

Melody Maker

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● The Clash have a new drummer, 21-year-old Nicky Headon (second from left), who joins the band on the eve of their first major British tour.

● Headon, who previously worked as an office clerk, told the Melody Maker: "I can relate to the Clash on a political level. I've been through the unemployment bit. I've been made to take jobs

that I didn't want at all.

● "Captain Beefheart is my main musical influence. I like all sorts of music, anything with a lot of energy.

● "I knew Mick (Jones, the Clash's guitarist) from about a year and a half ago. For a week I played with his band, the London S.S., when Brian James of the

Damned and Tony James of Generation X were in it too.

● "Then I didn't see him for ages until I bumped into him at the Kinks concert at the Rainbow last month. I'd never seen them play but I was really excited as soon as I did. They are incredible. I really wanted to join. They are by far the best band in the country."

● The Clash's full line-up is now, left to right, Joe Strummer, Headon, Mick Jones and Paul Simonon.

● The band's new single, their follow-up to "White Riot," is "Janie Jones," a track from their debut album. The tour starts at Guildford Civic Hall on Sunday (May 1).