



Top Stories

U.S. military tribunal law faces first court challenge

Former federal judges told a U.S. court that Guantanamo detainees may be detained indefinitely based on evidence obtained by torture, as detainees' lawyers filed briefs challenging "jurisdiction stripping" provisions of the newly enacted law.

Israeli attacks in Gaza kill 17

Three Hamas fighters died in Gaza as Israeli assaults in the area continued. 14 others, including two women and a four-year-old child were among the civilians killed in the attacks.

Featured story

Reactor at Three Mile Island nuclear power plant shuts down

A reading taken from a "faulty" instrument panel on the Unit 1 reactor at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant located near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania has caused the reactor to shut down, but officials say that there is no threat to the public.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Ted Haggard resigns after the New Life Church's investigative board finds him guilty of "sexually immoral conduct".
- Tomihiko Taniguchi, Deputy Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, announces that Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Saudi Arabia,

Wikipedia Current Events

and possibly Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates, will launch nuclear programs for desalination. Taniguchi says he believes the real reason behind the programs is for a "security hedge."

- The North Korean Foreign Ministry releases a statement calling for Japan to leave the six-party talks regarding DPRK's nuclear program because the Japanese officials involved in the talks are "imbeciles" and Japan is a state of the U.S. The Foreign Ministry accuses the United States of "warmongering."
- Operation Autumn Clouds: Israeli forces have mounted a series of air strikes as part of an on-going Gaza offensive, killing at least eight.
- Two women have been killed as Israeli troops opened fire on a crowd of women gathered to help besieged gunmen flee a mosque in Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza.
- Former Prime Minister of Israel Ariel Sharon is admitted to the intensive care unit of the Sheba Medical Center near Tel Aviv with a chest infection.
- Hu Jintao, the President of China, promises to double foreign aid to Africa at a conference attended by many of the top African leaders.
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees says that the humanitarian crisis in Iraq is greater than at the

Wikipedia Current Events

beginning of the war on Iraq with 1.6 million Iraqis displaced internally and 1.8 million in overseas countries.

- Fijian Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase drops amnesty provisions for the leaders of the 2000 coup after threats from the military to remove him from office.

Israeli attacks in Gaza kill 17

Three Hamas fighters, including Luayeh al-Burnu, a local official in the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, were among over 17 dead as a result of Israeli assaults in Gaza. Two women were gunned down by Israeli soldiers who opened fire on a crowd that had formed in front of a mosque in which the Hamas men had taken refuge. Hamas leader Ismail Haniya praised the women, but the Israelis said they had served as "human shields" for the resistance militia. Palestinian officials have termed the Israeli attacks "massacres".

The incident occurred when the local womenfolk were asked, on radio, to intervene in the tense standoff between the Israeli troops and about 15 Hamas fighters in the mosque. One lady, Nahed Abou Harbiya, told the BBC Arabic Service that the men were given womens' clothes so that they could escape.

"All the women headed to the mosque to get the Palestinian resistance men... But the Israeli occupation forces were firing heavily at us with their machine

guns and also threw stun grenades at us. "We entered the mosque and indeed we got all the resistance men out and put female attire on them so that the Israeli occupation forces wouldn't arrest them," she said.

The firing began as the women approached the Israeli gunmen, injuring 10 people, including one Palestinian cameraman. Hamas radio reported that all 15 men had escaped safely.

Palestinian doctors confirmed that seven people died as a result of Israeli air raids in Beit Hanoun. A spokesman for Israel's military stated that five towns-Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahiya, Jabaliya and Rafah had been targeted. An Israeli official claimed that the attacks were aimed at "suspected Palestinian militants who were planting explosives or who had carried out rocket attacks."

A Hamas official said that the "militants had been involved in manufacturing rockets that were to be fired at Israel." About 30 people, including some gunmen and a four-year-old child have been killed by Israeli attacks in Beit Hanoun. Israeli human rights group B'Tselem says over 300 Palestinians have been killed by attacks carried out by Israel following the capture of Corporal Gilad Shalit on 25 June this year.

Subtropical storm strikes Washington

An unnamed subtropical storm only known as "Storm 91C" packing winds of up to 40 mph struck Washington yesterday. Though damage was minimal, the storm was a very rare occurrence.

It formed from an extratropical storm around October 30 in the Central Pacific and became

subtropical on November 1, and was recognized as "Storm 91C" by the U.S. Navy. The storm was out of the National Hurricane Center (NHC) and the Central Pacific Hurricane Center's (CPHC) areas of responsibility, and therefore didn't receive a name. In addition, the CPHC doesn't issue advisories on subtropical storms.

The cyclone moved into the East Pacific and organized to a hurricane-like system with winds up to 60 mph.

The storm began to lose convection and weaken, but managed to make it to Washington and British Columbia as a 40 mph storm with gusts up to 60 mph.

A high wind warning was issued by the National Weather Service for the southern Washington coast to Tillamook.

Heavy rain and high winds were brought along the northern Pacific coast of the United States.

Green opportunism pays off

Prime Minister Blair has pointed to the great opportunities afforded by tackling climate change. One company in London has cornered 80% of the carbon trading market, part of the green goldrush created by the Kyoto Climate Change Treaty. This company, Climate Exchange plc, now dominates the carbon exchange markets increasing its turnover from 95 million tonnes of carbon last year to 257 million in the first eight months of this year. Climate Exchange plc is now valued at more than £160 million

Climate Exchange plc was founded by James Cameron, previously a negotiator of the Kyoto Treaty. Mr Cameron is quoted as saying about

the development of this new market, "It's what we hoped for. Investment power is power, and you need power to make a change. There is huge vested interest in the status quo, and to shift that you need power". In Europe the market is expected to more than double from €9.4 billion (£6.3 billion) last year to €22 billion (£15.4 billion) this year, according to the analysts Point Carbon.

At present USA is not participating in the carbon trading scheme, but individual states may decide to join in. It has been estimated that if ever carbon becomes a world commodity, the value of permits could reach €1000 billion (£700 billion).

It is claimed by advocates of the scheme that, by putting a price on carbon emissions, pollution can be costed into business decisions. This enables market forces to drive the reduction in emissions, making government regulation unnecessary. Carbon trading is not without detractors who see this free market as an intrusion into public space and point to corruption and failures in accounting and the application of science.

Sean Park, of Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein, gave an example: a wind farm developer could receive tradable carbon credits because the technology had zero carbon emissions. These credits could then be used to raise the capital needed to build the wind farm. In this way, carbon trading promoted the development of low carbon technologies.

Following publication of the Stern Review, which he had commissioned, UK Chancellor Gordon Brown urged member states of the European Union

Emissions Trading Scheme to aim for new carbon emission targets. He said that they should reduce emissions by 30% below 1990 levels by 2020 and by at least 60% by 2050.

Canada's Toronto—Danforth (Ward 30) city council candidates speak

On November 13, Toronto residents will be heading to the polls to vote for their ward's councillor and for mayor. Among Toronto's ridings is Toronto Centre (Ward 28). One candidate responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include Edward Chin, Paula Fletcher (incumbent), Patrick Kraemer, Suzanne McCormick, Daniel Nicastro, and Michael Zubiak.

For more information on the election, read Toronto municipal election, 2006.

Patrick Kraemer
41-year-old Patrick Kraemer is a lawyer.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.
A: Energy, Crime and Poverty are the main planks of my platform and the most serious issues facing Ward 30.

The province is moving ahead with a new gas fired electricity generating plant in the Portlands adjacent to the beaches of Lake Ontario. The provincial Liberals were elected on promises of moving away from our highly polluting coal plants to renewable energies. The Portlands Energy Centre is another broken promise of this provincial government. And the City could be doing so much more on this front. As Councilor I will fight for a comprehensive and aggressive energy conservation program.

