

FRIDAY ROCK

GROUP THAT ONLY AIM TO PLEASE



JUST as rust is setting in on punk rock's safety pin, the music world has gone back to the dark ages of the Sixties. The suit, collar and tie are back.

And with all the audacity of youth, a group—yes, we are calling them groups again—called The Pleasers have modelled themselves on The Beatles.

The new Fab Four are from London and are currently on a British tour which took them this week to Edinburgh and Stirling.

Everywhere they go they attract hordes of youngsters who arrive at their concerts wearing slim lapelled suits and mini skirts.

If you can't find something new, polish something old. And this time, Yeah, yeah, yeah wins it!

IMAGE

To be fair to The Pleasers, they write most of their material. They do sing songs made famous in the Sixties, but that is only to attract the audience.

To find out why they chose this image, I talked to them this week. But they denied they are copying The Beatles.

"We have been wearing suits and writing our own songs for the past two years," said Steve Mc Nerney, 20, "we

By **GORDON BLAIR**

started dressing this way as rebellion towards punk."

The Pleasers believe in three-part harmonies and love songs. They deny their style is beat music of the Sixties.

"It isn't beat music," 21-year-old Nick Powell, "but it is melodic. We are trying to keep melody alive, and it seems to be working. Everywhere we go the audiences have heard of us."

"A lot of kids who weren't around in the Sixties do want to know what kind of music was being played."

DARE

He added: "We are not trying to copy The Beatles. People have said we look like them but we know we don't."

"We just might regret the Beatle tie-up," said Steve, "eventually we will progress to other things."

compare ourselves to John, Paul, George and Ringo."

Nick said: "Let's face it, we have been selling out concerts without having a record to help us!"

TIPPED

"The image has a lot to do with it, but the word is out that our songs are of a really high standard."

Later this month, The Pleasers will release a single and an LP—both of which are being heavily tipped as chart successes.

"The great thing about today's music business," Steve added, "is that it is just like it was in the Sixties. Everybody is getting up and having a go."

"The glitter thing is dead and so is denim. It's time for a change."

If you want to see the group, they are on The Multi Coloured Swap Shop a week tomorrow and in Glasgow at Tiffany's the following Monday (20th).

THE PLEASERS ... out on tour

Picture: IAN TORRANCE

Joe's cash is on a Clash survival

IT'S not all lively and laughs being a rocker—just ask Joe Strummer of The Clash.

He has just moved into a bed-and-breakfast place ... and it costs him £25 a week.

And £25 is exactly what Joe earns with The Clash—he even produced a crumpled cheque to let me see it.

Lesson

It's not that Joe didn't make quite a bit out of the band. He had a cheque for about £1000, but it just burned a hole in his pocket.

He'd never seen that much money before.

"I blew it in booze and travelling around in taxis," admitted Joe.

It's good to know we are the only ones left

"I checked with the bank the other week and discovered I had only £20 left. But I don't mind."

"Perhaps if I earn that much again I'll do something different with it. I think I've learned my lesson now."

A lot of people think The Clash will be lucky if they ever get a sniff of so much money again. With The Damned and the Sex Pistols gone to the wall, the people who always hated punk rock are gloating that this is the end.

But are The Clash going to give in that easily?

"If you'd asked me two weeks ago, I'd have said we

were finished," said Joe. "But that was because I was depressed. I'd just come out of hospital and I didn't want to see anybody or do anything."

"Now I think The Clash will survive. Change was what punk music was all about."

"It makes me feel good to know we are the only ones left."

At the beginning, The Clash were the bad boys (with the Sex Pistols) of punk rock.

They terrified people because they looked so mean. Now they are letting us all know they are nice just like everyone else.

ROSALIND RUSSELL