



# Takeaways

A newsletter by RICE



## Then sings George's soul...

We might be seeing the most interesting presidential election here in over a decade.

George Goh, the head of Oassia International—which brought Harvey Norman to our shores before the turn of the millennium—and [gospel music enthusiast](#), wants to be our president. A press conference by the businessman earlier this week revealed a voice couched in an outsider's perspective: rugged and ready to serve.

He's certainly an outsider compared to his prospective opponent, the long-serving politician Tharman Shanmugaratnam, and his speech revolved around his lack of affiliations as suitable for the job. "The president must not only be above politics but be perceived as such," he told reporters [on Monday](#).

It's fascinating, isn't it? A president that must not be political?

*Moving on...*

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*P.S. We've also learnt some of you have found your way here through your friends. If you haven't already, **subscribe** to our weekly newsletter today!*

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## An Off Day for a Poll Day



As we said last week, most of us are well-aware the role of president has long been a ceremonial one. It's certainly not someone who can affect change at the granular level.

Should that make us care less about the upcoming elections? Our writer argues that whoever moves into the office can still be of considerable influence. Someone like Tharman has been well-liked by Singaporeans for a reason, while George professes a desire to serve the working man. We're certainly not getting humdrum candidates.

**Presidential Elections Should  
Matter More to Singaporeans  
Beyond Getting a Public Holiday**

# Carrying Cash in a Cashless World



In Singapore, cash is no longer king. We're a cashback society now.

While cashless payments have proven its usefulness, are we also thinking about our cash *less*? It's been on our minds for a while now, at least. Our writer, a self-professed "money avoidant", explores this by taking notes from a recent TikTok trend that promotes spending and organizing cash for all expenses.

She took up the challenge for an entire month. Let's say it wasn't easy.

**Can Milo Tin Budgeting for a Month Reform a Financially Reckless Millennial?**

## A Holland Village Home Less Swanky



We have plenty of playgrounds for the rich and the aspirational here, and Holland Village has been a shiny beacon in that regard. However, any glistening sheen of a bustling neighbourhood will most certainly overshadow its longest-living residents, many of whom struggle in their daily lives.

As part of our Storytellers programme, where we help shape aspiring voices into compelling non-fiction stories, one Singapore Management University student uncovers the lives of those living in the margins of Holland Village.

**The Only HDB Block of 1-Room  
Rental Flats in Holland Village**

## **The Last Stands**



At RICE, we're terminally online. But we can safely say that, if resources allowed, our work would reach to you in print at a regular pace.

It's not just nostalgia—the act of reading the fine print allows for greater concentration and interaction. The uncles with the morning newspaper and a cup of kopi have always been onto something. It's why physical books still survive, despite the introduction of eBooks and audiobooks.

However, with dwindling sales and interests in newspapers, its vendors are becoming a scant presence on Singaporean streets. The ones who are left are finding ways to continue.

**The Last Generation of  
Singapore's Newspaper Stand  
Vendors**

## Not Funny Anymore



The furore was inescapable: a Singaporean comedian making light of a national tragedy in Malaysia gets flamed to infinity. She comes back on the defense, and so does the Malaysian police: they've rung up Interpol to track her down.

That last bit certainly puts things into perspective. No matter her background, Jocelyn Chia is still just one person. The tragedy she invoked deals with the loss of regular innocent lives. We don't think she needs to be burnt at the stake, or deported to Malaysian courts, but it's still fair game to evaluate the craft. Her joke, as uniquely incendiary as it was, simply raged with little substance.

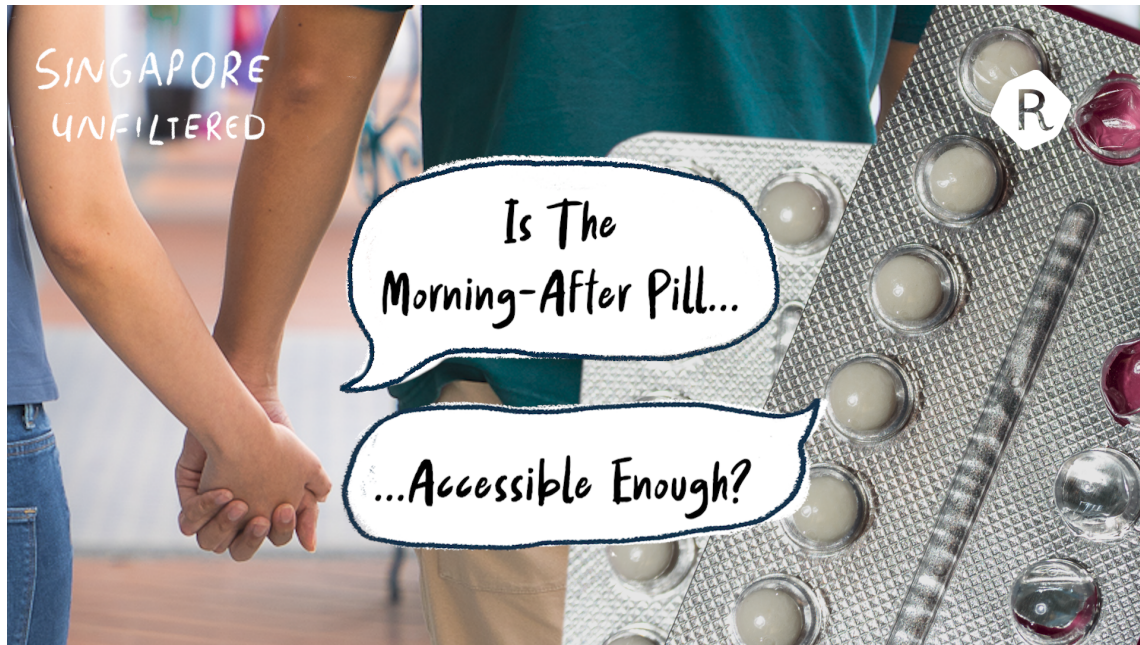
**Jocelyn Chia's Biggest Offence Is  
Being More Cringe Than Funny**

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

- How would you react if your parents get a bit *too* into alternative medicine?
- A structure collapse during a demolition effort took place at Bernam Street yesterday. One worker has since been found dead. (via *The Straits Times*)

- Turf Club intends to close. Their 100+ resident cats have nowhere to go. (via *The Straits Times*)
  - TikTok intends to invest billions into its Southeast Asian operations, with a particular focus on e-commerce. (via *Reuters*)
  - In an age of fast fashion, 'superfake' designer bags seem commonplace. But how? (via *The New York Times*)
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The morning-after pill certainly isn't one without controversy. However, Singapore remains one of the few countries where it's issued via prescription only.

With shifting social norms around sexual health, should it be more accessible here?

**Is the Morning-After Pill  
Accessible Enough?**

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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. If you have kids to entertain, or an inexplicable desire to see dancing fishes, Baby Shark is [coming to Singapore](#).
2. Delve into traditional Chinese arts and culture at the [Wan Qing Dragon Boat Festival](#) in Balestier this weekend.
3. There's a festival [chock-full of exciting Mandarin indie acts](#), who will perform in the cavernous hall of the former Pasir Panjang Fire Station.
4. If you're knocking off work early today, get some sleep before the start of [Wellness Festival Singapore](#) tomorrow onwards.
5. Or if you just want to have a boozy weekend, savour from a startling variety of sake at [Sake Festival Singapore](#).

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