



# Rock Under The Radar

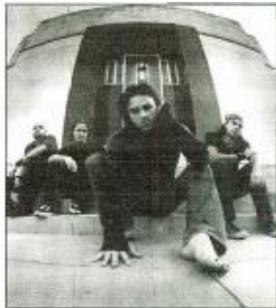
## Local acts get support at Active Rock and Rock radio

In conjunction with Cyndee Maxwell's *National League of Rock* special this week, I decided to look under the major-label radar to spotlight several acts from around the country that are enjoying regular rotation at commercial radio without the benefit of label deals. Keep your eyes — and ears — peeled for these hot prospects.

### Jibe

#### Dallas

Spin city: KEGL/Dallas; KATT/Oklahoma City; KFMX/Lubbock, TX; KTUX/Shreveport, LA; KMOD/Tulsa; KNCN/Corpus Christi, TX; KZRR/Albuquerque; KIOC/Beaumont, TX; KLBJ/Austin; and KFZX/Odessa, TX.



### Jibe

The 411: With four releases under their belts, Jibe are racking up airplay for "Yesterday's Gone" from their latest CD, *Uprising*. Without a deal, the Texas four-piece managed to crack the top 30 on R&R's Rock chart, and Dallas Cowboys fans are getting an earful of Jibe every time they tune in to preseason games, as "Yesterday's Gone" has been chosen as the music bed for this season.

On the road, the group has shared stages with the likes of Our Lady Peace, Lit, Creed and more. They also landed a spot on Jim Beam's Road to the Rackhouse Tour with Jerry Cantrell and Nickelback. Jibe are currently touring with ex-Buckcherry singer Josh Todd through mid-September.

"When we heard the Jibe record, we felt that it was a really good song," says KEGL (The Eagle) PD Max Dugan, who is currently spinning "Yesterday's Gone" upward of 30 times a week. "The band has a strong local following. The song tested very strongly initially, and it moved right up our chart. We believed in it and put it in a position to give it some significant play, and it has come to fruition as a power for The Eagle."

Contact: Ronnie Raphael, 214-691-1908.

Web: [www.jibeonline.com](http://www.jibeonline.com).

### Mighty Sideshow

#### Chattanooga, TN

Spin city: WRXR/Chattanooga, TN; WCCC/Hartford; WQLZ/Springfield, IL; WJJO/Madison; WNFZ/Knoxville; and WRBR/South Bend, IN.

The 411: Originally a bar band playing covers, Mighty Sideshow became an all-original effort back in 2000. Last September the group opened for Ted Nugent for a week and a half in Florida, and it has shared stages with everyone from Tesla, Jackyl and Quiet Riot to more current artists like Seether and Slaves On Dope. Upcoming dates include slots with Saliva and 3 Doors Down.

Following a live demo in 2001, the band cut their first studio album, *Part of Something*. The track "Mirror" is currently shining bright for the band with radio airplay.

"We sell out of CDs almost every damn show," says guitarist Rodney Smith. "We're having the best of luck with it, especially the music we're putting out lately. I think we're on to something. It's not like we're reinventing the wheel or breaking new ground necessarily; we're just trying to write good music."



### Mighty Sideshow

"I think we've sold in the neighborhood of 3,000 [copies of *Part of Something*]. I know we're small-time, but that's pretty impressive for our scale right now. Of course, all the profit comes to us, and we managed to buy ourselves a new motor home. We live

in it; that's our home away from home.

"We love to play shows; that's what we're all about. We made up our minds a couple of years ago that, no matter how hard it is, we're going to do this. Slowly but surely, we've been making it happen. I cannot begin to tell you what radio's done for us lately. It's been incredible, and things are starting to snowball."

Contact: Victor Somogyi, 212-327-0509; Mike Van Orsdale, 888-876-3463; or Alan Whitener 423-635-0686.

Web: [www.mightysideshow.com](http://www.mightysideshow.com).

### Thrust

#### Kansas City

Spin city: KQRC/Kansas City and KEYJ/Abilene, TX.



### Thrust

The 411: Together since '96, Thrust are the chiefs of the Kansas City rock scene. The four-piece have four indie releases. Their most recent effort, *Symptom*, has charted at R&R Rock Specialty, while "Pushed Away" has picked up regular rotation at hometown Active Rocker KQRC. In 1998 they opened for Motley Crue as winners of the Kickstart Your Career contest, and, starting in 1999, they went on a three-year winning streak at KQRC's annual Battle of the Bands before retiring from the competition.

