

Special Edition!

Maize Masala

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Valentine's Day - Celebration of Love or Hallmark Holiday? by Saad Sawar

There are very few people in the world who don't know February 14th by its universal nickname- Valentine's Day! You would think that a time-honored occasion such as this would generally be approved by everyone. Surprisingly though, despite having an enormous fan following, Valentine's Day is not without its detractors. Below are the opinions of some people which I found rather interesting regarding this 'holiday':

created by Hallmark or the like to suck enormous sums of money at a mark up that makes gas prices seem unimportant. The mark up on roses alone is over 200% just for that one day- and they last for less than three!”

“I love it because I love FLOWERS!!!”

As far as my opinion is concerned, I'm indifferent! However I don't think there's any reason for people not to celebrate this holiday just like any other. Seeing the tremendous excitement generated because of this day is reason enough to enjoy it, or at least allow others to do so.



“Just a pointless reason for celebration.”

“Valentines day is my favorite holiday.”

“I don't see how 14th February changed the course of history or if anything really special, meaningful, or remarkable happened that day.”

“It's a bright spot in the gray of winter.”

“A ridiculous and commercialized holiday

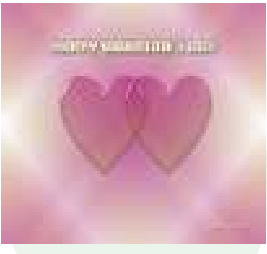
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Graduation Galore by Aneeqa Ahmad

Last semester, senior year. Feels like the last 4 years just flew by. Wasn't it just yesterday that we were stepping in to Michigan, stepping in to a new world of endless opportunities? It sure seems like it. I can't begin to explain how nostalgic I'm already feeling about leaving Ann Arbor. Where to next? It's like graduating high school all over again, except this time, its stepping in to the real world, not knowing what to expect from life. The centuries old tradition of graduating from The Big House, where many before us have graduated from and moved to bright futures in life is something that each of us look forward to once we near senior year. However, the class of 2008 is faced with the biggest disappointment of not walking in the much revered stadium for commencement this year. Many students on campus have expressed great disappointment about the university's decision on not having the class of 2008 graduate at The Big House. I asked some fellow Pakistani seniors on how they felt about this topic and I received a variety of responses. "I'm surely disappointed, but even more, it makes me sad that I won't be able to graduate at The Big House." - Usman Shahid. Many others echoed the same sentiments. Aadil Khan, who we all know as the most laid-back and carefree guy, merely shrugged and with a calm smile, answered "I am just glad I am graduating."

Even though this is a huge let down for us, I'm hoping that if not The Big House, then we will have graduation somewhere memorable on campus so that in the future we can look back and relive our college experience as the four best years at Michigan.



Hail to the freshmen! By Abu Bakar Shamsi

Super bowl Sunday produced one of the biggest upsets the country has seen, however the Giants victory over the perfect season Patriots fails in comparison to the events which unfolded earlier that morning. In the inaugural Imran Khan Cricket Championship, an all red shirt clad freshman team overcame all odds to beat the more established PSA Panthers led by the PSA President, Usman Shahid.

The tournament being played amongst three teams started on Thursday, January 31st and produced some shocking results. In the first match played between the Freshmen and PSA Panthers, the Freshman captain Khurram Siddiqi led from the start and made an unbeaten 44 runs, however his efforts were in vain as the freshmen simply did not score enough runs and gave the Panthers a modest total of 66 to chase in 10 overs. The Panthers started off well with openers Hamza and Aadil timing the bowl extremely well. At a time the competition seemed to be a joke as the Panthers started calling back their batsmen even before they got out. Despite some great bowling at the depth by Aaron Gomes, the Panthers with the help of captain Usman were able to reach the target in the last over.

