

eatingout eatingout eatingout eatingout

Lucy's Table

Lucy's Social Hour...5:00-6:30 M-F
appetizers & drinks for less \$

dinner Monday through Saturday
704 NW 21st & Irving 503.226.6126



Grand Opening

Stop by either of our two locations
& enter to win one of 2 Mountain Bikes
No purchase necessary • Drawings held 7/31/03

1545 NE Sandy Blvd
(503) 233-4540
Open 8am-8pm M-F • 11am-8pm Sat

622 NE Grand Ave
(503) 234-2525
Open 8am-7pm M-F



All Roads Lead To **Bridges**

2716 NE MLK

503 288-4169

7am-2pm Mon-Fri, 8am-3pm Sat-Sun

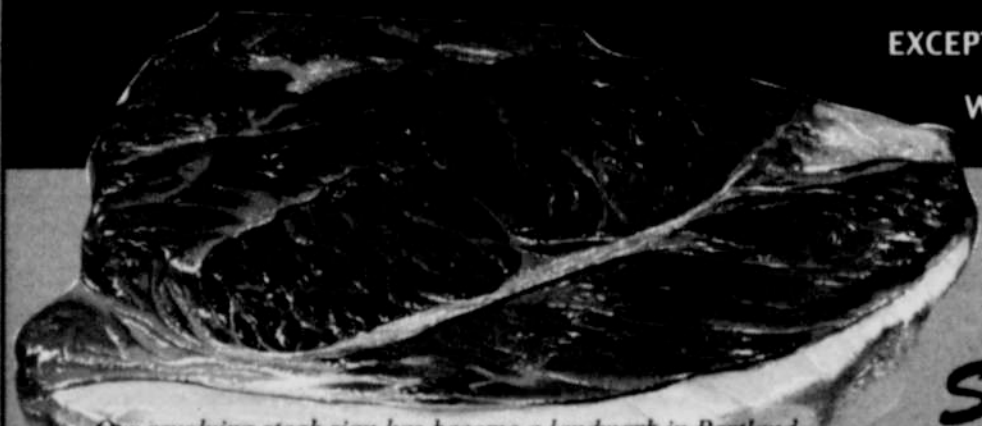
Sidewalk Seating, Breakfast All Day
Catering for All Occasions

Girl, you need to get OUT more!
Have you tried the Just Friends
voice personals?

Check out pages 45 and 46, or submit your own
50 word ad for free right now at www.justout.com!



FOR A GREAT STEAK, LOOK FOR THE REVOLVING STEAK SIGN



EXCEPT IN BEAVERTON,
WHERE THE CITY
WOULDN'T LET US
HAVE ONE

"Serving all
kinds of families
since 1946."

Saylor's
OLD COUNTRY KITCHEN
home of the 72 oz. steak

Our revolving steak sign has become a landmark in Portland.
A sign of quality. Where you know you can get a great steak
dinner at a fair price. Unfortunately, we couldn't get that same
sign in Beaverton. But honestly, we're not that hard to find.

105th & SE Stark • 503-252-4171 ~ Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy at Griffith Dr. - 503-644-1492

BOOKS

Southern gothic

Marshall Moore digs deep in order to break the surface

BY FLOYD SKLAVER

Marshall Moore is drawn to dark stories. "I like horror," he says, "and I want to write about the horrific experiences people could have in real life."

He calls his new book, *The Concrete Sky*, "a trenchant literary thriller with a Southern accent, a suspenseful black comedy about murderously inclined Generation Xers with a lot of money." Excellent.

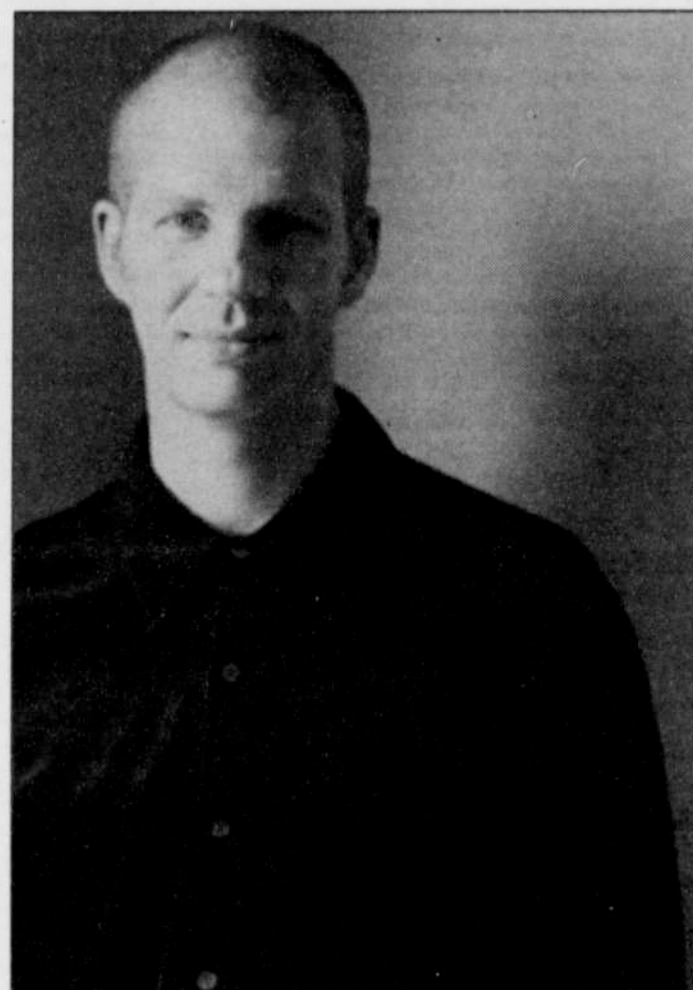
The soft-spoken Southerner, who just moved from Portland to Seattle, will read July 24 at Annie Blooms Books in Multnomah Village.

