



Takeaways

A newsletter by RICE



What is your level of endurance?

Among the values we were taught from young—discipline, resilience, or whatever your school mottos were—one word we were told is endurance.

It's ability to hold out and keep going, even when times change and fortunes are reversed. Most just call it to *tahan*. It's a noble trait, and not one beyond reach for many of us.

Like Ramakrishnan, a 75-year-old double amputee living in a nursing home in Yishun. Five years after suffering from a stroke, he's maintained a heroic sense of optimism and tranquility that's not only kept him going—it's also making him new friends.

Humans aren't the only things that can endure. This week, we learned that 'Million Tears', a 2002 Eurodance hit from Germany, still resonates with many Singaporeans—especially secret society members. On the flipside, some, undoubtedly, had to *tahan* its presence all these years.

We've also learned that Mediacorp television shows, while varying in quality, still hold a special place in the hearts of our readers. You can watch many of these programs on MeWatch or Netflix—the most surprising thing is that *Phua Chu Kang Pte Ltd* still holds up very well.

Nonetheless, like many of the values we learned to adopt as kids, endurance doesn't necessarily denote a moral compass. Even the worst parts of ourselves, amidst scrutiny and pressure, can endure.

*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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369 Over a 4/4 Beat



It's a song adored or reviled by Singaporeans, depending on who you ask.

What began as an earnest pop effort by German duo Groove Coverage back at the turn of the millennium, 'Million Tears' has since been co-opted by Singapore's most notorious secret society. Here's how a Eurodance hit turned into a Salakau siren call.

**How Eurodance Hit ‘Million Tears’
Became a Singaporean Gang
Anthem**

Beginning of a Beautiful Friendship



Intergenerational differences are as old as... well, boomers themselves. And even beyond that.

Our story is about 12-year-old Cleryce, a Girl Guide and a precocious kid all on her own, and how she ended up forming an unlikely friendship with Ramakrishnan, a 75-year-old whose unwavering optimism has survived through decades of hardship, including a life-changing stroke.

**What It's Like Making Friends
Despite a 63-Year Age Gap**

Something Worse than Toxicity



SG Nasi Lemak was taken down. At least, so we thought.

It's unsurprising—and no less unsettling—that similar Telegram groups have sprouted like hydra heads, distributing lewd, non-consensual materials of Singaporean women for a fee.

As with most problems that arise from online communities, it isn't the medium that's the issue, but intent—one that reflects a deeper undercurrent in the way Singaporean men think and act.

**When a Guy You're Seeing
Turns Out to Be a Member of an
Obscene Telegram Channel**

Passion Project



Freelancers in Singapore, most notably in creative industries, are thriving and highly-visible in a career path that is understandably risky.

It's a tough career move, especially if you're coming off a full-time job with a monthly salary and a cushy, tried-and-tested way of life. For Candice, a freelance illustrator, she wouldn't have it any other way.

**Led By Passion, Controlled by
Money, and the Folks
Who Want Both**

MeRemember



Even if overindulging in the past risks distorting it, it feels like something was in the water at Caldecott Hill back in the 1990s, and even the 2000s.

The sitcoms and dramas that came out of Mediacorp back then captured the nation's attention unlike any other. We ask our readers about the shows that helped define their childhoods.

**The Mediacorp Shows that
Defined Our Singaporean
Childhoods**

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

- We explore the cultural nuances behind male mental health at one community event centered around Malay men.
- Singapore-based Japanese YouTuber Ghib Ojisan took it upon himself to find out if local sentiments about Yew Tee as the "most depressing" neighbourhood in Singapore are true. (*via Ghib Ojisan/YouTube*)

- This week, the longest-running MRT lines in Singapore have finally completed renewal works. (via CNA)
 - A kayaker who went missing during a trip off the southern coast of Sentosa last Sunday has had her body recovered and identified: 33-year-old Chew Jia Tian, owner of handcrafted soap brand Rough Beauty. (via CNA)
 - Swimming athlete Toh Wei Soong has clinched Singapore's first gold medal at the Asian Para Games. (via Mothership)
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Vanessa is one of Singapore's few fake food artisans. It also took years to prove to her mother that a viable career didn't necessarily entail becoming an engineer, doctor, or lawyer.

**The Bittersweet Process of
Crafting Fake Food
in Singapore**

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. Two days of live music goodness from the region kicks off on Saturday at [AXEAN Festival](#), with pay-as-you-wish entry.
2. The annual, student-led [Perspectives Film Festival](#) is well underway. Many gems in their line-up worth catching!
3. Pangdemonium's staging of Broadway classic [Into the Woods](#) begins today.
4. For all the surfers, skiers, and skaters, the [Trifecta Launch Festival](#) begins this weekend with marketplaces, workshops, and much more.
5. An exhibition on mental health takes place this weekend, which also earns the feat of being the world's first exhibition [powered by generative AI technology](#).

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