

Give the Punks a chance

I ASKED last week what your views on the Sex Pistols were — and how you reacted to the news that their concert in the City Hall had been banned by the City Council.

By and large you don't seem to care very much for the band or the Punk Rock genre — which is a healthy sign — but one interesting letter came from a Mr. (Ms?) Elliott, aged 18, of Globe Avenue in Benton.

He writes: "I would suggest that the essence of the situation is whether or not our pseudo-altruistic councillor has any right to cancel the Punk Rock concert on the grounds that it might cause personal injury when he seemingly endorses concerts by such emetic groups as the Bay City Rollers, who were renowned for inciting riots at their concerts even before they were invited back here to give a second concert — which, predictably, degenerated into a mad melee of hysterical teenyboppers causing goodness knows how much damage to each other and to the City Hall.

"Now I freely admit that I have heard very little Punk but I think that being over the accepted age of responsibility — viz. 18 — I should at least have the chance to see these groups to form my own opinions.

"In the case of younger fans, the decision whether or not to let them witness live Punk should rest with their parents who, we are told, always know best, rather than with some naive councillor who apparently thinks that swearing from the punksters will corrupt us more than the same bad language we can hear from any of the actors in the blatantly obscene movies so popular at cinemas today.

"And if the councillor's answer to this is 'at least you have to be 18 to see them' then, all I can say is, if he is really as ignorant and as out of touch as all that, he has no right to be in charge of any committee at all.

"Give Punks a chance!"

Point taken, Elliott-person.

I'd just like to underline my point of last week — that the Sex Pistols (agreed it was a phone interview) seemed just as luridly unpleasant as the interviewer. Grundy seemed to find them.

Violence, obscenity and sheer bad manners for their own sakes are no excuse and should not be allowed to masquerade in the name of entertainment.

If we all treat them as mindless loonies, they might all go away. And the quicker the better.