

How NC Representatives Draw State Voting Districts

By Alesha Bradford & Jessica Hardison

AS STUDENTS OF GSE OBSERVED the current demographics of state voting districts, many were astounded to discover misshapen, wonky districts ranging from praying mantises to, as Area II teacher Tyler Holbrook put it, “Donald Duck kicking Goofy.” In the Political (Mis)representation elective on July 5, Holbrook discussed with students the issues facing district voters regarding their representation. “There are some good reasons that state districts look like this,” he said, “but there are many more bad reasons.”

Though the term “gerrymandering”

is used openly as household language and most Civics and U.S. Government classes touch on the subject, Tyler revealed that redrawing districts for various purposes has been around longer than the ratified Constitution (1788 to be exact - Patrick Henry had a Virginian district redrawn so that his political rival, James Madison, had to run against John Adams) and ever since its first use, congressional polarization becomes an increasingly serious problem.

However, redistricting for the

purpose of political advantage is completely legal, and there are two main ways that district drawers go about the process. The first strategy is called “Packing,” in which a district is literally packed with voters of similar tastes and opinions so that there is less competition for the rival party in the rest of the districts. The other strategy is known as “Anchoring” or “Cracking,” which is when a large city is split into separate districts in order to dilute the city’s impact (*continued on pg. 3*)

GSE Rings in July 4

By Claire Foreman

PATRIOTIC PRIDE AND excitement ran high at GSE on July 4th. Students floated around an array of stations, including henna, face painting, a kazoo choir, and several games. Competitive watermelon seed spitting and popsicle eating contests were available for those who wanted to face the challenge.

Natalie Rozvadovsky volunteered her time to facepaint American flags on friends, and stated that she loves the Fourth of July because it’s a time of year “when everyone gets together, celebrates, and has a good time.”

Social science student Carson Honcutt said, “I like (*continued on page 2*)



Students celebrate during GSE’s Independence Day festivities.

Photograph by Claire Foreman.

Inside: 7 dorm room recipes (pg. 2), the GSE community discusses the aftermath of the Orlando shooting (pg. 3), Weekly News Roundup (pg. 3), and more.

7 Dorm Room Recipes

By Lena Geller

PREPARED TO ALLEVIATE mid-afternoon or late night hunger pangs, many Gov Schoolers keep their dorms stocked with microwavable meals. Though tasty, after a few weeks, Ramen, Easy Mac, and other snacks can start to feel mundane and repetitive. Here are a few ways to spice ‘em up!

RAMEN: After you’ve microwaved the noodles, stir in some fresh veggies (like chopped carrots or sugar snap peas). Microwave for another few minutes, or until the veggies have softened. Garnish with chopped scallions and a dash of sriracha.

INSTANT OATMEAL: Use milk instead of water to make for creamier oatmeal. Before microwaving, stir in ¼ teaspoon of cinnamon and some diced granny smith apple. Afterwards, stir in a tablespoon of dark brown sugar.

EASY MAC: Stir in some freshly grated parmesan or cheddar cheese to supplement the powdered cheese packets. Sprinkle with paprika and breadcrumbs, then microwave for an additional minute.

BROWNIE MIX: In a mug, stir together ½ cup brownie mix, ¼ cup water, and 1 tablespoon white chocolate chips. Microwave for 1 minute, then immediately top with more chocolate chips and caramel sauce.

BAGEL PIZZA: Spread the cut sides of a bagel with jarred pizza sauce. Sprinkle with mozzarella cheese and top with some slices of pepperoni. Microwave for 2-3 minutes, or until the cheese is golden and bubbly.

MUESLI: Muesli is oatmeal that can be prepared the night before. In a mason jar, combine ½ cup rolled oats, ½ cup milk, 2 tablespoons peanut butter, and a drizzle of honey. Top with a few banana slices. Refrigerate overnight, and enjoy in the morning.

NACHOS: Arrange some tortilla chips on a plate and top with shredded cheese. Microwave for a minute, then add salsa, guacamole, and sour cream.



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fourth of July because it is the one day of the year I feel most American.”

Sporting dual citizenship, Brennan Halkidis says Fourth of July brings on one of his favorite weeks of the year, “July 1st is Canada Day, so I spend the whole week celebrating both countries.”

