

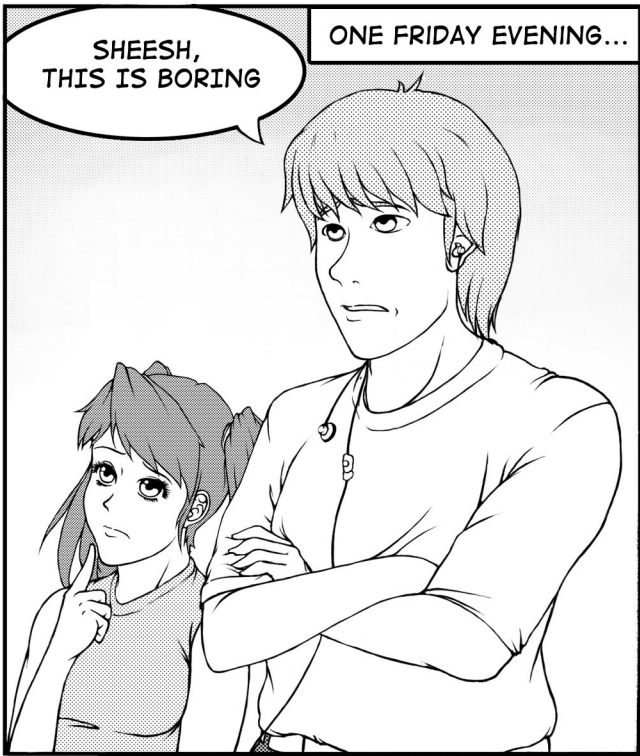
FIXED!

LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD -
THE CCS OFFICERS SET THINGS RIGHT



