‘Casino’ crooner Matt Dusk hits the jackpot

Hot Shot

PLUS:
Learning via Video Games
The Accidental Judge
US Border Blues
Glamour days at old Glendon Hall. 
by Benton Woodward

The weakened pulse of Ontario universities. 
by Lorna Marsden

Dreams of a Field...What They’re Reading... Play It Cool...Now You’re Talking...What’s That Smell...Strength from ‘We-ness’ ...Medieval Mystery Tour...An Enlightened Gift...Fit for a King

Coming soon: the Accolade Project, which will create a Fine Arts powerhouse.

They include screen stars, theatre greats, fine musicians and cool artists. 
BY MICHAEL TODD

Crooner and Fine Arts grad Matt Dusk bet on “The Casino” and won. 
BY MICHAEL TODD

War photographer and Fine Arts grad Larry Towell turns his lens on his home. 
BY MICHAEL TODD

Martin Goldfarb brings a lifetime of marketing skill to the Accolade campaign. 
BY CATHY CARLYLE

An early memory for the UN’s William Deng Deng is surviving a massacre. 
BY MARTHA TANCOCK

Ontario Justice Denise Bellamy never imagined she’d even be a lawyer. 
BY MARTHA TANCOCK

Jennifer Jenson believes video games can help kids learn better. 
BY DAVID FULLER

Homeland Security is a challenge to Canada, argues a senior analyst. 
BY DANIEL DRACHE

Fashionisto Mario Velocci...Baseballer Samantha Magalas...Filmmakers Hugh Gibson & Carl Elston

Upgrading York’s fitness centre...The Alumni roadshow...Take your place in history...Class Notes

My night stomping grapes in Portugal. 
BY EDWARD FINSTEIN
Glendon’s Past

Glendon Hall, the stately centerpiece of the Glendon campus, has a distinguished history going back to 1924. That is the year it was completed for Edward Rogers Wood, founder of Dominion Securities. Wood, who died in 1941, had acquired the large, sylvan property to build a suburban estate for himself and his wife, Euphemia. When Euphemia died in 1950, the Glendon estate was bequeathed to the University of Toronto, and recently I discovered an intriguing part of the story.

In our October issue, we presented a photo package showing the superb re-decoration of Glendon Hall carried out by top Toronto designers for the Junior League of Toronto Showhouse project. Then I received a letter from Frances Macnaughton of Toronto. “My mother, then a young widow, was private secretary for Mrs. E. R. Wood for a long time – about 1931 until Mrs. Wood died,” she wrote. “When the Glendon estate was completed in 1924, Mr. and Mrs. Wood moved in from their fine home in Toronto on Queen’s Park Crescent. Later my mother wanted to be sure the Glendon estate was not left to the "wrong" people, and urged Mrs. Wood to bequest it to the University of Toronto, where I was then studying.”

In those pre-war days, Macnaughton told me in an amused tone, the “wrong” people were Roman Catholics; her mother, Marion Perkins Maclean, was of Irish Protestant stock. There is no indication that the Woods, who had a long record of generosity, shared that view. She also recalls “a great garden party, with wonderful food and a huge tent erected in case of rain” as well as “a dance for Mrs. Wood’s granddaughter and friends, to which I was invited.” Macnaughton later took courses at Glendon, which she found a beautiful place for university study, and says: “I am glad to think my mother was in part responsible.”

One other addendum on the Glendon Hall package: in a picture of three York-connected designers, one was misidentified as Janet Williams. The person is in fact Madeleine Burns, who studied fine arts. Our apologies to both.

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Opinions and ideas expressed in the articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the University or its editors. 

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Send letters, submissions, comments and ideas to editor@yorku.ca.

Editor@YORKU

What life was like at the former estate. BY BERTON WOODWARD

The Age to Come

How Ontario can revitalize postsecondary education. BY LORNA MARSDEN

And other spirits there are standing apart
Upon the forehead of the age to come;
And other hearts, And other pulses.

These lines from John Keats, although written in 1817, have a modern resonance at the beginning of a new year in what is still a young millennium. What makes them particularly apt for us at York is the crossroads at which we stand in Ontario. Postsecondary education in this province is not humming. At present we find ourselves at a historic low point in financial support per student and a high point in confusion about the distinction between the roles of universities, colleges and private institutions.

So when the Rae Review panel presents its report and recommendations in February, it will be a significant event. The panel has held round-tables and town hall meetings across the province and met with many experts. At York, we worked with our student governments, faculty, staff, alumni and governors to make our submission to the panel. We focused on three key themes that are interrelated: Teaching and research are inseparable, we said. Students need a much-improved support system to ensure their success. And given the vulnerability of universities, we must fund the priorities that safeguard excellence.

To elaborate, we favour all measures to ensure that faculty and students be supported to complete their education, and that universities have the authority and financial support to compete for top faculty and provide the environment that builds excellence. In short, we trust that our workings will hum again, and that those new hearts and pulses will beat strong in coming decades.

Lorna R. Marsden is York’s president and vice-chancellor.
ver since the October announcement, sports fans across the Greater Toronto Area have been agog – and highly opinionated – about the new stadium at York University. But it’s not just professional sports that will get a huge boost from the $70-million facility, set to become home to the Toronto Argonauts football team and the Canadian Soccer Association’s Toronto franchise. York students like Bart Zemanek (left), quarterback of the York Lions football team, and Ashley DePalma (right), Rookie of the Year in her division with the York Lions women’s soccer team, are also looking forward to a top-class playing field for varsity and community sports.

The 25,000-seat stadium is being funded by an investor group led by the provincial and federal governments, York, and private capital led by entrepreneurs Howard Sokolowski and David Cynamon. Both men, co-owners of the Argonauts, studied at York; Cynamon also played football for York in the 1980s. For the University, which already had long-term plans for a new athletic centre, it’s a win-win. Under terms of the deal, York will own the new facility and share in the revenue, which is projected over time to cover its $15-million outlay; the Argos are responsible for any deficits. Some downtown fans have claimed it’s too far to drive. But if the Argos’ past Grey Cup-winning season is any sign, they are on a highway to success (three of them, in fact) in the centre of the GTA.

Dreams of a Field

The new stadium at York will be a win-win
**George Fallis, professor of economics and social science:**

*Madame Bovary* By Gustave Flaubert

"Oxford World’s Classics"

"I always have four or five books beside my bed—most get read, although some get read by osmosis. Bedtime reading is always for pleasure, never for work. I belong to a men’s book club and right now I’m reading *Madame Bovary*. It’s a bodice-ripper, written in superb style. Each sentence and each paragraph can delight. And of course, there is always a British crime novel ready to start when brain candy is needed."

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**Michael Jenkin, professor of computer science & engineering:**

*Backroom Boys: The Secret Return of the British Boffin* By Francis Spufford

"Faber and Faber"

"This is a collection of six stories of the advancement of technology, told with the scientist/engineer as the hero, rather than from the viewpoint of management or the government minister in charge. The "boffin" here is that unusual hero of "distracted demeanour, ineptitude at human relationships, perceptual surprise at the use that other people put their ideas to" who may be found at the core of many technological advancements."

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**YorkU psychology Professor Ellen Bialystok:**

"If you’re fluent in two languages, it’s like going to the brain gym," says York psychology Professor Ellen Bialystok. She recently discovered that bilingual people consistently outperformed monoglots on a series of cognitive tests. Why?

