

The Clash set to rock Alumni Gym tonight

By Matt Evans
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The Clash, a politically inclined group with potentially venomous lyrics, will perform tonight at 8 p.m. at the Alumni Gym.

Based in England, this band, with its sociopolitical anthems, is reminiscent of America's own '60s militancy, especially that of Bob Dylan. The group's songs have included attacks on the oppression and greed that it sees stretching from government chambers in Washington,

London and Moscow to the ghetto streets and even South American battlefields.

After a year's absence from the rock scene, The Clash has regrouped, ad-

ding new members, and is touring again.

Band leader Joe Strummer said he expects to introduce some of the two dozen new songs he has written for the current tour.

Preview

Mick Jones, the co-writer of many of the Clash's songs, was one of the members fired from the group due to differences among the band's members.

Although many critics scoff at the new Clash, Strummer said he has hopes for his group.

"We want to get used to working together and see how the songs work live. I'd

like to go back and capture that lean, tough sound we had on the first album. I think we got a little too arty in places after that," he said.

"We should have been out there stomping on the Police or the Rolling Stones and all those heavy metal bands," Strummer said. "The Police are just the new Moody Blues and the Rolling Stones — I don't even know what they are anymore."

"But there was all this internal bickering. We couldn't go out and stomp on those other bands when it was all bang-bang-bang among ourselves," Strummer explained.

The Clash poses a striking contrast to the lightweight escapism of

Duran Duran and Culture Club, and the success of its tour without its original members is crucial to its survival in the flippant world of rock music, where artists come and go and are soon forgotten.

But with the turmoil behind them and with the current members — Strummer, bassist Paul Simonon, drummer Pete Howard and guitarists Nick Shepard and Vince White, the Clash plans to promote its combat rock for the audience at Knoxville.

Tickets for the Clash are on sale at the UT Ticket Office for \$9 to students with an activities card and \$11 for other patrons. Ticket buyers will need to specify whether they want seats on

the floor or in the balcony, as there will be seats in the balcony, but no seats on the floor. Also, viewers will not be able to intermingle bet-

ween the two areas.

Tim Reese, program director for student activities, said 3,100 tickets went on sale but there are

still 1,300 left.

"I think the students had the misconception that the concert was going to sell out immediately, so they

didn't bother to purchase any tickets," he said.

Tav Falcon and the Panther Burns from Memphis will open for the Clash.