

## As Is...the way AIDS really is. Studio Theater tackles heavy issue.

by Jennifer Toubakaris  
*The Collegian*

I must start out by saying that I went to this play not knowing quite what to expect. I knew that the play was about two gay men, one of which becomes infected with the HIV virus. The plot sounded realistic enough, but I was wondering how the actors were going to portray homosexuals? I would consider this task difficult and extremely uncomfortable.

Rich, played by Vince F. Smith, is the writer that gets infected with HIV. When first acknowledging that he has the virus he is sarcastic and bitter. He makes the remark, "I bet they have a separate AIDS section in the cemetery so I don't infect the other corpses."

Saul, played by Stephen Daniel, is Rich's lover. He wants Rich back so desperately that he is willing to stick by him, even after Rich continuously pushes him away.

It was unusual to see Saul care about Rich as more than a friend. I do not want to sound naive, but I have never really seen a gay relationship before. Society has this stereotype that gay men dress up as 'Drag Queens' and go to gay bars to try to pick up other men. Rich and Saul did go to gay bars and dabble in some bizarre activities, but they did not dress up as women and rake out the whips and chains.

They were two people that were truly in love with each other. I did not understand this concept and probably never will, although I must say that after seeing this play I do not have society's stereotype in my mind anymore.

As *Is* not only tackles the issue of homosexuality, but also the very serious, life-threatening disease of AIDS. It was once thought that only gay people carried the virus; now it is known to be a disease without prejudice.

I could not imagine what someone with AIDS goes through, but Smith's acting was so realistic and moving that I could actually feel his pain and suffering.

Lisa Huegel, a first semester DUS student commented, "I think the actors were the strength of this play. They performed so well that everything was real. It also makes people think about what goes on in the world outside of their own lives."

As *Is* did not put on a fake air about gay people and the AIDS virus. It presented the story as truthfully as in the real world. The language (though sometimes vulgar) was honest and Smith and Daniel believably acted out the sexual attraction between Rich and Saul.

Rich got so depressed, once he was hospitalized, that he wanted to commit suicide. He asked Saul to buy him drugs but Saul wanted Rich to stick it out with him. "I'll take you as is," Saul told Rich.

The play ended on a rather positive note, though it is far from 'happily ever after.' Saul visits Rich every day and is there to comfort and love him. Eventually Rich's health will decline from all the viruses he catches and he will die.

It is not a pretty picture, but then again, neither is AIDS. Society would be ignorant to think that only gay people have the disease. The largest population affected by AIDS is heterosexuals between the ages of fifteen and twenty-two.

As *Is* is filled with reality because AIDS is real and it affects everyone. The sooner we face this fact, the closer we are to limiting our chances of contracting the virus and to eliminating AIDS forever.

As *Is* is still being performed in the Studio Theater Nov. 12-14 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 15, at 2:30 p.m.

## Passenger 57

by Calandra Matthews  
*The Collegian*

With the successful debut of *Passenger 57*, Wesley Snipes joins a very elite Hollywood group whose members include such familiars as Mel, Danny, Arnold, Sylvester, Steven, and Jean-Claude.

*Passenger 57*, like its predecessors, is a standard action adventure film. You already know upfront that there's going to be good guys and bad guys and that the good guys will still be alive at the end of the story. But the fun is in watching them battle it all out.

Bad guy number one, Charles Rane (played by Bruce Payne) has been captured by the FBI and is being taken to Los Angeles to stand trial for airplane hijacking.

Good guy John Cutter (Snipes) is the new head of security for Atlantic Airlines and an anti-

terrorist expert. He's also on his way to L.A. to meet his new bosses. The battleground is set when, of course, the two end up on the same plane.

Rane's team of bad guys hijack the plane and it's up to Cutter, the 57th passenger, to stop them. The audience soon finds out that Rane is a psychotic terrorist who will kill anyone who gets in his way, and even those who aren't!

What follows is a series of twists and turns that keep you sitting up in your chair until the very end. That's the best thing about the movie: you think you know what's going to happen but you're shocked at what really does happen.

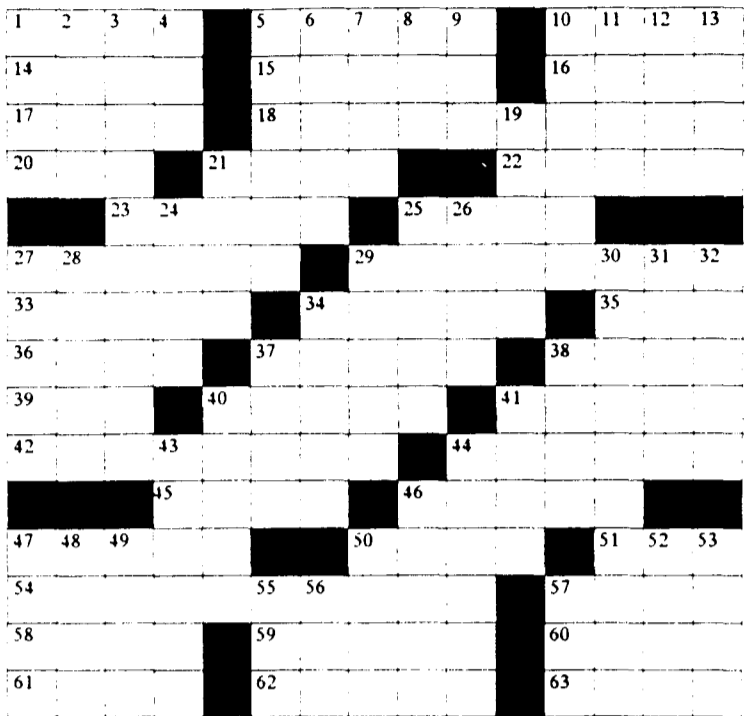
Even though, I'm not Siskel or Ebert, I still give *Passenger 57* two thumbs up, and will probably see it again (just to get another look at Wesley in the bedroom scene!)

