

## ON THE RECORD

With  
**Frank Pain**  
PD, KEYJ/Abilene, TX

Is everything big in Texas? In the words of Stone Cold Steve Austin, "Hell, yeah." And nothing is bigger than the roar of the bands the Lone Star State has produced. We can't forget Pantera and never will, but how about the legacy being built by Damageplan? Vinnie, Dime, Pat and Bobzilla have opened up the proverbial can of whoop-ass with *New Found Power*.



Don't have it? Get it! • When many thought the boys were done, here comes the addition of Gong to Drowning Pool. "Step Up" has already become a hard rock anthem and has helped secure their place on any main stage. R.f.P. Dave. • How about newcomers Element Eighty and Edgewater? I'm sure their debut singles have already lit up the phones, but you owe it to yourself to see them live. • Who could forget about Bowling For Soup? These guys were nominated for a Grammy for their debut album, and that speaks volumes. • Finally, be on the lookout for Jibe and The Vanished. Both have live shows that'll kick you square in the chicken sack, and, for unsigned bands, they have both done one hell of a job of lighting up radio. • The list goes on and on. My point is that I am very proud of the bands that the Lone Star State has produced, and you should be just as proud of the bands in your area. Let's keep these guys in business so we have viable rock on our radio stations. I keep hearing that we are done with new styles of music, and now it's time for the recycling of different eras. Keep these downshifting, ass-kickin' rockers in business, and we won't have to worry about disco making a revival!

Congrats to **Incubus** and the Epic staff on the band's first No. 1 record at Active Rock. "Megalomaniac" has some incredible spins at WJVE/Rochester, NY (54); KPOI/Honolulu (64); WDGE/Syracuse (52); and KRAB/Bakersfield (50). It's also holding its own at RateTheMusic.com and climbs to No. 2 on the Rock chart ...

**Thornley** make a name for themselves as "So Far So Good" leads the Most Added pack, including KXXR/Minneapolis; WLZR/Milwaukee; WBZX/Columbus, OH; and WNOR/Norfolk ... "Running Blind" by **Godsmack** reels in another 18 adds and makes a hefty move up the Active chart to 29 ... **Audioslave** pick up the most airplay, with "What You Are," which gains 258 spins and 12 more adds ... It's OK to admit when a record surprises you, and that's the case for me with **Tesla**. "Caught in a Dream" is a sneaky track that lures you in gradually, so give it plenty of time. WYSP/Philadelphia, WAAF/Boston, WRIF/Detroit and WIYY/Baltimore are among those onboard ... Do you remember the Rate-a-Record, Rate-a-Wine session two years ago (is that asking too much?) when then-WXTB/Tampa PD Rick Schmidt debuted "45" by **Shinedown** for the panel? Look at it now — ready to crack the top five ... **MAX PIX: GODSMACK "Running Blind" (Republic/Universal)**

— Cyndee Maxwell, Active Rock/Rock Editor



## Record Of The Week

ARTIST: Stampin' Ground  
TITLE: *A New Darkness Upon Us*  
LABEL: Century Media

Formed in 1995, Stampin' Ground really broke new earth with 2000's *Carved From Empty Worlds*, which grew strong roots in the metal underground and landed the group a host of prime touring spots with hard rock heavyweights. With *A New Darkness Upon Us*, Stampin' Ground lay down a bedrock-heavy foundation of Slayer-toned guitars and crushing rhythms and even add some groove to their grind. Metalcore that leans a bit more to the metal side, *A New Darkness Upon Us* is well-crafted steel forged in the fires of Mt. Doom. Check out the whip-lash riffage of "Killer of Society," the machine-gun rhythms of "Betrayal Has a Face" and hard-charging tracks like "Pain Is Weakness (Leaving the Body)," which is sure to become a pit anthem.

