THE DAILY CLIPS

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ECU board of trustees discussing options for chancellor's residence
By JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector
Wednesday, July 21, 2010

East Carolina University officials are considering new uses for the Dail House, the chancellor’s residence.
ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard and his wife, Nancy, live in the house at the corner of Fifth and Jarvis streets that was built in 1931 and purchased by the university in 1948.
Officials will discuss plans to renovate the house, move the residence or purchase new property when the ECU Board of Trustees meets today. A subcommittee is investigating possible uses for the house as an entertainment venue, a private residence or other functions.
The second floor is dedicated as a private area and includes about 3,000 square feet. The rest of the house is used for public and university functions, but officials say the house creates challenges during large events.
The university will use private funds to upgrade the house or to move the chancellor’s residence. The University of North Carolina system has seen a recent trend of chancellor residences that serve as private residences and public function spaces.
Appalachian State University recently completed the 12,000-square-foot Appalachian House that includes 3,000 square feet on the second floor that serves as the chancellor’s private residence. The rest of the building is used to hold university functions in its great room and dining area on the main floor.
N.C. State University is planning a new chancellor’s residence that will be about 8,500 square feet with 3,000 square feet dedicated to the private residence.
Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@reflector.com or (252) 329-9565.
WHERE THEY LIVE

CHANCELLOR'S RESIDENCE
EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Following is a comparison of square footage, private area and the age of residences for chancellors from a selection of 11 schools in the 17-school University of North Carolina system:

Appalachian State University
Enrollment: 17,000
Total square feet: 12,000
Private area square feet: 3,000
Opened in 2002

N.C. State University
Enrollment: 34,000
Total square feet: 6,100 (new house will have 8,500)
Private area square feet: 3,000
Built: 1928

East Carolina University
Enrollment: 27,500
Total square feet: 7,000
Private area square feet: 3,000
Occupied since 1948

UNC Asheville
Enrollment: About 4,000
Total square feet: 4,300
Private area square feet: 3,000

UNC Chapel Hill
Enrollment: 29,000
Total square feet: 6,000
Built: 1960s, last renovated in 2008

UNC Charlotte
Enrollment: 25,000
Total square feet: 7,700
Private area square feet: 3,200
Built: 2004

UNC Greensboro
Enrollment: 21,000
Total square feet: 5,000
Private area square feet: 2,500
Built: 1935, last renovated in 1996

UNC Wilmington
Enrollment: 13,000
Total square feet: 8,700
Private area square feet: 4,200
Built: 1908, renovated in 2004

Western Carolina University
Enrollment: 9,500
Total square feet: 6,500
Private area square feet: 6,500
Built: 1954

Winston Salem State
Enrollment: 6,500
Total square feet: 5,800
Private area square feet: 2,000
Built: 1992, renovated in 1999

CHANCELLOR'S RESIDENCE
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

CHANCELLOR'S RESIDENCE
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
Editorial: Renovation, not relocation, best for chancellor's home
Thursday, July 22, 2010

East Carolina University could have hardly picked a more inappropriate moment to even consider the purchase of a new residence for the school’s chancellor and his family. With deep budget cuts forcing tuition increases to protect the university’s academic core, spending money — even private funds — on a new chancellor’s home smacks of unnecessary extravagance.

Complaints about the existing structure, namely that it is too small for official functions, could be remedied in more palatable and less expensive fashion through innovation and possible renovation, not relocation. To do otherwise in an economy of thrift would be a mistake that East Carolina must take pains to avoid.

In 1931, Greenville brick manufacturer William Haywood Dail Jr. completed construction of an Italianate home at 605 E. Fifth Street. East Carolina purchased the Dail House for $30,000 in 1949 to serve as a residence for the school’s chief executives from John D. Messick to the Ballards.

There is a certain charm to a home so rich with history. It serves as the university’s White House, splitting duty as a venue for official events while also serving as a residence for the chancellor’s family, and its location relative to the main campus ensures that the school’s leader has a visible presence. It is a beautiful sight during holidays, especially at Christmas, and renovations have served to improve its comfort and utility.

