MONEY ISSUE
figuring out the figures

SCHOOL VS WORK
DEBT WONDERLAND
There are odd half facts you’ve probably never heard of or even known when professional hardbodies compete to see who can drop down a manhole to the fastest, or hurt time at targets. For those lucky enough to live the dream, the headquarters around US$25,000 or about $50,000, or roughly 10 fewer than the household employment of McDonald’s. Since they have to get themselves an anggar, and put their own hotel, meals, etc., it’s safe to say there’s not a lot of ‘living’ in being a professional bodybuilder. Obviously, endorsements are few and far between, with dressing, smoking and then some. Making up the very lowest rung of the athlete endorsement world, at least for hardbodies, the trees don’t hit back.

Much closer to home are struggling Thai boxes. Most come from small communities, and when they’re not painting rice, now and then, they take for hours each day in the sun to win a bit of money to the bright lights of Bangkok’s Cambodian Nights. Young fighters earn a ‘shopping’ $50-$15 per month plus less than a dollar to keep themselves. If they lose, they usually go home empty-handed.

So does going home break mean that they’re ‘arrested’? After all, what else do they fight for? But then they’d feel like the classic ‘western’ movie, it’s pretty hard to say they’re fighting for free out of a love of the sport, only to be a service man who’s ‘getting’ their boot kicked, punched, knocked, leashed and homosexed every 90 minutes at a time.

Ultimately they seek fame, fortune and a way out of the house. But by definition, would that make them money-oriented professional athletes?

Maybe the best example of what they want with the money is the sue dal that women athletes get for starters, only 1 of the 50 highest paid athletes in the world is female (Maria Sharapova), and the sum of most of her money through endorsements, because let’s be frank, she’s good looking.

To see how we reward our athletes purely on merit, look no further than football. Obviously, the world’s top earning footballers are all men. Despite winning the U-20 World Cup and competing at an international level, the highest paid 3% of female footballers earn roughly what the bottom 2% of male footballers do.

As fans, we’ve all been trained by the idea that big money and big achievement depends – greatness. It’s with a distinct like that, that most high-salary earner – go to the greatest contribution to human advancement. Tiger Woods could be dubbed detached with the story of allegations that have brought down some men like presidents and prime ministers, and be too benignly by the public or being, the ‘accused’ the next, after a simple public apology. The real question isn’t about sports, but what it says about us as a nation.
Mr Konosuke Matsushita’s LESSON #1:

“REALISE THAT DIFFICULTIES ARE THE ROOT OF INNOVATION”

AT THE LECTURE HALL...

HAVING TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS IS THE CATALYST THAT MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO FACE ALL CHALLENGES.

HE’S SPEAKING SO FAST... I CAN’T KEEP UP!

Panasonic Lumix TZ10
12.1 MEGAPIXELS
12X OPTICAL ZOOM
HD movie recording in AVCHD Lite Format
PERFECT FOR CAPTURING PHOTOS & VIDEOS, EVEN FROM THE BACK OF THE LECTURE HALL!

*AVCHD Lite format records beautiful images while offering twice the recording time as the standard Mpeg.
THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN ROAD TRIP

For student discounts on travel to Australia, use your ISIC card. See page 9 for more.

From Brisbane, with its great cafes and clubs, you can drive through the Gold Coast, Surfers Paradise, and the famous 'righties' of Springbrook's World Heritage 'snow gums' area. Then it's on to the Great Ocean Road, home to some of Australia's best beaches and surf. Next is Port Campbell, home to the Twelve Apostles and Port Fairy. From here, it's on to the Yarra Valley and Melbourne, home to great wine and food. Finally, it's back to the Gold Coast and Brisbane.

From Adelaide, it's on to the Barossa Valley, home to great wine, and then it's on to the Nullarbor Plain and the Eyre Peninsula. From here, it's on to the Flinders Ranges and the Gawler Ranges, home to great hiking and walking trails. Finally, it's back to Adelaide and the Barossa Valley.

From Hobart, it's on to the Tasmania mainland, with its beautiful national parks and wildlife. From here, it's on to the Freycinet Peninsula, home to the Freycinet National Park and its magnificent scenery. Finally, it's back to Hobart and the historic Port Arthur.

