

What's Your Pick?

Judging by the denizens of cool hanging out at Ngee Ann Polytechnic's (NP) spiffy Lifestyle Library, it's not hard to deduce that *this* is the house of fun. **hyper** finds out how the funky folks chill at various hot spots throughout the library.

text **Eva Ellinghausen** photos **Md Basheer**

Spotted!

Orry Goh, first-year Electronic & Computer Engineering student

What's Your Pick? "Fire & Ice! The goal of this game is to gain control over three 'islands'. A player controls an 'island' when he has three of his playing pieces, connected by a line or circle, in an 'island'. I like Fire & Ice 'cos it's really fun. Maybe it's also because I'm a master of the game! When my friends and I have breaks in between lectures, we'll rush here to play board games. I see it as a stress-easing opportunity to get away from the classroom and also to get to know my schoolmates better."

Where's Orry? **BOARD GAMES ZONE.** If you hear students suddenly squawking like chickens or snorting like pigs, don't be alarmed. They're just playing Snorta, one of some 60 games available for free rental to NP students.

Stroll into this cosy cove and take your pick from the wide-ranging games, all recommended by NP students. Depending on your choice, you can expect to hone your financial-planning and strategy skills, improve your vocabulary or just indulge in silly, good fun! The student-manned Board Games Zone has board game favourites like Monopoly, Risk and Uno Stacko and newer, lesser-known titles like Cashflow (a fun game that teaches basic financial strategies and accounting principals), Tigris & Euphrates (a game of culture, crisis, conflict and civilization) and High Society (where players bid on 'luxury possession', 'recognition' and 'misfortune' cards).

Low tables and bean bags are casually strewn around the room so you'll feel right at home. It takes about 20 students at any one time, and is totally comfy. Set up to improve students' problem-solving skills and to open up opportunities for social networking and positive interaction, this haven for board game lovers has already become a hot hangout for NP students.



models (L-R) Ching Xue Yi, Jazzeel Wong



Spotted!

Seah Hui Maan, third-year Molecular Biotechnology student

What's Your Pick? "*Laced with Romance* by Chicago-based rock band The Ponys. I really like their angsty lyrics and head-bopping music. It may seem strange but I think this album is a great listen when one is feeling stressed! Thanks to this place, I've also recently started listening to stuff which I don't usually tune in to, like '80s pop sensations The Pet Shop Boys. You'll usually find me hanging out here in the morning, searching for new additions to the music library's collection before classes start."

Where's Hui Maan? **MEDIA ROOM.** It's not quite HMV but we assure you it's more than enough if you're looking for that Maroon 5 kick. The Media Room attracts music fiends into everything from rock and R&B to jazz and even French music. Get acquainted with pop princesses and the kings and queens of jazz in this mini 'room' equipped with CD players and **Music Sampling Stations** pre-loaded with CDs. You'll never need to be a music pirate again!



Spotted!

Muhd Furhan, third-year Mechanical Engineering student

What's Your Pick? "Soccer matches – 'live'! I just watched Liverpool beat AC Milan, woooh! I head here when I have long breaks or when I'm waiting for my friends. Sometimes I get a bit carried away when an exciting game is on, and have to keep reminding myself to check the time so I won't be late for my next class!"

Where's Furhan? **VIDEO ZONE.** Where there are 'live' screenings of sports events, you can be sure there will be the occasional emotional outburst from the normally macho guys of NP. The folks at the Lifestyle Library have very considerably set aside this 12-seater theatre, complete with sliding doors to zip up any 'noise' emissions. This means that sports junkies can get their fill of cable TV action here as it was meant to be, whoops and all.

For those who prefer globetrotting from the comfort of the library, there's *Discovery Travel & Living*, accessible from the **SCV STATIONS** just next door. For good measure, also watch documentaries on *Discovery* and catch up on your current affairs on news channels *BBC*, *CNN* and *CNBC*.



model (in yellow) Kevin Ng

Spotted!

Violet Teo, first-year Early Childhood Education student

What's Your Pick? "*The Pact* by Jodi Picoult. I've already read it but I want to read it again! She has recently released new titles such as *Ten Circle*, but this is still my fav because I fell in love with the main characters. Some of my best reads are books from this library. It has a great selection and it's easy to get titles which may be difficult to secure in public libraries."

Where's Violet? **LIFESTYLE COLLECTION.**

It doesn't matter if you're into old skool classics like *Oliver Twist*, or hip design books like *The Art of Rebellion 2* (on the world of street art activism), the range of books at NP's Lifestyle Library will please the bookworm in everyone. Check out books clustered under themes like Fiction, Business & Management, Travel & Culture, Entertainment and Lifeskills. There's even a Cartoons & Comics cluster featuring the likes of *Baby Blues*, *Snoopy*, *Superman* and more!



Chill



Spotted!

Nor Azizah Bte Ruzaini, third-year Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering student

What's Your Pick? "Style magazine 'cos it's a mature and sophisticated fashion read. There are lots of mag genres to choose from here, and just round the corner is a section which offers the daily local and foreign newspapers. The best time to check out this place is the evenings when it is less crowded and there are ample bean bags to grab!"

Where's Azizah? LIME POD @ NP. Save your pocket money for that slinky new number. As long as you're a student at NP, you wouldn't ever need to spend another cent on mags again! More than 200 titles beckon, catering to gamers and the health conscious to the fashionistas and those who want the goss on Hollywood's flashiest. Plonk yourself on one of the lazy lime green bean bags here with your choice mag and relax to the soft music playing in the background.

Spotted!

Shermaine Tan, first-year Business Studies student

What's Your Pick? "Academy Award-nominated science fiction movie *Artificial Intelligence* because it's so touching. My guy friend Tony even cried! This is a wonderful alternative to going to the cinema. The library has a good range of movies and best of all, it's absolutely free!"

Where's Shermaine? MEDIA VIEWING ROOM. Movie buffs call this their second home. Stressed teenagers call this the ultimate cure. Here's where NP students watch free films to their hearts' content, courtesy of the poly's huge video library. From old-time horror flicks by Alfred Hitchcock to new blockbuster hits such as *X-MEN* and *King Kong*, the selection here will please the most discerning film enthusiast. After all, NP is the poly that offers the Diploma of Film, Sound & Video!



models: (L-R) Stephanie Aw Yong, Alyssa Tan, Joshua Liu, Ching Jing Hui

Spotted!

Joachim Lai, third-year Mass Communication student

What's Your Pick? "Red Milk Bubble Tea. There are so many flavours to choose from, but this is my fav because it's light and refreshing. It's a steal at just \$1.50 and nothing is more refreshing after a long day at school. This is an ideal place to chill when I want to grab a bite or just check my email."

Where's Joachim? INTERNET CAFÉ. If you're a study-muncher (**hyper's** dictionary defines this as someone who perpetually feels hungry when studying), you're going to love this café. Here's where you can purchase quick bites – such as hotdogs and a cup of hot noodles along with bubble tea at *Each-A-Cup*. NP students often spend the day here studying, discussing group projects, surfing on the high-speed computers and of course munching away. If you get here early, grab the choice table near the service counter and watch Rihanna's 'Under My Umbrella' music video playing on MTV.

models: (L-R) Denise Ang, Cindy Lee



model: (R) Tony Thio