Energy conservation will achieve these goals much quicker than the construction of new facilities.

Further, I will push for the construction of renewable energy sources such as windmills to fill the energy demands of the City. These proposals will create a competitive and sustainable economy for the City, will reduce pollution and our contribution to green house gases and will prevent the need to create more energy polluting sources such as the provincial plan of the Portlands Energy Centre.

Crime is another important issue for the City of Toronto and of concern for the residents of Ward 30. Many people are concerned about the incidents of guns, violent crimes and physical assaults. We have one of the safest cities in North America yet people still feel vulnerable when these things happen in our own community.

We don't need more police officers, we need to work together to make our communities safe and to feel safe in our communities. I will push to have more police officers out of their cars and to have them walking and biking on the streets in our neighbourhoods. Police also need to be involved in community and business associations, our schools and at neighbourhood functions and facilities. We also need to invest in technology and training to combat the organization and incidents of crime. Finally, we need to create opportunities for citizens to participate more fully in community awareness programs, to become educated about crime in the community and create avenues to report crime and criminal behaviour. We need to take ownership of our neighbourhoods and make them safe.

Poverty – its sources and

consequences, is a serious issue for Toronto. There are hundreds of thousands of Torontonians that are currently unemployed. Not only is this a loss of much productive power in our city, it has devastating impacts on individuals and families and pushes many people into poverty, homelessness and subject to numerous social stressors. Homelessness is also a product of low welfare payments, lack of affordable housing and inadequate medical and psychiatric services. These are just a few of the issues related to poverty and as City Councilor I will advocate unequivocally for the cause of eradicating poverty and the effects of poverty.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

Energy and conservation. Not only does the Portlands Energy project in Ward 30 need to be halted, the City has the opportunity to become a leader in addressing energy usage and emissions of green house gases. I am a proponent of achieving our energy goals through an aggressive energy conservation program using incentives, tax policy and other tools to achieve it. Ward 30 could be the leader in this area rather than being the Ward that could become the highest new green house gas emitter in 2007.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: I believe I have the experience, education and desire to provide the leadership needed in the role of Councilor. I have always had a keen interest in politics and have taken many opportunities to be involved in various groups/boards/initiatives to help make a positive difference in our society. Toronto City Council is in need of leadership and I pledge to

serve in this capacity to push forward a progressive agenda of change.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: This is where I live and where my wife and I are raising our family. We have a self interest in making this a better place. I want to help make our community better for the many friends, businesses, cultural activities, recreational facilities and neighbourhoods that are a part of this vibrant and energetic Ward.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: I am actively involved with Pro Bono Law Ontario having offered free legal advice to such groups as Somali Canadian Association and Television for the Environment. I am a member of Legal Aid of Ontario offering legal services to people who would otherwise not be able to afford it. I have been involved in several community gardens. I have been a member of the Toronto Choral Society, am a regular aphaeresis donor with Canadian Blood Services and have helped raise money for numerous charities including Toronto's Daily Bread Food Bank.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: The cancellation of a fixed link to the Toronto Island Airport was a positive step toward preventing a more active airport and a major air and noise polluter on the waterfront and in the downtown. Ward 30 and all residents of Toronto will benefit from not having this airport.

The most detestable decision since the 2003 election was the bylaw passed at the insistence of Mayor

Miller to prohibit homeless from sleeping or congregating in Nathan Phillips Square. Poverty and homelessness will not be eradicated by making them invisible to the law makers at City Hall.

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councillor, what would you bring to the table beyond the incumbent?

A: I am a resident of Ward 30 and have an intimate knowledge and self-interest in making it a better place.

I am not affiliated with any political party, and this would provide me the ability to stand up for my ward each time there is a vote on any given issue. Many councilors are aligned with a political party, and will vote to support motions that their party supports, even when it is not in the best interest of the ward they represent.

I bring a unique set of skills and experience to this role. I am enthusiastic, committed and have a strong desire to make our City a better place.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto is diverse, vibrant and full of energy. It represents hope, opportunity and excellence. It has the potential to be even greater, to be a leader in Canada and the world. There are so many challenges that need to be addressed that we must take the opportunity to do something about it. We have the knowledge, technology and resources to achieve so much. I believe in Toronto and believe we can play an even stronger leadership role.

Daniel Nicastro

62-year-old Daniel Nicastro is a restoration architect, writer, artist, and translator.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.
A:

- 1) Revitalising Commerce on the Danforth Jones going East ; Inventory of housing stock for state of maintenance, for illegal buildings and use, for rentals, for absent landlords, for compliance to density per bedroom, for historically significant properties and/or districts, identifying and developing areas that can generate local employment
- 2) Having the grassroots participate in the governance of the city through a system of neighbourhood townhalls and participation in the future of the Portlands asking for transparency and participation in the decision making and spending process.
- 3) Improving TTC service, including a surface bus service Broadview to Main Street, Subway stops are too far apart for the elderly and non motorised handicapped, general rationalisation of parking and parking enforcement.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: The Portlands

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: Because I am tired of the present arrogance at City Hall and would like to separate Party Politiccs (sic) from City Governance and alliances that do not represent the agenda of the grassroot.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: I grew up in it, I know it well, I can see its potential and its abandonment in certain areas, I like the multicultural mix and would like to welcome and integrate the new ethnic groups

that are coming in and fostering commerce, like the Ethiopian, the Africans and those already here expanding local festivals and cultural events district by district

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: Sponsoring refugees, helping informally resettlement of immigrants, giving English classes etc.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: Increasing taxes was contreversials, (sic) insisting in chasing dreams like the Olympics or a World fair are chimeras. We should concentrate in bringing back quality to city life and maintenance, concentrating on the potential for tourism our ethnic mix can bring (see Caribana etc.) and then we will become our own distinct World Class City.

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councillor, What would you bring to the table beyond the incumbent?

A: A real connection with the electorate. Humbleness as their representative. Consultation and discussions before voting for controversial City Programmes and Issues. A return to and improvement to saving our local heritage including Historical Buildings (see Riverdale hospital) and control over the planning process to control condominium/highrise expansion in Ward 30 in particular. Transparency for the Portland and Waterfront projects. A cricket pitch in the Portlands or Riverdale park to reflect our cultural mix in sports as well.

Mr. Nicastro did not respond to the

question "What does Toronto mean to you?"

Canada's Toronto Centre (Ward 28) city council candidates speak

On November 13, Toronto residents will be heading to the polls to vote for their ward's councillor and for mayor. Among Toronto's ridings is Toronto Centre (Ward 28). One candidate responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include Howard Bortenstein, Holly Cartmell, Baquie Ghazi, Connie Harrison, Yaqoob Khan, Pam McConnell (incumbent), and Catherina Perez.

For more information on the election, read Toronto municipal election, 2006.

Howard Bortenstein
52-year-old Howard Bortenstein is the founder/owner of Miller Bortenstein Consultants, "a management consulting firm specializing in information technology strategy and change management."

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A: There is a tremendous undertone of despair and apathy when people talk about the current situation of Ward 28 and the city in general. I am deeply concerned about the downward spiral of our neighbourhoods: no vision, residents feel unsafe; businesses struggling; crumbling public housing; no "at risk neighbourhoods' youth funding and an absentee councillor battling windmills elsewhere, leaving the ward in auto-pilot. I strongly believe our city government must be accountable to the neighbourhoods that elect it.

