**Spending Log [8/20-9/18]**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Money Spent** | **Items** | **Category** | **Daily Total** |
| 8/20 | Did Not Spend | ------------------------------------------- |  | $0 |
| 8/21 | Did Not Spend | ------------------------------------------- |  | $0 |
| 8/22 | Did Not Spend | ------------------------------------------- |  | $0 |
| 8/23 | $7.25 $2.50 | Pho Tpumps | Food  Food | $9.75 |
| 8/24 | Did Not Spend | ------------------------------------------- |  | $0 |
| 8/25 | Did Not Spend | ------------------------------------------- |  | $0 |
| 8/26 | Did Not Spend | ------------------------------------------- |  | $0 |
| 8/27 | Did Not Spend | ------------------------------------------- |  | $0 |
| 8/28 | $8 | Dinner | Food | $8 |
| 8/29 | Did Not Spend | ------------------------------------------- |  | $0 |
| 8/30 | $8 | Pho | Food | $8 |
| 8/31 | $4.50 | Vietnamese Sandwich | Food | $4.50 |
| 9/1 | Did Not Spend | ------------------------------------------- |  | $0 |
| 9/2 | $11  $13  $2.75 | Grindz  Ice Skating  Auntie Anne’s Pretzels | Food  Recreation  Food | $26.75 |
| 9/3 | $65 | Senior Portraits | Miscellaneous | $65 |
| 9/4 | Did Not Spend | ------------------------------------------- |  | $0 |
| 9/5 | Did Not Spend | ------------------------------------------- |  | $0 |
| 9/6 | $3 | Pizza | Food | $3 |
| 9/7 | $10.33  $1.34 | Super Duper  Snapple | Food  Food | $11.67 |
| 9/8 | Did Not Spend | ------------------------------------------- |  | $0 |
| 9/9 | Did Not Spend | ------------------------------------------- |  | $0 |
| 9/10 | Did Not Spend | ------------------------------------------- |  | $0 |
| 9/11 | $7.10  $3.81 | Starbucks  Lucky’s | Food  Food | $!0.91 |
| 9/12 | Did Not Spend | ------------------------------------------- |  | $0 |
| 9/13 | Did Not Spend | ------------------------------------------- |  | $0 |
| 9/14 | $7 | House of Pancake | Food | $7 |
| 9/15 | $1  $20 | Bus Fare  Sushi Roll Baby tank top | Travel  Clothes | $21 |
| 9/16 | Did Not Spend | ------------------------------------------- |  | $0 |
| 9/17 | Did Not Spend | ------------------------------------------- |  | $0 |
| 9/18 | Did Not Spend | ------------------------------------------- |  | $0 |
| **TOTAL** | **$175.58** |  |

Leighton Chen  
9/23/13

**Where Does The Money Go?**

I spent $175.58 this past month. If you told me at the beginning of the month, I would have laughed; surely money spent on food wouldn’t total that much. Most months, all that I spend is on snacks, or meals out with friends, and I would think it wouldn’t reach triple digit expenditures. $76.58 was spent on food, $20 was spent on clothes, $13 was spent on recreational activities, $1 on travel, and $65 on portraits. Portraits come once a year, so it doesn’t play as big a part in a consistent spending log, but the greatest chunk of money spent comes from food, which was no surprise to me. Money I spend on food really only comes from eating out, whether I’m with my friends or family. They are people who are worthwhile to spend quality time with, usually by sharing a meal. The single recreational activity was the same; I spent it with someone who plays a significant part in my life. The tank top was something that caught my eye; I had wanted one for awhile now. Portraits are.. portraits. Everyone has to take them! Reflecting back on the ‘values’ survey, how I spend my money accurately reflects what I felt was important in my life. My top three choices were happiness, freedom, and true friendship. While freedom is hard to represent with money (you can’t buy freedom!), the other two were demonstrated perfectly. Most of the money I spent was because I was out with friends, whether sharing a meal, or ice skating together, or buying a shirt at the annual Treasure Island Dragon Boat festival. If anything, money that I spend is almost entirely influenced by my friends!

Looking at the big picture, the opportunity cost of choosing to spend a large majority of my money on food does make me reconsider what I could have had. An extra $75 a month is nothing to scoff at; it could have been my senior boat ticket! The time I spent out with my friends could have been spent studying, or doing homework, but in all honesty, I would never have done that anyway, so this was time well spent!

Most of my purchases were inelastic. Food can be bought any time, and to a certain extent, even if prices were to rise a bit, I’d still purchase the food; I’m there for my friends, not just entirely for the food. Other things, like the tank top and portraits were elastic due to the limited time horizon. The company, Fantastic Fam, only comes to certain events to sell their clothing, and they don’t have an actual store, which made them very elastic. It wasn’t something I could put off. Senior portraits were the same; they could not be postponed.

**Visual Representation**