

Recession hits home for many students

By Mallory Lindstrom
Opinions Editor

The decade we are living in will forever be defined by this economic recession. Since it began four years ago in 2007, people from all economic standings, regions, and age groups have been affected as a result. The way teenagers, including Lakes students, have been raised also has been impacted.

The U.S. Department of Labor has most recently calculated the unemployment rate to be 9.1 percent. However, in a survey of 100 students, 33 percent of students have one parent that has lost their job. And eight percent have both parents out of work.

"There are some times where we have to use what we have in the house until the paycheck comes," a student said. "We have also had moments when the gas and water have been shut off."

It is clear that money is tight these days; 24 percent of the 100 students surveyed have received unemployment benefits in the past year. Students, along with their

families, have taken multiple measures to save money. Some have made drastic changes by moving into a more affordable area or smaller home. But most have taken smaller steps to save a few dollars here and there.

One student said their family has cut back on "anything and everything that is not essential."

In the survey, the students of Lakes expressed many ways in which their family has cut back on their budget.

For example, families do not go out to eat at restaurants as often and instead, have switched to cooking their own meals and are using generic and store brand products.

Students do not go shopping for clothing as often as before. And when they do, they look for deals and coupons. More students

are beginning to shop at resale stores.

Others have cut down on unnecessary bills such as gym memberships, cell phones, and cable television. They have sold their "gas-

guzzlers" and are looking to buy more fuel efficient cars to save money on gasoline.

Many families have cut back on vacations and other enjoyable recreational activities.

"We cut

back on how many times we go camping, sold our four-wheeler, and stop doing things on the weekend," a student said.

In all these ways, young people are being raised in more frugal households and this will certainly influence their money management in the future.

As another student put it, these changes need to be made in order to "save more money to be prepared for the future."

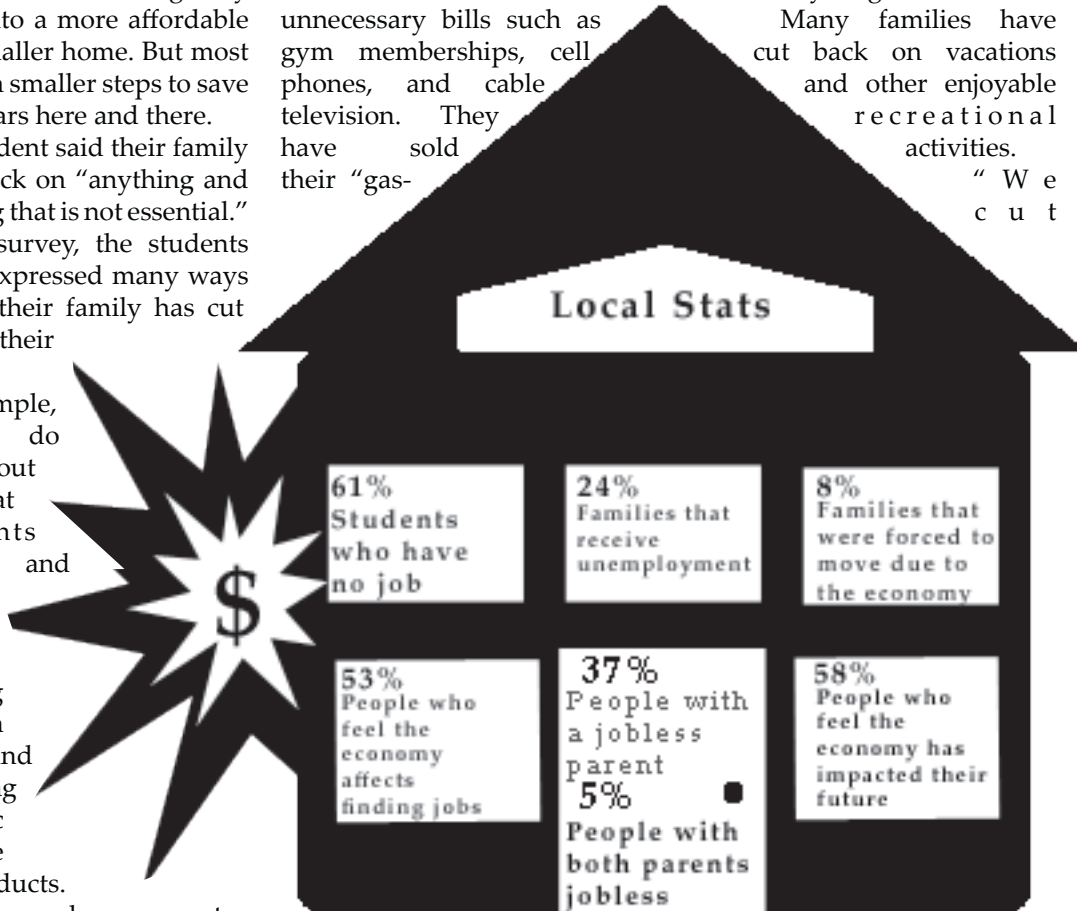
Sadly, though, students' plans for the future also have changed due to the poor economy.

"You need an education to succeed in our economy today," one student said.

But students are worried about paying for their college tuition and more students each year opt to begin their secondary education at a community college.

Students are competing for scholarships to save all the money they possibly can. It is also difficult to choose a field to study, since many careers are not hiring.

"Jobs will be scarce in the future after college," another student said.



Infographic by Neil Hughes & Zack Styx

A total of 100 students were surveyed about how the recession impacts their lives. The following stats exemplify how the recession affects local towns.

Students agree with college studies: More sleep equals better performance

By Jake Carter
Webmaster

Studies show that most students who start school at a later time, usually after 8 a.m., have higher test scores and

better grades. Lakes starts at 7:30 a.m., but many feel the drag of getting up at 6 a.m. and having to be at school so early.

Colleges and universities throughout the United States have performed studies to see

how an earlier start compared to a later start may affect children.

"I am usually late every morning," senior Andy Stoy said. "I have no energy or motivation that early. School should start at 8:20 a.m."

Studies have proven that there is a 50 percent increase in student grades, attentiveness, homework, and tests.

Brown University studied the issue with results showing that students who get that extra half-hour of sleep showed

up to class on time and were more focused. It also showed a higher increase in safety with many people already at work and off the roads.

With Lakes starting at 7:30 a.m., many Lakes students show fatigue from first through third periods, but if the start time was changed to 8 or 9 a.m. many would more likely be ready, alert, and awake.

"I'm really tired when school starts at 7:30 a.m.," junior Brian McPherson said. "My old school in Texas started at 9 a.m."

This information leaves parents and students aware that school could start later in the day to improve performance.

The question about starting the school day later has been brought up to the Lakes Parent Advisory Board and Principal Steven Plank. Plank has said that the problem would be with bus routes and after-school activities.

However, many concerned parents feel that the whole day could be shifted to accommodate bus routes.

They could be changed for the entire district starting at the same new time and moving after school activities later in the day could not be a problem for students with more energy and parents with students receiving higher grades.


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