

MUSIC

Floater blends concept, attitude

One of the bands that has created a big buzz in Eugene is Floater. This three-piece band consists of Dave Amador on guitars, "Rob" on bass and lead vocals, and Pete Cornett on drums.

During the last year, Floater has dominated the Eugene club scene and has drawn attention from many record labels. After looking at their options, which included companies like Imago and Hollywood, the members of Floater chose to stay local (and redeem their artistic freedom) by signing on with Eugene-based Elemental Records.

The fruits of their labor came together on their debut album. *Sink* is a unique blend of concept and attitude that also contains several messages about life. The general concept of the album is a desensitization to violence and society's ills.

My trying to label Floater is rather difficult. Most of the material on the album is heavy and grinding. Songs like "Snowblind," "Godgun" and "They" have hard-driving rhythms to rock out to. Conversely, "Tell the Captain" is an acoustic voyage into the realm of consciousness.

My favorite song is "Weary," one of



Sink
Floater

★★★★

Minutes. Entrenched in a wall of sound (a la Phil Spector), "Weary" brings several instruments to the forefront in an almost symphonic manner.

Heavier-sounding songs on the album contain heavier messages. Tales of darkness abound with "Thin Skin," a burdened trip into your surrounding environment. The storyline behind "Thin Skin" is that people have bad habits, and these habits affect you regardless of whether you want them to.

As a whole, the Floater album is a nice surprise. If you have seen Floater in concert, this recording does a good job of capturing the band's live sound.

— STEPHEN WOODWARD
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

the softer tunes on *Sink*. The song has an almost R.E.M.-like quality. If a video is ever made for "Weary," it would have the potential to be a hit on the MTV show 120



Lennon, Marx share stamp

The tiny province of Abkhazia in the Soviet Union has found a way to poke fun at its former Russian occupiers.

As their first official stamp release, postal authorities in Abkhazia have issued two legal tender postage stamps commemorating a Lenin and Marx not usually associated with Russian history — John Lennon and Groucho Marx.

The colorful stamps, which depict a smiling John Lennon and Groucho Marx surrounded by icons of peace and love, are legal for postage in Abkhazia. They have been issued in a limited edition of 10,000 sets worldwide. The stamps have a face value of 500 rubles.

Want them? They are available at their original issue price of \$8.72 plus \$3 shipping and handling. This gets you the set of stamps, which is accompanied by a numbered certificate of authenticity, and two booklets containing little-known facts about John Lennon and Groucho Marx.

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John Henry
They Might Be Giants

★★★

drums and guitars is relied on in *John Henry*. In the past, instruments have taken a backseat to the vocals. In "O, Do Not Forsake Me," TMBG uses an even more unique sound:

the human voice. Only this time the voices are tenors, baritones and a bass. This hymnic, solemn sound stands apart from all the other songs on *John Henry*.

The full band adds depth and a small amount of maturity to They Might Be Giants. *John Henry* is successful because of the new, unexpected sounds. Any listener will find something to like, either in the silly lyrics or the complex music.

— TRISTA NOEL
Oregon Daily Emerald

They Might Be Giants adopts full band

The sticker on the plastic packaging of They Might Be Giants' new release *John Henry* informed me that the group is now using a full band.

Even though they added a horn section and some heavy guitars to many of their songs, *John Henry* won't be mistaken for anything but the work of They Might Be Giants. "Sleeping in the Flowers" and "A Self Called Nowhere" are the album's best examples of this new sound.

Both songs have the oddball words and quirky sound of the classic songs but also have heavy, almost grunge-y guitars.

Many of the songs, like "Extra Savoir Faire" with its suave night club feel, are reminiscent of the band's past releases *Apollo 18* and *Flood*.

But just as many of the songs try to get a grip on this new full band idea. It's gratifying to hear They Might Be Giants testing new sounds. The use of trumpets, trombones,

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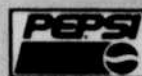
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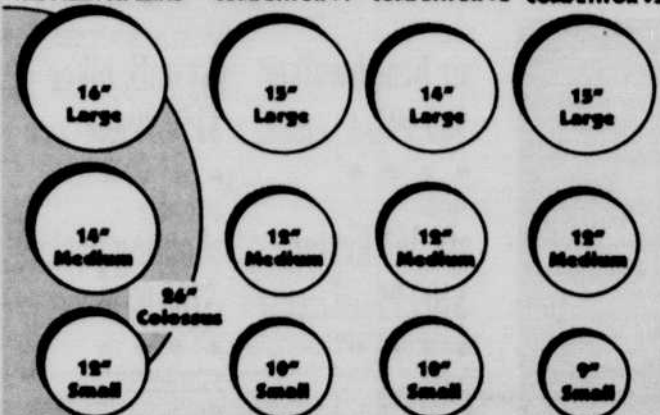
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