

FC7

SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC
FOOD COURT SEVEN

COVER NISAR AHAMED



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For
Nisar Ahamed
“Boss”

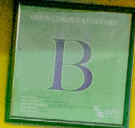
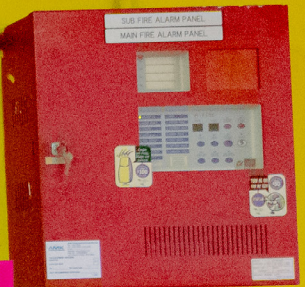




NO ENTRY

17 24
18 25
19 26
20 27

Shelf with electronic equipment including a stereo system and a power supply unit.



STRAW
HERE





FC7

Singapore Polytechnic is home to 6 Food Courts. Spread across the 38 hectare campus, they are named FC1 to FC6 respectively.

However, unknown to much of the student population is a 7th Food Court. One that is located in the heartlands of Clementi.

To a certain community of students, **FC7** is a fitting name for a place like Prata Frenzy.

It is familiar. It is nostalgic. It is the setting for stories to be passed down for decades to come. Countless fond memories fostered out of meaningful friendships, not just between its patrons but with those behind Prata Frenzy as well.

Our zine, FC7, seeks to explore those themes of friendship. We want to shed light on the place and it's people, to encapsulate **The Frenzy Experience.**



Boy,
Why
No
Order?



A Fine Place
To Dine In !

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Ya' Kareem Ya' Ra'aziq

PRATA FRENZY

Best of Prata,
Mee Goreng
& Teh Tarik



AL HAFEEZUR

Family Restaurant — Managed by Garden Assets Pte Ltd

#01-235

Behind The Name



“

I don't want a common name, I don't want to put my name, my son's name. So it started like that, we want something different. We selling prata! Then I suggest, Prata Corner? But, my shop is not in the corner, so I put here (changing the name to) Prata Frenzy. We want to be friendly to the customers, so, Prata Frenzy, (to me was a) unique name I chose.

The N and Z in the logo is me and my wife initials. **Al Hafeezur** is my son name, so that's why the logo is like that.

We are Frenzy always.
Always friends with customers.

Nisar Ahamed Boss

A familiar figure to all who visit Prata Frenzy. Commonly referred to as “Boss”, he was born in India and moved to Singapore as a child in pursuit of a better life.

He eventually achieved his goal of being a mini-mart owner through multiple ventures. Not long after, he was presented with the opportunity of opening Prata Frenzy.

Now, 41, Boss brings a smile to his customers through his food, complemented with his bubbly and friendly personality. Catching up with regular customers ranging from residents to students from all institutions nearby, he even remembers many of their regular orders.

When asked what the weirdest order he remembered was, he looked at a member of our crew, Ryan, and repeated the order, “Maggie Goreng. No spicy. No chilli. No meat. No vegetable. Extra egg and maggie.”





“If I never work hard, I cannot talk to you”.

Boss dedicates himself to the business and works tirelessly to provide his patrons with the best service, often paying particularly close attention to the amount of food leftover. “I will ask why never finish? Is it not good? Whatever customer say, I will improve.”



Boss, No Problem!

"SP Students, they're very easy to handle, nothing to worry about. We take our own time to serve them, they never force us to be quicker. They come Prata Frenzy, order already, they just relax. So even if their food come late also, **"Boss no problem!"**. They can wait. That I very happy with the SP students. They never force "Faster! Faster!" They never do that."

by Nisar Ahamed



Passing It Down

Livia Chow was first introduced to Frenzy in her first year of polytechnic. “I went to Frenzy in June,” she tells me, “I was preparing for my caste event.” Caste events, she explained, were events planned by Media, Arts and Design (MAD) year 1 students. Those students were part of MAD club, also known as ‘MADC’.

When I asked what her experience was like with MADC, Livia had nothing but good things to say about the friends and memories made. “I think those friends are going to stick with me for my next three years of poly,” she says.

‘Club’ life, referring to her experience with MADC was a significant factor in her 1st year of polytechnic. “It was very nice to be responsible of such a big event and have a part to play”, she says, referring to her caste event, a camp planned by Celarus. “It made me feel very significant, that I had a place in the club”, she adds.

In fact, her caste mentors were the ones to first bring her caste, Celarus, to Frenzy. Livia tells me that Ryan, MADC’s president, had initially said that after meetings, people from MADC would usually go to Frenzy for supper or dinner. “It was something I looked forward to.”, she recalls.

“Our entire caste went, so that was like 18 people or something,” she started. “What surprised me was that they managed to find seats for us very quickly.” I hid a smile upon hearing that, personally recalling the trips my friends and I made to the place in groups of 10s and sometimes even in 20s if there happened to be a school event which we were coming from.

Like she said, we would always have a seat no matter what. It is as though there really could never be too many of us at Frenzy. It still surprises me to this day when I see stampede after stampede of hungry poly students approaching Frenzy at 9 or 10pm. As worrying of a sight that may be to you, me, or all the other store owners that have packed up and gone home for the day, Boss simply smiles and asks, “How many people?”.