The shortcomings of living in the Dail House cannot be ignored. As host to more than 100 functions each year, the building struggles to balance its service as both events venue and private home. Its small kitchen and single bathroom on the first floor makes service for large events a complicated endeavor, and the school’s first family is rightfully annoyed by the pranks inflicted on so prominent a home in a neighborhood rife with students.

Since state law mandates that chancellors in the University of North Carolina system live in school-provided housing, the Board of Trustees has discussed the purchase of a new, more modern residence. Some fear the university will struggle to recruit new chancellors in the future without a more attractive, spacious, functional home.

At this time, using any university generated funds, even from private sources, on such a purchase would be a mistake. East Carolina should alleviate the demands on the Dail House by locating social functions elsewhere, and instead consider renovation to keep the chancellor in a prominent location and preserve a chapter of university history.
Board of Trustees to elect new officers
The Daily Reflector
Wednesday, July 21, 2010

The East Carolina University Board of Trustees will hold committee meetings and elect new officers when it meets today at the East Carolina Heart Institute. Committee meetings begin at 10 a.m., and the board will hold its regular meeting at 2 p.m. The facilities and resources committee will discuss plans for the university’s chancellor’s residence. A subcommittee is investigating the possibility of moving the residence from the Dail House on Fifth Street to another location or changing the function of the house. Officials plan to use private funding for any renovations or purchases proposed by the subcommittee.

The executive committee is set to review the university’s policy on serious illness and disability leave for faculty and consider tenure recommendations in a closed session. The academic affairs committee will discuss a recent active shooter drill on campus and updates from the athletics department, including an update on the construction and expansion at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

The full board will welcome the new ECU Student Government Association President Tremayne Smith to the board of trustees.
Constitution is clear: We all pay for UNC

We shirk our duty by foisting budget woes on undergrads.

Posted: Thursday, Jul. 15, 2010

The writers of North Carolina's Constitution made their intention unmistakable. Article IX, Section 9, says: "The General Assembly shall provide that the benefits of The University of North Carolina and other public institutions of higher education, as far as practicable, be extended to the people of the State free of expense."

The "as far as practicable" clause gives the General Assembly a pretty easy escape. But the spirit of the document is crystal clear: Higher education is so treasured in North Carolina that legislators must do all they can to provide it for as close to free as possible. They failed to do that when they cut $70 million from the university system's budget this summer and forced campuses to jack up tuition by double-digit percentages.

All 16 campuses in the UNC system will raise tuition for the coming year, by as much as $750, on top of increases of up to $200 that had already been enacted. At UNC Chapel Hill, that's an 18 percent hike, at a time of almost no inflation. For some, that extra $4,000 or so over four years is bearable; for others it will be a significant burden.

We don't blame system President Erskine Bowles, who has already cut $575 million from the system over the past three years.

We blame the legislators, who decided to shift $70 million in higher education costs from the people of North Carolina to the students at UNC campuses. Here's what's wrong with that: We all benefit from education. We are all better off with a strong system of public schools and with as many N.C. students getting a higher education as possible. So we should all bear the cost. When we choose to foist the state's budget woes on college students rather than spread much of that cost among 9.5 million people, we're lessening the value we put on having an educated workforce.

To be sure, UNC is still a bargain. Even after this hike, tuition will be lower at UNC campuses than at most of their peers.

But the situation demands that legislators and university administrators figure out where this state is headed, and how we'll avoid raising in-state tuition so much in coming years that we deny access to qualified students and gradually become a less educated state.
Bill Friday served as the UNC system president for 30 years. This week, as he turned 90, he reflected on what's happening to his beloved university system. "If we enact this, we'll be locking a lot of people out. And that'll be a very severe problem for the state. We simply cannot fail to educate as many of our young, bright people as we can," he told the News & Observer's Eric Ferreri.

