

## FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

BY DR JAMES DOBSON

### A.D.D. IN ADULTS

Psychologists used to believe that attention deficit disorder, or A.D.D., went away when children reached puberty. That's what I was taught in graduate school. But we now know that the problem is a lifelong condition.

Many adults with A.D.D. learn to be less disorganised and impulsive, as they get older. They channel their energy into sports, and often gravitate toward professions that keep them active and busy. Many function quite well in life, as long as they can stay away from desk jobs. Outside of work these adults are often attracted to high-risk activities, like rock-climbing, bungee jumping, car racing, or white-water rafting. They're known as "adrenaline junkies," always looking for dangerous activities to indulge in. Others, however, have trouble settling on a career or holding down a job. They flit from one task to another, and seldom follow through on projects they start. They are usually more susceptible to drug use, alcoholism or other addictive behaviours. In fact, approximately 40 per cent of people with A.D.D. will have been arrested by the age of 18.

If you're the parent of a child with A.D.D., the key is to hang on and not lose heart. Teach them to channel their energies while they're young, and chances are good that they will use that same approach when they reach adulthood. The odds are that they will grow to be happy and productive people, well into their later years.

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# Hassle to opt for payouts by cheque

Why isn't option or necessary forms available online?

Letter from **RASHID OSMAN**

ELIGIBLE Singaporeans can now start registering for the Progress Package. Heeding the CPF Board's advice to sign up online, my wife and I did as instructed and will be waiting for our shares to be credited into our bank account on May 1.

But when I tried to sign up online for my parents-in-law, I was unable to finish the transactions as there was no option for them to ask for the payments to be made via cheque. Neither has a bank account.

So now, I have to go down to the CPF Board or any SingPost branch, communi-

ty centre or community development council to obtain the form — this being the only way to opt for cheque payment.

This will be my second trip, as last month, I had gone down to collect the Workfare Bonus form for my father-in-law.

Why does the CPF Board assume that all Singaporeans have bank accounts? And why is it that the necessary forms are not readily available on the website to download and print, so as to avoid the hassle of making a trip to collect the forms?

I tried calling the Progress Package hotline and the CPF Board the whole of Monday morning but the lines were engaged.

## Channel funds to tap \$10.5b market

Letter from **JEFFREY HO LOON POH**

I REFER to Sonny Yuen's letter, "Give subsidies for efforts to use reusable sources of energy for city light-up" (March 27) and URA's reply, "Lighting's no longer a luxury, it's necessary" (April 1).

While the Urban Redevelopment Authority, in its reply, focuses on the need to keep energy consumption low (which I agree with), I feel public funds can be spent

more prudently on finding long-term solutions on renewable energy.

Any outright cash funding or grant should be based on long-term tangible benefits for the people at large.

Channel public funds (\$10 million over five years) to R&D or start-ups; they may one day be Singapore's Motech, E-Ton or Sino-American Silicon and penetrate the global market for solar cells, estimated at US\$6.5 billion (\$10.5 billion) in 2004.

## Risky contracts common in shipworks

Letter from **STEVE K NGO**

I REFER to the letter "\$685m for \$250m contract doesn't add up" by Dennis Distant (April 3). The dispute involving SembCorp was referred for arbitration and heard by a tribunal of three arbitrators in London.

Being in the business of international arbitration, I spoke to one of the experts in the proceedings more than two years ago in London, but am not connected to the case. From what I was given to understand, Allseas was looking at a claim probably close to US\$1 billion (\$1.6 billion). Hence,

the settlement was far lower than feared.

As for why the compensation dwarfed the contract value, there is more than meets the eye in this case. The case is likely too complicated for the details to be made public, but there is nothing abnormal about the contract. It was lucrative but risky, and this is common with shipwork projects. I have used this dispute as a case study to demonstrate how crucial it is for an organisation to understand the mechanics of international arbitration and how such a powerful forum could sometimes be a disadvantage.

## CATHERINE LIM ...

### ...AMUSES

'Am I the only one?' purred the groom  
In the joy of the consummation  
The bride frowned, pouted and asked  
'Why must everyone ask me that question?'

### ... MUSES

When conquistadores saw Inca gold  
Their eyes shone bright with greed  
But nobler to say they had come  
With their saving Christian creed.

So the Cross bludgeoned the pagans  
To give up their precious store  
As they lay in blood and ruin  
The conquerors demanded more.

Gold still calls the powerful  
Black and gushing in desert sands  
Planes and bombs will bring  
Democracy to ignorant lands.

The bloody lust of power  
Is history's regular re-run  
God, gold, guns and greed  
An Unholy Trinity Plus One.

## NEA to keep closer watch on bulk bins

Letter from **S SATISH APPOO**

Head, Environmental Health Department  
National Environment Agency

WE REFER to the letter, "Rubbish bins a danger?" (March 25-26).

In the cleaning of public areas, including public roads, pavements and drains, refuse and silt are placed in plastic bags and into bulk bins along public walkways. These large bins are cleared once a day.

We appreciate the feedback and observations provide by your reader. We have directed field officers to keep a closer watch on the bulk bins to ensure they are in good condition, the contents do not give pose a public health nuisance, such as rodents or pests, or cause inconvenience.

Feedback giving details is welcome. Do call us at the NEA Call Centre on 1800-2255 632 (CALL NEA).

## SHORTTAKES

**COLIN ONG TAU SHIEN:**

### TOLL ON PRICES OF IMPORTS?

It has been reported that Malaysia may be implementing a RM20 (\$8.80) toll to drive into the country either from Singapore or Thailand, to defray fuel subsidies. I wonder if this may have a significant impact on inflation in Singapore, taking into account the large volume of Thai imports that travel daily through Malaysian roads to enter Singapore. Will air travel or cruise travel be taxed next?

**BENJAMIN GAN:**

### MORE EVENING DEGREE CLASSES

Catharina LaPorte's disappointment with our limited choices of degree programmes for working adults echoes my sentiments exactly ("A degree too far to alter course?", April 3). Just like the young woman she met on the ferry, many of us discover our true calling in life after we start our career and, unfortunately, it may be a passion that does not coincide with our degree

qualification. I think it is time we maximise human capital by looking at ways to enhance the capabilities of our people. One way is to develop cost-effective evening degree programmes for working adults who cannot afford to stop work completely. These programmes should be open to working adults and senior citizens.

**LAU CHIN LOONG**

Managing director, 1800-Tuition.sg:

### FREE EXAM WORKSHEETS ONLINE

I refer to the letter "Place past examination papers online, JCs" (April 3). Mr Colin Ong will be pleased to know that 1800-Tuition.sg, Singapore's Tuition Network, will be publishing free-to-copy examination-format worksheets online soon, starting with the primary level. This is a long-term project that we will do level by level. Our clients will not need to buy "pirated" or "paraphrased" worksheets again.

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