



IBA TODAY

FRESHMEN ISSUE FALL'22 (#1)

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THE FRESHMAN YEAR EXPERIENCE

Close your eyes for a minute and think back to your very first day of university. You got up early, packed your bag, put on the best outfit you could (an outfit you probably planned long ago), and hop-skipped out of your house early in the morning. Or if you were a covid kid, you probably just sat down in your pyjamas, opened your laptop, and clicked on the zoom link given by your teacher with one hand, as you held a bowl of cereal in your other.

In an attempt to get a general idea of what freshmen went through, I went around asking a couple of questions from a wide variety of people. The general consensus was that it was not what they expected.

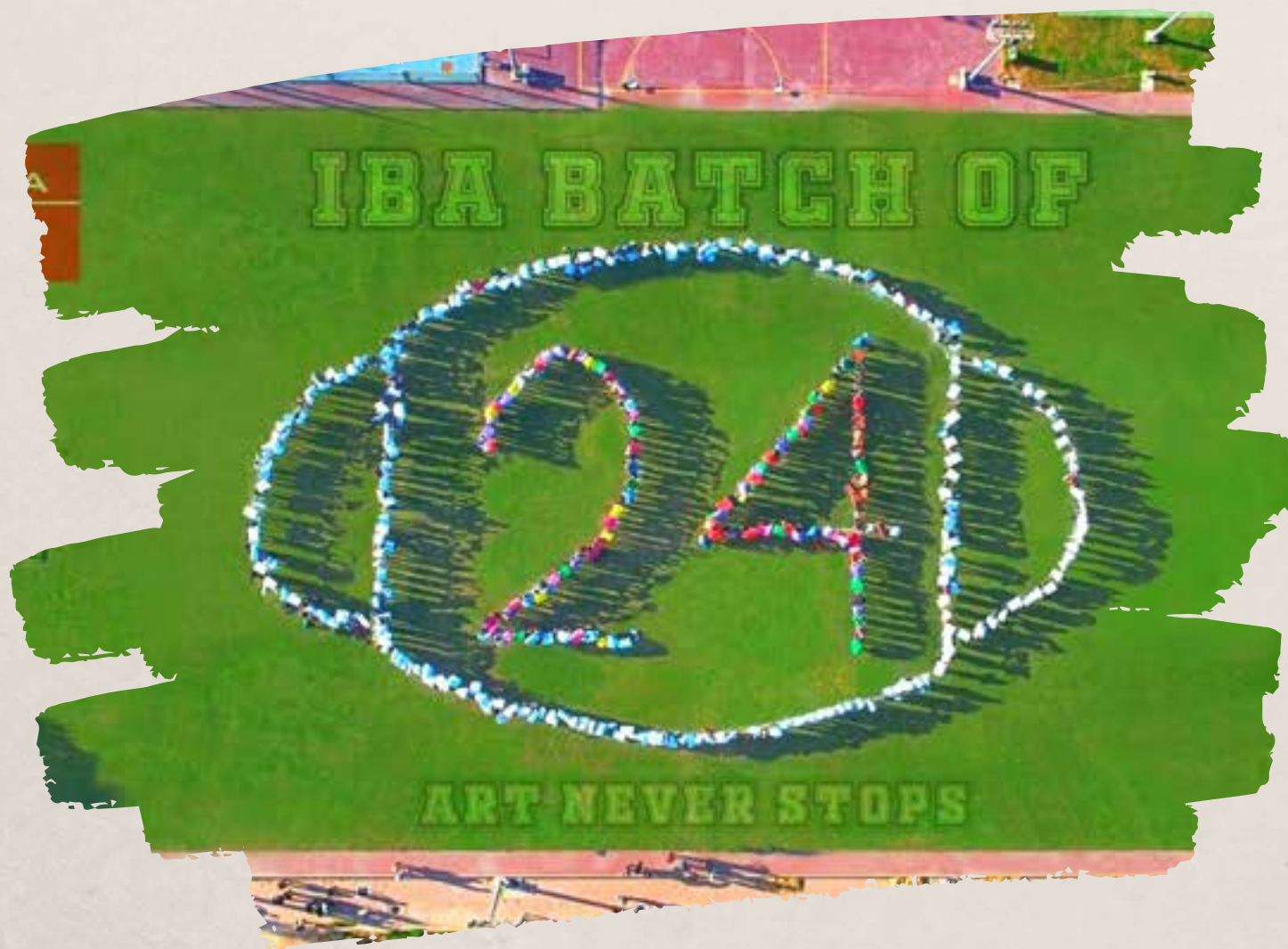
But then again, nothing in life is ever as we expect it to be, is it?

THE CURRENT SENIORS

For the batch of 2023, the start of their year was pretty normal, but the shock came in the second semester when the pandemic struck, and we all went into lockdown. The social lives they were trying to form, remained frozen in its initial stages, while their academia remained more or less unaffected, if not improving for the better due to online exams and the pass-fail system.



