



# Takeaways

A newsletter by RICE



## Okay, show of hands...

Has anything about work or life already upset you in the new year?

You're not alone, even if we can't technically see your hands being raised. We feel your vibes ❤️ Okay, we'll put a poll or something in the future here for more accurate results. **Anyway...**

This week deals with a bevy of emotions. Sure, this isn't exactly the best way to ring in the new year, but it's thoroughly human to feel not quite right, even when January's mostly the time to start anew. Our stories this week deal with the discomfort that comes when a rush of emotions and tension fills the air.

We see *conflict*. How one Singaporean journalist shook up a national publication, how one workplace has irreparably upset a throng of employees, and how one's inner self can feel like turmoil when there's no help.

We see *desire*. How one's surroundings may feel inadequate and the open road's the only answer, how young students grasp their shifting identities, and how Singapore itself makes way for the new at the cost of the old. It's a hefty bunch.

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*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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## Rattling the Press



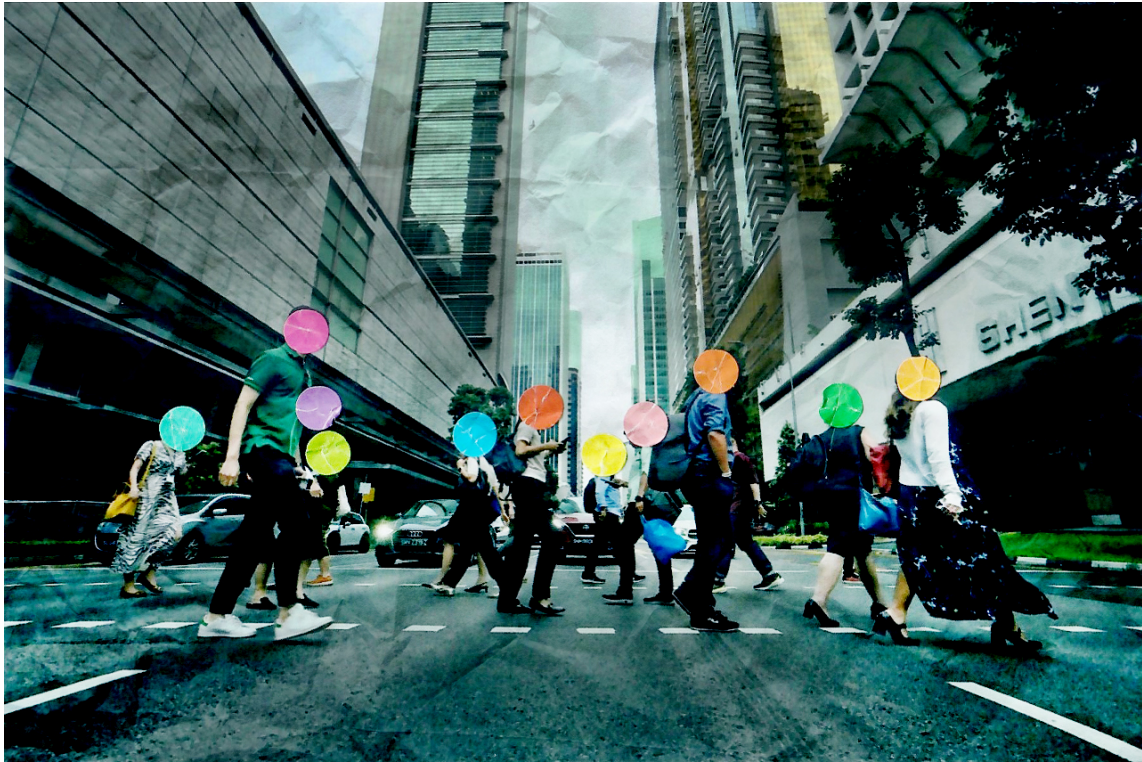
Last year, an in-depth piece published by The Washington Post raised eyebrows across Singapore—because *it was about Singapore*.