— Frank Correia, Rock Specialty Editor



## active INSIGHT

ARTIST: Thornley

LABEL: Roadrunner/IDJMG

By FRANK CORREIA / ROCK SPECIALTY EDITOR



If you're going to name your band after yourself, it's gotta sound as good as your music. Van Halen had a better ring than Roth, and certainly better than Anthony. Dokken? My friends, it rhymed with rockin'. Z'nuff — well, let's not go there.

For Ian Thornley, it all works. It's got thorn right in it, and we all know how rock 'n' roll thorns are — just look at any rose tattoo the next time you're slugging a cheap domestic at your local rock dive. As for Thornley the man, rock was in his veins from an early age. "Bruce Springsteen was my first concert — my dad took me — and I was like, 'This is what I want to do,'" he explains.

So the young Canadian packed his red bandana and well-worn denim and headed to the States in the early '90s, landing in Boston to study guitar at the Berklee College of Music. It was there he met a group of American rockers and formed the act Big Wreck, who went on to record two albums for Atlantic. You may remember a song of theirs called "The Oaf."

As Big Wreck began to unravel in 2002, Thornley decided it was time to seek out greener musical pastures after a decade of playing and writing music. He ran into studio drummer Seiku Lumumba at, of all places, a studio. Actually, Lumumba was living at the studio Thornley was using to record his new songs. Soon

they locked in bassist Ken "The Worm" Tizzard, and, after auditioning several axemen, Thornley took a gamble with bar-band vet Tavis Stanley, who rounded out the group perfectly.

"With Big Wreck, we did a lot of experimenting, taking it outside and bringing it back in," says Thornley. "With this band, it's just song, song, song. I want to stack the record with as many great songs as I can. A lot of it has heavy parts — and I mean heavy — but it's all in the context of a song, a sweet melody. To me, that's the most important thing."

And that ideal balance can be found with "So Far So Good," the lead single from Thornley's upcoming debut for Roadrunner. *Come Again*. The guitars pull like a riptide of Seattle grunge water, and Thornley's vocals recall that ever-so-awesome tone that Chris Cornell was belting out in his *Badmotorfinger* days. And while the lyrics are somewhat confessional in spirit, Thornley takes it into the hard rock briar patch with sharp guitars and hooks that serve as a counterpoint to the melody. "There's definitely a singer-songwriter vibe going on, except I am screaming it at you," he says. So far, so good indeed.

## RR TOP 20 SPECIALTY ARTISTS

1. **PROBOT** (*Southern Lord*) "Centuries Of Sin"
2. **DAMAGEPLAN** (*Elektra/EEG*) "New Found Power"
3. **GOD FORBID** (*Century Media*) "Better Days"
4. **EXODUS** (*Nuclear Blast*) "War Is My Shepherd"
5. **36 CRAZYFISTS** (*Roadrunner/IDJMG*) "At The End Of August"
6. **CANNIBAL CORPSE** (*Metal Blade*) "Severed Head Stoning"
7. **FEAR FACTORY** (*Liquid 8*) "Cyberwaste"
8. **CLUTCH** (*DRT*) "The Mob Goes Wild"
9. **DEICIDE** (*Earache*) "Scars Of The Crucifix"
10. **PRONG** (*Locomotive*) "Siriusly Emerging"
11. **SOIL** (*J/RCA*) "Redefine"
12. **BRIDES OF DESTRUCTION** (*Sanctuary/SRG*) "Shut The Fuck Up"
13. **FLESHCRAWL** (*Metal Blade*) "Beneath A Dying Sun"
14. **SCARS OF TOMORROW** (*Victory*) "From My Existence"
15. **ICED EARTH** (*SPV*) "The Reckoning"
16. **DROWNING POOL** (*Wind-Up*) "Step Up"
17. **KATAKLYSM** (*Nuclear Blast*) "Serenity In Fire"
18. **SEEMLESS** (*Losing Force*) "In My Time Of Need"
19. **STAMPIN' GROUND** (*Century Media*) "Killer Of Society"
20. **EYES OF FIRE** (*Century Media*) "Hopeless"

Ranked by total number of shows reporting artist.