

active INSIGHT

ON THE RECORD

With **Dain Sandoval**
PD, KRQR-FM (Z-Rock)/Chico, CA



Greetings from Chico, CA! Chico (not Chino, dammit!) is located about an hour and a half northeast of Sacramento. It is the land of cheap booze, hot weather, hotter girls and the No. 1 party school in the world. When it comes to new radio tunes, it can get pretty dismal. What do I mean by this? I mean that a lot of what's going on out there is absolute crap. Scottish or not, a lot of what's being churned out of the

machine is pretty sad. • Thankfully, I have a group of highly trained, fez-wearing monkeys that assist in my programming choices for the 50,000-watt blowtorch of Nor-Cal that is 106.7 Z-Rock. Here we go: I'm excited about Trapt's "Headstrong." These guys are coming to town and opening for Nonpoint in September. Sparta's "Cut Your Ribbon" is not only a great song, the whole album, *Wiretap Scars*, is a real treat. The Used's "The Taste of Ink" is worth keeping an eye on. We had them on a show with Apex Theory, Lost Prophets and Chevelle. While the other bands arrived in their supercoach buses, The Used rolled up in a Winnebago. What's my point? I dunno; it was just funny. • Other things that are lighting up the airwaves: Disturbed's "Prayer" is a monster; it will be fun to see if it can match the insane success of "Sickness." Taproot's "Poem" is off to a strong start. Stone Sour's "Bother" is the "Who was that?" phone-call generator. New Papa Roach and Jerry Cantrell on the horizon. Locally, the bands Oddman, Brain In A Cage and Socially Pink are kicking asses up and down the streets. • I'm extending the offer to anyone reading: Play a show in Chico and have the time of your life. If it gets so wild that ya can't remember, we'll send you the pictures.

ACTIVE: A lot of records saw some pretty decent airplay increases last week, not the least of which was **The Foo Fighters'** "All My Life." The track scored +402 spins and took a hefty climb to No. 22 on the chart ... **Earshot** are building nicely on "Not Afraid" with +175 and a cool rise to No. 27 ... **Wow, Stone Sour** are top 10! That, quite simply, rocks ... "Remember Me" by **Hoobastank** makes a solid impression and debuts at No. 42 with a dozen new adds ... **Papa Roach** lead the pack for Most Added with 26 on "Time and Time Again" ... **RA** did very well with 19 adds on "Do You Call My Name" ... The inimitable **Jerry Cantrell** picked up 16 adds for "Angel Eyes," while **Filter's** "American Cliche" scooped up 15. **ROCK:** Loyal to their heritage artists, this side of the format welcomed **Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers** back into their arms with 20 adds (No. 1 Most Added) and +154 plays as "The Last DJ" debuts at No. 28 ... The Foo Fighters picked up 11 adds ... **The Rolling Stones** gained +139 spins and nine adds on "Don't Stop," which rose to No. 12 ... **U2's** "Electrical Storm" debuts at 22 with eight adds ... **30 Seconds To Mars** made an impressive mark with their first-week sales, selling nearly 11,000 units off only one single so far. **MAX PIX: SALIVA** "Always" (Island/IDJMG)

Active Rock/Rock ON THE RADIO

— Cyndee Maxwell, Active Rock/Rock Editor

ARTIST: Pulse Ultra

LABEL: Atlantic

By **FRANK CORREIA** / ROCK SPECIALTY EDITOR

Never underestimate the power of beer. Case in point: Dominic Cifarelli, guitarist for Montreal's hard-rockin' foursome **Pulse Ultra**. A big fan of Atlantic new metallers Taproot, Cifarelli knocked on the group's tour-bus door following a Montreal show to congratulate them on their success. In his hand: a six-pack. Next thing you know, he's hanging with Taproot guitarist Mike Dewolf and playing Pulse Ultra's demo on Taproot's tour bus. Long story short, Pulse Ultra sign a deal with Velvet Hammer management and Atlantic Records, release an incredible debut, *Headspace*, and go on tour with Ozzy, System Of A Down, Rob Zombie and other heavies on Ozzfest 2002.