How to win a trip:
1. Visit www.australianroadtrips.com/game and play the Great Australian Road Trip game.
2. Email us at contact@australianroadtrips.com and tell us your score, plus 100 words or less of the week, which is 17 amazing Australian Road Trips you'd like to win, and why you should win.
3. Don't forget your details and name! NNC is age, the school you attended, and your year.
**FOREX**

Read the news. Make your move. FOREX is a 24-hour trading market with a high level of volatility. The timing is key, as prices fluctuate rapidly. The risk of losing money is high, but the potential for profit is also significant. Always make informed decisions and manage your risk.

**The Catch**

If you make decisions based on data, even with a high level of volatility, it’s possible to lose money. Be aware of the risks and use stop-loss orders to limit your losses. Always be prepared for the unexpected.

**4-1-0- NIGERIAN MONEY SCAM**

This is a classic, but there are still many examples of scams out there. Be aware of the signs and report any suspicious activity to the authorities.

**Work From Home**

Work from home can be a great opportunity, but be cautious of scams. Always verify the legitimacy of the opportunity and be prepared to invest time and effort into the process.

**SCAMS AND WHAT WE DO FOR MONEY**

It’s easy to fall victim to scams. Be aware of the signs and report any suspicious activity.

**MOBELLING SCAM**

You’re contacted by a company offering a high interest rate on your savings. Be wary of such offers and always verify the legitimacy of the opportunity before investing.

**The Catch**

Always be aware of the risks involved in investing in any company. Be cautious of high interest rates and verify the legitimacy of the opportunity before making any investment decisions.

**Investment**

**Cheat Sheet**

**1. INVESTMENT IN LAYMAN’S TERMS**

- **Investment**
  - It’s like planting a seed and watching it grow into a tree.
  - **Yield**
    - Not just about the ultimate goal but also the idea of a long-term plan.

- **Savings Account**
  - The basic bank account.
  - You earn interest on your money.

- **Stocks**
  - Buying a piece of a company.
  - You become a part owner.

- **Bonds**
  - Buying a bond is like lending money to a company.

**2. COMMON TYPES OF INVESTORS**

- **Day Trader**
  - Focus on short-term gains.
  -愿努力在短期内获取高收益。

- **Investor**
  - Focus on long-term gains.
  - 愿在较长时间内获取高收益。
**Hindu Festivals**

Music, incense, bright colors, and a huge gathering of family and friends are a few aspects of Hindu celebrations that make them so fascinating to experience. Nearly 90% of Bali are Hindu, which is unique because much of the approximate 17,000 Indonesian islands are Muslim. During my time in Bali, I was able to gain a better understanding of this religion through attending a funeral and a celebration leading up to the Balinese New Year (Nyepi). The locals were hospitable and accepting of my taking part in their rituals and even welcomed me into their homes for the day explaining the ceremonies in great depth.

**The Celebration**

At an annual Hindu celebration, my eye caught a glimpse of a man with a large circular mirror completely covered in mirrors. The mirrors were streaking light out and down. Of course, I approached the man and pulled out my camera to take a photo. He laughed as he told me it was definitely. He invited me to join his family and proceeded to describe what this celebration was one the day of the full moon that they were celebrating. Leading up to the Bali New Year (Nyepi) before I knew it, it was time. The lighting was up sticks with a small flame and placing them in the ground. An older man came over and said, “I am looking for a lost soul with a pizza.”

**The Funeral**

As I was walking my way through the countryside on my motorcycle, I noticed smoke from a crowd of people gathered on the side of the road. They were burning effigies. I got out of the car and approached them, and they seemed very surprised. I learned that the woodworking of the effigies represents the deceased. I explored the graveyard and was surprised, it wasn’t as I had been led to believe. I went there with my family, and we saw the mountains far off into the distance. What an evening!
**Avatar vs. The Hurt Locker**

**Article by Shah Salim**

**The Dark Knight:** $1 billion
**The Lord of the Rings:** $1.1 billion
**Titanic:** $1.5 billion

What matters in a film’s success? Commerical success is often considered the only true measure of worthiness. **Avatar** and **The Hurt Locker** provide excellent examples to examine the seeming conflict between independent flair and blockbuster ambition.

