

## FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

BY DR JAMES DOBSON

### CHILDISH IRRESPONSIBILITY VS WILFUL DEFIANCE

I want to talk to parents about the important distinction between childish irresponsibility and wilful defiance.

Suppose little Chris is acting silly in the living room and he falls onto a table, breaking some expensive china cups. Or maybe he loses his books on the way home from school or leaves his bike out in the rain. Now, these are acts of childish irresponsibility, which are inevitable during the early years. Forgetting things and losing things and spilling things do not represent direct challenges to authority, and they should be handled gently.

On the other hand, when a child stamps her little foot and tells her mom or dad to "shut up!", something very different is going on. She's moved into the realm of wilful defiance. It occurs when the child knows what the parent wants, but she clenches her little fists, digs in her heels and prepares for a battle. It's a refusal to accept parental leadership. When this kind of nose-to-nose confrontation occurs, a firm response is in order. Why? Because the question being asked is: "Who's in charge here?"

If a parent equivocates at that moment, a strong-willed child will precipitate other battles designed to ask that same question, again and again. That's just the way he or she thinks. So it's the ultimate paradox of childhood that a youngster wants to be led, but demands that the parent demonstrate the courage to lead.

Brought to you by:  
**Academy of Certified Counsellors**  
 Diploma In Counseling Psychology  
 Diploma In Applied Psychology  
 www.certifiedcounsellors.org  
**HOTLINE: 6339 5411**  
 Transforming Lives From Within™

## voices

# Are we swayed by stunts?

*Stunts in charity shows – necessary or gimmicky? Last weekend's Ren Ci Charity Show and the preceding controversy when one artiste spoke out against such stunts, drew sharply contrasting views from readers.*

## Their selfless acts help restore one's faith in charity

Letter from **LOW QIAN LING**

I WAS surprised when actress Jacelyn Tay decided to make a fuss about her injuries sustained during a rehearsal for the Ren Ci Charity Show, as I believe other artistes, too, sustained injuries.

Yet, they shelved their grievances and concentrated on helping to solicit donations for patients in need of help.

Artiste Belinda Lee's magnanimous spirit is admirable and remarkable. Despite an injury, she insisted on going ahead with the performance.

After the Jan 8 charity show, I was struck by the awareness that I am fortunate to reside in a world where generosity and compassion abounds. Small gestures of love can have a snowball effect.

The stunt undertaken by the Venerable Shi Ming Yi showed that he puts the welfare of his patients before his own life.

His appeal to viewers led to an influx



**PUTTING THEIR HEADS TOGETHER FOR CHARITY:** Gurmit Singh and Darren Lim (red) performing a stunt at the Ren Ci Charity Show this year.

WEE TECK HIAN

of calls to the charity show. That is sufficient proof that the public's confidence in charity work has been restored.

His ability to establish an instant connection with viewers and touch their hearts is amazing.

## Masochistic stunts not needed to pry open wallets

Letter from **LIM BOON HEE**

I AGREE with the view that the Ren Ci Charity Show has metamorphosed into a

gimmicky freak show with unnecessary, dangerous, circus acrobatics. Many have become numb to such acts repeatedly used to ensnare donors' charitable hearts.

The Venerable Shi Ming Yi should shed tears of compassion for the actors who got injured while rehearsing the dangerous stunts. Insisting that the stunts were "challenging" rather than "dangerous" is missing the point – they are still meaningless acts which the producers seem to believe are the way to pry open hearts and wallets.

Philanthropists do not need to feast their eyes on masochistic acts to stimulate their appetite for giving.

## Would Singaporeans still donate without the buzz?

Letter from **COLIN ONG TAU SHIEN**

WE ARE living in a world distracted by popular culture and consumerism. Our consciousness is inundated with "noise" and un-interrupted commitments.

Do we have the discipline to make time to understand the plight of the unfortunate, and can we make the effort of writing out cheques for their cause? Many of us are only energised by "penalty and prize". Only a minority of Singaporeans will donate without the buzz of these charity shows.

## join taufik at his smoke-free pledge party

Kicking the habit has never been so much fun! Meet Taufik, Mediacorp TV12 artiste Khairul Anwar and Fauzie Laily, DJs Jamie Yeo, Shan Wee and Fiza O'. Sign the Taufik Smoke-Free Pledge and take home exclusive Taufik collectibles and other goodies.

Enjoy cool music, performances, loads of photo opportunities and so much more!

**Plaza Singapura**  
**Sat, 14 Jan 2006**  
**12 noon to 9pm**

Bring this ad and exchange it for an exclusive Taufik poster.

Visit [www.taufiksmokefree.com](http://www.taufiksmokefree.com) for details of upcoming events.

**BE COOL, MAKE A FRESH MOVE.**



taufik batisah,  
smoke-free ambassador

Taufik Batisah / ArtistNetworks Artiste

## BREAK from your ROUTINE



Calzone Farcito (à la carte menu)

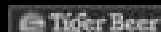
**A Different 4-Course Set Lunch daily\* at**

\*Available from 12.00pm to 2.30pm.  
 Mon - Sat, excluding Public Holidays.

**\$16.80+++**

**MODESTO'S**

Traditional Italian Wood-Fired Pizza & Home-Made Pasta



1 Tanglin Road, #01-09/10, Orchard Parade Hotel S(247905)  
 For reservations, please call 6235 7808.  
 Open daily from 12.00pm till past midnight.

24 Mount Elizabeth, #01-05, The Elizabeth Hotel S(228518)  
 For reservations, please call 6736 2808.  
 Open daily from 7.00am till 11.00pm \*Free Parking