

New Music: The Uglysuit: "Chicago" [MP3/Stream]

As a resident of mostly more temperate states, I've never known a place where the arrival of warm weather feels sweeter than it does in Chicago. I lived in Boston briefly, too, but I mainly just remember Pedro Martinez pitching in 40 degrees. Oklahoma City six-piecthe Uglysuit are the latest signing to Chicago-based Touch and Go's Quarterstick imprint, and it sounds like they've picked up on that winterlong sense of anticipation on "Chicago", a cozy, Midwestern-tinged song full of pianos, organ, and reverbed guitars. Sunny days by the water feel a month or two closer than I like to imagine they were in Ryan Adams' desperate "Dear Chicago", but spring ain't sprung yet. Lead singer Israel Hindman's weary voice sounds a bit like Chicago's own Jeff Tweedy as he murmurs about the temperature hitting a "stunning 3 degrees," his legs going numb for reasons other than drink. While the folk-rock influences here are familiar, the emphasis is on the songwriting. "Where did I begin to drift off to/ That I think that I could fly," Hindman sings, on a gently rocking chorus that's sure to end up on more than one personal mix before TV or Hollywood come calling. When the lake looks like the Arctic, it's a long goddamn December. But now it's June, so enjoy.

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[from The Uglysuit; due 08/19/08 on Quarterstick]

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