Editorial

A Tale of Two Ma’ams

“It was the best of times. It was the worst of times.” There can be no other way to describe it! To say it in the words of Dickens could not be more appropriate for the two people for whom I write the following lines. The Weekly that one sees on a Saturday morning is not the Weekly that leaves for editing on Wednesday evenings. There are myriad changes made to every item. Similarly, the Board member who joins in his C, B or A form is decidedly different from the one who leaves in his Sc form.

When he ends his tenure at the Weekly, there is a remarkable change in his writing and thought process. As a writer and thinker he is several notches better than when he joined the Board. The question one asks is: what brings about this change in the Weekly and its Board members? Is it the character of the publication? Is it the Editor-in-Chief? I personally don’t think so. An Editor-in-Chief, at most, tweaks the system created by the previous Editors-in-Chief. After all, he is in that position for only a year. Moreover, an Editor-in-Chief, along with the publication, is also shaped by vital elements. Those vital elements are the masters-in-charge.

For almost a decade, PCH and STB have been these masters-in-charge. Their hours of editing and constructive criticism that have been shaping Weeklys over the years cannot be praised in one slim column. I remember collecting ‘skins’ of the Weekly from them every Thursday at lunch-time and noticing the red marks of their corrections, which sometimes covered the entire article. The style of functioning of both differed. PCH would occasionally have their bursts of ‘This is complete bana English!’ and equally suddenly there would be moments of encouragement following it. STB, on the other hand, would use subtle sarcasm (peppered with her strange ‘Hindiisms’) in a soft tone barely raising her voice. They both played the ‘bad cop’, seeing no point in being ‘good cops’ with us, and had an uncanny similarity of thought. Even if you caught them off-guard, separately, they retold the same articles, made the ditto corrections, gave the same suggestions and used similar expressions to say it like it is! Personally, I am indebted to those red marks and criticisms I received for my pieces.

Now, when they have decided to hand over charge of this publication, I must acknowledge that all the ‘blasting’ and corrections were worth it. No piece (except this Editorial) could have been published without them. Although this Editorial is inadequate, on behalf of all those who have worked for this publication with them both, I must thank them for their support and contribution. Thank you very much, Ma’ams.

Not Just DS-75

Vikramaditya Kapur

Considering the myriad events we witnessed, looking back at the beginning of the term is not easy. Most of the community felt that due to the intensity of the preparations for DS-75, other events would be compromised or just held for the sake of it. In my opinion, that was a prediction that was proved wrong. Those who have been heavily involved with the normal School activities in the past showed no lack of enthusiasm. What was really compromised was the time being allotted by the School for these activities.

The term started with unusually high rainfall, which often resulted in the cancellation of soccer practices and, luckily for us, even PT. One of the first inter-school events, DSMUN, 2010, saw more participation from other schools than DSMUN, 2009. The School also hosted the Chuckerbutty Debates and the Doon School Quiz, two important events that were cancelled last year.

The sporting events, such as the Inter-House soccer, swimming and basketball and the Inter-House Music Competition were as intense as last year. The sporting events that were directly affected were athletics and boxing, which lost practice hours due to the stage being set up on the Main Field. There was much dismay at the sight of the pylons being erected and the Field being occupied. Following the setting-up of the stage was the arrival of the guards and policemen at each gate as security gradually increased. While students were rounding up their preparations for their plays, publications, concerts and exhibitions, the organizing body was giving the finishing touches to the event of the year.

DS-75 came and we saw the arrival of more than 2000 Old Boys on campus. The President of India, the Governor of Uttarakhand, the King of Bhutan, Kapil Sibal and other prominent figures graced us with their presence. The President’s and Governor’s suggestions to make the School co-educational received much coverage in the media in the days that followed. It must be noted that even an unseasonal storm paid us a visit during the cel-
**TENNIS ACCOLADES**
The following are the results of the Individual Tennis Tournament 2010:

**Sardar Mohammed Tennis Tournament for Seniors:**

**Winner:** Kanav Mehra

**Runner-up:** Divij Budhraja

**Dr SR Vohra Tennis Tournament for Juniors:**

**Winner:** Arush Sood

**Runner-up:** Devang Mehra

**Well done all!**

**LAMDA KUDOS**
The following obtained Distinction in the respective categories of LAMDA:

**Bronze Medal (Grade 6):** Vikramaditya Kapur, Vidit Sidana, Shubham Dhingra, Pranay Raj Kapoor, Imroz Suri, Himanshu Todi, Pulkit Agarwal

**Silver Medal (Grade 7):** Shashvat Dhandhania, Sagar Karnavat, Saud Khan, Mahak Sharma, Siddhant Diat, Siddharth Kaal, Akshay Sharan, Aditya Vikram Gupta

**Gold Medal (Grade 8):** Spandan Gopal Agarwal, Vikram Kejriwal, Raghav Puri

**Congratulations!**

**APPOINTMENTS**
The appointments for the English Literary Society are as follows:

**Reading for Performance:** Raghav Puri

**Speaking Of Verse and Prose:** Spandan Gopal Agarwal

**Public Speaking:** Revant Nayyar

Ashray Bara has been appointed Boy-in-charge of the Implement Store.

