



Takeaways

A newsletter by RICE



What's with all the rain?

Seriously. Some of us can't get our laundry done without another surprise storm.

Anyway, it's certainly pouring with discourse this week. Not ones to rehash an old topic, but it was interesting to see Parliament united in shutting down a motion to suspend S Iswaran's allowance as a Minister of Parliament. Even with plenty of question marks around his probe, there's nothing made public which ties him directly to something shady.

That certainly made us think about an old Singaporean past-time: being judgemental. Not that we're judging—it's just a way of life here to be *kiasu* and rush to conclusions.

In the case of S Iswaran, it's the matter of assuming guilt even before there's anything to go by. A situation like this requires a trait that is admittedly hard to master: patience. The rain is already testing ours enough.

*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!*

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The Iswaran Inquiry



Earlier this week, our Parliament made a unilateral decision to reject a motion to suspend Minister of Transport S Iswaran, who's currently under investigation by CPIB.

Sure, like most MPs, S Iswaran is making more money than most Singaporeans. But do we have enough to determine he doesn't deserve his income yet?

**Iswaran Probe:
All MP Allowances Deserve
Protection Until Proven Guilty**

Life During Death



“Most people in the past are quite pantang (superstitious), shunning you after hearing that you move [and touch] bodies. In actual fact, there are already many people in the industry [who do that].”

We speak to the Singaporeans working in the grim industry of funerals and find out what it’s like having a job scope that requires reckoning with mortality every day.

**The Weight of the Departed:
Finding Meaning In
Transporting Dead Bodies**

Dignity and the Dollar



As Singaporeans, we can do better with solidarity. Even as demonstrations towards the poor and needy are common, it sure says a lot about some of us when we feel the need to distinguish needs and wants of people who can't afford either.

Even as we dig into the weeds of our expenses—punishing ourselves for indulging in excessive spending on one week by skimping on the next—does that give us the right to thumb our nose at people who aspire their lives differently even amidst poverty?

Minimum Income Standards in Singapore Go Beyond Necessities. It's Also About Self-Respect.

Short Films, Long Haul



This Saturday, three short films will be screened in the heart of town. No, not at The Cathay—that one's closed 🙄.

At *SCAPE, you'll get to witness three distinct filmic visions from up-and-coming Singaporean filmmakers. Learn about them here.

**Advocacy is a Form of
Storytelling for These
Singaporean Filmmakers**

When You Can't Choose to Snooze



Yes, sleeping is great. Yes, sleeping is hard. What seems to be the easiest thing to do as a human being is also something a lot of us struggle to get a handle on.

Our writer Patrick, overworked and stressed, gets an assignment to work on his sleep.

**Why a Night's Rest
Feels So Hard to Get**

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

- Singaporeans? Quirky? Yes, [according to these foreigners](#).
- Media titan (and inspiration for hit TV show *Succession*) Rupert Murdoch [intends to step down](#). (via Quartz)
- Resellers are back in droves, this time armed with [brand-new iPhone 15s](#). (via The Straits Times)

- A New Zealand couple finally received a refund after months of back-and-forth with Singapore Airlines over an unfortunate flight and a disruptive passenger: [a drooling dog](#). (via CNA)
 - A 30-something Singaporean man was found traipsing around Hougang with the national flag tied as a cape while screaming... things. He's been handed a [two-week jail sentence](#). (via Mothership)
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Depression is universal, but it's a nasty shapeshifter too. The hardest part is not identifying it, but pushing back against it, even when it weirdly feels normal. Here's an example of what that looks like.

Sometimes, I Don't Want to Exist

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. Stellar jukebox musical *&Juliet* begins its run this weekend. Book tickets [here](#) to get 20% off!
2. The annual [Singapore Design Week](#) starts today! This edition is something special, celebrating 20 years of the DesignSingapore Council.
3. This weekend, Clarke Quay becomes a [pet's paradise](#) as part of the Singapore River Festival. A purr-fect day, indeed.
4. Give your wardrobe a new makeover with pieces from the [Fashion Pop-Up Fiesta](#).
5. Too swept up by anxiety over the state of the world? Head over to this Saturday's [SG Climate Rally](#) to advocate for a better world—for all of us.

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