

The Million Dollar Man

Turning \$100 into a million, a local documentarian has one month to prove the American dream is not dead

BY ANDRA COBERLY

Remi Frazier is lost in New York City. His cell phone cracks in and out as he searches for Sixth Avenue.

"It's official," he says, pausing during a discussion on how the American dream is in fact alive and well. "I have no idea where I am."

He laughs nervously and continues with his pontifications on how hard work and ingenuity can take anyone from the bottom to the boardroom.

That's his hypothesis anyway.

The Colorado State University graduate, former candidate for City Council and Fort Collins resident has moved to New York City for just one month—with only \$100 in cash, a cell phone, audio-video equipment and a change of clothes—to create a documentary titled *The Million Dollar Destiny Project*, which will, hopefully, show Frazier taking one \$100 bill and making a million bucks.

"Growing up, I always believed that there was unlimited opportunity, that any person can make a difference. I want to show that that still exists," he says, wandering through the streets of the Big Apple looking for tapes so he can continue filming his gutter-to-Gucci experiment.

"Functionally, it is less about the money and more about finding opportunity." *Forbes'* list.

Frazier's plan is to take that \$100 and conceive a product, design it and manufacture it. By the end of his 30 days, Frazier hopes to either have made \$1 million from sales of his gadget or from selling the company.

He spent his first week, after his June 16 departure from Fort Collins, scouring the city for networking opportunities, developing his product and learning how to evolve a business. He sleeps every other night, a practice he hopes will end soon, and calls coffee his biggest personal expense. Frazier has spent no money on food or accommodations, taking the charity of strangers and newfound friends.

As he finds Sixth Avenue, he has exactly \$63.43 in his pocket.

With the help of a volunteer staff—a mixture of financiers, Web designers, business advisers and manufacturing experts—Frazier is on his way to

Because Frazier has (a) never even been to

New York before and (b) no experience in creating a product-based business, his success truly depends on others' charity.

Prior to his departure, Frazier didn't contact anyone in New York. Since his arrival, he has banded together a social web of past associates, friends of friends and complete strangers. From a professional Web designer in Oregon who is creating the product's Web site to a Chinatown waitress who gave him a free lunch, Frazier's group of unpaid helpers is growing daily.

A Manhattan hi-tech company has even allowed him to use desk space and wireless Internet as a sort of office castaway.

"People are pulling for me all over the U.S.," he says.

He will not reveal the type of product he's working on or its function due to patenting issues, but he says the gadget will "exist within



It's C-level success or bust for local Remi Frazier.

a niche market that is already out there." It will improve upon a popular product that is currently manufactured by common corporations.

"The product is going to sell itself," he says, assured of its success.

He says his progress has been fast and furious as he works toward his closing deadline: \$1 million by July 15.

Despite the fact that he's literally down to pocket change, his spirits certainly don't seem dampened and he insists he is on his way to proving his hypothesis true, that the dream of opportunity, one that does not have to be labeled "American," still exists.

Now if he could only find his way through the city.

"Look at all the people helping me who believe in this dream. Clearly it's alive and well," he says. "People just need to be reminded of it." **AW**

Read about Remi's adventures and progress on www.myspace.com/milliondollardestiny. Want to help Remi? Email him at milliondollardestiny@gmail.com.

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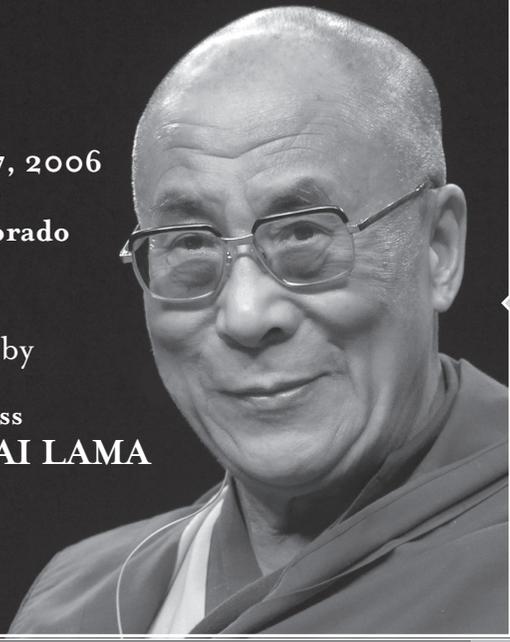
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