Sagar Karnavat has been appointed Boy-in-charge of the Nature Club

Siddharth Dhandha has been appointed Boy-in-charge of the Science Society

Agastaya Bellad has been appointed Boy-in-charge of the Pin and Thread STA

Anshuman Bhargava has been appointed Boy-in-charge of the Trophy Squad

We wish them all a fruitful tenure!

**IISPSC**
The School was represented by Vivek Santayana, Shoumitra Srivastava, Piroune Balachandran, Vikram Kejriwal, Revaht Nayyar and Shashvat Dhandhania at the International Independent Schools Public Speaking Competition (IISPSC) at Ashbury College, Ottawa, between October 10 and 12. In recognition of their participation, School has been asked to send four boys, representing India, at the World Championships, The World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Contest to be held at Moreton Bay Boys Grammar School, Melbourne in April 2011. Congratulations!

**ROUND SQUARE**
Pulakit Aggarwal, Jai Ahuja, Ashutosh Goyal, Zayan Khodaij, Harshvardhan Singh represented the School at the Junior Regional Round Square Conference held at Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Mumbai held between November 11 to 14. A report runs in this issue.

**DT PRIZES**
The following are the Design and Technology awards for 2010:

**Metal Work:**

**D-form:**

1st: Yash Dhandhania
2nd: Nikunj Agarwal

**C-form:**

1st: Mohammed Amaan Kaazmi
2nd: Sachin Mehra

**Wood Work:**

**D-form:**

1st: Karan Sethy
2nd: Arth Gupta

**INDIVIDUAL AWARDS**
The following are the results of the Individual Chess Championship:

**Winner:** Gopal Singh Mann

**Runner-up:** Sarthak Gupta

The following are the results of the SR Das Memorial general Knowledge Prize Test, 2010:

1st: Saadman Mahmood Chowdhury and Shubham Agrawal
2nd: Tushar Thakral

The following were awarded the Certificate of Merit for German Language:

1st: Anshilsh Agrawal
2nd: Kartikeya Jain and Varun Narain Sinha

The following trophies were awarded:

**The Sunil Rawlley Prize for the Most Promising Tennis Player, 2010:** Kanav Mehra.

**The Sunil Rawlley Prize for the Most Promising Swimmer, 2010:** Aditya Vikram Gupta.

**The Best PT Leader, 2010:** Viren Kapoor

**Raman Trophy for the Best Motor Mechanics, 2010:** Shreyvardhan Swaroop and Samarth Jaiswal

The following were awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Yoga, 2010:

**D-form:** Kartikeya Kardam, Tanmay Gupta and Ayush Sarawgi

**C-form:** Suyash Shivam, Mihir Kiran and Akshay Sarawgi

The following received various levels of the Reading Award in their respective categories:

**Juniors:**

Silver: Abhayraj Jain, Krishna Lohiya and Kanishka Dev Tyagi

Bronze: Sachin Mehra

**Mediums:**

Silver: Pranay Raj Kapoor

**Seniors:**

Silver: Kanishka Malik and Raghav Puri

Sachit Taneja and Arvind Sharma have been awarded the Scholar's Blazer.

The following boys have been awarded the IAYP Blazer for successfully completing all three standards: Nilesh Agarwal, Devansh Khaiatan, Viren Kapur and Arvind Sharma.

Well done, all!
Letter To The Editor

Farewell, Fates

After dinner on April 1 last year, the day the current C form had joined School, I went by to Martyn House (on Weekly-business), only to find STB addressing a common room of chubby, wide-eyed new boys. After the formal briefing on the rules and regulations, she asked, rather mechanically, if there were any questions. I always thought of this as a rhetorical question, that it always meant we accept what had been told to us unquestioningly. Instead, three hands shot up, and the first question asked, before inquiries about phone chits, tuck shop cheques, general store indents or midterms, was (with sincere curiosity, I must add) “Ma’am, how do I write for the Weekly?” That moment was oddly reminiscent of my D form, but what I will always remember is PKB’s answer. “Both ma’am (gesturing to STB) and ma’am (then to PCH) are masters-in-charge of the Weekly. In fact, this is practically the Weekly house.”