My top three priorities are:
Accountability

We need a full-time councillor for everyone

Voting record clearly linked to broad public consultation
Create new Neighbourhood Leadership Council to unify us
Develop Ward strategy and long term plan to build consensus and guide us

Implement open responsive complaint resolution process
Affordable Housing

We need innovation and more choices to break the cycle of poverty

Redirect funding to major expansion of portable housing allowance and ownership programs

Improve living conditions for tenants by enforcing property standards

Promote private development of new affordable housing

Develop plan and strong commitment to end chronic homelessness

Crime Prevention

We need to feel safe & secure everywhere

Strengthen neighbourhood-police relationships

Create "Safe Neighbourhoods" volunteer organization

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: Ward 28 faces serious social housing problems specifically Toronto Community Housing: poor living conditions
crime

infestation

massive poverty

Residents from all neighbourhoods and all income levels share these concerns. Tenants must have more options and flexibility to break the cycle of poverty and get back their dignity that has been taken from them. Dramatic change from the current model of building "monuments to poverty" is required. Tenants need choice

Residents from all neighbourhoods and all income levels share these concerns. Tenants must have more options and flexibility to break the cycle of poverty and get back their dignity that has been taken from them. Dramatic change from the current model of building "monuments to poverty" is required. Tenants need choice

offered by portable housing allowances, to relocate closer to new job opportunities or schools anywhere in Toronto. We must return Ward 28 to socio-economic diversity.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: Had anyone asked me a few years ago if I had any political aspirations, I would have thought they were nuts. But a couple of years ago, when our then two year old daughter was put at risk by picking up a discarded condom in Riverdale Park, things changed. So after the trauma of hepatitis injections and HIV screening at Sick Kids and fighting city hall to clean up the park the question remained "How did this happen?" The simple answer is: "because we let it happen". We took it for granted that our local councillor was making the right choices to keep us safe and to improve the quality of life of all neighbourhoods and all residents. Well, I found out the hard way that isn't true and I decided this needed to be changed.

Party politics are paralyzing City Council, literally crippling this city. As a candidate, the question I receive most often is, "what is your political party?" I am not aligned or a member of any political party. I am not an ideologue from the left or the right. I believe in consensus, not compromise, and building bridges on issues from the centre.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: I want my daughters to grow up in Cabbagetown. I am tired of having their school-age friends leave the area for the suburbs. Ward 28 has become an economically depressed area. I have a bold vision for Ward 28 to restore ward 28 as a place of

innovation and growth.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: I was a founding board member of the Don Vale Cabbagetown Residents Association which is now over 500 members. I am also a member of the Community Police Liaison Committee, where I am working to broaden and increase neighbourhood membership in the committee via community outreach. I am also a long time member and volunteer of the Cabbagetown Preservation Association, working to protect our remaining heritage properties.

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councillor, What would you bring to the table beyond the incumbent?

A: I will instil a sense of hope for everyone and build consensus around a vision, no matter what your individual political stripe, or neighbourhood you live in, that if we work together, we can change things around. The residents of ward 28 are patient people and they deserve more than political rhetoric. They want results not aspirations. They want accountability from their elected representatives. They want a councillor responsive to all residents, all businesses and all neighbourhoods! I will be that councillor.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: I care very deeply for our downtown neighbourhoods and the city of Toronto. I have lived in Downtown Toronto for twenty-five years including fourteen in Cabbagetown. I have always liked living in Downtown Toronto. This is not my Toronto and this is not the Toronto I want to leave as a legacy to my young daughters.

Bortenstein did not respond to the question "Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?"

Outlaw gangs, says New Zealand First

New Zealand First is calling for gangs to "be outlawed" out after the New Zealand police discovered stun guns cash and large quantities of drugs.

The drugs found included Methamphetamine ("P"), Methylenedioxyamphetamine (ecstasy) and cannabis, which, according to police, is to be worth thousands of dollars altogether.

The seven stun guns, capable of disabling a person, were discovered at houses and in cars in Hamilton and Tauranga on Tuesday.

New Zealand First's law and order spokesman Ron Mark said Parliament should pass legislation to outlaw gangs "once and for all".

"How many more of these discoveries is it going to take before we see some effective legislative action to stamp out gangs? While we applaud the efforts of police we feel that the passing of legislation to outlaw gangs once and for all is well overdue. Outlawing gangs would eliminate much of the organised crime within New Zealand, including drug manufacturing and distribution," Mark said.

"Section 98A of the Crimes Act makes participation in an organised criminal gang a criminal offence but the Minister has informed us through parliamentary questions that prosecutions were brought under that section on a

mere dozen occasions in 2004-05 and 18 times last year."

"It is time for the police to be armed with definitive legislation carrying a high maximum sentence to better enable them to charge these thugs as it seems that the longer that gangs are allowed to flourish the more heavily armed they are becoming."

The head of the Waikato police crime control unit, Detective Sergeant Karl Thornton, said the seizure of the stun guns was a major issue that the public should be aware of. It is alarming that drug dealers are equipping themselves with weapons like stun guns."

11 people will appear in Hamilton District Court later this week on drug charges and with possessing restricted weapons.

Canada's Trinity—Spadina (Ward 19) city council candidates speak

On November 13, Torontoians will be heading to the polls to vote for their ward's councillor and for mayor. Among Toronto's ridings is Trinity—Spadina (Ward 19). One candidate responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include Nick Boragina, Joe Pantalone (incumbent), George Sawision, and Himy Syed.

For more information on the election, read Toronto municipal election, 2006.

George Sawision

50-year-old George Sawision is a master electrician and environmentalist.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A: My issues are based on a direct

response by my neighbours. Tax is a foremost concern especially the recent and future tax hikes that have been implemented. My plan is still to limit or eliminate these increases by proper management and targeted spending.

The environment is also an important issue for me considering exposure to toxins has affected many of my fellow constituents. Cleaning up the ward and taking proactive steps to reduce vehicle and other emissions is a priority. Social issues in the ward including the homeless, child care and criminal activity are a focus for me. However giving the youth and artists of the area a boost by direct funding will bring new life to the area.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: The role of councilor is an issue in ward 19. People feel they have been abandoned by the present councilor. I feel a councilor should spend their full attention to the needs of their constituents first. I feel that it is imperative that a councilor be available and proactive. That is why my direct line is always available.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: I have decided to run because I felt it was time to "put my money where my mouth is!".It isn't effective to always complain that problems aren't being handled by those in city hall, I felt that I could make a difference for my fellow neighbours. That is why I am not using tax dollars to run my campaign, to show that I am serious and devoted to helping my neighbours.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: This ward deserves a caring and

responsive councilor. I was born in this ward, I have made my career here and I don't plan on leaving the greatest ward in the city. And now I want to return the favour and help my neighbours even further.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: I have been involved in helping people not only establish themselves in the area but I have also tried to help people deal with government. Everything from immigration issues to dealing with parking or property tax issues. Sometimes its daunting for individuals to face government and I hope I have done my part to help.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: I feel the council decision to "clean up" Toronto was the greatest goal set by council. Conversely it was also the worst because they didn't "clean up" Toronto, instead it seems items were swept "under the rug" into secrecy.

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councillor, What would you bring to the table beyond the incumbent?

A: As a new councilor I would begin by actually serving the needs of my ward. I would go out of my way to ensure that the taxpayers money will not be wasted!

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto is my home my life and I couldn't even consider living anywhere else in the world. I just don't want to see Toronto ruined by un-checked development with

no regard to future generations.

Canada's Davenport (Ward 17) city council candidates speak

On November 13, Torontoians will be heading to the polls to vote for their ward's councillor and for mayor. Among Toronto's ridings is Davenport (Ward 17). One candidate responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include Wilson Basantes Espinoza, Alejandra Bravo, Fred Dominelli, David Faria, Cesar Palacio (incumbent), Cinzia Scalabrini, and Gustavo Valdez.

