

Vasant Valley

November 2009

T O D A Y

SCHOOL WATCH

Indian Robotics Olympiad : Varun Datta, Madhav Vohra and Kartik Bhasin of Class 10 stood in the Junior High Category and will represent India at the World Robotics Olympiad

Inter Zonal Track & Field Meet, 2009 : Inayat Gill won Gold Medal and will represent Delhi State in the Nationals and Abhishek Dhawan was the Best Athlete of the Zone

Vasant Valley Sub-Jr Girls, Jr Girls and Boys won the Zone - 20 Inter School Softball tournament.

Look under the sports section of the school website to see individual winners!

Spelling Bee (English): III - Vinayak Satsangi, Siya Dawar, Mahin Bhardwaj & Kabir Singh
IV-1st Varun Bisht, 2nd Aryaman Yadav, 3rd Divij Chandna
V-1st Ananya Sagar, 2nd Diya Narag, 3rd Nikita Dhawan

Quarter Final match of Simla Youngs Football League: VVS beat Shri Ram School V V, by 5-0

Quake gaming tournament class 6, 7 & 8, 2009: Jai Prasad 1st, Sohail Kanwar 2nd

Fifth Inter School Mathematics quiz : Winning team was New Era Public School. First runner up was Sardar Patel Vidyalay and second runner up was Col Satsangi Kiran Memorial School.

Mayo College, Ajmer, Inter School Quiz : VVS team (Kunal Datta & Soumya Gupta) got first place.

Correction : The Winner of the Letter writing Class 6 was Rishabh Chatterjee

The Vasant Valley Girls soccer team won the CBSE nationals at Meerut.

A NOTE ON BUSTEDS, AND THIS NEWSLETTER.

This issue of the newsletter is the IMPACT issue. The articles voice the opinion of the EDITORIAL BOARD and school. We understand that your views can be conflicting, so feel free to send articles as "Letters to the Editor" to newsletter@vasantvalley.org.

You will also see that this issue has brought back BUSTED. I know that many will be overjoyed with this inclusion, but I felt that I must explain why it was removed in the first place. The newsletter is a forum for interaction, and to keep people up to date with the schools events. With Busted, the focus was diverted away from its original purpose, and most of you decided to only read that. If it was removed I thought, the students of Vasant Valley would be pushed to read the other articles, or not pick it up at all, saving paper. After a unified call to bring it back, I have done so. But I hope you remember that there are articles more important than it in the 6 pages of our newsletter and you take a look at them.

Thanking you,
YOUR EDITOR.

MONDAY WITH MANMOHAN

On the 2nd of November, eleven privileged students of Vasant Valley School were accompanied by two teachers to # 7, Race Course Road, to shoot a special Children's Day show in which the Prime Minister of India would interact with kids from different parts of the country. After a security check that left most of the boys unimpressed, we were seated in the PM's garden facing two armchairs on a raised platform. We waited patiently for the crew to set up, and had almost given up hope of catching a glimpse of the PM, when he walked onto the lawns, beaming in all his blue-turbaned glory with his wife by his side. I was lucky enough to have been seated in the front row, and spent a lot of time counting how many steps would bridge the gap between me and Dr. Manmohan Singh, and what kind of ruckus I might cause by running up to hug him. The shooting began, and so did the questions. Had Dr. Manmohan Singh ever been punished as a child? Did he like to sing? Did his wife have any part to play in his success? What was he going to do about the price rise? When would the rural poor be educated? The questions flew in from all directions. Ultimately, we not only learned a lot about the Prime Minister of our country, but also about all the wonderful children who were participating in the show with us. In fact, I have to say that as the Head Girl and Head Boy of Vasant Valley School, Kunal and I felt humbled by little Gagan and Bhumika of Bengaluru, who won the National Bravery Award this year for having rescued a baby from two raging bulls, by our very own Naman who is courageously battling autism in Vasant Valley, and by Dhanjita Das of Assam, who won the National Girl Child Award for her academic and co-curricular prowess, and who looked the PM straight in the eye to ask "When will the violence stop in my state?"



