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UNC students stand up for university access for illegals

Rallies and petitions spread across state system this week

BY KRISTIN COLLINS, Staff Writer

Students across the University of North Carolina system this week are staging rallies and signing petitions, saying it’s time to stand up in support of illegal immigrants who want to go to college.

The students leading the effort say this is a critical time for undocumented students in North Carolina.

The N.C. Community College System is considering whether it should allow them to attend, and several bills are pending in the legislature -- some that would deny illegal immigrants access to higher education and some that would guarantee their right to it.

At the federal level, members of Congress are once again considering the DREAM Act, which would allow some students who came into the U.S. illegally to attend college and earn citizenship.

"Every year more and more students are denied access to college and their lives are ruined," said Ronald Bilbao, a UNC-Chapel Hill senior who founded the statewide College Access Coalition last year. "If people start making noise, then perhaps our politicians will do something about it."

Higher education for illegal immigrants has become a charged issue in North Carolina in the past few years. A 2005 effort to allow illegal immigrants to pay in-state tuition at community colleges and universities failed after a ferocious public outcry. And in late 2007, the community college system provoked another statewide controversy by changing its policy to allow illegal immigrants at all 58 campuses.

Under intense pressure, the community colleges have since closed their degree programs to those who can't prove legal residency while the colleges study the issue, a process that could take more than a year. Those who oppose allowing illegal immigrant students say that only legal residents should have the benefit of scarce public resources, such as university slots.

A U.S. Supreme Court decision guarantees illegal immigrants the right to attend public elementary and secondary schools.

Students who participated in this week’s events, which included rallies at UNC-CH and N.C. State University and a large walkout at UNC-Asheville, say they think all people should have the right to an education. They point out that undocumented students pay out-of-state tuition, which means their attendance at colleges and universities costs the state nothing.

"It's just basic human rights," said Jezzette Danielle Rivera, a junior at NCSU whose grandparents emigrated from Mexico. "Denying a person the right to learn is just unfair."
Many students said their main goal this week was to help other students understand the issue. They said many have come to think reflexively of undocumented immigrants as criminals who fail to pay taxes and don't want to become American citizens. They say that's not the case with immigrant students who want to attend college.

"We're talking about kids who came here at 2, 3, 4 years old," said Alikhan Salehi, one of the leaders of the events at UNCA. "These are American kids. They're part of our family. They're here, and they just want the chance."

Bilbao said the student activists plan to continue their efforts after this week's events end.

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ECU presents "All's Well That Ends Well"

By Kelley Kirk
The Daily Reflector

Friday, April 03, 2009

The course of true love never did run smooth, at least according William Shakespeare. And his work “All's Well That Ends Well,” is an example of just such a story.

Helena is in love with Bertam, but he does not love her. It takes royal intervention to allow their marriage, which Bertam does not want. In the end, after some trickery and customary mistaken identity, all live happily ever after.

East Carolina University’s School of Theatre and Dance will present Shakespeare’s “All's Well That Ends Well” in McGinnis Theatre at 8 p.m. today through Tuesday except Sunday when the show will be at 2 p.m.

Probably written between 1601 and 1608, it's one of Shakespeare’s works that's seldom staged. Unlike other Shakespeare works, “All's Well” doesn't fall into a specific category since the story is neither a comedy nor a tragedy.

And that's just fine according to ECU senior Andrew Tolbert.

"The great thing is that it takes you all over the emotional spectrum," Tolbert said. "It makes you laugh. It makes you cry and it's a lot of fun to watch."

Tolbert, 21, plays Lafeu, an old Lord who is an assistant to the King of France in "All's Well That Ends Well."

Helena is portrayed by Tolbert's girlfriend of two years, Claire Wagner. This is the third production in which the couple has worked together. They were also both in "The Tempest" in 2007 and "Iphigenia in Aulis" last year.

"As theater majors, your schedule is pretty crazy," said Wagner. "It helps to have someone who understands the craziness."

When the King of France falls ill in "All's Well," Helena cures him. For her service, the King allows her to marry the Lord of her choice, Bertram, who is a less-than-willing husband-to-be.

After Helena and Bertram marry, he leaves for Paris where he becomes enamored with Diana. Bertram had said that he would not love Helena until such time as she can get his ring on her finger and become pregnant with his child.

Playing this role of unrequited love has provided Wagner with a new appreciation for her relationship with Tolbert.

"It's made me very appreciative of my relationship. I realize that not everyone has it, as finding true love doesn't always just fall into your lap," Wagner said.

Wagner and Tolbert will both graduate in May. They will work at ECU's theater and drama camp for children and then they plan to move to New York City together.

Contact Kelley Kirk at kkirkswindell@coxnc.com or (252) 329-9596

If you Go!

