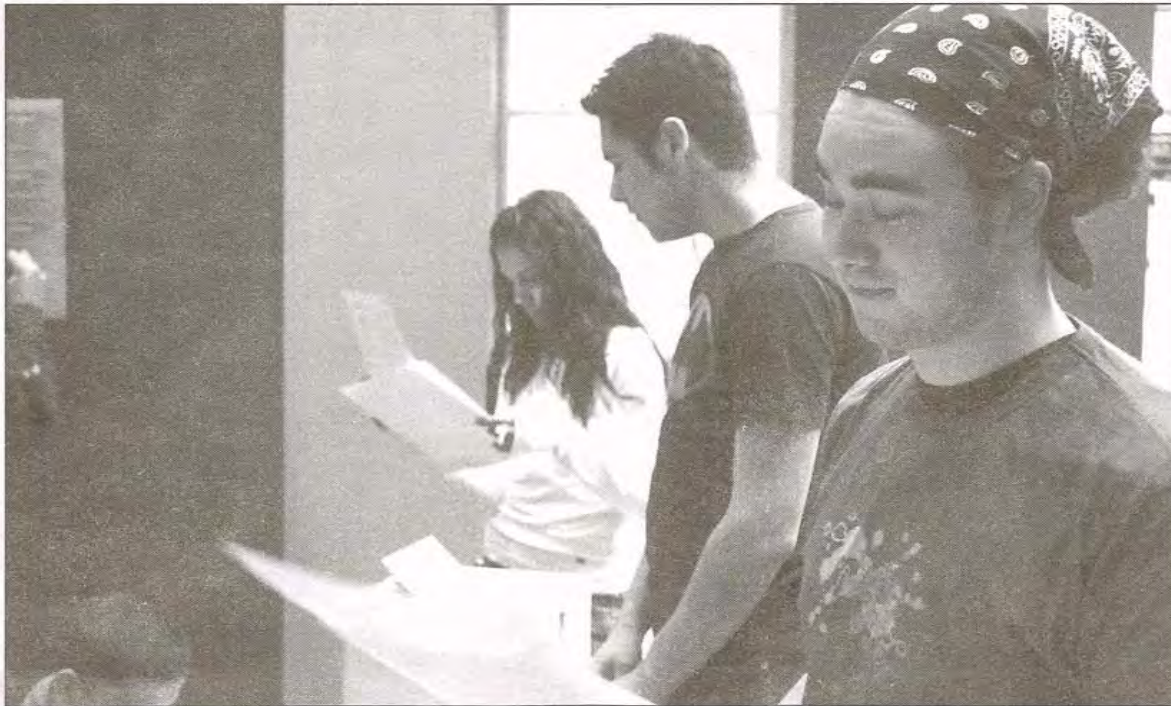


# Ch *Kwantlen* Chronicle

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Langley • Newton • Richmond • Surrey

## KSA controversy, again



Joe Ng/Kwantlen Chronicle

**"There was no postings for the election and there is no transparency for their funding,"** says Kwantlen student Mark Thomas at the voting booths. **"If 30 per cent of the students go to the Richmond campus then 30 per cent of the funds should be allocated there."**

## Kwantlen's candidate

By Daniel Wilson  
*Kwantlen Chronicle*

One of Kwantlen's own could soon be an elected official in Ottawa and, with her close proximity to the plight of students, she could soon be an advocate for them.

Nancy Clegg is a NDP candidate in Newton-North Delta and a Kwantlen economics instructor. One of the major issues Clegg, who has been active in politics since her 20s, is most concerned about is the rise of tuition fees and student debt.

"Tuition fees have skyrocketed," said Clegg. "They've made a post-secondary education out of the financial range of many people, and even those students who do continue end up graduating with enormous debt load."

Clegg, also a mother of three adult children, doesn't agree with Conservative and Liberal ideas for solving this problem.



