

We want to hear the Sex Pistols

Letters

WITH a sense of anger and frustration I read in the "Chronicle" that Councillor Arthur Stabler and his committee had decided, in their infinite wisdom, to cancel the concert due to be given by the "Sex Pistols."

As far as I can ascertain this decision was made on the basis of media reaction to language used during a television interview with presenter William Grundy, who has since been suspended.

Several points of complaint arise in my mind from said cancellation and Grundy's "interview."

Grundy said he approached the band with the intention of exposing them as, and I quote, "a bunch of yobs."

It seems obvious that this man tried and succeeded to provoke the reactions he duly received.

He approached his "material" not as an impartial reporter, but with a heavy bias borne out of bogged ignorance of his subject.

I am totally out of favour with the type of publicity overkill the band resorted to but nevertheless a provocation did occur. I have a certain amount of sympathy with parents in their regard for protecting their children from this language. But does this mean the said parents or Grundy, or even Mr. Stabler himself, have never used such words or even sworn?

These words are extremely common in street and factory life. Outrage and pritanical "sweeping under the carpet" will not make the realities go away.

How can he take a decision to ban the "Sex Pistols" when his criteria for judgement is so radically different from that of an audience likely to go to see the "Pistols."

He and people like him are robbing a whole generation of their freedom of choice. We WANT to see the Sex Pistols and have every right to do so. Media

over-coverage has told us what to expect (as if we didn't know) and it is OUR decision as to whether we attend or not.

Mr. Stabler said in your paper: "These are certainly not the type of people we want in this city."

Who are these mysterious "we"? Someone should tell Mr. Stabler such people are already in his fair city in any bar or working men's club.

Ignoring through ignorance is to create a minority with a perfectly legitimate grudge and frustration.

Too long have we been a voice in the wilderness with our music pushed to some ridiculous late-night spot and every attempt to discredit made.

I, we, feel alienated from conventional politics, standards, life style, etc. considered decent and normal.

In finale it seems Mr. Stabler and his committee have condemned by failing

victim to their own media propaganda.

We're not all yobs. I count myself as a fairly articulate, educated person, but find myself feeling frustrated and slightly sick.

— ANDREW MUSE, Busy Bank, Burnopfield.

Problems for Santa

THIS IS an incident which occurred a few days ago while a grandmother was minding her two grandchildren when their parents were both out. The boy, Anthony, was five-years-old and his sister, Donna, eight.

The grandmother was bustling about looking for the cat which she suspected might be up to some of its anti-social activities. Her behaviour puzzled Anthony till at last he could contain himself no longer and the following dialogue took place.

Anthony: What are you looking for, Gran?

Gran: I cannot find the ruddy cat.

Anthony: You must not look for it under the bed in Donna's room.

Gran: Why ever on earth for?

Anthony: Because daddy has bought me a new bike for Christmas and hidden it there.

Gran: Now why would he do a thing like that?

Anthony: I think it is so that Santa can collect it on Christmas morning and take it to my room. I have to know nothing about it.

Delivery problems must have been much simpler fifty years ago when all the houses had chimneys and Santa Claus could use them when he brought the presents.—J. W. ROWNTREE, The Wynd, Gosforth.

Independent since 1923

THE letter "Don't repeat past mistakes" of the Rev. E. Simpson Baird is astonishing in as much as he seems unaware that Rhodesia has had its own constitution and been an independent state in the old Commonwealth since being granted self-government in 1923. Before that it was administered by the Chartered British Company of South Africa. Britain's sole responsibility was to help militarily if need be.



IAN SMITH
— a leader
and fighter

Disgusted