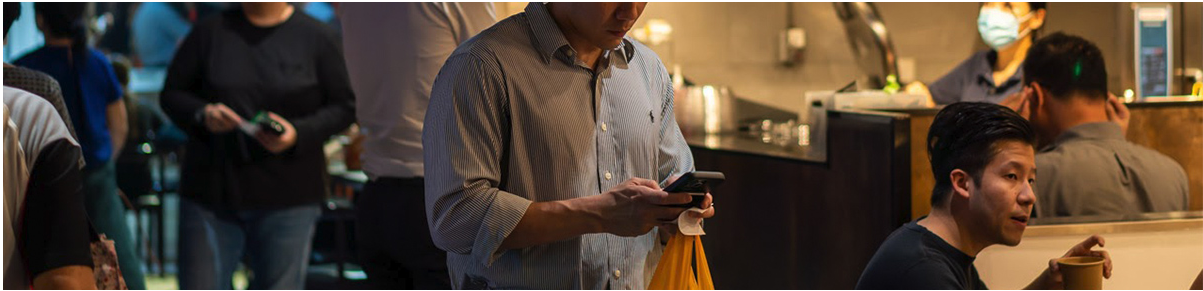




Takeaways

A newsletter by RICE



Being seen in Singapore

We're reaching a good 20 years since the 2000s. It was point in time that was genuinely groundbreaking when it came to technology.

Just look at the slate of handphones we had back then. The evolution from Motorola flip-phones to sleek, miniscule Sony Ericssons, chunky Blackberrys to future-ready iPhones—the way we interacted with each other could change dramatically by the year.

And that's not even addressing social media: relatively new websites like Friendster and Hi5 were rendered almost obsolete once Facebook arrived.

That's to say that we'll continue looking back at that decade, and that's not just because of the renaissance of Y2K aesthetics. It was the period Singapore found a new source of aggregated tabloid content, and it was reader-driven: STOMP. It can be argued that it laid the groundwork for how Singaporeans interact with the technology offered to us consumers as a means of surveillance.

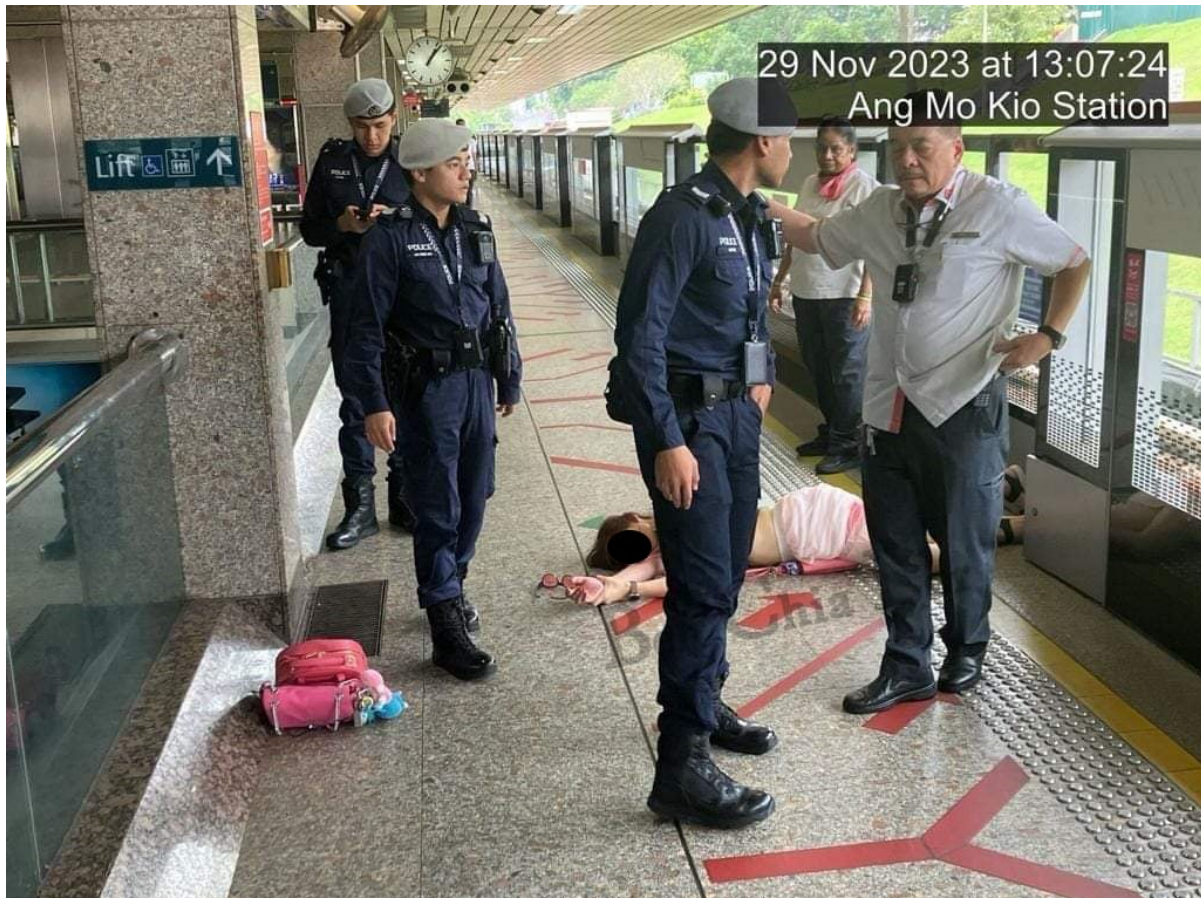
Now, we can find what STOMP once offered us on our social media feeds. And we won't get into the larger discourse about its ramifications of how we live, work and play in this Lion City.

