

**ON THE RECORD**With  
**Vinnie Ferguson**  
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Not to start like a fan boy for all that is alternative, but it's been shocking to see how well The White Stripes' "Seven Nation Army" has done. I originally thought this to be nothing more than a left-of-center, churn-and-burn record, but it continues to flex like a *Making the Band 2* walk-on contestant. ♦ I'm breathing a sigh of relief, as a crop of new music actually shows promise. Hollywood Records' Sloth have a track called "Someday" that's pretty damn good, the folks at Atlantic have stumbled upon an awesome Dead Kennedys/At The Drive-In hybrid with Billy Talent, Chris Carrabba is back, and the Mars Volta record kills — simple as that. ♦ My head spins, though, as the modern rock world is turned inside out: Scott Weiland hanging out with Slash and Duff of Guns 'N Roses? The Ataris stealing from my dad's record collection? What the hell did the DeLeo brothers do to Alien Ant Farm to make them sound so damn good? And just where do Me First & The Gimme Gimmes fit into all of this? Somebody call Raoul Duke and Dr. Gonzo — we're out of ether.

Once again the V2 army conquers No. 1 with The White Stripes. Do they have staying power? Why, yes they do ... Jane's Addiction move up to the No. 2 slot from No. 4 ... Chevelle hang in at No. 3, a tremendous showing for the Epic crew ... The top 10 contains only three bullets this week: Linkin Park at No. 5, The Ataris at No. 7 (what did I say four weeks ago about this?) and Queens Of The Stone Age holding at No. 9. This means a lot of transition in the next few weeks ... Up-and-comers of note include the new 311, going 37-22 in two weeks, and the new Korn track, going 33-24 in two weeks ... Hitching a ride on the chart this week are Trapt, Foo Fighters and Dashboard Confessional ... Most Added: Foo Fighters, 311, Alien Ant Farm, Dashboard Confessional, Trapt, Thrice, Godsmack and Korn ... Most Should Be Added: Sloth, Sense Field, BMRC, Dropkick Murphys, Overseer, Caesars and Stunt Monkey.

— Max Tolkoff, *Alternative Editor***COMING RIGHT UP****ARTIST: 311****LABEL: Volcano**By **FRANK CORREIA** / ROCK SPECIALTY EDITOR

There's really only one way to build a grass-roots following — you earn it. And if any band knows that firsthand, it's the Omaha-bred boys of 311. After various group members bounced between their hometown and sunny Los Angeles, the group solidified in Omaha in 1990 around the lineup of singer-guitarist Nick Hexum, singer S.A. Martinez, guitarist Tim Mahoney, drummer Chad Sexton and a bassist known only by the tasty name of P-Nut.

Between '90 and '91 the group churned out three independent records — *Dammit*, *Hydroponic* and *Unity* — on their own label, What Have You Records. Conquering their local scene with an intense live show and strong musicality, the five-piece headed west to the L.A. 'burb of Van Nuys, where they rented a house and eventually landed a contract with Capricorn Records.

But the group's career — and lives — almost went up in smoke while they were touring behind 1993's *Music*. Their touring RV caught fire and exploded on the highway shoulder, destroying all their equipment, money, clothes and personal possessions. Yet the group only had to cancel one show, as fans and friends donated equipment after hearing about the mishap on the news. By 1994's aptly titled *Grassroots* CD, the group were touring so much that they moved everything from their house into storage and basically lived on the road.

With 1995's self-titled release, 311 finally broke through to the mainstream when, almost a year later, the single "Down" went way up the Alternative air-

play charts, followed by the equally strong "All Mixed Up." Since then the group's eclectic blend of rock, rap, funk, reggae, hip-hop and everything else under the sun has endeared them to a host of fans and programmers alike. Now, after six major-label studio albums and a raft of radio hits that include "Beautiful Disaster," "Come Original" and "Amber," 311 return with *Evolver*.

"After 14 years together as a band, I think we've really grown and evolved as people, musicians and songwriters," Hexum recently explained on the group's official website, [www.311.com](http://www.311.com). "These days people just seem to be more open-minded to hybrid forms of music. We've always loved mixing rock, rap, reggae, funk, jazz, etc., because we love all types of music — and I know we're not alone."

And 311 certainly weren't alone when *Evolver*'s lead single, "Creatures (For a While)," roared out of the box on Fourth of July weekend, creating a big bang as the No. 1 Most Added song (64 stations) and skyrocketing to a No. 37 debut on the Alternative chart. With strong support from nearly the entire panel, "Creatures" continues to crawl upward with CIMX/Detroit and WKQX/Chicago in the 40+ spins a week range, and WXRK/New York, WAQZ/Cincinnati, KTCL/Denver, KWOD/Sacramento and others topping 30 spins a week.

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