It seems that if you have two or more languages at the tip of your tongue you’re continually forced to make choices. The brain has to suppress one language in favour of the other and in so doing exercises itself—rather like brain Pilates. Psychologists call this choice mode “executive function” (the ability to prioritize tasks and focus one’s attention).

Executive efficiency declines markedly as we get older. But Bialystok found that in three studies comparing the performance of bilingual vs. monolingual adults, both younger bilingual adults (aged 30 to 59) and older ones (60 to 88) had faster reaction times than comparable monoglots. The studies involved the Simon Task—a computerized test measuring people’s reaction times in correctly choosing from competing on-screen stimuli. Although executive functions slow down after age 60, Bialystok discovered that those who spoke two languages significantly outperformed single language speakers on the Simon Task at age 60 and beyond.

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**Krista Phillips follows her nose and makes a surprising discovery**

If you curl up with a book by Hemingway while savouring the smell of a good Corona, you might remember more about what you read. A recent study by York psychologist Krista Phillips and University of Toronto colleague Gerald Cupchik found test subjects were more likely to remember details of a story if they enjoyed “hedonically congruent” smells while reading it. “I’ve been interested in the sense of smell for a long time,” says Phillips. “I’m curious about how it colours the way we experience the world. Our chemical senses are always on but their effects may be unconscious.”

Phillips and Cupchik asked 24 subjects to read short literary passages by James Joyce and Oscar Wilde. Some students read “positive” passages while others read “gloomy” material. In both cases researchers placed either a pleasant or unpleasant odour in the rooms during reading sessions. Forty-eight hours later, subjects were asked to recall details of story characters and settings (with the same smells present during recall sessions). Phillips found subjects were more likely to recall pleasant details of a story’s characters and settings if they’d been smelling a pleasant odour at the time (hedonically congruent), and more likely to remember unpleasant aspects if they’d been smelling an unpleasant one.

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**David Reid, York clinical psychology professor and couples therapist:**

"If your relationship is on the skids, you might want to try a little “we-ness”. That’s the term coined by Reid during his research on marital dynamics. “We-ness reflects a partner starting to automatically integrate her spouse’s feelings and perspectives into her own sense of self in the relationship,” says Reid. “Every couple’s idea of ‘we’ is unique. Sometimes people think ‘we-ness’ means the extinction of individuality. But it’s just the opposite. A strong ‘we’ rests on an understanding of our own self.”

Could “we-ness” be key to living happily ever after? There are no guarantees, but Reid’s ongoing research seems to support the possibility. In his study, the sense of “we-ness” that couples experienced in therapy predicted those couples’ increased well-being two years later. To put more “we-ness” into your love life, Reid suggests the following: listen to your partner’s meanings, not just the words, fight for the relationship instead of yourself; create a mutually ideal relationship that you both aim for."

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**Malcolm Fallis, Schulich School of Business finance professor:**

*Backroom Boys: The Secret Return of the British Boffin* By Francis Spufford

"This is a collection of six stories of the advancement of technology, told with the scientist/engineer as the hero, rather than from the viewpoint of management or the government minister in charge. The "boffin" here is that unusual hero of "distracted demeanour, ineptitude at human relationships, perceptual surprise at the use that other people put their ideas to" who may be found at the core of many technological advancements."

"If you’re an investor, how you weather the stock market’s ups and downs may depend on Mother Nature herself, says Melanie Cao, Schulich School of Business finance professor. Cao and fellow researcher Jason Wei, a University of Toronto business professor, found evidence that ties market performance to outside temperature. When it’s cold, investors act aggressively. When it’s hot, they act apathetically and the stock market generally performs below average.

“There have been lots of psychological studies showing temperature affects mood," says Cao. "Mood changes lead to behavioural change. For instance, people tend to rate their life satisfactions much higher on sunny days than on cloudy ones. So we were interested to see if there was a link between market behaviour and temperature.”

Cao and Wei tracked returns worldwide in 20 markets (comparing for the same season). They found a statistically significant correlation between temperature and market performance even when controlling for anomalies (the “Monday” effect, local cloud cover, etc.). Returns were better when the weather was cold, and not so hot when the temperatures soared.

What advice might investors take away from her study? Cao says “Buy in the summer and hold until the end of winter. In the long term—say 10 years or more—your chance of getting a good return is very high.”

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Medieval Mystery Tour
Malcolm Thurlby’s scholarship guides West Country tourists

With a title like The Herefordshire School of Romanesque Sculpture, it may be a stretch to call art historian Malcolm Thurlby’s first book a bestseller. But ever since travel writer Christopher Somerville reviewed it last spring in Britain’s The Daily Telegraph, church-hopping tourists to England’s West Country have been scooping it up. With the York professor’s paperback in hand, Somerville told readers, he had found the key to the “riot of carvings” that decorates Kilpeck and dozens of other rural 12th-century churches dotting the Welsh Borders. Now in its fourth printing, Thurlby’s illustrated guide explains the origins of the eccentric and uninhibited mix of Celtic and Christian imagery – bug-eyed dragons, pointy-headed soldiers, grimacing gargoyles and all manner of fish and fowl – parading around the doors and windows of Kilpeck’s tiny stone chapel.

British-born Thurlby, a prolific scholar of medieval ecclesiastical art and architecture, draws upon 40 years of research to detail the sources of inspiration. The masons, hired by Norman rulers of the then disputed borderlands, drew their inspiration from the Bible and The Bestiary, a book of beasts, as well as from their patrons’ descriptions of Romanesque churches seen on pilgrimages to France and Spain. In everyday language, Thurlby traces such influences with the zeal – undiminished since he was a schoolboy – of a detective.

Weren’t your usual method of funding student scholarships, but the idea was divine. What began as a spiritual connection between a Toronto Buddhist temple master, Rev. Chan-Ting, and York’s Faculty of Environmental Studies, flowered into an unusual gift. The Han Shan Shi Buddhist Society donated the North York house that had served as their temple for 15 years. The subsequent house sale by the York University Foundation translated into annual bursaries of about $2,000 each for 15 to 20 environmental studies students. With matching funds from the Ontario Student Opportunities Trust Fund, the society’s gift will actually be worth about $615,000.

Former Environmental Studies dean David Morley met with Chan-Ting last fall. The reverend quickly communicated her feelings of trust and sent out a “spirituality that drew us in”, said Morley. “It was a coming together of people who quickly realized they shared things.” Chan-Ting, who is now living abroad, wanted to give the house – originally donated by one of the temple’s supporters – back to the community in which she had lived. The gift to FES seemed like a “natural” choice. “The study of the environment is very close to Buddhists’ principles and hearts,” said Morley.

An Enlightened Gift
How selling a Buddhist temple helped fund student scholarships

You can find out a lot about a person from his personal library – tastes, interests, obsessions – even if that person lived nearly 500 years ago. That’s what York Distinguished Research Professor James Cailey has done with Henry VIII. Cailey’s new book, The Books of King Henry VIII and his Wives, is published by the British Library and distributed by University of Toronto Press in North America. It contains more than 100...
In coming months, you’ll be hearing lots more about York’s $90-million academic and cultural powerhouse, The Accolade Project. Already, you can Take Your Seat.

RISING NOW ON THE SOUTH SIDE of the Harry W. Arthurs Common are two buildings that will have a major impact on York—and on the cultural life of greater Toronto. The $90-million Accolade Project will encompass state of the art facilities for the Faculty of Fine Arts, as well as much-needed academic space for students from across campus. There will be a 325-seat recital hall, a 325-seat theatre, a 500-seat high-tech cinema and a new home for the Art Gallery of York University, as well as studios, lecture halls, computer labs and classrooms. Performances and showings in these superb new spaces will attract audiences from all over.

