

Students organize for candidate

By Patty Salazar
News Editor

With the Republican candidates touring the country for support, a few Clackamas Community College students are acting locally to support their favorite candidate, Ron Paul. On a chilly afternoon the trio — Quinn Walker, Jon Jensen and Jennifer Raad — got together in Clackamas to spread the word of Paul, sign waving on an overpass near Clackamas Town Center.

As Walker was the one to start the CCC chapter he is the leader of CCC for Ron Paul. The group started in December and signs were put up around campus recently.

Walker attended Paul's speech in Vancouver, Wash. on Feb. 17. "It was really cool; there was a lot of people there. Some people didn't even get to go in. A lot of people did get to see him, I

barely saw him. His speeches are all the same and it's the same message all the time, but it's really cool to see an honest candidate that wants America to improve," Walker said. "He has been saying the same message for 30 years and now it's being finally listened to."

"I like how I'm going to be able to trust when he is in office when he gets elected because he has 30 years of the track record. All of the other politicians we've had flip flop a lot and they don't come out and do what they are supposed to or what they say they are going to do. At least he has my vote because he is an honest candidate," Walker said.

Although Oregon might seem a predominantly Democratic state, Walker believes Paul has a good shot in Oregon. "The thing about Ron Paul is that he attracts all of them; he attracts independents, a lot of Democrats, and now a lot of Republicans.



Quinn Walker and Jennifer Raad wave Ron Paul signs on the I-205 overpass in Clackamas.

All photos by Patty Salazar The Clackamas Print

Combined he has greater success than other Republicans to compete against Obama since he has a greater influence on all of the groups other than just one," Walker said.

Jensen, who is a first year music student at Clackamas, said what he likes most about Paul is everything economically. "I like how he talks about returning to a gold standard which I think is important. That is something I have been advocating for for years, to hear a presidential candidate talk about something that important I think is exciting," Jensen said.

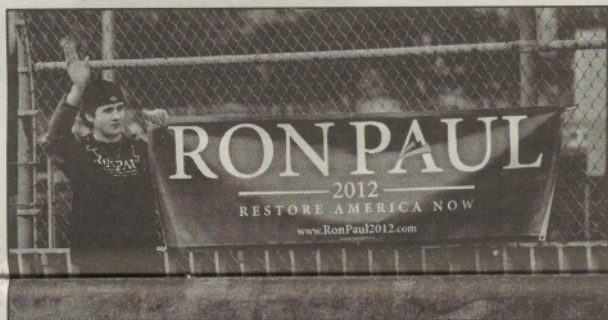
While being out on the overpass for 10 minutes you can hear at least 10 plus cars honk their horns, Jensen said, "It makes it so worth it. I smile every time. I just get excited. I got a few people to honk from the freeway too. If they don't honk

they wave, give a peace sign, whatever you know, it makes me feel like it's all worth it."

As of right now the group has 20 members but only five that meet regularly. "We could use some more members. I think a lot of what Paul talks about benefits the youth and that's why so many of us like him. The future is kind of a big deal to all of us," Jensen said.

Although Paul might attract the youth vote he also attracts an older generation such as Raad. "A politician who is honest is kind of unbelievable. He is the only politician who I have contributed to." Raad also wants to encourage students that have any interest that they are welcomed to check it out. She encourages people to check out all the candidates and their voting track records. "[Don't] blindly follow what the media

tells you." The group was provided with stickers, pamphlets and recruiting paper from the Paul campaign. Walker said that by wearing a sticker and bringing up Paul in classes, other students have joined the group. He is hoping to bump up that number to a 100 students before he leaves to a four-year college. Although the group has only met four times, they plan to keep meeting and making more plans to get the word out. They hope to start tabling soon so that they can spread the word on campus. The group has a Facebook page "CCC for Ron Paul" and meets every Thursday at 3 p.m. at Izzy's Pizza Restaurant in Oregon City. You can contact Walker at qcwalker@gmail.com.



Jon Jensen waves at passing cars while holding a Ron Paul banner on the I-205 overpass in Clackamas.

BUDGET: College asks for staff input

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Input and ideas from the staff may be considered by the Budget Committee but the CCC board of education will have the final vote when it decides next year's budget this spring. The tuition hike is pretty imminent along with these huge payments that need to be made. The college will likely look to future hikes in these fees to supplement a bleak outlook in revenue sources. The failure of last year's bond measure and the questionable possibility of voters passing any future bonds make for difficult budget decisions in the future.

However that financial vote goes, Courtney Wilton, vice president of college services and Elizabeth Lundy, vice president of instructional services, seemed to project largely optimistic feelings that the college would be able to make the budget work, while satisfying the overall goals the college has to meet the needs of students and staff. "We are a people business," they both said at one point during the forum.

Adam Hall, full time Faculty Association President and CCC math instructor for 14 years, was at the budget forums and feels that the forums are a way to get productive discussion and input developed from staff, but with a caveat. "We need to get enough people there," he said.

Past forums have had more participants that resulted in a more dynamic discussion, according to Hall. "During past forums, we had substantially more participants. Let's face it, if we're only getting ten to 30 to come, that means that it's not going to be a way to communicate to all staff effectively," he said.

Elizabeth Howley, chair of the horticulture department, asked Wilton how the college would go about planning and passing a successful bond measure.

"We went out last May and we basically got killed," Wilton said. "It's likely we are not going out for a new bond measure in the near future. We could probably go out in a few years. Hopefully the environment will be better then."

In spite of the hard budget decisions the college is facing, Wilton and Lundy led a productive discussion that was light hearted and casual. There were many audience chuckles that were shared by the speakers even as serious issues and concerns were aired.

Wilton concluded the forum by reassuring the participants that the staff at the college was doing a good job in spite of some tough circumstances.

"We'd like to reaffirm the good job that 99 percent of our employees are doing. We've got some issues we are going to have deal with," he said. "I don't want people to feel like the world's going to end."



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