

Portastatic spans career on new collection

Catching up with Portastatic's main man

On the eve of Portastatic's release show the collection, *Some Small History*, Mac McCaughan, head-man of Portastatic, as well as Superchunk and Merge Records, responded to a few questions about how he does what he does.

Dive: There are some interesting covers on the new record, what process went into choosing them?

MM: Pretty much the process is me listening to certain songs a lot, being obsessed with them, or maybe even just hearing a song on the radio and thinking how fun it would be to sing that song.

Dive: How do you manage your time? How do you prioritize your incredible amount of responsibilities?

MM: I just try to have a fairly stable schedule. It's not always possible.

BY JAMIE WILLIAMS
DIVERSIONS EDITOR

Mac McCaughan is a busy, busy man.

Between leading Superchunk and overseeing the meteoric rise of Merge Records, McCaughan has always found time for his side project Portastatic.

Started as an outlet for songs that didn't quite fit the Superchunk mold, Portastatic has always served as a vehicle for thoughtful lyrics and lo-fi charm.

With *Some Small History*, McCaughan has essentially cleaned out his closet, releasing this collection of 45 rarities, covers and previously unreleased material.

The songs run the gamut from sparse bedroom recordings, to pristinely produced tracks that easily could have made their way onto a proper-release anytime in the last 18 years.

As you would guess, over the

course of 45 tracks, there are both hits and misses. And considering the perilous nature of rarities collections, there are more than enough gems to keep anyone engaged.

That is an accomplishment in itself. There are few dull moments, and while making it through in one sitting is a tall order probably to be avoided, there are more than enough charming moments to keep listeners engaged.

Just as important as the tracks themselves — especially on a collection like this — is their order. The record is not sequenced chronologically, rather, logically, functioning as a massive mixtape that happens to span an entire career.

"Skinny Glasses Girl" highlights the soft-spoken sensitivity that

MUSICREVIEW
PORTASTATIC
SOME SMALL HISTORY
ROCK

★★★★☆

sometimes gets lost among the rapid fire guitar of Superchunk.

"Skinny glasses girl, East Texas has not seen you for a while and nor have I," McCaughan sings.

The sheer nature of the release can make it difficult to get through, but when taken at face, the songs are great insights into the changing makeup of a prolific artist and burgeoning musical institution.

Just as interesting as the originals, though, are the choice covers, that allow for reinterpretations of songs by Ryan Adams, Bob Dylan

and Hot Chip (seriously). In his own way, McCaughan turns each into his own. By speeding up the pace of Adams' "My Sweet Carolina," and stripping back the dance beats from Hot Chip's "And I Was A Boy From School," Portastatic is able to draw out the power of the songs.

The highlight of the collection is definitely his take on Bob Dylan's classic "It's All Over Now Baby Blue."

Covering Dylan can be ambitious, but considering McCaughan's output, it actually seems appropriate.

Contact the Diversions Editor at dive@unc.edu

FOUR LETTERS



DTH/JORDAN LAWRENCE

Chapel Hill rapper Kaze brought his smooth flow and insightful word play to Cat's Cradle on Saturday for the Barack the Cradle benefit. Local bands Hammer No More The Fingers, Tooth and Mosadi Music, along with D.C.'s Caverns, played to raise money for Obama for America.

STARSYSTEM

- ★ POOR
- ★★ FAIR
- ★★★ GOOD
- ★★★★ EXCELLENT
- ★★★★★ CLASSIC

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Woman in charge

Today is Hannah Gage's first meeting as chairwoman of the Board of Governors. See pg. 1 for story.

On the road

UNC faces Rutgers in a rare Thursday night football game. See pg. 1 for story.

Money for art projects

A performing arts fund makes up to \$5,000 available for artistic projects on campus. Go online for story.

Historic moment

A 1968 gold medalist will discuss the 1968 Olympic black power salute Thursday. See pg. 3 for story.

Election discussion

UNC professors discussed the upcoming elections and N.C.'s political landscape. Go online for story.

REGAL CINEMAS	
TIMBERLYNE 6 933-8600	
Weaver Dairy at Airport Rd. 800 PANDA/GO 1741	
BANGKOK DANGEROUS (R) - ID REQ'D	(140 445) 735
TROPIC THUNDER (R) - ID REQ'D	(130 425) 725
DEATH RACE (R) - ID REQ'D	(135) 730
HOUSE BUNNY (PG-13)	(145 440) 710
BABYLON AD (PG-13)	(150 435) 715
DISASTER MOVIE (PG-13)	(155 430) 720
COLLEGE (R) - ID REQ'D	(450) PM

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Take 15/501 South towards Pittsboro Exit Market St. / Southern Village

Take 15/501 South towards Pittsboro Exit Market St. / Southern Village

BOTTLE SHOCK	1:20-4:15-7:20-9:50
TROPIC THUNDER	1:10-4:05-7:10-9:35
BABYLON A.D.	1:05-3:50-5:00-7:20-9:40
TRAITOR	1:15-4:10-7:15-9:45
THE DARK KNIGHT	1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00
COLLEGE	12:50-7:10

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Bargain Matinees \$6.00

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STADIUM SEATING

Varsity 967-8665 123 E. FRANKLIN

CHELSEA VARSITY.COM

BURN AFTER READING
7:00, 9:30, SAT-SUN 2:00, 4:20

VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA
7:15, 9:20, SAT-SUN 2:15, 4:30

