



Takeaways

A newsletter by RICE



Not *that* happy ending...

The verdict was loud and clear, and the government listened (!). SimplyGo is not going to be the central nervous system of public transport that was sold to us, and many of us are genuinely thankful for that.

While the proposed system wasn't exactly a seismic shake-up, it did have the potential to divide and confuse (which, let's be real, the announcement to transition to SimplyGo already did). There are some positive takeaways from this experience, though, as we learned this week.

On that note, RICE also explored the ways people want to speak out but can't—whether it's by circumventing restrictions, or even navigating an erosion of basic human function. We also explore, in broad terms, dreams that take Singaporeans abroad, and the losses that would keep us here.

*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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SimplySingapore



Singapore started off 2024 united and strong when it came to SimplyGo. No matter which side you stood on, that's something odd to be proud of.

If anything, it pushed the powers-that-be to seriously invest in improving our daily lives. After weeks of angry uproar, let's take a look at the positive outcomes of this national kerfuffle.

**The Positives from the
SimplyGo Saga**

The Day We Pray Never Comes



Hate to drop a dose of reality on you, but it's true: your parents will die one day.

It's especially painful for the offspring of parents who had kids later in life. We wanted to know their unique perspectives on the age-old tradition of watching parents get older.

**Gen Z Speaks on
The Fear of Watching Their
Elderly Parents Age**

Learning to Talk Again



It hurts when something as fundamental to the human experience—the ability to communicate—gets taken away from you.

But when patients don't have a voice, speech therapists hear them loud and clear. And it's their job to let them rediscover their voice in a new way.

**The Speech Therapists Giving
Voices Back to the Voiceless**

On Palestine



When the usual options for protest and solidarity are not allowed in Singapore, what else is there?

As it turns out, there's plenty. And when it comes to an issue as divisive as the ongoing onslaught happening on the other side of the world, there are genuine ways for Singaporeans to help.

**The Alternative Ways
Singaporeans Are Supporting
Palestinians in Gaza**

Net Dreams



“Football had never seemed like a real, tangible career path. I’d always loved football but I never thought I could actually make a living out of this sport.”

Danelle Tan, a 19-year-old aspiring professional football player, is now scoring goals and running laps around other players in Germany. Here’s what it’s like for her to forgo the traditional Singaporean path and pursue her dreams abroad.

Meet Danelle Tan, the 19-Year-Old Who Chose a German Football Club Over University

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

- A tragic landslide at Cameron Highlands has left one dead and four feared buried alive. (via CNA)
- For the first time in over three years, the amount of private home rentals in Singapore are dropping. (via CNA)

- Meanwhile, HDB resale prices have risen by 4.9%—a sign that the recent surge in property prices is starting to moderate. (*via The Straits Times*)
 - This past week, the Singaporean dollar has strengthened against the Malaysian ringgit at a record high. And, of course, Singaporeans are taking advantage of it. (*via Mothership*)
 - From the eve of Chinese New Years onwards, Singaporeans will be able to enter China without a visa if the duration of the visit falls within 30 days, and vice versa for Chinese travellers. (*via TODAY*)
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Ageing sucks. Growing older, you're more likely to have your priorities shifted and thrown around like SHEIN clothes when responsibilities come into the picture.

It's why some plan to have kids at a later age. But is there an age that's too old to be a parent?

**Is There an Age Limit to
Having Kids?**

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. It's a weekend of art festivals and Artboxes! Here's the brief lowdown:
 1. [Aliwal Urban Art Festival](#) offers an art market, live music performances, on-site graffiti, open studios, and more.
 2. [Artbox Singapore](#)—while not an arts festival per se—is the closest we'll get to a Bangkok night market on this island.
 3. Singapore Art Week's [Art After Dark at Gillman Barracks](#) wraps up the month with live performances by indie rock bands Subsonic Eye, Sobs, and Blush. There will also be an incredible DJ party by EATMEPOPTART right after.
2. It's also the final weekend before Peace Centre shuts down. Say [Peace Out](#) to a true Dhoby Ghaut landmark before it's gone.
3. Prodigious jazz duo [DOMi & JD BECK](#) will make their Singapore debut at Singtel Waterfront Theatre on Saturday.

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