

Punk—a four letter word

IS punk rock the most frightening turn pop music has ever taken? Is it corrupting our youth and blurring in an age of violence and anarchy?

Oh, come on now. You can't really believe that. Anyone with a sense of pop history should be able to get punk rock into perspective.

Remember—the uproar 12 years ago when the Beatles, the Stones and the Who caught the imagination of a generation and frightened the parents of that generation?

Take your mind back still farther to 1956, when the pelvis gyrations of Elvis and the peppy beat of rock 'n' roll was supposed to bring out the savage animal in us. That scared the mums and dads too.

It was just as I know the same with Michael Jackson and the Rolling Stones. A generation was frightened and it was only a matter of time before I'd see a thing like this.

I don't see it as a generation of fear. It's a generation that needs to be reassured of the safety of the world. The mass media is doing a good job of this.

The rock scene of punk rock bands like the Sex Pistols, the Damned and the Clash are a reaction against the established rock stars who, with their wealth, their bored, seem-it-all attitudes and above all their age, live a life to which today's teenagers cannot relate.

So to you now, baby, think they are responsible for that and then I'll sign up it all up for you. And this is the real point—there was a point in time when the system they are reacting to.

It's a matter of Pete Townshend and Rod Stewart and even good old Elvis were rebels once.

Now they are the part of the show, the scene, like the Beatles and Robert

YOUNG people follow fashions in clothes, films and music. The latest fad, nurtured by the music press, is punk rock. ALBERT WATSON puts one view.

Bedford. It will happen to the punk rock fans before long. A lot of punk rock fan catches on.

Musically speaking, these young bands have yet to prove that they have something to offer. Most of the punk rock I have heard, says little that wasn't said by the early Stones and Who in the mid-sixties. They look less outrageous than Alice Cooper in his heyday—and look how harmless he is nowadays playing golf with Bob Hope.

In the youth club which I run, the punk rock look is just becoming fashionable. Torn T-shirts held together with safety pins, the skirts made out of old thinners—and the punks' are about as threatening to society as a glass of milk.

The well-publicized extremists who go to dances in their underwear, piercing their ears and mouths with pins, are a tiny minority sought out by photographers. They are about as typical of today's scene as Prince Monolulu was to Ascot.

The extensively-reported 'naughty words' fiasco on London ITV this week was certainly a sign of the generation—but not on the part of the youngsters who were interviewed. It's a teenager needs to be guided into speaking by a tired and emotional middle-aged interviewer, that teenager is a long way from anarchy.

Punk rock is something which the media is in the process of creating. What is true is that today's teenagers are



The Sex Pistols.

making a rock scene which is their own sign of healthy protest and creativity.

Yes, the Establishment should be grateful rather than frightened. It's a lively sign in the flagging rock world

and in the end we can be sure that we

will ask Mrs. Thatcher or Pete Townshend to be a 'straight' straight' winner always wins in the end.