

WHAT'S happening



Some people unplug their computers to break free of the digital realm while others unplug themselves from society to break free of the social cycles, but musicians known for their electric-assisted sound (amps, distortion, samples, feedback, vocoders, etc.) must, from time to time, unplug themselves. So it's big news this week that two prominent music groups near and dear to the Eugene scene play "unplugged" sets. **The Sugar Beets'** (pictured above) stripped set at The Shedd on Saturday allows the members to highlight their favorite acoustic instruments, such as the mandolin, djembe, concert violin, djembe and sitar. But the Beets have always sort of been acoustic based anyway. **Floater** (pictured below), on the other hand, is what is known as a "power trio," grinding through chords like amped up beasts in their live shows. Their Friday and Saturday acoustic gigs at the WOW Hall should breathe a more intimate wind into their rock/psychedelic/reggae sails. And with proceeds benefiting the Center for Community Counseling (Sugar Beets) and improvements to the WOW Hall's bar (Floater), these hometown heroes ask that you show your philanthropy bone. See Calendar.



Readin' in the Rain organizers have chosen **Kenny Moore's Bowerman and the Men of Oregon** as this year's One Book to read and discuss in Eugene/Springfield. This selection has its detractors griping about supposed pandering to the UO/Nike establishment, but it also has its enthusiastic supporters, chief among them local historians and, of course, the large population of elite athletes who have benefited from Bill Bowerman's innovative waffle-iron footwear at some point in their lives. While it's not one of the most literary reads you can find at the local bookstore or library, *Bowerman* is key reading for those who often wonder: Why the moniker "Track Town USA"? It may shed light on why Bone Thugs-N-Harmony gave a shout out to "Track Town" at their show last week, not "MethLand" or "Granolaville." Moore will give a free reading with a book signing at the Hult Center this week in the premiere event for this year's Readin' in the Rain.

As is tradition, the constant drizzle outside the Hult will be sponsored by Nike. See Wednesday Calendar.

So this week Fidel Castro stepped down as leader of Cuba, and our own erstwhile, impotent leader responded by saying we'll help Cubans "realize the blessings of liberty" by keeping Gitmo, the number one institution of blessed freedom, up and running. But we digress. Every other Wednesday since Jan. 16, the UO's Department of Romance Languages has been presenting the **Films of Cuba's Special Period, 1994-2003**. Beginning just after the collapse of the Soviet Union, this "special period" was a time of radical transformation, when Cuba weaned itself off dependence on imported goods such as oil from Russia, implemented organic permaculture and sought the most innovative mass transit options. The films *Strawberry and Chocolate*, *Guantanamera*

and *Life is to Whistle* have so far chronicled the years 1994, 1995 and 1997, respectively. Up next is **Waiting List** (2000) a sort of *Waiting for Godot* meditation on grassroots community development as diverse Cubans wait (in vain) at a bus station for a seat on a bus to Santiago. On March 12, the fifth and final film, **Suite Havana** (2003) follows 10 Havana residents through their daily lives. If you had the good luck of being born in the U.S., it's difficult to visit Cuba (unless you're Michael Moore), making these movies all the more eye-opening. See Wednesday Calendar.