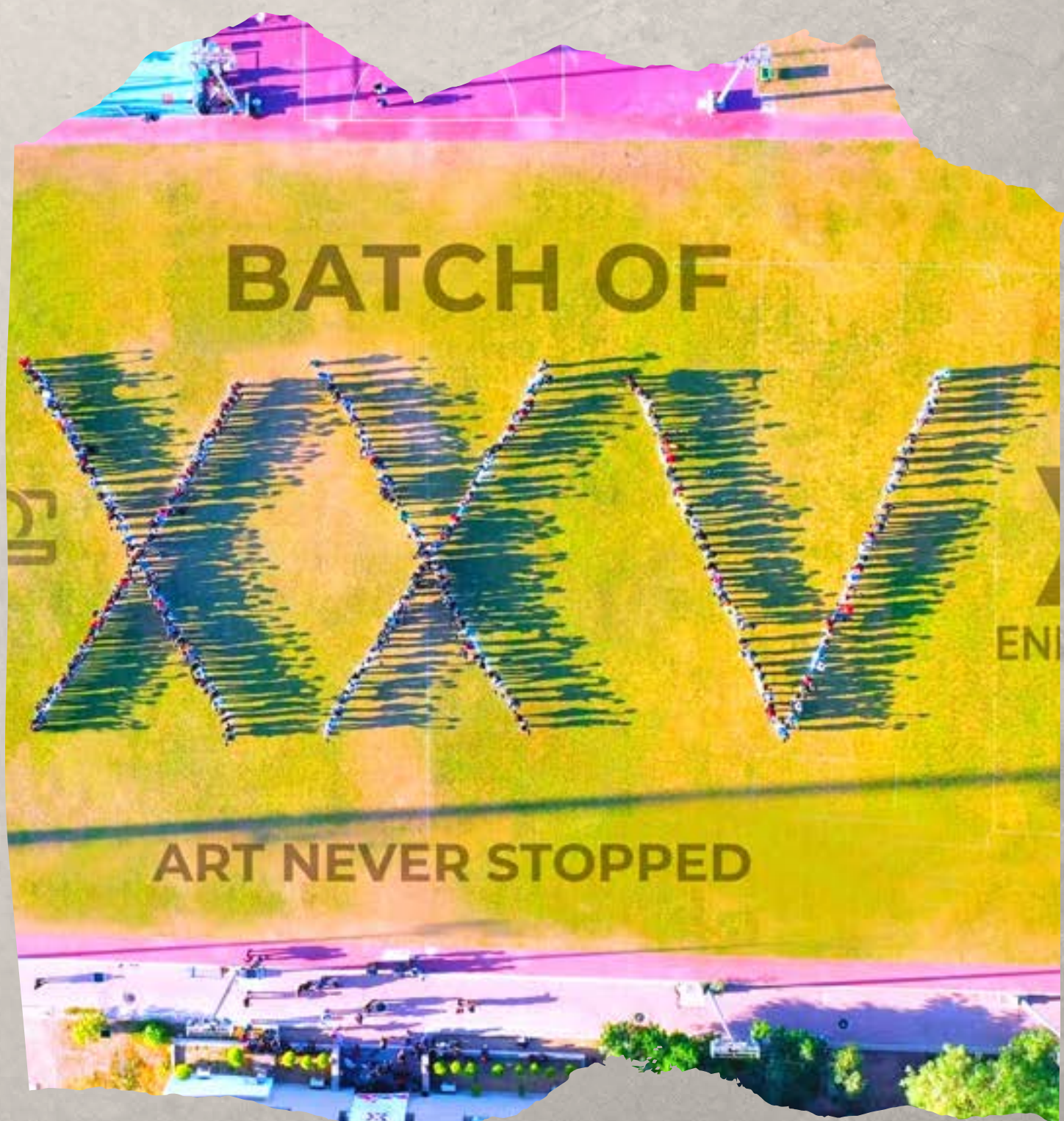
THE CURRENT JUNIORS



For the batch of 2024, disappointment was etched in right from the beginning, as their excitement for kicking off their university lives came crashing down on the very second day, with the country going into lockdown again. They weren't really able to build a social life because there were no events, and they didn't really meet anyone. There are mixed review about academia; while some were able to flourish in the digital teaching system, many were perplexed at the situation. Furthermore, the seclusion in City Campus left them pretty confused and irritated.

THE CURRENT SOPHOMORES

For the batch of 2025, university life was secluded from other batches, but they were able to form strong bonds within their batch. A semblance of regular life was slowly coming back, with friends hanging out, classes being held daily, rambunctious events taking place. The freshmen were able to form connections with their seniors when events were held. Although their trips to and from City Campus left them tired, they were able to make the most of it because they at least had each other. There were mixed reviews when it came to academia, with some excelling in their studies, and some struggling.



FRESHMAN YEAR TIPS

All this having been said, there are many things that every freshman has in common. When you enter a new environment, at this age and level of education, it is naturally hard to make friends. At the risk of offending many people, I just want to warn every freshman that not everyone you talk to is your friend. Be wary of those who only want to hang out with you to use you. Trust the ones who make you laugh, the ones who are there when you're happy, and also when you're sad. Although you might think why should I bother to make friends, why shouldn't I just concentrate on studies, or keep my friends limited to the ones I already have, let me tell you, THIS is the time. Make new friends, make great memories, fall in love, get your heart broken, LIVE. When you go out into the real world, you will barely have time to maintain friendship with those you are already friends with, let alone make new ones. Never run away from new opportunities and experiences. These memories will last a lifetime. This time will never come again.

Now that doesn't mean you shouldn't study. These years of education will make or break your future. Many students find themselves at the disadvantage of tough teachers, difficult courses, immense workload, complicated projects etc. Remember that your seniors have been in your situation before you, take help from them, reach out to them. 9 out of 10 seniors will definitely take a moment out of their time to help you. Don't wait till the end, start studying from Day 1. Take quizzes, assignments, projects seriously because they can make or break your grades. City Campus may seem daunting but it's a lovely building, with top notch, albeit limited, facilities, set right in the heart of Karachi in Saddar.



THE LAST WORD

To sum it all up, life is like a box of Bertie Bott's Every Flavour Beans. Maybe you'll get a strawberry bean, maybe you'll get a cement bean. The point is that every moment is unexpected; let the good light up your life, let the bad be a lesson and have faith this too shall pass. Stay strong, keep struggling, and never lose sight of who you are.



