



Organizers from Democracy North Carolina and a group of citizen lobbyists gathered in Raleigh to speak to their representatives about gerrymandering.

Citizen lobbyists show up in Raleigh to speak out against redistricting and discrimination

MAGGIE HADDOCK

News Staff Writer
mhaddock@unca.edu

Participation in political advocacy increased recently, stemming from mobilizing events such as the Women's March on Washington and the Moral March on Raleigh. On March 1, citizen lobbyists gathered in Raleigh to speak to their representatives about gerrymandering, honing an exponential number of participants, according to Jen Jones, communications director for Democracy North Carolina.

"The energy is high here in North Carolina for advocacy at this point. Normally, this type of redistricting Lobby Day gets 60 or 80 people. There were 600 to 800 people there," Jones said. "The energy you're seeing at moral march and the women's march is spilling over to what's happening at the

“THE ENERGY YOU'RE SEEING AT MORAL MARCH AND THE WOMEN'S MARCH IS SPILLING OVER TO WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RIGHT NOW AND ALSO WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEETINGS AND CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS.”

— Jen Jones

general assembly right now and also what's happening at board of elections

meetings and city council meetings.”

The successful Lobby Day took place to address gerrymandering, the redrawing of districts in order to manipulate election results.

"It's the strategic drawing of districts to advantage some party," said Ashley Moraguez, assistant professor of political science at UNC Asheville. "It is when some people draw lines for districts, whether it be for congressional districts or state legislative districts, to make some advantage toward one side or the other."

Partisan gerrymandering, the act of redistricting in favor of political parties, proves to be condemned less frequently than racial gerrymandering, redistricting in order to isolate racial groups.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Resident students await winner of Green Olympics

BROOKE RANDLE

News Staff Writer
brandle@unca.edu

The Green Olympics, a month-long competition among UNC Asheville's six residence halls to reduce their waste and energy consumption, wraps up this week with a big response from students.

Riley Judge, freshman fine arts student and Eco-Rep coordinator for the Student Environmental Center, said the competition aims at improving energy use and awareness.

"We're trying to get people thinking about being more environmentally sus-



Project Coordinator Jenna Ventrella

tainable and help them figure out what they can do," Judge said. "It takes 30

days to form a habit, so 30 days is how long we do Green Olympics."

Judge said participation among the halls has been widespread. Along with reducing waste contributing to climate change, Judge said this year's prize may be behind the extra boost of enthusiasm: a whitewater rafting trip.

"I've had a lot of people really excited about the whitewater rafting trip. Everyone wants to go on that," Judge said.

So far, Founders Hall leads the competition, with Mills Hall trailing closely behind.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

SGA passes new legislation pertaining to elections

MAGGIE HADDOCK

News Staff Writer
mhaddock@unca.edu

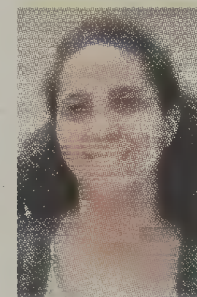
The Student Government Association's weekly meeting on March 1 resulted in the signing of two new pieces of legislation and the addition of a new member who will serve as elections commissioner for the year.

"Election time is coming up. It's coming near the end of our terms and so we need someone to fill the position of elections commissioner," SGA President Charlie White said.

Two bills were passed during this meeting. The first bill, Senate Bill 14, regards the nomination of the elections commissioner.

Liz Torres, a senior history student at UNC Asheville, will hold the position as elections commissioner for the next calendar year, as voted by the senate.

"Liz is very impressive with her campus involvement as president of HOLA, as a building manager here on campus and as an intern with international student services," White said. "She has a really great can-do attitude that I think will be really great when it comes to recruiting people."



Torres

After a period of debate, Torres was voted in as elections commissioner by the senate, passing Senate Bill 14.

"It would be really great to work with you guys and I think elections are really important," Torres said.

The second bill, Senate Bill 15, has two sections. The first section acknowledges pre-existing governing documents which set the time-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19