The Concrete Sky follows Chad and Jonathan, a pair of troubled young men who meet and fall in love in a psychiatric hospital. Like many authors, Moore borrows bits and pieces from his own life for his characters.

"But they're not me," he claims. "I've been overwhelmed, overeducated, surrounded by adults and a wise-ass like Chad, but I've also been the instigator that Jonathan is. I see the interaction between the two as a conversation between two sides of myself."

Moore set the novel in a small eastern North Carolina town not far from where he grew up underneath the "concrete sky" in Greenville. "In the South, the humidity is so thick and so oppressive that the sky literally turns a silvery white color," he explains. His hometown is "about two hours away from anything you'd actually want to visit."

When Moore was a teen-ager, he was kicked out of a prestigious high school for various illegal activities including setting his dorm room on fire. "Officially I



Marshall Moore reads from his Southern thriller, *The Concrete Sky*, July 24 at Annie Blooms Books

withdrew," says the author. "It was really an accident. I was a troubled 16-year-old with 1986 hair." He avoided criminal charges by lying well and having a good lawyer—a trick he also ascribed to Chad and Jonathan.

The Concrete Sky, he says, is about "moving from a place of being really overwhelmed by the circumstances of your life and feeling out of control to getting to a place where you are finally getting your head above water again." Moore understands the trauma Chad experiences when he wakes up in a mental hospital suspected of attempting suicide. "It's like having your head down a rabbit

hole...I've been through a lot of what Chad has been through in my childhood. I wanted the novel to show what it was like to crawl out and get back into some sense of normalcy."

Moore works as a sign language interpreter, a career he fell into when he developed a crush on a deaf boy he sat next to in a college Latin class. It was during an interpretation job in a Washington, D.C., juvenile hall that his future became clear to him.

"The kids were given an assignment to map out where they wanted to be in five years, and I realized that I didn't want to be interpreting in five years...I wanted to be a writer."

Since that fateful decision, dozens of his short stories and essays have been published in magazines and anthologies. While *The Concrete Sky* is his first novel, he is already through the initial draft of a second, *Invisible Hand*, which is about casinos and the loss of privacy. **JF**

MARSHALL MOORE reads from *The Concrete Sky* 7:30 p.m. July 24 at Annie Blooms Books, 7834 S.W. Capitol Highway.

—FS FLOYD SKLAVER is a Portland free-lance writer.

REVIEWS

THE CONCRETE SKY
by Marshall Moore; Harrington Park Press,
2003; \$17.95 hardcover

At the opening of Marshall Moore's *The Concrete Sky*, a drunken Chad Sobran tumbles off a balcony and breaks his wrist. His brother, Martin, who has tormented Chad for being gay since childhood, convinces the emergency room doctors that the fall was a suicidal jump, and Chad wakes up to find himself locked in the hospital's psychiatric unit for observation.

In the hospital Chad meets fellow patient Jonathan Fairbanks, who witnessed the murder/suicide of his wealthy parents and now suffers severe post-traumatic stress. The two hit it off, but there are questions about Jonathan's involvement in the deaths of his parents and two other hospital patients.

Upon his release, Chad is called to the bedside of his comatose, cancer-ridden mother, who has left him a letter asking him to end her life in return for the promise of a financial windfall.

Chad and Jonathan's romance is a journey of psychological tension, intrigue and suspense. It thoughtfully tackles grand themes like death, euthanasia, insanity and homophobia without interrupting the page-turning story. Intense and insightful, *The Concrete Sky* is an entertaining read for fans of literary fiction.