Economy affects students' lives at UNCP

By Jon Baze

Signed, Around Campus Editor

Even though the status of the U.S. economy is questionable and recent stock market dips in the Dow reflect a national level, the effects of a slowing economy are becoming apparent here on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

"I can see the economy in the shape that it's in today. This really happened to my family on the other hand. I'm really dis- turbed both by the students and companies crying out for assistance, but still spend out of control," said Robert L. Canida II, director of Multicultural and Minority Affairs.

"I truly feel for the families that have been affected in this way. Bruce Blackmon, director of Financial Aid, said that college students could establish a personal budget and despite the cri- sis, should not expect to see a decrease in federal or state funding. "The neediest students should not worry about losing their financial aid packages," he said.

"For the fall, students still have federal financial aid as early as they can, at least by March 15," he said. "Even if you still want to rent a local apartment, sign your lease and those of us have no idea how to pay a 12-month lease," Blackmon said.

"We all ought, the tendency is to put things on a credit card. Avoid buying things off put things on credit," he said.

The economic dilem- ma is forcing people to change the way they live and apply for loans that their lives and affects both students and faculty.

Junior Brittany Burt, who in her future is casting a minor with a major in recreational, said that the economy affects her life.

"On campus, the economy has not really affected me. In my lifestyle I have not cut back. For example, I didn't go home as much this semester because I live two hours away," Burt said.

"And also I would suggest that I would not have money owed to credit cards, schools, or whatever else, so, for the time when you get a job, car, or any- thing else, you would not have anything holding you back," Burt said.

"Live within your financial means," Canida said.

"Unfortunately, many of our traditional beliefs and values are based on the fundamental financial management that they are not so aware of how to budget properly," he said.

"Our Faculty Handbook doesn't see any faculty taking the long road to cut costs. However, many students are trying to cut costs.

"The biggest problem I see in the college student is job availabil- ity after college. So many companies are laying off workers, that in the next two years college students may not have a place in the working world. If we graduate there are no guaranteed jobs, for us, so it's impor- tant to work on internships and make connections with the people that can take you to the next step after gradua- tion," Burt said.