

Plaintiff Asks for Fast Appeal of Gerrymandering Case

By JESSICA CHISM
Staff Writer

The debate over North Carolina's 12th Congressional District continued this week, as the plaintiff filed a motion for the state to appeal, by April 10, a federal court decision that declared the district unconstitutional.

The 12th District snakes from

Charlotte to Greensboro along Interstate 40 and was ruled March 10 to be unconstitutionally gerrymandered to favor blacks by a panel of federal judges.

One week later, the U.S. Supreme Court granted the state's request for a stay on this decision after N.C. officials argued the decision would delay the May 2 primary.

But now, Robison Everett, a Duke

University law professor and the plaintiff in the case, has called for a speedy appeal process.

He said the process was necessary to ensure that upcoming elections were conducted using constitutional districts.

"We don't want to end up waiting seven or eight months for the courts to say 'yes the district is unconstitutional,'" Everett said. "By then it is too late to change districts in time for the 2000 elections."

As things now stand, the state's appeal is expected to be heard by the Court in the fall.

Meanwhile, the current disputed redistricting plan will be used for the

May 2 congressional primary and the November general election.

Everett said he was uncertain of what the Court would do next, although he said he hoped to get a response from them by Friday.

"I have learned not to expect anything," Everett said. "It is so hard to tell what is going to happen."

UNC political science Professor Thad Beyle said the process of redistricting in

"It has been very difficult on voters, (candidates) and legislators. The problems need to be solved, but it isn't easy."

THAD BEYLE
UNC Political Science Professor

North Carolina was extremely complex and had been a hot issue for most of the decade.

"Coming into the '90s, the Bush administration pushed drawing districts that were mainly composed

of minorities," Beyle said.

"But the Supreme Court has shifted, becoming more conservative over the years," he said. "They have done away with programs like affirmative action,

and districts like this are becoming unacceptable."

Beyle said the complicated situations surrounding the 12th District had been rough on many people throughout the state and needed to be resolved.

"It has been very difficult on voters, incumbents, challengers and legislators," he said. "The problems need to be solved, but it isn't easy."

"The process of redistricting is complex.

"It is like spaghetti, you move one piece and all of the others move with it."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

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Program Highlights Human Rights Issues

By DENISE SCOTT
Staff Writer

The Campus Y is examining topics such as the death penalty and civil rights in a ten-day program to raise awareness of human rights issues.

Human Rights Week, an annual event started in 1983, is sponsored by the Global/Human Rights Committee of the Campus Y.

Mary Bratsch, co-chairwoman of the Globe Committee, said the goal of the week was to raise awareness of human rights issues on campus.

"We firmly believe that when you work together you can accomplish so much more than as individuals," Bratsch said.

Chimi Boyd, interim associate director for the Campus Y, said the week began over a decade ago as a part of the Campus Y's activities.

"The Human Rights Week was started on this campus and not a national event," Boyd said.

The week kicked off Monday night with Loretta Ross, the founder and executive director for the Center for Human Rights Education, speaking on human

rights in the United States in a program sponsored by the National Lawyers Guild.

The Martin Luther King Coalition sponsored a panel discussion Tuesday night entitled, "Closing the Minority Achievement Gap in N.C. Public Schools."

Sister Helen Prejean, twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for work with death-row inmates and the families of murder victims, will speak at 8 p.m. tonight in Memorial Hall.

Prejean will be presenting the keynote address of the week based on her book-turned-movie "Dead Man Walking."

Prejean's speech is sponsored by the Criminal Justice Awareness Committee of the Campus Y and the Carolina Union Activities Board.

Bratsch said the week had the potential to reach students if they came to the programs.

"I hope that teachers will take the initiative to tell their students about the events and encourage them to attend."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

Highlights of Human Rights Week

The Campus Y and other student campus organizations have joined together to offer a variety of activities for Human Rights Week. Contact the Campus Y for a full list of scheduled events.

Wednesday, March 22:
- "AIDS in the Black Community" will be presented at noon in the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center. Sponsored by the BCC.
- Sister Helen Prejean will present "Dead Man Walking: The Journey" at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Sponsored by the Campus Y Criminal Justice Awareness Committee.

Thursday, March 23:
- International Monetary Fund/World Bank Road Show from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Pit and at 4 p.m. in the Great Hall. Sponsored by Anti-WTO Coalition.
- "The Death Penalty in N.C." panel at 3:30 p.m. in 212 Graham-Memorial Hall.
- "Live From Death Row" at 7 p.m. in 209 Manning. Sponsored by CEDP.

Friday, March 24:
- Information Session on Gay/Lesbian/Bi-sexual/Transgender Rights Organizations from noon until 2 p.m. in the Pit. Sponsored by CAMP.
- "Insomnia, GLBT Rights Awareness Party at Gotham Night Club. Doors open at 10 p.m.


Saturday, March 25:
- Wage Gap Bake Sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Franklin Street post office.

Monday, March 27:
- Project Literacy Read-A-Thon from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Pit.
- Prison Moratorium Benefit Concert with Sankofa, Lyric and Apani at the Local 506.

Tuesday, March 28:
- Vigil and Procession condemning U.S. policy toward Iraq at noon from the Pit to the Franklin Street post office flagpole. Sponsored by SURGE.

Wednesday, March 29:
- "Menstruation Celebration" from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Pit.

Thursday, March 30:
- Coffee with Bob Zellner from 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the Ram Cafe.
- Housekeeper's Appreciation Luncheon from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Pit.



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