**Avatar**

Released in 3D and with a 3D version in Korea, James Cameron took a huge leap with technology to make the film. With the use of specially developed software and the latest computer and motion capture animation technology, **Avatar** was a groundbreaking achievement. The film’s success challenged viewers to accept the technology and the digital world it created.

**The Hurt Locker**

With **The Hurt Locker**, the director, Kathryn Bigelow, won the Academy Award for Best Picture, the first woman to do so. The film’s realism and authenticity, as seen through the lens of the Special Forces, provided a new perspective on war.

The success of **Avatar** and **The Hurt Locker** demonstrates the power of both artistic innovation and realistic storytelling. While **Avatar**利用了先进的技术，**The Hurt Locker** through its authentic depiction of war addressed the complexities of the conflict.

In conclusion, the success of films like **Avatar** and **The Hurt Locker** highlights the importance of balance between technical advancement and emotional resonance. Both films manage to captivate audiences while also provoking deeper conversations about their respective subjects.
LESS IS MORE, MORE IS LESS.

Most drinks at a coffee shop come in various sizes with little or no difference at all, except for the price obviously. Read on and be educated. For example, a standard small latte has a single shot of espresso (that potent potion that keeps us awake at ridiculous hours) while larger sizes typically have two. Coffee bars here tend to charge an additional dollar on average for every extra shot of espresso you want, while the next size up generally only costs an additional 50 cents. Here’s how you can save.

Order a medium or large but ask the barista to put it in a small cup. Your latte is twice as strong without you having to pay so much more.

Extra Tip: Apply Tip #2 to offset more cost.

MAKE FRIENDS.

It’s all been said. Connections are the barriers we would have already known your name. Otherwise, it does not hurt for you to introduce yourself first. Once you’re on a name basis, a line of events will lead up to a coffee run. You may find your order pushed from last to first in line, and if you’re very lucky, a barista may just “forget” to ring in your order.

Extra Tip: If you have something to barter, bring it. Don’t be stingy.

MAKE YOUR OWN LATTE.

Order an espresso “on the rocks”, or a double if you are so inclined. This is simply the cheapest drink you can order, and it will get you the same coffee taste. Toss the average latte into a small cup and add milk or sugar (and lots of whipped cream or other doodles). You can also make your own latte at home and salvation is gluttony. It was your own making, and if you like, you may not run your “stronger order”. You make it for you for your own enjoyment.

Extra Tip: Try this at the beginning of the hour because this is usually the time when the milk containers are cleaned out.

MAKE A LOYALTY CARD.

Starbucks has one. So does Coffee Bean. Essentially, this prepaid card lets you purchase a fixed number of drinks for less than if you were to buy one drink everyday at the menu price. If you’re a huge coffee drinker, this adds up to a lot of savings.

Extra Tip: Buy the card when you’re hanging out with a group of 5 friends or more. Everyone gets a drink as a discount, the card gets fully stamped, and you need not worry about the card sitting idle in your wallet past its expiry date.

TIPS TO SAVE MONEY AT A COFFEE SHOP BY UXAD RAZI

You’ve unsubscribed yourself from (insert luxury brand here) mailing list to avoid an impulse buy. You’ve emptied your wardrobe and store room, and earned extra dollars selling all your junk on eBay and Pea markets. The recent recession may have drastically reduced your spending power, but you need not forego all the good things in life just yet. If, like me, you have unflinchingly given up on some of your spending habits, but still find it so hard to kick your addiction to gourmet coffee, here are some tips (ranging from the most righteous to downright shameless) for you to try on your next visit to a coffee shop.

COMPLAIN.

There are many ways for you to get your way. For starters, buy the smallest size or the cheapest drink and watch. When your drink is called out, pretend that the register guy got your drink size wrong. You will notice that the baristas would rather make your “correct” drink than cancel your order again and risking a backlash at the register. If you’re still not satisfied, go for the kill; create a scene. You may just score a coupon for a free beverage.