Competition
Commission
SINGAPORE

STORY AND ARTWORK BY COLLATERAL DAMAGE STUDIO

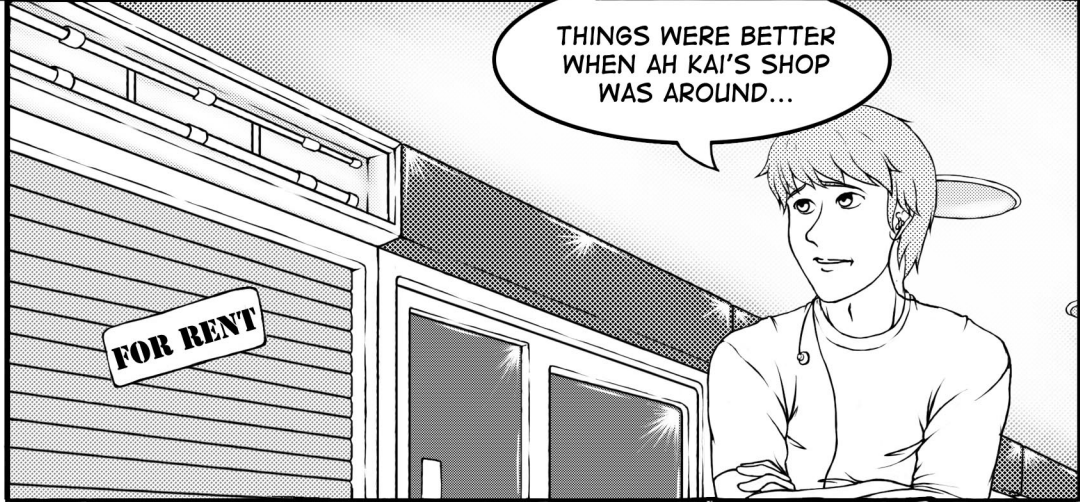


SHEESH,
THIS IS BORING

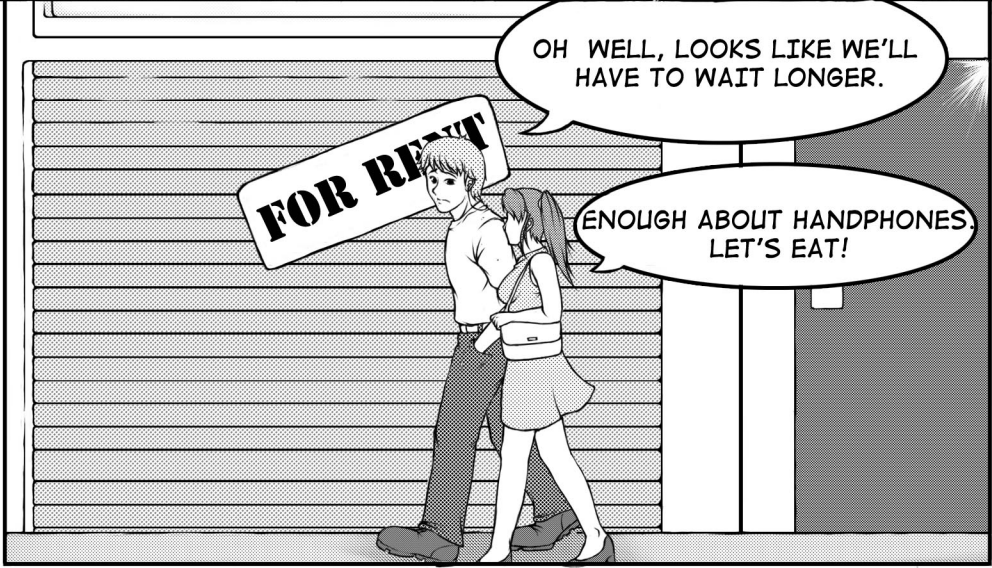
ONE FRIDAY EVENING...



THE PHONES ARE
RIDICULOUSLY EXPENSIVE &
THEY'RE SLOW TO BRING IN THE
NEWER MODELS



THINGS WERE BETTER
WHEN AH KAI'S SHOP
WAS AROUND...

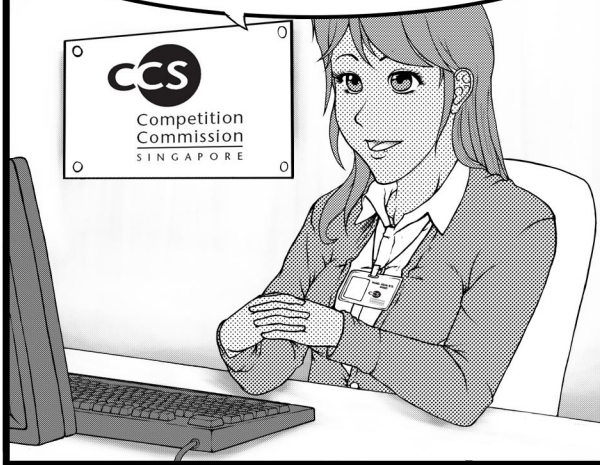


OH WELL, LOOKS LIKE WE'LL
HAVE TO WAIT LONGER.

ENOUGH ABOUT HANDPHONES.
LET'S EAT!

MEANWHILE, AT THE COMPETITION COMMISSION OF SINGAPORE...