The Prime Minister himself was quiet as ever, giving simple and short answers, and smiling all the while. He admitted to blue being his favourite colour, and sujji ka halwa his favourite sweet dish. He would choose Prime Minister-ship over a Nobel Prize for Economics, and regards education as the surest path to success. The relationship between the Prime Minister and his wife was also touching to see. She often repeated or explained questions for him, or prompted him, or added her own views to his answers. To the student wondering whether it was true that behind every successful man, there is a woman, she answered, "I will always be beside him".

As a memento, each child was given a watch with the PM's autograph across its dial. We left # 7 Race Course Road with the realization that the most beautiful and difficult thing in the world is to hold a position of importance, and to hold your humility alongside it. ☺

(The show will be aired on CNN IBN at 11am on the 14th of November)

Sara Chatterjee XII

DOOMSDAY IN 2012?

So, apparently, the world is going to end on 21.12.2012. In some way, shape or form, the Earth (or at least a large portion of humans on the planet) will cease to exist. Stop planning your careers, don't bother buying a house, and be sure to spend the last years of your life doing something you always wanted to do but never had the time. Now you have the time, four years of time, to enjoy yourselves before... the end.

So, what IS all this crazy talk? We've all heard these doomsday predictions before, we're still here, and the planet is still here, why is 2012 so important? Well, the Mayan calendar stops at the end of the year 2012. Which could mean a whole lot of things but let's consider just this:

The base year for the Mayan Long Calendar starts at "0.0.0.0.0". Each zero goes from 0-19 and each represent a tally of Mayan days. So, for example, the first day in the Long Count is denoted as 0.0.0.0.1. On the 19th day we'll have 0.0.0.0.19, on the 20th day it goes up one level and we'll have 0.0.0.1.0. This count continues until 0.0.1.0.0 (about one year), 0.1.0.0.0 (about 20 years) and 1.0.0.0.0 (about 400 years). Therefore, if I pick a date for 2.10.12.7.1, this represents the Mayan date of 1012 years, 7 months and 1 day.

This is all quite interesting. But you're probably wondering, what does this have to do with the end of the world? Well, the Mayan Prophecy states that something bad is going to happen when the Mayan Long Count Calendar ends. Since the Mayas used the numbers 13 and 20 at the root of their numerical systems, the last day should occur on 13.0.0.0.0. When does this happen? The Mayan Calendar started on 0.0.0.0.0 (11th August 3114 BC). See the problem? 13.0.0.0.0 directly corresponds to the 21st of December 2012. When something ends (even something as innocent as an ancient calendar), people seem to think up possibilities for the end of civilization as we know it. A brief scan of the Internet shows us the peculiar ways in which the world will end. Archaeologists and mythologists on the other hand believe that the Mayans predicted an age of enlightenment when 13.0.0.0.0 comes around; there isn't actually much evidence to suggest Doomsday will strike. If anything, the Mayans predict a religious miracle, not anything sinister, like DOOMSDAY.

But the fact remains, that there have been numerous threats before. From Planet X wiping most life off the planet, meteorite impacts, black holes, killer solar flares, Gamma Ray Bursts to a rapid ice age and a polar shift. Each of the above "threats" needs their own devoted article as to why there is no hard evidence to support the hype!

As Karl Kruszelnicki brilliantly wrote:

"...when a calendar comes to the end of a cycle, it just rolls over into the next cycle. In our Western society, every year 31 December is followed, not by the End of the World, but by 1 January. So 13.0.0.0.0 in the Mayan calendar will be followed by 0.0.0.0.1 – or good-ol' 22 December 2012, with only a few shopping days left to Christmas!"

-Suvira Chadha,10

PREEMPTIVE PEACE?

"Peace is not something you wish for... Its something you make, something you do, and something you give away."

On Friday, October 9th, 2009, at Washington, the President of the United States, Mr. Barack Obama, was awarded the Nobel Peace - and this act set the world on fire, triggering a chorus of praise and protests from across the world. The new President, succeeding controversial leader George Bush has been in office for less than nine months. He hardly laid his mark on world peace, yet preaches it, and has respectfully received this honorable award. And thus, the question ever so frequently occurs, not only in mine, but in the inflamed minds of millions..... 'Does he really deserve it'?

The Nobel Committee, which has been greatly criticized, has repeatedly supported its decision, with the following firm rationale:

"Only very rarely has a person to the same extent as Obama captured the world's attention to this extent and given people hope for a better future". The Committee also praised "his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and co-operation between people."

