



Takeaways

A newsletter by RICE



Look what Swifties made Edwin Tong do

"Hey, Swifties!" said [our minister](#).

If you could tell us a year ago that pop concerts would be a part of our national conversation, we would've figured it'd be at least K-pop, where intense fervour is part of the game.

Yet, two big-ticket items—concerts by Coldplay and Taylor Swift, each holding six-day residencies at our country's biggest concert venue—have become symbolic of our ever-present rat race to the top. In this case, it's the crowd barriers.

Tickets were officially released to the public today, and things became competitive real fast. Should it take this much for us to get a crumb of pop royalty on our shores? And, in a small country, why this much ruckus? A report from the SingPost frontlines by [The Straits Times](#) today captured a moment that hit a bit too hard for us:

Tempers flared at Bukit Timah Community Centre (CC), on Friday, when a woman dressed in pink shouted at two girls, Ms Christina Sun, 19, and Ms Edna Tan, 19,

who were at the front of the queue.

She yelled: “Can you all hurry up? It’s been 30 minutes already!”

Ms Tan, who was crying on the phone, turned back and shouted back: “It’s not our fault, it’s the system!”

*P.S. We've also learnt some of you found your way here through your friends. If you haven't already, **subscribe** to our weekly newsletter today!*

Singpass Away

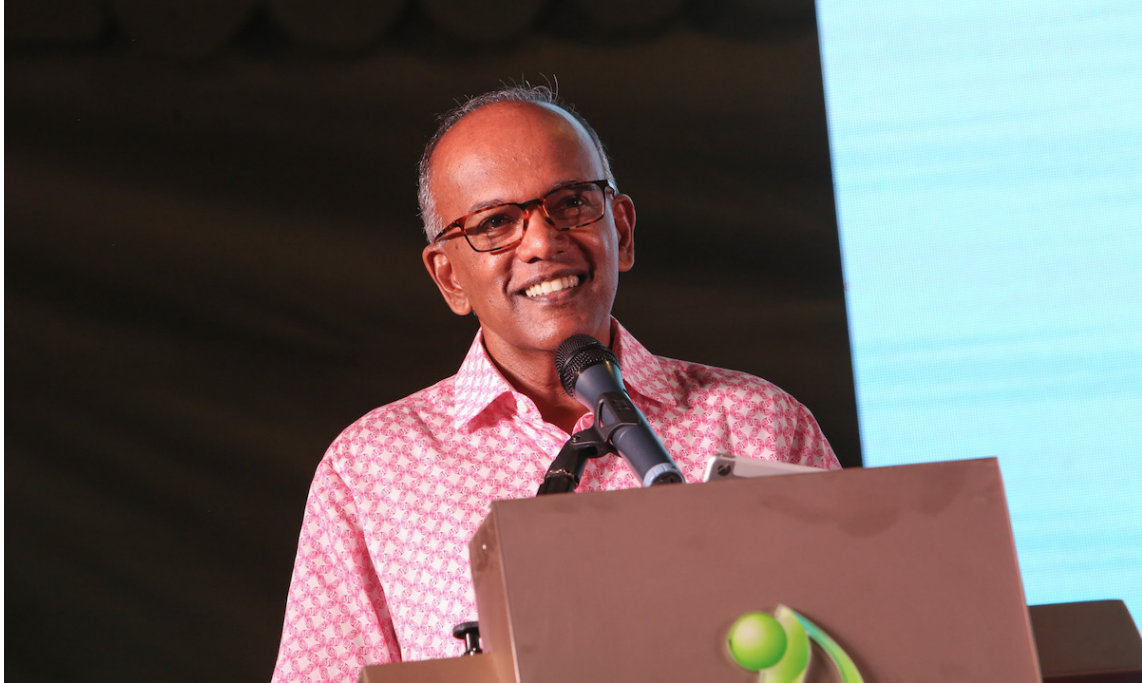


You know a topic has become a national issue when it ends up involving, well, xenophobia.

The rush for Taylor Swift tickets has brought out some ugliness from Singaporeans. But, underneath, our writer thinks there's more than meets the eye.

**Singaporeans Asked the
Government to Gatekeep Taylor
Swift. How Did That Happen?**

Residual Ridout Tension



Last week, we addressed Ridoutgate. There's still more to talk about, mainly because the saga didn't simply end with an Instagram post. The obfuscation around the issue brought out bigger frustrations from the public. Our writer wonders: To what extent should we demand transparency from those in power?

**Should Singaporeans Care This
Much About Ministers' Private
Lives?**

To Tantalize with Artifice



These days, restaurants have LED panels. Back then, it was common to see plates of shiny food presented for curious passerbys in the hallways of shopping malls. These plates were only a preview of the real thing—but wow, did they look appealing to our young eyes.

Crafting these plates is not a dying artform. But we sure see it less these days. Singaporean Vanessa Yeo is a synthetic food artist keeping it alive through painstaking work.

**The Real Struggles Behind
Crafting Fake Singaporean Food**

Vietnam Loves Our Ice Cream



Our writer wanted to break away from Singapore and its Singapore-ness by taking a quick trip to Vietnam. At least she tried.

She quickly found that the humble ice cream sandwiches (the same ones slowly disappearing all over our island) have taken the streets of Vietnam by storm.

**Singapore's Disappearing
Ice Cream Sandwiches Are
Thriving in Vietnam**

President-Hopeful Turritopsis



Way before Teo En Ming announced his intentions to run for President and become Singapore's "commander-in-chief of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and the Marine Corps," we spoke to the man in 2018 about his thoughts on the government... and his aspirations in the Japanese adult industry.

**Teo En Ming: Aspiring Actor and
40-Year-Old Virgin**

Short Grains, or *piping-hot topics by the spoonful.*

- Mark Zuckerberg aims to beat Elon Musk with his company's equivalent to Twitter called Threads. Could it emerge victorious? (via *Wired*)
- Watch our parliament's tribute to another president hopeful, Tharman Shanmugaratnam. (via *The Straits Times*)
- Singapore's rate of suicides has reached its highest in over 20 years. (via *TODAY*)

- If the weather here felt especially cruel last Tuesday, the rest of the world felt it too. (via *The Guardian*)
 - What is Giordano doing with AI?! (via @visakanv/Twitter)
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Here's one from our back catalogue: we took a deep-dive into the whipping and lashing that happens in a dance form steeped in Javanese tradition.

The Forbidden Art of Kuda Kepang

We like to go out! We also hate our weather.

But as much as our team is full of contradictions, we simply can't go by our weekend without checking out some things. If you're still deciding on where to go, let us highlight some unmissable events for you:

1. *Of course* we're shouting out food festivals first. Sentosa has a big one starting this weekend—all the way till September, so no rush.
2. What rhymes with 'yum'? Rum! Not sure where else to go with this, but here you go: a rum fest.
3. Aw shucks! How about some oysters, too?

4. This event sure has fresh meat, but there's no feasting here. There's a [short film showcase](#) featuring some of Singapore's youngest voices in film—it includes RICE's own Alistair Quak.
5. Join the Projector in saying goodbye to their Picturehouse pop-up. [Here's the programme](#) ahead for this weekend.

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