Students wiggled to move an oreo from their forehead to their mouths, without using their hands. They shouted and ran while playing human tic tac toe, and forming impromptu wheelbarrow races. While it may be argued which game was the most fun to play, the enthusiasm of the Governor’s School community was indisputable. All of the games, music, and fun made for another great day at Governor’s School East.

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The Aftermath of the Orlando Massacre

By Marine Elia

THE SHOOTING at Pulse Nightclub, a gay bar and club in Orlando, Fla., resulted in the death of 49 innocent lives on the night of June 12. In a space that was a safe haven for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and queer community, the massacre blindsided the globe and highlighted preexisting homophobic sentiments.

Countless filibusters and failed legislations later, preventative measures have yet to be taken against gun violence. Despite this fact, the shooting had a surprising result: it rallied members of the LGBTQ community to promote awareness of gay rights.

“It’s hard to think that a positive outcome could come out of such a tragedy,” said Natural Science student Eliza Fisher. “But the event sheds light on the lack of an inclusive community in Orlando and in other places.”

Others saw this massacre as a larger movement against inequality.

“The conversation around gun rights led to a conversation around minority groups in general—not necessarily just the LGBT community—

showing that many are having their struggles brought to light,” said Social Science student Katie Capitano.

The shooter’s sworn allegiance to the group calling itself Islamic State complicated the situation further.

“The circumstances are perpetuating the negative public perception of Muslims,” said Instrumental Music student David Prendergast.

Looking towards the future, Miranda DiPaolo, a Theatre student, shared her thoughts.

“I think this is one of many events that signify a serious need for more political action in terms of guns, violence, and safety for the LGBT community,” said DiPaolo.

Natural Science student Jones Hunter envisioned the country commemorating the date of the shooting as done with the victims of Sandy Hook Elementary.

The United States is home to 31% of the world’s mass shootings, and without any legal changes, America’s most controversial preventable epidemic will continue to claim more innocent lives.

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among the widespread rural areas that it is combined with. Though states frequently must redraw districts in accordance to population shifts and the gain or loss of a representative, gerrymandering tactics are causing one person’s vote to hold less value against another’s. Additionally, the “middle ground”, or moderate, portion of voters is shrinking with every redrawn district because the system of gerrymandering encourages the more radical candidate to win. How

could a less conservative or less liberal candidate win an election in which the voters who favor the less radical candidate are purposely placed in the vast minority?

Consider digging into the progressively worsening practice of redistricting by researching the Supreme Court cases and acts signed into law below:

Baker v. Carr (1961)

Voting Rights Act (1965)

Shelby County v. Holder (2013)

Harris v. McCrory (2015)

Weekly News Roundup

By Yampiere Lugo & Eric Gregory

WHAT HAPPENED around the world this week and over break?

James Comey, Director of the FBI, announced on July 5 that he would recommend against indicting Hillary Clinton for her use of a private email server during her time as Secretary of State.

House Speaker Paul Ryan agreed to allow Congress to vote on a piece of legislation that would delay the sale of guns to suspected terrorists.

Locally, a man in Raleigh was charged with two counts of assault on a Wake County deputy. President Obama and Hillary Clinton held their first joint rally in Charlotte. Polling suggests that North Carolina may be closely contested in the fall’s general election.

Two separate police killings of African-American men—Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge and Philando Castile in Minnesota—prompted nationwide protests. On Saturday, a sniper killed five police officers in Dallas.

On July 13, Theresa May becomes the new Prime Minister of the UK after being selected by 329 Conservative members of Parliament. May will be the second woman to serve in the role.

Correction

In Issue #2, “Students Savor (or Remember) the Taste of Home” was mistakenly attributed to Kate Capitano.

The piece was actually written by Lena Geller.

D’oh! Lena and Kate both deserve credit for their excellent work in *East Side Story*.

Around Campus at GSE



Adventures at Ben & Jerry's. Photograph by Brennan Halkidis.



Ukulele days at GSE. Photograph by Eric Gregory.



PokemGo players catch monsters at GSE. Photograph by Eric Gregory.



July 4 celebration selfies. Photograph by Laura Sam.

Share Your Experiences with **EAST SIDE STORY**

We want to hear from you! Share your photos, stories about GSE experiences, and creative work (poems, visual art, and more) with us! If you'd like to submit work to the paper or just ask a question, email us at:

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