For the 35-year-old Faculty of Fine Arts, it will mean the uniting of the tribes. Accolade East and West, opening in fall 2005, will join the Joan & Martin Goldfarb Centre for Fine Arts, Burton Auditorium, Centre for Film & Theatre and the Technology Enhanced Learning Building in a grand complex housing the full variety of talent studying and teaching in Canada’s leading fine arts faculty. Musicians, dancers, actors, painters, designers, filmmakers — creators of all types, all together. The synergy does not stop there: culture and entertainment is one of York’s four research themes, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration among experts from fine arts, computer science, engineering, social sciences and many other areas.

Alumni—and anyone else—can be part of Accolade. Already, donors have committed $2.5 million. This spring, Martin Goldfarb will lead a public campaign aimed at raising millions more. And right now, the York University Foundation is inviting people to “Take Your Seat”: a $500 pledge will let you dedicate a seat in one of the plush new performance halls.

So who are these fine arts people? Read that both ways. In the pages that follow, YorkU highlights some of the many stars among the faculty’s 9,000 alumni, profiles two of them—singer Matt Dusk and photographer Larry Towell—and has a pleasant chat with marketing whiz Goldfarb, whose own life has been something of an art.
ACHIEVERS

22 SHORT ITEMS ABOUT FINE ARTS GRADS

From Toronto to Hollywood, here are some prominent alumni who have earned their BAs and BFAs in the Faculty of Fine Arts. By Michael Todd

- Stafford Arima (BA ‘92)
  - stage director for Ragtime in London’s West End and The Altar Boyz in New York
  - nominated for 2004 Laurence Olivier Award, best director for Ragtime

- Tamara Bernier (BFA ‘91)
  - debuted on Broadway, 2003, as Tanya in Mamma Mia! after doing the role in Toronto
  - does animation voices such as Alicia Silverstone’s mom in TV’s “Braceface”

- Stafford Arima (BA ‘92)
  - stage director for Ragtime in London’s West End and The Altar Boyz in New York
  - nominated for 2004 Laurence Olivier Award, best director for Ragtime

- Todd Eaton (BFA ‘76)
  - FX wizard at Lucasfilm’s Industrial Light and Magic until 2004
  - visual effects editor for The Polar Express, Twister, Men in Black, The Terminator, Back to the Future, Forrest Gump, many more

- Ivan Pecan (BA ‘01)
  - president and CEO of Bell Globemedia (CTV and The Globe and Mail), CEO of CTV Inc.
  - did initial years of his degree in 1970s, completed in 2001

- Denise Fujiwara (BFA ‘79)
  - dancer, choreographer, actor, teacher
  - co-founder and artistic director of CanAsian Dance Festival

- Rachel McAdams (BFA ‘01)
  - leading roles in Hollywood hits Mean Girls and The Notebook
  - stars with Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn in upcoming The Wedding Crashers

- Glenn Morley (BFA ‘75)
  - Gemini Award-winning Toronto-based composer
  - wrote theme for CBC’s “The Nature of Things”, created score for Red Green’s Duct Tape Forever

- Richard Rose (BFA ‘78)
  - artistic director of Tarragon Theatre in Toronto
  - founder in 1978 of Toronto’s Necessary Angel Theatre Company

- John Oswald (BFA ‘77)
  - composer, performer, multidisciplinary artist
  - winner of 2004 Governor General’s Award for Media Arts

- Maurice Dean Wint (BFA ‘87)
  - film and TV actor in Canada and Hollywood
  - appeared in Robocop, Cube, X-Men, Friday the 13th, “Psi Factor”, “Traders”
After betting on TV’s ‘The Casino’, jazz crooner and Fine Arts grad Matt Dusk is hitting the jackpot with his album Two Shots.

BY MICHAEL TODD
PHOTOGRAPHY BY EDWARD GAJDEL

MATT DUSK PUT HIS CARDS DOWN on Sin City to help launch his music career – and won. The jazz crooner and York music grad landed a small but significant part in last summer’s TV reality show “The Casino”, based in Las Vegas. In the show he was both actor and actual house musician, serving up Rat Pack favourites each week while the dice rolled. Dusk (BFA ‘02) was the guy singing the show’s opening theme, Two Shots of Happy, One Shot of Sad. The song is a tribute penned by U2’s Bono and The Edge for Frank Sinatra who, sadly, died before he could record it.

And while the show is over, Dusk’s career as an up-and-coming mellifluous jazz crooner is only dawning. Already his closet has expanded significantly, bank account modestly and – although he

Hot Shot
won’t talk about it too much – his circle of female admirers proportionately. When I first caught up with Dusk at the Senator diner in Toronto late last summer, he’d already been signing autographs in the nearby Eaton Centre where he’d been recognized by several fans. “Yeah, I’m finding that happens a lot now,” he said of his new-found TV fame. “I love it though. I don’t see it as work at all. Just the other week I got free groceries because the person recognized me in the store,” he said with a laugh.

In fact, his rep continues its meteoric rise due in part to last year’s TV exposure. “Being in front of millions of viewers each week has been good for our present tour and the new album,” says the 25-year-old Dusk. Indeed, that album, Two Shots (Decca Universal), has been a solid feature of the Top Twenty on Billboard magazine’s Contemporary Jazz Album Chart since its release in June. Ridding the publicity wave, Dusk and his band began their first ever US tour this fall, starting in New York City. He’s played dates in clubs from Teaneck, New Jersey, to Cleveland, Ohio, along with an impressive 20-night stand at the Las Vegas Hilton. Not one to forget his Canadian roots, he’s also squeezed in gigs in Edmonton, Winnipeg, Hamilton, Guelph and Toronto’s Winter Garden.

“I love it though. Just the other week I got free groceries because the person recognized me in the store.”

It was pure coincidence that Dusk, a long-time lover and performer of jazz songs, happened to be working on Two Shots at the time TV reality show producer Mark Burnett, of “Survivor” and “The Apprentice” fame, was gearing up “The Casino.” “My management team heard about ‘The Casino’ through the grapevine. So it wasn’t a case of ‘Oh, here’s this show and let’s see if we can do an album that ties into it commercially,’” says Dusk.

Two Shots was actually slated for release several months in advance of the first episode of ‘The Casino’ (which aired in mid-June). But when Dusk heard of possibly tying his work into the show he decided to delay it, betting on finding a niche in Vegas. “I love it though. Just the other week I got free groceries because the person recognized me in the store.”

Two Shots was recorded in Toronto, Miami and Abbey Road Studios in London. So it seems appropriate that Dusk did a cover of the Beatles’ Please Please Me, except he does it the way on the album.”

How amazing was it to be recording in the Beatles’ old stomping grounds? “It was awesome,” says Dusk, who had a little help from his friends on the album, including a 42-piece string section from London’s Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. “I’d say Two Shots is one of my favourite tracks because it involves two of my favourite artists – Bono and Sinatra,” says Dusk. Tracks also include a haunting love ballad written by former MuchMusic VJ Erica Ehm.

