

Football commandments

THE World Cup is around the corner, which means there will be crowds flocking to mamak stalls for free viewing. Can you please lay down some etiquette rules so as to avoid any unpleasant scene with supporters of different teams?

Bryan

Yes, the football fever is on! And for all of you, here are 10 commandments to observe while sipping your teh tarik at the mamak stall.

1. Thou have no power over which channel the mamak stall displays. The boss has the last say. So don't go around asking for the remote control.
2. Thou shall practice good sportsmanship and share your table with fellow football enthusiasts.
3. Thou shall only choose the mamak stall that supports your team lest you incur the wrath of the supporters of a different team

4. Thou shalt not eat and cheer at the same time lest you choke on your food and spoil everyone's mood.
5. Thou shall have the courtesy to order more than one cup of teh tarik for the pleasure of seeing your favourite team play on big LCD screen free of charge.
6. Thou shalt not stand and block the view of everyone behind you. Thy body is not made of glass.
7. Thou shalt not boo anyone who does not support your team, even if this hurts thou's feelings and thou feels like dying. The universe doesn't revolve around you.
8. Thou shalt not curse. No matter how angry you are at the players. They are a million miles away, and your comments mean absolutely nothing to them.
9. Thou shalt not bang your fists or hands on the table when overly excited. Anything broken will be considered sold.
10. Thou shall refrain from shouting out on how the game should be played.



Big screen projectors that telecast live football matches are frequently seen at mamak stalls these days.

For old times' sake?

MY ex and I went through a nasty divorce two years ago. We have two lovely girls, aged six and 10, whom he visits over weekends. For their sake, we have maintained a cordial relationship instead of yelling at each other all the time. Recently, his new partner just moved in with him and now, he seems to open up and treats me a lot better. I'm thinking of getting him something on Father's Day, for old times' sake. Do you think it's a good idea?

Rita S.

No, it's not. No, you can't. And no, you shouldn't. Your ex has a new girlfriend. Even if your inten-

tions are pure, a gift from you might be seen as an attempt to drive a wedge between them. You should however make sure that he receives a present from your little angels. It is also a way of saying, "Even though mum and dad are not together anymore, we still respect each other and we love the both of you very much." This way, your girls would not feel as if they have to choose between Mummy and Daddy. So the next time, be it Christmas, Valentine's or even his birthday, remind your kids to get dad a present. When it comes to a gift from you, don't even think about it. You've axed your ex. Let it stay this way.

Fathers figure

BELIEVE it or not, planning for Father's Day is actually giving me more stress than work! I have the coolest stepdad in the world, whom my siblings and I are very close to. But I also have a biological dad whom we love dearly. And being just married recently, my wife is hinting to me that perhaps I should do something for my father-in-law as well on that special day. How am I to pay attention to so many people at one go?

Shah

However many dads there are in the family, the

idea is about family members expressing their gratitude on the special day. One idea is to have a barbeque gathering for everyone. If you can't, then have separate meals with your respective dads. If you are planning to buy gifts, always start with a budget. Then divide accordingly based on your relationship with them. So, if you are closer to both dads, you can allocate more for them than father-in-law. My best bet is always to look for something personalised to suit the likes of the individual. So, all the best in celebrating Father's Day!

Lavatory laws

MISS Behave's response to a question on toilet etiquette ("Bathroom break") in last month's *Clove* provoked this reaction from a reader.

I would like to comment on Miss Behave's reply to "Bathroom break", featured in *Clove* May.

I am 90 years old and often go out with my daughters and I use a wheelchair to move around. As such, I need to utilise toilets designated for the disabled.

I take exception to Miss Behave's reply that it is perfectly alright to use the toilet for the disabled but to be aware of others who might need to use it.

When I require the toilet, I can only utilise the toilets specifically designed for the disabled. At toilet facilities, there is always only one toilet set aside for the disabled of BOTH genders.

Whereas, able bodied persons have numerous toilets available to them.

Miss Behave's advice to your readers should have

been to encourage able bodied persons to respect toilets designated for the disabled and to remind those using the common toilets to be mindful of the long queue behind them and to be quick.

The same should be applied to parking lots designated for the disabled. No matter what your "emergency" is, these lots must be left vacant for those who are actually disabled.

Let's always be thoughtful and considerate. It is a gift. **Enid Martinez, via email**

Miss Behave says: Greetings! And many thanks for your kind comments. We have meant for this column to be a light hearted read, and not to offend anyone in anyway.

Yes, I certainly do agree with what you have written. I have written specifically to mean that "unless you are about to explode", use it quickly, and do be mindful of any disabled person around you.

Of course, with park-



In her fifth column, Miss Behave columnist Wendy Lee tackles queries on Father's Day protocol, World Cup fever and charity causes. Lee, the founder of Chapter One - Colour, Style and Image Consultancy, enjoys helping men and women refine their image through wardrobe, communication and protocol skills. Do you fret about manners in modern society? Direct your burning questions to Lee at wendy@chap-one.com.

ing lots, it's a total no-no. Considering the length of time one may park versus the time needed in the restroom, the issues are clearly different. Common sense applies in everything we do to make this world a better place to live in. I do apologise if I have offended anyone.

Conundrum over charity

How do you handle people who block your path on your way to lunch or work and try to squeeze cash from you for a worthy cause? My friends said I either have a "tai tai" or "sucker" look for people to keep rattling their cans in my face or approaching me with sob stories. How do I decline and not allow them to make me feel bad?

Auntie Lim

Do you know that a charity collector is not allowed to rattle the tin? If a tin rattler asks you to donate, they are actually behaving unethically.

Anyway, whoever they are, always treat them with respect. Even if your response is "No", say

"No, thank you". All these cost you nothing. Most people do respect this and many will often respond in a polite manner too. There really is no need to elaborate, like explaining to them that you actually donate half your salary to support World Peace every month. This will make you appear a tad too defensive. Just say, "I'm sorry, I can't." Smile and walk away.

But having said all these, my point is if someone were to steal RM3 from your bank account today, will you even take notice of it? If not, then do consider giving it to someone who needs it more than you do. It will not make you any poorer, and you will certainly live up to your tai tai stature.

Tussling over the telly

My boyfriend has plans to invite his friends over for World Cup matches. This worries me as they will end up watching matches night after night. How do I tell him that it is my TV too, and it is rude to hog the remote control without any consideration for me?

Julianne

Darling, it is once every 4 years. Don't fret over the small stuff. There are so many other things that can come in between a relationship and TV is definitely not one of it!

If it bothers you that much, then seek some

sort of compromise. Plan your programmes. It can be one programme in exchange for one match. But be fair.

Just because you don't have your favourite programme, doesn't mean you get to sit and stare at the cooking channel when you can't even tell the difference between a cauliflower and a cabbage.

Your man loves football. This is a fact that will not change overnight, no matter how much he adores you. So, if all else fails, it's either you get another TV set or another man. Problem solved.