At this point, Livia adds a memorable point in the conversation.

“Also, it’s the location, after eating, everyone doesn’t have to leave immediately,” Livia continues. I nod, curious to see what else she has to add. “Everyone just walks to Clementi together. I think that’s a very memorable part of eating at Frenzy.”

“The walk?” I ask.

“Yeah, the walk.” She says.


“Tell me more.” I say.

Livia smiles. “After eating, I’ll feel very hesitant to go home because I’m enjoying myself. But then I remember, oh, there’s still the walk to Clementi.”

Most of the time, it’s around 11pm when we leave Frenzy. Remember how I mentioned some people would rather walk than pay a bus fare? Well, that applies to the journey back too. Now with full bellies and a train ride back home being the only thing left to rush for, most, if not all, usually choose to walk to Clementi MRT. “On the walk...You really get to talk and people usually do very stupid things while walking.” She laughs. “That’s memorable for me.”

When I asked her if she had any unforgettable memories, her answer surprised me. Livia tells me of a time where her caste and some seniors went to Frenzy. While they were there, they saw some year 3s, the previous main committee. “I thought it was so cool that they still went there, that they still hung out with each other,” she emphasized. “It really showed the bond you can make through club.”

The interview ended with a strong sense of nostalgia with that being the last question of the interview. Hearing Livia’s experience of her time at Frenzy reminded me of my ‘soon to end’ polytechnic experience. In my three years of polytechnic, I have been blessed with many memories from different people and places. Frenzy is definitely one of them. It is no wonder that Frenzy is deserving of the name, ‘FC7’.

A blue plastic chair is positioned on the right side of the image, set against a background of a red brick floor. The chair is a simple, modern design with a high back and four legs. The lighting is warm and directional, coming from the upper left, which casts a long, dark shadow of the chair onto the bricks to its right. The bricks are laid in a traditional running bond pattern. In the upper left corner, the dark, out-of-focus legs of a table or another chair are visible, suggesting an outdoor seating area.

Despite my sentimental ramblings of how great of a place Frenzy is, there is also some practicality behind why it is such a favorite. Apart from its location, it has lots of seating and a smoking area, so everyone really stays together. Though not a smoker myself, I'd be lying if I said my friends didn't take off with a cigarette in hand after placing their orders. Thankfully, Frenzy's combination of iconic coffeeshop chairs and outdoor seating next to a relatively quiet HDB estate makes for convenient conversation between smokers and nonsmokers for **hours on end**. A combination that is surprisingly and disappointingly rare.

Seats





Boss gazes towards the flat above.
Infamous among frequent customers,
"Auntie" only begins her performances
after 10PM. With an arsenal of chicken
wing bones, tissue papers and sometimes,
when she is feeling generous, her mandarin
orange peels. She never fails to entertain
the audience admiring her from below.

Quiet
Please
It's
10PM

**The magical thing
is seeing someone
you haven't in a
long time. There's
that surprise factor
everytime I
visit Frenzy.**

What's so special about Frenzy?

**Honestly, to me, it's
Boss. He makes
everything better
and also the people
ah. No point coming
here to not talk to
the people I'm here
with. A good place
to just hang out,
not use your phone.
Just gossip.**





PLAYGROUND
PLAYGROUND
PLAYGROUND
PLAYGROUND
PLAYGROUND
PLAYGROUND
PLAYGROUND
PLAYGROUND
PLAYGROUND
PLAYGROUND
PLAYGROUND





Don't Use Your Phone Lah

It's like a routine. We're in the clubroom. All our friends are around. Frenzy is a must-go. You come here, eat, drink, smoke, talk cock. Before you know it, it's 10:30pm. Some would head back home but for many of us who still want to *lepak*, we'd go to the **playground**.



There was a time we just decided to play blind mice. When we all wanted to leave already, we made Max the blind mice.

Max is this guy who has super high degree in his specs, so we made him take off his glasses. He wanted to do a countdown and chase us. While he was counting, we took all of our bags and ran all the way to the MRT.

If you have time before the last train, you'll go to the playground, for sure.

Old Times

When the seniors were still in school, we'd go to the playground on top, over there, to chill after Frenzy. Because we're all quite close, when a new person comes into the group, there's this tradition involving this one box in the playground. We'll put the new person into the box, and we'll shake (him). I mean, the new person also knows what's gonna happen la. That's like the tradition, to welcome them into the circle.





MESSAGE FROM TEAM

We are a group of friends that have been patronising Prata Frenzy since our first year in Polytechnic. As we approach our final year, we recall this familiar place where lots of fond memories were created. Being a part of club culture, we were fortunate to have this unique experience. Passing it down and sharing this place with others. We would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to “Boss” for being ever so accomodating and assisting us in helping us convey *The Frenzy Experience* through our eyes.

THE TEAM

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Derrick, Lutfil, Bariah, Livia

ata Fre

ZUR Family Restaurant — Managed by Garde

