

**ACTIONS LEAD TO CONSEQUENCES**  
Sheltering a child from the consequences of his own actions now could help create an immature adult later.

One of the prime objectives during the pre-adolescent years is to teach the child that actions lead to consequences, and yet this connection is often interrupted. A 10-year-old steals candy from a store and he's caught and released to his parents, and nothing happens. A 15-year-old takes the keys to the family car and the parents pay the fine for his driving without a licence.

All through childhood such loving parents in their misguided efforts to shield the child from pain have stood between his action and the natural consequences that flow from them. It's possible under these circumstances for a young man or woman to enter adulthood not really knowing that life can bite. He may become a grown-up adolescent constantly needing his parents to bail him out of trouble.

So how does one break this scenario? By linking actions to consequences. If Jane carelessly loses her lunch money she just may have to skip a meal. If Jack misses the school bus because he was wasting time he may have to walk a mile or two to school.

Now obviously it's easy to carry this principle too far or to be too harsh. But a taste of bitter fruit that irresponsibility brings can teach a young child valuable lessons that may be useful to him later on.

Isabelle is definitely a talent to be reckoned with and STTA will continue to nurture potential local-born talents like her. STTA reckons that there is a lot of hard work to be put in. Nevertheless, STTA is working towards striking a balance between local-born players and foreign sporting talents in 2016 Olympic and beyond. We would like to assure Mr Sia and Singapore that the STTA is fully committed to nurturing and fielding local-born players. We hope that Singaporeans will continue to give our local players and STTA their full support as we continue to strive to become one of the top table tennis nations in the world.

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## UOB in the right

Letter from Ann Broomfield

IN RESPONSE to UOB's decision to enforce the instalment repayments by Wellness Village Spa customers ("Bank asks customers to pay up instalments", March 12), the Consumer Association of Singapore (Case) has surprised me with its appeal to the bank to "review its policies and follow other banks' decision to waive outstanding payments".

When a consumer makes a purchase from a merchant, the contractual relationship is between these two parties. The bank is merely a payment enabler. Why make the banks accountable for the actions of an unethical merchant? And what's to prevent other troubled merchants from making a run for it, knowing that Case will support the consumers at the banks' expense?

UOB has taken a brave but fair step, and other banks may eventually follow suit. Case should reconsider their position and focus their efforts on helping consumers recover their money through legal actions against Wellness Village Spa, rather than expect banks to bear the brunt of the losses.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

# Moving beyond rhetoric

Letter from Kwan Jin Yao

I REFER to the report "One body to coordinate Singapore's climate change policies" (March 13-14). The administration is moving in the right direction, but more has to be done to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the measures significantly.

Regardless of the world's progress towards an international consensus and agreement, Singapore must remain committed to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, coupled by related policies that would not compromise the growth of the economy. In fact, Singapore should seize this valuable opportunity to pledge its commitment to move forward sustainably, a stand which would heighten Singapore's diplomatic standing.

Before the reorganised Inter-Ministerial Committee on Climate Change sets its sights on international negotiation strategies, much more has to be done for domestic measures. It is time to move beyond mere rhetoric and engage in tangible, effectual policy-making.

A two-pronged approach should be

adopted: Strengthening and coordinating existing awareness campaigns and projects, complemented by initiatives to encourage or compel households and corporations to live and grow responsibly.

The campaigns by various organisations and agencies have either been repetitive or simply ineffective, providing little incentive for Singaporeans to effect the necessary change.

Progressively, Singapore should not be afraid to make its international presence felt. With inertia and tensions evident among the superpowers, Singapore can actively rally middle-power nations to exert effective diplomatic pressures accordingly. Greater participation in global climate conferences and forums would also provide platforms for local non-government organisations (NGOs) to gather new ideas, generate more hype, and create more synergy back home.

It is imperative that Singapore grab the climate bull by its horns, instead of remaining apathetic and lethargic. Change must be the new constant.

## On the contrary, our locals have the taste for success: STTA

Letter from Wong Hui Leng  
CEO, Singapore Table Tennis Association (STTA)

WE WOULD like to thank Mr Dash Sia for his feedback ("Home-made losing its flavour", March 11).

The STTA believes in the holistic development of our local and foreign sporting talents in table tennis.

The STTA has a comprehensive system in place to nurture local sporting talents from the grassroots to elite level. Working with the PCF Kindergartens in 15 constituencies and five Junior Sports Academies (in collaboration with the Ministry of Education), a broad base of 1,000 promising local children from Kindergarten to Primary 6 are introduced to the game at a very young age, monitored and developed.

During this time, talented players are sent to the STTA's training zone centres at Bishan, Tampines, Toa Payoh, Yishun, and Clementi

for intensive training. From these zones, the more promising ones will be directed to the Youth Development Squads when they get to Pri 6. This cohort will be further short-listed to join the national youth team and eventually be part of the national team.

The development of local talent for any sport will take time and we believe the seeds we have put in place through this comprehensive system of identifying and nurturing local talent will bear fruit over the next 10 to 15 years.

Alongside these programmes, the foreign sporting talent scheme supports and complements our local sporting talent development efforts. Local players are exposed to a much higher level of play through sparring sessions as well as training tips from elite coaches.

Pang Xue Jie and Zena Sim are two good examples of local-born athletes who have benefited from sparring with the foreign-born athletes. Xue Jie's world ranking has jumped from 1143 to 504 in less than two years while Zena, from 751 to 335 within three and a half years.

Indeed, we are starting to see some early results in our local-born talent Isabelle Li

(picture). Last year, Isabelle won the mixed team bronze at the Asian Youth Games, and a girls U-15 singles bronze at the Asian Championships. In September, she became the top junior girls' qualifier at the ITTF World Junior Circuit Finals and ITTF Cadet Challenge. In February this year, Isabelle won a singles title on the International Tennis Federation Junior Circuit, at the Egypt Junior Open. The *Table Tennis Illustrated's* autumn issue also featured Isabelle Li as the cover girl and described her as "Queen Isabelle" of the Junior Circuit in South America.

Isabelle is definitely a talent to be reckoned with and STTA will continue to nurture potential local-born talents like her.

STTA reckons that there is a lot of hard work to be put in. Nevertheless, STTA is working towards striking a balance between local-born players and foreign sporting talents in 2016 Olympic and beyond. We would like to assure Mr Sia and Singapore that the STTA is fully committed to nurturing and fielding local-born players. We hope that Singaporeans will continue to give our local players and STTA their full support as we continue to strive to become one of the top table tennis nations in the world.



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2.00 - 3.00 pm  
MA, Business Administration  
Presenter: Dr. Chris Smith

3.00 - 4.00 pm  
MA, Commerce  
Presenter: Dr. Chris Smith

4.30 - 5.30 pm  
MA, Educational Studies  
Presenter: Dr Igusti Darmawan

1.00 - 2.00 pm  
BA, Computer Science  
Presenter: Dr. Katrina Falkner

2.00 - 3.00 pm  
BA, Innovation & Entrepreneurship  
Presenter: Ms. Lim Mei Mei

3.00 - 4.00 pm  
BA, Nursing (Post-Registration)  
Presenter: Ms. Lim Mei Mei

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