

# this week

■ **Get Up Kids, Anniversary and Koufax**, Friday at Cat's Cradle. Emo poster boys Get Up Kids use guitars to break girls' hearts. Free pre-show performance at The Record Exchange. Call the store at 933-6261 or Cat's Cradle at 967-9053.

■ **Vandermark 5**, Saturday at Go! Studios. Critically acclaimed Chicago avant-jazz group swings between noise and melody. Call 969-1400 for information.

■ **Flaming Lips**, Monday at Cat's Cradle. Indie-art-pop rockers are almost as old as your parents, but probably a lot cooler. Call 967-9053 for information.

## Pop Music More Than Product for Mayflies

By JOSH LOVE  
Staff Writer

Talk about pop music with the TRL demographic, and you'll probably hear about 98 Degrees, Britney Spears and other flavors of the month — assembly-line products engineered just to sell records.

Talk about pop music with Matt Long of the Chapel Hill-based pop rockers Mayflies USA, and you'll hear about something completely different, and far more wonderful.

When asked to define pop, Long tosses around names like Yo La Tengo, Modern Lovers and Big Star — both as sources of influence for the Mayflies and as objects of his own fandom.

These are bands that, for Long, exist on another plane of stardom from mass-produced teen idols and redeem pop from the machinations of Billboard and MTV.

"I don't really think of 'pop' as a bad word," Long said. "We've all been fans of pop for our whole lives and all have fond feelings for that music."

With that sense of history in mind, the Mayflies continue their own pop music preservation campaign with the release of the band's second full-length album, *The Pity List*.

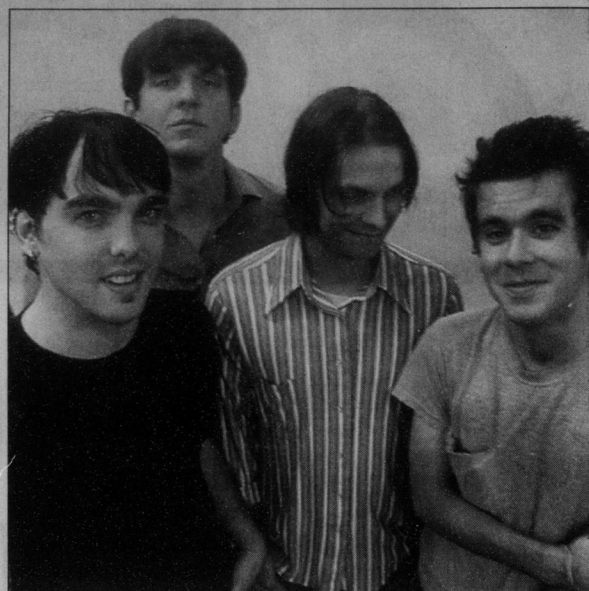
With another collection of radio-perfect gems just like the band's debut, *Summertown*, the Mayflies seem duty-bound to uphold the ideals of pop, however far removed from the mass-market definition of the term.

"These broad generalizations of music don't really mean anything anymore," Long said. "For us, pop is about great songwriters that can write the kind of melodies and lyrics that place a song in the upper echelon."

To achieve that end, the Mayflies boast three songwriters, guitarists Long and Matt McMichaels and bassist Adam Price. Drummer David Liesegang fills out the bill.

"You really need filters when you write a song," Long said. "When you only have one songwriter, there's really no one there to challenge that person and make the music better."

Pop craft is one thing, but the Mayflies also wanted to capture the energy and spontaneity of their live shows on *The Pity List* and depart from the pristine sound of *Summertown*. And so the band sought out revered college-



Chapel Hill pop stars Mayflies U.S.A. will play at Cat's Cradle tonight in celebration of their second full-length release, *The Pity List*.

rock producer Mitch Easter to assist *Summertown* producer (and former dBs frontman) Chris Stamey.

"*The Pity List* is like a snapshot of a live show," Long said. "With this album, you're going to hear much more of what you hear in concert."

Though sonically less restrained, the lyrical concerns of *The Pity List* represent

a darker turn for the Mayflies. "The inspiration for the songs on this record isn't always the most uplifting," Long said. "But I think the sound and content are aligned really well, and that's why I love this record."

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at [artsdesk@unc.edu](mailto:artsdesk@unc.edu).



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### WXYC 89.3 top ten

Sept. 10-16

- 1) Barbara Manning - *Under One Roof: Singles and Oddities* (Innerstate)
- 2) Inner Circle & the Fatman Riddim Section - *Heavyweight Dub/Killer Dub* (Blood and Fire)
- 3) Da Lata - *Songs from the Tin* (Palm Pictures)
- 4) Rosa Passos - *The Best of ...* (Velas)
- 5) Shins - "When I Goose Step" 7" (Omnibus)
- 6) Tyfu - "World Wide" 12" (Illgore)
- 7) Dymaxion - *Intonarumori* EP (Room Tone)
- 8) Hank Penny - *Crazy Rhythm: the Standard Transcriptions* (Soundies/Bloodshot)
- 9) No-No's - *Tinnitus* (Animal World)
- 10) Toto la Momposina - *Carmelina* (Indigo)

Dina Porter

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