



The Elastic Head Band: From left, Gikas Marks, David Marks, Mac, John Oakley Smith, Leonie Hofmeyr and Mike Dickman.

## Getting out of the vinyl groove

THE Elastic Head Band, according to member Dave Marks, is one of those contemporary music groups now playing "through sheer frustration and necessity" in spite of the dearth of air time accorded their music and the lack of opportunity for public outlet, and in the face of a securely entrenched establishment pop structure.

They are, however, finding an outlet in the complex that has twice before offered them a temporary home — for their Bob Dylan show and for "Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club" — the Market.

They open Upstairs at the Market on January 25, after two previews, with "Roots and Shoots", a show which boasts all original music.

Dave has written, as

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background to the show, what he calls "a brief record of an un-recorded group of people", in which he sketches (in an amazing prose style well known to the Press from his Market Cafe days) the circumstances which gave rise to this group, which was established in 1973 and has had several changes of membership.

He bemoans the state of South Africa's music industry since the rock days and the Sixties folk era which has led to much of the country's creative talent leaving for countries where, they hoped, they would not be expected to carbon-copy

proven commercial success.

Those who held out locally emerged in the past in such phenomena as "The Cocktail Lounge and Bar-room Balladeers...a highly unique bunch of soloists, duos, or at most trios, with the occasional 'bread line' group like Abstract Truth".

The development of the new groups, Dave suggests, may rest on their greater experience (most of the musicians are over 30), their greater realism and lesser idealism in comparison with their Sixties counterparts, and, oddly enough, discos and disco music.

The latter are clearly anathema, but by providing the top ten in the original versions by means of "a good sound system, turntable and one disc jockey" they force musicians to look elsewhere for their material.

"Why employ a group of six to copy what you can get from the vinyl groove? I'm not in favour of discos and the mindless tribal boom-boom that goes with it... but I'm in favour of ANYTHING that'll wake musicians up and force them to lead rather than follow."