

High school seniors want job security

CINCINNATI (AP) — Today's high school students, thanks to the recession, are more serious about their futures and less concerned about social reforms, education experts say.

Lewis Marcuson, director of Institutional Research at Wilmington College says he is worried about those attitudes.

"Ten years ago there was a great deal of concern about underprivileged kids, poverty, the environment. Now I think they're concerned about getting jobs for themselves," he said.

"Ten years ago they just assumed people would hire them, and they were more concerned with changes in society. Now they want to be sure they get a job and make a comfortable living ... They're not so secure," said Marcuson.

In 1974, a national survey of high school seniors by "Who's Who Among American High School Students" showed the influence of 1960s liberalism and of Watergate.

Students in 1974 favored liberal Democrat Sen. Edward Kennedy for president. Only 10 percent of the 23,000 queried liked Ronald Reagan.

Nine years later, Reagan won a similar "Who's Who" survey with 33 percent of the senior class vote.

Tari Marshall, public relations director for "Who's Who," said the results of the 1984 survey show that the conservative trend should continue for a while.

"Essentially what I've been hearing is that they're worried about their future, and they don't want to do anything to mess that up," she said. "They want to go college and get high-paying jobs."

One of those students is Daniel Glueck, valedictorian at Cincinnati Walnut Hills High School. He plans to attend Harvard University and major in chemistry and computer science.

"I'd like to have a job in some science-related field," Glueck said. "I like money. Everybody likes money. How can you deny it?"

Says Lisa Bronson, a Walnut Hills senior: "Things like social work just aren't ideals now. People aren't out there crusading for the world anymore. It's more of an 'everybody's got to pull their own wagon' kind of thing."

Cincinnati guidance counselor Edna Hogue said she doesn't think the switch in priorities is due to lack of compassion.

"They just haven't had much experience in dealing with emotions and attitudes," she said. "You can't push emotions into computers, and I feel a lot of that is missing."