Will the Clash make an impact?

THE STRENGTH of support — or lack of it — for punk rock music in Ulster will be put to the test for the first time this week.

So far no one has been able to say just how firmly established the new wave is in the province.

But they'll get their answers tomorrow night, when the Clash, one of the more controversial leaders of punk, take to the stage of the Ulster Hall.

It'll be the first major glimpse of punk in the city and so far it's far from a sell-out, with tickets available at the door.

Security, we're told, will be tight. For, sadly, trouble isn't exactly an unknown quantity at new wave concerts, though the organisers don't anticipate too many problems in Belfast.

The entertainments committee of the Ulster Polytech are bringing the Clash to the province in one of the opening dates in a large nationwide tour.

They're also bringing over American all-girl group. The Runaways on the following Thursday night.

They'll be supported by Radio Stars while the Clash's support group are the Count Bishops.

Putting in a word



FOLK singer **David McWilliams** found time to do a bit of unpaid promotion work for Ulster recently.

The 30-year-old Ballymena-born recording artist has just completed a hectic three week tour in England.

And between gigs, he did not let the opportunity slip to put in a good word about Ulster with fellow musicians.

"The thing is that when they've been here once," he said, "they'll usually come back.

"The problem is to persuade them to come over and see for themselves.

"I can't mention any names at this stage, but as a result of what I said there are a few people who are now prepared to do gigs here."

All of which we hope will earn David an extra round of applause at his own concert in the Ulster Hall tonight.

His English tour — with 10cc and the Three Degrees — marked David's comeback after a three-year break from the music scene.

Now it's all happening for him with a new album and a tour of Japan coming up in the New Year.

He is looking forward to tonight's gig — his first major concert in Belfast for about four years.

Woman in the picture

ONE OF Ulster's most prominent women artists has an exhibition opening next week.

She is **Mary Ross**, the former president and now honorary secretary of Ulster Women Artists.

A graduate of the Ulster College of Art in 1958, she worked in advertising while continuing to paint in her spare time.

She has travelled widely, and has had work exhibited in London, Edinburgh and Dublin as well as Belfast.

Thirty-three of her paintings in oils and water-colours will go on show in the Grendor Art Gallery, Holywood, next Tuesday.

The exhibition continues until November 5.

Story of Samuel Bill

PORTADOWN woman **Jean Corbett** had a very personal reason for wanting to tell the world the story of **Samuel Bill**, missionary extraordinary.

For as a child she knew the man who set up the still-thriving Qua Iboe Mission in Nigeria, one of the few missionary societies to have its roots and its base still in Ulster.

"He was a personal friend of my parents and I remember being impressed by his quiet unassuming personality," said Miss Corbett.

A couple of years ago Miss Corbett, prayers secretary of the Mission, decided that it was high time Samuel Bill's life was researched.

"I pored over old records, fading diaries and crumbling letters and a fascinating story pieced itself together. It was as much for my own interest that I did the research. The book was something of a bonus."

It was in 1887 that Samuel Bill, a native of Ballymacarrett, set off for Nigeria and spent most of the rest of his life there. He died in 1942.

His society and church on the banks of the Qua Iboe River are still active today, with 30 missionaries — half of them from Ulster — still working in spiritual, educational and medical spheres.

Miss Corbett was able to see the work at first hand a number of years ago. "It was a wonderful experience."

Her book "According to Plan" costs £1 and is published by H. E. Walter Ltd., Worthing, Sussex.

Getting tuned in

BEING in the Ulster Orchestra's "fan club" certainly has its advantages.

Members get ticket concessions, can occasionally attend rehearsals, and receive advance notice about concerts free of charge.

And now there is a further incentive for joining the Ulster Orchestra Association, which was formed six months ago.

The orchestra are to give a series of seven concerts for members and their friends.

The first two will be held in the Harty Room at Queen's University, and the others in the Ulster Museum.

The series begins next Monday (8 pm), and while priority will be given to members, the association will be glad to welcome new members.

Sunday get-together

A COSMOPOLITAN gathering is being held in Belfast this Sunday.

It being United Nations Day, the Belfast branch of the UN Association are marking the occasion with an international reception.

It's on at the Presbyterian Centre, 7 College Park East from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m.

The association have not been able to contact all overseas people who live in Belfast, so members are being asked to bring along any of their foreign friends who may not have received an invitation.

AN ULSTER LOG

● **Compiled by Neil Johnston and Ivan Little**

THIS mini-rugby seems to have a refreshing lack of formality which perhaps the modern adult game could be doing with.

One muddy, breathless five-year-old tot came off the field after a game in Belfast recently and announced proudly that he had scored his first try.

"Very good," they told him. "And what position were you playing?

"Scrum prop," he told them.

Maybe when he puts on a bit of weight he'll become a forward half.