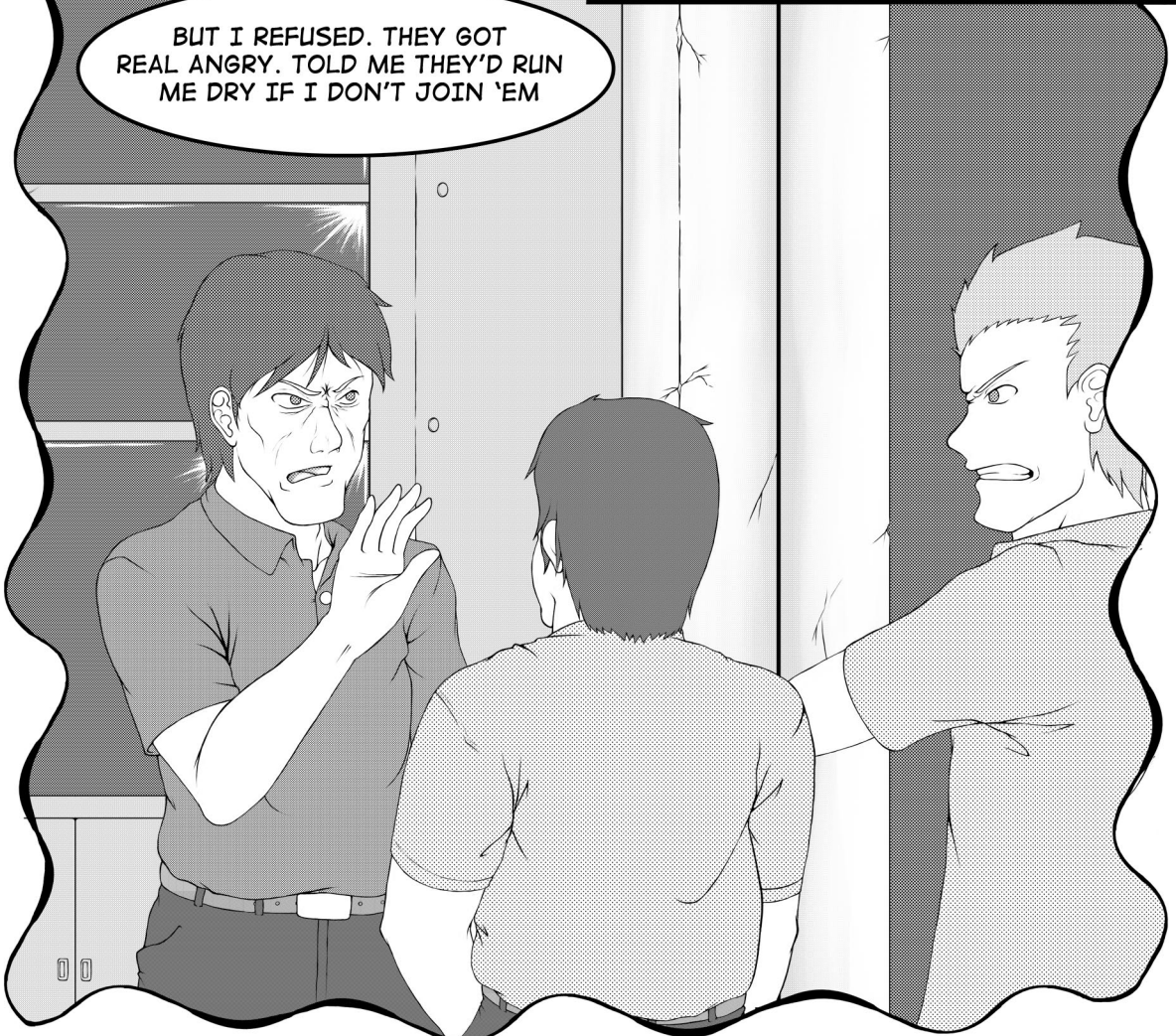
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT A CHAIN OF HANDPHONE SHOPS ARE IN THIS GROUP TO ELIMINATE COMPETITORS, AH KAI?



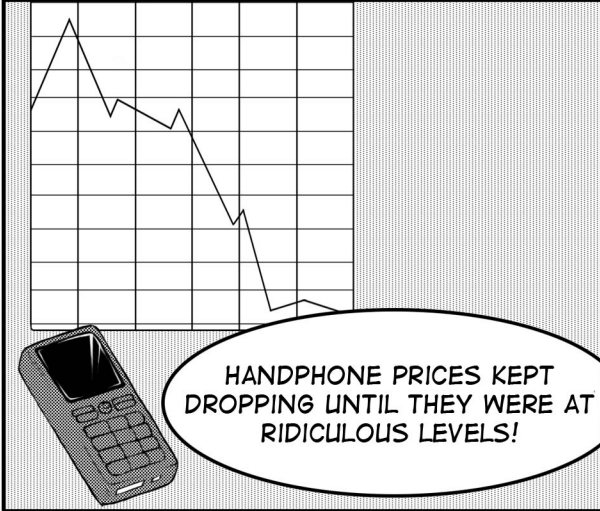
YEAH, THEY ASKED ME IF I WANNA JOIN 'EM



BUT I REFUSED. THEY GOT REAL ANGRY. TOLD ME THEY'D RUN ME DRY IF I DON'T JOIN 'EM



I COULDN'T KEEP UP. I WAS LOSING...
THEY HAD SLASHED THEIR
PRICES SO LOW I LOST OUT.



