

The Seattle Sun's Magazine of Music and Amusements

**KZOK**

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# the **Rocket**

NOVEMBER 1979/FREE

## THE CLASH

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**SWEET  
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Acapella Songbirds  
From Washington D.C.





# THE CLASH

By Robert Ferrigno and Steven Bialer

A true punk digs rock 'n' roll whatever kind it is — Joe Strummer

is not heard so much as felt, tickling the inner ear like a rusty nail.

**White riot I wanna riot  
White riot a riot of my own**

Guitarist/songwriter Joe Strummer is twisted against the mike, the muscles in his throat bulging out the veins as he roars.

**All of the power is in the hands  
Of the people rich enough to buy it  
While we walk the street  
Too chicken to even try it  
White riot I wanna riot  
White riot a riot of my own**

Bassplayer Paul Simonon, dressed in tight leather pants and a white shirt, plays an effective bottom with drummer Nicky "Topper" Headon providing a driving rhythm. A final crashing chord and Headon throws his sticks out into the crowd. The crowd, on its feet the whole time, explodes.

well-wishers who had somehow made it backstage moved around them, mumbling compliments and questions.

The Rebels, an L.A. rockabilly band that had opened for The Clash all along the coast, stood in the center of the room.

**They appear on stage like four surly sharecroppers, gangly arms, white-walls around**

**SHOCK TROOPS FOR THE GUITAR ARMY**

room. Gallagher played keyboard on the last Clash album and had joined the band for the last half of their American tour.

Like the other Clash members, Strummer is gaunt and raw looking. They appear on stage like four surly sharecroppers, gangly arms, white walls around their ears and protruding ribcages. Bassist Simonon has a black space between his front teeth you can drive a '57 Chevy through.

Strummer speaks with a noticeable British accent, quietly and with obvious intelligence, far different from the "suicidal-rebellion" image caricatured recently in the Dick Tracy comic strip and the generally sensationalistic coverage afforded the new wave scene in the American press.

"They're narrow-minded assholes, one's that can't dig rock in all it's for those are the posers. That's how you pose from a true punk. It's posing say it stinks 'cause they haven't

BRANDY HALL

