

STORIES BY ABE KENMORE  
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**Morlaix, France:**

Around 100 farmers in the French province of Brittany stormed and torched an insurance office last week, according to the BBC, to protest falling prices for their produce and the loss of the Russian market due to trade embargoes. They then dumped large piles of cabbages, manure and artichokes in the town center before torching the town's tax office. Given that the farmers were blocking a main road, firefighters were unable to save the building. The French Prime Minister Manuel Valls has condemned the attacks.

**New York, NY:**

The United Nations Climate Summit met on Tuesday. In addition to announcing \$200 billion in private and government financing to work against climate change, the summit included speeches from Ban Ki-moon, the U.N. Secretary-General, former vice President Al Gore and newly appointed U.N. Messenger of Peace Leonardo DiCaprio. The summit followed the People's Climate March two days earlier, where 400,000 people demonstrated in the streets of New York. The summit hoped to raise political will for a universal agreement on climate to be approved in Paris next year, according to the U.N. news center.

**Syria:**

The United States, along with a coalition of other countries including Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain and United Arab Emirates, launched the first 14 airstrikes against ISIL in Syria on Tuesday, according to Al Jazeera. The U.S. has been launching airstrikes against the group in Iraq for some time, but this was the first air raid in Syria. Before the strikes, the U.S. let Syrian U.N. envoys know about the attack. Targets included areas near Raqqa, ISIL's capital in Syria, and resulted in the death of at least 20 ISIL fighters, according to initial reports.

**Bangalore, India:**

Mangalyaan, India's first robot to be sent to Mars, successfully entered the atmosphere early Wednesday, according to the BBC. India is the one of only a few countries, along with the U.S., Russia and Europe, to successfully send a robot to the red planet. It is also the first nation to be successful on their first attempt. "Today all of India should celebrate our scientists," said Narendra Modi, the Indian Prime Minister. NASA also tweeted their congratulations to their counterpart, the Indian Space and Research Organization.



## Recent legislation restricts voting rights of NC residents

BY ABE KENMORE  
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Four hundred fifty-four.

That is the number of people denied votes in the last North Carolina primary due to new anti-fraud voting laws, according to Democracy North Carolina.

The voters denied were disproportionately minorities and Democrats, with the largest disparity among black voters. While only 19 percent of the voters in this primary were black, they accounted for 39 percent of the rejected votes.

These numbers have raised questions about whether the anti-fraud laws are being used for their stated purpose.

"Republicans evaluated why they lost the 2008 election, and they said the Obama campaign ... used young voters and African-American voters, who used straight-ticket voting and same-day registration (both things eliminated by the new law)," Bob Hall, executive director of Democracy North Carolina, told The Guilfordian in a phone interview. "They were definitely cherry-picking."

The DNC study focused on provisional ballots which raise questions about a voter's eligibility, and are subject to review before being counted. According to Hall, Democracy North Carolina sorted through 3,000 of these ballots.

Many of these provisional ballots were counted after being reviewed, and others would have been rejected before the new voting laws. The 454 ballots selected, however, were not counted for one of two reasons — either the voter was in the right county but the wrong precinct or because they now could not use same-day registration during early voting. In either case, the ballot would have been counted under the old voting laws.

The numbers of voters denied a vote may have been higher than those recorded.

"There were probably many, many more who didn't bother (filling out a provisional ballot)," said Hall.

Given that not all elements of the law have taken effect yet, including the controversial policy of having to show ID

to vote, and that primary voters tend to be more educated on the voting process, the next major elections may show many more people being turned away.

This law has been criticized since it was enacted in 2013.

"Obviously this is a decision many people aren't happy with, and voter registration was one of the major topics discussed at Moral Monday (statewide protests that began last year)," said junior Moira O'Neill.

The types of fraud addressed by the law, particularly impersonating someone else in order to vote in their name, are not

common. The most recent statistics for the 2007 elections listed only two confirmed instances of impersonation according to the Institute for Southern Studies.

There are other types of fraud that may be causing issues, however, including people voting in two different states. Earlier this year, the State Board of Elections released a list of 35,750 people whose names and birthdates matched those of voters in other states during the 2012 elections. In 765 of these cases, there was a match with the last four digits of the voter's social security number as well.

Even so, many feel the updates to the

voting law are unnecessary.

"We all want elections to be fair ... (but) we think putting additional burdens on voting is not the way to go," Sarah Preston, policy director at the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina, told The Guilfordian in a phone interview. "Voters should be choosing their representatives, not the other way around."

Democracy North has published a guide for student voters navigating the new laws for this year's election. This year, students are not required to present photo ID unless they are new voters, but they must be registered by Oct. 10.



Moira O'Neill '16 (left) and Davla Young '17 (right) protest the North Carolina anti-fraud voting laws disproportionately impacting minorities.

COURTESY OF MOIRA O'NEILL