



Takeaways

A newsletter by RICE



He's out.

Today, it was announced that our upcoming presidential elections have three approved candidates: Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Ng Kok Song, and Tan Kin Lian. There's no George Goh on the list.

It's confirmed that the businessman did not qualify to contest the election. Goh—arguably the most vocal prospective candidate thus far—issued a statement today on social media.

"This decision has deprived Singaporeans of a wider choice to select who the next President will be," he writes. This arrived on the back of an appearance on Kiss92, where his Instagram stories showed all smiles early in the morning at their studio. And you thought you had a bad day today.

A few weeks ago, we published our interview with Goh, where he talked about harbouring dreams to be Singapore's president since 2017. A short period for the 63-year-old, sure, but he's had a memorable run with a passionate platform.

For now, approved candidate Tan Kin Lian, who ended up in Goh's crosshairs this past Wednesday, remains unbothered, choosing to enjoy yet another bowl of fishball kuay teow instead.

*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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Finding Fulfillment in Thailand



Bella Lee hasn't held a "proper" job in over five years.

The social work graduate has instead found fulfilment in her work at a Chiang Mai orphanage, where she's been stationed since 2019. She gives us a peek into her life thus far, her slow-living philosophy of "sabai sabai", and what keeps her going in her unpaid pursuit.

**Meet Bella Lee, the Singaporean
Devoting Her Life to
Counselling Thai Kids**

Pointing Fingers



One of the most tragic domestic stories reported in the news this week caused a major uproar.

Xavier Yap, a 50-year-old father, was sentenced to jail for strangling his twin sons—both autistic—to death in 2022. Yap felt their future was grim with their condition, and he wanted to relieve the "burden" of raising them for his wife.

Amidst the unravelling of the act, however, the public has zeroed in on the wife. Her story, detailing her involvement in the boys' lives, has been told purely through the culprit. So, then, what's going on?

**The Case of Xavier Yap and His
Twin Sons Is Heartbreaking.
Piling On His Wife Isn't Helping.**

Redemption Story



Throughout our lives, we've had our fair share of anti-drug messaging through our screens, our sidewalks, and our classrooms.

To tell the story of someone who's overcome the pitfalls of consuming drugs is to balance the point driven home—that drugs are bad—with the person within the story.

In Isaac's tale, shared on RICE this week, you can take away the drug habit and still find a boy who simply longs for a fulfilling life in Singapore. No matter what your stance on drugs may be, it's a struggle as eternally relatable as ever.

**Bad Luck Knocks Twice:
Isaac's Redemption from
Drugs and Dejection**

Plumber Adventures



Earlier this year, [a study by the Institute of Policy Studies](#) revealed that blue-collar workers in Singapore face the perception that their jobs hold lesser value in society. It's awful, obviously, and more can be done to address the issues that these workers face here.

We're glad we found someone like Zhong He, a 26-year-old plumber who's found meaning and fulfilment in his job—one that he's worked for over a decade.

**Pipe Dreams:
Why a 26-Year-Old Plumber
Chose the Blue-Collar Life**

The Alternatives to Bras



This piece, which we did in partnership with Love, Bonito (LB), spoke to the women in our office who've simply had enough of wearing bras. They're also big fans of LB, so you can imagine it was a no-brainer project for us.

Our writer Nadine outlines her frustrations that come with an accessory prescribed to women since young. She gets to try LB's new bra-less fashion line, one that offers looks and comfort in ways she never once imagined.

For the photoshoot—which Nadine was unable to attend—we got our colleague Melissa, a working mom who never fails to serve looks in the office, to show just how LB's new creations feel liberating. These outfits really are great!

**Ditch the Discomfort:
Embrace Padded Styles for
All-Day Work Comfort**

What's Cooking?

In this new section, we track all the big moves happening in our little city.

Join us for *Breakfast Meets: Pitch Perfect*, an intimate gathering of professionals to hone their pitch presentation skills.

On the business side of RICE, we'll be holding an early-morning session once a month to talk about the art of pitching. 15 spots only, RSVP [here](#) before it's all fully booked!

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

- More on the [three-way battle](#) of a presidential race that awaits us. (*via The Straits Times*)
 - We asked our readers [what our national dish should be](#), because it can't only be chili crab. Come on.
 - An unfortunate customer data leak has resulted in a [S\\$74,000 fine](#) for e-commerce platform ShopBack. (*via TODAY*)
 - A foreign worker is [suing his company for S\\$100,000](#) over an accident stemming from an overcrowded lorry. (*via CNA*)
 - In other news, it's been made clear: hanging LGBTQ flags in public is [not illegal](#). (*via CNA*)
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A year ago, we put together a battle of wits and ping-pong to ask: are Gen Zs fucking up the workplace? And how did this sentiment come to be?

Are Gen Zs F*%king Up the Workplace?

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. The annual [Singapore Night Festival](#) is back to take over town with flashy lights and artful performances.
2. Somewhere else in town, the CBD is getting its own make-over at Raffles Place Park with the [Sunday Social Market](#), complete with an artisanal market, all-day DJ sets, movie screenings, and a playground for kids.
3. At the Botanic Gardens, bring your dog for an evening filled with live jazz music. [Jazz for Dogs](#) happens this Sunday. Now, we're just waiting for Cantopop for Cats.
4. [Mosaic](#), a new play by Joel Tan, will be staged this weekend at Esplanade's SingTel Waterfront Theatre.

5. For the metalheads: Metallica's ongoing *M72 World Tour* will be broadcast live as a two-parter at [The Projector](#) this weekend.

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