It was the Weekly house indeed. I remember spending countless afternoons and evenings, weekdays and weekends there, discussing the contents of the forthcoming issue and digressing to my heart’s content. They indulged, patiently and encouragingly, my rambles (aurally and in print) and fed me (with my two-fold appetite for food and words). They spared me their time (and cake) and lent me their books. They stood up for the Editorial Board and me, and for our controversial writings; some of us needed a lot of standing up for. They taught me much of what I know, and whenever I say or write that “The Weekly has taught me to write”, I mean “STB and PCH taught me everything”. And I am very grateful.

We got so used to the weekly schedule that the days of the week were signalled by their moods: yelling (and intriguing bits of ‘news’) meant it was Thursday; mellow conversations (with a side of chocolate brownies and milk) meant Sunday; a wry smile or a suppressed chuckle meant Wednesday; then we were back to the shouting. But by the end of it all, we got used to each other (they, my awry prepositions and I, their stern looks and kind words or, sometimes, kind looks and stern words). In teaching us to write, proofread, edit, caption, title and the like, they did (perhaps inadvertently or perhaps out of their nature) much more: they grew us up. And while we have referred to them numerous times as ‘the two Fates’ or as ‘the Furies’, I guess what is most appropriate is that we call them two pillars of erudition who taught us much of what we know.

-Vivek Santayana

ERRATA

In Issue no. 2268 of the Weekly, dated November 13, 2010, Sandeep Khanna’s name was published as a Physics teacher instead of a Biology teacher. Also, in the same interview The Welham Boys’ Platinum Jubilee was mentioned as having been celebrated in 1987 instead of 1997.

In the same issue, in the article titled Boxing Highlights, only one category was reported to be cancelled instead of four. The Weekly regrets the errors.

Opinion Poll

Do you think Doscos can deal with disappointment?

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(278 members of the community were polled)
Preserving Punishments

There are some traditional institutions in School which are currently being disputed by the community. Through the DoonSpeak conducted in issue no. 2264 of the Weekly regarding traditions, the response of the students was interesting. Most have remarked on the worth of traditions, and expressed their dismay on the issue of them being done away with. In this context, I would like to discuss why punishments (meted out by prefects), an inherent ‘traditional institution’ must be preserved, at least to the extent that they perform the function for which they were established – ensuring discipline.

One argument that has been put forward by the opposers of this system is that punishments ensure discipline through fear, and this is unethical. The opposers of punishments expect all Doscos to take the initiative in correcting themselves, or expect prefects to use softer methods to ensure discipline. However, such a situation is very idealistic and sparing the rod is not always effective. Using harsher methods, such as punishments, are the only alternatives. I believe that punishments must always exist as a second option, as kinder methods do not always work. The fear brought about by punishment may sound unethical, but practically, it is doing more good to the community by deterring wrong-doers. The fear punishments bring about help in keeping us from violating rules. Punishments make us back off from making mistakes and when we see that we have been rightly punished for a wrong-doing, we are unlikely to repeat the transgression. Also, a punishment not only deters the offender, it also discourages many others from doing likewise, as they can foresee the consequences that follow. As a result, it prevents further misconduct.

Another point the opposers have made is that punishments are given for a malafide purpose such as personal vendetta or poor performance in a competition, and must hence, be abolished. The prefectorial body has even been occasionally accused of giving punishments that are too harsh. However, this would be tarring the entire prefectorial body with the same brush. Just because some people misuse authority and are over-zealous, it does not mean that the whole system of punishments should be done away with. If the issue of misusing authority by prefects ever arises, it is because the right people have not been appointed as prefects. A prefect must be one who is capable of guiding and correcting those doing a wrong, not someone who is vindictive or overzealous about punishing. That is why prefectship must not be a reward for one’s laurels, but for one’s virtues.

Another counter-argument for the issue of punishments is firstly, it is very difficult to distinguish between punishments that are extreme and mild. The extreme nature of a lot of punishments has been exaggerated. Secondly, if handing out extreme punishments is harmful, mild punishments are ineffective as the offender may repeat the offence. This issue can also be resolved if the right people are appointed as prefects, as then the punishment will, hopefully, be proportionate to the offence.

It is for these reasons that I believe punishments must be left to the judgement of prefects. After all, they were established – ensuring discipline.

Publications: Old and New

Mihir Kiran and Kanishka Malik emphasise the need for publications and how they are not redundant

Over the past few years, if there is any institution in School that has witnessed an escalating amount of participation, it is publications. The Doon School Weekly was the School’s first publication and over the years, fourteen publications specializing in different fields have emerged and can boast of great participation by the boys and faculty.

Recently, the feasibility of supporting fourteen publications has become a much-debated issue at School. Personally, I think supporting so many publications at the School level is worth it. The reasons for this are multifold.