What seems to have greatly impressed the Committee is Obama's attempt to reach out to the Muslim world, his efforts to eradicate nuke weapons, and promise of effective action to

reverse climate change. Promise...

Are promises truly enough to achieve parity with modern Gods, revolutionaries such as Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela? Has he reached the level of true achievement that an individual sees in a Nobel Peace Laureate? Is he really up for it?

As of now, the President is grappling with challenges ranging from the war in Afghanistan and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to nuclear standoffs with Iran and North Korea. A plausible theory for his undeserving victory could be a result of his 'star power' rather than meaningful accomplishments. The real question the world is asking is, "What has Obama really done?"

I feel that what the world and Obama needs as a President is actions, not sayings. I strongly believe that if there is no fundamental and true change in American policies towards foreign irrational conflicts, the prize will not move the world any further. In his 1895 will, Alfred Nobel stipulated that the Peace Prize should go "To- the person who shall have done the most or best work for fraternity between the nations and the abolition or reduction of standing armies and spreading of peace congresses". I plead you to ask yourselves, if Obama has truly performed what he promises, and thus is lawful candidate to the Nobel. Is he? I can only conclude my thoughts and views by stating, that Obama would have stood a much stronger political, social and world peace figure, if he had respectfully refused to accept the award, as he himself stated he was very surprised by it.

For, as the great Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek but a means by which we arrive at that goal". We must act, not preach, and only then will peace be achieved, and we may honor the fact that we achieved it.

Rishabh Prakash IXA



BARACK OBAMA

In a world,
Which was once,
Divided.
Black and white,
Like a game of chess,
Which the white,
Owned.
Where the black,
Were asked to remain,
Silent.
And were trampled upon,
Like a pile of dry leaves.
Where white
men,
Rejoiced,
And, black men,
Toiled.
The situation,
Gradually,
Changed.
Slowly,
Black and white,
Mingled.
Tried to become,
Equal.
I watched,
This 'struggle',
With intensity,
Day after day,
As the distance grew
smaller,
When finally arose,
A hero,
A leader,
The president of USA,
They christened him,
Barack Obama,
He was called.
A country,
Dominantly,
White,
Had voted and chosen,
Black.
He was,
Humble,
And it was then, I learnt,
That it wasn't,
About black,
Or white.
Barack Obama,
Was off,
To lead a,
Nation,
Which was,
Grey.



By Radhika Puri 9-C

X

The legendary Xs interspersed with Os after each Gossip Girl post, the cute little XXXs affixed to Valentine's Day cards, began not as symbols of affection but as substitutes for signatures in the Middle Ages, when the vast majority of citizens were illiterate.

But, the X was also used by well-educated people, capable of signing their own names, and was surprisingly found on even the most important documents – wills, contracts and the like. Even kings and queens signed with X as a symbol of good faith – an oath that the contents of the documents were true. In some cultures, it became a compulsory binding oath. Imagine a contract being invalid due to the absence of an X!

It was not an accident that the X was chosen as the substitute for a signature. The acceptance of the X had everything to do with Christian symbolism. The X was the sign of St. Andrew, one of the Twelve Apostles. Signing the X implied a guarantee to live up to one's promises in the Saint's name. The X also had intimate associations with Christ himself. It was regarded as the visual representation of the Cross of Calvary and the Crucifixion. Along with being a letter of the English alphabet, X is also the first letter of the Greek word Christos, which means Christ.

So, how did this legal and religious symbol metamorphose into a romantic one? To further guarantee the sincerity of intentions, people in the Middle Ages solemnly kissed their signatures. This became known as the "kiss of truth", and because the kiss finalized and bound many agreements, it spawned another saying that many think has romantic origins – "sealed with a kiss".

Over the years, as literacy and the use of lie detectors lessened the need for the mark, the X lost its sacred connotations. It reached its peak of popularity in the early and mid-twentieth century. During World War II, the British and American military were so alarmed by its constant use that they forbade their soldiers from putting XXXs in their letters, fearing that spies may insert cryptic codes into these humble marks, which once stood for truth.

