

The time is right to make your move for financial independence

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WASHINGTON -- Whether you earn \$10,000 or \$100,000 a year, now is the time to make your move for financial independence.

The first step in this direction is to make the best use of your current income. With this motive in mind, we offer the following money-saving tips for 1987:

- Reduce your taxes. There has been a lot of talk about the new tax law. While the law does not change your tax burden as dramatically for the better as some would have you believe, you should nevertheless fully understand how to use the law to keep more of your income from the tax man.

There are many publications available on this subject. Search local bookstores and your public library.

- Shop less often and buy in quantity.

This is an especially good practice when buying food. It simply does not pay to buy at regular prices. There are too many sales

available. Plus, you would be surprised at the number of items you can buy in bulk.

However, watch out for waste. Often when there is a lot of something in sight, there is a tendency toward waste. And remember that the more often you shop, the more likely it is you will buy things you don't actually need.

- As far as housing is concerned -- buy, don't rent. If you have decided to make a particular city your home, you are simply throwing away money by renting. Rent goes into the landlord's pocket. Mortgage payments go toward equity.

In other instances where renting or buying is the option, you should base your decision on this axiom: If it increases in value, buy it; if it decreases in value, rent or lease it.

- Stay healthy by eating in moderation and exercising regularly. This is the single best way to reduce medical costs.

Regular exercise keeps you youthful, healthy and alert. As far as food is concerned, forget

the experts for one moment and instead remember what mama told you: "Moderation is the best policy." Moderate food consumption will improve your health and reduce your grocery bill.

- Start an income-producing business. If you are not already self-employed, it is best to start a business of your own, even if it is only on a part-time basis. That "business" can be as simple as sponsoring monthly financial seminars or weekly parties or making crafts at home to sell to friends. Give some thought to turning your hobby into a business.

Business ownership offers a triple benefit. First, you will keep more of your current income because business tax breaks are tremendous. Second, you will increase your income.

The third benefit can be understood by remembering the adage: "Nobody ever got rich by working for someone else."

- Start a disciplined savings plan. You should be saving 10 percent of your income.

There is only one way to accomplish this on a consistent basis: Pay yourself first. If you wait to save until after you have paid all your bills, you will never save!

go into debt is when you can use the borrowed money to make even more money. In addition, there are certain major purchases which require the use of credit.

Otherwise, too much reliance on credit can be a trap similar to the predicament of the monkeys in the movie "The Wiz," who sang this refrain: "You can't win; you can't break even -- and

you can't get out of the game." Save and shop for sales.

- Constantly search for ways to increase your income.

Do not spend too much of your life just trying to make ends meet. Living that way robs you of energy and time -- energy and time you could be using to get more enjoyment out of life.

Be a Big Brother or Big Sister

LT. FLAP SURE HAS A GREAT TIME WITH HIS "LITTLE BROTHER." I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A BIG BROTHER MYSELF.

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Sports Outlook

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Scholastic Aptitude Test scores. Moreover, student-athletes at historically black schools accounted for 76 percent of the graduating blacks, even though students at the black schools had predictor scores a third of a point below the average for Division II graduates.

Similar figures were found in Division III. Eighty-one percent of the black graduates attended historically black schools with potentials of 2.03, while the average potential for all students was 2.2.

The Border Line

THE STUDY found that high school athletes with a predictor of less than 2.8 ought to shy away from applying to or being recruited by Division I schools. If you are black with less than a 2.8 predictor and want to graduate, the percentages are in your favor to enroll at a historically black school, Davis said.

"Supporting this evidence is a recent survey by Dr. Walter Allen, a University of Michigan sociology professor," Davis said. "Allen found that 34 percent of the students at historically black schools have a 'B' average or higher, compared to 24 percent at predominantly white schools. Allen's survey further showed that student satisfaction is higher and adjustment to college life is easier for blacks on black campuses."

Davis said his generalization supports the hypothesis that athletes at major universities must have predictors higher than the general student body to graduate due to the extra demands of varsity athletics. If you are black, he said, the predictor must even be higher.

Davis said some other examples support his evidence. For instance, a poll conducted by USA Today found that Tennessee State, a historically black Division I school, had the highest graduation rate of any Division I school in the state of Tennessee for athletes. This shows that the academic demands on Division I-type black athletes are best handled at historically black schools, Davis said.

Athletes with less than a 2.0 predictor are usually categorized as high-risk students who should be entrusted into the hands of experts, Davis said. Since black schools have for years specialized in educating individuals who would not normally go to college, they can readily provide the environment and experience to help such students to excel, Davis said.

"If you are highly skilled with outstanding athletic ability and do not have the desirable

academic predictor, but feel that you can excel at the collegiate level if surrounded by an environment that is conducive to learning," he said, "the historically black college has many years of experience in working with this type of individual."

The study's results also noted that students participating in varsity athletics put in an average of 2.7 hours per day more time with college-related activities than their non-athletic counterparts. Davis defined college-related activities as required and unrequired academic endeavors (attending classes, seminars and meetings, as well as studying).

The Ticket

MOREOVER, Davis said student-athletes tend to achieve more academically than non-athletic students of similar academic ability.

"Athletics, when properly organized, is an integral part of the total education process,"

Davis said. "Most feel that sports provide experiences that are symbolic of the American way of life."

For black athletes, Davis said, the choice of a college is crucial.

"Too often the only ticket black kids have for entering doors that will admit them to a better way of life is their athletic ability," he said. "This ticket is too valuable to be taken lightly."

Davis was disappointed last month when the NCAA voted to extend Bylaw 5-1-(j) (Proposition 48) to Division II in 1988. The bylaw sets minimum academic requirements for incoming freshmen of 700 on the SAT and a 2.0 grade-point average. Division II schools can't afford to spend money on scholarship athletes who lose a year of eligibility, he said, while most Division I schools can. Therefore, the rule is not fair.

"The rich get richer and the poor get poorer," Davis said.

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