



Takeaways

A newsletter by RICE



Life's losses.

We're midway into November, so of course we're starting to look back at the year.

But, before we scare you into a Year in Review to make time feel fickle, this week's newsletter looks back at the year in retrospect on the people—and places—we've lost.

If you lost someone this year, we're thinking of you. The process that comes with the sudden absence of someone you cherish—or once did—is difficult and unimaginable. Not just because of how painful it can get, but that its impact on the self can manifest in ways we won't expect.

For me, your newsletter writer, I lost someone I once counted as a dear friend. In the early days of social media, building a friendship with someone online was rare and, ultimately, special. We never spent much time in person, but we had a sweet friendship emblazoned by long MSN chat logs. I don't have those anymore.

In this period, making friends outside of school alone was a strange and new sensation. We shared similar interests—we both really liked emo music and the television show *Friends*. We both loved Chandler. We both hated Ross. We lost contact as I entered a new life of enlistment and, for both of us, employment.

I had always looked back on the times we were online instead of studying. I could

have had an opportunity to reconnect before she left. But she has—and, strangely enough, days before *Friends* actor Matthew Perry, aka Chandler, died. RIP Sirin. He couldn't *be* any more lucky meeting you up there.

This week, loss was ever present in Singapore. We had the unfortunate news of Yaw Shin Leong's passing—the former Workers' Party member and Hougang SMC MP. While his name mainly draws memories of his exit from the party, and his ministerial duties, we thought it was due time to reflect on his impact on Singaporean politics within the past two decades.

That also brought to mind the figureheads that Singapore lost this year. Among those superstars, we also lost Turf Club. 2023 sucks alone for all of this—but we have some time left. Let's celebrate with what we have right now.

*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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Amos in AMK



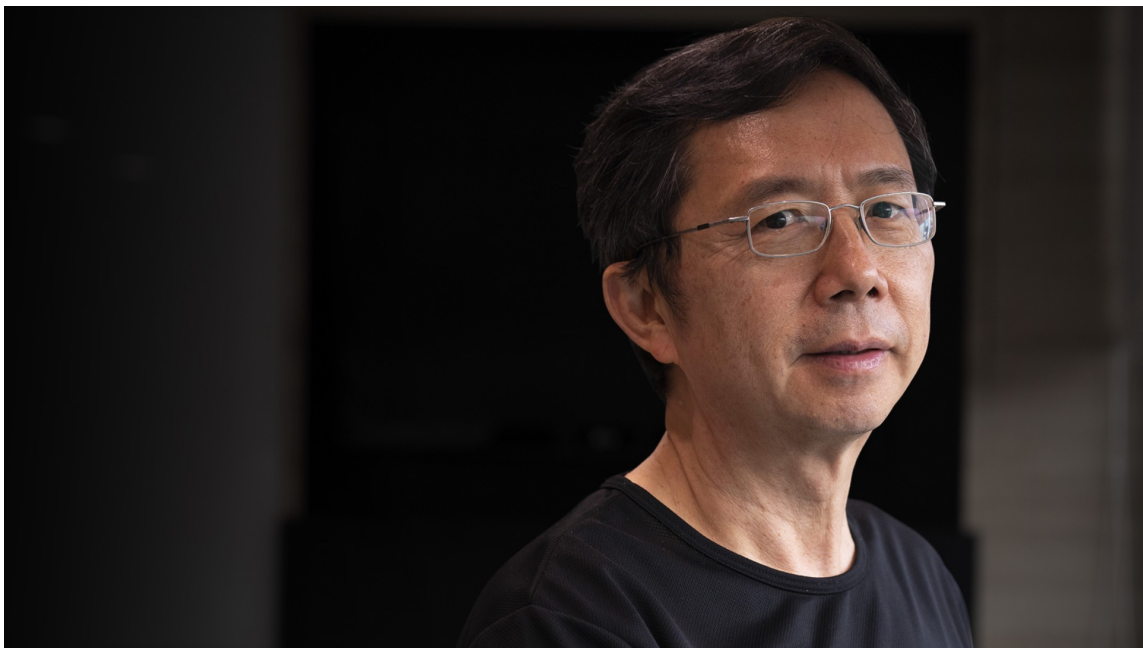
When it comes to Yaw Shin Leong's legacy, most would remember his unceremonious exit from the Workers' Party back in 2012.

He'd spent the last decade away from the spotlight, but it should also be remembered that he was key in changing the tides back in 2006—going against Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong to contest Ang Mo Kio GRC. What was seen as a sure-fire losing battle saw him and his team emerge with a respectable 33.86% of the vote.