- Sanjana Malhotra XI-C

WHEN IT RAINS IT POURS

Luck is on our side. Yup that is a fact, I'm serious. When we stepped into class 11 we all thought it was going to be smooth sailing. People were buzzing about extra curricular activities, social work, learning an instrument, SAT, summer school, taking a fifth subject (a must try if you are searching for insanity), new languages and such like. These dreams seemed reachable, after all class 11 was not strenuous (or so they said). Finally when the September exams arrived, it was like a stinging slap on our faces. The courses were so vast that nor could heavy doses of caffeine nor late night studying conquer those never ending chapters. Then we received the best piece of news, to add to our whooper year- the Class 10 boards had been canceled. Honestly, seeing those beaming, smug children in the papers made my blood boil. The beloved CBSE Board had to scrap the Boards just after we had finished them (it was part of Mr Sibal's evil ploy)! Let me not forget the part that the year we left class 9 the exams were abolished. This is just our luck! Anyway the secret of life is to forgive and forget. But the next blow- or should I say bomb- was about to explode. Our dear friend swine flu, who blessed us with numerous holidays, was the root cause of Founders Day being 'wand-ed' into a milder and subtle performance, only for the school to enjoy. Joy. Our last performance. The glitzy costumes, enchanting music, rehearsals, missing academic lessons, the chatter, parents bustling about and the excitement of Founder's being in the air...POOF! All gone! However the teachers convinced us that 'every cloud had a silver lining'. The silver lining here was that the teachers could complete the entire syllabus and increase the course for the December exams. I don't remember crossing a black cat's path or swapping souls with the Kennedys (Freaky-Friday like) then why is this happening? WHY? All that we are left with is a heavy work load and numerous activities which are clashing, leading to a concoction of a cocktail of disaster. I would now appreciate God to step down and shower his silver dust on us, but I know that only happens in fairy tales. This is reality. This is just another day in the unlucky live of the eleventh graders! However things are taking a toll now, for the better. Our Founder's Day rehearsals have begun and the SAT fever is dissolving. Finally we can kick off our shoes and relax with a lemon cooler. But oh wait, the exams are just around the corner!



TARA SEN XI-C

यदि रोषोट विनाशकारी हो जाए

आज के युग में विज्ञान ने उन्नति कर ली है कि सोचने विचारने हिंसा विनाश करने यहां तक की मनुष्यों की तरह हर काम करने में रोषोट सक्षम हैं। रोषोट ऐसी शक्ति हैं जिसे का पयोग हम अच्छे या बुरे रूप में कर सकते हैं। यदि इसके विनाशकारी रूप को देखें तो ये विश्व को मरुस्थल में बदल सकता है। ये देखते ही देखते भयावह ताण्डव कर सकता है। किसी भी जगह पलक की दृश्य उपस्थित कर सकता है।

कल्पना करें यदि हम रोषोट से सारे कार्य लेने की कोशिश करें जो मानव की क्षमता के आकर है और वो हम पर इतना हावी हो जाए कि सारे के अजाय विनाश का कारण बन जाए तो क्या हो! तो वो हिंसक पाणी की तरह विनाशकारी हो जाएगा। इसके दुष्परिणाम भुगतने पड़ेंगे। इसे रोकना असंभव हो जाएगा।

हम रोषोट का पयोग इसलिए करते हैं कि हमारा जीवन सरल बने। परंतु ये हमें इतना आलसी बना देता है कि हमें लगता है कि परधान के बदले ये एक शाप बन गया है। इसलिए रोषोट का विनाशकारी रूप हमें समझ कर ही इसे पयोग में लाना चाहिए।

WHERE WE HAVE HOPE



*So, Blair keep your
England, and let me
keep my Zimbabwe. -
Robert Mugabe*

We in India often
disregard our greatest

boon, democracy. We are unaware of the political situations in countries less fortunate than ours. Take the case of Zimbabwe, one of the most prosperous British colonies. It fought hard for its independence and finally achieved its goal in 1980.

When the imperialists left, the fate of Zimbabwe was tossed into the hands of the party that led the fight for Independence. The leader of that party, Robert Mugabe, was quickly appointed Prime Minister for an unspecified term. The economy prospered and people led better lives. For a while, all seemed well. However, no one could have predicted what happened next.

