SLT 30aug08 x
K D1 C D1 M D1 Y D1

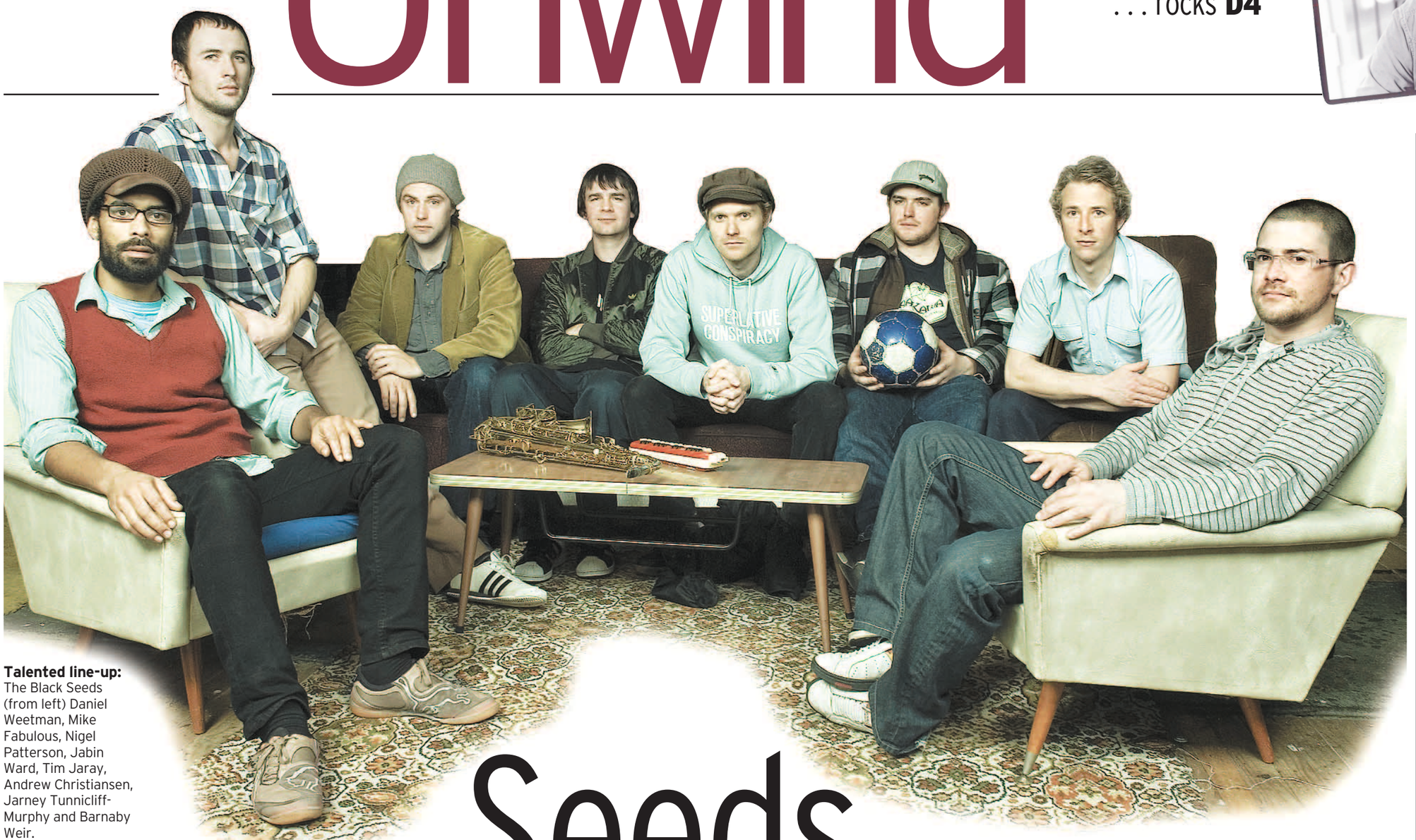
INSIDE

Television programmes.....D2
Movies.....D3
Stars.....D5

The Southland Times
Unwind

RAINN WILSON ... rocks **D4**

D



Talented line-up: The Black Seeds (from left) Daniel Weetman, Mike Fabulous, Nigel Patterson, Jabin Ward, Tim Jaray, Andrew Christiansen, Jarney Tunnicliff-Murphy and Barnaby Weir.
DOMINION POST

Seeds of success

The Black Seeds have recently been road testing their fourth album on European audiences, who are becoming increasingly attracted to the Wellington band's summery feel-good vibe. **Kelly Andrew** talks to guitarist Mike Fabulous.

THE Black Seeds are known for their sun-soaked, summer road trip sound.
But when Mike Fabulous, who plays guitar and percussion in the Wellington reggae dub band, talks to The Dominion Post he's suffering from a cold and a case of the winter blues on a rainy day in Dunedin, where he moved last year.

Today, he admits, he's not living up to his extravagant, fictional surname which started off as a nickname in secondary school.

