

- 20 [6] Erin Albert is a widely recognised expert on the portfolio career, having not only recently written a new book on the subject but also acted as a role-model to slashers everywhere. Erin is a pharmacist, an assistant professor, an entrepreneur, a writer, and a law student: does this make her any less employable? 'I'm often asked about career development, especially during the current economic crisis,' she said. 'I regularly challenge students to think about why they can't both take an immediate job offer they are not sure about and work towards their dream job.'
- 25 [7] In the UK, entrepreneurs are a typical example of a group that expects to spread their careers across multiple areas. This inspired Emma Jones, founder of Enterprise Nation and Bitsy, to publish *Working Five to Nine: How to Start a Business in Your Spare Time*. Emma said, 'I thought it was the very best way to start a business as you keep risks low and give yourself time to build confidence and cash flow. I wanted to tell these stories and offer a guide to others wanting to follow the same path. The title *Working Five to Nine* came to me when I was sitting at my computer working on my own business during a 5pm to 9am shift!'
- 30 [8] Unfortunately, even accounting for the positives of being a slasher, some attitudes have been slow to change. Headhunters and recruiters are often disapproving of individuals who have worked multiple jobs at the same time, while some are even disbelieving. Recruiter Norman Lamp said to a slasher client, 'There is no way someone your age could have such a wide variety of skills.' Many recruiters do not believe that these skills are deeply ingrained in the young people with slasher careers.
- 35 [9] It is no surprise that a greater number of people under 30 are choosing to have portfolio careers. For the typical Millennial, the typical behaviour patterns of immediate pleasure seeking, multitasking and low boredom thresholds (typically all summed into the phrase 'instant on') make slashing particularly appealing. Many large organisations may mistakenly see these characteristics as weaknesses in the younger generation. They should see them as strengths.
- [10] For the foreseeable future, the advantages of being a slasher will, in most cases, continue to outweigh the negatives. And as the younger generation grow up, the slasher philosophy will no doubt continue to grow.

COMMENTS

- 40 craftsman - 8 April 2022 10:45
Interesting article on 'slashers' – portfolio working is nothing new but it is interesting that this type of career is on the rise. The article seems to ignore creative talents like artists and craftsmen who have complex and diverse careers. Far from seeing this as a negative, craftsmen like myself believe that portfolio working is a very fulfilling way to work.
- 45 girlartisan - 8 April 2022 13:29
I'm a slasher because there really is no choice. There just aren't any jobs out there even for those who have graduated with high grades. Since I graduated from my degree, I have been a portfolio worker because of this and they don't even consider my slasher experience.
- bellaneil - 9 April 2022 16:23
- 50 I am a Millennial struggling to make a living and I feel patronised by this article. I am doing this to survive! Just giving it a cool name doesn't make my situation cool.

END OF READING PASSAGES

Sources of materials used in this paper will be acknowledged in the *HKDSE Question Papers* booklet published by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority at a later stage.