

WHAT'S happening

This weekend, the often imitated but never quite equaled **Oregon Country Fair** once again stretches its dirt-lovin' paws across a rural, wooded setting along the Long Tom River just west of Veneta. Despite all its talk of one world/one love, OCF is really split into two affairs: one under the sun (public) and one under the dark of night (private) after the 7 pm sweep kicks out all but OCF's vendors and volunteers. For those lucky enough to experience the midsummer night's dream, good for you. For those of us who can only handle the daylight hours, the OCF has lots of programming to ensure a family frolic or some fun in the sun. We lay out all the notable details in this issue (see cover story), but just want to remind folks that tickets *will not* be sold at the fair site in Veneta. So be sure to *first* visit www.oregoncountryfair.org before hopping the free LTD shuttle (heck, you need a receipt printout for the ride, anyhow). See Calendar.



TODD COOPER



Since August will be all about China for the Summer Olympics, it might pique your interest to try out the Chinese martial art of **tai chi chuan** at one (or both) of the free tai chi clinics offered on a weekly basis through August. Brian York leads the first section of the Yang Long Form (the most commonly practiced technique) at Skinner Butte Park on Thursday evenings through Aug. 28. Machiko Shirai, who is known for conducting tai chi on the morning of New Year's Day at the College Hill Reservoir, will lead a tai chi practice Sunday mornings through Aug. 17 at Scobert Gardens Park in the Whiteaker neighborhood. If you're fortunate to be in China this summer, joining a group tai chi session can get you a unique experience that many would describe as "priceless." They may not feel like they're getting the "priceless" experience (unless they're a Visa cardmember), but staycationers can do tai chi for free this summer in Eugene. See Calendar.

Weird but fitting that the **Eugene Small Press Publishing Festival** is mostly made up of small presses that aren't even from Eugene, as Portland far outpaces us with its Independent Publishing Resource Center. If you don't know what a small press constitutes, here's a rundown of characteristics:

Authors and publishers have day jobs; slick, easy to navigate websites; sometimes esoteric book titles (like Zach Plague's *boring boring boring boring boring boring*); books can be purchased at Powell's or sometimes eBay; still publishes poetry in non-chapbook form; promotes short story collections; gives MFA creative writing grads something to do aside from bricklaying; authors typically blog about their readings; usually books are non-standard size and printed locally. Some of our favorite Oregon small presses (either still alive or in hibernation) include Clear Cut Press, Hawthorne Books, Chiasmus Press, Tin House Books and Future Tense Books. Kevin Sampsell, publisher at Future Tense, will read from his new collection of short stories, *Creamy Bullets*, Zach Plague (pictured) reads from his aforementioned *boring x7*, Jami Attenberg reads *The Melting Season*, Dudley Clark reads from *Karmic Warriors* and Jay Ponteri, editor of the *M Review*, will be reading whatever he brings to the festival. James Stegall, publisher of Eugene's So New press, organized this event at Monroe Street Café and will read from his own work. See Thursday, July 10 Calendar.

