

## STUDENT LIFE

# Primary Progress

• Senator **John McCain** was victorious in the Florida Republican primary on Jan. 29 where he got 36 percent of the vote.

**Mitt Romney**, the only other Republican with a feasible chance for the candidacy, came in second place with 31 percent of the votes.

• **Hillary Clinton** won the Florida primary for the Democratic party, but her victory was nearly uncontested since the party had stripped the state of its delegates following an unauthorized move to make their primary earlier in the year.

• **Rudy Giuliani** withdrew from the Republican presidential race after finishing third in Florida with 15 percent of the votes.

Giuliani had staked most of his fate in the outcome of the Florida primary and failed to win any states during his run at the presidency, despite being one of the favorites from the time of Sept. 11 until early 2008.

Giuliani endorsed **McCain** in his conceding speech, and called him "an American hero that is the most qualified candidate to be the next commander in chief of the United States."

• **John Edwards** withdrew from the Democratic presidential race and conceded the candidacy to either **Barack Obama** or **Hillary Clinton**.

Edwards gave the speech announcing the end of his campaign in New Orleans, where he began his campaign in Dec. 2006.

Edwards said that he and his wife decided to end their campaign before Super Tuesday because he felt that his chance to become president had become nonexistent. One of his senior advisers, Joe Trippi, said, "He wanted to have a shot at being president. He wanted to have a chance to change people's lives, not be a spoiler or a king maker and not play political games."

He has yet to endorse either Democratic candidate, but said that he has spoken with both and urged them to continue on with the goals specific to his campaign.

• California Senator **Arnold Schwarzenegger** announced his endorsement of **John McCain** for the presidency on Jan. 31.

Schwarzenegger has long professed himself as non-partisan and moderate, and his endorsement could help sway many registered Independent voters.

• **Caroline Kennedy** endorsed **Barack Obama** in an Op-ed piece for the Sunday New York Times titled, "A President, like my Father."

"He has built a movement that is changing the face of politics in this country, and he has demonstrated a special gift for inspiring young people — known for a willingness to volunteer, but an aversion to politics — to become engaged in the political process," Kennedy said about Obama.

**Ted Kennedy**, one of the most powerful Senators in the country, also endorsed Obama.

• On **Feb. 5**, the biggest day of the primary election process will take place, called "**Super Tuesday**."

Twenty-four states will hold primary elections or caucuses on this day, and with 51 percent of the Democratic delegates placing their votes on this day, it could decide the winner of the Democratic primary race.

• **Barack Obama's** campaign released information that they raised over \$32 million and attracted an unprecedented 170,000 new contributors during the month of January.

## Cloverfield lacks satisfactory ending



Michael Stahl-David, Jessica Lucas and Lizzy Caplan are three of the relatively unknown actors that star in J.J. Abrams' big screen debut, *Cloverfield*.

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After the criticism that *The Blair Witch Project* received concerning its unconventional film work, one would think that directors and producers would stay away from the first person camera style of filming for the big screen. This was not the case with J.J. Abrams, the highly acclaimed creator of the hit television series, *LOST*, in his first full-length film, called *Cloverfield*.

*Cloverfield*, a science fiction thriller that begins with a surprise party for Rob Hawkins (Michael Stahl-David) to celebrate a big promotion that will force him to relocate to Japan. The party and trip immediately go on halt when a jolt rocks the city of Manhattan and mass chaos bursts out. Rob, his brother Jason (Mike Vogel), his girlfriend Lily Ford (Jessica Lucas) and their best friend Hud (T.J. Miller) plan to escape Manhattan until Rob receives a phone call from Beth, the girl he is loves, and she needs help.

Very typical, right? The group of friends then decide to embark on a journey into the heart of the city to find her.

While they are on the way to her apartment, the group is confronted by an animal that slightly resembles Godzilla and is destroying the entire city. They also encounter abnormally large spider-like creatures.

The creatures easily fulfill their purpose, which is to horrify the audience.

First-person filming style is not a thing of the future. During the film, one might ask oneself when it will end and switch to a normal camera angle, but it continues the entire length of the movie. At times it is bearable, but at others the instability of the camera makes you feel as though you may lose your stomach in front of the person

sitting next to you.