Back then, it was a huge deal. Now, it's a notable milestone in the story of Singapore's most prominent opposition party. And despite the headlines that would soon cloud his public name, we should not forget it.

**Yaw Shin Leong and a
Potential Legacy Cut Short**

Reality Bytes



Our writer, Kimberly, says it best: Sim Wong Hoo was in a class of his own.

In the 1990s, the founder and CEO of Creative Technologies propelled his homegrown company into the international spotlight—with, among others, the Creative Sound Blast and the MP3 player Creative Zen.

His imprints were all over a generation of Singaporeans who played MP3s on the way to school, or Funan acolytes who made computer upgrades a national sport. Above all, the philosophy that guided his business is something we can all take away from.

Beyond Creative, Sim Wong Hoo's 'No U-Turn Syndrome' Strikes a Singaporean Chord

Do Play Play



If you're looking for a stay-in weekend binge, and your experience with Singaporean cinema is still green, might we suggest putting on *The Teenage Textbook Movie*?

The adaptation of the 1988 book *The Teenage Textbook*, which is currently streaming on Netflix, holds up best as a quirky time-capsule of 1990s teen culture, and the book itself is a fragment of the wondrous creativity of an unlikely figure: lawyer Adrian Tan.

And yet, in light of his passing this year, the tributes laid out for Adrian fall in line with the voice that would guide the Singapore teen-lit classic: quoting Law Minister K Shanmugam, he was a "true Renaissance man".

**Adrian Tan, The King of
Singapore, Reminds
Singaporeans to Play**

Life Made Better



Last year, our writer Amanda illustrated the grief that came with mourning someone who, while not a public figure, is one you would see in public day to day.

Amanda grew up with a domestic helper. The practice of hiring a maid is a tenuous topic, in light of countless upsetting headlines about their continual mistreatment. For Amanda, however, her childhood was shaped with the presence of someone she considered like a mother.

The Helpers We Throw Away

Life After Death



Months ago, we also took a look into the heavy job of transporting caskets—dealing with the bodies of Singaporeans who have moved on beyond life.

“These people deserve a proper send-off, and knowing the meaning of my job helps me carry on,” says our main profile Adrian Tay. His niece, Victoria, tells us his story in this piece.

**The Weight of the Departed:
Finding Meaning in
Transporting Dead Bodies**

Celebration of Light and Life



We would be remiss not to mention the recent commemoration of Deepavali, a truly restorative time of year for Singapore's Hindus, and a time when Little India dazzles with festivities and pure light.

Here, we ask our readers what Deepavali means to them: as a precious time for family bonding, as a period of communal joy, and as the "spirit of giving and compassion".

**Singaporeans Speak on
the Joy of Deepavali**

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

- For the women and female-identifying readers of RICE, we have a giveaway just for you.
- It's official: December is the month of the Assurance Package, with up to S\$800 going to every Singaporean household. (via CNA)

- For the first time, SkillsFuture has released a report with a forecast of the types of job skills to grow in demand—particularly, within the digital and care sectors. (via *CNA*)
 - The primary cast members of beloved television show *Friends* have released their heartfelt tributes to fallen co-star Matthew Perry. (via *AsiaOne*)
 - Hotel chain Hilton Australia is encouraging prospective employees to apply for their jobs with... TikTok videos. (via *The Guardian*)
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Far from the chaos of city life, Roni works 10-hour shifts as a lighthouse keeper. He takes care of Raffles Lighthouse at Pulau Satumu, and he calls it the perfect job.

Lighthouse Keeper: A Dream Job?

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. Singapore has enjoyed plenty of international F&B franchises here, except for one. The wait is over: [Tim Hortons launches this weekend at VivoCity](#).
2. Sports fest Trifecta Open House will host their own [music festival](#) this weekend with a stacked line-up: Phum Viphurit, Fazerdaze, Ruel, Forests, Shye, and more are set to perform.
3. The annual [French Film Festival](#) is underway at The Projector. If there's one film to catch, it's the searing courtroom drama *Anatomy of a Fall*, which won the Palme D'Or at this year's Cannes Film Festival.
4. As part of their annual benefit efforts, the National Gallery will host an [underground dance party](#), replete with curation by SOHO House and complimentary cocktails by Smoke & Mirrors and Roku Gin.
5. Not a physical event, but one to take note of: this year's Black Friday sales starts this Monday, 20th Nov. [Amazon](#), as always, has its landing page and deal highlights ready.

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