For more information on the election, read Toronto municipal election, 2006.

Gustavo Valdez

48-year-old Gustavo Valdez is the publisher of a small magazine and "actor, character,artist".

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A: a) Community Safety and crime prevention b) Fair property taxes and improved city services c) Cleaner and Greener neighborhoods

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: Saint Clair Street Car right of way. Even the neighborhoods oppose to it, I believe we have to do Saint Clair 22 century, however I will follow what the community wishes

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: For the tax problem then the community me his offered its support

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: Because its the ward were I live

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: Trough (sic) my artistic side, singing and writing for them in my small publication. Performing also my poetry. I can not involve directly right know in the community local issues due I am a father of 2 children. I care personally for them.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: In keeping going and growing, the least desirable is the growing homeless community

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councillor, What would you bring to the table beyond the incumbent?

A: The municipal government need to provide incentives and motivate entrepreneurship through tax cutting, low operating and administrative system of work. It we'll (sic) create jobs, revenue and wealth. But we need to motivate the community. We need more parks health centers, shelters and food banks.

Affordable housing at ward 17 and the entire city is essential.

Taxes on property should be cut of and utilities lowered.

Special attention should be put on low child care facilities to ease parents and allow them to work for the welfare of their families.

The family is the center of the society.

We look forward to defeat poverty. More creational (sic) activities are necessary for the social isolated and disabled and people with special necessities.

Of woman is part of our agenda. They need always attention.

We need to incentive the working class:They are the ones who construct the city,produce and

keep the economy going. Special attention for the working class is necessary.

I care for the environment,therefore we have to work for the greenhouse-gas emission problem and Kyoto Protocol.

Toronto is one of the most polluted cities in North America and we have to work on the air we breath free.

In building a great communities we build a great country. And we have to prepare the country for the years to come to face the challenges of the future.

So education is important. If we educate citizens we dot have to worry about crime and to spent money in unnecessary security and control,instead more education more safe city,happy families therefore neighborhoods. Let's be prepare with vision for the future.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: It's the city were I risen my kids, therefore I am interested in the city for the good will of the community and my family itself

Stern: greatly underestimated costs in climate change report?

The Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change put the cost of keeping emissions at 550 parts per million at one percent of global GDP

A leaked draft report, by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), due to be published next year, estimates this cost could be between one and five percent of global GDP.

The Stern Review put the costs of not acting to resist climate change could be between 5 and 20 percent GDP.

It is reported that UK Ministers are to travel to India and America to promote the Stern Review. Their task will not be eased by the leaked IPCC report which is now said to be available freely on the internet. Following the Stern Review, Chancellor Gordon Brown is urging the member states of the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme to tighten their targets even further.

Dove ad viewed more than 3 million times on YouTube

An advertisement for Dove beauty products has been viewed by well over three million people, without ever being on television. A copywriter from Ogilvy Toronto, the advertising agency that created a spot named "evolution", uploaded the advertisement to video sharing website YouTube.

While the official upload of the ad itself has been viewed 1,119,262 times, there are dozens of copies of the ad on YouTube, adding to a minimum of 3,059,546 views. The official copy of the video is the website's 12th most viewed this month, 53rd of all time.

Unofficial uploads have each received high levels of viewership, with 449595, 445322, 207906, 201670, 195265, 116501, and 102634 plays.

The agency did not originally intend to upload the video to YouTube, only display it on the company's homepage. Staff member Tim Piper uploaded it to his account on October 6, about a week before it first got media coverage on Good Morning America.

Beginning with a woman walking into a photo shoot. From there, she is primed and plucked by hair and makeup artists, then tweaked

on a Photoshop-like program. The photo-manipulation is then posted on a billboard for the fictional "Easel Foundation Makeup" brand. Two young, teenage girls walk past, glancing at the board. "No wonder our perception of beauty is distorted" ends the ad in text, "Every girl deserves to feel beautiful just the way she is."

The creative team for the ad included Tim Piper, Mike Kirkland, Janet Kestin, Nancy Vonk, directors T Piper (treatment and post production) and Yael Staav (live action) from Reginald Pike, Soho post production, Rogue editing, Vapor music, Gabor Jurina and Make-up: Diana Carreiro, and Reginald Pike.

The official French copy of the ad has only received 132 views, although it was only uploaded on November 2, 2006.

Canada's Don Valley East (Ward 33) city council candidates speak

November 4, 2006

On November 13, Torontonians will be heading to the polls to vote for their ward's councillor and for mayor. Among Toronto's ridings is Don Valley East (Ward 33). One candidate responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include Zane Caplan, Shelley Carroll (incumbent), Jim Conlon, Sarah Tsang-Fahey, and Anderson Tung.

For more information on the election, read Toronto municipal election, 2006.

Shelley Carroll

49-year-old Shelley Carroll is the incumbent for Don Valley East, Ward 33, and has served either in this position or as a school board trustee for the last decade. More

information can be found on her website, or her blog.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A: Locally, completing a storm-water retention system for North York's flooded areas. Controlling and mitigating the impacts of subway-induced development. Globally, completing a long-term solid-waste strategy for the city of Toronto. A comprehensive environmental assessment process has already been launched, under my leadership of the Works committee and I intend to see it through.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: Part of mitigating development impact is bringing about better traffic and transit management. Residents of Don Valley East are passionate about both these elements of city life.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: I entered politics in 1995, concerned about a better education system and ultimately a better City for my own children. I felt that a better future for them could only be achieved by building a stronger community for everyone. After 10 years, I find the work constant but endlessly rewarding.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: Ward 33 always feels like a microcosm of the whole City of Toronto to me. Residents of all backgrounds are engaged in civic issues like never before. They they want a city that supports the next generation economically and socially, and we need a City that supports their hard work.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: Serving first as a School Board Trustee and now as City Councillor has spread my community involvement across a broad range of activities. I visit and participate in multi-cultural seniors organizations, childrens' service providers, and residents' associations. I have created two new additions to the list of resident/ratepayer associations as well as running my own Ward Advisory Council.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto is at the edge of becoming the North American City that shows all of the others how to grow without compromising the quality of life and the environment. The decisions we make will serve as an example of how a progressive city should act. Our Youth Strategy, which I helped author, asks that we never create another City initiative without asking if we are leaving youth or the marginalized behind. As Works Committee Chair, I always ask, "How does this benefit the environment?" We have to lead by example, and I hope to build a city that does.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: A high point was when Council supported my Civic Youth Strategy. They approved not only a strategy which demands meaningful employment and empowerment of Youth, but also a process to allow Youth themselves to determine the membership of our Toronto Youth Panel. This panel will report to council as well as have council's initiatives reported to them for direct input.

A low point was when Council turned down my motion to start an office of Civic Engagement attached to the City Manager's office. This is absolutely crucial to a more engaged, united and more equitable City. Informal and upstart community groups need help, advice, access to resources, and networks — things we have to offer, but aren't equipped to share. I will be bringing the concept back to a new term of Council.

Anderson Tung

33-year-old Anderson Tung is has served "as a University of Toronto Governor, consultant and advisor to city council, and unofficial lawyer that enforces laws on MP, MPPs, City council, and political parties." Most recently he has been a strategy consultant and "enviro-entrepreneur".

Tung's answers have not been abbreviated, despite the fact that the questions clearly ask for specific numbers of issues.