Dusk’s path to commercial jazz success had its beginnings not in jazz, but at St. Michael’s Choir School in which he sang for 11 years. His repertoire consisted mostly of classical and choral music – songs by Palestrina, and 16th and 17th-century church music. Although it looked like he was destined for a classical music career, Dusk’s parents (his mother is longtime York administrator Cora Dusk) never pushed him in any particular direction. His discovery of jazz was happenstance. When he was 17, a close mate handed him a CD of big band singers. “I listened to that and something clicked,” he says. “It was like, this was the music that I’d been waiting for!” In 1998, he competed in the annual “Rising Star” competition, a prestigious talent contest sponsored by the Canadian National Exhibition (rather like a precursor to “Canadian Idol”, where he would later perform). He beat out 654 other contestants to emerge as Grand Champion. He also recorded four independent CDs. Some of the tracks from those albums became regular fixtures on the Internet charts at MP3.com. “We got to number 4 on the Top 40 chart,” he says. “We also successfully running his own eight-piece band with a four-piece horn section, playing as many as 20 gigs a month around Toronto for audiences that ranged in age from 16 to 60.

When Dusk got to York he realized how much he didn’t know about jazz music. “I mean, man, when I got to university I didn’t even know what the term swing meant! I really have to thank York and professors like Oscar Peterson and John Gittins for turning me into a jazz singer. It wouldn’t have happened without them.” He studied jazz theory with Gittins, jazz vocal with Rob Fentom and attended master classes with Peterson. He did so well that York awarded his preternatural talent by giving him the University’s Oscar Peterson Scholarship.

Is there any music he doesn’t like? “Yeah, I gotta say that although at one time I was a big fan of hip-hop, I really hate the stuff that’s coming out today because of the objectification of women thing. It turns me off.” Music he loves? “All the great jazz artists – Coltrane, Gerry Mulligan, Billie Holiday, Zooey Sims.” And if he wasn’t doing what he’s doing now? “Well,” says Dusk, passing over a forkful of crab cake, “I like to cook. But I suppose I’d be working in the music industry somehow. For me it’s all about the music. That’s the cake. Everything else is just icing.”
THERE’S NOTHING MUCH HAPPENING in Shetland, Ont., a four-hour drive west of Toronto. War-zone photojournalist Larry Towell likes it that way. Towell, whose business card says, simply, “Human Being”, lives a few concessions north of Shetland on a dirt road lined with sugar maples and black locust. It’s a pancake-flat landscape of hay, wheat, corn, soybeans and cattle. His nearest neighbours are two miles away.

For Towell (BFA ‘76), Shetland is a refuge from the pain, horror and suffering he’s photographed over the years for the legendary Magnum agency in such volatile areas as El Salvador, Guatemala, India and the Gaza Strip. It’s also a place where he can play guitar, write, compose songs, enjoy his children, and take walks with the family dog, Banjo.

“I think the farm is definitely a place where Larry can put some distance between himself and the chaos of the situations he photographs,” says Ann, his wife. Ann Towell grew up in Chatham, Ont., Towell had recently graduated from York and was pursuing his calling as a writer and self-confessed “lousy poet” while living for two years on a homemade raft in the middle of the Sydenham River. In 1989, he and Ann bought a ramshackle farmhouse on a 75-acre farm, known locally as “Smith’s Falls” (really just a set of small rapids). A neighbouring farmer sharecrops the land while the Towells have begun the slow process of reforestation, planting more than 10,000 trees during the last few years. The house itself sits on a bend of the Sydenham – an always muddy river in which Towell, who’s 51, enjoyed swimming as a kid and still does today. Life in and around the house and river are the subject of his latest book (upcoming), The World From My Front Porch, which will also include a CD of songs written and sung by Towell.

True to the book’s title, most of the photos were taken within 100 yards of his house. “It makes sense to take pictures of my own family,” writes Towell. “I leave the camera in the kitchen, and occasionally just take it off the fridge to take pictures. The family is a very important force in one’s life. The photojournalist has to learn to negotiate through life. When you have a family it teaches you to do just that, to give and to take of life.”

Sometimes it seems you’re more likely to reach Towell via e-mail in Europe, or at Magnum Photos in New York, than at his 150-year-old farmhouse. The day I tried to make contact he was in Paris discussing the new book with his French publisher. So far Towell is the only Canadian photojournalist who’s belonged to Magnum in its 58-year history. (He became associated in 1988. And you have to be invited.) The highly exclusive Magnum was started in 1947 by, among others, famed photographers Henri Cartier-Bresson and Robert Capa. Those in the know say it’s the most difficult “club” in the world to enter (the rigorous selection process takes four to five years). Members rarely total more than 40. Magnum now has offices in New York, Paris, London and Tokyo, with an archive of more than one million photographs. Its mandate is to record the human condition in all its beauty – or horror – while resisting sensationalism, and its principles remain decidedly non-commercial.

A scan of Towell’s c.v. confirms the scope of his career. His images have appeared in more than 200 magazines, including Rolling Stone, Time, Newsweek, Esquire, Vogue and Life. His many awards include the Henri Cartier-Bresson Award (France) 2003, Roboff Bery Book Award (Canada) 2002, British Design and Art Direction Award – First Prize (London) 2001, and numerous magazine and international press honours. He has eight books to his credit, including examinations of the war in Central America (El Salvador, W.W. Norton, 1997) and the Palestinian intifada (Then, Palestine, Aperture, 1998).

But it was, perhaps, The Mennonites (Phaidon Press, 2000) – a project he worked on for 10 years – that introduced his images to the widest audience. The book documents the migrations in search of work by Mexican Mennonite families who are landless and caught between two worlds and cultures – that of impoverished rural Mexico and the farming communities of southern Ontario.

Story continues on page 25
Pyramid scheme: Towell children (from left, Naomi, Noah and Isaac) play on pyramid of pioneer gravestones (1997)

Come-uppance: Naomi and pet cat play in a hollow black locust (1990)

Nobody home: In one of Towell’s earliest photos as a student, his sisters, Dorothy and Shelley, look out from an abandoned farmhouse (1974)

Flower child: Naomi, Towell’s only daughter, with bouquet of wildflowers on local sideroad (1992)
The ’70s and ’80s were often lean years for Towell, and his four children. His photographic talent was slow to be recognized (in a monetary sense at least) by the outside world, although as far back as 1974 (see photo, page 23) there’s evidence of his characteristic style. Ann Towell recalled how Larry used to fill in the financial gaps by giving guitar lessons at Lambton College in Sarnia, Ont., and teaching folk music in order to make ends meet. “I cleaned houses,” she says. Now the days of financial struggle are mostly behind them, says Ann. They’ve added an addition to the old farmhouse, a guest room, and where formerly Ann would process Towell’s film in the family’s only bathroom, they’ve now installed a proper darkroom and an office.

Lean times were also due in part to Towell’s own reluctance to take on anything but “mini-malist” employment. “I don’t think I ever had a ‘game plan’ for a career. I still don’t,” he says. “Not in any corporate way. I never set out to be a photographer. I studied visual arts at York, not photography. But the great thing about York was it let me explore.”

As Towell notes in the introduction to Porch, his approach to taking pictures was more or less accidental. Photography was one of his visual arts studios, but not a major interest. Lent a camera by York, he took some of his first photos using his sisters. “When I started photography I wanted to go home right away and take photos of the abandoned farmhouses around our area with them. That’s what I did, and that’s where the image [page 23] comes from. It was on one of my first rolls of film.”

Later, involved with church-based human rights groups, he carried his camera with him as he began making trips to conflict zones.

