



# DATING THE RIGHT STYLE

Ever wondered how NTU guys shop? Chronicle Lifestyle editors trace the speed shopping trips of four students at Far East Plaza and see what in-house style columnists have to say about their buys

FINDING the right outfit for a date is not easy, especially when a guy has only an hour and a budget of \$150. To test if that's true, four guys (secondary contacts from us) from different schools were given a hypothetical situation: due to a busy schedule and a tight budget, they only had an hour and \$150 to forage for an appropriate outfit for their dates.

On the Monday of recess week, Chronicle set out and joined them in their quest for clothes at around 1pm. It was not easy as not all of the shops that sell men's apparel were opened then. And even though all four guys found their shirts within an hour, half the time was spent negotiating with store owners to loan their clothes for the photoshoot.

However, Business student Toh Chao Zhang says that if

caught in a real situation like this, he would rather make do with the clothes that he has at home instead of stressing himself out hunting for a decent outfit in breakneck speed.

Time and budget was no problem for English Literature student Steven Chia. The only dampener was the poor service at the shops he patronised.

In the end, he had to settle for second best at shops that were more flexible in loaning their items. Even though the guys tried their best to pick out the most suitable outfits for their dates, our two style columnists – Imran Jalal and Gerald Tan – felt that they could have been more adventurous with their choices.

"What difference is there from the start?" asked Dapper columnist Imran Jalal.

PLAIN JOES TO STRIPEY JOES: The guys show us what they will wear to school (above) and what they have chosen to wear for their respective dates (right). PHOTOS | CHEN WEI LI & ZOE LIM

77th Street #01-33/35; #03-1055/106; #04-116/117  
Graphite #03-98b; #04-121a  
HDLN #04-139  
Man Studio #03-118b  
Pescados #03-99  
These shops are found at Far East Plaza



TOTAL SPENT  
\$116.90

TOH CHAO ZHANG  
Nanyang Business School  
Year 1

Date Theme: Sunset by the beach

On Chao Zhang: Trucker Cap, \$39, from HDLN; light grey V-neck T-shirt with red stripes, \$38.90, from Graphite; dark grey checkered bermudas, \$39, from Pescados; sling-bag and slippers, student's own.



TOTAL SPENT  
\$97.80

MUHAMAD FIRDAUS BIN HAMZAH  
School of Chemical and Biomolecular  
Engineering  
Year 1

Date Theme: Romance at the Esplanade

On Firdaus: Black shirt with stripes, \$38.90, and distressed jeans, \$58.90, both from Graphite; beaded wrist band, and shoes, student's own.



TOTAL SPENT  
\$112.70

STEVEN CHIA  
English Literature (HSS)  
Year 1

Date Theme: Ice-skate to impress

On Steven: Scarf with black and white stripes, \$26.90, from 77th Street; woolen sweater vest, \$38.90, and striped polo tee, \$46.90, both from Graphite; black jeans and shoes, student's own.



TOTAL SPENT  
\$92.90

BENJAMIN CHIA  
School of Biological Sciences  
Year 2

Date Theme: Chill out at Brewerkz

On Benjamin: Brown beaded choker, \$5, and brown leather bracelet with silver details, \$18, both from 77th Street; black shirt with orange and blue stripes with silver cufflinks, \$69.90, from Man Studio; shoes, student's own.



"My priority in the choice of clothes is actually comfort before aesthetics."



"My shopping includes hardcore shortlisting and a high level of patience!"



"I'd browse each shop quickly and take note of anything that I like and their prices as well, all the time forming a mental picture of my overall look."



"One can play around a bit more and exercise greater creativity with casual wear or streetstyle."

Imran: Comfort doesn't mean an ensemble of slippers and shorts all the time. Chao Zhang could invest in a good pair of leather sandals rather than wear his sloppy flip-flops. A sheer shirt over an inexpensive tank top would give a more refreshing resort feel, without looking too tacky (if you ever contemplate putting on that gaudy Hawaiian shirt).

Gerald: T-shirts are not the only comfortable choices for a date at the beach. Chao Zhang could have chosen a short-sleeved shirt with interesting prints (like what Imran suggests, no Hawaiian shirts, please!) to pair with his bermudas. No harm in adding more colour to his wardrobe choices to spice up the date – it is the beach after all!

Imran: With a physique like his, Firdaus would have looked dashing in almost anything. But he chose a hackneyed look of washed-out jeans and shirt. And those dirty shoes do not really paint a good impression for a romantic night at a venue like the Esplanade. Tucking the shirt out also makes him look unpolished.

Gerald: Firdaus's outfit is safe, but it can be boring for an evening at the Esplanade. He can bring out his charisma better by donning a crisp white shirt with casually rolled-up sleeves or pairing it with a skinny tie. Dark-coloured or raw denim works best with the ensemble.

Imran: The choice of outfit makes him look a little too young. But Steven is clever to mix patterns like thin and thick monochromatic stripes in his dressing. And the sweater vest is a very wearable apparel which can be worn even out of the skating rink. However, layering a scarf, woolen polo tee and vest might be unsuitable for a tropical climate like ours if you are thinking of wearing it outdoors.

Gerald: Steven's outfit stands out the most amongst the four guys. The sweater vest is a versatile wardrobe piece that can be dressed up or down, depending on the formality of the occasion.

Imran: A chill out at Brewerkz to me means something casual yet chic. Benjamin's pick looks a little dated and mature for his age. Those cuffs on the jeans are way too high and doesn't make him look smart. Remember the cuffs of your jeans are supposed to cover those laces, but not sweeping the ground.

Gerald: Benjamin can appear more sophisticated by perhaps layering a cardigan over a shirt and choosing a pair of well-fitted trousers. A pair of preppy shorts is also suitable for that long chat along Clarke Quay, and at the same time up his ante in the preppy chic department. Leave the stripes for the club.