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## More transparency is being demanded of the KSA's RAF party following a string of controversies

By Joe Ng  
*Kwantlen Chronicle*

Controversy surrounded the student elections this past week. Students had the opportunity to vote on Jan. 18 and Jan. 19 on who they would like their KSA officials to be.

However, many opposing candidates are not happy with the way in which the election was held and feel it was unethical. The RAF party held the election shortly following the winter break which may have hindered opposing parties from organizing more formal campaigns.

Few students may have even known about the election up until the day of voting. There were few signals on the Richmond campus that indicated such an event was going to take place.

When asked if she had heard about the upcoming elections, public relations student Alicia Puusepp, responded, "I haven't heard a peep. Last year there was a guy handing out popcorn and telling students about his platform but this term I haven't heard anything."

Members of the RAF party state that adequate publicity was available. Students may have seen posters up around the schools or on the bulletin boards.

Kulvir Gill, the Richmond campus representative for the RAF party, offered a possible cause as to why the posters may have remained unseen.

"We put up a lot of posters. We

put them up mostly on the bulletin boards but there were a lot of book sales and advertisements that could have covered them up accidentally."

Still, some opposing candidates feel the RAF party could have done a better job in notifying the student body that an election was coming.

"I haven't seen any flyers around the Surrey campus," says Michael Van Fleet, a representative of the Liaisons for You party. "I think that every student should know that elections are going on and that they are able to run in them. Many people don't even know what the KSA is doing for them. The KSA should be promoting what they are doing for students. That's what their job is."

In fact, there is further speculation that the perceived concealment was no accident. There have been suggestions that the RAF party may not have been completely forthright about the election in order to remain in power by allowing little time for opposing parties to organize solid campaigns. Individual members from all opposing parties resoundingly stated that they had been informed of the election far later than they had hoped.

And this is not the first time the party has come under criticism. During the fall semester the association was accused with allegations of corruption and the misappropriation of funds.

Gill responded by saying, "They were just allegations. I know there

has been a lot of controversy over the last semester. However, nothing has been proven. I understand that it looks bad but we have to move on from that."

The sentiment from opposing party members is that this is unsatisfactory and that more transparency is required of the party in power, whoever it may be.

R.A. Scott, a representative of the Student Movement Party, offers, "Any group of people put in a position of power will always have differing ideas but as long as they keep open, keep people involved and keep people informed —make it as democratic as possible, it will always be a healthy political process. The moment it becomes clandestine, or closed off, or secretive, you open the door to corruption and abuses of power, which are allegations being leveled against the current government."

Regardless of election results, some candidates feel it would be beneficial for an exterior source to inspect KSA expenditures and ensure that the student's dollar is being used in the student's best interest.

Parties that participated in the student election included the Reduce All Fees Party (RAF), who had held power from the previous election, the Common Sense Initiative Party (CSI), the Student Movement Party and the Liaisons for You Party.

The new KSA board of directors will assume office on Jan. 23.

"The Conservatives and the Liberals both, they talk about making sure that students can get an education, by making sure that they can get loans," said Clegg. "But my position is, we don't want to make it easier for students to get loans, we want to make it easier for students to get an education."

In fact, the NDP was given the opportunity last year to rewrite the Liberal budget. In that rewrite, the party allowed for \$1.5 billion [in] federal government money to go through the provincial governments to post-secondary schools to provide relief for tuition fees.

"This is something the NDP wants to do," said Clegg. "We want to get tuition fees down so they're affordable and so students can get an education. We know that this economy is requiring more and more that people have a post-secondary education, and not to educate our youth is, I think, a serious oversight."

Clegg, who first ran for federal election in 2004, placing third despite being only 1,500 votes behind the winner, thinks things will be different this time around.

"This time I'm far better known," said Clegg. "People know that I stand up for working people and for students."

Her chances look good, as the NDP won the Delta-North, Surrey-Newton and Surrey-Panorama Ridge constituencies in last June's provincial election, all of which make up parts of Clegg's riding of Delta-Newton.

