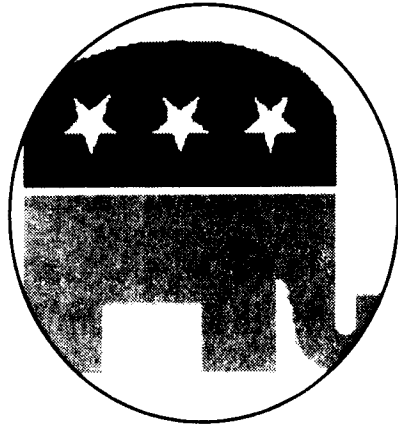
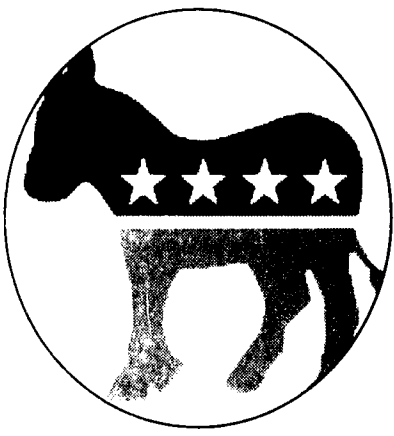


# STUDENT LIFE

## Primary Progress



• **John McCain** has stayed on top as the front runner for the Republican nomination, taking a 2-1 delegate advantage over Mike Huckabee this week. McCain won all three Potomac state primaries (Washington D.C., Virginia and Maryland), and some of his colleagues have already declared him the winner of the Republican race. McCain's advisors released a memo stating that it would be "mathematically impossible" for Huckabee to win the race.

• The fight for the Democratic nomination has stayed close this week and may continue into the convention if Hillary Clinton can win some of the states that will be holding primaries in the next few weeks. In a recent poll by USA Today, they've found that it is too close to call, though Barack Obama is making incremental gains on Clinton.

• According to The New York Times, Hillary Clinton and her advisers believe that they are now in a must-win position in the Ohio and Texas primaries, which will be held on March 4. According to an article printed on Tuesday, Feb. 12, Clinton held a meeting with some of her donors to reassure them that the nomination was not slipping away. Some attendees said that she seemed a little bit down and tired, but that she was determined to win the upcoming states.

• **Barack Obama** won all three Potomac state primaries this week and also captured victory in Louisiana.

• Former Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney announced his official endorsement of John McCain on Thursday. Romney released his delegates and encouraged them to get behind McCain. If all of Romney's delegates do this, it will give McCain a total of 1,015, which is 78 short of securing the nomination.

• **Hillary Clinton** is threatening to boycott future MSNBC debates after a disparaging remark was made on air about her daughter, Chelsea, by MSNBC employee David Shuster. Shuster was suspended for an undisclosed amount of time after saying, "Doesn't it seem as if Chelsea is sort of being pimped out in some weird sort of way?"

Compiled by Scott Muska

## "F\*\*k Bush" comment unnecessary



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

David McSwane's career could go downhill after an unusual printed outburst concerning President Bush.

By Scott Muska  
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Last September, David McSwane, the editor-in-chief of the Rocky Mountain Collegian, Colorado State University's student newspaper, printed a four word editorial column on their publication's Opinion page.

It read, simply and in large, bold and uncensored lettering, "Taser this: F\*\*K BUSH." and created quite the stir among not only college students, but the entire nation.

"We felt that maybe four words were more impactful than 250," McSwane said in an interview with CNN shortly after the piece was published, which he says was inspired by the incident at the University of Florida when a student was tasered by police after asking John Kerry a controversial question.

"We wanted people to understand that free speech is something we should talk about," McSwane said. "We felt that this campus, for one reason or another, has been really apathetic. Too quiet. We felt that the best way to spark that dialogue was to exercise it ourselves."

They sure did exercise it, in quite possibly the worst way possible. The impact and national attention that those four words received has done nothing to enhance free speech for college students or anyone else.

Though McSwane paints himself as a martyr in the name of the First Amendment that put his job and reputation on the line, he is the absolute opposite. In a government that utilizes the U.S.A. Patriot Act and already has their hand in the cookie jar of the media, the battle for free speech must be fought with strategy, not idiotic brashness.

The phrase "F\*\*k Bush" is a statement, sure, and by law McSwane can say it or print it if he wants to I'm sure it's being said all over the world at least 20 times a minute, but to use it to spark discussion or a battle for free speech is ludicrous.

