Is the number forty-two important, or is it all in George’s mind? When accusations of murder force George Olson to examine the forces at work in his life, he becomes lost amid paranoia, coincidences, and a strange reality.

Looking down at Portland, Oregon, from his office in the Black Box building, George tries to make sense of a string of disappearances and strange disasters, and the recurrence of the number forty-two. In a plot that quickly escalates, George’s mundane existence free-falls into accusations of arson and murder, and his life depends on making sense of the answers that are hidden everywhere.

42 is the 16th title from Ooligan Press, the nation’s premier student-run general trade press. As part of Portland State University’s Masters in Writing program, Ooligan Press is dedicated to teaching the art and craft of publishing, while producing high-quality books in a variety of genres. Be sure to catch this exciting new title, scheduled for national release July 1, 2008.

About the author…
M. Thomas Cooper was raised in Portland, Oregon, and is inspired by local authors and culture. A prolific playwright, Cooper’s play Godot was adapted to film in 2004; in 2005, his play Rising was a finalist for a Seattle company’s Northwest Playwright Award. Recently, Cooper’s play Tongue, Tied was accepted into the Humana Festival, the oldest and most prestigious new play festival in the country. 42 is his first novel.

ISBN 978-1-932010-24-4
352 pp
6” x 9”, paperback
$16.95
Publication Date: July 1, 2008
About the Author…

M. Thomas Cooper

M. Thomas Cooper was raised in Portland, Oregon, and is inspired by local authors and culture. He prefers to bicycle and hasn’t owned a car in years because, he says, being outside opens you up to more experiences “if you are quiet and pay attention.” Reading authors such as Chuck Palahniuk, Haruki Murakami, Aldous Huxley, and Cees Nooteboom, Cooper finds the inspiration that guides him today.

An established playwright, Cooper has presented his plays at the Ashland 10-Minute Play Festival, Theatre in the Grove, and Portland State University. In 2004, his play Godot was adapted to film and produced by Greg Kerr Productions, a Portland film company. In 2005, his play Rising was a finalist for the Northwest Playwright Award in Seattle. Recently, Cooper’s play Tongue, Tied was accepted into the Humana Festival for New American Plays in Louisville, Kentucky, one of the oldest and most prestigious festivals in the country. Cooper has also been actively involved in Wordstock, Portland’s preeminent literary festival, since its inception in 2005, and has written for several Pacific Northwest publications. 42 is his first novel.

Q: How has your life changed since writing 42?

A: “Generally, life remains the same. Unfortunately, though, I’ve become somewhat over-observant of 42-isms. Such as this year will be the 42nd Super Bowl and Country Music Awards, that the surmised density of the Universe is 3 times 10 to the 42nd power, etc., etc….”

Q: Where did you get the idea for the book?

A: “Honestly, I don’t remember. I was working on one project and then began 42 for NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month). During the writing, I needed a way for George to reunite with his family and for some reason 42 came to mind—which of course has been borrowed from Mr. Douglas Adams.”
What is Ooligan Press?

Ooligan Press is a general trade press at Portland State University. In addition to publishing books that honor cultural and natural diversity, it is dedicated to teaching the art and craft of publishing.

As a teaching press, Ooligan makes as little distinction as possible between the press and the classroom. Under the direction of professional faculty and staff, the work of the Press is done by students enrolled in the program. Publishing profitable books in real markets provides projects in which students combine theory with practice.

The Press offers the school and general community a full range of publishing services, from consulting and planning, to design and production. Ooligan Press students, having already received important “real world” training while at the university and in various internship positions in the greater Portland area, are ideal candidates for jobs in the country’s growing community of independent publishers.

The Master’s in Writing with a Concentration in Publishing

An M.A. or M.S. in Writing with a concentration in Book Publishing combines a core publishing curriculum with courses in the student’s individual areas of interest. The degree requires 48 credit hours, 20 of which are in the publishing core. Courses are open to both graduate and undergraduate students with priority given to master’s candidates. Applicants should follow the general guidelines for admission to the graduate school and the M.A./M.S. in Writing. Details are available at www.publishing.pdx.edu.