"I think that the people in this riding are seeing that representation

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# Federal election student reflections

## Students agree they don't know the issues and candidates as much as they'd like to before voting

By Stephen Kronstein  
*Kwantlen Chronicle*

Most Kwantlen University College students don't seem to have much enthusiasm for voting in today's federal election.

Consider Sabrina Closter, a 20-year-old sciences student who's never voted in the past. This election is no different for her.

"When I see those [election] signs, I'm just like 'Oh great, I'm going to see those signs for a while,'"



*Stephen Kronstein/Kwantlen Chronicle*

**Andrea Recavarren is interested in the issues, but with a full class schedule and busy life doesn't have enough time to learn about the election and the candidates before today's election.**

said Closter, "but I would never think to go down and figure out where I can vote. I don't care."

Closter thinks she may vote when she's older and understands politics better.

Politics isn't something Closter has learnt much about in the past, she said. "I don't really know what I'm voting for and what I'm going to get.

"Plus, [politicians] all go and say what they're going to do, and half the time it's not that anyways. So really they're just deceiving you, I think."

Closter said people often vote for a party they think is going to be great, and then a short time later can't wait until the next election to vote them out.

"I don't really see a point," she said. "I think it's all just crap."

Andrea Recavarren, a general arts student at Kwantlen, may have a more informed understanding about this election than Closter, but even she doesn't intend to vote today.

Recavarren, 18, is interested in issues such as school tuition and health care for seniors, among other things, "but not enough to really go out there and vote," she said.

Between her five classes at Kwantlen and everything else

in her life, Recavarren doesn't have the time to learn enough about the election to make an informed decision.

"It's like the last thing on my mind," she said.

Recavarren thinks it's "extremely important" that the education system be far more active in helping young people to take an interest in politics.



*Stephen Kronstein/Kwantlen Chronicle*

**Emily Harper has used online resources, newspapers and listening to critics to make an informed decision.**

"I haven't had anything, really, to help me, or notify me, or make me want to be more involved in politics," she said.

"All the kids in high school right now don't know how expensive school's getting," said Recavarren. "Even me talking to you now, I just know bits and pieces that I pick up

from nowhere.

"I think it's important to know the background information about this because it's going to affect your future."

Bobby Young is another Kwantlen student who doesn't intend to vote today, but if he was, he'd vote for the Liberals, he said.

"Just from what I've read in the papers, most people tend to lean more towards the Liberals," he said, "just because of what they're going to try and fix."

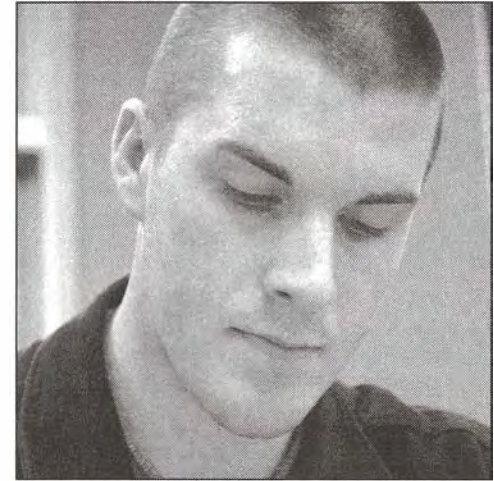
Young's understanding of politics is based more on the opinions of others in his community than his own, which he feels are far less informed, he said.

"I have my own opinions, but I don't follow politics all that much," said Young. "I don't even know half the people that are running."

Young said he doesn't want to cast a vote because he doesn't know what he's truly

voting for.

"Maybe they're just a bunch of liars," he said. "Maybe they're just making everybody believe what they want to believe, and they vote . . . not knowing that it's going to corrupt society. I want to know what I'm voting for and I'm still learning."



*Stephen Kronstein/Kwantlen Chronicle*

**Bobby Young probably won't vote because he doesn't follow politics.**

Not all students will be avoiding the voting booth today. Emily Harper, a 27-year-old psychology major, has been researching her options to make an informed decision.

