



Takeaways

A newsletter by RICE



Go your own way.

We never really know the cards we'll get dealt in life—that's out of our control—but the thing about destiny is that it's an entirely human concept. Much like its definition, who decides our fate, if not ourselves?

This week, we see the fruits of Singaporeans' efforts to reverse the termination of a beloved bus service. The bus service's fate seemed sealed (as most government decisions tend to go), so it was a surprise to see a U-turn on a one-way road.

In many smaller ways, we grab destiny by the horns to steer our lives in the direction we want it to go. It's not always what others might consider the 'right direction', like being our authentic selves instead of being a 'model minority' or fuelling a racing career while balancing school.

But to hell with what's right.

*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.*

The Brave, the Bold, and the Bald



Some time back, Uncle Raymond came under fire for featuring persons with special needs, but missing from the conversation were the featured talents themselves.

While tackling our biases, we learn from the talents about the principle of self-determination—the power to let people decide their fates, even if it means making bad choices.

The Moral Dilemma of Uncle Raymond's Dating Show

U-turning



When LTA decided bus service 167 would be discontinued, Singaporeans protested. The uproar was loud enough to save the bus service from termination (for now).

We take a look at the significance of protecting one seemingly meagre bus route.

Bus Service 167 and the Romance of Bus Rides in Singapore

Affording Friendship



We all want to be born into wealth as much as the next person, but here we are anyway! In the pursuit of wealth, do we have to act the part too? What if we just don't? What will our friends think?

In a way, economic woes have inadvertently become a litmus test for genuine friendships.

I'm Not a Bad Friend; I'm Just a Broke Friend

Regardless of Race



Elite schools in Singapore don't offer much in terms of minority representation. Many factors are in play for that, but what does the lack of diversity mean for its students?

Our writer, Syaura, delves into the intricacies of playing an exemplary role for minorities in a homogenous elite student body.

**How To Be a Model Minority in
an Elite School**

Take the Wheel



17-year-old Christian Ho has a dream: driving a Formula 1 car down Marina Bay Street Circuit and represent his home country.

Until he makes it to that level, he has to leave Singapore for the UK to train—all while balancing grades and exams.

**Meet Christian Ho, the
Singaporean Teen Chasing His F1
Dream in the UK**

What's Cooking?



We're doing a panel discussion at Ethos Books Festive Market this weekend! Our colleagues **Eudea Tan**, **Hykel Quek**, **Yulianna Frederika** and **Kimberly Lim**, as well as our Head Chef **Ilyas Sholihyn** will be sharing about how we do empathetic journalism.

How does RICE paint an immersive picture of the tangible impact of issues and policies? What do the experiences of marginalised communities reveal about ourselves?

Find out on **December 3rd**. [Seats available](#) on a first-come-first-serve basis.



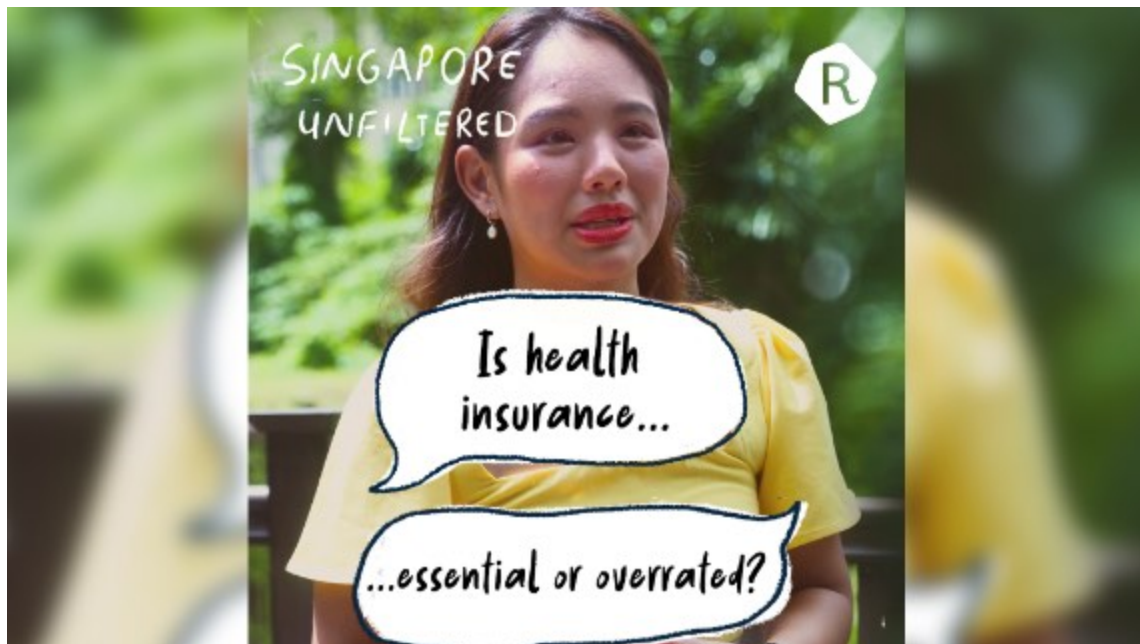
We've also partnered up with [The Black Sampan](#) for their latest edition of **Atap Assembly**, with a discussion the ever-present topic of minority representation. How does that look like in Singapore? And what can be done for greater inclusivity?

RICE's **Yulianna Frederika** will moderate a panel of speakers that includes SG's Top Everything™ **Preeti**pls, actor **Irsyad Dawood** and para-athlete **Naren Sankar**.

It's happening on **December 6th**. Tickets are limited, so get yours [here](#)!

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

- Singapore's own mm2 Entertainment scored big at the 60th Golden Horse Awards when two of its films won trophies. Taiwan's Wu Kang-ren won the Best Leading Actor award for the Malaysian-made *Abang Adik*, which was further nominated for an additional six awards, including Best New Director and Best Supporting Actor. Hong Kong writer-director Nick Cheuk won the Best New Director award for *Time Still Turns The Pages*. The film also won the Golden Horse Audience Choice Award and was nominated for four other awards. (*Via Focus Taiwan*)
 - Despite our over-reliance on air conditioners, Singaporeans aren't actually the best at utilising these treasured machines. Here's how we're using it wrong.
 - Admit it, Taylor Swift made it onto your Spotify Wrapped as one of your Top Artists. Unsurprising, because she's everyone's. (*Via Straits Times*)
 - Demand for an ancient Japanese Samurai weapon soars after a store clerk chased away three robbers with it. (*Via NHK*)
 - Travelling together with friends can make or break relationships. What about professional ones? (*Via CNA*)
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When it comes to health insurance, young adults are often divided into two camps: believers and sceptics. We find out more.

Is Health Insurance Totally Overrated?

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 International Film Festival returns. Check out the featured films [here](#).
2. RICE Media's own Stephanie Lee presents her first solo photography exhibition '[Make Room](#)' at Peace Centre.
3. Support talented persons with disabilities at [Enabling Lives Festival](#) this weekend. Enjoy sensory installations, food stalls, crafts and more.
4. Beach raves, because we can. [ZoukOut](#) is back this weekend.
5. [Ethos Books Festive Market](#) kicks off tonight till Sunday, featuring an eclectic mix of independent artists, creatives and community dialogues. Get generous discounts for Ethos titles and catch the RICE Media team

shoot the breeze at a panel discussion about storytelling.

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