Various levels of participation in Ooligan Press are available to degree candidates and other students. Non-degree students and undergraduates are welcome with instructor permission.

Hiring an Ooligan Graduate

Do you need a book marketer, publicist, editor, or designer? Portland State University’s Publishing Program graduates have the training you need and the hands-on experience to back it up. To find out how to hire an Ooligan graduate, contact program director Dennis Stovall at stovall@pdx.edu.

Ooligan?

The name Ooligan is adopted from the Native American word for a smelt otherwise known as the candlefish. The Ooligan was an abundant natural resource in Pacific Northwest rivers. It may well be the word from which the name Oregon was derived. During the trade of the valuable fish oil to tribes east of the Rockies, the L in Ooligan was replaced with an R, giving us the sound Ooregon. Gradually, this usage became the name of a place and assumed its current spelling of Oregon in the course of history. We like this story so much that we named our publishing company Ooligan Press.
Our Interests
As a general trade press, Ooligan is open to publishing books from a wide variety of genres, both fiction and nonfiction. We gladly accept submissions from authors both inside and outside the PSU community. As a press, our editorial interests include, but are not limited to:

- Publications with social, literary, or educational value;
- New or rediscovered works with a Pacific Northwest connection;
- Works that give voice to the region's underrepresented;
- Previously unpublished English translations of foreign titles; and
- Works on the craft and teaching of writing, editing, publishing, and book arts.

Ooligan is also open to publishing limited collections of poetry and the occasional children's chapter book. Authors interested in submitting works in these areas are asked to keep the following editorial interests in mind:

Poetry: Ooligan Press is open to all forms of style and verse; however, we give special preference to translated poetry, prose poetry, and traditional verse. We place value on collections of works from local poets. Although spoken word, slam, and rap poetry are of interest to the Press, we will not consider such works if they do not translate well to the written page. Please, no simultaneous submissions.

Children’s Literature: Currently, we are only accepting submissions for juvenile fiction. Sorry, no picture books.

Please Note: We do our best to respond quickly to proposals, but due to the fact that all Ooligan Press operations are run by students and limited staff, response time may be longer than with traditional trade publishers.

Publishing with Ooligan
Our Acquisitions Process
All manuscripts and proposals are read and reviewed by a committee of students enrolled in the Publishing Program at PSU. Each manuscript is read by multiple readers to ensure a fair and balanced decision regarding acquisition of a work. On rare occasions, a manuscript will be read and reviewed by students in the Book Editing, Advanced Book Editing, or Children's Book Publishing classes. This will be done only when the acquisitions committee requires further response to a work in order to reach a decision. A manuscript or proposal will never be read outside the acquisitions committee without author permission for any purpose other than review. Submission of a proposal or manuscript implies consent to the above practices. Once the committee has made a decision, the author will be informed in a timely manner. At this point, Ooligan cannot offer critique of queries or manuscripts. Rejected manuscripts that did not include sufficient postage for return will be held in the Ooligan Press office for 30 days.

Our Guidelines
When submitting a proposal or manuscript for consideration, please follow these guidelines (refer to our website for the most recent updates):

- Include a cover letter with a summary of your work, projected word count, your intended audience, marketing ideas for your work, and list of published works that compare to your manuscript.
- Include a table of contents, if appropriate.
- Include at least four of your best consecutive chapters if your work is a full-length fiction text. (If interested, we will request the full manuscript for consideration.)
- Include a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage for the return of your manuscript.

Mail all of the above to:
Ooligan Press
Portland State University
P.O. Box 751
Portland, OR 97207-0751

Prospective authors are invited to look at examples of previously published Ooligan books and in-progress works at: www.ooliganpress.pdx.edu