

LWEMBO TAKING RISKS

One North High student's experience investing in the stock market

Caleb Slater, Editor-in-Chief

Lwembo Mwenyi, a senior at North, saw an opportunity to make a profit.

After failing to achieve his monetary goals through accumulating interest on his savings account, Mwenyi decided to try something unconventional for someone his age: "I wanted to take big risk, so I was like, 'hey, I want to do stock market things.'"

The stock market is an online and in-person exchange through which people can invest their money into businesses. Investments may be small or large, with small investments having low risks and large investments having high risks, very similar to betting.

"You get a little bit of interest in every share when the stock market goes up," Mwenyi explained. His friend Ben introduced him to the basics. "It was more like a game, you know, like how you play a game on your phone."

The stock market involves the use of real currency, something many people might not be comfortable with. "Of course, you use money, but you learn how to take risks," he said. "I started off with really low money, around \$700."

Later, Mwenyi decided that making a large profit wasn't possible without increasing his input. Since then he has increased the amount of risk he's willing to take. "Right now, I have about \$3,000 invested," he said.

"I got this last year when Amazon did really well and I had pretty good money into it, so it really went up," he said. "I got like, five to seven hundred dollars."

The 19-year-old stock market expert has a strategy behind his investments, albeit a common one for investors: "Try to invest in something that you feel like they're going up. Some people are really good at that."

Mwenyi uses apps that allow him to see a company's statistics and trends. "I mean, it's not like telling you exactly, but it's estimating kind of how the company is going to go in the future."

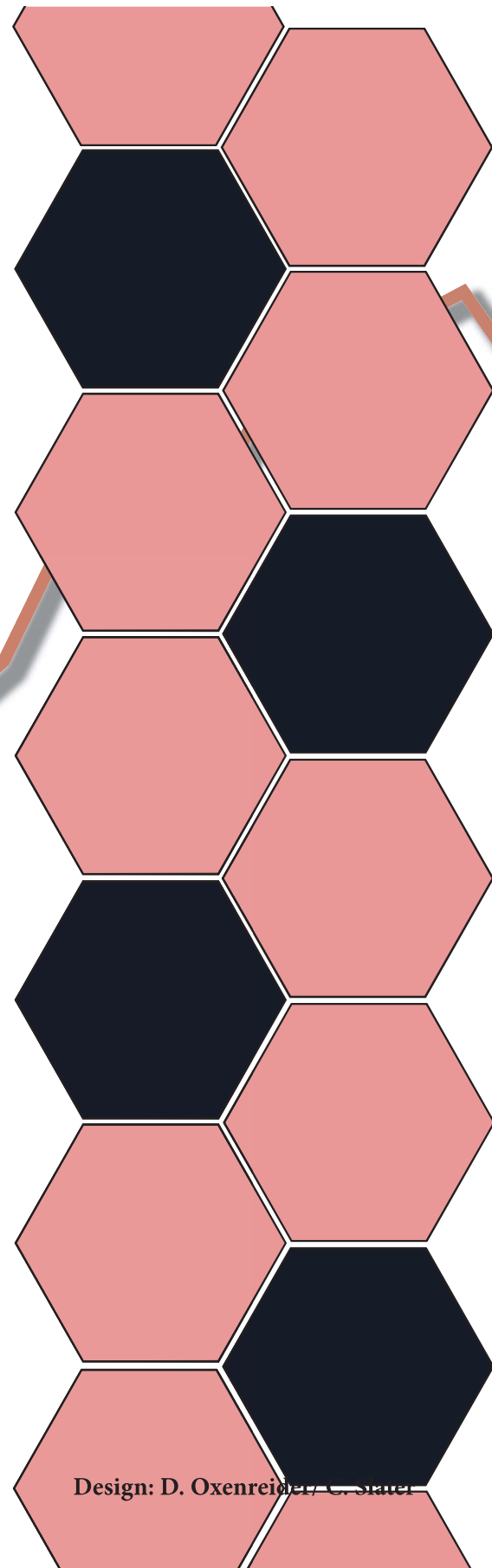
"It's about understanding the market," he explained. Investing in a company that won't continue doing well financially isn't a great idea, according to Mwenyi. "Let's say this is summertime. You're not going to invest in winter clothes, you know what I mean?"

"It's not something that I would say there's a logical way to do, it's just taking risk."

However, sometimes that risk doesn't pay off. "Sometimes you lose money, and it's okay, I lose money sometimes," Mwenyi said. "I had money in Wal-Mart and I lost."

"It's like a game," he explained. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. "You play a game, and you're putting money into the game, but if you ever want to take the money out, you can go there and take it out from your bank."

Finally, he offered words of advice: "If you never take a big risk, you cannot get the big money."



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