By the late 80's Mugabe appointed himself the de facto Head of State. He then systematically dismantled the legal systems of Zimbabwe and abolished a large part of the Constitution, claiming most national powers for his own. Mugabe thus quickly established an oppressive regime, with direct control over both the Army and the Police. With control over these two powerful bodies and by further appointing his relatives for many important government posts Mugabe ruled unopposed. But that wasn't all. Corruption accompanied by the breakdown of institutions put a lethal strain on Zimbabwe's economy, pulling it to a financial standstill. Its currency plummeted and its people could not afford basic necessities like food to eat or clean water to drink. Critics of Mugabe were dealt with through the means of torture, and sometimes even murder, by a Secret Police Force, directly under Mugabe's control. The people of Zimbabwe were made to face terrible suffering. Zimbabwe collapsed financially, politically and socially.

Today, so many years later, Zimbabweans still face an uncertain future. The UN enforced elections in 2008 which Mugabe's party lost. However, Mugabe hurriedly organized a separate election where he ran unopposed, and thus managed to retain power. The international community meanwhile, continues to pressure Mugabe, and has cut off a large part of Zimbabwe's Financial Aid. We play cricket with the Zimbabweans. I am sure that like me, you see them only as the spirited, carefree representatives of a young African nation. We don't notice the pain behind their smiles.

Raghav Raizada

ANANYA – THE UNPARALLELED

Ananya or the unparalleled is a festival held once a year showcasing the best of Indian classical dance in the backdrop of a magnificent heritage monument – Purana Quila. *Ananya's* aim is to encourage group dancing and to keep the rich and vibrant dance culture of India alive. Each year this festival attracts thousands of people from all professional fields, and this year I was lucky enough to be amongst them.

There were performances that took place from the 3rd to 7th of October showcasing an Odissi performance by Madhavi Mudgal and her group, Mohiniattam by Gopika Verma along with her students, a Kathak performance by Moumala and Monisa Nayak and their troop of dancers, a contemporary dance by Astad Deboo

and Manipuri drummers, and a Bharatnatyam performance by Rema Shrikant and her group of students. Unfortunately I couldn't attend all the events but I did get to see one performance and attend a seminar which left me quite amazed.

As I entered the Purana Quila, I was surrounded by throngs of people. Among them were many foreigners seeking a glimpse of India's famous culture. The rest were either dancers or those just fascinated by Indian classical dance.

The performance started with simple notes being played on a piano, but the Manipuri dancers utilized these sounds in a creative and innovative way. They

started off almost in slow motion and then added their own beats to the music. They hit the stage with their fists and stomped their feet in order to create an interesting rhythm. They hollered together and even sang in a tune which was clearly heard all the way back from where I sat and enjoyed this spectacle. These dancers had a certain power in their voices and passion in their hearts which they portrayed by their perfectly synchronized dance movements. The Purana Quila in the background was the icing on the cake. There were dim lights on the monument which were strategically placed to enhance the visual appeal of this performance. I returned home satisfied.

People should really see festivals like *Ananya*. It gives you a wider perspective of the India around you. I didn't even know that dance forms like this existed and I feel that it is important for such art forms to be encouraged. *Ananya* has given a great platform to these dances and it is about time that we acknowledge them too.

Akhilla Khanna



SIMILES THAT DESCRIBE ME!!

I'm a girl **as busy as a bee**,
 And it's my dream to stay next to the sea.
 My mother gets **as pleased as punch**,
 If my plate is clean after lunch.
 I get **as happy as a lark**,
 When my mother allows me to go to the park.
 When I'm asked to do my homework I act **as deaf as a doorpost**,
 When I get good marks I feel **as proud as a peacock**,
 And I hear music on my ipod dock.
 Then I act **as innocent as a baby** to stay out of trouble!

Lovina Vasudeva V- B

In class I am **as quiet as a mouse**
 But when my friends and I are together, we can bring down the house.

Thick as thieves we are, when we play a prank
 However, when caught we each get a spank.

My mind is **as sharp as a needle**
 But when I get to work, I am **as slow as a snail**.