WELCOME TO IBA



Rumaisa Shaikh
Manager Content Writing

1, 2, 3.... HERE WE GO!

All sorts of kids come to IBA. There's your fancy KGS/Nixor kids who are always whining about how IBA was their last resort. Then there's other, more grateful kids from smaller cities for whom coming to IBA is a dream come true. Nevertheless, university life is what every student is looking forward to. It's this fantasy, an idea sold in tv shows about how you make connections and friends here that last a lifetime. It's a transition into adulthood but also the ecstasy of new-found freedom to make your own decisions. Plus, you are led to believe that you make or break your life here.



Some kids coming from schools are particularly excited about a life where they won't be told what to do; they won't be monitored by class teachers who simply have nothing better to do in their lives than stalk their students and figure out who is up to what. It suits their rebellious natures to look forward to a life they get to live on their own terms. But they don't know what awaits them, yet.

Other nerdier kids are in for a surprise when they find it takes more than being a bookworm to survive university life. The pressure of being confident or extroverted enough to hang out with the right people, the maturity to not misalign your belief system just to fit in with a bad group of friends, the struggles of time and self-management in hostel life and what not. Overall, everyone has their own set of struggles that they face. You can't say any of them—whether from Lyceum or a town whose name you haven't heard of before — doesn't struggle; each has their own set of struggles.



ORIENTATION

Orientation Day is like this huge welcome to the university you got enrolled in. It's your first impression of it. When you have to meet someone for a job interview for the first time, you think about what to wear, you make sure to wash your face and comb your hair. It's all because you want to create a good impression. Universities also doll and clean up before orientation days, suddenly the masjid ACs are working and there's more table tennis available.

This year around the orientation was quite different. That's because it wasn't held on time. It got postponed due to heavy monsoon rains and flooding in Karachi and the country in general. It was quite out of the ordinary to have orientation day after the first week of classes had already been held. The students had already been acquainted with the campus and its life.

Which is a big reason many didn't bother to attend their own orientation because their calculus homework was on their mind or because outside party was more fun than listening to the executive director's speech. Or maybe they thought they could read a summary of it on an IBA Today article anyway and so there was no FOMO associated with it. Well, to those people I must say, you're welcome.

DAY 1

Day one was about the formal orientation ceremony. It was held on Friday, 26th August'22. Different time slots were allocated according to the classification of undergraduate, graduate programs as well as schools namely School of Business Studies (SBS), School of Economics and Social Sciences (SESS) and School of Mathematics and Computer Science (SMCS). Throughout the day each group of students was welcomed by the executive director Dr. Akbar Zaidi's opening speech and later briefed about their respective schools and programs by their Deans and Program Chairpersons. There was a Q/A session in the end which allowed students to directly question their program directors, deans and all the relevant management about their issues and concerns. All the first-year students were given goody bags outside the G&T auditorium. The bags included a water bottle, small IBA notepads, a pen, two IBA O Gala themed badges, a sash and most importantly the student handbook.

One of the questions that one of the MBA students asked during a Q/A session particularly piqued my interest. So, during the Q/A, relevant admin of 4-5 persons would be seated on stage to answer questions and this question kind of stumped them. The student asked that since IBA is big on claiming to provide a fabulous opportunity of networking to its students how is an MBA student supposed to network. Their first year of university they have classes mostly in the city campus, and by the time they are in their final year with classes in main campus, their seniors have already graduated. The answer was winged and gotten rid of, but the question was very valid. So, if the student who questioned is reading this, bravo you, keep such questions coming!



DAY 2

Funny thing is, this was on Sunday, 28th August. Why there was a gap of one day (Saturday) where students had normal classes makes no sense to me. Anyway, because it was a Sunday it felt like a proper O-week day as the campus was cordoned off to any student except the Freshies and the O Gala Management. There was strict security to ensure freshies get to enjoy an event planned exclusively for them.

One of the complaints students had was of being re-allocated to a different group on day 2. They had barely had a good relationship with their old group members and group heads and this shift didn't light up most of them, especially the introverted ones.

Then there was a flag making activity where each group had to design a flag on paper with markers and also a slogan to go with it. This was a fun activity where students got to unleash their creative side. Later happened the Scavenger Hunt, the most popular of Orientation activities. I personally feel it helps freshies remember the landmarks on campus and acquaints them around the buildings in a fun way. Students were provided refreshments which they claimed weren't filling and they had to buy their own food thereafter. After a little break spent in the auditorium because of the intense heat outside, freshmen were prepared for the rest of the activities that followed ahead in the day, namely squid games and a cricket match screening. In between all this there were several other activities like flash mob, dumb charades, dancing, mannequin challenge, etc. that were played.

I was surprised how actively sophomores had participated in the O Gala. Later one of them told me their services in the event counted as a social internship for them and that was my ah-makes-sense moment thereon.



THE END

Overall, considering the uncertain conditions under which the orientation was held, it wasn't that bad. Comparing it to the orientation of older times, maybe it could have been better organized. However, all the students behind the advent of O Gala from managing the Instagram page to doing on-ground activities deserve a huge shout-out for volunteering to welcome the freshmen and get acquainted with them.

