

METRO TIMES

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April 16, 1981



Book review: On target - for once!

City of Night, by John Rechy. Paperback, Grove Press, \$1.95. 380 pages.

We can look back proudly at our fine accomplishments as a book reviewer. We praised the Mendola Report that everyone else panned. We hissed Gaywyck while the world cheered. And we yawned and cut down Man to Man while everyone else who has read it with whom we spoke seemed to think it was a fine book. We want to say this to let you know that our taste is not infallible.

Our taste, however, changes. We walked into Century Books on Oak Lawn the other day and spotted in their section on gay and related topics the new paperback of City of Night. Since we can't stand the thought of passing up a 380-page book selling for a ridiculous \$1.95, we picked it up and took it home.

Now, about ten or fifteen years ago we started making it a point to read anything gay we could get our hands on. We honestly can't remember whether we read City or Numbers. We do remember that we were phenomenally bored.

This time we knew a bit more about the gay world than before and were able to appreciate the book. We took time to admire Rechy's language and the pervading theme - a youngman (Rechy's own term) looking for himself and running away whenever he finds himself. It's a theme a lot of gay men (and, we suspect, lesbians) can relate to.

Rechy tells of a guy named Dave to whom he is strongly drawn - and from whom he flees. He tells how, as a hustler, he operates on a theory of bare numbers rather than money...finding out how many

"johns" he could have had. He tells of spending the night with another hustler, in terror that something might happen.

Superimposed over Rechy's own terror of self-discovery are the stories of the people whose lives cross his - a married gay checking out a scene he has never experienced, a mother who kicked out her gay son, an erudite and dying professor and his "angels", and others.

Rechy tears away the veil of his subculture and takes a look at the "johns" - interested only in the sex and repulsed by the person, driven away and stripped of interest when they learn that the trick they picked up has a mind and can even quote the Bard of Avon.

Rechy's bittersweet hegira is a story which will be welcome to newcomers and to those who have already experienced the depth and beauty and horror of those same pages.

At \$1.95, it's an offer you can't refuse and a book every gay person should read sometime. And this time, we promise, our review is right on target!

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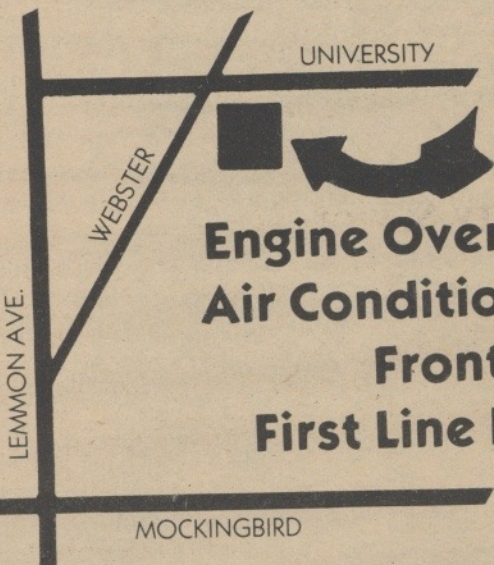


