



# Takeaways

A newsletter by RICE



## We've all once had dreams of leaving Singapore...

It's okay to feel dissatisfied. Even then, contemplating the start of a new life elsewhere doesn't need to come from a pessimistic outlook. Change is a fickle thing, but the longer the need for it persists, the more you won't be able to look past it.

In the case of Matthew, a profile we featured this week, he clinched a job as an archivist after college. Finding a job after getting a degree has become a point of contention these days—last year, it was revealed about 6.2 percent of Singaporean graduates had yet to start work after six months. Clearly, getting a job—let alone a job that speaks to personal interests—is a big achievement for anyone.

That achievement felt more muted once he realised that there was more he needed to learn. Leaving a job? To study? In this economy? It's not a hard guess that many in his position would happily remain comfortable, keeping their desire to change entirely at bay for the sake of stability. And money.

On the other hand, we also spoke to a married man who—against his better instincts—entered an extramarital affair. Even if he had nothing to complain about at home, he did it. Why? Change is a fickle thing.

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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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## Niche Studies



A common sentiment of the most patriotic among us is that Singapore is home to the first-rate: first-rate education, first-rate airport, first-rate median income, etc et al.

Sure, our universities are prestigious. But thankfully, we've come this far that we can be open about what exactly we want to do in life—not simply abiding by what's considered a “good degree” or a “well-paying job” so that we hit the standard metrics of success.

When it comes to our profiles in this piece, they've taken big leaps to pursue careers that—while not professions most people would know about—they're dead set on taking on for a public good.

**When Singaporeans  
Study Something That Almost**

## To Buffer is to Suffer



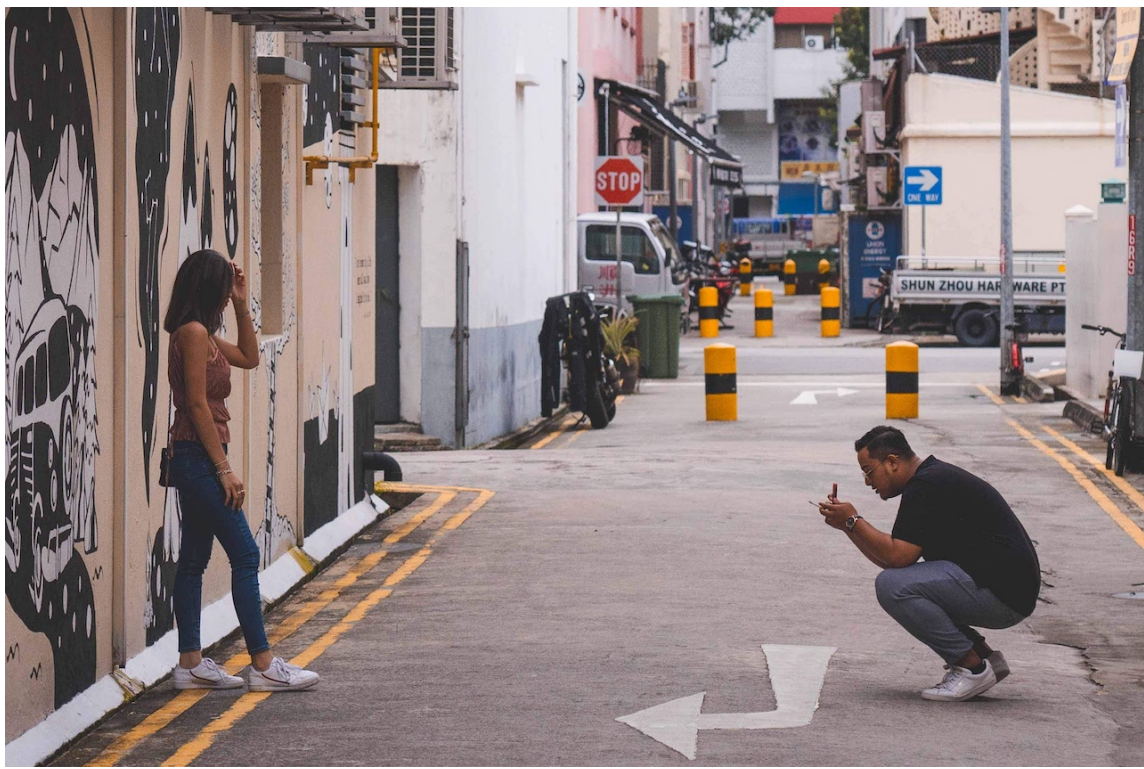
It's no secret that it's getting more expensive to Netflix and chill.

After years of making the big switch to cloud entertainment, especially when most of us grew up on public and cable television (and, for some of us, torrenting), the heavy prices are making us reconsider how we access the shows we love.

**Singaporeans Speak on  
Ditching the Streaming Services  
That Are Getting Expensive**

## Only the Lonely





No matter how swiftly time seems to pass, there will always be culture shock waiting for us. Facebook is entirely an adult's playground now, Twitter is an X cesspool, and kids are happily flaunting their parent's old hand-me-downs.

But some things can stay the same. In this case, we're talking about a term that feels terminally 2010s: the 'friend zone'. As part of our ongoing Storytellers program, we had an SMU student give us a live dispatch from what it's like up there in 2024.