Extra Tip: Just don’t use this trick in the same store twice.

SET UP THE HANDOUT COUNTER.

If you’re too shy to accomplish this with the crowd waiting for drinks at the handout counter, it’s the best 3 minutes, grab it and go. Don’t look back.

KEEP IT SIMPLE.

The rule of thumb here is, the harder it is to pronounce the name of a beverage, the pricier it is. Read the ingredients wisely. (And potential implications of pronouncing it wrongly) and just order “coffee” the next time you find yourself having difficulty with the elaborate name. It’s much cheaper.

MAGAZINE/DISSERT # 12
E-SATAN

THE NEW HELL MONEY... STORY BY RATHA NAGARU

E-Satan. That's online shopping for you - only a few levels up from sauntering into department stores like Ixton, Robinson, or Marks & Spencer.

Long fixed-up with the elbowing through crowds of bargain-predators in the mall, buyers are now happily clicking away surfing for bargains in the comfort of their own computer chairs. Instead of looking like a fool staring at minimum window displays, it's all about scrolling down the pages while looking through many "displays" of models flending the latest apparel. The best part is that it's okay to take your time with no one giving you weird stares.

I salute this substitute shopping on face value, but budget wise, it's often just as reckless as shopping in the department stores! We find ourselves clicking "add to cart" at the very sight of an appointment piece without even caring about our budget. Not to mention, adhering to a budget already proves to be a challenge to those with any sort of income.

So what about us, the students? We have finite allowances with part-time job money that only stretches so far. Do our parents expect us to pay back our credit card charges? Especially if you don't intend to pay the full amount, the interest rate can be pretty harsh. Like ending up paying $500 after accumulating interest rates for something that originally only costs you $150? Bear in mind your card's interest can be a beautiful double digit of 30%.

We are too young, too naive, to completely succumb to the abyss of a satan especially when we see that 4 letter word, "SALE!" It drives us crazy. Yes, what appears to be cheap initially, soon amounts to something beyond any student's budget.

What is the seemingly mysterious temptation factor of all e-satans? It's the VISUAL appeal.

So, take, when you serve fashion trends, sale and convenience on a nicely decorated silver-platter, anyone with the shopaholic syndrome will down it in a blink of an eye.

And of course, sticking to your modest budget is not an option.

I can't say that I have a clean track record, but I do like to think I practice some self control now and then. Whenever the urge to buy more strikes, I try to abide by the following advice:

1. BLOCK YOUR BANK
Block all online shopping sites on your browser if possible. Of course, you can make one or two - ONLY! - exceptions for sites with the best bargains.

2. WHAT A ADMINISENCE!
What I can recommend from my experience in the e-satan world. www.shopah.com and www.audiotrash.net/shop/. They provide the best reasonable bargain for quality and pretty finds.

For every 10 bestselling apps, you are allowed to pamper yourself with one purchase. Call it a reward or sacrifice - better than ending up with nothing I always say. Scrolling on meals don't count as I can't see how starving yourself is rewarding.

AS QUOTED BY ALEXANDER POPE
"To err is human, to forgive divine. However if he was a chronic shopaholic in the 21st century he might say, "To buy full price is human, to buy on sale divine."

There is nothing wrong with online shopping - Hey, I too am a normal ordinary being who indulges in this temptation - but you know something needs to be done when you have "saved" too much.

Frankly, when it comes to shopping, other than already knowing how to shop wisely, there really is no foolproof way of sticking within budget. It really boils down to your power of self-control against all evil temptations.

In all money matters, online shopping proves to be a better substitute, budget-wise, to walk-in shopping. However, at the end of the day, it's all about the instant gratification of point and click.
Exploring Vanishing Trades with SONY A

Younger generations have higher standards of living and emphasize on quality. It is understandable why high-end, low income and grubby street-side cobbler fails to appeal, reasoned Chong.

KARANG GUMAI MAN

"I understand why you are concerned with the quality of your shoes. It is important to me too. But, the reason why people prefer street-side cobblers is that they are more affordable. It is a trade that has been passed down through generations."