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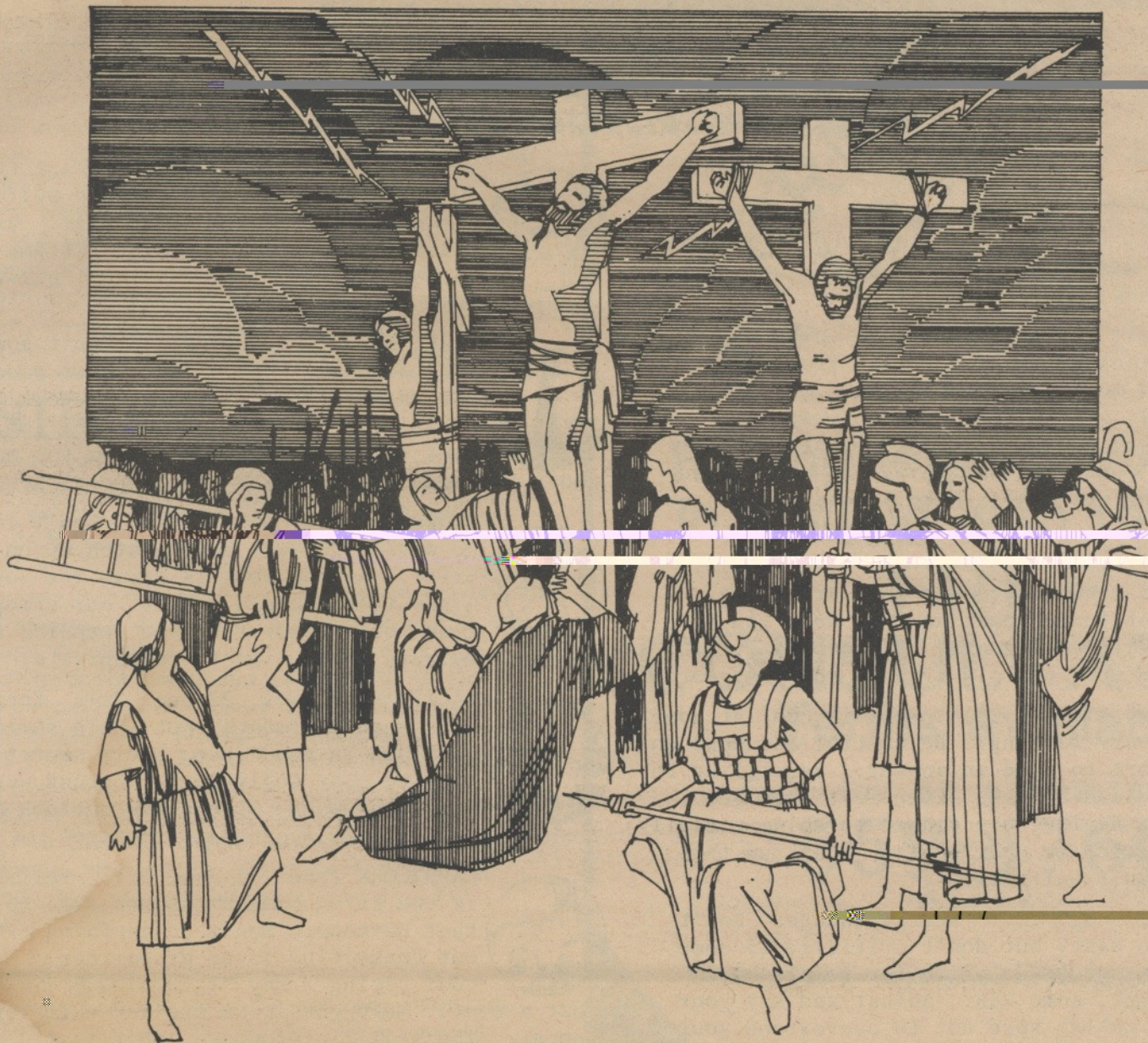
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
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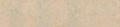
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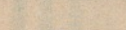
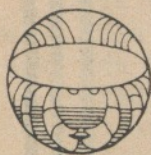
ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep a low profile and dedicate your time to staying awake so as not to lose ground. Catch up on your letters and personal matters. Get involved with social activities and charitable projects. Let others limelight now; your time will come.




 TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Brush up on rusty talents. Look for needed advise from older people with more experience. Make plans for your next vacation. Energy and personality will be positive second week. Great time for making professional contacts, polishing off unfinished projects and starting new ones. Make a good impression.



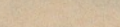
GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Catch up on that overdue recreation, quietly and alone. Avoid jealousy if others seem too popular. Give some thought to the past and how well you have kept pace with your goals. Be cooperative in the second week, and seek out old friends you've ignored.



CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep it cool at home - problems are roiling. Be patient and make an honest effort to find an answer. Be willing to cooperate, lend a hand. Even if things get busy, don't neglect the chance to shine socially and meet VIP's important to your goals. Speak up that second week in community affairs.

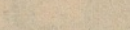



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Accept change. Don't live in the past, but don't criticize if some others seem outdated. Time for some public entertainment, some R&R. Adjust and set your goals now, making sure not to overextend yourself - you only have so much time and energy, after all.



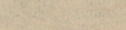
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Resist temptation on new expenses. Take on some self-improvement without overcommitting yourself. Watch diet, health, and rest. Exercise extreme caution in consulting any professional person about problems which may arise.



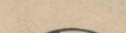
 LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't come unbalanced over problems with lover - tact goes a long way, and so does compromise. Work well with others careerwise, too. Do the job right, and meet those deadlines. Saying too much could prove to cause trouble with that special somebody.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let your co-worker go away mad. Catch up on those old bills. Second week is great for your home. A new friend could assist your career. Take time for redecorating and spending time with someone you care for. Time to communicate.

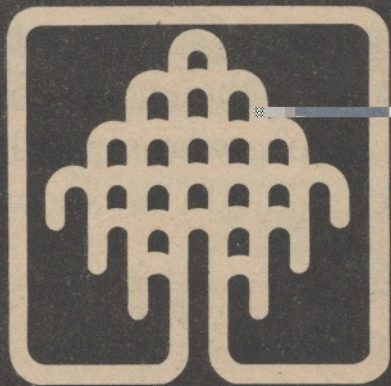


SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep your ears open and mouth shut while someone close confides in you. Keep their secret. Great time to play Dolly Levi. Second week is time for paper work. Let a new outlook on life and general good spirits accentuate romance!