Graduates are entering a weak economy with thousands in debt, and the rising cost will be the next UNC president's biggest challenge, Friday said. "Cost is a major, immediate confrontation that's got to be met, and it's got to be met head on. It all turns on access. The strength of this place has been that every child in North Carolina could dream of going to one of these institutions, if they did their work. Now, the cost is eroding that dramatically."

For much of the past 40 years, the legislature's per capita appropriation to UNC campuses was eight or 10 or 12 times the amount of in-state undergraduate tuition. That ratio then dropped over the past 10 years to about four times. In other words, we are increasingly shifting the burden of educating our young people from the entire state to the students themselves.

That's the wrong way to go.

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Tuition bill may surprise students

Aid offices rush to help

BY ERIC FERRERI
STAFF WRITER

The state’s public university students will soon receive larger-than-expected tuition bills for the upcoming school year, thanks to two rate increases approved in the past six months.

Now, financial aid officers are scrambling to find enough scholarship and grant funding to cover the extra need. They say the neediest students will likely be covered through an influx in aid that will come with the tuition increases.

But students who don’t qualify for aid will simply pay more, up to $950 more for the coming year. And since the larger tuition increase was instituted just last week, long after most students left campus for the summer, some may not be expecting it.

“I don’t think students understand that the increases just happened,” said Atul Bhula, a graduate student at Appalachian State University and sole student member of the UNC system’s Board of Governors.

“When the new tuition bill comes in, that’s when they’ll start asking questions.”

It isn’t yet clear whether the increases will prompt any students to drop out. In financial aid offices across the UNC system, workers this week have frantically cobbled together higher grant rewards for needy students.

“We do know it could impact a student’s decision to enroll,” said Julie Rice Mallette, N.C. State’s associate vice provost and director of scholarships and financial aid. “Getting a small increase in aid may not be enough to let a person enroll.”

At NCSU, where 45 percent of undergraduates receive at least some need-based student aid, tuition and fees for in-state students will be $8,393 in 2010-11. That’s significantly higher than it was a year ago, thanks in large part to a $150 tuition increase in February and the supplemental increase of $750 approved last week.

At N.C. Central University in Durham, where nearly 90 percent of students receive some financial aid, it isn’t yet clear whether aid revenue will fully mitigate the tuition hike. Tuition there goes up $958 this fall.

“It’s really hard to gauge, and this affects all students, not just those getting financial aid,” said Cynthia Grant, associate director of scholarships and student aid. “We know students will be looking for help.”

Public university leaders have long fought to keep college costs down and until recently wouldn’t have considered double-digit tuition increases. But this year, there is no other revenue source available to pay instructors and avoid cutting class sections and other educational resources, officials say.

The supplemental tuition increase approved by UNC President Erskine Bowles last week came thanks to a special provision in the recently approved state budget, an attempt by legislators to mitigate $70 million in cuts to the university system. That provision directed campuses to use 20 percent of revenue gleaned from tuition increases for financial aid.

At UNC-Chapel Hill, students will pay $950 more in tuition next year. There, the university has enough aid revenue to cover the extra need created by the tuition increases, said Shirley Ort, director of the student aid office.

But students at UNC-CH, NCSU and three other public universities face another new cost as well.

Add in health insurance

The UNC system starts a mandatory health insurance program this fall. Students at all public universities must have health insurance either privately or through a university plan; though 11 campuses previously required health insurance, five – UNC-CH, NCSU, Appalachian State, East Carolina and UNC Wilmington – did not. Now, students on those campuses must be insured as well. At UNC-CH, the added cost is $724 annually, Ort said.

That health insurance premium is factored into a student’s financial aid equation, which means that students who qualify will have it covered. But for those who don’t, it’s another new expense.

“I think it’s really going to hurt the students in that middle [class], paying the extra burden without the extra financial aid,” said Bhula, the student leader.

MEANWHILE, OVER AT DUKE ...

The cost of a year at Duke University tops $50,000 for the first time this fall.

