



Takeaways

A newsletter by RICE



Finding your calling.

This week has been a week of harmony and disharmony. And they say Singapore *isn't* diverse!

Take, for example, Lee Chee Tong, a 24-year-old who provides the case study that—despite clashing headlines over the spirituality of Gen Zs—there are young people brought up in the digital age who seek transcendence through the old ways. He's a Taoist priest, a social work student, and a TikTokker... and he's breezing through it all.

Then there's Lim Hao, a 25-year-old Singaporean who found an escape from our bustling city life while on a temporary working holiday visa abroad. Though he's set to return home soon, his contentment mirrors the sentiments of numerous others we interviewed about the little-known travel visa.

Meanwhile, within the seemingly united front of NTU's student union, there's been dissonance—and some may argue it's been there even beyond a single scandal.

In a different corner, a heated debate ensues regarding the Singaporean accent, underscoring an underlying lingual issue some of us are reluctant to acknowledge.

We learned from Chee Tong about the concept of *wu wei*, which is described as "acting without forcing," and to move "in accordance with the flow of nature's

course". Frankly, it's a philosophy we can all get behind. Maybe, then, more of us can find our harmony.

*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!*

*If you like our content and our vibes, consider being a **RICE Media patron** to support the work we do.*

Union Division



Over the last week, there was more chatter than ever about NTU's student union (NTUSU).

The saga at its centre, involving a disgraced presidential candidate who allegedly deceived another union member into alcohol intoxication, has drawn a firestorm.

However, our writer Hykel (a former student union member himself) decided to zero

in on NTUSU, drawing from his past experiences and frustrations over how such unions work.

The NTUSU Saga Points To An Inherent Problem With Student Unions

Work and Play on Holiday



In ‘Singaporeans Abroad’, we share with you the stories of loca–nah, we kid.

Our long-running editorial series has followed the various Singaporeans who found their calling overseas. This time, we deviated away from the formula to reach out a few uniquely adventurous ones.

They've made the trek across the globe to try out a new life—even for just a while—with the help of working holiday visas. Here's how it's worked for them.

Working Holiday Visas, The (Temporary) Solution to Singapore's Rat Race

Rituals Before Readings



Wu wei has been the modus operandi of Lee Chee Tong, a 24-year-old who juggles his university studies with the responsibilities of priesthood (and, of course, [his TikTok account](#)).

Chee Tong is an ordained Taoist priest who found himself in his position after a soul-searching journey through religions. He didn't necessarily want to be a leader. To him, it's just part of *wu wei*—to flow with the natural order of things.

**The 24-Year-Old Student
Who Accidentally
Became a Taoist Priest**

Design a Singaporean Life



This year's Singapore Design Week goes hard on projecting a Singapore that's more inclusive and sustainable. Those kinds of buzzwords may fly over most heads. But with its current exhibitions—which end this weekend (!)—they display a liveable reality we could genuinely have down the line.

We caught up with one of the event's creative forces, Jackson Tan, to talk about a better Singapore—and how it can be done better by design.

**I Sweat a Lot in Singapore.
Can This Design Solution
Change Things (And More)?**

Ang Moh Pai



Singaporeans need to get a grip. Code-switching is a normal thing. We already speak in different languages and tones, but it's never new that someone who sports an accent more polished than usual gets the ire of social media users.

Our writer Kimberly digs into the uncomfortable truths why we feel weird whenever Singaporeans deviate from Singlish, and why, frankly, it becomes an unfair scapegoat for the more deep-seated insecurities we may have.

**The Uncomfortable Truth
Behind Why
We Hate Atas Accents**

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

- 'Girl math' is taking the hearts and minds of shoppers by storm... but in Singapore, we've always had 'kiam siap math'.
- For the rest of 2023, electricity and gas tariffs will go up—this comes swiftly after the reveal of a new S\$1.1 billion support package. (*via CNA*)

- Anthony Chen's critically-acclaimed new film *The Breaking Ice* is officially [Singapore's Oscars entry](#). (via *The Hollywood Reporter*)
 - A new global survey reveals 57% of Southeast Asians currently live with [undiagnosed diabetes](#). (via *The Guardian*)
 - In a year that hasn't been kind to cryptocurrencies, its largest exchange Binance faces a [possible crash of catastrophic proportions](#). (via *The Wall Street Journal*)
-



Last week, our writer explored what it takes to manage your sleep. This time, our host Edoardo goes to the streets to find out how everyone else is sleeping nowadays. Spoiler: not well.

Why Are Singaporeans So Sleep-Deprived?

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. Singapore's first-ever camp rave [Sunda Festival](#) starts tomorrow.
2. Fancy something indoors instead? A Shanghai-themed speakeasy party by [The Dragon Chamber](#) officially launches this weekend.
3. The Singapore Indoor Stadium will play host to ONE Championship's latest night of martial arts mayhem, [starting tonight](#).
4. This weekend marks the last few days of Gardens by the Bay's [Mid-Autumn Festival](#) celebrations, where festive lanterns, food stalls, dance performances and cultural workshops abound.
5. Downtown East transforms into a cultural playground with the weekend-long 5 Of A Kind Street Art Festival. Tickets [here](#).

Rice Media Pte. Ltd.

27a Ann Siang Road, Singapore 069707, 069707, Singapore

This email was sent to {{contact.EMAIL}}

You've received it because you've subscribed to our newsletter.

[View in browser](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

