, and we hope people remember that," he explained on the phone from Albuquerque, N.M., the latest stop on the group's U.S. tour.

The other group members are Grace Slick, vocals, Mickey Thomas, vocals, and Donny Baldwin, drums.

"A lot of our recent material has had a 'pop' sound," he admitted, "though we do perform a lot of rock songs like *Jane* and *Find Your Way Back* in our live sets."

"With this new sound we want to get everyone's attention. Once they hear the commercial songs, hopefully they'll listen to our other songs and see that there's a lot of musical styles that we cover," Chaquico said.

The new name and the

new sound are the results of a less-than-amicable split with Paul Kanther in 1984.

Kanther, who co-founded Jefferson Airplane in 1965, was still calling the shots in the 80s.

Chaquico said the

Starship followed. The case was settled out-of-court with the band deciding to drop "Jefferson" from their name and simply be called "Starship."

The "new" band then branched out musically a year later with the album

— have built this global city of music and made it what it is."

We Built This City was written by Bernie Taupin, former lyricist for Elton John, and Martin Page.

Starship's two other No.1 singles, *Sara* and *Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now*, were also provided by outside songwriters.

But this doesn't mean the band is totally reliant on outside material.

"Each one of us still writes, but if we find a song that we know will make a good record, we won't hesitate to record it just because it comes from outside the band," Chaquico said.

The group's desire to remain diverse is evident

on their latest album, *No Protection*. The band used three different producers.

Chaquico has nothing but praise for producer Peter Wolf. "Peter brought out a lot in us.

He's an accomplished keyboardist and a talented songwriter, and as a producer he added a lot to the album," he said.

Keith Olsen, who worked with Whitesnake, produced the rock 'n' roll tracks, and Narada Michael Walden produced *Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now*.

"Each producer had a different style, but they brought out the best in us," Chaquico said.

As a way of giving something back to their

fans, Starship serves as the spokesgroup for the National Network of Runaways and Youth Services, a non-profit group which provides shelters for homeless kids and a hot-line for teenagers who need help.

"There are over two million runaways in this country, and a lot of them end up getting hurt on the streets," Chaquico said.

"We'd like to show them there's an alternative to the dangerous choices in the streets."

The band's involvement in the project has been a success. "Since we've been involved, the response to the toll-free number [1-800-Hit-Home] has doubled," he said.



Knee Deep In The Hoopla. From that came the single, *We Built This City*, the band's first No.1.

Many people thought Starship was singing about their hometown of San Francisco, and claiming to have "built" it with their music.

"It's not about that at all," said Chaquico. "All we're saying is that everyone in rock 'n' roll—the people who play it and the people who listen to it

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