Street-side Cobbler

Cobblers like Chong were once common in Singapore and were known for their skilled hands and craftsmanship. However, as the city has modernized, the number of street-side cobblers has greatly diminished. There are now only a few cobblers left who still work on the street. Chong is one of them.

Chong starts his day by setting up his stall at a local market. He is often seen working on shoes that are brought in by his customers. He uses traditional methods to mend and repair shoes, such as sewing and gluing. He also sells new shoes and accessories, such as belts and bags.

Chong is one of the last remaining street-side cobblers in Singapore. He has been working in this trade for over 30 years. He has seen the city change around him, but he has stayed true to his craft.

He says that his customers are mostly elderly people who still value the quality of his work. He also has a few regular customers who come to him for repairs and new shoes.

Chong believes that the street-side cobbler is a dying trade. He hopes that people will appreciate the value of his work and keep the tradition alive.

Tips for shooting with Sony Alpha:

1. Get the best out of your camera. Make sure you have a tripod or support to prevent camera movement. Use a tripod with natural light when possible.
2. If you are photographing under low light conditions, use a flash. A flash with a dedicated flash is better than a camera flash. Choose a flash that has high flash output.
3. Use ISO 200 or 400 to achieve a sharp image. Set the ISO to 200 in low light conditions. Use a shutter speed of 1/200 or 1/400.
4. Use the raw format to capture the full potential of your sensor. Use a raw format with a high ISO setting.
5. Use a wide aperture to capture the depth of field. Use a wide aperture with a high ISO setting.

These are just two of the many trades vanishing quietly into thin air. Others include kolam, kacang puteh and opera singers. However, it is not to say that there are no others who are ready to pick up these trades to keep them from disappearing. Some, like Xue Li, choose to help keep these trades alive by giving them a new lease of life.
THE LIST

Here are four favorite spots for some of the most attractive, expensive Singaporean products and services.

1. S$2,517.77
2. S$20,000
3. S$3,258.18
4. S$54.4

FABRIC FANTASTIC

Story by Clara Lock

Campus beats the heat this season and takes our flea markets to new heights, as we seek out young entrepreneurs who have carved a niche with their handmade products.

SONY α GUIDE TO CLOSEUP PHOTOGRAPHY USING JUST YOUR BASIC LENS KIT

A DIFFERENT ME

FOUNDER: Aarson Alan
PRODUCT TYPE: Photo-bound stationery
WEBSITE: http://www.aarsonalan.com

Aarson Alan was born and raised in the bustling city of Singapore. His passion for photography began at a young age, and he became infatuated with the art form at a tender age of 13. Aarson’s goal as a photographer is to capture the essence of a moment in time, whether it be a candid shot of a street performer or a stunning landscape shot of a remote corner of the world.

Aarson believes that photography is a form of communication that can transcend language barriers and connect people from all walks of life. He aims to create images that tell stories, evoke emotions, and inspire others to see the beauty in everyday moments.

Aarson’s work has been featured in various publications and exhibitions, and he has received numerous awards for his photography. He continues to pursue his passion, always striving to improve his craft and create new and exciting projects.

Aarson’s advice for aspiring photographers is to never stop learning and experimenting. He recommends seeking out feedback from others, attending workshops and seminars, and practicing regularly.

Aarson is also a mentor to young aspiring photographers, offering guidance and support to those who are just starting out in the field.

Aarson’s journey as a photographer has been a rewarding one, and he looks forward to many more years of capturing the beauty of the world through his lens.
When he graduated from university last year, Johan Tan already had a game plan: work for a year before starting his Master’s in Canada. Perhaps his job prospects would have been better had it not been for the poor economy but in the past year, he has worked for 3 companies... as an intern. However, this did not deter him. For Johan, graduate school is definitely still on the agenda. On the other end of the spectrum, Zaharah Rosli knew that the road to graduate school was the next step after college. Although the company she interned for during university offered her a job, she knew her passion lies in teaching. Specifically, in encouraging any father who did not want his daughter to lose her spark for academia, she

readily pursued her Master’s in Australia. Both graduates are not unique in the decisions they face and may have chosen two very different paths, but who fares better? Or is that question EVEN relevant?

