



VIK PATTABI

Cricket or ticket

Not gonna lie, watching cricket is pretty boring. There's only so much unintelligible Hindi commentary and unnecessarily dramatic close-ups of the players' faces a guy can stand, after all.

On the other hand, watching people watch cricket – that can be funny. Especially watching a bunch of middle-aged Indians enjoying the spectacle that was India v. Pakistan during this year's Cricket World Cup.

A couple weeks ago, worn out from my intense managerial duties at SPC and sadly dateless for Valentine's Day, I had the great (mis)fortune of being invited to watch cricket with some of my parents' friends, friends who, despite their good intentions, seemed to solely love the particularly intellectually stimulating conversation topic of college apps, one I'm never quite keen on. My apprehension was short-lived.

I walked in to a rising wave of boos directed at the TV screen by adults lounging around, wearing the shiny blue of the Indian team and hurling insults at the Pakistani players walking onto the field.

Welcome to the rather one-sided rivalry that is India v. Pakistan. Despite now having consecutively defeated Pakistan in the last six world cups, Indian fans still hold a grudge against their international nemesis because, well, human nature I guess? I was still unsure exactly how cricket worked, under the impression that it was basically baseball for all those nations not quite good enough for the "World" Series (read: everywhere except America).

Content to sit quietly and somehow parse my way through the game, I was quickly amused by another surprising display – as the Pakistani players assembled and began to sing their national anthem, most everyone in the room, from the 40-year-old moms to the elderly grandparents, rose and began, quite poorly, belting out the Indian national anthem in an attempt to drown out their foe's patriotism.

Basically, what I'm saying is the cult cricket culture is extreme. Even the most die-hard football fan has nothing on the raw fervor of a disappointed 50-year-old whose beloved India just lost a wicket after a stellar bowl by Pakistan (what does that even mean?).

The match began, much in the spirit of cricket, with a surreptitious announcement and the first throw – no outrageous fireworks, flashy displays or American-Airlines-center-style light shows. But like I said, cricket fans are pretty intense. When the camera panned toward the match's spectators, I caught a glimpse of Indian supporters decked out in the nation's orange-white-green hue sporting comically large afro-wigs and waving miniature flags.

As the game trudged on, I spied a cohort of Indian fans in tricolor goat costumes dancing around the edge of the pitch – although the Markhor goat, I later learned, is actually Pakistan's national animal. I'll assume those guys knew what they were doing, because I certainly didn't.

My interest in the game fizzled out around midnight, but several particularly stubborn adults resolved to watch until the end – at 4 a.m. My cricket experience was absurd, loud, surprising and, in retrospect, enjoyable.

And while my cricket craze may end just as abruptly as my interest in soccer did this past summer, it's certainly been worth it. After all, I've come to understand the intricacies of what is essentially my cultural sport.

I appreciate Ireland's record-breaking performance against the UAE a week ago, recognize just how impressive it is that the team from Afghanistan qualified for the tournament and deftly sidestep a conversation about where I'm headed for college by asking, "Have you been watching the world cup?"

NEWS

OUT OF DEBT

The ReMarker staff explores the school's goal of becoming debt free **Page 4**

SITTING DOWN WITH RYAN PARKER

The story behind the teacher with the flashy shoes, funny jokes and copious amounts of basketball knowledge **Page 5**



COURTESY MARKSMEN YEARBOOK

ALDEN JAMES PHOTO



DAVID CARDEN PHOTO

COMMENCEMENT

"St. Mark's sets you up with a foundation to change the world. St. Mark's means everything to me."
– Sam Acho, **Page 3**

Upcoming THINGS TO DO IN THE WEEKS AHEAD

Today

> Classes will adjourn this afternoon for a week-long Spring Break. Classes resume at 8 a.m. March 24.

> President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas Richard Fisher, whose sons, Anders '95 and Miles '02, attended 10600 Preston Road, will be presenting his last conference today from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency as he steps down from his position.

