Orchard Road in need of a facelift?

With newer retail options such as VivoCity, and the convenience of neighbourhood malls, have the stalwarts of Orchard Road lost their place with the young? Youthlnk writers wonder

Tackle the sidewalk squeeze

ORCHARD Road was once poised to join the ranks of renowned commercial districts such as the Champs Elysees in Paris.

Sadly, the premier shopping district of Singapore has been tainted by throngs of street surveyors, flag sellers and disorganised road-shows.

The plan to create a vibrant stretch along Orchard Road by introducing buskers and street vendors works if the sidewalks were sufficiently large to accommodate these permanent fixtures.

If the fixed space is barely enough for the high volume of human traffic, it is inconceivable that we squeeze more onto our sidewalks. Moreover, recent incidents have reminded us of the safety violations presented by excessive obstruction.

Couple the space constraints and suffocating crowds with the blaring announcements from the alternating road-show hosts, and you've got a recipe for a migraine.

But wait, did I mention the incessant waving of clipboards in your face by overzealous salespeople as well? Sheer annoyance has never manifested itself that explicitly.

Visit Orchard Road? If friends from out of town were to visit, I shall do them a favour and take them home instead.

Alicia Ng, 23, is a final-year accounting student at the Singapore Management University