Wikinews is not aware whether this inconsistency is due to ignorance or lack of numeracy skills.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.
A: Here is a summary of the major social, political, and economic reforms I will execute in the coming years:

1) Dismantle TTC and Police Unions and ban all "essential services" from strike without arbitration of wage compared to other public professions. AND Freeze all unionized wages for next 10 years. Upload 50% of toronto police officers, resources, and budget to federal RCMP jurisdiction.

2) cut child poverty by 50% this year in TO, by cancelling gardiner demolition and uploading 50% police cost to feds.

3) Reform of justice system, and

media so that it cannot be used as a weapon of terror by any public office.

4) Make enviromental power generation, biodiesel, ethanol30, and Recapitalize transportation projects and offer strategy for unified transit system in GTA.
5) Engage province to reopen Kirkland lake mine as enviro-friend waste disposal option for longterm
6) Raise property taxes or surcharges on Walmart, Costco, and other multinationals by 100% or more, as permitted by constitutional law. While cutting small biz property taxes by 50% over 5 years.

In short, I am here to ensure that ignorant, incompetence, corruption are not tolerated in government and ensure political power is balanced by informed decision making - not simply fiscal myopia. Please visit my website for a more detailed outline of my priorities at <http://toronto2006.on.to>.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: 1) child poverty at 33% in ward 33, above TO's average of 30%
2) Transit and traffic chaos - Simply adding more buses on roads is an insufficient long-term solution.

To meet the rapid transportation reforms, public transit and public policing must be PRIVATIZED. It is the only means to rapidly build subway/RT capacity on a GTA large scale, and require a \$10 billion dollar plan.

3) Affordable housing.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: I engage politics for a few reasons:

1) I lack of confidence in politicians all too willing to compromise for the sack of money.

2) I bring the legal authority to execute rapidly upon the demands I make upon three levels of government.

3) I bring the integrity, accountability, and resolve to see my demands through.

4) I stand up and defend those who cannot defend themselves - our youths

5) I fight for equality, justice, democracy at every level, and defend those who cannot defend themselves

6) I fight for our city, province, and nation, when no politician, lawyer, journalist, nor media network is willing to do so for political reasons. I do not believe in politics, but my life will be an example of the greatness of our city, province, and nation, when we our minds and resources to clear objectives.

My heart lies in the political and judicial realm, as I have been fighting 3 levels of government the past 5 years on the most fundamental of reforms. Only by threats of impeachment have I achieved rapid results in meeting the demands of our dynamic, multicultural society.

Not one politician, nor lawyer, nor journalist for that matter, would even attempt to do the things I have done the past 5 years.

Though the successes are great, the personal cost mirrors this. Though I could have settled the expanding legal issues long ago, and compromised my position for money. Instead I choose the long hard grinding road of INTEGRITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND RESOLVE. The people of Toronto, Ontario, and Canada, will come to appreciate my efforts.

It is not the unions, nor councillors, nor mayor, nor realty firms that run this city. It is the free democratic societies right to remove officials that refuse to stand up for justice, who aid and

abate fraud, conspiracies, and obstructions on a scale as unproven till now. I am no politician, nor officially a lawyer, but I run with equivalent knowledge and experiences in making the fair, equitable, and just decisions that city council lacks in judgement. I will continue to resolve the challenges that face our city, province, and nation in the twenty-second century - wether or not I am elected.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: I live in ward 33, so it was convenient, but also it is next door to my long standing home in scarborough where I grew up the past 30 years. I understand the social, political, economic, and cultural fabric of toronto, ontario, and canadian society. I have lived almost my entire life in East Toronto, so am familiar with all the issues and cultural demands. In short, East Toronto is not a theater for police to terrorize in the media, nor a war games playground, whereby asians are used as an instrument to justify excessive police budgets.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: I have focused my life's work on understanding and publishing on issues of big picture importance to 3 levels of government to ensure that Canada does not become the social, political, economic, and moral bankruptcy of the United States. And I am content to see the benefits of my hard work the past few years. I am a very charitable time giving person. I committed my time and abilities to the causes I feel will most benefit society, for instance:

-Daily bread food bank, -Ont. Council for Int. Cooperation, -World Vision Refugee Center -United Way fundraising and CN

Tower climb supplier.

-Sueing three levels of government for environmental, transit, education, health, justice reform issues.

-resolving traffic issues at Kennedy+steeles, 404/401 ramps, Leslie/401,

-federal funds to rebuild the poorest region in Canada - Regent Park,

-Youth justice system reforms - mitigating 600% Criminal code conviction rate more than adults.

-2004 Canadian police per capita budgeting model to reduce excessive police budgets - ignored by city council todate.

- Environmental groups, researching and publishing papers to local MP, MPPs, and city council that are urgent.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: The past decade has been one of stagnation for several reasons: First, fiscal slash and burn policies by Federal Liberals, and Ontario Conservatives. Second, Police and TTC unions rape and extort the tax payers for unending higher wages. Let me be very clear, THE PUBLIC IS NOT A BANK ROLE FOR UNIONS TO MAKE RIDICULOUS WAGE DEMANDS UPON SO THEIR SALARIES KEEP PACE WITH INFLATION - this is the role of banks and financial markets! The result of this is Toronto has become a welfare state that is headed for bankruptcy - if things do not change quickly.

Toronto must be a model mega city in our global village. Toronto must demonstrate leadership in private and public sector innovation to ensure social, political, and economic growth. A homeless man or young child should be able to walk into a court and find justice -with little or no cost, and without fear of persecution.

Toronto must be a place where police serve and protect everyone, all interest groups, all religions and races, not simply the politicians and lawyers that protect their excessive budgets.

Toronto must be a place where anyone can ride public transit for a small fee to anywhere in the GTA.

Toronto City council must be a place where everyone has a voice, and who's ideas may be shared in resolving the challenges that face this nation in the twenty second century, and not simply a voice for the realty firms and lawyers that charge outrageous service charges. Toronto is this, but can be much more.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: 1) Great to see sheppard subway built to fairview mall, and integration of VIVA tertiary transit system with TTC.

2) I believe building Daniels condominiums along 401 and bayview was more financial than environmental. It would be better to alleviate transit congestion by building along steeles ave east and west, including a steeles subway extension from keele to mccowan. The 401 cannot grow further, and adding more transit chaos to it is not good for environment, nor city planning. Further growth must come from Etobicoke and Scarborough fringes - if not a merger of Toronto and York region for tax revenue purposes.

3) I do not agree with city council that the greatest value in expanding the subway system was from fairview mall to yonge. If this city and province had given the global authroity to the GTA transit authority as I demanded in 2003, we would have a GTA transit

system second to Tokyo or New York,

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councilor, What would you bring to the table beyond the incumbent?

A: I am no rookie in any sense, in fact I have been the advisor and consultant that has not charged Toronto a dime for all of my research and publications the past 5 years. I transformed the University of Toronto into Canada's pre-eminent R+D institution, fully integrated with downtown hospital infrastructure. I am the one that told Ontario to reform gaming laws so hospitals and charities could fund this transformation today. I am the one that has forced the Attorney General to offer NO FEE courts, funds to rebuild Regent Park, VIVA tertiary transit system, and a host of other achievements.

1) 10 years of business, IT, Finance, and Environmental solutions consulting in applying to Toronto's current problems.

2) The knowledge, experience, and innovative ideas that have transformed this city, province, and nation in the past decade.

3) I hold the balance of power against all three levels of government and police service unions. When I choose to use that power, it will result in swift, decisive reforms as those within the past couple of years.

4) Broad understanding of federal, provincial, municipal, and environmental legislation and to sue for immediate remedies to urgent issues.

5) Broad social, political, and economic understanding of toronto, ontario, and canada in global village.

