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Editorial

It looks like it's going to be a particularly exciting America's Cup for us to watch. That is, if you're still interested in it and not too sick of it yet.

Between the protests and 'traitor' name-calling, I caught myself wondering more than once if they were all still there to sail.

From the sound of the cowbells ringing and the red and white waving furiously, Alinghi obviously had a lot of support when it sailed into the viaduct after beating Oracle in the sixth race of the Louis Vuitton Cup final.

All the inter-syndicate squabbling and our own nastiness forgotten for a while to make room for the celebrating and the sport.

Now even if Team New Zealand do not successfully defend the cup, the next best thing (from our point of view anyway) is guaranteed to happen. Could we have asked for a better outcome?

Now we just have to wait until the big event starts on February 15 - weather permitting.

Another big event - well for Taranaki - that has just started is the filming of The Last

Samurai.

Sorry I couldn't resist jumping on the bandwagon too. It's just such a great opportunity for 'Nakiwood' (as one local journalist has named us).

Yes, Tom Cruise is here filming, but bigger than him is the boost to our local economy. All that extra work and money we're getting. Everyone from extras and local technicians through to builders, catering and alike. We can all reap the rewards.

There has also been many a Japanese warrior wandering around, looking slightly scruffy, mirroring Tom Cruises' shaggy hair and blooming beard. Ah, the things done for art.

All of them spending money on their time away from filming.

To top it all off we are having absolutely gorgeous weather. Perfect timing for the filming crew I'd imagine. Long may it last.

Now on a slightly different topic I would just like to say a quick thank you to my sister Anne-Marie Amstalden, who was nice enough

to write the editorial last month. I was busy finishing up my photography course. I think you'd all agree it was a wonderful editorial. To finish, something on the lighter side of life. Here are some headlines that actually appeared in newspapers last year. Hope you find them as amusing as I did.

Include Your Children When Baking Cookies

Something Went Wrong In Jet Crash, Experts Say

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers

Drunks Get Nine Months in Violin Case

Iraqi Head Seeks Arms

Is There a Ring of Debris Around Uranus?

Prostitutes Appeal to Pope

Panda Mating Fails: Veterinarian Takes Over

British Left Waffles on Falkland Islands

Teacher Strikes Idle Kids

Miners Refuse to Work After Death

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant

Stolen Painting Found by Tree

Two Sisters Reunited after 18 Years in Checkout Counter

War Dims Hope for Peace

If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last A While

Couple Slain: Police Suspect Homicide Man Struck by Lightning Faces Battery Charge

New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group

Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Space

Kids Make Nutritious Snacks

Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half

Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead

And people say there's nothing good to read in the paper. I tend to disagree.

Liz

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To All Our Readers

On behalf of the team from the **HELVETIA** magazine for the year 2003!!!

I wish you

12 months of good health!

52 weeks of luck!

365 days without stress!

8760 hours of love!

525,600 minutes of peace and

31,536,000 seconds of

happiness!

Regards, Walter Seifert

In producing the **Helvetia** magazine, we at the Taranaki Swiss Club have found new talent in our president!!! What a poet we have uncovered!!! Walter, on behalf of the committee, we would like to thank you very much for sharing this great talent with us.

Marianne