## Weekly Crossword

### "On The Street Where You Live"

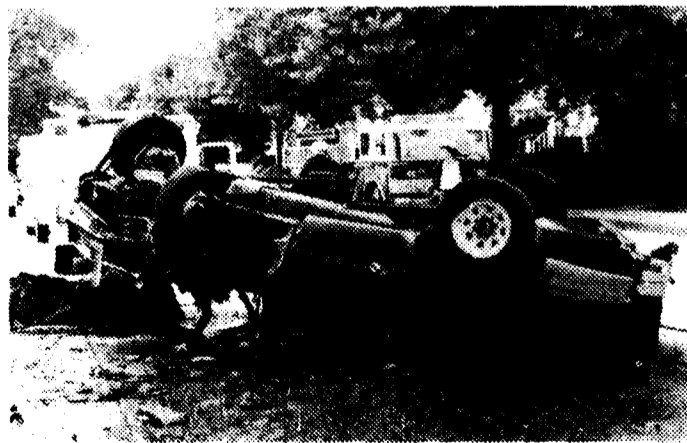
By Gerry Frey

- ACROSS**
- Interstate exit
  - Country estate
  - Lima's country
  - Distant
  - Worship
  - Center of rotation
  - Eye part
  - Famous shopping street
  - Comedian Knotts
  - Tire with dullness
  - Vocalize
  - Plant shoot
  - Highest point
  - Planet
  - Theater street
  - Sinned
  - Ships' berths
  - Nigerian
  - Golfers needs
  - Pacifists
  - Beat
  - One in Dijon
  - Transmits
  - Fred Flintstone's wife
  - Street predecessors
  - Abilene's State
  - Opera
  - Stanford \_\_\_\_\_
  - Semites
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a hand
  - Parisian street
  - Advertisers St.
  - Collapsible shelter
  - State:French
  - Mr. Nero
  - Equestrian's need
  - Theol. Institutions
  - Pares
  - \_\_\_\_\_ James: Singer
- DOWN**
- Surprise attack
  - \_\_\_\_\_ -American
  - Disney' World street
  - Press releases: Abbrev.
  - Dark red



- Decorate with ornaments
- Plant part
- Pay dirt
- Classic car
- Separated
- Theater sign
- Shatter
- Pusher's customer
- Alexander \_\_\_\_\_: Author
- Cardinal, eg
- Stage prompts
- First sign of the zodiac
- Robbers antithesis
- Glass, ice and mixer
- Sports palace
- Wide Sts.
- Financial street
- Fragrance
- Systems of exercise ?
- Sophia in Moscow
- Lifeless
- Penalize
- Word with cheese or watch
- Magician's need
- Nuns clothing
- Baseball's Ralph & family
- Slant on an edge
- Singer Ed
- Evaluate
- Eve's partner
- Tardy
- Single part
- Sicilian volcano
- Opposite: Abbrev.
- Maiden name preceder
- Three in Rome

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## Ever Get A Pal Smashed?

TAKE THE KEYS.  
CALL A CAB.  
TAKE A STAND.



FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK

Where would Funsel and Gretel be without a forest?

Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires.

Ad Council



## Crossword Solution

1. I-95  
2. Biltmore  
3. Peru  
4. Remote  
5. Church  
6. Center  
7. Iris  
8. Rodeo  
9. Knott's  
10. Flat  
11. Vocal  
12. Shoot  
13. Summit  
14. Uranus  
15. Broadway  
16. Sinned  
17. Berths  
18. Nigerian  
19. Golfers  
20. Pacifists  
21. Beat  
22. One in  
23. Transmits  
24. Fred  
25. Street  
26. Abilene  
27. Opera  
28. Stanford  
29. Semites  
30. A  
31. Parisian  
32. Advertisers  
33. Collapsible  
34. State  
35. Mr. Nero  
36. Equestrian  
37. Theol.  
38. Pares  
39. James  
40. Decorate  
41. Plant  
42. Pay  
43. Classic  
44. Separated  
45. Theater  
46. Shatter  
47. Pusher  
48. Alexander  
49. Cardinal  
50. Stage  
51. First  
52. Robbers  
53. Glass  
54. Sports  
55. Wide  
56. Financial  
57. Fragrance  
58. Systems  
59. Sophia  
60. Lifeless  
61. Penalize  
62. Word  
63. Magician  
64. Nuns  
65. Baseball  
66. Slant  
67. Singer  
68. Evaluate  
69. Eve  
70. Tardy  
71. Single  
72. Sicilian  
73. Opposite  
74. Maiden  
75. Three