However, when it comes to playing games like Wii,
 For me, it's **as easy as ABC**.
 Karate has made me **as strong as an ox**

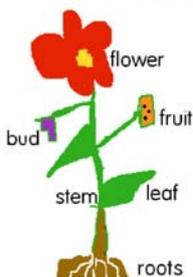
But after exercising a lot, I smell like a pair of dirty socks.

In cricket and soccer, I hit the ball **as fast as lightning**
 And to the opponent it is quite frightening !

All these activities keep me **as busy as a bee**...

And I am really very interesting after all, you see !!

Vishrut Khaitan 5- B



We used 'Jumpstart Artist' software on the computer to draw 'Parts Of A Plant'
Chetan Jain & Jai Varma, I - A

CLASS V STUDIES ASIA



We did a project on Asia for almost two months. To start with we had a

few quizzes and learnt a lot about various countries. After all this exploring, we started a project on the monuments and culture of Asia. We were shown a slide show on the spread of different religions in Asia. After that we were divided into groups according to our



interests- Art and Maths. We constructed different monuments using waste boxes, paper and our creativity! We also made facades of monuments on the computer with shapes and 3-D tools in MS Word. After everything was made some



girls helped Ms. Sarkar put up the exhibition near the book shop for the Social Studies showcase. If you didn't see it you missed something!!
Kaamya Sharma & Nimran Kang V- A



When we were learning Verbs we integrated it in our technology class and made match stick figures. We

chose the Drawing Tool Bar in MS-Word to depict the Verb. We then grouped the picture and gave it a background. Finally we wrote all the verbs using 'Word Art' tool bar features

Sahil Kumar & Shiv Juneja III- A

डायनोसौर

पढ़ते - पढ़ते मुझे ऐसा लगा मानो कोई मुझे हिला रहा हो। ध्यान दिया तो पाया कि आसपास कुछ हिल रहा है। मैं तेज़ी से दौड़ी और... अचानक, मैंने देखा कि मेरे आसपास का सारा वातावरण बदल गया है। मेरे चारों तरफ हरियाली ही हरियाली छाई है। तभी अचानक आंधी तूफान मुझे खींचकर ले गए। मैं तेज़ी से उड़कर एक अजीबो - गरीब जगह पहुँच गई। मैंने आँखें मल - मल कर देखा, तो यकीन ही नहीं हुआ। मैं एक डायनोसौर की पीठ पर बैठी हुई थी !

मैं आश्चर्यचकित हो उठी। वह डायनोसौर बहुत ही भयानक लग रहा था। उसके खूँखार दाँत, आइफल टावर जितने बड़े थे। उसकी चमड़ी हरे रंग की थी। फिर वह, चीते की तरह फुरती से भागने लगा। वह इतनी फुरती से भाग रहा था, कि मैं बेचारी धरती पर आ गिरी !

उसने मेरी ओर देखा, और मेरा पीछा करने लगा। वह मुझे निगलना चाहता था। मैं डर के मारे तेज़ी से भागने लगी। वह ज़ोर से दहाड़ा। तुरंत, मेरा अलार्म बजा मैं एकदम से उठ पड़ी। मैंने आसपास देखा तो मेरी खुशी का ठिकाना न रहा। मैं आखिर अपने घर सुरक्षित थी। भगवान का शुक है कि यह सब, एक सपना था।

प्रियांशी कुमार पाँच स

REASONS WHY I CAN'T WRITE A POEM

Writing a poem is a very big bore,
 My hand gets tired and my fingers get sore.

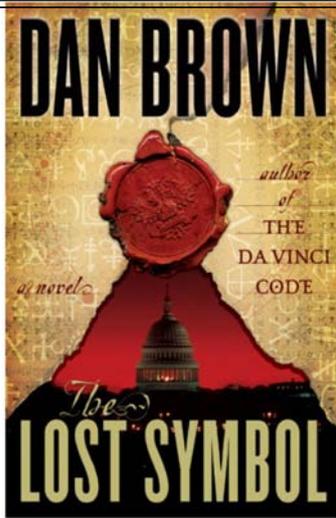
Blank is my mind,
 As no rhyming words I can find.
 Confusion surrounds my head,
 And I would rather go to bed.
 As I lay down and rest my tired eyes,
 I dream of playing soccer with the guys.
 Oh, writing a poem makes my head go round,
 Hours have gone by and no words I have found.

