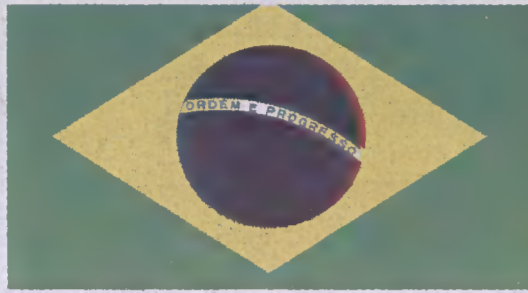


WORLD & NATION

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Brazil



Truck drivers have blocked a number of main roadways in Brazil to protest high fuel and toll costs, according to the BBC. The protest has slowed traffic of agricultural goods, particularly soybeans, to major ports such as Paranagua and Santos. Soybeans are one of Brazil's major exports, and currently a large portion of the crop has already been harvested but waits in silos for transport. The protest has also affected local development and caused fuel prices to rise.

Australia

CANBERRA



A recent report by the Australian Human Rights Commission has identified 44 cases of sexual assault against detainees seeking asylum in Australia, according to the BBC. The government is investigating these assaults, some of which involved children. The Australian Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, has criticized the report as being politically motivated, as there were more children detained under the prior government. "It's too political to have an inquiry into children in detention when there are 1,400 of them but it's not too political to do it when the number is under 200," said Mr. Abbott.

Norway

OSLO



What could be more harmless than a gerbil? In the Middle Ages, the answer may have been: almost anything. Researchers at the University of Oslo have suggested that these fluffy rodents, and not rats as was previously thought, carried the Bubonic plague from Asia to Europe, according to the BBC. The researchers looked at climate data from Asia. The weather patterns matched an increase in gerbil populations, not rats, before major plague events. They are now examining genetic evidence to see if the plague was carried by gerbils in waves, rather than stemming from one rat population in Europe.

United States

WASHINGTON



President Obama has used his veto power for the first time in five years to stop a bill that tries to force him to approve the Keystone XL pipeline, according to CNN. The oil pipeline from Canada to the Gulf has been controversial since first proposed six years ago. Proponents claim it will create jobs, while opponents say it will be a drastic enhancer of climate change. The State Department is conducting a review, after which the president will make a final decision on whether or not to approve the project.

BY ABE KENMORE
WORLD & NATION EDITOR

PHOTOS COURTESY OF COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG

Moral Monday brings together North Carolinians for change

BY ANNIE FULLWOOD
STAFF WRITER

What is Moral Monday? It is a question being asked throughout the state and the country.

The answer? Moral Monday is an NAACP-led series of protests that started two years ago in Raleigh. The movement began as a way for North Carolina citizens to address their concerns for the state and has since spread to Florida, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina and Missouri.

Recently, however, North Carolina has faced a series of changes in legislation, including major changes to voting laws in the state, such as cutting the options of early voting and same-day registration. These acts may lead to invigorated protests for 2015.

"From what I've seen, (the protesters') main focus is voting rights," said senior Chelsea Yarborough, a regular protester at Moral Monday events for the past two years. "The (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) is really made up of older folks, so while Moral Mondays generally encompass everything, I think the big thing they're pushing for (in 2015) is voting rights, which is extremely important."

Republicans succeeded in North Carolina in the 2014 election, pushing a conservative agenda into legislation and electing Thom Tillis to the U.S. Senate despite the protests held outside the state legislature building every week.

The gathering in Raleigh on Feb. 14 in celebration of Valentine's Day, however, points to a successful future for the Moral Monday movement.

Junior Naomi Madaras attended the protest as her first Moral Monday event.

"It was on Valentine's Day, so it was based on love," said Madaras. "I think that came across as love for the community and also love for the government. Fighting for



Thousands gathered in Raleigh on Feb. 14 for the Historic Thousands on Jones Street march.

change in America is patriotic. It's telling the government that we are the people, here we are, and we want change in our communities."

"It was filled with energy and good spirits and so much love," said senior Nikki Gaines, who also attended the march. "The fact that it was on Valentine's Day too added a whole other element. Everyone was really coming together, despite there being different issues and not just one central idea. There were all these themes that were reoccurring throughout."

The goal of the annual Valentine's Day gathering was to express anger about recent actions of N.C. lawmakers and to restate the unifying goals of Moral Mondays, the 14 Point People's Agenda. This agenda addresses a variety of issues from school funding to the death penalty.

"There were folks there for all sorts of issues: health care reform, better funding for public schools," said Madaras. "There

were people there for bringing an end to fracking and a start for more sustainable energy sources. A huge group from the Black Lives Matter marched. All of these groups came together in support of love and change."

Rev. Dr. William Barber II, a leader in the Moral Monday movement and state NAACP president, spoke as the keynote speaker at the event. Other speakers included Farris Barakat, the sibling of one of the recently murdered Chapel Hill students.

Barber called for supporters to address the real issue in North Carolina.

"We find we've got not a left problem or a right problem or a conservative problem or a liberal problem," said Barber. "We've got a heart problem. When money and greed and political hubris and pride and ego and beating your opponent become more important than working together to uplift humanity, we've got a heart problem."

STUDY PHOTO OF THE WEEK ABOARD



The National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico

The university's main campus, shown above, is located in the borough of Coyoacán and the school is the largest university in Latin America.

Each week, The Guilfordian will feature a picture from students' experiences abroad. Whether you have studied or are currently studying in London, Sienna, Munich or somewhere else, we would love to see photos from your trip. Please email photos to Sara Minsky at minskysj@guilford.edu with information about the subject and where & when you studied.

COURTESY OF DANA YOUNG

COURTESY OF KERRAN COLEBY