As the dust settles on the mountain of textbooks and notes on your desk while you are out celebrating the end of college, a dark cloud looms above. What is going to be your next move? For most new grads like myself, the previous downturns, with more jobs, actually being created due to the 2009 year-end festivities and the introduction of the Integrated Reshorts. The Ministry of Manpower stated that for the whole of 2009, total employment went up by 27,000 or 1.2% as of the second half of the year helped to offset the losses in the first half.

Because the recession may have shaved starting pay for the rest of us with a liberal arts degree, I would expect many disadvantaged us grads to scramble for the doors of graduate schools.

Nevertheless, the working world still offers certain plus points worth considering. For starters, there is that whole "getting valuable real-world experience" bit. Working life gives insight into an industry, which is an opportunity that grad school may not necessarily allow. A job also provides a source of income, which is an indirect help to you to determine if this is the line of work you want to be in for the long run.

Engineering or technical jobs are not all the rage in the US, and more recently in China and India, but the local scene pales in comparison. In Singapore, these types of jobs are overshadowed by the glitz and glamour of banking and finance jobs. Not surprisingly, Kelly Services, Singapore Employment, Outward and Salary Guide 2010/2011 mentioned that the engineering industry here is still a solid workforce for the year ahead. Obviously, this is a stark contrast to the situation in the United States. Workers from foreign countries snap up engineering jobs, leaving white collar engineers jumpship to where else banks and financial institutions of course.

Notwithstanding, the labour market proved to be more resilient than in previous downturns, with more jobs, actually being created due to the 2009 year-end festivities and the introduction of the Integrated Reshorts. The Ministry of Manpower stated that for the whole of 2009, total employment went up by 27,000 or 1.2% as of the second half of the year helped to offset the losses in the first half.

Graduate school may appeal to you if you desire additional expertise or want to maximize your earning potential. Bear in mind that graduate study is unlike any educational experience you have encountered before. While it may be enriching, it may also be daunting especially if you are only concerned about the fall (or pay check and not the education itself). Having said that, but graduates generally transition well to the world of work as they can ride on the momentum of studying.

In grad school, you may also notice that the student-professor relationship is much different than in university. Professors tend to treat their students more like their own peers. Here, a higher level of maturity is expected because unlike uni, assignments are typically more research-based and fewer tests are given. Also, courses usually take the form of discussions rather than lectures, so you would not have to come to class expecting to be spoon-fed knowledge. The point is, grad school may just be one of your most effective investments during your lifetime. Be prepared for a lot of hard work.

In the recent economic downturn, grad schools are experiencing increasing numbers in enrolment as many choose to “pack” their education. This is not just a recent trend — as matter of fact, it is often a product of every economic downturn. Moreover, the recent grad school fever may cause more problems than mitigate the soft job market. For one, selectivity issues due to high demand may bar qualified students from securing admission. Applicants face stiffer competition now than they would have in a recession free economy. Why? If you settle for a similar programme in a “lessor” school so you can get the advanced degree? Lastly, if you choose to find shelter from the recession by staying in school, you may find yourself in worse situations post-grad — massive tuition loans.
Best of Business Schools: some of the best business schools around the world

University of Pennsylvania, Wharton, USA

Avg. grad salary: US$180,000, 79% had jobs within 3 months

While considered the best overall B-school, its high percentage of international students (25%) gives it an added punch of effective global orientation. With a high percentage of international students (25%), the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton offers an excellent global outlook and opportunity for students to learn and work in diverse environments.

University of London, England

Avg. grad salary: US$148,000, 81% had jobs within 3 months

In London, the University of London is known for its excellence in various fields including business management. The university offers a wide range of courses and programs that cater to students from different backgrounds and interests. With a high percentage of international students, the university provides a diverse and multicultural learning environment.

IMD Switzerland, Lausanne, Switzerland

Avg. grad salary: US$140,000, 80% had jobs within 5 months

With a high percentage of international students (40%), IMD Switzerland is known for its strong emphasis on practical, hands-on learning. The university offers a wide range of courses and programs that cater to students from different backgrounds and interests. With a high percentage of international students, the university provides a diverse and multicultural learning environment.