HANDPHONE PRICES KEPT
DROPPING UNTIL THEY WERE AT
RIDICULOUS LEVELS!

EVENTUALLY, I HAD TO
CLOSE SHOP...

FOR RENT

NOT LONG AFTER THAT, HANDPHONE
PRICES SKY-ROCKETED! MY REGULARS &
OTHER CUSTOMERS COMPLAINED TO ME
ABOUT THIS. THERE'S OBVIOUSLY
SOMETHING GOING ON HERE...



WE'VE NOTED YOUR COMPLAINT, AH KAI. WE WILL LOOK INTO THIS MATTER AND KEEP YOU INFORMED.



WE'RE FROM THE COMPETITION COMMISSION OF SINGAPORE. WE'RE HERE TO CHECK ON THE ACCOUNTS OF THE STORE.



L-LET ME CALL MY MANAGER...



THE COMPLAINT LOOKS LEGITIMATE. WE SHOULD INVESTIGATE IT.

I AGREE WITH YOU. LET'S DO IT.



I'LL GO CHECK ON THE SHOP ACCOUNTING RECORDS.

THEN I'LL GO AHEAD & CONTACT SOME OF THE HANDPHONE CONSUMERS.



ISN'T THE PRICE TOO HIGH?

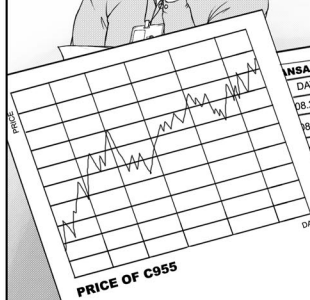
WHY WORRY? WE OWN THE 2ND HAND HANDPHONE MARKET. WE CAN SET ANY PRICE WE WANT!

LUCKY THAT AH KAI FELLA GAVE UP FAST.

PI! PI! PI!



ALRIGHT, WE'VE GOT A CASE.
LET'S CALL THEM IN...



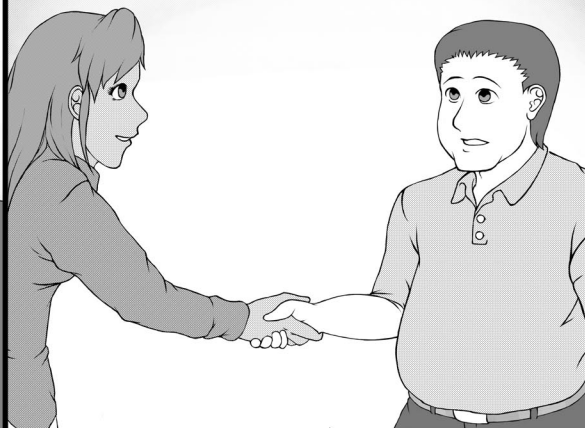
TRANSACTIONS FOR MONTH OF AUGUST 2008					
DATE	AMOUNT	ITEM	TYPE	STAFF	
08.2009	\$860.00	C955	NETS	ANDY	
08.2009	\$880.00	N2000	CASH	JULIE	
08.2009	\$860.00	C955	NETS	ANDY	
08.2009	\$890.00	S60	NETS	ANDY	
08.2009	\$860.00	C955	NETS	ANDY	
2009	\$100.00	N2002	CASH	JULIE	
2009	\$860.00	C955	NETS	ANDY	
2009	\$150.00	C925	CASH	JULIE	
2009	\$860.00	C955	NETS	ANDY	
2009	\$860.00	C955	NETS	JULIE	
2009	\$860.00	C955	NETS	JULIE	
2009	\$860.00	C955	NETS	ANDY	



PLEASE HAVE A SEAT.



THANK YOU FOR
YOUR COOPERATION.



WE WILL LET YOU KNOW THE
OUTCOME OF THE INVESTIGATION...



SOME TIME LATER...

CCS Issues
Infringement Decision

CARTEL BUSTED!
 Under Section 34, involved parties were fined.

CCS Fines Resale Handphone Cartel

Price Fixing is Illegal

(Note: The background of this panel is filled with a repeating pattern of the text "Price Fixing is Illegal, however, he warned.")