### Notes From Within the Friend Zone

## Lead Astray Under One Roof



One of the most powerful love stories you can find out there is Wong Kar Wai's *In the Mood for Love*.

It's a wildly popular romance. But for those who haven't seen it, some may be shocked that it's not a traditional love story. At its centre, two people find themselves slipping away from their respective marriages and into each other.

Cheating sucks. But we won't always understand why people cheat. It's just how it is. In this story produced in partnership with the Singapore Muslim Women's Association, we try to find out why it can happen even within the happiest households of Singapore.

**Even in Happy Households,  
Couples Cheat. Why?**

## Quiet Quitting



We're way past gender stereotypes, but they're not always easy to shake off. Even when it's something as simple as asking for help, men can still feel fully resistant to embrace that urge in silence.

We've written at length about the state of mental health literacy, but here, in partnership with the Singapore Muslim Women's Association, we see how it's like in the local Malay-Muslim community when men shun away from looking inward.

### The Masculine Urge to Reject Help

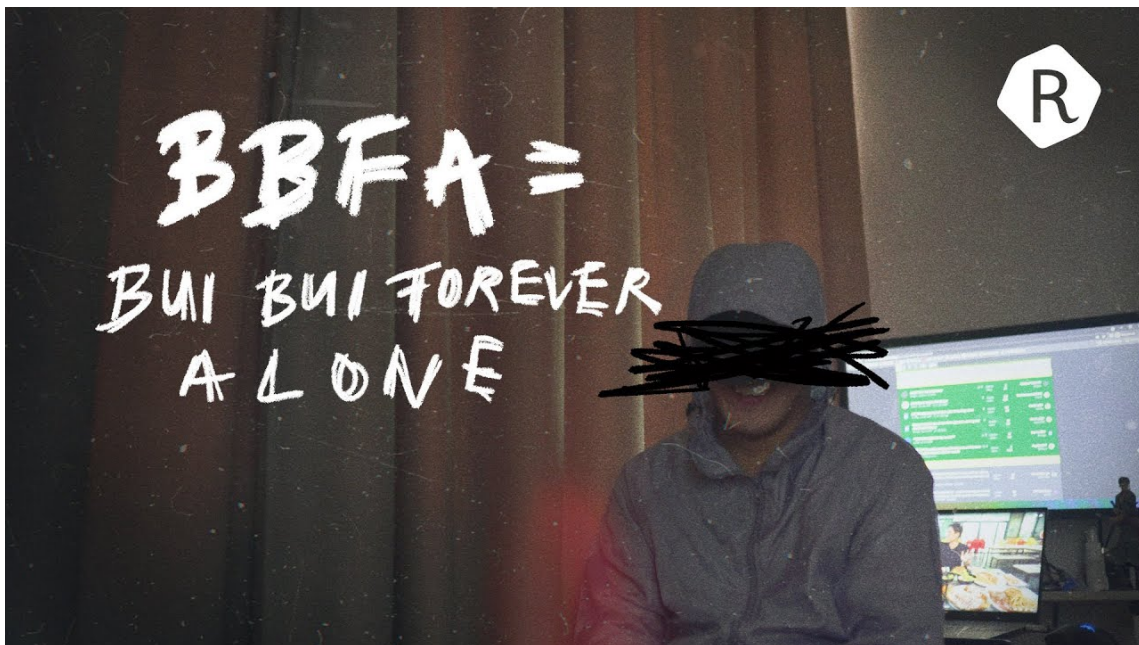
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## Short Grains, or *piping-hot topics by the spoonful.*

- The head of the Football Association of Singapore has denied any “agenda” for its hiring practices, which has seen three successive hires of Japanese coaches. (via CNA)



- This year will see an ambitious \$20 million revamp of the Tanah Merah Ferry Terminal, which will include new check-in kiosks and automated lanes. (via *Yahoo! Singapore*)
  - Concert season comes with its downsides—not just the lack of tickets, but the plentiful fake ones out there. At least S\$1.1 million is estimated to have been lost to ticket scams within the past year. (via *CNA*)
  - AirAsia is in the headlines for having rejected a passenger's refund request—the reason is because her mother fell ill, but the proof provided was allegedly insufficient for the airline service. (via *AsiaOne*)
  - A woman's laundry rack was buzzing with activity. Why? It became home to an entire beehive. If that makes you squeamish, skip this story—the lead image is a doozy. (via *The Straits Times*)
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There's the 'friend zone', and then there's the 'BBFA zone'. One profile spoke to us intimately about his own frustrating lack of intimacy.

**On Being Fat & Lonely:  
The BBFAs of HardwareZone**

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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. It's the last week of Artbox! Get your chatuchak on before you have to wait a whole year for it to come back. Or you can just book a flight to Bangkok. Your choice.
2. Chinese New Year season dawns upon us. Chinatown is ready for your shopping needs. Head over before it's too late.
3. Speaking of Chinatown, their strange-looking dragon is still up if you want to immortalise yourself next to it for the gram.
4. This weekend sees Sentosa embracing the Carnival spirit in true Latin American style with the Sentosa Festive Market.
5. The ACM, also known as the Asian Civilisations Museum, turns into your favourite shopping mall of 1995 through vibrant art exhibits and, amazingly, retro arcade games.

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