

# The Clackamas Print

Independent, student-run newspaper since 1966 available online at [Theclackamasprint.com](http://Theclackamasprint.com)

Clackamas Community College, Oregon City, OR

Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2009

Volume 42, Issue 10

## New light shines for vets

**John Hurlburt**  
News Editor

Public perception of war in our nation has always been a rollercoaster ride full of passionate climbs and devastating drops, depending on the political climate. The unfortunate side effect of this nauseating ride is that all too often the needs of veterans are left by the wayside.

Now however, thanks to a community pulling together, Clackamas Community College is boasting an all new Veterans Center to help fulfill the needs of veterans returning to the civilian world. It's the first of its kind in Clackamas County.

Nestled in the back of the first floor of DeJardin Hall in a location Veterans Club President Casey Curry calls, "surreal, serene and relaxing," is the first incarnation of Clackamas' Veterans Center.

The area is out of the way

from where most foot traffic takes place on campus and is often very quiet. Both factors are much needed for veterans according to Bill Zuelke, dean of student services.

"They (veterans) need a quiet place where they can decompress," Zuelke said adding that research shows that veterans who are offered places such as this are more likely to be successful in school and in readjusting to civilian life in general.

The benefits of the Veterans Center are many. Not only can returning soldiers have a quiet place to study, but there is a social aspect to the center, as well as a myriad of services that local providers have been offering to veterans within the center.

To Jonathan Toral, a Clackamas student and veteran who has been to both Iraq and Kuwait, the center is a necessity for the school and for returning veterans.



Jessica Foster Clackamas Print

Jonathan Toral and a fellow veteran make use of the services being offered through the community center.

"It's one of the greatest ideas I've heard of, because I don't know where to go," Toral said referring to where to get services. "I really don't know

what I am entitled to being a Marine and a veteran, so it's awesome."

Please see VETS, Page 2

## Student opinions torn regarding Obama's 'change'

**Kayla Calloway**  
**Larissa Figley**  
The Clackamas Print

As the country celebrates the coming of a new president, Clackamas students sat in the Community Center and watch the parade with hope, and in some cases, unease.

Throughout President Obama's political career, education has been a foremost issue for him. According to the Barack Obama official Web site, there are several key factors to improving America's educational system. With the current declining economy, Obama has continued to place high importance on the value of education. One of the keys to turning the economy around is to provide people with the tools and resources to improve their financial situation.

One part of the plan that may affect students everywhere is a program that will offer 100 hours of community service to be completed in exchange for \$4000 towards tuition and books. For students here at CCC, that would cover about a year of school.

Another change made will be to simplify the application for federal aid to a one question part of yearly tax filing.

Obama also has plans to create programs for affordable high quality daycare allowing parents to work and attend school.

Kirsten Michael, a student and parent, says that, "Easily accessible money for school is important and with cheap daycare going back to school will be easier."

Obama's plans also include better preparation for high school students by supporting the schools with improved and more challenging classes.

Part of Obama's plan is to improve the dropout rate, which has been as high as one out of three. The focus towards schools is to be geared towards assisting as opposed to punishing.

The plan also includes programs to aid teachers by paying for their schooling and rewarding them with higher pay. All of these programs would greatly benefit individuals by giving them the skills needed to be qualified employees, which would promote a healthy economy.

President Obama's campaign was lined with promises of change in education and the economy, but with our nation's current economic situation, the question of "How much can one man do?" arises.

"One man alone cannot turn this economy around," said Clackamas student Andrae Nicholson, "but he has good ideas."

Nicholson has seen the repercussions of the decline hit close to home. After his mother lost her job last July, she hasn't been able to find a new one.

"They tell her that she's overqualified," said Nicholson.



John Shufelt Clackamas Print

A shirt showing a caricature of Obama was being sold in the Community Center.

As for Nicholson's own job situation, he works part time, like most college students. And, like most part time workers, there is always the fear of losing that job.

On the other side of the spectrum, student Sophie Simmons has not been very much affected by the economic decline.

"I've always been a light spender," said Simmons.

Despite all this, Nicholson still has hope for Obama's presidency.

"My hopes are high," said Nicholson, "but my expectations are not."

"I don't expect anything to happen instantly," said Nicholson. "We might not see changes until the end of his term."

So far, students seem hopeful, but that's not always the case. Kenton Benfield, a student at Clackamas, sees things quite differently.

"This false sense of hope will be gone by the year's end," said Benfield.

Obama has only just begun his term, and Americans have no way of knowing how the future will turn out.

"As awesome as he is, he is just a man and he will make mistakes," said Simmons. "What matters is how he chooses to come back from those mistakes."



Robert Crawford Clackamas Print

Students and staff gather in the Community Center to watch the inauguration of President Barack Obama Tuesday Jan. 20.

### The Zone shooting leaves 2 dead and 7 injured

Abby Neet  
John Hurlburt  
The Clackamas Print

Seven people were injured and two killed after a lone gunman opened fired outside The Zone nightclub in downtown Portland on Saturday, Jan. 24, around 10:30 p.m.

The suspected gunman, 24-year-old Erik Salvadore Ayala, was found at the scene with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

Among the victims were foreign exchange students, Clackamas High school student and the manager of a nearby business.

The motive for the attack is still under investigation, but has been disclosed in the police report that, the shooting did not have to do with the nationality of the victims, and that the victims did nothing to spark the shootings.

A witness in the investigation reported that lately Ayala had been depressed, but that he gave no inclination to act in a violent manner.

A search of Ayala's house turned a note that he had left to his roommates in which he insinuated thoughts of committing suicide, as well as detailing the dispersion of property.

The Zone is a 21-and-older nightclub located on the southeast 2nd Avenue and 1st Street.

In light of the shootings, Clackamas students are torn about how safe they would feel about going back to The Zone.

Student Nichole Howe who has gone to The Zone has shaken by the news.

"That really makes me scared," Howe said adding, "I honestly would not feel like going there again."

Student Jacob Best, who has also gone to The Zone, feels differently.

"I would still go there," Best said. "It doesn't make a difference, something bad is going to happen in all plac-



Ayala