IT WAS NOT ONLY THE CONSUMERS THAT BENEFITTED, RETAILERS COULD REAP THE PROFITS OF THEIR HARD EARNED EFFORT WITHOUT FEAR OF BEING OUTDONE BY A CARTEL.



AH KAI'S HANDS



“Fixed” was intended to help you identify possible cartel activities and show you how to bring them to the attention of the Competition Commission of Singapore (CCS). CCS was set up to administer and enforce the Competition Act and to maintain and promote competitive markets.

What is a cartel?

A cartel is an agreement between producers or suppliers of a good or service to fix prices and/or limit their production. There are 4 main types of cartel conduct :

- (a) Price Fixing
- (b) Bid Rigging
- (c) Market Sharing
- (d) Production Controls

Why are cartels bad?

Cartels prevent competition since there is little or no incentive to lower prices or provide better quality goods or services. For example, economic studies have shown that cartels, on average, overcharge by 30%, thus raising costs. As a result, businesses and consumers are hurt and there is likely to be harm to the Singapore economy as well.

How can CCS help you if you spot a cartel?

Although cartels generally operate in secret, you may be in a position to spot them in your industry. You can alert CCS and CCS will investigate accordingly. CCS has substantial investigation powers which it can exercise.

You may contact CCS at the following :

CCS Hotline
1800 325 8282

Email

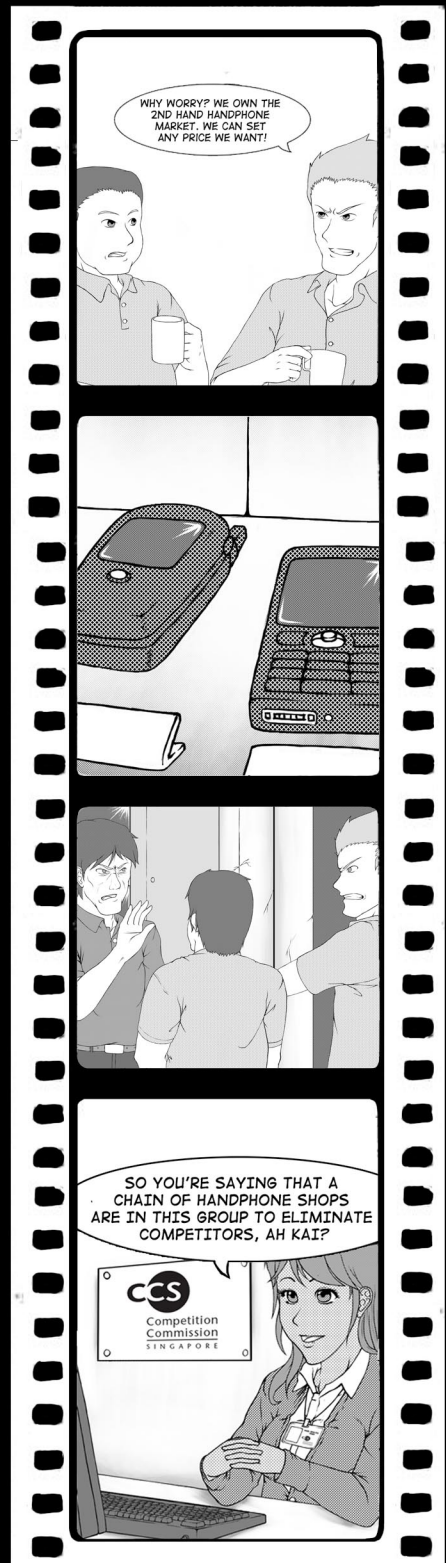
ccs_feedback@ccs.gov.sg (Enquiries/Feedback)
ccs_complaints@ccs.gov.sg (Complaint)

How can CCS help if you are part of a cartel?

CCS has a leniency programme to encourage cartel members to come forward to provide information on the cartel.

Under the leniency programme, a cartel member who is the first to come forward and provide evidence of cartel activity before investigations start, will be given full immunity from financial penalty.

More information can be found at www.ccs.gov.sg





Competition
Commission
S I N G A P O R E

*Championing competition
for Growth & Choice*

FIXED!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY MANZART OF

C.D.S

COLLATERAL DAMAGE STUDIO