6) Broad understanding of how to better build this city, and balance the biased views of special interest groups on toronto committees and boards.

7) Focus on unprecedented social, economic, and justice reforms, cutting child poverty in half this year.

8) Ensure all interest groups in society have a balance of power, to express, and prosecute in a fair and just manner.

Canada's Scarborough East (Ward 44) city council candidates speak

On November 13, Torontonians will be heading to the polls to vote for their ward's councillor and for mayor. Among Toronto's ridings is Scarborough East (Ward 44). One candidates responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include Donald Blair, Diana Hall, Mohammed Mirza, Ron Moeser, Kevin Richardson, Richard Rieger, Richard Ross, and Kevin Wellington.

For more information on the election, read Toronto municipal election, 2006.

Diana Hall

53-year-old Diana Hall is the Executive Assistant to a City Councillor.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A: I want to deliver a made-in-Toronto waste solution – every year Toronto residents produce 500,000 tonnes of waste. I would like to look at implementing high-rise recycling; investigate new technologies to convert waste into clean energy, expand our recycling program to include materials such as Styrofoam and polystyrene plastic and improve recycling to e-waste to eliminate the 140,000 tonnes of old computers, cellphones and home electronics that end up in our landfills.

I believe we should expand and integrate our public transit system

as Ward 44 is poorly serviced by both the TTC and GO transit systems. I support finding lasting solutions which include developing seamless transit that would make it easier to transfer from TTC to GO, expanding the Sheppard Subway to Scarborough and plan to push the Province to improve GO service with more trains, more often and longer hours.

I believe that the City must live within its means and we should be spending money on the core services that keep the City functioning. I believe our priorities should be to Improve the Aging Infrastructure. We need to make sure our water systems, electrical systems, roads and transit systems are safe and well maintained. I will work to hold tax increases to no more than inflation and want contracts to be openly tendered so we will achieve the best value for our money.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: Promoting quality communities. Ward 44 is a great place to live and we have lots of parkland, lots of green space, a new waterfront trail and community centers. To keep it that way I will: Promote open communication so that no planning application will go ahead without the community's involvement.

Support the Highland Creek Community Center. The first step towards achieving this has already been taken. It was included in the April 2006 Capital Budget. Make Property Standards Enforcement a Priority. We all enjoy our well-maintained neighbourhoods. To achieve this I will support hiring more enforcement officers for our community

Q: Why have you chosen to involve

yourself in the political process?

A: I want to move forward with fresh new ideas to make our city and our community a better, more vibrant and safer place in which to live and raise our families. Being on City Council means making difficult choices. I believe I have the experience, the understanding of our community, and the track record of working with everyone to be able to make the best choice. I believe we should move forward, not backwards.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: I have lived in the community for 23 years and have worked at City Hall for the past 3 years so I know this community, the people and the issues. I know this job. I've listened and heard residents' concerns. I am now ready to act on their behalf because I know the priorities will be to address infill development, property standards and traffic. I will support finding solutions to garbage, transit and crime. We need to invest in our City's future.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: Currently I am an unpaid leave of absence from the City of Toronto. Prior to that I was a Resource to 2 Local Erosion Control Projects and to the East Scarborough Storefront Steering Committee.

My other previous community commitments include: Centennial Community and Recreation Association (CCRA) Executive Heart and Stroke, Fundraising Chair West Hill Softball League, Volunteer Parent Council and Teacher's Assistant

Scouts Canada, Vice Chair and Key

Leader

West Hill Community Advisory Panel

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: The completion of phase one of the new waterfront trail at the foot of Port Union Road is the best accomplishment in Ward 44 over the past three years. The completion of this trail was a cooperative effort of the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation, the Federal and Provincial Governments and the City of Toronto and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. It is truly a waterfront park we can all be proud of.

I believe the decision not to build a subway in Scarborough and to run a dedicated light rail line on the Scarborough RT is a disservice to Ward 44 – we need better transit in the eastern part of Scarborough.

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councillor, What would you bring to the table beyond the incumbent?

A: I'm currently the assistant to the outgoing City Councillor and sometimes there is the assumption that I would be a carbon copy. I'm not. I have my own views on the issues and my own way of getting the job done. Too often politicians get into office and we never hear from them except at election time. I always have been accessible and will continue to do so.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: For me, Toronto means unique communities working together to make a great City. I love living in east Scarborough with the Rouge Park and the waterfront trail on my

doorstep. While I think my own community is a pretty remarkable place, I can't imagine Toronto with the Taste of the Danforth, the jazz festivals, the energy of downtown, all its restaurants, or the tranquility of High Park. Each community has something to offer and together they combine to make our City a vibrant place to live.

Kevin Richardson

46-year-old Kevin Richardson lists his jobs as a "Director of Operations, Corporate Division".

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A: Transportation is a crucial issue for the people of Ward 44 as our ward is the most eastern section of Toronto and many people, including seniors and students, find that there is simply insufficient bus and transit service to cover the growing population of the ward. The Scarborough Subway needs to be expanded but unfortunately, due to political agendas North York continues to receive all the subway infrastructure dollars while Scarborough continues to be denied a proper transportation network.

Subsidized Housing v. Green Space and the loss of valuable green space is of particular interest to Ward 44 residents who feel betrayed by downtown politicians and their own retiring councillor who approved a fairly large subsidized housing project (Manse Valley) that is slated to be built in the ward. The City of Toronto has a horrendous record when it gets involved in subsidized housing often turning beautiful neighbourhoods into cesspools of criminality in the process.

Community Services are important to a great many people in Ward 44 to address the needs of youth,

seniors and special needs residents. Youth services are crucial in order to engage teenagers and to teach them the value and duty of community living. Senior citizens for example, have given so much to the community and are still contributing members and we must do everything in our power to make their 'golden years' truly golden. Additionally, people with special needs are extremely vulnerable and need our community support in order to give them the opportunity to be the best that they can be. To this end an ultra modern Community Centre in the Highland Creek section of Ward 44 would be extremely beneficial in addressing the community needs of everyone living in Ward 44.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: Commitment to our community is the biggest issue. The people of Ward 44 feel abandoned since the last two councillors that they elected refused to represent them to the fullest extent of their abilities. The incumbent, Gay Cowbourne, has now resigned after allowing her assistants to run the ward (to which they failed miserably). The previous councillor, Ron Moeser missed almost half of all crucial votes at City Hall during his lethargic tenure. Voters want someone who will represent them at City Hall and not someone who cannot even be bothered to show up except to collect their paycheques.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: Essentially I grew weary of the miserable representation that Ward 44 was receiving from our elected councillors, current and previous. I knew that I was

capable of working much harder than former councillor, Ron Moeser, who is trying to make a comeback of sorts and the current incumbent, Gay Cowbourne, who is retiring. As a result of my educational background and my extensive corporate experience and marketing panache, I am confident that I can make a difference in the political process for the people of Ward 44.

