

4-letter reply to rock ban

THE Sex Pistols swearing storm blew up again yesterday when their tour promoter hit-out with a few choice four-letter words of his own.

Dave Corke, a spokesman for Endale Associates, Birmingham, laid into Newcastle councillors after they axed the Sex Pistols' booking at the City Hall, which had been scheduled for tomorrow.

The councillors feared that the Punk Rock group, who swore on a television chat show earlier this week, might cause trouble if they started swearing on stage.

"I hate Newcastle councillors for what they stand for and for what they have done to the kids," said Mr. Corke.

"They have s--- on the kids. They are a lot of fat --- dudes. What do they know about this group? What do they know about punk rock?"

"Sex Pistols are not obscene. These councillors have panicked into thinking they were going to get an obscene group, vomiting over the stage and smashing up their precious City Hall.

"If they have a party to celebrate keeping us out, let me know, then I can come up and smash a few heads together."

The rest of Mr. Corke's statement was unusable.

Announcing the decision to cancel the concert, Coun. Arthur Stabler, chairman of Newcastle's arts committee, said: "We made our decision in the interests of the audience.

"It was based on information we have about Sex Pistols and the sort of band they are.

"If they started swearing on stage, we would be forced to stop the show—and that could cause fighting. We have to protect the youngsters in the audience.

Refunded

"Sex Pistols are the sort of band we can do without. They will not be allowed to play at our hall until they mend their ways."

He said his staff had been worried about having the group in Newcastle even before the swearing row.

Three other bands were to have appeared with Sex Pistols, who were to top the bill. The whole concert was called off because it was a group booking, said Coun. Stabler.

Youngsters who bought tickets will have their money refunded at the booking office.

Shows have also been cancelled at Bournemouth, Preston, Lancaster, Norwich and Birmingham, and the future of one at Derby tonight is now uncertain.

Sex Pistols hit headlines after appearing on Thames Television's "Today" teatime show on Wednesday.

Angry viewers jammed the company's switchboard with complaints about four-letter words during an interview with the presenter of the show, Bill Grundy.

Thames have publicly apologised for the incident.

Mr. Grundy has since been suspended for two weeks and other staff have been reprimanded by Thames's director of programmes for "inexcusably sloppy journalism."



LESLEY who will be singing her own carol on television.

Television singing spot for Lesley

SCHOOLGIRL Lesley Campbell's first attempt at songwriting will be heard by millions when she performs her Christmas card "Angel's Message" on BBC television's "Nation-wide."

Holiday hunt after car death

HOLIDAY tour operators were called in yesterday to help find a woman believed to be holidaying in Morocco, unaware that her husband has been killed in a two-car smash.

The husband — identified last night as Mr. Thomas Richard Smith, aged 60, of Church Street, Longframlington — died in a pile-up at Longhorsley on Thursday night.

Yesterday a police spokesman said they had con-

For the carol which was a hit with her mum has also been a hit with the judges in a contest run by the programme.

Now 12-year-old Lesley, of Winchester Walk, Wideopen, will perform her song as one of six finalists.

Lesley, a pupil at Wideopen Middle School, has been playing the guitar three years and used music she had set to a poem for her carol. The verses took her a couple of days to write.

"I sang it to my mum and she liked it and so did the music teacher," said Lesley. "Everyone so far has said they like it.

"I only entered the competition for a bit of fun so I won't be disappointed if I don't win."

The carol is now a regular item in school assembly and headmaster Mr. Bob White said: "I