The second match saw the favorites Michigan Cricket Club take on the Freshman team. The Freshmen were sent in to bat and like the previous match, Khurram went all out against the bowling attack. The freshmen had learnt from their mistakes and this time kept a check on their run rate, and despite losing wickets at regular intervals, the Freshmen scored a very competitive 89 runs. For the MCC, Rupak bowled extremely well and troubled the batsman with his left arm pace bowling. The MCC came out to bat with all guns blazing but lost momentum to a string of dot balls by spinners Khurram and myself in the middle of the innings. The MCC seemed frustrated and began to crumble under pressure. It came down to the last over with the MCC requiring 9 runs to win. But Freshmen pace bowler Aaron Gomes kept his nerve and bowled an impeccable over to seal the game for the Freshmen.

The final match on Thursday saw the PSA Panthers take on their arch nemesis MCC for a place in the final. The Panthers batted first and Captain Usman Shahid took control of the innings. MCC applied some pressure through Kush and Puneet but some lusty blows by Burhan at the end of the innings brought the score to 95 runs. MCC chased again and lost a couple of early wickets but Puneet took

charge and scored an unbelievable 61 runs. As the innings progressed it was learnt that in order to qualify for the final, MCC needed to win the match in 9 overs on Net Run Rate. However, quality bowling by Adnan and Usman kept the MCC at bay. In the end MCC won the game but failed to qualify for the final. This meant that the final on Sunday was going to be an all PSA affair.

Come Sunday morning, the Freshmen were getting frantic wake up calls from Khurram Siddiqi at 8:30 in the morning. The importance of this game can be judged by the fact that all freshmen and Panthers were present at the coliseum at 9:30 am on a Sunday! The freshmen were charged up and for the Panthers their pride was at stake. However, the Freshmen spirit broke down as captain Khurram departed early, and this was soon followed by the dismissal of Aaron Gomes. Panther's bowler Wasay Ahmad was on fire. The Freshmen were in a state of panic but then began a string of partnerships, centered around transfer student Ali Iftikhar's innings of 50 runs. Some late hitting by Emad Ansari helped the freshmen set a total of 101 runs, having lost all of their wickets largely due to Usman's bowling in 15 Overs.

The Panthers seemed confident but the Freshmen had a trick up their sleeve. Shazil Naqvi who hadn't played before began an onslaught of fast bowling and struck an early blow. Usman Shahid came in and tried to steady the innings, however he too seemed out of his game and was dropped thrice of a certain (read Abu Bakar) spinner's bowling. A string of 11 dot balls put even Usman under pressure. Usman, Anvar and Burhan tried to score freely but simply couldn't and following the previous trend the game came down to the last few overs. With 2 overs left, the Panthers needed 19 runs. But Shazil bowled on line and gave away only 4 runs. The pressure was on Usman. Facing the last over, his side needed 15 runs to win. Usman replied by a six off the first ball, followed by 2 more runs and 2 wides. But once again Aaron Gomes kept his calm and bowled 4 spectacular deliveries at the depth of the innings to seal the championship for the Freshmen. In the end it was the Freshmen spirit and determination on the field that won them the game. Ali Iftikhar and Shazil Naqvi were awarded the Man of the Match award while Khurram Siddiqi won Man of the Series for his all round performance.

The Freshmen would like to thank the PSA Board for organizing this tournament and look forward to beating them and the incoming freshmen next year.



Imran Khan trophy champs! Left to right: Ansh Jain, Emad Ansari, Umair Qureshi, Abu Bakar Shamsi, Shazil Naqvi, Khurram Siddiqi, Aaron Gomes, Ali Iftikhar

Note: Saad Jamil Sawar's physical presence was missed, but he was there in spirit



Runners up. Left to right: Anvar Varadaraj, Adnan Khalid, Hamza Warraich, Usman Shahid, Aadil Khan, Burhan Uddin, Aneeq Abdullah, Wasay Ahmad

Unattended: Aneeqa Ahmad, the 'real' captain of the senior team



Above and below: Many Pakistanis on campus enjoyed the 2008 Detroit Auto Show this year.



Left: Michigan's first desi a capella group "Maize Mirchi" performed at PSA LIVE on 12/5/2007. Saad from 786, along with many talented students at the university performed. The show turned out to be a huge success with over 100 people present!



Upcoming events

- Political debates: 2/13/2008
- Fashion show: 3/20/2008
- Fashion show bondings
- Chai/hookah times