With their prior release, *Parade of Idiots*, Thrust earned airplay for the track "Smack" and staged their own CD-release party in March 2002. "We rented out the Uptown Theater, which is a 2,000-seater," says guitarist Mike Scott. "We ended up selling almost 1,200 tickets for it. Nobody thought a local band could do something like that. We got some radio ads and promoted. We ended up selling a boatload of CDs and merchandise that night."

Scott estimates they've sold 1,700 CDs so far, with more being ordered. Outside the band the group members hold regular jobs. When Scott isn't rocking with Thrust, he's moving rocks with the construction company

he runs. "I'm definitely ready to get out of it," he says. "We're all ready to hit the road, that's for sure. At some of these rock fests we play, we get to know all these bands and hang out and drink beer with them all day. Then they'll ask, 'Where you guys going next?' Back to work."

Thrust's strong work ethic has been noted by KQRC Asst. PD/MD Don Jantzen. "They are completely self-promoted, -managed, -booked, -produced, -financed — you name it, they do it all themselves," he says. "And, to be honest with you, in almost 12 years of radio, I've never found a band that works harder than these guys."

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### Dogfight

#### Boston

Spin city: WAAF/Boston; WCCC/Hartford; and WQBK/Albany, NY.

The 411: The four-piece Dogfight currently find themselves with airplay at one of Active Rock's premier kennels, WAAF — the same station that brought us Godsmack and Ra. The band befriended former WAAF night jock Jay Ferrera, and soon the group's remixed demo made repeated visits to the station's music meeting.

"We really wanted to get behind another unsigned project, and we just kept bringing it in to the music meeting," says WAAF MD/midday talent Mistress Carrie. "We decided to give it a shot. The reaction was directly related to sales at outlets like Newbury Comics and the other local outlets."

For three weeks in a row Dogfight's *Push* was Newbury Comics' No. 1-selling album by an unsigned local act. The group has also earned a nomination for Best Hard Rock Band at the 2003 Boston Music Awards. The group has played several shows for WAAF and will be featured at the station's upcoming Locobazooka festival, headlined by Staind.

"We're pretty excited about it," Carrie says. "My phones ring off the hook from label people."



### Dogfight

The group's motivation and game plan for *Push* were also impressive to Carrie. "They were doing everything right," she says. "They had already done their demo, they had their website up, and they were already booking shows in all the local clubs. They were really working hard to promote themselves. It's not like they're just playing in a garage and we're doing all the work. They were willing to be active participants in their own success."

Contact: Vizion Entertainment Corp., [vizionec@comcast.net](mailto:vizionec@comcast.net) or 508-622-1086.

Web: [www.dogfightband.com](http://www.dogfightband.com).

### Sound And Fury

#### Minneapolis

Spin city: KXXR (93X)/Minneapolis and KUPD/Phoenix.

The 411: "The best way for me to describe the song we added to 93X is two minutes and 55 seconds of big guitars, big guitars and a hook burger," says KXXR Asst. PD/MD Pablo of Sound And Fury's "Where I Belong," a guitar-heavy slab of rock that recalls Seattle's best years. "You hear it today, and you wake up tomorrow singing it — truly an important thing in radio. When we heard this track, we knew it had that feel and appeal to it."



### Sound And Fury

The group has been a Minneapolis scene fixture for five years and recently evolved its sound with the addition of guitarist Matt Piper, who happens to be Pablo's brother. But this is hardly a case of nepotism, as Pablo never worked Sound And Fury to 93X PD Wade Linder, who discovered the band's rough demo while driving to lunch with Pablo. Linder liked what he heard and wanted to hear the final product when it was ready.

A month later Pablo played the finished song on a Monday before Linder left for the day. Pablo was told to put the song in 93X's *Cage Match*. "On Tuesday we were doing adds, and Wade took a stack of CDs down to [OM] Dave Hamilton's office," Pablo says. "They didn't like any of them, and Wade came running down to my office. He took the Sound And Fury track, played it for Dave and came back 10 minutes later telling me that we were adding it."

Sound And Fury also enjoyed airplay last summer for the track "Beautiful," which dominated KUPD's *Cage Match* program, prompting the group to fly to Phoenix for a sold-out show. Back home, "Where I Belong" is lighting up the phones. "They're easily one of the biggest-requested bands on the station, and people want to see them," Pablo says.

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### TALK BACK TO R&R!

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