His real name is Michael August. "You know the Smokefree Rockquest? I had this dream of being the conductor of this kind of industrial orchestra with people playing garbage cans and tin pots, and it was going to be called Mike Fabulous and the Star Factory Orchestra. That never quite happened but for some reason the name stuck."

Fabulous made the decision to stay home with his family including his 3-year-old son while the rest of his band went on a 23-show summer tour through Europe and Britain.

The trip was cut short early in the month by the illness of a family member of one of the band, and the last six shows including a big gig at Edinburgh's Liquid Rooms had to be cancelled.

But Fabulous says the European leg was a success and The Black Seeds are starting to make a name for themselves internationally, as well as being hugely popular at home with a reputation for high energy live shows.

"Europe's been a couple of years behind New Zealand — I guess in terms of levels of popularity but each year it seems to step up another level and I think they've probably cracked it this year.

"They've been getting some big festival gigs that sound like they're really going off."

Continued page D6

Bring back common sense

MATE
MARK WILSON

IF you read the news it would appear that New Zealand has continued to plunge head-first towards a state of politically correct, namby pamby, sensitive new-age cataclysmic disasters.

Can't smack your children, build roads around taniwhas, uproar over police tasers, it's not if you win or lose, it's how you play the game etc — the list is longer than Winton Peters' list of great political survival stories.

The general populace daren't make a choice without consulting the gargantuan edition of today's PC manual on how to live in Aotearoa.

Common sense is now a lost relic, no longer considered appropriate rationale for behaviour when we can just refer to a government brochure on saving, smacking, breast feeding, road safety, pool fencing, or watch the latest in taxpayer-funded educational adverts informing us if we start crumping at school with our children, obesity will be a thing of the past. We have fenced all the hazards, banned anything that an idiot could hurt themselves doing (yet there is no law against being an idiot) and sought wisdom from societies' most gifted, like Sue I-know-how-to-raise-your-children-better-than-you-do Bradford to pave the way for this new urban utopia where there is equal opportunity for all, laws protecting everyone from abuse or exploitation of their human rights including criminals, no violence and no misfortune — all we need now is to get rid of religion and envy and we have a society that both John Lennon and Vladimir Lenin would be proud of. Do these ideological societies have such a great track record? That's how things appear in the headlines, corridors of Parliament and the law books but if you take a deeper look most of New Zealand doesn't agree. Polls show that an overwhelming majority of Kiwis want tougher sentencing of criminals. A Stuff online poll this week also showed that 80 percent of those surveyed think tasers are required by the police. The alternative, practice passive law enforcement?

Maybe form a new division called the Ghandi Riot Squad where you sit with your arms folded reciting feng shui hymns as rioting free Tibet or Brian Tamaki for PM protesters surge towards you.

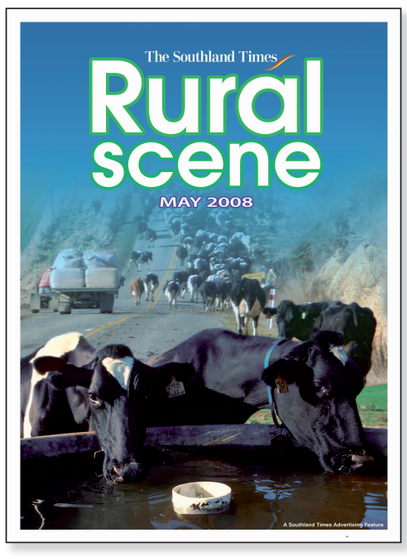
Most were outraged or at the very least a little disturbed when told that a smack was akin to an assault on the civil liberties and human rights of children and not a good-hearted measure of discipline from a caring parent who does not wish for their child to end up tagging bus shelters and dealing P from crack houses. The headlines tell a tale of a country held hostage by a few do-gooders whose polices don't reflect the will of ordinary Kiwis. Most of us want to be able to make common sense decisions on how we live our lives and are happy to be held accountable for our actions and mistakes — we only wish Parliament and the PC movement drank from the same trough.

Brian Lachore summed it up well in a recent column — http://www.stuff.co.nz/4670619a11.html — have a read.

inside **your paper** 2008

MAY

APRIL



MAY

DECEMBER

Coming up...

AUGUST: Eco Impact
Stud Stallion
Earn While You Learn

SEPTEMBER: Blossom Festival
Food & Dining Guide

OCTOBER: Style Times
Salute to Southland

NOVEMBER: Your Place
Rural Scene

DECEMBER: Summer Times

Features are a proven way to hit targeted audiences.
Promote your product or service directly to your audience by reaching *66,000 readers each issue.
For more information on any of these or our many other publications phone or email Anna Bekhuis on 03 211 1175 or anna.bekhuis@stl.co.nz
*Neilson - Media Research 15+ Jan - Dec '07 per issue

The Southland Times
www.southlandtimes.co.nz

C2041916 4dp30Aug 08