Well, specifically, its mention of Lianhe Zaobao, our country's leading Chinese-language newspaper, set off alarms in the way it was portrayed.

Lui Tuck Yew, Singapore's ambassador to the US, called the article “misguided”. DPM Lawrence Wong even discussed it during a trip to Washington, DC. Since the firestorm surrounding it has calmed, we speak with the article's author, Shibani Mahtani, on what that was all about.

**Behind the Headlines: Why  
Shibani Mahtani Pissed Off Lianhe**

# Working Hazards



Work sucks, we know. Even then, some workplaces really take the cake in how employee mistreatment is rampant and upper management fails to step in and... well, do their jobs.

In this case, we take a look at one such place in Singapore: the battle scars borne by its workers, the decibels raised in otherwise quiet offices, and the helplessness that some would face. A job is a job, but in this economy, when workers have little options, how much can they truly put up with?

**Panic Attacks, Crying in Cars:  
The Emotional Toll of  
'Fast-Paced' Workplaces**

## 2 Travelling Aunties





“The feeling I got when I handed in my resignation was so liberating. Am I finally going to get to live my life and see the world?” Susie Chua, 59, wondered to herself when she resigned.

She and her friend Norah Soeb have since learned a valuable lesson: When your current surroundings inspire little, there’s always the open road. As our writer states, they’re doing exactly what aunties aren’t “supposed to”.

**What’s Life On The Open Road  
For Two Singaporean Aunties?**

## **1 Troubled Fella**



Our writer, Daniel Peters, writes at length about his experience with therapy—the often-varied process that comes with opening up to another human, the work that’s put into the journey by both parties, and how his life has changed ever since.

Therapy is ongoing work, he observes, but one that gets better when you’re given the compatible tools to navigate your life here on out.

**The Benefits of Therapy,  
and the Benefits After It**

## Queer Lessons



As a country, Singapore still has a long way to go when it comes to education and insight into the queer life.

When it's faced with the ensuing education that students face in schools on a daily basis, our writer found gaps that might need filling sooner or later, lest more misunderstanding arises.

### **The Miseducation of Singapore's Queer Youth**

## ***Auf Wiedersehen, Turf City***





It's happening: Turf City, once a shining site for sports and recreation, has closed its doors for good.

Notably, it previously hosted the Singapore Turf Club from 1933 to 1999. While fanfare has dimmed since then, Turf City was a firm favourite for those who wanted an escape from the city. We took one last lap around this storied institution.

**One Final Lap Around  
Bukit Timah Turf City**

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

- No other time of year provides as much melancholy as the first week of January. Readers speak to us about their current post-holiday blues.
- Ikea is now asking customers to return its USB charger for a full refund: the device poses the risk of causing electric shocks and thermal burns. (via

*Yahoo! Singapore)*

- Weekend trips to JB might get a whole lot smoother from both sides of the border with a potential passport-free clearance system. *(via CNA)*
  - Is anyone even surprised the SimplyGo app struggled from the surge in users after the forced upgrade? *(via The Straits Times)*
  - South Korea has officially banned the sale of dog meat, putting an end to a centuries-old tradition in the country. *(via CNN)*
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Despite the vape ban in Singapore, it's not difficult to find children or teenagers vaping openly in public. So how did this troubling trend take off?

**Confessions of Ex-Underage  
Vapers *Singapore, Unfiltered***

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## **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. Go golfing and find a date? Mystery golf venue Kulnari is organising [Singles Mystery Golf](#)—a party aimed to get minds cracking and people closer—this Sunday.
2. Take part in the pet-friendly [Sentosa Festive Market](#) this weekend. Featuring activities such as puppy yoga, dog walks, bubble play and more.
3. Get a glimpse of the state of the current creative community in Singapore at the [Deep Cuts](#) conference.
4. The Indian Heritage Centre is holding its [open house](#) till this Sunday. Expect farm tours, craft workshops and live performances.
5. [Singapore Palestine Film Festival](#) kicks off today. Proceeds from the 10 screened films will serve as a fundraiser for Gaza.

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