

'I aim to start a hedge fund by the time I graduate'

Wong Jian Hui, 24, business undergraduate

With about half a million in his bank account and plans to lock in another half before graduation, business undergraduate Wong Jian Hui isn't your average 24-year-old.

The self-proclaimed "typical guy" made his first \$100,000 in stock profits at the age of 21 and paid for his first sports car (a Mazda RX8) in full when he was just 23. Mr Wong now has dreams of starting his own hedge fund.

The former Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) boy has his dad to thank for exposing him to the world of investing at the age of 18: On many a night, he watched his father check stock prices on television. To date, the young man's largest one-off gain stands at a whopping \$120,000.

Still, despite being half a millionaire, Mr Wong, a first-year student at the Singapore Management University, insists he doesn't over-indulge. "I can wear China-made clothes; I'm not spoiled. Sometimes I don't even want to drive into the CBD because the parking is so expensive. There was once I parked for two hours, and the fee came up to \$9. I was like, are you insane? I can do better things with \$9."

Better things such as starting a busi-

ness. The young entrepreneur also gets passive income from a tuition centre he set up five years ago.

"My dad told me to draw him up a decent proposal for the business and he'd give me the money, as long as I came back with more (money)."

Mr Wong bases his investment decisions on world events and technical analysis, studying stock charts and taking note of prices and movements over the years. But to those who see dabbling in stocks as a quick way to get rich, he says: Forget it.

"Stocks are high-risk, high-return. Don't try it if you don't know how, or hope to be a millionaire overnight. If you want that, you should go and buy Toto — just don't count on the stock market because it's not going to happen," he said.

While he volunteers with the annual Boys Brigade Charity Gift Box project, Mr Wong says big-money philanthropy isn't quite his thing.

"I agree I could do better because the donations I make are hardly anything to shout about ... I feel that when it comes to charity, it's not all about the money. If you make an impact, that's more important and more worth it." ERIKA FOO