With *Headspace*, Pulse Ultra create a mind trip of an album that mines the sonic territory between Tool's dark regions and Incubus' sunnier soundscapes. Think of it as metal that allows you to meditate. Cifarelli can provide both murky melodrama and airy acrobatics reminiscent of Steve Vai. The contemplative bass and guitar prowl of "Void" creeps its way up to a wonderfully melodic chorus, featuring the soaring and accomplished vocals of Zo Vizza (how's that for a rock-star name?). The adventurous "Slip in Sin" perhaps best represents the group's Incubus-meets-Tool vibe, while the pulsing urgency of "Glass Door" and "Big Brother" have found an audience at Rock



Pulse Ultra

specialty. PDs, however, shouldn't let this one slip by unnoticed: The big ol' choruses on *Headspace* are just begging for a slot in regular rotation.

A big supporter of Pulse Ultra has been **Roxy Myzal**, executive producer of syndicated heavyweight *Harddrive*. "These guys from Canada have been cutting their teeth on Ozzfest, and I know they are pumped for their upcoming tour with Taproot," she says. "Their guitarist, Dom, is a star, and Zo is a charismatic, brooding frontman. We've played 'Never the Culprit' and 'Acceptance,' and both of those songs got great response at Ozzfest. Watch out for these guys! Plus, they are hilarious in interviews!" And, who knows, they might just show up with a six-pack.



Top 20 Specialty Artists

September 13, 2002

1. **IN FLAMES** (Nuclear Blast) "Reroute To Remain," "Cloud Connected"
2. **QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE** (Interscope) "Millionaire," "No One Knows"
3. **STONE SOUR** (Roadrunner/IDJMG) "Get Inside," "Tumult"
4. **PROJECT 86** (Atlantic) "Hollow Again," "Another Boredom Movement"
5. **MESHUGGAH** (Nuclear Blast) "Rational Gaze," "Spasm"
6. **GLASSJAW** (Warner Bros.) "Tip Your Bartender," "Ape Dos Mil"
7. **SHADOWS FALL** (Century Media) "Stepping Outside...", "Thoughts Without..."
8. **MURDERDOLLS** (Roadrunner/IDJMG) "Dead In Hollywood," "Let's Go To War"
9. **HATEBREED** (Universal) "I Will Be Heard," "Perseverance"
10. **PULSE ULTRA** (Atlantic) "Big Brother," "Slip In Sin"
11. **DISTURBED** (Reprise) "Prayer"
12. **NONPOINT** (MCA) "Development," "Circles"
13. **SEPULTURA** (Divine/Priority) "Arise (Live)," "Attitude (Live)"
14. **DEAD TO FALL** (Victory) "Like A Bullet"
15. **BLINDSIDE** (Elektra/EEG) "Caught A Glimpse," "Pitiful"
16. **SIXTY WATT SHAMAN** (Spitfire) "My Ruin," "Blind By Morning"
17. **KILLSWITCH ENGAGE** (Roadrunner/IDJMG) "My Last Serenade," "Life To Lifeless"
18. **KORN** (Immortal/Epic) "Thoughtless," "Here To Stay"
19. **SUPERJOINT RITUAL** (Sanctuary/SRG) "It Takes No Guts," "Everyone Hates..."
20. **HALFORD** (Sanctuary/SRG) "Betrayal," "Crucible"

Ranked by total number of shows reporting the artist, with titles listed in order of most airplay.

Record Of The Week

ARTIST: Fairweather
TITLE: *Alaska*
LABEL: Equal Vision



With the record temperatures we had last week here in L.A., I felt compelled to throw Fairweather's new EP, *Alaska*, in the player just to put my mind someplace cooler. *Alaska* turned out to be a whole other kind of relief, however, as these four songs provide a refreshing blast of creativity and inspired playing. With focused guitar lines and clear-throated vocals, the DC group distance themselves from the scream-and/or-whine syndrome most hardcore and emo bands get stuck in, yet they never lose the passion and dynamics. Not only does "Who Brings a Knife to a Gunfight?" sport a cool title, it packs a punch. If you're sick of new metal and rap rock, *Alaska* is your vacation destination.

— Frank Correia