McSwane has said time and time again that he

stands by his piece (if it can actually even be called that, because in my Newspaper Writing class, the "pieces" must be 500 words long), and he said it again earlier this week when it was decided that he would be able to keep his job as editor for The Collegian, which is something I can't argue. He should be able to keep his job, and I'm not bashing on the First Amendment, because I am after all an aspiring journalist, but it should be used responsibly.

The most disheartening thing about this occurrence is that McSwane may now be journalistically blacklisted, despite his previous accomplishments as a successful investigative journalist.

During his senior year in high school, he published a story in a Denver newspaper that recounted his experiences with high school army recruiters.

He exposed many lies and illegal loopholes that the recruiters were using to get kids into military uniforms after he went undercover as a high school drop-out with a drug addiction.

The article was well-written, received national attention and won numerous awards, but he's not expressing himself through four-word phrases.

Hopefully, McSwane has had his fill of the revolutionary limelight, that spotlight that he apparently craved so much. I hope that he sits behind his desk from now on and complains harmlessly, like I do, and I hope that he writes numerous editorials about his dissatisfaction with Bush - who, I must point out, doesn't seem phased by this. Bush has been doing things his way as long as he's been in office, and hasn't yielded to anyone. I don't see him pulling out of Iraq at the urging of a college newspaper editor.

More than anything, though, I hope that someday McSwane and anyone who supported his outburst realizes that it wasn't a heroic act, but an unnecessary one that discredits the people who really have fallen victim to illegitimate First Amendment breaches: because if these ill-conceived eruptions continue, the most important amendment will become less and less significant, especially among the country's youth.

## Young voters may have large impact

By Lenny Smith  
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The 2008 presidential election is shaping up to be one of the most exciting election seasons in many years. Many things are still unclear at this point over two weeks past Super Tuesday. However, one thing is certain - the theme of this election year is "Out with the old. In with the new."

Americans are ready for change, but it remains to be seen what kind of change they are looking for. It appears as if the Republican Party will place its future in the hands of John McCain, something that extreme right-wing conservatives are not very happy about. At the same time the Democratic Party is virtually split in two. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama are in a neck-to-neck fight for the party's nomination.

This year, more than ever, it appears as if the deciding factor could be one very influential demographic - young voters.

The Millennium Generation has been making their presences more known with each passing election. 18 year olds were first granted the right to vote in 1971 and since the 1972 presidential election between Richard Nixon and George McGovern youth voter turnout has been on the decline - until 2004.

In the presidential contest between John Kerry and President George W. Bush, just short of 21 million Americans between the ages of 18-29 cast a vote. The turnout was an increase of 4.6 million voters or a 9.3 percent jump over the turnout in the

2000 election.

In the 2008 election, young people are staged to make an even more impressive showing. This year, 44 million Americans between the ages of 18-29 will be eligible to vote.

"That means we are about a quarter to a fifth of the entire electorate," Heather Smith, Executive Director of Rock the Vote said in an interview with CNN. "It's just a whole new generation, the millennial generation, we are not our older brothers of Gen X. We are paying way more attention to politics. By, you know, 2012 we are going to be about a third of the voting population."

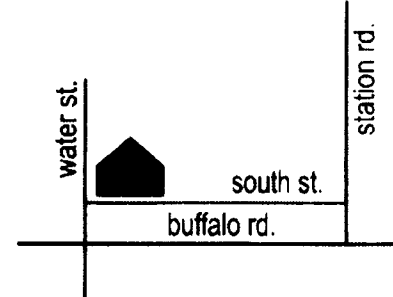
More attention indeed. The youth's increased attention to politics has already been evident. The New Hampshire primaries on Jan. 8 set the tone for the race. Voters between the ages of 18-29 had 271 percent increase of the 2004 election.

Super Tuesday, which was on Feb. 5, was another huge night for young voters. According to CNN exit polls, in almost every state that held a primary or caucus the youth vote increased a large amount. Most notably were the voters from Tennessee. In the 2000 election, 35,000 people between the ages of 18-29 cast a vote. However, in 2008, that number quadrupled to 140,000 votes cast.

"The entire world watched as one of the most electrifying moments in U.S. election history unfolded on [Feb. 5]," Smith said. "Young people are tired of being characterized as apathetic and uninterested in politics."

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