

“Teens Struggle to Get Jobs”

By Alice Koganova

Many teens look for work to earn some extra cash but often end up with no job. Applying to several places and receiving no call backs occurs on a regular basis. Can we blame the economy?

A great benefit in turning 15 is getting the chance to apply for your first job. With the recession slowing down our economy, more and more teens end up without jobs. Job hunter and senior Carol Malak said, “It is tough to get a job, especially at this age, when most of the jobs you apply to require experience. We need our first job to start gaining experience but no one gives us the chance.”

Not having any experience is a big downer for teen job seekers. The lack of resources to train employees is one of the many reasons for unemployment. Now, not even pressure from parents can help since many businesses’ are not hiring teens. Senior Steven Weingoz said, “I have been searching for a job for months because I have to depend less on my parents but it is a lot harder than ‘So, get a job!’ ”

According to reports by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, unemployment among 16 to 24 year olds rose by 1.2 million between April and June 2008. This year, teens have the highest unemployment rate, 25.5%. With such a rapid rise, expectancy for future openings does not look promising. Sophomore Jessica Biagini said, “It is disappointing to know that results with job openings will not improve. Although I am only 15, I was hoping to start working early.”

With adults losing their jobs, traditional teenage jobs across the American economy rank high competition. Layoffs and stock market losses have caused some parents to rely on their kids’ part time jobs to help pay for rising college costs. Senior Anthony Cifre said, “My sister already goes to an expensive school, so paying for another college would be really hard on my parents. I am trying to get a job to help take the load off of her.” The recession is making it harder for teens by the day.

Age is another factor that plays into unemployment. Many stores, such as Abercrombie & Fitch and WHO.A.U, require an age limit, preferably 18 and older. Senior Arelis Castillo said, “Last year it was really hard to find a job. I had an interview at Forever 21 but they never called back. As I followed up with my interview, they gave me excuses that the manager was not there.”

Many hope for an economic boost, but will rates of unemployment for teens soon decrease? The recession will come to an end. Unfortunately, for things to get better, they could possibly get worse first.