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MARCHING' FROM PAGE 19 old hat ... so I think we fit in somewhere between old hat and trendy wankers," Des concludes.

"They'll like us in a couple of years, just like True Love' and Mysterex'," adds John Cooke, uitarist and, with Des an original Marching Girl.

Singer and percussionist Deb Schultze, ex Sydney's Blue Electric and Bryan from the Newz joined

the Marching Girls on the same

day.
"We started working four months ago and we've never looked back," says John. They do three Blue Electric covers as well as some older Marching Girls' songs, 'The Man Who Knew Too Much' and 'Plain Jane'. Five minutes before the interview they'd heard that their four track EP (includes 'Plain Jane') had entered

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the NZ charts at number 42. Their plans include napalming the moon and recording an album, working they've only played five gigs in Melbourne.

"Then we're going overseas. We've got Big Plans," says Deb. "We're going to South America to get our own private army," says

It transpires that, like all great

plans, a UK trip was decided on one night when they were drunk. Exuberance and optimism are keynotes to these personalities. They're all loopy, natural entertainers

where Des and John have lived the last four years.

Des says, "which was a good thing because much better music comes

coming bands are sort of tribal plus lots of bass and drums," Deb says. There's a lot of funk bands, they all read their NMEs, there's

The best Australian bands seem to have New Zealanders involved with them somewhere," Bryan

Des is drumming for the Birthday Party for their remaining live

gigs.
"I've got three days to learn all the songs and then play with them." Gravely:

"It's frightening. I've been scared.

"I just get nervous when we play, I get more and more nervous as we play more and more

instead of the other way around."

Des says they didn't aim at having all Kiwis in the band.

And you're not?

"We're not trendy wankers says Des.

The band is based in Melbourn

"We got stuck in Melbourne, out of Melbourne.

'All the best bands have got New Zealanders in them. Australians have got cloth ears," says John. "There seems to be a trend, the

electronic pop type bands, there's Duran Duran soundalikes.

There's no distinctive New Zealand sound, they say. Then are New Zealanders different from the rest? "Yeah." says Des "We're better, much, much better."

adds

"The Fabulous Marquees, The Dead Can Dance and The Birthday Party, to name but a few," says Des, naming but a few involving

I was worried enough about play-ing over here with us." Why?

"All the Australians I've met who want to be in bands are very flamboyant sort of egotistical people," remarks Deb.

"We're not big, flashy stars ... not yet," says Deb.

either," says Jewel Sanyo

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versity being one of their earliest performances. Now with their debut EP still in the charts after four months, what's the next step?
"Things have been moving at such a speed it's hard to see or even contemplate a new move, says Garry. "That may seem like getting around the question but it really is that way. The album is definitely on for June/July though,

understands keyboards better than us, arrives. The new recruit will replace Andy Drey who's leaving because of financial necessity. "There's no

'BODY' FROM PAGE 8

Body Electric have avoided the

real thing because "drummers take

up too much room on stage and

have a massive consumption of

drugs, women and alcohol which

seems to get everyone else into trouble. With a machine all it

needs is plugging in".

The Body Electric have existed

for only six or seven months, their impressive support for Hunters and Collectors at Victoria Uni-

animosity," Alan says. "Andy's just sick of having nothing."
"Pulsing' has been the key to the band's success. During the Well-ington leg of the Pulsing With Punch tour Garry expressed dismay to one audience that people only know the band for that song. He explains: "We've got a dozen songs, 'Pulsing's' just one facet of our music

"It was one of our first songs. It's really a send-up of ourselves,

says Garry. Lyrically the Body Electric are very international. "It's not intentional," Alan elucidates. "Garry usually doesn't like the original Some nights we'll start on them at six and be there till four in the morning. It's a process of

You have to be critical of your own stuff," says Garry. "You've got to be able to listen to it."

The New Zealand input is still there, Who Takes The Rap' for example. Garry explains

That was the time of the Patea freezing works closure. I thought shit, it's all being closed down because of bureaucracy'. But you can't say exactly what you mean in songs because people tire of

"Like punk," Andy adds. The EP with a richer, fuller production sound than many local releases, was the result of the special attention given to mixing the songs. Bryan Staff's role as coproducer with the band, was to come in and create an atmosphere. But he wasn't a Bryan

Rushent or Martin Staff!" The recent national tour with the Spines helped to pay a few bills and the audience response, particularly at Otago University and in Motueka, was very positive. A further tour is planned to promote the album, but the band aren't aiming to be superstars. As Garry sagely notes:

Country and Western music is the biggest seller in New Zealand, if we went C&W we'd be big sellers!

Last words on the rock'n'roll condition.

"Everyone thinks it's fame and fortune, there's plenty of fame but no fortune," laughs Alan. And Garry says, "The saying goes fame and fortune await you. But it's a hell of a weight. David Taylor

'PUNK' FROM PAGE 8

the punks who get the blame."
The punks are young. They range in age from early teens to early twenties, according to Dwyer. Many are coming in from the suburbs to play in bands, go to gigs — or more likely just hang around Manners Mall. You don't get into pubs with boots or studs or a dodgy haircut, even if you are old enough

"It's really exciting to watch some of these young bands, who are only about 15 or 16, get up on stage and play flat out for 20 minutes. And the next time they was the they having for half an get up they're playing for half an hour and they're a bit tighter. It's

good to watch the progression."
He tips Aftershock as the best of the new young bands: "They're so young they don't realise how

good they are."
Will Void and Dwyer (aka Capital Chaos Promotions) be working towards a regular venue

"I don't think a regular venue works. The whole idea of punk music is spontaneity, something different and not falling into a regular thing. I think one-offs are better, every two or three weeks."

He admits there probably isn't the audience to keep a regular venue in the black, "but there is definitely something happening because we're getting more and more people each time we play".

So what about the possibility of record labels, fanzines? "I'd like to see a fanzine come

out. I'd do something myself but I haven't got the time at the mo-ment, just trying to get gigs organised.

"Jayrem Records have been helpful with us and Unrestful Movements. They're really openminded, so other bands will be able to go along to Jayrem and talk to Jim Moss. The possibility of an independent label is at least a few months away, I think. I want to see what happens over the

He's looking forward to the winter. Things should develop. Bands like Aftershock may be up to touring standard, there will be more records out. Unrestful Movements' second EP is out already, Flesh D-Vice have their first record out soon.

Regardless of subjective evaluations of the music it can't be denied that there is an energy in the capi-tal's punk scene and it's growing. If people like Dwyer and Void can give it cohesiveness it must inevitably produce something that will cross the "punks only" barrier and be accepted as an important part of New Zealand music

But maybe that doesn't really

"Energetic, adrenalin music, that's all we're into. Having a good

I can relate to that. Can't you? Russell Brown

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