

INSIDE

Books D3

Quick Flicks D4

Television D5

Diary D6

The Southland Times

Unwind



Hidden treasures

'This (the Toronto International Film Festival) will give the audience a chance to find a hidden gem they may have missed' Cameron Bailey.

Story, D2



Winner: Kathryn Bigelow, director of *The Hurt Locker*, after winning best director during the 82nd Academy Awards in March. *The Hurt Locker* premiered at the Toronto Film Festival. Photos: REUTERS

Laws adds spice to weekend

MATE
MARK WILSON



LAST weekend was a great weekend in the golden triangle. Friday began in Queenstown dark, cold and early as I hit the road.

Despite nursing a Mt Pinatubo-sized hangover and a touch of guilt over the brand new digital camera I had broken while enjoying some slightly inappropriate yet very entertaining antics at the Buffalo Club the night before - in my role of personal trainer to one of my more entertaining clients - I headed south full of energy and excitement at the impending Stags shield defence against Wanganui.

I love teams like Wanganui. They bring a great spirit to shield games. They also bought their mayor, who was busy offending many locals with comments about the Stags being poofs and spending too much time at the hair salon.

Had he not seen Tim Boys? When did he last see a hair salon?

Despite his pretence for offensive comments it was great to see some traditional southern hospitality dished up to Laws by the people of Southland.

Humble in victory, we are. Laws, by all accounts, was sporting far less eyeliner than he is accustomed to.

I can imagine him huddled in the fetal position at the bottom of the shower scrubbing violently with the steel wool until every last molecule of makeup was removed from his delicate face much like Jim Carey in *Ace Ventura Pet Detective* after he found out lieutenant Lois Einhorn, who he'd just been playing tongue hockey with, was in fact Mr Ray Finkle.

Despite the prospect of engaging Laws, one of my favourite politicians, in an eyeliner dispute and haggling over H's, I decided to skip any after-match festivities and concentrate on some sleep for an early start the next day.

Come 7am and I was on the road to a remarkably fine and balmy Dunedin for a cheeky run round for the mighty Satanic Verses RFC.

Cap number 63, and as far as I know that probably, briefly, makes me the most capped player ever for the devil reds.

After the game I was feeling every bit my age as I hobbled off, weary body in tow, straight to a bottle of anti-inflammatory meds.

Its taken 11 years and the sacrifice of a fair few joints, brain and liver cells to get to here. Maybe it's time to retire.

A very painful yet ultimately satisfying experience, which also gave me a good chance to test the legs before the Verses annual Stag Day match up, due to take place between the current team and us somewhat older stalwarts at SBHS number one field 11am sharp, prior to the Stags v Otago shield clash.

There is a whole day of Southland Stags and Satanic Verses related festivities planned so any current or ex Verses players best get in touch via satanicverse-2001@hotmail.com to be part of the action.



Not slumming: *Slumdog Millionaire* director Danny Boyle.



Icon: Actor and director Robert Redford, who is premiering a film at this year's Toronto Film Festival in September.