

The Clash rock'n'rolls Vets

By John Kilroy

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The Clash roared into Columbus Wednesday night with a gaggle of new faces but the same old message.

Guitarists Vince White, Nick Sheppard and drummer Pete Howard joined Clash veterans Joe Strummer and bassist Paul Simonon for a performance they termed "out of control."

The Clash has something to prove following a tumultuous 1983 that included the firing of guitarist/songwriter Mick Jones.

White and Sheppard proved more than capable as guitarists, but the group's performance missed Jones' compositions.

However, they lost none of their stage energy. As a matter of fact, adding a member intensified their stage antics.

Only Strummer played an instrument that had a cord anchoring him to an amplifier. White, Sheppard and Simonon each played instruments that allowed complete freedom of movement, and they did move.

Strummer, when he wasn't playing his guitar, along with the other three, bounced around the stage at Veteran's Memorial Coliseum like heated molecules.

The stage itself was an in-

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teresting creation, with 10 television screens perched on top of orange light stands in front of a backdrop of gray and blacked-stripped curtains.

This gave the stage the appearance of a high-tech cave.

Although the crowd, sporting the latest in new wave hair styles and khaki clothing, was treated to an electrifying stage show.

Many of the song lyrics were lost as Strummer's

raspy singing voice was garbled in the sound system.

The Clash's strong points have always been pointed song lyrics and commitment to a message in their music.

During the Who's final concert tour in 1982, for which the Clash was the opening act, Pete Townsend picked the Clash to be the dominant group of the '80s.

After last year's chaos, the Clash has a lot of pieces to pick up to achieve that goal. However, after Wednesday night, they've shown they have the talent to prove Townsend's choice was a good one.