Towell’s entry into Magnum’s ranks was also somewhat accidental. “I’d heard about them, so I sent them a carousel of my slides in 1988 from a couple of trips I’d done both as a human delegate and then as an independent investigator to Nicaragua and then to Guatemala. They called me back saying they liked my stuff. I was invited to become a member. All of a sudden I was an international name.” Towell didn’t become a photo celebrity until 1994, when he won three first prizes in the International World Press Competition, including the prestigious World Press Picture of the Year for a shot of Palestinian children waving toy handguns in the air. It was the first time a photographer had won three simultaneous first places in different categories.

“Suddenly there was pressure to keep up a reputation and move to New York or London,” he says. “But I decided to keep a rural lifestyle. It grounds me. I could live in New York, but I’d be miserable. I feel better coming home and being able to pick apples and cut the grass.”

The decision to publish a book of family photos is not without forethought. Towell’s family is changing. Two of his older children—Naomi and Moses—have left home to carve out lives of their own. (Naomi is a fine arts student at York.) “I think the family project finally matured,” Towell says. “It’s going to be like a personal diary—and maybe my most important book. It never had a deadline, but now it fits with my life because it’s time to reflect.”

Besides, as Towell points out in his book’s introduction, probably the most film exposed in the world’s history has been of a photographer’s spouse and children. In fact, Towell had begun reflecting 13 years ago on the professional photographer’s life, his subject matter and the demands of family vs. avocation. In a 1992 caption, under a photo of his daughter Naomi, he muses: “[S]he has always had a penchant for picking wildflowers. We go for walks all the time. I did not notice until I saw this print that her pants are also flowered. She’s my only daughter, what can I say? I always miss her a great deal when I go away. Sometimes I wonder why I became a photographer when there is so much more at home. Sometimes we photographers miss the boat.”

Or maybe not. As Towell also writes, “Just as there is a genuine need to know one’s roots, so is there to document one’s branches. We are what we photograph.” With Porch, he will have proved his point.
Martin Goldfarb is the kind of person who can do business, talk politics and move in academia with equal ease – or play tennis, chat about the art of bonsai, or discuss art itself. Bestowed with an eclectic range of passions and skills, Goldfarb seems the ideal choice to take charge of the University’s upcoming fundraising campaign for the arts-centred Accolade Project. His finely honed flair for marketing partnered with intellectual insight and a love of the arts make him a great fit for the job.

Business and philanthropy have long gone hand in hand for Goldfarb. The driving force behind The Goldfarb Corporation – he’s the Chair, president and CEO of the business – was a member of the University’s Board of Governors from 1987 to 1999, and is now an honorary board member. He is a widely known benefactor (he and his wife, Joan, made a major gift to York, including 67 art works, for the Joan & Martin Goldfarb Centre for Fine Arts in 2001), and he says he once dreamed of being an academic – indeed, still dreams of it. Instead, with his degree in anthropology and sociology, he decided to turn his people-studying into a business, becoming a highly influential pollster for the Liberal Party of Canada for nearly 20 years.

A tasteful open-area office provides an elegant haven for Goldfarb’s multifaceted activities. A mini showcase for his art, the dove-grey walls are graced by a numbered collection of Canadian paintings and a dazzling mural in oranges, greens, blues and purples, a charming backdrop for the foyer’s Art Deco chairs fashioned of curved and looped maplewood. Offside is a cool, Art Deco anteroom decorated by Joan – who, he proudly says, designed the 25 company offices around the world of his former consulting firm (now sold). It is here that Goldfarb speaks of his abiding interest in anthropology and his aspirations to work in academia. With only a hint of wistfulness, he says he chose a different path when he began his market research firm in 1966.

“I recognized then that we all belong to a culture whose attributes have an enormous impact on our behaviour,” he says. “In marketing, you study crowd behaviour to influence people to buy products. So I used those principles when studying voting behaviour. And I applied them in building my consultancy.”

Working for the Liberals, he recalls producing the first daily poll in any North American election, in the 1974 federal campaign won by Pierre Elliot Trudeau. In those days, well before fax machines, let alone the Web and telephone banks, collating the mass of survey information taken across the country was seen as near impossible. “It was very hard to do in a place like the US because there were too many centres – in Canada you could do it because we could collect the data, put it on a midnight plane from each end of the country, get it here in the morning and have it processed by 10 o’clock. It gave us a huge advantage over the competition.” Needless to say, every major party in both countries soon followed Goldfarb’s lead.

Goldfarb thoroughly enjoyed his time doing political and government work, but was happy enough to move on after 1988. “I’d had enough of government. It’s much easier to work in the private sector. The financial rewards are better, your objectives are clearer and nobody questions whether you’re capable of doing the work – you win on the basis of capability.”

Today, via Goldfarb Intelligence Marketing, he offers his expertise in building brand strategies to such clients as Toyota Europe, Italian State Railways and Scotiabank. The father of five works alongside his daughters Amona Goldfarb (LLB ’89), who is a York University Foundation board member, and Rebecca Goldfarb. At 66, he’s tried retiring: “I did it for three weeks. That was enough.”

He believes deeply in giving back, and has long worked for charities and cultural organizations such as the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, the Canadian Opera Company, the Toronto Symphony and the Shaw Festival. In 1998, he was made a member of the Order of Canada in recognition of his unceasing work in these areas. This spring, he will lead the public campaign for Accolade, the two-building project that will give York 330,000 square feet of superb new performance halls and academic space (see page 13). Part of his role, he says, will be to “go see people, one at a time”, but he stresses that “this is not just a program for wealthy people. We will be raising a lot of money from a lot of small donors.”

Goldfarb is particularly passionate about the Faculty of Fine Arts and the Schulich School of Business. “These signature schools set the University apart from institutions in the rest of Canada. The combination of business and art makes a good marriage,” he says. It’s an intriguing comment, since his marriage to Joan combines the same attributes: a dedication to managing a successful business and appreciating fine art.
William Deng Deng, third son of the second wife of a Dinka of the Panyer clan, was only five when soldiers burst into his boarding-school compound one night and went on a killing spree. First they killed the nuns, then they killed the boys, dormitory by dormitory. When they reached his dorm, he was scared stiff. “I couldn’t run.” Hours later, in the dead of night, he was hustled into a truck and driven into exile and ultimately steel him for the dangerous job of disarming rebel militias in deepest Africa.

The massacre happened in 1967. It was a symptom of a civil war between the Muslim north and Christian south that has festered since Britain granted Sudan independence in 1956. These days, it’s raging in Darfur.

Two years after the massacre, another school attack left Deng Deng again fearing for his life. He joined other frightened Christian boys – aged from only 6 to 15, but all potential rebels in the eyes of their persecutors – and fled to Ethiopia without telling his parents. For days, the boys trekked through dense forest and swamp, surviving on fruit and berries, huddling close at night. “One of us was attacked by a lion and one was eaten by a crocodile,” remembers Deng Deng, now 42 and still reticent to talk about the experience. “It was a long walk.”

He pushed on to Kenya with a couple of friends. There the eight-year-old threw himself into schoolwork, depending on the charity of churches for food, clothing and books. He learned more than the lessons in his textbooks. “Whether you like it or not, you have to grow up. You’re forced to be responsible, you’re forced to think properly before you act. To say you have failed is not an option, because education is the only way to get out.” Over the next 10 years, the child refugee passed primary, secondary-school and advanced-level exams. He never wanted to return home. “For me, the memory of the school massacre was so unbearable, so vivid, I couldn’t go back.”

