

Spending money- shiny bling, the newest iphone, even just seeing that new movie everyone's talking about. The american dream, earn to spend. If only it was that simple. I've lost a lot of money on a lot of dumb stuff, many times getting close to my goal- buying a car- but never quite getting there. At least until my last economic failure.

It was just after the summer break. I was a lifeguard, and made a lot of cash doing so. My account was up at about \$2500, and I had this mindset that I could spend as I pleased, and I wouldn't be putting myself out of a car. Considering that, I bought an apple watch. It was about \$350. It was on a temporary sale and it had never gotten so cheap, so I figured, now is as good a time as any to buy one. Few days later it arrived, and I went to school with my new tech feeling great. I mean, it's only \$350, I still have over two thousand, so who cares?

Unfortunately for me, I took off my watch for practice because I'm on swim team, and I didn't lock my locker so first day I had it, it got stolen. Just my luck right? No. I wasn't going to be played like that, I don't care what higher force was at work here, that watch was mine. Found out soon that it was not going to be returned. That left me with only one option- buy another. This time it might sorta hurt my bank account, but what's the chances of me finding a car for \$2150 anyways? So in the false veil of my misplaced confidence, I bought another.

Did I mention I hadn't told my parents about any of these expenditures? They still thought I was floating good with \$2500, but in all reality I was around \$1750 at this point. That same night I purchased another, I found out that a family friend was offering a beautiful car to us for just \$2150. This is when I realized my folly. I attempted to cancel the order, but it was too late, the money was gone. That car was not going to be mine.

It was tough thinking about how I could've had a car and been on the road. However, the worst part wasn't that. No, the worst part was explaining to my parents that I didn't want this amazing and totally affordable car. Who knows if they ever actually believed me? Regardless, I was now out of my dream of a car, and all I had left was a stupid watch. Nice going.

Now I've worked another job for months to earn more, and I'm finally getting a car. It was a lot easier to save once I realized how to cutback on spending. The lesson to be learned here is a simple one- watch how you spend your money.