The elite private institution hit that marker with a relatively modest increase of 3.9 percent in tuition, room and board. More than 40 percent of Duke students receive financial aid that helps defray the cost of the $51,865 annual education.

Though Duke has been affected by the economic slowdown in many of the same ways as public institutions, it was able to keep its cost increase to a moderate level because of a rebounding endowment and steady enrollment. The university stays steady at about 6,600 undergrads.

“We can forecast farther in advance because we know with some level of certainty what the endowment and enrollment revenue will be,” said Michael Schoenfeld, a Duke spokesman.

See Tuition, Page 7B
Debtors win big, then lose

Lottery collects a record $1 million from winners who owe

BY BENJAMIN NIOLET
STAFF WRITER

The lottery collected a record $1 million during the past year from prize winners who were also debtors. The lottery scans big winners against a list of people who owe child support, back taxes, hospital bills and student loans. So as you dream about spending the piles of money you plan to win in the lottery, don’t forget those bills you never paid.

The big collection comes in a record year for lottery sales, which topped $1.4 billion, a 10 percent increase from the previous year. And of the $835 million paid in prize money last year, $1 million is a relatively small amount. The debts can be as small as $50. Some are thousands of dollars. Lots of those winners are happy to finally be able to pay their debts.

“Many of them are relieved,” said lottery Executive Director Tom Shaheen. “Hopefully they still get to walk out with some cash.”

SEE LOTTERY, PAGE 11A

WHERE THE MONEY WENT

The top collections made by the lottery from winners in fiscal 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creditor</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Local governments</td>
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<td>Administrative Office of the Courts</td>
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<td>$113,000</td>
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<td>Child support</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>$102,000</td>
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<td>East Carolina University medical clinics</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>$89,000</td>
</tr>
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LOTTERY
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

The lottery's debt program is similar to a program that allows governments and agencies to collect their debts through withholding from the state's income tax refunds. Lottery collections are tiny compared with those efforts.

In Wake County, phone calls from miffed lottery winners were a major clue that collections were up this year, said Susan Campen, an administrator in the county's revenue department.

"This is the first year we had calls of complaints," she said.

Debt owed to county and local governments accounted for the largest category of debts collected by the lottery last year. In 966 such cases, the lottery withheld $359,000 from winnings plus another $4,800 in fees to satisfy debts to local governments. In Wake County those most often came from vehicle property taxes, but could also be for real estate taxes or unpaid bills for ambulance trips.

Governments win

For local governments, the collections can help ease the pressure on already tight budgets.

Taking from lottery winnings is often more palatable to government officials because the money isn't coming out of wages or a tax refund, said John E. Whitehurst, a project manager for the Association of County Commissioners, who helped set up the debt clearinghouse that provides the database and does the collections for local governments. Still, winners can be shocked. Last year, one winner had $8,000 taken out of a $20,000 prize.

"That was traumatic, I'm sure," Whitehurst said.

Taxpayer information is confidential, and officials declined to name those who have had winnings withheld.

Some say the program doesn't go far enough.

"Many of them are relieved. Hopefully they still get to walk out with some cash."

LOTTERY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TOM SHAHEEN,
ON DEBTORS WHO MUST FORFEIT
A CHUNK OF THEIR WINNINGS

More slipping through

Bill Brooks, president of the anti-lottery N.C. Family Policy Council, said he would support requiring screenings for customers who buy a certain amount of tickets at one time.

"If they collect a million dollars, my guess is there's probably another $10 million out there more that could be collected or is probably owed by people who are playing the lottery," Brooks said.

Winnings of less than $600 can be cashed in at any lottery retailer on the spot. Tickets worth more than $600 must be claimed at lottery offices across the state. Those winners have their Social Security numbers run against a database of debtors.

Debts to the state's court system and UNC hospital system were also big categories for collections. Child support accounted for nearly $102,000 in 111 cases.

Sherry Bradsher, director of the state Division of Social Services, said it's unfair to assume that because someone owes child support he or she is a deadbeat.

