



# Takeaways

A newsletter by RICE



## Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. But what if its name is *Jayden*?

Sorry if your name is Jayden, btw. It's just that it is indeed interesting how generations of Singaporeans—from millennials onward—have turned out with predominantly English names, despite the cultural footprint we have (as Racial Harmony Day once reminded us, year after year).

A name is just a name, after all. It's like when a dish we all know as orh luak—or oyster omelette—might possess tantalising powers that its perfunctory name does not suggest at all.

We also have a profile named Ashish. His name in Hindu, according to Wikipedia, means “blessing from the elderly or from God”. He's enjoying a life that only mostly elderly people do: retirement. Funny how names work.

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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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# Retired and Rewired



There can be many reasons why this piece we published recently did so well. For one, the novelty of a man as young as Ashish striking out into retirement can send our imaginations into a tizzy. Who among us *doesn't* want to stop working?

But beneath the vicarious thrill of it (with, of course, a tinge of jealousy) lies a story of a man who's always felt at odds with the conventional working life of an adult. He just found a way to escape it.

**Ashish Kumar Was a Top PSLE Scorer. Now, He's a 31-Year-Old Retiree.**

## What's In A Name?



Did the Speak Good English Movement work a little too well?

English names can give you an edge in cosmopolitan Singapore, but what gets lost when we leave cultural names behind? Our writer navigates Chinese Singaporean identity in a sea of Jaydens, Kaydens, and Braydens.

**The Auspicious Englishisation of  
Chinese Singaporean Names**

## **An Orh Luak Affair**





It started with eggs, so how did it end up with... *seggs*?

Morbid curiosity, that's what. One morning, our writer posed a question in the editorial room: "Oysters are known to be aphrodisiacs. Does that include oyster omelette?" He's come back with his report.

### Can Oyster Omelette Remedy Erectile Dysfunction?

## Under the Skin



When you're a kid, dealing with the insecurities and jadedness of being an adolescent, eczema is not something you'd welcome, to say the least.

When you're an adult, you learn to deal with it. But that doesn't mean the pain goes away. Beyond that, however, we learn what it means to live full lives in spite of eczema, through the lens of three Singaporeans.

**In Their Own Skin:  
Portraits of Eczema in Singapore**

## Deflated But Not Extinguished



Since the furore that followed the ill-fated Sentosa Sky Lantern Festival, CASE has stepped in. Yet, festival organiser Shiermie Bautista isn't giving up on her sky lantern dream just yet.

She tells RICE that Sentosa Sky Lantern Festival is going to be back “in five different areas of Singapore”.

**The Unhinged Aftermath of  
Sentosa Sky Lantern Festival**



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

- A unit in Blk 666 Yishun Ave 4 has been sold for S\$1.2 million, another record high. I guess you can say these soaring HDB prices are almost... demonic? (via *Mothership*)
- Marina Bay Sands is only getting bigger from here: its planned expansion, including a new fourth tower and a 15,000-seat arena, is targeted for completion by 2029. (via *The Straits Times*)
- After pressure (finally) from the United States government, Israel has agreed to open temporary aid routes into Gaza. (via *Channel NewsAsia*)
- The recent earthquake in Hualien, Taiwan sees officials scrambling, but not struggling, to rescue survivors. Out of the 71 foreigners rescued so far, 8 are Singaporean. (via *CNN, TODAY*)
- In Malaysia, unsold food left over by stall owners at Ramadan bazaars is raising concerns over wastage. (via *CNA*)



*“When the doctor first diagnosed me, I was like, ‘What did I do wrong? Is this karma?’”*

Charlene, the co-founder of homegrown dating app Paktor, tells us in an intimate conversation about dealing with breast cancer.

## 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:

- Today and tomorrow, [Bruno Mars](#) performs his first shows in Singapore in over six years. After his first date on Wednesday night, expectations are high for him to bring the best weekend to Singaporeans since... well, Taylor Swift. Tickets are sold out, though.
- Thailand comes to Singapore, but not in the Artbox way you'd expect—Wild Wild Wet is celebrating the Thai New Year in style with the [Songkran Kids Festival](#).
- This Saturday, the [Inclusive Arts Festival](#) takes place at the National Library with hands-on activities and a handicrafts market—all for the benefit of Singaporeans with disabilities.
- This weekend's film picks:
  - Dev Patel—having long shed his boyish charm from TV show *Skins* and rags-to-riches drama *Slumdog Millionaire*—now tries his hand at becoming an action film star with *Monkey Man*, which he's directed as well. (Screening at all Golden Village and Shaw cinemas)
  - Godzilla and King Kong butt heads yet again in *Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire*. (Screening at all local cinemas)
  - Singaporean director Anthony Chen will be in town for an exclusive Q&A with actress Tan Kheng Hua at the screening of his latest film, *Drift*. (Screening at The Projector, April 6)

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