He did once, against his will. Sudanese secret police kidnapped him in Nairobi, where he had been agitating against the Sudanese government, flew him to Khartoum and jailed him as a political dissident. Three years later he walked free after a coup – and decided to leave Africa.

As soon as he had his immigration papers, he enrolled at York, drawn by its African studies and human geography courses. He was 29. By 36, he had earned an honours BA in political science (95) and a master’s degree in environmental studies (98). He had also forged enduring relationships with his graduate studies adviser, Peter Penz, and his wife. “They’re the only people when I’m far away who will be inquiring about me,” says Deng Deng, now a Canadian.

As a team leader for the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Deng Deng ferrets out and dismantles Rwandan-backed rogue militias, then negotiates their reintegration into society. These are fighters who never went home after a five-year war ended between Congo and Rwanda in 2002, but who continue to loot and terrorize border villages. “It’s always dangerous,” he says.

Just last spring, Deng Deng and his team of 11 UN peacekeepers rushed to a village to disarm a band of willing insurgents. Instead, he was greeted by 125 rebels pointing rocket launchers, machine guns, Kalashnikov rifles and grenades at him. “I did not panic,” says Deng Deng, who speaks softly and towers above most mortals. It took him eight hours to persuade the rebels to release his team, and even then there was an exchange of gunfire. “We were ready to fight our way out. I knew we were outnumbered, but you can’t just let go.”

Deng Deng admits he’s lucky to be alive. But he vows to continue. Back in the troubled heart of the Africa he was so desperate to escape, he is confronting the culture of violence that forced him to flee for his life, never to see his family again. “I’ll continue because of conviction. You have to be convinced that what you’re doing has changed the life of somebody.” It has, judging by villagers’ relief when the rebels relinquish their weapons. “You see the faces of women and children change in front of you. I know exactly how these people feel.”
From the back of the courtroom, it’s hard to see Madam Justice Denise Bellamy, but it’s impossible not to hear her. She’s typing – fast. She’s been typing fast every weekday for more than two years, taking notes as witness after witness has testified at one of Toronto’s biggest and most complex inquiries. Skills she honed as a secretary have come in handy for the judge presiding over twin probes into a computer-leasing contract that cost double the original estimate and, as a sequel, the city’s other external contracts.

Bellamy didn’t plan on being a judge. The daughter of an anglophone diesel mechanic and a francophone homemaker, she grew up in the northern Quebec mining town of Rouyn-Noranda. It was “safe as all get-out,” she says, a place where girls grew up to be teachers, nurses, telephone operators or moms. “I certainly didn’t see myself as a lawyer, let alone a judge. I didn’t even know any lawyers or judges.”

An A student (and a champion bowler) in high school, Bellamy at 16 took a year off after graduation to work at the mine before heading to university. One year turned into three; she loved the money and the independence. From a job in the lab, where she petitioned unsuccessfully for pay equity (an unknown concept at the time), she was promoted to the office and eventually went off to business college. She ended up working for two Liberal MPs in Ottawa at the height of late-1960s Trudeaumania. “I danced with Trudeau, you know. It was so exciting.”

Bellamy began taking night courses in political science at Carleton University, followed a boyfriend to Oxford for a year, returned and resumed full-time studies in earnest. Within two years, she had earned a BA with distinction. “I studied very hard because I thought I wouldn’t make it,” she says. Being “just a secretary” had eroded her confidence. “I thought I wasn’t very smart.”

Degree in hand, Bellamy wondered what to do next. Teaching and nursing held no appeal, but what about law? She’d seen politicians use their legal training to help constituents. She applied to York’s Osgoode Hall Law School. “It’s a progressive law school. The courses are interesting, not just black-letter law courses.” The classmates of future politicians Barbara Hall and John Tory (all three graduated in 1978) found law daunting. “I didn’t even know what litigation was.” In between pinball, varsity squash and touch football games, she buckled down. Female students were in the minority and had to prove themselves. “The advantage was we really stood out. The disadvantage was we really stood out. A number of us didn’t feel we had the luxury to be just mediocre, because we stood out so much.”

In 1980, the Ontario government hired her as a Crown attorney because she could speak French. For four years, she travelled the province prosecuting criminal cases. She discovered new talents: she was a quick study, performing well and had street smarts. “I learned quickly how criminals think!” Her experience made her ideal for a job in the new Ontario Women’s Directorate and for the next few years she helped draft policies on domestic violence, family law, sexual assault and pornography. From there, she became director of legal services for the ministries of Solicitor General and Correctional Services, and Management Board. In 1997, she was appointed an Ontario Superior Court judge. During the past 25 years, Bellamy has also lost her first spouse to cancer, raised five stepchildren (now aged 16 to 35), and taken on some serious volunteer positions, including bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada and president of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada.

These days, the inquiries demand her attention “24-7”, she says. Without a doubt, they are the highlight of her career. “I was honoured to be asked to do a public inquiry. There aren’t that many around.” She’s taken up golf to relieve the stress and escapes to her Bruce County farm on weekends with her husband and two dogs. Otherwise, she settles for bookish diversions. This fall The 9-11 Commission Report shared her bedside table with Eats, Shoots and Leaves, the bestseller about punctuation. She had just finished Stephen King’s On Writing. Bellamy, who must produce a single lengthy report covering both probes, is a fan of plain English: “I want the average person, whoever that is, to read my stuff and understand it.”

At 56, she wears the mantle of judgeship soberly. “It’s an extremely important job in our community,” she says. “It has to do with helping people. People come to court because they can’t agree and want an independent, impartial arbiter.” Judges can’t leave their robes at the office. “First of all, a lot of people know me. I see people in the supermarket who will say, ‘Hi, Your Honour.’ It potentially limits your desire to act silly in public,” she chuckles. “At the same time, I’m happy when people say, ‘Oh, I didn’t know you were a judge.’ It shows them there are lots of different ways to be a judge. If it makes the judiciary more approachable, all the better.”

Denise Bellamy started out as ‘just a secretary’. Now the Osgoode grad is presiding over the complex inquiry into Toronto’s computer-leasing scandal. BY MARTHA TANOCK
Jennifer Jenson loves video games: she talks about them all the time. She plays them and keeps track of the latest titles and shares them with the kids at school. If this sounds a bit odd, you’re right, although not because a thirty-something professor of pedagogy and technology in York’s Faculty of Education might have better things to do with her time. No, it’s because she’s not a boy.

Educators have known for years that girls and women are under-represented in geek demographics. With technical expertise playing such an increasingly critical role in employment, Jenson, a researcher in York’s Institute for Research on Learning Technologies, wanted to know why this was happening and how to correct it. She discovered through her work with colleague Suzanne de Castell of Simon Fraser University that it’s all about the games people play—boy people mostly. With a self-conscious chuckle, she relates how, in field observations of 9- to 13-year-olds, girls were always on the outside when it came to video games. “They played, but not really,” she says. “They wouldn’t talk about it. The boys were always talking about it.” But, she hastens to add, that doesn’t mean boys are inherently more skilled at the games than girls—they just think they are. And that, she says, gives them an advantage in a world where technology rules.

Jenson’s starting point was the powerful hold games have on students, and how it could be turned to improving the learning environment for both sexes. “Students’ attention in school has always been a problem,” says Jenson, “but it was never the kind of problem that it is now, because students understand, like never before, that their attention to something has real economic value.” Using video games as teaching tools held the double promise of helping girls stay on the technological wave and making the classroom more appealing to boys. “Boys have a whole other kind of support networking culture and a kind of learning style that’s so far outside of what we’re giving them in terms of classroom experience that they quite rightly say ‘no thank you,’” she says. Jenson and others argue that technology is part of student culture, and that integrating it into the classroom makes sense. In one recent project where students compared books and video games as narrative, both sexes showed improvement in interest level and work output.