"Perhaps you just got behind. There's a lot of different situations," Bradsher said, adding that many people might complain that anyone who owes child support shouldn't be buying lottery tickets.

"I understand those judgments, and we just encourage everyone who owes to pay," she said. "For those that won and owe, we're glad for the kids."

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Marshall to investigate agents

N.C. Secretary of State launches probe looking into improprieties by sports agents.

By Ken Tysiac
STAFF WRITER

North Carolina Secretary of State Elaine Marshall launched an investigation Wednesday into possible improprieties by sports agents in the state.

Spokesman George Jeter said the department hasn’t received a complaint but is responding to media reports of possible NCAA violations that may have been caused by improper contact between agents and college athletes.

“That’s it, precisely,” Jeter said. “The number of media reports coming out and talking about possibly things that might have happened and possibly actions by agents, or people who should be agents if they’re not, [sparked the investigation].”

It has been widely reported that NCAA investigators interviewed football players at the University of North Carolina last week. Greg Little Sr., the father of Tar Heels wide receiver Greg Little, said his son was interviewed. The News & Observer also has confirmed that defensive tackle Marvin Austin was interviewed.

Investigators also have met with South Carolina tight end Weslye Saunders, who’s from Durham, and Alabama defensive tackle Marcell Dareus.

The North Carolina Uniform Athlete Agent Act requires agents to register with the Secretary of State’s office and inform a school’s athletic director within 72 hours of agreeing to a contract with an athlete.

Agents are prevented from furnishing anything of value

SEE AGENTS, PAGE 6C
to athletes before they enter a contract, and they are prohibited from making false representations. Violating the law is a Class I felony.

Marshall, a Democrat running for the U.S. Senate against Republican incumbent Richard Burr, was unavailable for comment Wednesday evening.

Jeter said messages have been sent to several parties saying they will be contacted by department staff members, and advising them not to destroy their records. He said the investigation will focus on the agents themselves.

The NCAA, which is investigating the possible loss of eligibility by athletes, asked players at North Carolina last week to sign waivers allowing examination of their telephone records and financial institution records before interviewing them, according to information released to The News & Observer on Wednesday.

In a response to a public records request, the university provided the newspaper electronic copies of e-mails between UNC staffers and NCAA officials. Most of the e-mails were addressed to Chance Miller, the NCAA’s assistant director of agent, gambling and amateurism activities. Amy Herman, North Carolina’s assistant athletic director for compliance, sent the NCAA a schedule for interviews to be held July 12 and 13.

Miller asked Herman to have players sign interview notice forms before speaking with investigators.

The form says providing false or misleading information to the NCAA is a violation of the NCAA’s ethical conduct policy. Miller also informed Herman that the athletes had a right to bring personal legal counsel to the meeting, although it’s unclear whether the athletes did so.

Miller wrote that he and the NCAA’s director of agent, gambling and amateurism activities, Rachel Newman-Baker, planned to be on campus and meet Herman before the interviews.

On July 10, Herman wrote Miller to explain that some of the coaches Miller had referenced in an earlier communication would be on vacation when the investigators visited. Other coaches would be in the office, and Herman suggested having them speak with investigators during breaks in the interview schedule.

On the documents, all mention of the names of athletes and coaches are redacted. Any mention of the sport involved also is redacted.

Herman asked Miller for a copy of a confidentiality statement for the school’s legal counsel to review. Herman also sent Miller information he had requested about disability insurance.

The NCAA allows athletes who are expected to be high draft picks to purchase insurance policies that will pay them if catastrophic injuries that occur while they are in college ruin their professional careers.

North Carolina athletic director Dick Baddour has provided the school’s only public comments on the investigation, saying that the NCAA was on campus to interview athletes and the school intends to cooperate fully.

ESPN has cited unnamed sources in reporting that investigators are trying to determine who paid for Austin, Little, Saunders and other players to attend an agent’s beach party at Miami’s South Beach this summer.