Adhiraja Singh IV- B

Getting Ready To Fly... FDN C



**LOST SYMBOL:
A BOOK REVIEW
OR
WHY DAN BROWN
SHOULD GIVE UP**



Dan Brown's new novel is interesting, to say the least. Set in modern day Washington D.C, it takes you through the history of the US Capitol, unearthing some of its greatest "mysteries". With its car chases, cryptology, symbolism, the Lost Symbol epitomizes Brown's work as an author. Herein lies the problem. If you've read one story about Langdon, you've read them all. Like the Da Vinci Code, or Angels and Demons, it basically goes like this:

The story begins with our protagonist Robert doing something relaxing yet beneficial to his development (see swimming, cycling or reading). He then gets a call from one of his closest friends - who all happen to be extremely rich philanthropists and members of a secret societies - who needs him for some urgent task. Robert gets onto a plane and flies over three thousands miles within fifteen minutes. He reaches the Capitol where to his surprise he finds that his friend has been murdered or kidnapped.

The plot takes a sudden turn and we are immersed into the world of an ancient cult: here the free masons, a scary looking villain whose identity is obvious from page 1, and a new age science that no one has ever heard of. The next four hundred pages go like this:

Person A: Robert, I have to tell you something. The (insert cool looking object here) exists.
 Robert: No, it cannot be!
 (Person A shows him something that's right before their eyes)
 Robert: Wow, suddenly everything makes sense.
 Person A: There is more, we have to get the next piece of the puzzle.
 Robert: I just happen to be a genius. Let me figure out where it is.

Most chapters end with this cliffhanger, followed by a chapter of pointless description, and then a sudden revelation that is irrelevant to the story line. Then Robert and Person A run around the city with the police chasing them. They reach a hidden room, and basically repeat the above sequence of events. Occasionally we get too see what the scary villain is doing, and who he's planning to murder next. This story goes on and on, and you reach the end of the book, hoping to find some life changing answer, but it is not to be. And so we you put the book down completely unsatisfied, while our man Robert has fun with his new love interest. (He is turning out to be quite the player)

In the Da Vinci Code, Dan Brown reached his potential. The Lost Symbol brings nothing new to the table as far as character development or writing style are concerned. It is simply an ingenious way to present chock loads of information; a very well written non-fiction book about a lot of different things. If you haven't read any of his other books (and I don't mean watched the movie) then pick it up. If you have, then buy a book about the secret history of the America and save yourself from having to read a run of the mill thriller.

Bhavik Singh

CELEBRITIES BUSTED!

Busted is back! This time the Editorial Board proves that even celebrities can make mistakes. Read the front cover to find out where you can send your favorite busted!

"Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life." - Brooke Shields.
I think I lost an important part of my intelligence after reading this one.

"You guys, line up alphabetically by height."
 "Half this game is ninety percent mental." - Bill Peterson, Florida State football coach
We must forgive him. As a football coach you can't expect his Maths, English or general intelligence to be that strong.

"I owe a lot to my parents, especially my mother and father."
 - Greg Norman, Golfer
A 'whole' in one!

"I think gay marriage is something that should be between a man and a woman" - Arnold Schwarzenegger
The gurvernator obviously still living in the Robot World.

"My sister's expecting a baby, and I don't know if I'm going to be an uncle or an aunt."
 - Chuck Nevitt, North Carolina State basketball player, explaining to Coach Jim Valvano why he appeared nervous at practice.
Poor guy; let's hope his gender confusion doesn't affect his ability to shoot three pointers.

"The Holocaust was an obscene period in our nation's history. I mean in this century's history. But we all lived in this century. I didn't live in this century." - Dan Quayle, former U.S. Vice-President
U.S Presidents are from a time of their own.

Put the off button on – George Bush
I guess we know why America was on the brink of a nuclear war then: 'Uuuuh Miss. Rice, this button labeled Nuclear Bomb, it's off right?'

"So Carol, you're a housewife and mother. And have you got any children?" - Michael Barrymore
Mr Barrymore, you are British and a Comedian. And have you got any basic grammatical skills?

"I've never really wanted to go to Japan. Simply because I don't like eating fish. And I know that's very popular out there in Africa." — Britney Spears
You should really try the desert trout. Quite the speciality.

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