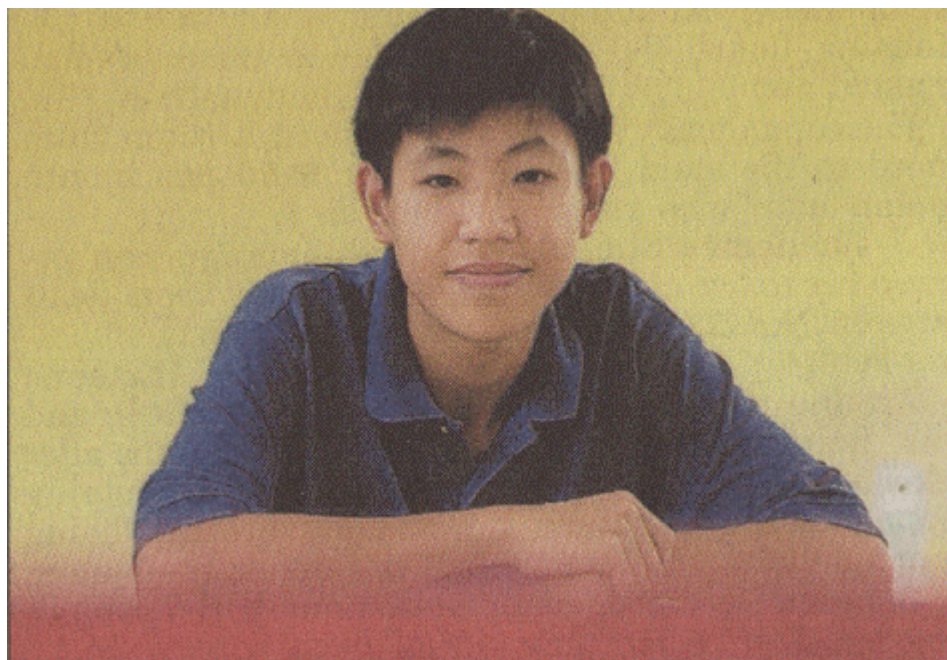


## **Deaf, so he pushed himself to the limits** By JANE LEE



**With As in all four subjects, school bowler Lionel hopes to study computer science in the US. –Desmond Foo**

LIONEL Heng is a typical 17-year-old boy who plays pool and chats with his friends online.

The National Junior College (NJC) student not only worked hard at his A levels, but also represented his school in bowling.

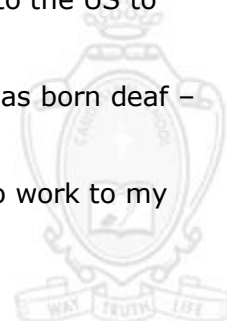
When the A-levels results were announced yesterday, he aced all four subjects, did well in two special papers and had a B3 for the General Paper.

Special papers are higher-level, A-level papers offered by students applying for top scholarships.

With such results, Lionel is eyeing overseas scholarships that will take him to the US to study computer science at one of the Ivy League colleges.

Lionel, the oldest of three children, is a year younger than his classmates was born deaf – not that you would know it from his achievements.

“My hearing disability has greatly developed my character by pushing me to work to my limits, making me realize that hard work can lead to a brighter future.”



Despite his slightly slurred speech, Lionel was never shy about speaking or making class presentations.

Mrs. Maureen Ng, principal of NJC said: " There was never a hint of self pity in Lionel, He tried everything and did everything.

"His family is very supportive. They never considered his deafness a handicap."

Lionel's father, Mr. Patrick Heng, 44, is a businessman and his mother Emilyn, 43, helps out in the business. They have another son, 14-year-old Joseph, who is also deaf, and an adopted daughter, 11-year-old Janice.

Today, Lionel has mostly hearing friends, thanks to his mother. She insisted that he learn how to talk after discovering that there are only 4000 words in the sign-language vocabulary.

