

First they called it Punk Rock—now it's New Wave and it's bursting the pop world apart . . . JAN ILES reports

RIOT ROCKERS

FRENZIED fans threw their inhibitions out of the exits last week at a big punk rock concert in London. JAN ILES was in the audience and this is her report . . .

By comparison, riotous teenybopper concert are about as wild as Donald Duck cartoons. This was an X-certificate riot.

By the end of the four-hour show, more than 200 seats were wrecked.

Punks with red, orange, jet black and peroxide-coloured hair, and wearing assorted leather, chains, razor blades and plastic maces, jumped up and down like human jack-in-the-boxes to the furious high speed music that cut through the senses like a knife.

A spikey-haired girl with cat-woman eye make-up trod on my corn while the punk next door accidentally

socked me in the eye with this dancing elbow.

The fans were pulling, pushing, tugging and colliding. The bouncers had difficulty restraining them.

The cluster of record company people looked flumoxed by it all—perhaps some of them wished they'd stayed at home and watched TV.

When headliners The Clash hit the stage you could have sliced the tension wide open with some punk's razor blade.

Vocalist Joe Strummer spat out his songs about urban decay, unemployment and high flats. No mammy pambly boy-meets-girl stuff on their agenda.

The punk rock music revolution has begun.

It's for the young and by the young and if you are over 25 you might find the going a little tough.

It's a money-making machine

THE cynics sniggered when Punk first appeared seemingly from nowhere last summer. It is just a fad—like mini skirts and skinhead crewcuts—they said.

But Punk did not just survive—it thrived.

What began as youth on the dole forming bands and writing songs about unemployment, anarchy and bore-

dom, has turned into a money-making extravaganza called the New Wave Movement.

The band who popularised the craze in Britain were the Sex Pistols, the first to be signed to a major record company—E.M.I.

Axed

Their single, Anarchy In The U.K., reached the lower half of the chart picking up sales figures of around 40,000.

EMI later axed them over the group's indecent behaviour.

Other major record companies began signing Punk outfits.

CBS signed The Clash for a reputed £100,000. The group's debut album entered the top 20 in its first week.

Birth

The list goes on—Polydor have The Jam; United Artists have The Stranglers; Track Records have Johnny Thunder and The Heartbreakers and Island have Eddie and the Hot Rods.

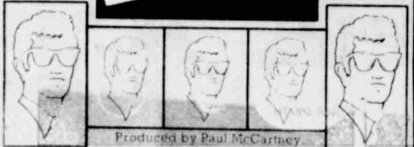
Despite the initial contempt that accompanied its birth, New Wave Rock has now become big business in the music industry.



THE JAM in jackets made especially for their forthcoming free Jubilee concert in London.



Denny Laine's tribute to Buddy Holly HOLLY DAYS



Produced by Paul McCartney

THE JAM

I RECKON The Jam are the best New Wave band around. Just listen to their debut album *In The City*, and the single of the same name.

Jam are Paul Weller, 18, guitarist, vocalist and composer; Bruce Foxton, 22, bassist; and drummer Rick Buckler, 22.

Musically and visually they are pure early sixties mod. They wear mohair suits, have cropped hair and talk with cockney accents.

Paul Weller, the group's unofficial chief spokesman, said: "We play seventies rock and roll. There's a lot of sixties influences, but we're not trying to revive anything. Anyway we are too young to remember the mods of '65." He writes all the

We don't preach.. we just play

group's material and his songs are compassionate as well as tough.

"I've been writing since I was 14. I get my inspiration from the environment, the papers, things I see around me.

"We have our philosophy but we don't preach to people.

"We are primarily about rock and roll. We get people dancing. We sing about love of youth, love of dancing, drinking or getting pilled-up."

THE STRANGLERS

THE most successful New Wave group is The Stranglers—at least, in terms of album sales.

They have just started a UK tour, taking their music and its influence to the people who want it.

The Stranglers' album, *IV Rattus Norvegicus*, has already reached number four in the British charts.

The album title relates in Latin to . . . the common rat.

In the main, the Stranglers deal with such tasty subjects as female promiscuity, the working class and dole queues.

Their last single, called *London Lady*, uncovered early infiltrators within the New Wave sect.

"It's all about the ladies who go to Ding-

Most of all, we hate spathy

walls in London dressed up in New Wave gear," Dave Greenfield tells me.

Although the four Stranglers—Dave plus Hugh Cornell, Jean Jacques Burnell and Jet Black—play high speed and aggressive music, they are not aiming for violence from their fans.

The Stranglers tour takes in Glasgow City Hall on June 22. They have a new album out in September and their new single is called *Peaches Go Buddy Go*

DON EDGSON

IF IT'S IN THE ROCK NEWS IT'S IN THE RECORD