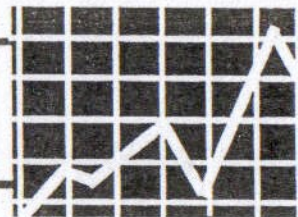


Business Beat



How "Burger Money" Can Add Up To \$1 Million

By F. Douglas Lewis

This year's college graduates are entering a different

grapples with fundamental issues such as health care, housing and urban redevelopment.

People must learn earlier to take charge of their own financial security. It is no longer unthinkable to start planning for retirement when beginning a first job out of college. If you envision life as a hurdles race, then retirement finance is the last great barrier to success. Along the way, hurdles will include marriage, family, home-buying, even the children's college expenses.

People who plan only for the next hurdle are never prepared for the one that comes after that, and that's where they stumble. If job hunting graduates agree with the necessity to make long-term financial plans, here are a couple of starting points: include retirement planning in the job hunt. Investigate

prospective employers' complete compensation packages, including insurance, profit sharing or stock programs and matching pension plans such as a 401(k).

Accept responsibility for future financial needs. A moderate, steady habit of saving and investing will practically guarantee financial health in years to come. The new graduate may be

motivated to invest just \$2,000 a year by knowing that if the investment achieves an average return of 10 percent, the historic long-term return of common stocks, after 41 years the stake will be \$1,075,274.

The young wage earner can set that million dollars as his or her reward for taking care of all the other obligations that will be encountered dur-

ing that 35 years. How easy is it to save \$2,000 a year? If you break it into monthly payments to yourself, it's \$166.66. On a weekly basis, it's less than \$39. And daily, it is the price of a burger, fries and a soda, just \$5.47.

NOTE: F. Douglass Lewis, Jr., is an investment executive with Legg Mason Wood Walker, Inc., located in Washington, D.C.

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world than their counterparts a decade ago. Where debt-fueled expansion created high hopes in the 1980s, today's graduates will be helping to pay the bill.

Self-reliance and prudence are the accepted personal traits during a time the nation