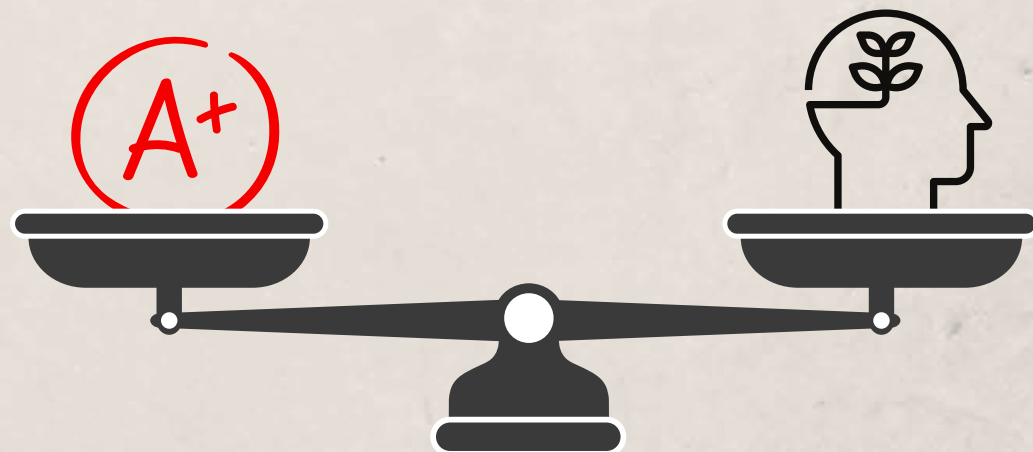
At the end of the day, it's not how lavish our experiences are but the kind of people we had those experiences with. And I believe the freshmen got a chance to mix with the nicest of seniors who will cherish this bond and look after them and help them navigate throughout their journey at the IBA.



Hamza Shariq

BSCS'24

THE "GRADES WALE" TEACHERS VS THE "LEARNING WALE" TEACHERS



The most important question before enrolment day. The question that is flooded over all IBA student groups. The answer to this question quite literally decides the fate of our grades. The question puts one in a morality dilemma. Should I run after the easy grade teacher and learn the bare minimum about an essential course to my major? Or should I put my ethical cap on, go for the rough learning teacher, and prepare myself for the rigorous labour that will prepare me for this demanding industry?

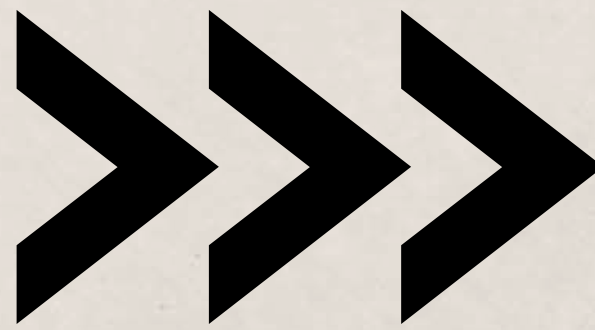
TAKE A STEP BACK



There is no correct answer to this; the question itself poses many problems. Why should such a question even exist? Shouldn't appropriate learning and fair grading go hand in hand? Both choices bring a list of consequences that a broke, anxiety burdened undergraduate student would not like to deal with.

If one chooses the easy grader, they will compromise on their learnings, and there is a high chance that this compromise will come back to haunt them in the upcoming semesters; given it is not one of those "extra" important courses that HEC bounds a student with, I mean SEPI, and Pakistan Studies are important courses, no?

While on the other hand, if a student decides to take the leap of faith by choosing the demanding instructor, they might have just compromised on their grades, which will eventually impact their GPA, which has a ripple effect that, hopefully, no one experiences. But it is not just a fear of low grades that scares students from taking this leap of faith. It is the fact that failing a course by making this decision might be imminent. And again, failing a course might mean falling short in the prerequisites of another course which might mean not taking that course, which means retaking a course in the summer semester. Or, God forbid, if it's a fall course, that will mean one has to retake the course next semester alongside their other courses, and yes, that level of influx of information is undoubtedly not advisable.



This list of consequences brings a sense of discontent and discomfort that an undergrad student is not willing to experience speaking from immediate personal experience.

THE WAY OUT



So, what is the solution for this dilemma? Should measures be taken that clear these problems and provide students a sense of security, no matter what instructor they end up with on the enrolment day, there will still be hope for some sense of fairness. IBA did try to clear these differences up by applying the standard curriculum policy, which meant that all course instructors would teach the same syllabus, and all students will be assessed on the same mids/finals. But this was not efficiently executed. Those that ended up with the “Learning waale teachers” had to study much harder than the other students since while the syllabus was standardized, the grading still varied to a great extent, and the easy graders, despite the same syllabus and same test, marked their students with much more ease. This created a feeling of injustice amongst the students that had a learning inclined instructor as they were studying much harder than the other students but were scoring, all the while getting lower grades than them.

Whereas on the other hand, the ones that ended with the “Grade waale teachers,” often experienced that a question of high weightage would appear in their mids or finals, which their instructor would not have taught, but was covered by the other instructor, putting those under the “Learning teachers” at an advantage. This means that the syllabus standardization was not properly followed in the first place. One instructor would skip small parts of a topic, and the other would add that small part to the examination, which shows that the instructors were not on the same page.



In hindsight, this “standardization” did not work in anyone’s favour and only brought more misery to the students as uncertainty took over, as we all remember from our very first semester at IBA.

A	A	93-100	4.00
	A-	87-92	3.68
B	B+	82-86	3.33
	B	77-81	3.00
	B-	72-76	2.67

I believe the best solution to this will be bringing in relative grading, so the students are graded according to their instructors and not absolutely. On the other hand, if standardization is employed, then a standardization in the marking scheme should also be seen. An example would be how Cambridge conducts their O and A-level examinations. All students, irrespective of their backgrounds, are examined based on a marking scheme applied to all equally.