Note: Tues 9/16 & Wed 9/17, No 7:15 Show

Chelsea Weaver Dairy Timberlyne 968-3005

TROUBLE THE WATER
7:20, 9:20, SAT-SUN 2:00, 4:30

FROZEN RIVER
7:10, 9:10, SAT-SUN 2:10, 4:10

MAN ON WIRE 7:00, SAT-SUN 2:00

ELEGY 9:00, SAT-SUN 4:20

BIKE AUCTION

Thursday, 9/11/08
view at 5p.m.
Bid at 6:30p.m.
Craze Parking Deck

LOST & FOUND SALE

Friday, 9/12/08
9a.m. - 4p.m.
Union 2518

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*** Admission with UNC Student One Card ***

Friday, Sept. 5
7:00pm...MADE OF HONOR
9:30pm...THE RUINS

Saturday, Sept. 6
7:00pm & Midnight...THE RUINS
9:00pm...MADE OF HONOR

presented by: carolina union activities board film committee

www.unc.edu/cuab • cuab@unc.edu

games **SUDOKU**

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephem Group
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Level: 1 2 3 4

6								2
	1			9	3			
			4	8	1			
		7	3					8
3	8		1	5	9			
1				6	2			
	3		6	2				
	4		7				2	
5								6

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution to Wednesday's puzzle

8	5	4	7	1	2	3	9	6
9	1	3	6	8	4	2	5	7
2	7	6	5	9	3	4	8	1
6	2	8	3	7	1	5	4	9
7	9	1	4	5	8	6	3	2
4	3	5	9	2	6	7	1	8
1	4	2	8	6	5	9	7	3
3	6	7	1	4	9	8	2	5
5	8	9	2	3	7	1	6	4

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, Sept. 19

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TEACHFORAMERICA

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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ACROSS

- 1 \$\$ in banks
- 6 FDR's biographer
- 11 Card game for two
- 14 Hogwash!
- 15 Mongol invader
- 16 One of the Gershwins
- 17 Start of a quip
- 19 Animal house?
- 20 Margarine
- 21 Like a busybody
- 22 Sandal strap
- 24 Mennen shaving product
- 26 Eroded
- 28 Part 2 of quip
- 32 Aardvark's tidbit
- 33 Blues singer James
- 34 Light noshes
- 38 Editor's instruction
- 40 Part 3 of quip
- 42 ___ she blows!
- 43 Greeley or Mann
- 46 Top-rated
- 49 Cellular stuff
- 50 Part 4 of quip
- 53 Dry, red wine
- 56 Scrapes (out)
- 57 Dentist's direction
- 58 Cl quadrupled
- 61 AAA advice
- 64 Building annex
- 65 End of quip
- 68 Foamy brew
- 69 Lace cap

DOWN

- 1 Chan's words
- 2 Neato!
- 3 Follow
- 4 Hit one's drive
- 5 Pathetic starter?
- 6 Ref. for an element
- 7 Cuts and runs
- 8 Patronize, as an inn
- 9 Common deciduous tree
- 10 Twelve-year-old, e.g.
- 11 Black ___ spider
- 12 Gladiator's domain
- 13 Long-limbed
- 18 Legislate
- 23 Attacks

70 Video game name
71 Colo. clock setting
72 Planted items
73 Stupefy with desire

25 Even score
27 "___ the season to be jolly..."
28 Run fast
29 Division word
30 Actress Hagen
31 Hawaiian island
35 Present time?
36 "Citizen ___"
37 Barcelona Mmes.
39 Triumphant cries
41 Elmer, to Bugs
44 Movie houses
45 Young newt

47 Laredo, Mexico
48 Antlered animal
51 Capricious
52 Shaped like a cylinder
53 Half-and-half half
54 Sledding sites
55 Narrow bay
59 Act
60 Sea turtle grp.
62 First name in architecture
63 Agitated state
66 Long, long time
67 Fairy queen

LAVA AHMAD VANE
AMES FOGLE IGOR
HIGHER EDUCATION
REARS DILATIONS
ALF ALTA
BRIM ATA SETSIN
EEN SZELL MOTTO
MIDDLE AGES PREAD
AGREE LIGHT ELD
SNIPES DOA TROY
OPIE HIS
PRESENCES CHOWS
LOWER FORTYEIGHT
USER UNSER REED
MARS LOESS TENS

THINK BEFORE YOU SLEEP

- Will I regret sleeping with this person tomorrow?
- Will our relationship change and am I ready for these changes?
- Is my partner honest about his/her sexual history?
- Is alcohol or drug use affecting my judgment?

Carolina HOPE is here to provide resources & education on STDs, sexual choices, and unplanned pregnancy. Interested in programming or in being part of Carolina HOPE? Contact Ashley@pregnancysupport.org.

For FREE PREGNANCY & STD TESTS call Pregnancy Support Services 919-942-7318.

UNIVERSITY CAREER SERVICES PRESENTS:

Diversity Career Fair

September 17, 2008
6:00pm-9:00pm
Great Hall, FPG Union

Fall Career Expo

September 18, 2008
11:00am-4:00pm
Smith Center

Jobs and Internships for Juniors, Seniors, and Graduate Students!
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UCS University Career Services

Professional attire recommended for seniors & graduate students; professional attire or business casual for underclassmen. This event is open to all UNC-CH students with the exception of MBA, MAC, Law, Medicine and Dentistry students. Individuals in these programs are served by separate career offices.