Weekend

> Daylight savings time begins this Sunday at 3 a.m. Remember to spring forward and change clocks forward one hour.

> IKEA in Frisco will be offering complimentary chair massages from Massage Envy Spa from 1 to 3 p.m. tomorrow. Those who really want to unwind from the stress of school would be well advised to arrive early.

Next week

> Malcolm K. and Minda Brachman Master Teaching Chair Dr. Martin Stegemoller will be joining Nashville-area alumni for a dinner hosted by the Alumni Office this Tuesday evening.

> The annual joint St. Mark's-Hockaday college trip will visit various schools on the West Coast and will be chaperoned by Assistant Director of Admission and Financial Aid Kerry Schneidewind.



WESLEY HIBBS PHOTO

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YEARS
Mardi Gras has been celebrated in America

DRESSED TO JEST Donning checkered pants and a multicolored tabard, senior Roland Baumann and dozens of his classmates waited outside Nearburg Hall Feb. 17 to spread the cheer of a long-standing holiday celebrated across the world.

overheard COMMENTS MADE BY FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS AROUND CAMPUS



History Instructor
Johnny Hunter

"I feel lied to. My kids and I were riding around jamming to Snoop Dogg and they changed it."



Sophomore
Vikrant Reddy

"He threw dead ants at me in math class."



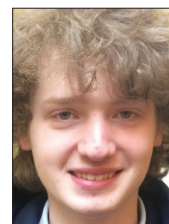
Senior
Elton McIntosh

"There's no T in 'church league basketball.'
- To junior William Caldwell after his 15th missed mid-range jumper



Senior
Vignesh Babu

"If Osama was a goat, he'd be that one."



Senior
Roland Baumann

"Has nobody touched my spinach quiche?!"



Junior
Asthon Hashemipour

"Well, what happened to the white llama?"

Newsfeed

NEWS AROUND CAMPUS

Over the weekend of Feb. 14, the Upper School Math Team took home a second place overall finish at the Rice University Math Tournament. Eleven students made up the team, contributing to the total school score by placing in individual or team events.

The squad of freshmen **Kevin Feng** and **Jesse Zhong**, sophomores **Kevin Choi**, **Kaden Han**, **Liam Sohn** and **Daran Zhao**, junior **Tim O'Meara** and senior **Raymond Guo** finished first in the team event category, adding a considerable number of points to the board.

Among the individual winners were Feng, who tied for seventh in the algebra category, Sohn, who took tenth in the same event, and O'Meara and Han, who took sixth and tenth in the advanced topics category, respectively. Zhong and junior **Eugene Song** placed fourth and ninth in the general event, and Guo finished both second in calculus and seventh in advanced topics.

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The Middle School Math Team also enjoyed a successful and eventful month of February. The team kicked off the month by winning the 2015 TSPE MathCounts Competition at SMU. The team of four individuals will continue to the state competition, which will be held Mar. 27.

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For his contributions to the school, Charles Nearburg '68 has been named a Life Trustee on the Board of Trustees.

Joining the ranks of such alumni as Robert W. Decherd '69 and Allen E. Cullum '64, Nearburg will continue to serve on the Board, working to set institutional policy and protecting the school's financial position.

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The six visiting tenth graders from Beijing #4 Middle and High School (BHSF) ended their three-week visit over the weekend of Feb. 7.

The visit involved a variety of host families and trips across Dallas for the students to become immersed in local culture, customs and food. Through the program, BHSF and St. Mark's have added another layer to the long-standing student transfer program between them, which also sent eight Marksmen to China last summer.

BHSF is one of the most prestigious high schools in China, having grown to a student body of roughly 1500 since its founding in 1906. The school boasts a variety of acclaimed alumni, such as Fen Yuanzheng – the founding figure of bioengineering, tissue engineering and biomechanics.

– Newsfeed stories by Noah Koecher and Anvit Reddy