POINT TO NOTE

To conclude, I would like to add one last thing. No matter which policy is applied, action must be taken on this problem as this leads to demotivation amongst the students, and students start feeling helpless as no matter how much hard they work, at the end of the day, their grade is decided on how their luck played out on the enrolment day.

HOW TO ACE YOUR ASSESSMENTS & ASSIGNMENTS



Warisha Syed
Manager Visuals

Hello fellow procrastinator! We had quite a lot of fun the past month, didn't we? Now I bet all the deadlines have come tumbling down on your head! And I bet you don't know how to manage them. Yikes... but that's the IBA life, before you know it, it's the deadline season! The mids may have been your first ever uni exam cycle, but do not worry because I have a fool proof plan to help you ace every single one of your assessments & assignments (don't tell the profs about this).

START!

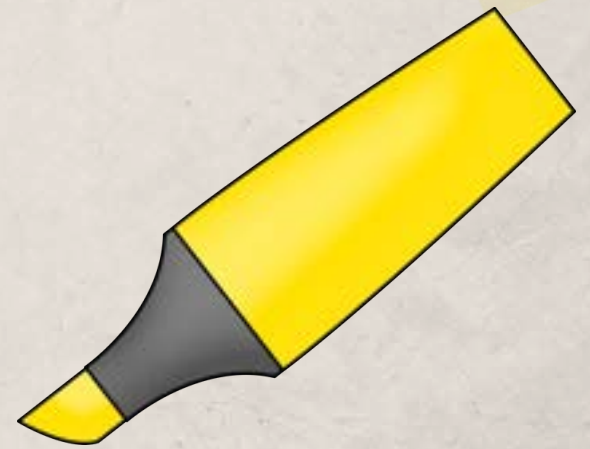
To start off, literally just START. Take a small step, do a little, but do start studying something today. Even when there's only a week to exams you have more than enough time to prepare so there's still hope left – given that you start as soon as you finish reading this. Not tomorrow. As soon as you finish reading this.

The first thing to do is set up your studying area. Yep, aesthetic is important – this is serious business. Clear out your study table, get a comfortable chair, good lighting, sticky notes, sharpened pencils, water, and some dry fruit to snack on. This should take about 30 minutes. Next, make your study plan for the week.



MAKE THE PERFECT PLAN

The perfect study plan is only one thing: realistic; one that you can stick to at least 75%. The only other thing it is supposed to do is outline all that has to be covered and break it up over the week, so you have an idea of where you are, where you have to get, and in how much time. Some useful tips: try to leave the least for last, don't include every little thing in it, and highlight major topics. Once you've done the big part, small details would be piece of cake. Next step is to follow this study plan.



SMARTER NOT HARDER

Now, the golden rule of studying for the procrastinator squad is to study smarter, not harder (because there is a dire lack of time). Start reviewing the most recent content covered in class and tackle big topics first. YouTube is your bestie at this point in case you're completely self-studying; alternatively, you could also read the assigned textbook – whatever works better for you. Understand what your instructor wants (and study accordingly).



ASSIGN HOURLY TASKS

Another useful tip to establish an effective study routine is to give yourself hourly tasks for each day. If you don't finish one in the allotted time, or say even an hour after, then don't dwell on it and just move on to the next one. You may have 5 or 6 courses to cover – don't let one hold you back! Also, get timeouts. Study with breaks. Give yourself time to move around, play something, talk to someone. You can't study effectively without these little breaks where your brain can cool down.

GROUP STUDY

Another highly effective plan of action is something which just so happens to be my personal favourite i.e., group study! Studying with your peers and having group discussions even for just 30 mins before the exam is immensely useful. It's Revision 101 for the person who is teaching AND for the person who is learning. Win-win!



CHILL.... BUT NOT TOO MUCH

Final tip: relax! You've got this. It's only been a little over a month, courses have just barely started, and most professors don't expect the extraordinary in your semester – so don't stress yourself out over this. That having been said, don't take it too lightly either. The courses you have in your first year are probably the easiest you will get at IBA and the first semester is where you can set your base GPA at a level that you can simple maintain in future courses rather than struggling to improve it desperately. Wear your best. Do your best. And may the odds be ever in your favour!



*good
luck*



Ashnah Khalid Khan

BSCS'24

THE IMPROMPTU BATTLE

EAGLE VERSUS FRIES



OH MY GOD GUYSSSSSSSS SOMETHING SO THRILLING HAPPENED TODAY JUST WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE CAMPUS!

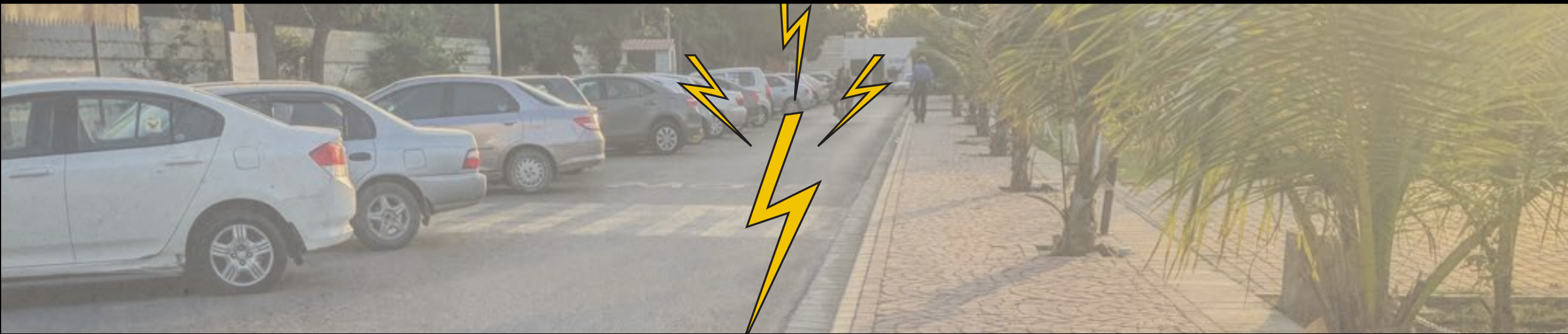
I was in a hurry because my mom suddenly dropped in at university to pick me, even though I told her I'd take the shuttle back home, and so I had to abandon my friend whom I had promised I'd take the shuttle with, but before I could go to my mom, I had to go back to my friend anyways because that poor girl was waiting there for me with a BOX OF FRIES. Golden crispy heavenly fries that I wasn't going to leave without even if my life depended on it! Which it almost did, considering how mad my mom was at me later....