I want to see Ward 44 as the jewel of Toronto since Ward 44 is blessed with sensational parks, gorgeous ravines and outstanding views of Lake Ontario. I want to one day be able to walk down Kingston Rd and see beautiful office buildings and modern five star hotels and not used car lots and crummy run down motels that are used by the government for short term housing and by transients for their criminal activity. I want to prevent the agenda of certain downtown politicians who seek to expand subsidized housing and criminal halfway houses in Ward 44. I want to see the youth of Ward 44 become our future leaders and for seniors and special needs persons to be treated with respect and dignity.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: Ward 44 is where I live. My mother used to regale us with stories about her childhood in West Hill (circa 1949) and the fruit farm that they used to live on beside the Crooked Creek Boy Scout Camp and the rural lifestyle that existed in those days. My grandfather's cousin was married to Joseph Reesor who in turn was responsible for introducing grandpa to the West Hill area. When I purchased my own home in 1998 due to the incredible natural beauty of the area, it was richly ironic that I had chosen my

mom's old West Hill community.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: I am currently involved in the community by putting my modest writing talents to work writing articles, under the pen name: "Canada Kev" for New Canadians for a newspaper called: Likha, which targets people originally from the Philippines. Hopefully these articles, written from a Canadian perspective, will help New Canadians learn about our cultural lifestyles, traditions and our inclusive Canadian culture. Additionally, for a number of years I have been upbraiding the mainstream Toronto media over their unfair and often times biased characterization of Scarborough in relation to their crime reporting methods. For reasons unknown to most residents of Scarborough, the Toronto media seems to take a perverse delight in attacking Scarborough at every opportunity but when crime rears its' ugly head in North York or Etobicoke (these are all former boroughs of Toronto before amalgamation) the Toronto media continues to obscure the fact that crime is occurring at horrific rates there. What the media does to obscure the reality of criminality in North York and Etobicoke is to use code words, such as "Jane and Finch" or "Rexdale", rather than to use North York or Etobicoke when violent crime occurs there. Additionally, in many instances Scarborough is blamed for North York crime and I have forced the media on many occasions to retract inaccurate stories that wrongly identified Scarborough as crime scenes when in fact the crime occurred in North York and not Scarborough. I feel quite strongly about this issue because this type of media coverage unfairly stigmatizes the residents of Scarborough and

Ward 44 and adversely affects property values and the quality of life of her residents, and makes it easier for downtown politicians to deny services for Scarborough residents.

Please see my website at www.Ward44.ca for a more complete essay on this subject.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: When I think about Toronto I think about home. I think about my ancestors who came to this great city via Ireland and the British Army in the 1850s and who had the intelligence to settle here. Toronto is where I was born and it is where I will live, fate willing, for the rest of my life. Toronto literally means "Meeting Place" deriving its meaning from the First Nations People who traded here. Toronto is still the "Meeting Place" for people from all walks of life and ethnic and religious backgrounds and is rich in history and natural beauty.

Q: ' Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: There were no decisions that the City of Toronto implemented since the 2003 election that I am proud of. Our Ward 44 incumbent, Gay Cowbourne, won the 2003 election as a protest vote against the former councillor, Ron Moeser, who was known more for his chronic absenteeism and dismal voting record than in representing the people of Ward 44. Unfortunately, Ms. Cowbourne was not cut out for public life and delegated most of her duties to her paid assistants (who failed miserably in the process) and voted at City Hall according to the interests of the NDP bloc at City Hall and not for the residents of Ward 44. Ms. Cowbourne, not

surprisingly, is retiring from politics and will not be seeking re-election.

I am disappointed with Council for concentrating almost exclusively on the Toronto Island Airport issue while the City of Toronto is on the brink of financial ruin with no long term plan to invest in the infrastructure of the city. The City of Toronto does not have the authority to stop the Toronto Airport Authority (which falls under the authority of the federal government) from expanding their operations thus wasting precious time and resources in the process.

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councillor, What would you bring to the table beyond the incumbent?

A: First and foremost I would bring a dedication to the council position that Ward 44 has never had. I will be a strong voice for the people of Ward 44 at City Hall and will not be influenced by special interest groups or the agendas of political parties who rarely represent the local interests and concerns of a particular ward. Unlike Ron Moeser, who had his chance and failed miserably (Moeser was evicted from office by Ward 44 voters in 2003 due to his chronic absenteeism and his miserable voting record), I will be an extremely hard working councillor who will promote transparency and accountability at City Hall. I will bring both corporate and academic expertise to the table which I have obtained from my years at the University of Toronto and my extensive business background. I will bring a level of energy to City Hall that will be an inspiration for others to follow.

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be heading to the polls to vote for their ward's councillor and for mayor. Among Toronto's ridings is Scarborough East (Ward 43). One candidate responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include Paul Ainslie, Amarjeet Chhabra, Mujeeb Khan, Glenn Kitchen, John Laforet, Abdul Patel, Jim Robb, and Kumar Sethi.

For more information on the election, read Toronto municipal election, 2006.

Glenn Kitchen
54-year-old Glenn Kitchen has been a carpenter for 30 years.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign?

A: Our Youth: Our youth cannot suffer another cut to their educational programs. The results of the cutbacks to after school programs are showing their negative effects. If our youth do not have positive activities to participate in, they are more likely to be involved in negative activities. We need to re-introduce and re-open after school programs that have been closed. After school programs need to be run by staff and councillors who will act as positive role models and help our youth to find their way to positive choices. Our youth deserve better than what this city is currently providing them with.

Public Transit: Public transit in this ward is either non-existent or very limited. Navigating through this community is very difficult, and in many cases means numerous transfers. Scarborough has been given the short end of the transit line too many times. People in Scarborough want to travel within their community; they need to go grocery shopping, to go to work, to take their children to school.

TTC needs to recognize these needs and work with Scarborough to create a more extensive route system to service people in this community.

Garbage: As the city of Toronto grows, the amount of waste we produce also grows. Looking into the future, we cannot rely on the methods we have used in the past. We must create new and innovative ways to deal with our waste. We must look at the waste as a resource, using every recyclable product to preserve materials that can be re-used. In order to be effective we must require all residents to contribute to an extensive and responsible recycling system. All houses, apartments, condominiums, as well as, commercial residents can participate and help lower our garbage levels. We must work as a team to ensure that we are being responsible with our waste.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: Our Youth. As new families move into this community, they are bringing their young children. The children in this community now, will be our youth in the future and we must help them to grow into positive members of the community. As I stated earlier, youth need positive activities, not just a basketball court or field, with no councillors. Our children need leaders, coaches, and role models to mentor them. The children need clubs for homework, reading, chess, music, dance, and sports. Our children are the future of this area and we must help them grow to be positive members of society.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: Since childhood, politics have been a big part of my life. My

parents were believers in the political process, and encouraged our involvement. Voting was always emphasized and modeled in our household. In a family with seven boys, the democratic process was always modeled in our home.

In the last decade I have felt discouraged by the lack of accountability in politics, and the lack of regard for the needs of the voters. Learning from my childhood the value of the democratic process, I feel we need to speak out to preserve it. The Toronto municipal government has made many irresponsible decisions that have affected the residents of Toronto. Transit development should have been done in areas where there are current riders, not future riders. Scarborough is in dire need of extensions of TTC services, and new routes. Our youth need stronger leaders to look up to, and they need to be engaged. Our current municipal government is not doing enough to ensure they have services available to them. The political process must serve the people who it affects the most, and I feel it is my duty as a resident to get involved to ensure this takes place.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: I want to represent this ward, because I live here. I am familiar with the communities, including problems and strengths. I believe in the concept of local representation and I do not agree with politicians who run in any area, simply to be elected. If you live here, you understand the community. At this level of government it is important that the politician walks the same street as the people they represent, and get your hands dirty in the same dirt. This ward is

my home and I want to make it feel like home for everyone in this ward.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: I am involved in the community in the most important way, I engage with my neighbours. I am always ready and willing to help my friends and neighbours with problems they may have. I have always been willing to lend my hand or skill to people who need help. As councillor, I feel I would be able to help more people than I am able to now.

