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The Southland Times
Unwind!



ROCKING
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 Kiwi beat **D5**



The human cartoons



Mime, sound effects, genius and base stupidity. The Umbilical Brothers bring their structured childishness to Invercargill's Civic Theatre on September 20.



MICHAEL FALLOW

Mime genius: The Umbilical Brothers, David Collins and Shane Dundas, are coming to town.

IT'S a boy thing, this kind of larking around. There's no group called the Umbilical Sisters, which Shane Dundas regards as the world's loss. When he was a boy, Dundas made sound effects with his dinosaurs. They were part of the soundtrack for the stories in his head. "Boys do that," he says. "Not so much girls, which is a shame. In the playgrounds it's the boys making the noises. It's a very simple pleasure — cavemen were probably doing it." Dundas doesn't play with his extensive rubber toy collection so much any more. Far more often, he plays with his rather more malleable fellow Aussie, David Collins. While Dundas looks like Richard O'Brien and sounds like pretty much any inhuman thing you've ever heard, Collins the moptop clown seems to be channelling a combination of Harpo Marx and Buster Keaton.

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Twenty years of memories



MATE
 MARK WILSON

DESPITE a gut-wrenching last-minute loss to Otago, I would have to say that last weekend was one right out of the top drawer. As I have mentioned before, it was the 20th anniversary of the Satanic Verses RFC — formed in 1989 by Glen Perkins (aka The General) and Owen Eastwood — and still going strong in 2008. There has been many an article penned about where the Verses came from and how they survived the test of time. So to avoid retreading a well-worn path, I'll stick to the weekend's affairs. It was kicked off with a meeting of the more seasoned campaigners at the Ale House on Friday night to discuss tactics for Saturday morning's impending clash with the undefeated and significantly younger line up. However, in true Verses style the serious talk was pushed to the side and a well lubricated night of reminiscing over old war stories ensued. Much to the delight of a member from the current team who had infiltrated our ranks, the night carried on into the wee small hours. Old memories of Verses rugby came flooding back as the older lads awoke, throat dry and slightly hazy knowing that they would soon be grabbing mate and going in low again. For some it had been many a year — or 19 years, in The General's case — since they had strapped the boots on. In another Verses tradition, the Dunedin contingent had decked out a van in Stags and Verses regalia and plotted a course to Invercargill. The anniversary game, on the Southland Boys' High School No 1 field, was a rugged affair with the current squad showing superior pace in the backs, thanks to a decade less wear on their knees, running out winners 22-14. Although now shunned by many as unnecessary larrikinism and detrimental to performance, the Verses still believe strongly in a post-match court session and both squads, as well as many supporters, met to celebrate not only the day's game but the past 20 years. Venison poured off the barbecue, jugs of the Tri Star made their way to thirsty mouths and a raucous and memorable affair ensued. The lads, fully attired in maroon, marched single-file to Rugby Park to support our beloved Stags. Following the game, some commiseration drinks, a few arm wrestles and a touch of tasteful nudity at the Northern before the lads ventured off into town for the night and, as they say, what goes on tour stays on tour. I'm sure there will be a few sore heads and aching bodies this week but without that it wouldn't be Verses footy. Looking back, there is a special bond among Verses players and pride in not only wearing the jersey but being part of the family. It is as strong now as ever and remains incorrupted by professionalism, PC politics and the ravages of time. Verses played not for money or success but for a love of the game, a cold one with your mates afterwards and for each other.

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