Anyway, it was all this rush-rush situation where I was just sprinting through the corridors and lunging across stairs and bolting through doors until I got to her, apologised, took my fries, said goodbye, and then rushed towards the other gate to my mother.



And when I was crossing the parking area... it happened. It was like a bolt of solid lightning hitting me with one cruel blow. My hands had been shaken by the impact, but they did not falter in strength.



I kid you not: AN EAGLE ATTACKED MY FRIES. I looked up to see the beast circling above me in slow motion. It turned its barbaric wings upwards and arched its merciless claws towards me for a second attack and dived straight towards me, but I ducked just in time. Then I heard the guards screaming at me to cover the fries with my hand, so I tried to find cover. I slid under the shed beside the gate as fast as I could, all the while keeping my eyes fixed on the enemy in the sky, mocking me with its swift movements, seeking another opening for an attack, until I found the safety of my car.

It was a tough fight people and we lost one of most valuable members of our box of golden crispiness to the claws of that vicious creature, but THE MAJORITY OF THE FRIES SURVIVED! I mean I survived unscathed too, but that's not important here.

Although I did end up getting a tummy ache from eating too many fries all at once, too fast.....



Flood Relief Medical Camp - Mirpur Khas



Humans of IBA - Zeeshan Ahmed Khan



Q. What’s your status in the current flood relief campaign being spear headed by Dr. Nasir Afghan?

I am leading the medical camps division under IBA Flood Relief. My job description includes conducting training sessions for the volunteers, operational oversight from pre camp to on day execution.

Q. How many of these relief drives have you conducted before? And for how long have you been doing this?

I started conducting medical camps & relief work during my A-Levels under a society I headed. After college, I started my own organisation with some friends - Aitebar Foundation. I've been to roughly 35 medical camps (maybe more) which correspond to the different areas of Balochistan, internal Sindh & Karachi

Q. What motivates you to keep on pursuing this task? Is there a goal you’re working towards?

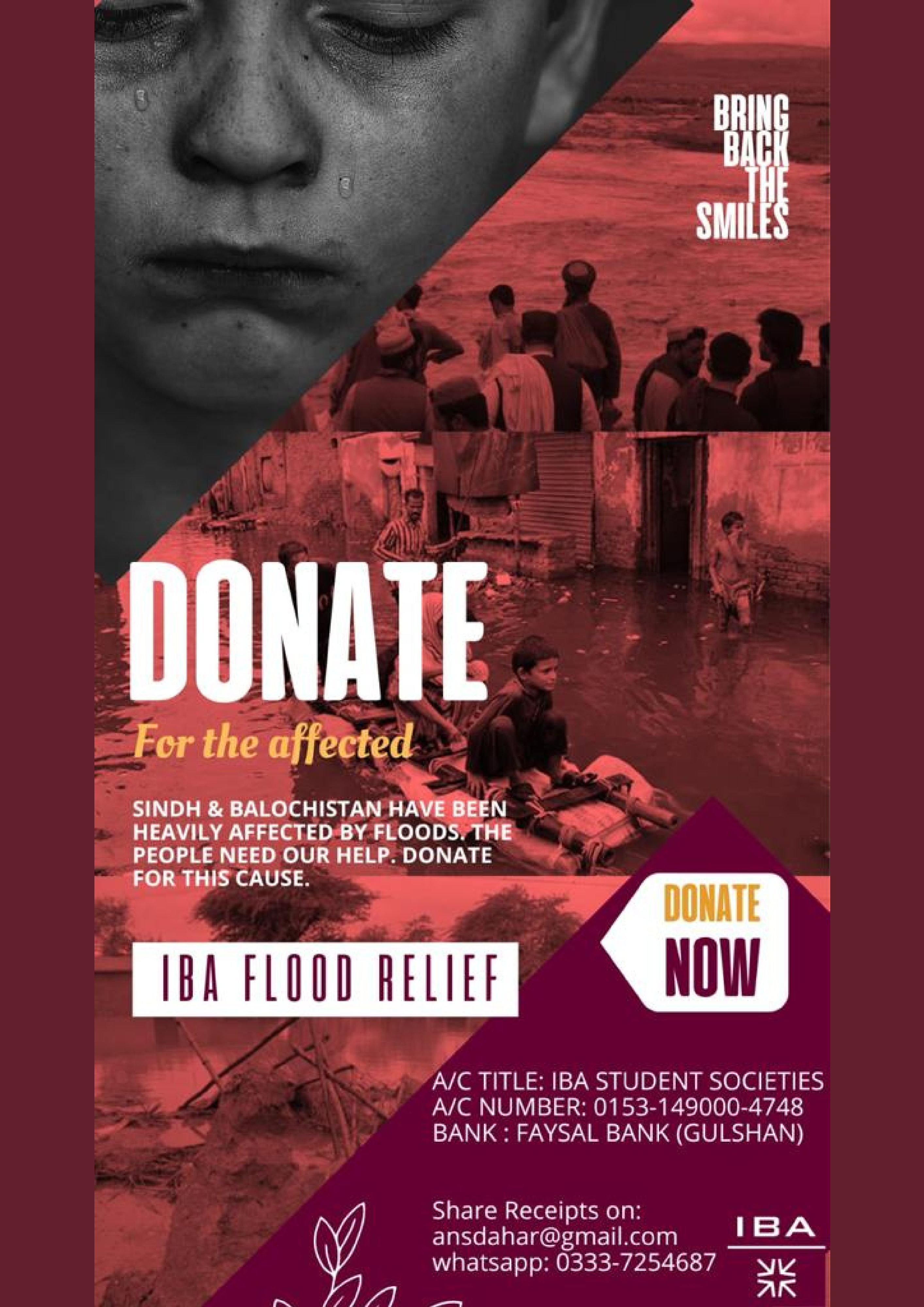
I strongly believe that if you go to a medical camp once in your life & see first-hand the downtrodden conditions these people have to deal with, you'll find all the motivation you need to help them. My goal with Aitebar Foundation is to make change in the most sustainable way possible.