Little said his son and Austin went on a spring break trip to Miami in March. Saunders’ father, N&O metro columnist Barry Saunders, said his son was in Miami for spring break in March but did not travel with Austin and Little.

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A Tougher Conflict Policy at Harvard Medical School

By DUFF WILSON

Professors at Harvard Medical School will no longer be able to take industry money to speak for drug or medical device companies or accept gifts, travel or meals under a new conflict-of-interest policy announced Wednesday.

The medical school also took steps to separate, but not ban, industry financing and industry exhibits from Harvard’s postgraduate education classes.

And it reduced by half, to $10,000, the limit on how much a faculty member can be paid by a company whose product or invention is under study by the faculty member; the current limit is $20,000. Harvard is one of the few universities to impose such a cap.

The policy changes were recommended in March by a 34-member review panel and accepted this week by Dr. Jeffrey S. Flier, dean of the medical school. In a statement, Dr. Flier said the changes would be formally incorporated into school policies over the next year.

The American Medical Student Association praised the new policy after pushing for stronger limits for years at Harvard. “We hope to see other medical centers follow this example,” said John Brockman, the association president, in a statement.

The new rules, going into effect Jan. 1, still allow Harvard faculty to consult for industry and conduct research financed by industry. The rules were first reported by The Boston Globe.

Harvard is not following some other medical centers, like Stanford, which have banned corporate support for individual postgraduate medical education classes. Harvard would allow such financing if it comes from at least two corporations.

Harvard also did not go as far as Partners HealthCare, the nonprofit owner of two Harvard-affiliated hospitals, in restricting the amount of pay top faculty and officials are permitted to receive from serving on corporate boards. Partners set a limit of $5,000 a day of actual work for a corporate board. Some employees previously received over $200,000 a year for a limited
number of meetings.

The new Harvard medical policy would provide a committee review in advance for anyone who plans to serve on a profit-making company board. But the pay cap from Partners already applies to Harvard professors who also work at Massachusetts General Hospital or Brigham and Women’s Hospital.
Students disclose illegal status as part of push for immigration law reform

By Tara Bahrampour
Washington Post Staff Writer
Wednesday, July 21, 2010; A03

On a patch of asphalt outside the White House this week, Renata Teodoro, Maricela Aguilar and scores of other students are risking deportation simply by sharing their full names and immigration status with anyone who asks.

In an act of defiance unimaginable to many in their parents' generation, they are publicly declaring that they are in the United States illegally as a way to push for change that would help thousands of undocumented young people like them. And they are doing so in one of the most highly patrolled -- and politicized -- spots in the country.

"I'm not going to lie and say that I'm not afraid of someone coming in and trying to arrest me, but I can't let that fear take over my life," said Teodoro, 22, a student at the University of Massachusetts in Boston whose parents were deported back to Brazil a couple of years ago. "The only way of people finding out about my situation is to tell my story."

She and other undocumented high school and college students and graduates have been streaming into Washington this week to demand passage of the Dream Act, legislation that would give unauthorized young immigrants a path to legal residency if they contribute to the country by serving in the military or getting a college education.

Most of the students have lived in the United States from a young age and consider themselves Americans. They are attending "classes" at what organizers have dubbed the "Dream University," meeting with legislators, and, in a notable shift from previous years, giving out their full names and personal histories.

On Tuesday, almost two dozen activists went one step further, staging sit-ins inside the Senate Hart Office Building that resulted in 21 arrests for disorderly conduct. Those charged could be referred to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, although it is not a given that they would face deportation as a result.

"We don't necessarily take action on everyone who is referred to us," said Gillian Brigham, a spokeswoman for ICE.

Losing the fear

The willingness of these young people to confront authorities in Washington and elsewhere is a far cry from the approach of most illegal immigrants, who are usually anxious to avoid calling attention to
themselves. Many are deeply worried about the passage of a controversial law in Arizona that will give police the power to question people they suspect of being illegal immigrants. Other states are considering similar measures.

