



Takeaways

A newsletter by RICE



Life finds a way.

Life's unpredictability is a constant companion, presenting us with unexpected opportunities and challenges. Take, for instance, the recent Sentosa sky lantern festival fiasco where organisers left attendees deeply frustrated by failing to deliver on the event's promised spectacle of lanterns adorning the night sky.

In this week's newsletter, we learn to dance with uncertainty. Our writers tackle the issue of upskilling—the big theme of this year's Budget statement—and how employability isn't always definite after learning new skills. We also hear from aromantics in Singapore on how they adapt in a societal landscape built for marriages and family despite being unable to experience romantic attraction.

One thing that *is* predictable: death. Nobody looks forward to it, but it's an inevitable part of the job for those in the medical field. In our exploration of the profession, we shed light on last offices—the compassionate and dignified procedures followed by nurses in Singapore as they guide the loved ones of deceased patients through the final moments with empathy and grace.

*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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Iron Rice Bowls (Don't Exist)



Besides finding out that Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong pronounces 'Hydrogen' as 'Hy-DRO-gen', Singaporeans were treated to a bevy of treats meant to push them towards acquiring new skills for employability during the Budget 2024 speech.

But the outcome of upskilling seems to be less clear. Are one-off SkillsFuture courses really helpful to an individual's job hunt? Or are they simply a way to 'prove' one isn't sitting idle while unemployed?

**Budget 2024: Upskilling Is Good,
but Is It Enough To Survive?**

What is Love?



Here's the traditional Singaporean dream: find a romantic partner, get married, buy a BTO, and (maybe) start a family.

With romance off the table and their identity constantly being questioned, aromantic Singaporeans share their version of love and a fulfilling life.

**What It Means To Be Aromantic
in Singapore**

The Spectrum



How do parents bear the weight of being a bridge for their autistic child to the outside world without collapsing?

We follow the cast of Pangdemonium's *Falling* as they observe autistic students and their caregivers in school to add layers of fidelity to the characters they're set to portray on stage.

**Every Day, I Learn to Love My
Autistic Son Again**

Final Breaths



What do nurses do immediately after a patient dies? They kickstart a protocol called last offices.

In partnership with Healthcare Scholarships, palliative care nurses tell us what it's like to maintain the dignity and honour of patients till the very end.

**Last Offices: Singaporean Nurses
on Their Daily Encounter with
Death**

Trolling the Troll



In the chaotic realm of American politics lie pundits. Ian Miles Cheong is not one of them—he’s, at best, a right-wing political influencer. And the thing is, he’s not even American. Ian is a Malaysian who's based in Ipoh.

We explain the lore behind this man and why Malaysians are now calling for his head.

Who Is Right-Wing Influencer Ian Miles Cheong, and Why Do Malaysians Want Him Jailed?

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

- We ask former primary school ‘crybabies’ how they’re doing these days as functioning adults. (via *RICE*)
- A sky lantern in festival at Sentosa turned out to be a dud when attendees weren’t allowed to light up the skies with lanterns in the end. (via *TODAY*)

- A Reddit post recent blew up about a SkillsFuture course that teaches people how to clean toilets. As it turns out, there are over 40 of these courses. (via *Mothership*)
 - The Ministry of Home Affairs has confirmed it did advise a Singaporean fashion influencer on her posts about Gaza. (via *The Straits Times*)
 - The creators of ChatGPT just announced its own text-to-video generative AI model called Sora—and the results are frighteningly good. (via *Forbes*)
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Even with several new malls sprouting up over the years, there's an inexplicable charm to Holland Village that transcends time.

A Brief History of Holland Village

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:

- Rest in Power, Avicii. [Pay tribute to the Swedish DJ's EDM legacy](#) in a party at The Projector's new digs at Cineleisure tonight.
- Kick off the Year of the Dragon with a bang this weekend at the annual [Chingay parade](#). This year, it's all about blossoming with floral motifs, dragon and lion dances, and a cavalcade of performances by groups from across the world.
- Do your part in keeping our beautiful beaches clean with Seven Clean Seas. Saturday morning will see a [big beach clean up at East Coast Park](#)—just remember to pack your sunscreen and bug spray if you're going.
- Local DJ collective Ice Cream Sundays are back with a [banger of a party at Tanjong Pagar Distripark](#) on Saturday. Featuring Japanese house and disco dub duo Monkey Timers.
- Taylor Swift is set to storm into Singapore for her Eras Tour next week, so prep yourself with all her hits in a [tribute party at Tipsy Unicorn](#) on Sunday.

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