"I haven't completely decided yet," she said, "but I've looked at all of the parties."

Considering what Harper has learnt, she's leaning "away from the Conservatives, at this point."

Deciding who gets her vote is not so much about the party, she explained, it's more about choosing "the lesser of three evils."

To understand as complete a picture as possible, Harper has been researching online, reading the newspapers and listening to critics in the media.

"I want to get as many points of view as I can," she said.

# Econ instructor runs for federal MP position

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by the NDP is good representation," said Clegg. "I think they can see, on issues that require federal and provincial cooperation, we'll certainly have representation with the same outlook and that we'll be able to work well together in this riding."

Clegg joined the NDP because she believes it is the only party that believes in the equality of all Canadians.

"What drew me to the NDP is my belief in the importance of social justice and the belief that all people are equal in this country, regardless of where they come from," said Clegg.

Clegg's opponents in this election include Phil Eidsvik of the Conservatives and Sukh Dhaliwal of the Liberals. Clegg believes that the federal Liberal campaign is unraveling and that her own riding has become a race between herself and Eidsvik of the Conservatives. In that battle, Clegg has a problem with Eidsvik.

"I have an issue with the Conservative candidate," said Clegg. "He doesn't live in this riding, he doesn't work in this riding [and] he, as far as I know, has done no community involvement in this riding. I really believe that for a member of parliament to go to Ottawa and speak on behalf of her riding, she needs to know what the riding's about and what the people think and what the

issues are. And I think to know that, you need to live them."

Of the recent Conservative and Liberal controversies, Clegg sees them as disappointing and feels that Canadians are tired of this political corruption. She hopes, if elected, that she and the rest of the NDP, can bring a level of accountability to the government.



*I'm hoping to go to  
Ottawa and provide  
a strong voice for the  
working men and  
women and for the  
students of this riding.*  
— Nancy Clegg

Newton-North Delta has faced its own share of controversies, as Conservative incumbent Gurmant Grewal decided not to seek re-election following a scandal where he claimed to have taped conversations between himself and Liberal officials offering him and his wife jobs with the party if they left the Conservatives.

This has left the field wide open for the candidates of Newton-North

Delta, in a riding that has often proven to be a very close race.

Clegg believes her dual role as an instructor and a politician has made her a better teacher and bureaucrat at the same time. While she sees her classes as more interesting, given her background and what she can offer to discussions and debates, she also feels her frequent interaction with students has helped her better understand their concerns.

"I think that, you know, you understand people when you talk to them and I talk to students all the time," said Clegg.

Clegg plans on returning to Kwantlen if she is unsuccessful in her political aspirations. Currently she's scheduled to teach four economics course this semester, but is being replaced by a substitute while she's on the campaign trail.

As much as she loves teaching, Clegg hopes to go to Ottawa and provide a voice for her students there.

"I certainly hope to win for the NDP," said Clegg. "I'm hoping to go to Ottawa and provide a strong voice for the working men and women and for the students of this riding."

After today, she may be doing just that.

Clegg has a bachelor of arts honours degree and a masters of arts degree in economics from Simon Fraser University. She has taught

economics at the Surrey and Richmond Kwantlen campuses for 14 years, also writing two textbooks on introductory economic theory in



Photo courtesy of Nancy Clegg

**Newton-North Delta NDP candidate Nancy Clegg and NDP leader Jack Layton appear on Radio India in Surrey, as Layton releases the NDP's crime platform.**

that time.

With Kwantlen, Clegg has served as president of the faculty association and as a member of the school's board of governors.

Politically, Clegg has sat on several B.C. Federation of Labour committees and was a provincial appointee to the B.C. Council on Admissions and Transfer from 2001-04. She is currently a member of the Delta heritage advisory committee.

More can be learned about Clegg at her personal website, [www.nancy-clegg.ca](http://www.nancy-clegg.ca).

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