IE Business School, Madrid, Spain

Avg. grad salary: US$120,000, 86% had jobs within 3 months

Ranked 1st in Spain and 10th worldwide, the IE Business School is known for its strong emphasis on entrepreneurship and innovation. The university offers a wide range of courses and programs that cater to students from different backgrounds and interests. With a high percentage of international students, the university provides a diverse and multicultural learning environment.

Insead, Singapore

Avg. grad salary: US$110,000, 70% had jobs within 3 months

In Singapore, the Insead offers a challenging and diverse learning environment. The university offers a wide range of courses and programs that cater to students from different backgrounds and interests. With a high percentage of international students, the university provides a diverse and multicultural learning environment.

Australian School of Business, Sydney, Australia

Avg. grad salary: US$123,000, 81% had jobs within 3 months

The University of New South Wales has the number one business school in Australia with over 30% of its graduates employed within 12 months. This is a testament to the university's strong emphasis on practical, hands-on learning.

Enrolling in an MBA programme is a big step toward furthering your education and advancing your career. Once you've made up your mind to go on to a good school, you then have to answer the all-important question: Where do you go? Rankings, location, faculty, awards, cost, etc. all play a role in determining the perfect fit for you. We've done the research for you, now it's up to you to read on and decide where you'll be going.

Debt and Financial reality

A lot of us are about to graduate, thinking about our first real job, and hopefully at some point after that, getting married, buying a home, and starting a family. In between today’s SEAM lecture and eventually picking up the furniture for your first apartment, a lot of things need to happen. Presumably we’ll start a career, earn money, and start establishing ourselves financially.

So let’s assume you don’t immediately fall into a job where we earn an obscene amount of money. That leaves us with just 5 options - live within our means, live with disappointment or live with debt. The first option’s pretty obvious and you all know the drill. If you can’t afford a date, then learn to look Kipling. The second option’s kind of sad. The third option’s pretty intriguing, as I found that 4 out of 10 millionaires agree (OK, I only interviewed 2 millionaires for this story), and they both agreed that if you do this right, you’re probably going to succeed, and that’s being in debt.

Debts defined by banks

Lenders (like banks) have their own ideas of what makes “good” or “bad” debt. Good debt doesn’t necessarily mean buying frivoulous stuff. It’s more the idea of going into buying frivoulous stuff; it’s more the idea of going into debt and not living beyond your means at that moment in time. Good debt is living beyond your means. If you have something that you can live without, it doesn’t earn you money or it doesn’t save you money.

How debts affect interest rates

With higher interest rates, it’s harder to pay off bad debts - and this is the best part of bad debt for banks. When you go to them for a mortgage, for instance, to buy a “good debt” and you have a history of not paying your bad debts (like credit cards), they’ll only be able to qualify for higher-interest loans.

This is why folks like Donald Trump use their own cash to pay for “good” investments, like Coca-Cola and 20-carat diamonds, and with his spotless credit, banks will gladly lend him larger sums to buy buildings at highly competitive interest rates. By going into debt, he makes his money by paying just a 2% interest on $1000 million.

While there’s a lot more to it, this is just the tip of the iceberg. If you get into this thinking, then go read up on how interest, mortgages and debt can work for you.

TIP:
When taking 3D shots, it is essential to make sure the conditions of the second photo are exactly the same as the first. SONY G300’s Face Illuminator light, illuminates and captures the subjects’ face with excellent contrast and accurate skin tone, which makes for more powerful 3D photos.
THE ART OF CAN.

What a creative mind can do with the body of a Red Bull can.

*Red Bull Nation* by Juan Lozano

Red Bull’s most prestigious event for highly imaginative minds, is an international creative challenge for full time and amateur artists.

Now in Singapore for the first time, this exhibition will see the country’s best artistic talents competing for the top three prizes. Come see their original pieces of artwork, all inspired by the distinctive blue and silver Red Bull cans.

July 3 to 11, 2010
Opening hours from 11 am to 7 pm
Free admission

Art Gallery, 5th Level, *SCAPE
Orchard Link

www.redbullartofcan.sg