Q. Being a final year student, managing your studies with these strenuous excursions can be stressful. How to you tackle that aspect?

Yes, it's definitely difficult to manage my studies, my FYP & my internship alongside the flood relief program. However, it's all about priorities. We all use social media & know how bad the situation is in Baluchistan, internal Sindh & other flood-impacted areas. I, already have a bunch of experience with camps, wanted to take this opportunity to give back to the society. The IBA flood-relief program allowed me to do that.

Q. What you have done is inspirational for many. Is there any message you’d like to give to those individuals?

The message I'd like to give is that you should always acknowledge & appreciate the privileges that you have. If you go to internal Sindh right now & see the flood-impacted areas & people, It would be the biggest reality check that you can ever get in your life. If you can't do so individually, maybe use the IBA flood-releif program as an opportunity to volunteer. Essentially, use your privilege to give back to the society by volunteering, spreading awareness & donating.



**BRING
BACK
THE
SMILES**

DONATE

For the affected

SINDH & BALOCHISTAN HAVE BEEN
HEAVILY AFFECTED BY FLOODS. THE
PEOPLE NEED OUR HELP. DONATE
FOR THIS CAUSE.

IBA FLOOD RELIEF

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Hostel Diaries

The Hostel Life

My Bittersweet Dilemma

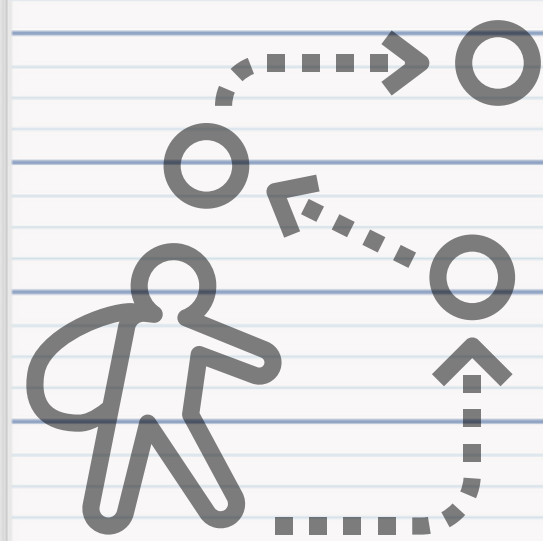


Usman Adnan
Head of Department

It's been 2 years since I moved away from Lahore – moved away from home. Honestly, given the nature of the very personal reasons I had behind making this decision, I didn't think I'd start missing my place as early on as I did.

The Nomadic Freshman

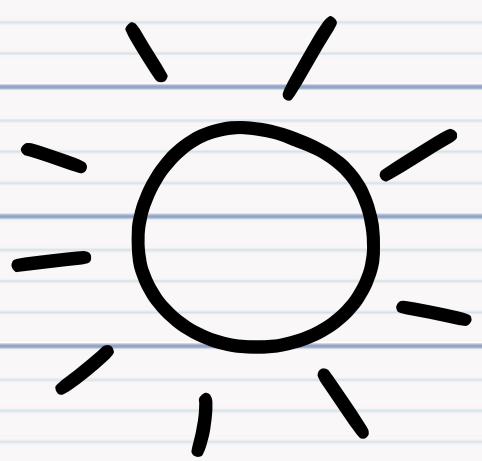
Getting into IBA, though a decent start, opened up a whole new can of worms for me to contend with. I was not granted accommodation in the hostel - a privilege hoisted onto me mainly due to my 'Covid-batch' status. Shared dorms became a rarity under the pretext of following SOPs. This when paired with the lack of vacant individual rooms available set me on a direct course for destination 'waiting list Fall'21'. As if that wasn't enough, all of my classes were shifted to the City Campus. This left me at the mercy of scouting for residence in the most commercial, densely populated, and polluted area of Karachi - Saddar.



I found a place at an inn where my family used to stay at way back when. The fact that it was only about 15 minutes away from City Campus on foot was a major stroke of luck for me. Unfortunately, however, this also meant that I had to deal with regular walks through the jam-packed roads of Saddar just to attend my classes - a predicament which I had to endure for 2 complete semesters until I was finally allotted a room in the hostel. My third semester was my most physically exerting one. It started off with me having to move from my room in Saddar to the one at the hostel while simultaneously trying to keep up with my academics. This daily routine of travelling between both campuses had me sandwiched between the schedules the Point and Shuttle. By November, I had completely moved over to the one & only: IBA Boys Hostel.

