Wall Street woes take toll on students

Some fear they will have to leave USD if crisis persists

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STAFF WRITER

The passing of the economic bailout plan by Congress has shown that the United States is experiencing the adverse effects of an economy in recession. For college students, the repercussions of this economic crisis are confusing and uncertain.

The average college student must struggle with the rising cost of tuition as well as the added strain on personal finances. For example, an increasing number of college students are looking to stay on-campus rather than finding off-campus housing. Some students are holding down multiple jobs while maintaining a full course load and many students are cutting back on non-essential spending.

In a series of interviews regarding the current financial crisis, most USD students expressed that they were being challenged by the current state of the economy in one way or another.

Junior, Ashley Graham says that she is being affected both directly and indirectly. She feels it is more difficult to qualify for student loans than in the past. “If the economy was in a better condition, then [the institutions] would be more willing to give out loans,” Graham said.

She also mentioned that her parents have been struggling to pay the bills and that it has become more difficult for them to put extra money aside for college expenses as the economy continues in its downward spiral. When asked whether this would play an important factor in her decision to continue her education at USD next year, she responded, “It’s even affecting me this year. I’m not sure if I’ll have to transfer to another school for next semester.” Her remark was in reference to the financial aid programs which Graham expresses, “are not paying enough to be of help to me.”

Sophomore Nicole Russo reports that she has had to alter her spending habits. “My parents are actually discouraging me from going home because of the gas prices,” Russo said. She added that she is careful not to overspend on luxuries. In regards to her decision to remain at USD, she is determined to return, even if it means cutting back on some non essentials.

The economic woes of our country are evident through these students, but what are the effects for USD international students?

Freshman Mannat Sra, an international student from India, stated that although she made her decision to attend USD before the economic crisis, the American economy has actually indirectly benefited her. “Because of the drop of the dollar and the exchange rate being what it is, I’m actually paying less to come here,” Sra said. This may not be true for all international students, but it certainly shows that other countries are being influenced by the economic downfall of the United States.

Mannat explains that as the stock market in the U.S. plummets, so does the dollar. See WALL, page 3.

Pirates seize cargo ships in Somali waters

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In the modern industrialized world, pirates are often associated with a period of human history when the ocean was the final frontier of exploration. Images of the infamous Blackbeard, eye patches and a parrot in his hair are the first that come to mind. Currently, the act of piracy is perhaps more appropriately associated with illegally downloading media online. However, the original phenomenon of piracy is alive and well, especially around Africa near the coast of the nation of Somalia. These pirates have recently become more emboldened in their operations as seen when the MV Faina, a Ukrainian cargo ship, was hijacked. At the time, it was carrying $33 million in battlefield arms, including 33 tanks, while traveling to a port city in Kenya.

International experts and news organizations have alleged that the arms were ultimately destined for the south of Sudan, a charge the Kenyan government denies. Southern Sudan is recognized as being autonomous from the Khartoum government, the ruling government institution in Sudan, according to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in 2005. Mohamed Osman Aden, a Somali diplomat, said, “This is not a Somali problem. This is an international problem. Shipment across this entire region is imperiled by piracy.”

The United States and the European Union are aware of the problem. The United States and Somalia have set up an information exchange between the two countries. In an attempt to bring the situation under control, the United States and Somalia have set up an information exchange between the two countries.

CERN plans to bring LHC online

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The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) is the group responsible for the construction and operation of the largest and most technologically advanced science experiment in human history, the Large Hadron Collider. The CERN research center is comprised of 20 countries, 18 of which are member nations of the European Union. According to Office of Science under the U.S. Department of Energy, the purpose of the LHC is to observe and determine the nature of the Higgs boson particle, nicknamed the “God particle,” which is thought to give all matter in the universe mass. Furthermore, if the Higgs boson particle is observed during experimentation as predicted, then its existence will complete the Standard Model of particle physics, which describes the fundamental interactions of particles as currently understood by physicists.

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