

Swear words on the telly

By Richard Tanner

Have you seen any youngsters dressed in dustbin liners and rags, faces painted with outrageous make-up, ears and nostrils pierced with safety pins and attached with dog chains?

No? Nor have the majority of us. But then Peterborough was always a million light years behind any fashion which springs up in London.

But that should not be a criticism of city teenagers. Because who in their right minds wants to dress in this latest rather silly fashion — loosely attached to punk rock music.

However, you can bet your bottom dollar that thousands of impressionable youngsters will jump on the bandwagon of dressing as outrageously as possible now the music and fashion has received explosive publicity in the national press.

Like so many other teenage crazes in recent years — the skinheads, the suedeheads, the Bowie freaks and the droogs which teemed out of our cinemas after 'Clockwork Orange' — it has arrived in a blaze of publicity coupled with a public outcry

but, like the rest, will surely drift into obscurity within a few months.

The 'cult' was brought to everyone's attention after the infamous Thames TV interview with punk rock band 'The Sex Pistols'.

But it seems hypocritical for newspapers like the Daily Mirror and Sun to get all righteous over a few swear words uttered during the interview when their pages are filled with semi-nudes and sex, rape, violence and corruption stories.

Lets be honest. Doesn't every youngster (boys at least) know enough four-letter expletives by the time he's into long trousers to send Mary Whitehouse to an early grave?

The more cynical among us tend to think that perhaps the interview was just an elaborate public relations job for the group which backfired a little!

But it has had the desired effect in one way. The group can be guaranteed packed houses whenever — and if ever — they play around the country in the next few months.

Controversy always attracts interest. You can almost see the posters billing a forthcoming concert by The Sex Pistols — 'the group that swore on telly'!