Turning the games’ appeal to educational uses, however, presents a challenge on many fronts, not least of which is adult concern about gaming as an appropriate learning activity. Jenson counters by pointing to what she calls the “old-new” idea that people learn while they play. “Most learning occurs outside of school, and pop culture is educating our kids whether we like it or not,” she says. To prove the point, Jenson and de Castell are designing Contagion, a Web-based game with a health theme in which pre-teens learn about the transmission and prevention of diseases such as AIDS, SARS and West Nile virus while doing battle with agents of the sinister Pyramidea Innoculata Agency. The prototype will be available for classroom trials in April.

The power of video games to capture and hold students’ attention is backed by figures that show games and their hardware now outsell Hollywood movies. And although mature-rated games, such as the latest version of the notorious Grand Theft Auto series, help fuel parent teacher concern about gaming in the classroom, they account for a small fraction of total sales. Games rated ‘E’ for everyone, such as Pokémon and Super Mario, still dominate the market, according to the Entertainment Software Association.

So what is it that students like about games, that makes them want to learn? Jenson says girls respond particularly well when they can customize the characters, a feature boys also enjoy. More important, pedagogically, is that children persevere with games that “scaffold success”, an element common to most popular titles, where players happily fail many times as they build the skill level needed to beat the game.

The final challenge, says Jenson, will be to get more and better-designed games into classrooms, many of which still offer “edutainment” artifacts designed in the 1980s that she describes as “boring entertainment or educative.” Convincing teachers to embrace technology as central to the learning experience has never been easy, says Jenson, but it’s getting there with the advent of more user-friendly software. “I think that’s where the shift is now really coming. You can feel like you’re integrating technology without having to be an expert and that’s always the tension between integration and implementation.”

Although Jenson spends a good deal of her time thinking about games, it’s not child’s play: she sees high stakes. “If we don’t take this seriously,” she says, “we’re actually going to alienate this generation of students much more than they’ve ever been alienated before.”
elites, on the other hand, think of it as a necessary inconvenience, which they would like to dismantle. How misinformed.

Canadians haven’t come to terms with the Bush revolution in foreign policy. We haven’t absorbed its impact, at the border or inside it, on Canadian sovereignty and public policy. We haven’t thought long and hard about whether we need a Canadian revolution in foreign policy and border policies post-9/11. This is a profound mistake.

In an era of globalization, national borders are not easily dismantled, despite the fact that ideas go across them and money pours over them. Our border, like any border, is fixed by law and geography, and changed by circumstance, need and mentality. For day trips and cross-border shopping, it doesn’t seem to matter very much. For everything else, it does matter—greatly.

Every border has four aspects: it is a security moat, a regulatory wall, a commercial gate and a citizenship checkpoint. In an age of interdependency, concerns over the movement of people and products across the globe have made borders more important, not less. For example, mad cow disease closed the Canada US border for beef exports, and US authorities do not allow state authorities to import cheaper Canadian drugs into their country without approval. For transportation, public health and public safety, the regulatory impact of the border is large and significant.

The first truth is that a border is never solely about commerce; it is a complex institution maintained by the state for domestic and foreign policy goals. We are wrong to believe that NAFTA created a seamless and porous frontier. Every ship, every truck, every flight, every passenger vehicle and every mail parcel must be recorded, controlled, possibly inspected and x-rayed. The second key fact is that the US Homeland Security Act has not rendered the border unimportant. Rather, Canadians and Americans have very different ideas of how the border protects each society.

The Homeland Security Act has redefined the US border to include everything and to be everywhere. Many Canadians do not understand the extent to which US law and institutional arrangements have changed post 9/11. Nor are Canadians particularly gifted readers of US presidential intent and the multi-centred, diffuse nature of US politics. We are still operating on old assumptions and a belief in the power of good neighbourliness.

The orbit of the new security act seems to be limitless. Statements such as “for the good of our wider security” put the global community on notice that the power and interests of the US extend everywhere. It is the cornerstone legislation of George W. Bush’s presidency. It gives the Executive extraordinary power to take pre-emptive action abroad, and at home it removes the democratic restraints on the Justice Department that prevented it from conducting surveillance without probable cause or court sanction. The role of the police and intelligence agencies has been transformed into a seamless organization for national security, operating in a global, continental, regional or local environment. Homeland security has put the US government at odds with its principal allies and with many Americans.

We haven’t thought long and hard about whether we need a revolution in foreign policy post-9/11. This is a profound mistake.

Blinded by its own strength, Washington not only wants to look after its own side of the border but ours as well.

Yet Canadians are more sharply critical of US policies today than at any time in the last 15 years. Canadian public opinion does not support US unilateralism globally or continentally. A poll taken in March 2004, a year after the US invasion of Iraq, found that 66 per cent of Canadians opposed the US model of regime change. Later in the year, only 14 per cent, with very little regional variation, indicated they would vote for Bush if they could. Other recent surveys reveal that security now ranks only eighth place, far down the list after health, education and employment as the principal concerns of Canadians. For Americans, security is the number one concern.

Canadians are not indifferent to terrorism nor to the importance of addressing Canada’s and North America’s security needs. The Chrétien and Martin governments have been super active on security issues that affect the border, passing a torrent of domestic legislation and making new agreements with the US. The Smart Border Accord facilitates the flow of trucks and people across the border while also subjecting Canadian truckers to US homeland security checks and screening. Ottawa can hold immigrants on a security certificate. The detainees have no right to counsel, no right to habeas corpus and no Charter protection. They could be deported to a country that would use torture. Procedures around immigration, passport issuance, intelligence gathering, public health and emergency preparedness have all been beefed up, modernized, overhauled.

By the government’s own estimate, it has spent a whopping $9 billion on Canada’s contribution to the North American security perimeter, a massive sum in only three years.

Despite these initiatives, there is a marked anti-Canadian sentiment in the Bush administration and in Congress. It is a

Daniel Drache, senior research fellow and associate director of the Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies, has been a professor of political science at York since 1971. In this essay, he elaborates on themes he set out in his 2004 book Borders Matter: Homeland Security and the Search for North America (Fernwood Publishing).
baseless charge that Canada is a safe haven for terrorists, yet the rumour still makes the rounds in Washington. Even though Canada has stepped up to the plate, Canada-US relations remain tense and unclear. Bush is pressuring Ottawa to renew NORAD and to sign on to the highly controversial Pentagon plan for a missile defence system. Post-homeland security, Canada is struggling to adjust to its new status as a decidedly junior partner.

What, then, are our best options? One is to passively endorse the Bush revolution in foreign policy – by stealth, incrementalism, ad hoc-ery or default. Another is to junk ourselves and the Bush revolution. The third option is to strike a balance between homeland security and human security.

Today there is no single template for North American security in the way NAFTA was for commerce. Canadians remain adamant that our authorities must define our security interests as we understand them. Security policies have to conform to Canadian laws, and support and enhance Canadian sovereignty. They have to be consistent with Canadian values of social diver-sity, multiculturalism, full accountability and the protection of civil and social rights. The great danger is that governments will go too far in fighting terrorism and ignore the rule of law and human rights.