I am currently also involved with the Scarborough General Hospital, in order to Save the Scarborough Grace unit. I feel this is important because if this hospital is closed to the general admissions the public at large will suffer. Community based preventative care will be phased out and the risk of community illness will increase. This unit will then redirect its basic and emergency care to the general division and the overcrowded conditions will continue to grow.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto is where I was born and raised and has always been my home. I feel Toronto gave me a colourful childhood full of great experiences. I learned to swim in the water, explore in the forests, I was educated here, and started my family here. This city has provided me with pride in my accomplishments, including my involvement in the building of landmarks such as the Sky Dome, the Eaton Centre, the Reference Library and retrofit of Osgoode Hall. Above all, Toronto has shown me the value of community and I would like to show this to its residents.

Q: Which council decision do you

feel the city/your ward should be most proud of? Which was the least desirable?

A: The council of 2003 made many decisions but the most favourable was to end the use of pesticides for cosmetic use on lawns. This was a step forward for the protection of the environment. While people thought it would mean jobs lost, I have not seen this occur. Furthermore, it has meant the return of birds and wildlife. In fact I have seen chipmunks, rabbits and deer in growing numbers. I have seen more butterflies and insects that do not harm but are a product of a healthy earth.

The least desirable was the elimination of open bidding on TTC subway car replacement contracts. As in all bidding processes, the lowest is not always the winning bid. I would have voted in favour of the Canadian workers, because I feel it is important to support our economy. However, I feel that bidding is an important part of the process.

Additionally, The lack of action on the Guild Inn has been disappointing, because the potential is there for the Guild Inn to be an important part of Toronto again.

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councillor, what would you bring to council?

A: I would not refer to a new councillor as a rookie, but a new way of looking at the issues, new set of values, and a new perspective. As a new councillor I would bring an open window, so people could have a sense of accountability. I would foster communication between Scarborough and City Hall, which has been lacking for many years. I would propose community ventures that are thought of by the residents, for the residents. I

would propose new ways for the community to become involved with city hall, including Saturday and evening meetings, to ensure that working citizens are able to participate. I would also propose innovative ways to involve the public, utilizing new technologies. The political process requires the involvement of the public and I would strive to strengthen that involvement.

100 icebergs heading for New Zealand

About 100 icebergs are heading for New Zealand and a warning has been issued for ships in the Southern Ocean. The icebergs were spotted off the South Island of New Zealand by plane, Orion. However they are likely to melt before reaching New Zealand, but they may be visible from Stewart Island.

An Orion, a Royal New Zealand Air force plane, spotted the icebergs heading towards New Zealand when it was doing a routine fisheries patrol, south of the Auckland Islands, about 260 km away from Southland.

One of the longest of the hundred icebergs is said to be about 2 km long, 1.3 km wide and 120 m high. But seeing as most of the iceberg is underwater it is more around 1.2 km high.

Andy Nielsen, Royal New Zealand Air Force squadron leader, said that they "were surprised by the number of them and by how far north they were. We came across approximately 80 to 100 icebergs...what's unusual about this is we located them about 130 nautical miles south of Stewart Island...we would expect to find the number we found around 600 nautical miles south of Stewart Island. They pose a significant

maritime threat (as they are near a major shipping lane). The weather down there is deteriorating, visibility is low tonight in the majority of the southern area."

The last time that an iceberg had been seen from the Mainland was in 1931 at Dunedin, even though icebergs do occasionally break away from Antarctica and head into the Southern Ocean. Mike Williams, physical oceanographer for the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, said: "The latest sighting may be seen from the Mainland if it gets a bit further north and comes closer in shore. The currents and the wind are likely to drive it north along the Southland and Otago coast."

The icebergs are not being blamed on global warming or global cooling. Mr Williams said: "It has made it all the way to New Zealand is a fantastic rare event, but I don't think we can draw any conclusions about changes in climate."

New Zealand radiographers plan to strike

250 New Zealand hospital radiographers are planning to strike this Friday for ten days unless they get a pay rise so they are paid the same amount as their peers at fourteen other district health boards (DHB). The DHB's say they will not raise their pay by 20% as it is unrealistic.

The strike will occur in the Hutt Valley, Southland, Otago, Bay of Plenty, Canterbury and Gisborne DHB. The strike will only last for seven days in Canterbury and five days for Gisborne, however.

The radiographers have already been on strike earlier this year, but it was only for three days.

They had first planned to walk off the job this Friday for five days instead of the now ten days. Deborah Powell, national secretary of the Association of Professionals and Executive Employees, said: "The length of the strike reflected the anger and frustration members felt with DHBs that had vetoed a mediated settlement."

Chai Chuah, chief executive of Hutt Valley DHB, said: "A settlement had not been reached and the union was wrong to blame the strike on the boards. He hoped industrial action could be averted by mediation next week. Meanwhile, hospitals have begun cancelling elective surgery and outpatient clinics.

The strike will mean that doctors will be unable to do scans or get x-rays, unless it is life-threatening.

Next week there will be mediation talks and the DHB's are hoping that the radiographers and themselves will be able to reach a settlement before anymore disruption is caused.

Senior doctors are also planning to strike next year because their pay negotiations have failed. Ian Powell, executive director of the Association of Salaried Medical Specialists, said: "Two-hour stopwork meetings would be held in February, in effect wiping out a half-day of elective surgery and specialist clinics at hospitals run by all 21 health boards. Full-out strikes could follow. Never before had senior doctors called for nationwide industrial action."

Telecom New Zealand to sell Yellow Page Group

Telecom New Zealand has announced that it is going to sell its Yellow Page Group business and

is expecting at least NZ\$2 billion. The Yellow Page Group includes the Yellow Pages, White Pages (which includes both offline and online services), New Zealand Retirement Guide and New Zealand Tourism Online.

However Chief Financial Officer, Mark Bogoevski, will not comment on how much the reserve price is.

The company says that the money they get from selling the directories will be used to repay almost \$3.5 billion worth of debt.

Theresa Gattung, Chief Executive of Telecom, said: "There has already been considerable interest shown in the future of Yellow Pages Group based on recent media speculation. We expect that the sale should be completed by the end of this financial year."

The Yellow Page Group generates \$250 million worth of revenue per annum and employs 600 people.

Ms Gattung said: "In the long term the business will be dominated by the global players. It's really prudent off us to take this opportunity to see what value we can get looking at the sale of this business at this stage."

Analysts are warning Telecom that it would miss out on the digital media possibilities. "It looks to me that it is a bit of a panic reaction in order to generate some quick cash," said, telecommunications expert, Paul Budde, "I think it's a short-term sort of strategy to generate some cash, but it will undermine its long term strategy to move from the old Telecom's world into the new digital media world."

Ms Gattung said that the privacy of the individuals will be kept,

"obviously we're only going to sell to a very reputable party."

Telecom is also hinting at cutting hundreds of jobs to invest in new technology to beat off competition.

Today in History

1605 - The Gunpowder Plot:

Thomas Knyvet arrested explosives expert Guy Fawkes and foiled Robert Catesby's plot to destroy the Houses of Parliament in London, England.

1688 - Glorious Revolution:

Protestant Prince William of Orange landed at Brixham in Devon, on his way to depose his father-in-law King James II, the last Catholic monarch of England.

1838 - The collapse of the United Provinces of Central America began with Nicaragua seceding from the federation.

1872 - Suffragette Susan B.

Anthony voted in the U.S. presidential election for the first time. She was later fined \$100 for her participation.

1917 - St. Tikhon of Moscow was elected Patriarch of Moscow and of the Russian Orthodox Church.

November 05 is Guy Fawkes Night in the United Kingdom and some Commonwealth countries.

Quote of the Day

It is quite certain that in seeing the people who treat us so well despite their own misfortune, we are more obliged than ever to work hard for their happiness.

~ Marie Antoinette

Word of the Day

rodomontade; v

1. To boast, brag or bluster pretentiously.

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