Dolls, the New York Dolls, and ragged heels and ragged architecture. Indeed, Outside the Dog Museum tackles all these subjects more, encompassing by its end humanism, the supernatural, spirituality, and a biblical story.

Author Jonathan Carroll's writing style is crisp, witty, and full of clever dialogue. His plot, however, does not scintillate as brightly as his prose. He weighs down the original premise—a wistful architect achieving spiritual awakening through the construction of a dog museum—with too many supernormal elements, and even throws in a Sarajevian civil war led by the Sultan's canni- bal brother. Radcliffe's realization of the dog museum's True Purpose makes for an interesting retelling of a Biblical story, but the ser- iousness of its exploration of gods, miracles, and their relation to the world wind all too slowly through the book.

Outside the Dog Museum does yield some unusual insights on the nature of God and the human niche in the universe. As a piece of fiction offering spiritual guidance, it's much more readable than most, though its logic is muddled than Richard Bach's. Still, Carroll's writing is so fresh and funny that Outside the Dog Museum is a pleasure to those who savor the surreal, if not to those who crave plot.

The Groups of Wrath chronicles the advent of the punk scene

THE GROUPS OF WRATH: SONGS OF THE NAKED CITY

By Sande Chen

In 1975, the New York Dolls irrevocably broke up, making way for The Ramones, four high school friends from Forest Hills, N.Y., who emerged as the new kids on the punk frontier. The Ramones' first album, 21,000 Volts, was in full swing. The Ramones, the Talking Heads, Richard Hell and the Voidoids, and Blondie started appearing in CBGB's and similar venues. Richard Hell, known as the first poet of punk, reputedly began punk's fashion sensibilities with his torn clothes and use of safety pins. Richard Hell and the Voidoids' second album Destiny Street produced the title track and "Downtown at Destiny," both included on this compilation. Blondie Mark Bell eventually joined the Ramones, recorded by the Ramones in 1975.

By the mid-seventies, the New York scene was in full swing. The Ramones, the Talking Heads, Richard Hell and the Voidoids, and Blondie started appearing in CBGB's and similar venues. Richard Hell, known as the first poet of punk, reputedly began punk's fashion sensibilities with his torn clothes and use of safety pins. Richard Hell and the Voidoids' second album Destiny Street produced the title track and "Downtown at Destiny," both included on this compilation. Blondie Mark Bell eventually joined the Ramones.

Another band, Suicide, formed in 1972, was particularly noted for their riot-causing antics. Vocalist Alan Vega was the first to bring "performance art" to the stage. Despite expectations, both "Cherise," Suicide's first single Powerhouse, and " SUBEامعة UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

outside the Dog Museum is one of those books that draws a person in by title alone. I couldn't resist any- thing subtitled "a novel of love, death and architecture." Indeed, Outside the Dog Museum exhibits more whimsies than plot.

OUTSIDE THE DOG MUSEUM

By Jonathan Carroll

February 18, 1992

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