In spite of the visually straining experience, the movie does well to actually keep the audience's attention because you feel exactly what the characters are feeling. It is as if you are being attacked with them—which is possibly the only benefit that the first-person filming brings to the overall entertainment of the movie. The film almost gives off the eerie feeling that you are right there trying to survive.

The first person filming also takes away from the acting in the movie, which is a good thing; the quality of the acting in this movie is sub-par at best.

These young actors did what they seemingly knew best, which was to hold onto a camera, run, scream, refer to each other as "dude," and "babe," and blurt the occasional swear word.

After the climatic part of rescuing Beth, the group travels frantically to the evacuation area where helicopters are taking the last groups of civilians from the city.

The military plans to level all of Manhattan, and Rob, Beth and Hud are among the final group to leave, but are taken down by the monster.

The ending is, unexpectedly, very uneventful and unsatisfactory. It lacks any type of closure, but does not leave an opening for a sequel. The screen goes blank and the audience is left bewildered, wondering what happened next.

Not only was the ending uneventful, it was very perplexing, so much so that much of the audience simply sat in the theater for about five minutes after the conclusion in a state of confusion.

*Cloverfield* definitely is not for everyone, but if you're already excited about it, it might be worth a try. It was a relatively unique experience that included monsters and a few interesting fight scenes. It's a short movie, at only an hour and 24 minutes long, but it will certainly keep you wondering long after you leave the theater.

## Pennsylvania obsolete in primaries

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Less than a month ago, there were nearly 20 candidates that had a theoretical chance to become our nation's next president.

Then, the primaries and caucuses began.

Since then, the number of potential candidates has dropped drastically. With each state primary, it seems, more presidential hopefuls have thrown in the proverbial towel.

On Jan. 30, both the Democratic and Republican party lost two of their higher-profile candidates when John Edwards and Rudy Giuliani bowed out of the race.

They both dropped out because neither one of them felt that they had a chance at becoming the next president, and, with each primary loss, came downsizing in their funding, making it more and more difficult to participate in the race.

At the time of their departure, there remain only three Democrats and four Republicans left in the race, with Mike Huckabee, Ron Paul and Mike Gravel expected to concede soon, which would leave Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton to fight it out for the Democratic nomination while John McCain and Mitt Romney battle for the Republican nomination.

The fact that so many candidates have withdrawn is extremely unfair to Pennsylvania voters (but not the fault of the candidates), and it's only going to get worse before April 22, when we are finally able to cast our primary ballots.

After Super Tuesday, which takes place on Feb. 5 and has 24 states casting their primary votes or participating in caucuses, the primaries—at least for the Democrats—will be all but over. This poses the question, what about the other states?

Think about it, shouldn't Pennsylvanians have just as much say in who will have a chance to represent our chosen party as someone who lives in Iowa, South Carolina or any other state that was

allowed to vote months before us?

When the debates and campaigns began, I found that I could see myself casting a vote for two different candidates, one a Conservative and the other a Liberal.

Since then, one of these candidates has withdrawn from the race, and the other is hanging on but will no-doubt be gone by the time my turn to vote rolls around.

I've been stripped of these chances because other people got to decide who they liked before I was allowed to, thus letting certain candidates jump out to leads and gain more funding, while the losers in the first few states cut their losses and walked away from the race.

It feels as though I have no voice now, except to vote for a candidate that wasn't my favorite anyway. My vote has been rendered all but obsolete in the primaries.

I feel like I'll be voting for "the lesser of the two evils," which is how my mother explained her voting choice for the 2004 election to me.

Rudy Giuliani didn't win any of the states during his run, but if Pennsylvania had been able to vote, he probably would have. At the last polling in the state, he had a convincing lead amongst those in the Republican party, but now he'll never get that chance to collect those votes and that victory.

The entire primary process is flawed and unfair. There should be only one day of voting, with no caucuses. It should mirror the actual presidential election. This could take place later in the year, maybe a few months before the election so that candidates would have enough time to span their campaigns across the entire country, and all citizens and delegates would have the opportunity to cast an equally significant vote.

The last time I checked, in a democracy, every citizen vote was supposed to be equal, and in the current system they are not.

I resent that people in Iowa and other states can diminish my choices for a decision before I get an opportunity to make it for myself.

## Top 5 Worst Comedians

By: **Andy McLachlan**

5. **Larry The Cable Guy**

4. **Bill Engvall**

3. **Carrot Top**

2. **Jay Mohr**

1. **Carlos Mencia**