Canadians support complementary policies, not common ones. In this security-obsessed age, Canada does not need a common visa, common identity card, common refugee policy and common interception policy with the US. A security regime is not an exercise in supranationality. We will take divergent approaches reflecting our own cultures, values and priorities.

As a society, Canada is not particularly well informed about the impact of US homeland security on our institutions and strategic interests. So far there has been no public accounting of its spreading effects at the border and inside it. This is a grave oversight that needs addressing. We badly require a fine-grained audit like the one Roy Romanow conducted for Canada’s health care system. We also need a full-scale debate on the political, legal and strategic impact of the US policies.

Thoreau once wrote that “friends at a distance” make for the “loneliness of life”. We ought to take his insight to heart. Friends at a distance is a good starting place to rethink the great border, security and Canada-US relations. Disengagement, scepticism, prudential self-interest and support for international law and the UN offer a constructive alternative in uncertain times.

Sometimes it seems as if Mario Velocci (BA ’95) was destined for the fashionable life. As early as high school he’d discovered that the fashion industry suited his creative gifts. By age 16, he had begun modelling at Sutherland Models, and he started his own business – Velocci Fashion Productions – while still a York student.

When he wasn’t modelling or assisting designers like Franco Mirabelli, Velocci was busy getting his BA in sociology, and minoring in French and Italian. While at York he even created a benevolent organization called the York University Students for Charity. As president of YUSC he promoted student awareness of giving, and held a fundraising fashion show at the end of each year. All show proceeds went to Toronto area charities.

Velocci now spends his days managing not one, but three companies, in particular Velocci Model and Talent Management, which is known industry-wide for its ethnic diversity. Says Velocci: “I always felt that women of ethnic back-ground needed more of a runway presence. That’s why I decided to make a special effort to represent them.”
Samantha Magalas made headlines this fall when she made the cut to play baseball with the York Lions men’s team. The fourth-year psychology student in the Faculty of Arts was the only woman among a group of 50 trying out for the squad (there is no women’s team). Although she arrived with a mint-full of qualifications – she won a bronze medal with Canada’s national team at the first-ever World Cup of Women’s Baseball and played three seasons for the Lions women’s hockey team – reporters all wanted to ask her about playing on a men’s team.

Magalas started some games at first base early in the season and says her teammates and opponents all took it in stride: “The first batter to reach base told me to tell him if anyone gave me any trouble,” She, however, put pressure on herself to do well and struggled at the plate. “There was one 6-foot-7 pitcher,” said Magalas, who is 5-foot-9. “That was the first time I’ve ever felt overwhelmed.” At graduation, Magalas plans to study sports psychology. “I was always interested in the mental part of the game,” she says.
York's fitness centre upgrades just in time for New Year waistlines

With the holidays just past, York has a great way to help you make good on your New Year’s resolutions. As of January 2005, York alumni can take advantage of the new and expanded Tait McKenzie Fitness Centre.

Recently-completed renovations have doubled the size of Tait McKenzie’s fitness space from 5,000 to 11,000 square feet, but York alumni still get the same great rate on memberships: 30 per cent off the public price for a full-year, Gold standard membership. With its gleaming new equipment, Tait McKenzie’s fitness space is four times larger, and the updated air-conditioning system should keep the cavernous space cool—even in the heat of summer.

The expansion means there’s plenty of room for additional equipment. The Fitness Centre is offering top-of-the-line, new Hammer Strength machines, sestosized Life Fitness weight machines, Wood-way treadmills, Stairmasters, and elliptical cardio equipment. The facility includes a new room for fitness testing and assessments. Locker rooms have been refurbished and renovated. The women’s locker room has been expanded to include over 1,000 lockers, which means that men and women will now have equal changing space in the reconfigured building. The renovations have also increased the space available for the Sport Injury Clinic, Varsity conditioning, and administrative offices. And it’s not over yet. Work is currently underway to convert a number of older spaces in the basement into new studios for specialty classes—which means more room for yoga, pilates, dance classes and more.

During the renovations, part of the facility has been converted into new studios for specialty classes—including more room for yoga, pilates, dance classes and more. The new Tait McKenzie is a fitness centre that offers York alumni a modern, state-of-the-art facility at an excellent price. Hours of operation are from 6am to 10pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday.

Remembered Alumni Contest

W ith York’s 50th anniversary fast approaching in 2009, Michiel Horn has been appointed University Historian by President and Vice Chancellor Lorna R. Marsden. And he wants to hear from you.

Horn, a professor in the Department of History at Glendon College, is currently working on a book about the first 50 years of York University. Tentatively titled “The Way Must be Tried: York University Remembered”, the book will focus not just on York as an institution but on the people who helped make it what it is today. And so Horn is seeking out memorable stories, anecdotes and photographs from York alumni of all ages to help him tell York’s story.

The Alumni Office is taking an active part in this project and so is sponsoring a contest to encourage York alumni to participate. All alumni who submit materials for Horn’s project will be entered into a draw for a grand prize of their choice of either a digital camera or four Platinum seats at the finals of the 2005 Rogers Cup international women’s tennis championships on Aug. 21, 2005 at the Rexall Centre at York University (food and beverages not included).

You can submit your stories online at www.yorkhistorycontest.com or you can send stories, photographs or other material by surface mail. Simply fill out the entry card below. So take a moment and think back on the people, places and events that made your time at York special, whether it was last year or 40 years ago. Then send in your stories and take your place in York history.
Kearl, Timothy (BA Glendon) is a public administrator for Canada Revenue Agency, Toronto.

Vidov, Lawrence (BSc McLaughlin) graduated from medical school in 1970 at the University of Padua, Italy, and currently lives in Baltimore, Maryland, with a position in educational practice specializing in internal medicine.

Fenn, Michael (BA ’70 Glendon, BA Hons. Atkinson) is deputy minister for community safety at the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety & Corrections in Toronto.

Freeman, Shelley (BA Vanier) has a solo exhibition of her paintings, Into the Empty: explorations in matter, at Wilkie & Danks Gallery in Markham, July ’03. She is also a social worker in Ontario.

Still, Malcolm (MBA) retired from Environment Canada in ’97, where he began as an engineer and moved into project management of technical aspects of environmental monitoring. Since 2001 he has been the volunteer president of the Ontario Tennis Tournaments Association and has been involved with the recently converted tennis centre at York. He will, however, step down from this position in March of this year.

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Christopher Wee

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My night crushing grapes the old way. BY EDWARD FINSTEIN

Stomping Grounds

I had to step over the three-foot-high lip of the lagare to enter. As my feet sank into the must, a chill ran up the length of my body. It was ice cold, lumpy and squishy.

To Stomp or Not to Stomp? That is the question! Whether ‘tis nobler in the mind to simply utilize modern technology and sit back, or to indulge in an age-old tradition and get very wet and gacky.

Ay, there’s the rub. My apologies to Bill Shakespeare but if you’ve never crushed grapes with your feet, you know not from whence I speak.

The Douro Valley is probably the last bastion on earth where grapes for wine are still crushed by human feet. Shrewd devil, I thought. Had to get me stuffed and half way in the bag before springing it on me! Before I could protest, he ushered me off to my room to change.

As my feet sank into the plastered across the front I watched a smile flit across his face. Then it dawned on me. He was going to have me foot-tread grapes.

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The next thing I knew we had stepped through a doorway down at the winery. Immediately inside, I was accosted by the sight of 20 men and women, in shorts, barefoot, dancing to the music. I immediately fired a glare at David. He responded by ordering me to wash my feet, get in, and get busy.

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