"It is a bit of a surprise to see how bold and open a lot of the young people are about their status, and that's changed from the past," said Margie McHugh, co-director of the nonprofit Migration Policy Institute's National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy, who said it was unclear what the consequences for them could be.

The students typically come from families that have strived to stay off the radar of immigration authorities. Sometimes they do not even tell their children that they are here illegally, hoping that they will absorb the confidence and ambition of their American friends and neighbors.

Many have done just that, and increasingly are acting like typical American college students: openly embracing a cause they believe in.

"I think there's an empowerment that comes with giving your name," said Aguilar, 19, a political science and English major at Marquette University in Milwaukee who calls herself a Midwesterner and has the accent to prove it.

She and others said their public declarations are a relief from the tension of always hiding. In fact, they hope the tactic will advance their cause and protect them from deportation.

"Our friends and our family are always telling us not to do it," said Francisco Gutierrez, 18, a Georgetown University student who moved to the United States from Mexico when he was 3 and had just started giving out his name. "I tell them we can't be fearful any more. We can't live our lives afraid that there's always something going to happen to us, just because we are undocumented."

Carlos Saavedra, national coordinator of the United We Dream Network, agreed. "We are losing the fear," said Saavedra, whose organization, a coalition of immigrant youth groups, organized many of the events and plans to continue them into August.

He gestured at the 20 or so students sitting in rows, some holding umbrellas in sweltering Lafayette Square. No one in the group -- which included his brother Rodrigo, who is 16 and undocumented -- appeared nervous, although ICE headquarters is not far from the White House.

"They know we're here," Saavedra said, "and we have not seen anything more than park police telling us to move here and move there."

Brigham would not comment specifically on the students outside the White House, but she said ICE puts a priority on deporting illegal immigrants with criminal backgrounds. In the past two years, the percentage of those deported with criminal backgrounds has risen from 31 percent to 50 percent, she said. Of the 227,163 people removed in the first half of this year, 113,453 were identified as criminal aliens.

Meanwhile, an estimated 65,000 illegal immigrants graduate from U.S. high schools each year. Some are able to enroll in college, but they can have difficulty obtaining financial aid because of their status.

Protection via publicity
Although ICE could go after the students, they are making a calculation that publicity, even arrest, can work in their favor, said observers on both side of the immigration issue.

"In a sense, going forward to the media affords protection," said Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Washington-based Center for Immigration Studies, which favors tighter immigration controls. "They're striking a pose of bravado knowing perfectly well that there's absolutely no chance that they're going to be [deported] once they've given an interview to the newspaper."

Immigration activists cite the case of Eric Balderas, a Harvard undergraduate and immigrant from Mexico who was arrested last month for being in the United States illegally. Deportation proceedings against him were halted after extensive publicity and lobbying by Harvard officials and Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.).

Deportation has been deferred for others in similar straits after their stories appeared in the news. Brigham said ICE grants deferments on a case-by-case basis.

But not everyone wants to test immigration authorities.

At a "Coming Out" rally in Chicago in March, some students gave only their first names. At a May 1 rally in Washington, several gave their names to reporters but avoided being arrested at a sit-in. In Arizona a few days later, undocumented students staged a protest in front of Republican Sen. John McCain's office. Three were arrested and are in deportation proceedings.

One of them, Mohammad Abdollahi, 24, whose family moved to Michigan from Iran when he was 3, said he is hoping the publicity surrounding his case will lead to a deferment, though he knows that there is no guarantee.

Aguilar, whose family moved to the U.S. from Mexico when she was 3, said she didn't reveal her status for years, even while working as an activist for undocumented students.

"You'd always say everything in the third person," she said. But this year, when activists were planning a series of "coming out" events, she decided it was time to switch to the first person.

Whether giving out their names will help the students achieve their goals remains to be seen.

"I think it's not possible to say yet if it's a safe or an extremely risky thing for them to do," McHugh said. "They are taking a great risk in putting themselves out there so publicly. In the end, they'll be judged to have been quite prescient if the law does end up happening and naïve if it doesn't."