

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'. The year 1 students were then split into 4 castes, Monoker, Auriga, Delphius and Celarus, each in charge of their own significant event.

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 be sticking with me for my next three years of poly." she says.

'Club' life, referring to her experience with MADC has also another 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, the biggest event and finale of all 4 caste events. I even attended it, as I was a MADC senior at the time. "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.

Like Livia and most Frenzy regulars, I was first introduced to the place in my first year of polytechnic as well. Though my memory of it is pretty hazy, having it been a good 2 years ago, Livia was able to tell me how hers was.

"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.

And like she said, no matter what, we'd always have a seat, 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 that may be to me or you, or all the other store owners that have packed up and gone home for the day, Boss simply smiles and asks, "How many people?".

Livia tells me that even though her caste did hang out together in school or during meetings, it was usually just about the work or about the event. "Frenzy was really a place where we got to bond."

Despite my sentimental ramblings of how great of a place Frenzy is, there is also some practicality behind why it's such a favorite with SP students. "Frenzy has a lot of seating," Livia explains. "You can also smoke close to the place, so everyone really stays together." I nod vigorously in agreement.

Though not a smoker myself, I'd be lying if I said majority of my friends didn't take off with a cigarette in hand almost immediately after placing their orders. Thankfully, Frenzy's combination of iconic coffeeshop chairs and outdoor seating next to relatively quiet HDB estate makes for convenient conversation between smokers and nonsmokers for hours on end. A combination that is surprisingly and disappointingly rare.

At this point, Livia adds a memorable 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.

In that moment, I honestly felt like smacking my head. Of course, how could we forget about the walk. 4 Frenzy veterans yet none of us thought about covering the aspect of the walk after Frenzy. "Tell me more." I say.

Livia smiles. "After eating, I'll feel very hesitant to 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 on the journey back too. Though 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 when they walk." 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 how there was this one time where her caste and some seniors went to Frenzy. While they were there, they saw some year 3s, the previous batch's 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."

With that being one of the last questions of the interview, it really ended it off with a strong sense of nostalgia. 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 had the chance to have been blessed with many memories from different people and different places and Frenzy is definitely one of them. It's no wonder that Frenzy is deserving of the name, 'FC7'.