But our slate of reporting this week begs the question: *will we ever, just for a while, put our phones down?*

*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!*

*If you like our content and our vibes, consider being a **RICE Media patron** to support the work we do.*

Heckling with Clout



This week, a woman occupied headlines, while making the case that some people have nothing else better to do.

On Nov. 29, a commuter named Vanessa was spotted prying the doors of an MRT train via a widely-circulated video captured by an onlooker. Other quick-moving

users brought up that it wasn't the first time.

What has transpired is a sorry state of the way Singaporeans see, and treat, people who suffer from mental health afflictions. And it's even more dire when misgendering is involved.

When Your Gender and Mental Health Become Tabloid Fodder

A Gut-Churning 'Gotcha'



Nothing represents the concerning ways Singaporeans amplify their opinions online more than the @zohtaco fiasco.

A 17-year-old showed off her nice new bag in a TikTok clip, all before getting flamed mercilessly online for her enthusiasm. The ensuing (unnecessary) events showed in stark fashion how far some of us would go to knock a stranger—in this case, an actual **kid**—down a peg. Yup, justice served.

Overzealous Boomers are Obsessed with @zohtaco. It's Weirding Everyone Out.

Misinformation Mania



Even going back to circuit breaker-era Singapore, phones were out as a means of capturing misbehaviour.

While it was a literally dangerous time for us to be out in public, caution was turned into vigilantism by some—resulting in online discourse rife with misinformation, racism, and alarmist rhetoric.

**In the Face of Covid-19,
POFMA Has Proven as Effective
as a Wet Noodle**

Restricted View



Concerts are expensive these days. It is truly a Singaporean past-time to squeeze very value out of our dollar.

Under this ethos, it's easy to see some would want something to take back home from what is essentially an ephemeral event, instead of a lasting product—in this case, filming moments from a concert that you can rewatch to your heart's content.

But, when concerts offer crowds intimacy with artists, are we being considerate to those around us when we do so?

The Singaporean Obsession with Filming Concerts

Money Moods



Yes, most of us middle to lower-income folks squeeze every dollar we can. Singapore itself is expensive.

This month, most of us received a cash amount as part of our government's Assurance Package, an initiative anticipating next year's GST hike. \$800 is a lot of money. Maybe not to some, but you can splurge with \$800.

After Singapore, once again, made headlines for being the World's Most Expensive City, our writer Yan Yun weighs the state of our economy alongside the facts and fiction that subsume this never-ending topic.

**Singapore Is an Expensive City.
Let's Just Embrace It.**

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

- Last weekend, ZoukOut became the scene of a crackdown by HSA agents— 176 revellers were fined for possessing vape devices at the dance music festival. (via CNA)
 - \$1 curry buns meant for low-income elderlies were quickly swept up by other customers. The bakery owner has responded to the demand, telling Singaporeans to be considerate to the elderly customers it's meant for. (via AsiaOne)
 - Scalper-owned tickets for the upcoming concert by J-pop duo Yoasobi have been voided by organisers and rereleased to the public via a ballot system. (via The Straits Times)
 - Japan has legalised the medical use of marijuana, while clamping down further against recreational usage. (via SCMP)
 - How's this for a strange story: a US chocolate mogul has been charged with murder. The victim is an animator, whose work includes innovating the VFX for films like *Jurassic Park* and *The Matrix*. (via The Guardian)
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When it comes to finding that dream home, Singaporeans are naturally meticulous in choosing where to settle down. We spoke to those who opted for Jalan Anak Bukit as their neighbourhood to uncover what makes the area feel like home to them.

Where's the Best Place to Live in Singapore?

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. Geek out at Singapore Comic Con, where it's comics, games, cosplay and toys galore at Sands Expo and Convention Centre. Tickets are on sale—and you can only get them [online](#).
2. Party collective VV is back with the fourth edition of their queer party, [Intervention](#), this time at Projector X Cineleisure.
3. Do some last-minute Christmas Shopping at [Thryft Weekend Garden](#), happening this weekend at Peace Centre—which has since been made an artsy, small-business paradise before its en-bloc transformation next year.
4. Aphasia SG is selling popcorn to [raise funds](#) for 2024. All proceeds go to the running of free community programs for persons with Aphasia and their caretakers.
5. For more Christmas gift-shopping, look no further than... *Sentosa*? That's right—it's a cold day at the warmest beach in Singapore at Sentosa's [Festive Sentosa Fair](#).

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