What: "All's Well That Ends Well"
When: 8 p.m. Today-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, 8 p.m. Monday-Tuesday

Where: McGinnis Theatre

Cost: $8-$12

For tickets: 328-6829 or visit www.ecuarts.com

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May Johnson Eure Harvey

May Johnson Eure Harvey, widow of Charles Wesley Harvey, Jr., died Wednesday, April 1, 2009. A celebration of life will be held Saturday at 2 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church, by the Rev. James S. Kohler and the Rev. Wanda Neely. Pallbearers will be former students of Mrs. Harvey. Burial will follow in Ayden Cemetery. Mrs. Harvey was the daughter of James Bruce and Mary Johnson Eure and the granddaughter of Robert Luther and Mary Murphy Johnson, whom she called Mama and Pop. They were like a second set of parents to her. A native of Ayden, she was a graduate of Ayden High School, where she served as President of her senior class and as a cheerleader. She received both her undergraduate and masters degrees in Elementary Education from East Carolina College. Her teaching career included two years in Lenoir County and twenty-six years in Pitt County. She served as president of the Pitt County Association of Educators and of the Northeastern district of the North Carolina Association of Educators. As a longtime member of First Presbyterian Church, May held many positions in the Women of the Church, where she was awarded an Honorary Life Membership. She was Circle Leader, taught Bible Study, and was program chairman and historian. She also taught the Harvey-Webb Sunday school class, served on the nomination committee for officers and prepared the Sacraments for many years. The Greenville Service League was another passion of Mrs. Harvey's. Her special love was the layette project, where she served as chairman, and made thousands of hand embroidered items for worthy babies in Pitt County. She did this as long as her vision allowed. She served the League in many ways but especially as Projects and Hospital activities chairman, Secretary, Vice-President and President. Mrs. Harvey and her daughter, Mary Wesley, are the only mother-daughter pair to have each served as President and Charity Ball chairman. Mrs. Harvey was an avid bridge player in the Tuesday and Thursday clubs and felt this competition helped to sharpen her mind. She was also a member of the Inter Se Book club where she served as librarian and secretary. She was a member and President of the German Club, a long time member of the Greenville Golf and Country Club and enjoyed preparing her famous chocolate pies for many occasions. She enjoyed many happy years with her grand-dogs Fergie, Gidget and Wyneston. Mrs. Harvey is survived by her devoted, loving and caring daughter, Mary Wesley Harvey, and brother, James Bobby Eure and wife, Marthe Jane, of Wilmington. The family will receive friends Saturday 12:30 p.m. until the funeral hour at the church. Memorial contributions may be made to the Greenville Service League Layette Fund, PO Box 30452, Greenville, NC 27833. Online condolences at www.wilkersonfuneralhome.com.

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Lockdown Lifted at Va.'s Radford Univ. After Fatal Shooting

Clarence Williams
Washington Post Staff Writer
Thursday, April 2, 2009, 4:42 AM

Radford University officials ended a lockdown of the campus about five hours after a man was shot and killed nearby.

The campus in southwestern Virginia was put on lockdown Thursday night after a man was fatally shot off campus and the suspect fled onto the school grounds, university officials said.

University officials alerted students by e-mail, text message and voice mail about 9 p.m. to stay inside and lock their doors after reports of gunshots about a block from the campus.

Police say the suspect was seen fleeing toward the campus, which prompted a sweep of campus buildings by authorities. They do not believe the suspect or the victim were Radford students. Neither has been identified.

The victim, who was not immediately identified, was taken to New River Valley Medical Center.

-- The Associated Press contributed to this report
UNC title would bring economic boom

Title would bring economic boom

BY SUE STOCK, Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL - If the Tar Heels win a national championship Monday, anything blue will turn into cool green cash.

That's why local merchants -- regardless of their own school affiliations -- are wishing them good luck.

Already, there's been an uptick in traffic at area stores, as fans search for items with a Sweet Sixteen or Final Four theme. But it's that national championship that would send the sales frenzy into overdrive.

"Right now, we're in a tropical storm," said John Hudson, co-owner of the Carolina Pride shop on Franklin Street. "If they win the championship, it will be a nuclear explosion."

Hurt by the recession, retailers certainly could use the boost. And they have good reason to
have high expectations.

Following the Heels' last national championship in 2005, fans flooded Triangle stores. Lines stretched down the block.

"We actually had a bouncer in our store so we didn't have too many people in the store," said Heather Frazier, retail division manager for Johnny T-Shirt on Franklin Street.

The rush lasted for a full two weeks, Frazier recalled.

"We didn't have a schedule," she said. "If you had 30 minutes and you wanted to fold T-shirts, you came by the store."

Merchants shy away from saying exactly how much a national title benefits the bottom line.

But UNC's office of trademarks and licensing reported $590,000 in sales of championship gear alone in the year following the 2005 title run.

Any championship merchandise sales this year would come on top of revenue from other UNC-branded items. Net revenue from such sales last year was just shy of $3.7 million.

All of the money from such sales goes to academic scholarship programs.

Even non-licensed merchandise that happens to be just that right shade of blue is destined to be a hot seller.

Raleigh-based Eye Care Associates has been marketing Carolina blue Ray-Ban Wayfarer sunglasses that retails for $150. In March, the company sold 250 pairs.

Already, fans are traveling to the area just to be part of the experience and to scoop up some collectibles.

Holly Bosch decided to swing through Chapel Hill Wednesday as she drove from her Cincinnati home for a vacation on Bald Head Island.

Bosch bought several T-shirts commemorating the team's progress to the Final Four.

"We wanted to bring something authentic back to Cincinnati," she said.

Between local fans and out-of-towners, merchants are licking their chops.

Hudson at Carolina Pride has prepared two work schedules for employees -- one to use in the case of a win and one for a loss.

At Johnny T-Shirt, Frazier said the store will have extended hours through April 18 in the case of a victory.

And Shelton Henderson, proprietor of the 39-year-old UNC merchandise shop The Shrunken Head, predicted that this year will be one of the biggest if the Tar Heels win.

"We have more people on the street this time," he said. "You can stand in the store and ask people where they're from, and there aren't any people from North Carolina. We've got more people and they're going to have fun. ... It's going to be a huge year."

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