Hello, IBA Boys Hostel...

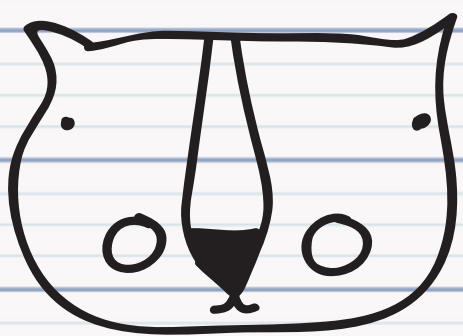
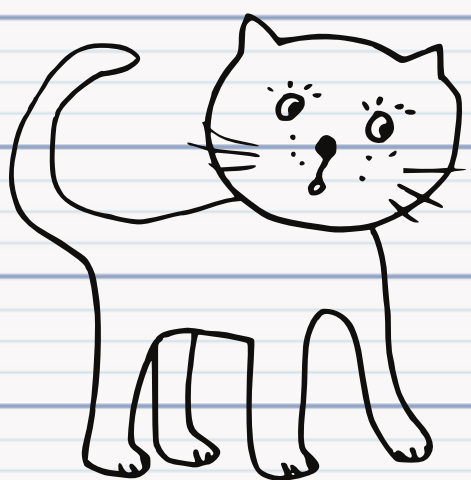
Well into my sophomore year, I had finally settled into the room I had received. My introverted-self was elated by the discovery that I had the only room without any neighbours. Having an entire hallway to myself meant that I could enjoy my midnight strolls in peace. Initially (& honestly, even now), there were some things I either didn't quite understand or downright found odd. One of these was definitely the facility's internal infrastructural nomenclature. The hostel comprises of 3 buildings. Apparently, the one I currently reside in is referred to as "Bangladesh" and the other 2 - "Pakistan" & "USA". The logic behind this is beyond me.

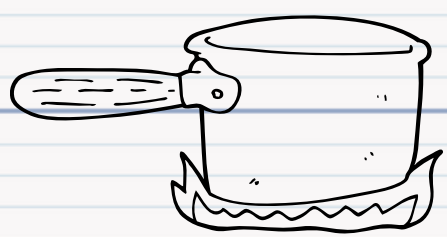


There are certainly a lot of things that I love about the boys hostel. For one, It has Ali Bhai who runs his Paratha & Chai stall (or 'Hatti') just in-front of my building. Sitting on the nearby benches while gulping down one of his famous lemonades is my favourite pastime over there. Then there's Omair bhai (or 'Sethi bhai' for the hostelites), who runs a Tuck-shop from within "Pakistan". It's just the place I'm looking for when I need a quick snack. Alongside his shop, you have Abid Bhai's dry cleaning - this is where most of the hostel residents have their clothes washed. The most admirable thing about the hostel, however, is the collectivist culture which can have its positives when it comes to aspects like donations. Recently, with the help of some hostelites, funds were collected for the flood relief efforts to buy supplies for the affectees.

Cat Culture - the Saving Grace

I've always been very fond of cats. My khalas have them & I had them at one point as well. So finding out about the prevalent feline culture in the hostel filled me with explicit joy. Having felt so out of touch with my surrounding, this was definitely a breath of fresh air for me. I'd pick them up, cuddle with them, feed them, and even name them. The kittens are 'to-die-for' adorable! The best part is that the hostel community itself took responsibility to feed them and take them for veterinary check-ups. While these cats can be territorial & have skirmishes with other cats crossing their boundaries, they are quite nice to people.





Culinary Arts – My passion rekindles

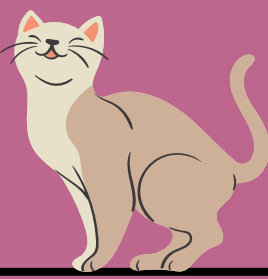
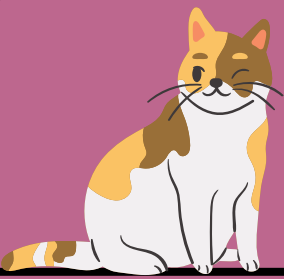
The food served in the mess is not exactly something I'm super inclined to what-with its greasy semblance & overcooked texture. As such, I took the liberty of acquiring the facilitation to cook in my room. Most of my culinary outputs pertained to desi cuisine such as Murgh Pulao, Mix Veg, Chicken Quorma, Malai Handi, and Daal Qadu. While this definitely rejuvenated my somewhat lost vigour for cooking, unfortunately, It was short-lived as It was declared as "not allowed" by the hostel management.

So far, so... Ok?

For better or for worse, the last 2 years have definitely given me a lot to think about. My independent time as a Freshman & even that which I spent in the hostel as a Sophomore has sort of re-contextualised my relationships back home. I miss my folks not just because I miss the facilities I used to avail. Yes, the extensive heat in my congested room would sometimes break me down to the point of no return & I'd skim the PLA website, wishfully looking for the first flight back to Lahore so I could go to my house, hop on to my Queen Size bed, turn on my AC to max, and sleep my problems away. However, my solitude gave way for my acknowledgement of what I had before. I miss having 'heart-to-hearts' with my mom, hanging out with my brother, and chilling with my cousins. I'm far more appreciative of the long lasting support system (friend circle) I developed from school. This is the type of learning & growth that, in my opinion, really counts.



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Place these cats in their correct territories.



Territories	

Cats	

Note: The cats & territories are listed in no particular order



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