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Self-confidence is the key. Home pressures ease up. Maintain that harmony. Don't do anything extreme without consulting lover or partner. Demonstrate your caring - say "I love you"; it doesn't cost a cent. Make gossip be one way - listen, don't repeat. The stall in progress won't last.

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AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Self-improvement spotlighted. Avoid disappointment when your efforts aren't given fair credit. Think things over carefully. Be discreet and sensible. Second week, your emotions show, and Cupid has an arrow for you. Popularity on upswing. Don't take sides in disputes. Maintain your independence.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A long journey, possibly work-related, could combine your business with pleasure. Better financial situation, so save some for rainy days. In career, keep cool and patient. Turn on the charm. You'll be busy, busy, busy second week!

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METRO MISCELLANEY

Greetings, one and all, for the last column of Metro MiscellaneY. Well, in our first year, that is. We start year two with our very next issue. Join us, now, in song: Happy birthday to us, happy birthday to us...

Had any of you noticed it was getting warmish out? We've been beating the heat with these wonderful, tequila snow cones (otherwise known as frozen margaritas) which they do so nicely at the Frat House. Nothing like sitting down with a tequila snow cone and trying to beat the Pac-Man video game. As to the game, they also have it at Alcatraz, Jugs, Dallas Crude, and the TCMC, not to mention the Turtle Creek Village Safeway.

Those of you who may have wondered why the sun deck was closed down about a week or so ago at Club Dallas may now know: It's called "blowing in the wind." Right...the wind blew down the wall with the painting on it. Now that's what we call - (Oh, right - we can't say, it's a family paper, but you know what we were thinking.) Those concrete blocks used in building the wall came right down. Maybe Jerry Falwell was practicing his sermons outside, being such a bag of wind.

Bob Griffis of Friday's Florist had a birthday the other day and invited us to a party at his place which overflowed onto the balcony. There were hot guys, lots of balloons, hot guys, liquor, hot guys, refreshments, hot guys, music, hot guys...everything you'd want to make a party a success! Many happy returns to Bob, whom we've known for simply ages. We love to get invited to parties and have been asked to another one April 17.



And - you heard it here first! - Doug Williams of Alcatraz, we understand, will be the deejay at the festive Razzle Dazzle Dallas during Gay Pride Week. Congratulations for this auspicious honor. We hear last year was hot and would have been hot even if the air conditioning had been working. This is one you do not want to miss!

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Tuesday, April 28

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The Landing celebrated their first anniversary April 2. It was planned for the Wednesday of March 25 but didn't take place then because no ad appeared to announce it. We were out delivering papers, but we did pop our head in and observe the wall-to-wall disco floor. Congratulations.

Congratulations, too, to the Crews Inn on their 8th anniversary April 16. (Why do these bars have their anniversaries the same day we're delivering papers? Are they afraid we'll drink up the free drinks singlehandedly?) C.I. has had a really nice facelift.

On both sides, Peacock is open under new management, and Studio 69 has been adding a new owner, new shows, etc.

Most amusing name trophy goes to the Best Little Hair House in Texas, another of the host of new shops opening up to snip your locks.

Contrary to what you may have heard elsewhere, our information has it that Janie is the new manager of the Conference Room.

We just got news from Fort Worth that songstress Dena Kay, who recently wowed them at the Ms. Woodworks which just opened and should be a full service bar by now, will be back April 25, May 10, and May 24. Seems they know a good thing. In fact, she's even coming to the original Woodworks April 24. Just in case you didn't know, Woodworks has gone back to the live deejay concept. Both bars will be sporting a lot of live entertainment, including a jockey short dance contest Tuesday, April 28.

Well, kiddies, fifty demerits to anyone who isn't out there on time to pick up Metro Miscellany when the new Metro Times appears in two weeks. See you then!

Cabaret '81: Dead or alive?

Cabaret '81 is alive and well, announced producer Tommy Holliday in reply to a report in the last Metro Times regarding the premature cancellation of the show following the resignation of at least five members of the company, including the original director, three dancers and the choreographer.

The original report indicated that two dancers had resigned, allegedly because of non-payment. Following Holliday's protest of misinformation, it was determined that other members of the cast had also left the company. However, it was also found that payment was apparently not an issue, since the troupe had agreed to waive payment for the first month of appearances to allow reinvestment into the troupe's costumes and similar needs of any earnings during that time.

Cast members reported various reasons for their leaving the company. Holliday informed the press that he cancelled the last two performances of the show because of a combination of pressures brought about by the loss of cast members and the death of his companion's father.

According to Holliday, he is presently making plans to recruit and incorporate a new cast, which will, he assures, be even better and will provide an alternative to female impersonation within the gay community and will also provide entertainment within the straight community as well.

Cabaret '81 was originally presented during the month of March at Sassy's and was well received for the duration of its stay, with a large number of the individuals who saw it returning to see it again. The show received a favorable review for the fine degree of professionalism demonstrated, especially in the chorus numbers.

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