Firstly, we must contemplate the reasons for suggesting the reduction in publications. One reason is the lack of readership. Many have suggested that publications must be closed down due to the lack of readership. The counterpoint to this would be that School is not the place where one should worry about readership levels. The publications in School are not commercial and the students managing these publications are not professionals. At this age we are only honing our talents and should not care too much about the numbers game. In this process, worrying about readership would deter us from developing our writing, designing and editorial skills. The opportunity of expressing one’s viewpoint or opinion freely can be the starting point of a writer’s career. School publications are like a foundation for this in many cases. Besides, (contd. on next page)
The fourteen publications in School all specialize in certain fields. The *Echo* specializes in Science, the *Econocrat* in financial matters, the *DVIR* in reviews and the *Cipher* in contemporary affairs and historical issues. Students have the choice of specializing in all these fields and closing down these publications would mean denying them this chance.

Some students have suggested immaturity in the articles as a reason for discontinuing some publications. In that case we must remember that at this age immaturity in our expression is inevitable. However, that is not a valid reason for not expressing one’s thoughts at all. Moreover, maturity comes with time. Also, many people (especially students) give more attention to Page 3 imitations than to articles of some seriousness. For instance, many students would prefer reading the *Roving Eye* on Socials in the *Weekly* than reading the Hindi page. This does not mean that the Hindi page shouldn’t be printed!

The Doon School Weekly, to an extent met this requirement. In the first production on the 19th, which was meant for the young, exuberant crowd of working class groundlings, the erudite scholars and the anthropocentric royalty. Judging from the audience reaction, the final staging, the appreciation was more subdued and lacked spontaneity, which can be attributed to more maturity in our expression is inevitable. However, that is not a valid reason for not expressing one’s thoughts at all. Moreover, maturity comes with time. Also, many people (especially students) give more attention to Page 3 imitations than to articles of some seriousness. For instance, many students would prefer reading the *Roving Eye* on Socials in the *Weekly* than reading the Hindi page. This does not mean that the Hindi page shouldn’t be printed!

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| Review |

**A ‘Fantastical’ Night**

Minakshi Basu

I looked forward eagerly to this particular play in the Rose Bowl as the director aptly indicated in his note that *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* was all he could think of when he first stood in the Rose Bowl. So expectations ran high, which is always a cause for worry and staging Shakespeare is an eternal cause for anxiety, with unending expert opinions professed by scholars through the ages. The only way modern directors can tread on this hallowed ground is to deconstruct and reinterpret the play through clever stagecraft, costume and choreography and this was successfully done by this production.

Shakespeare was a marketing genius apart from an undisputed literary one, who wrote for his diverse audience and kept all shades of humanity entertained. This particular play is proof of the poet’s ability to reach out to the ridiculous as well as the sublime and in my humble opinion this production did just that. In the first production on the 19th, which was meant for the young, exuberant crowd of the School, the aspect of the absurdity was much more appealing and applause was loud, spontaneous and clear. In the final staging, the appreciation was more subdued and lacked spontaneity, which can be attributed to more mature viewing and adult inhibitions. Needless to say, Shakespeare’s foremost desire was to entertain everyone, the working class groundlings, the erudite scholars and the anthropocentric royalty. Judging from the audience reaction, The Doon School production, to an extent met this requirement.

The play began on a sombre note without much action, as a typical family affair regarding matrimony. It was largely dependent on the delivery of the actors’ lines which is not the average schoolboy’s forte but as the play picked up momentum, the thespian aspirations of some of the actors unfolded and they slipped seamlessly into their roles with such alacrity that it held our undivided attention.

Shashank Peshawaria as Puck was the most endearing Puck with his elfin-like movements, gliding around the vast space, light footed and arboreal. He could be reserved for the role of Ariel if the School ever aspires to stage *The Tempest*. Uday Shriram as Bottom, was a natural-born Bottom, the pompous loudmouth who actually managed to ‘move storms’. ‘Bottom’s dream’, was well rendered by him. Helena, the cantankerous lover, whose feelings are never required, was played effectively by Bipasha with her shrill, querulous delivery.

I must congratulate the director, Arjun Rao, for his stagecraft. To blend the three aspects of the play, the oncoming wedding, the play within crafted by the workmen, and the fantasy world. The movements of the actors were well choreographed, without a single lapse, which speaks of arduous practice and teamwork.

The set was sparse but effective with the coloured lanterns and the candles creating the apt atmosphere for the midsummer madness. The body painting and the Indianization in the costumes of the supernatural creatures was brilliant.

I once again congratulate The Doon School for staging a difficult play with its multi-layered structure and for bringing out the spirit of aspirations, where we chase our dreams and then wait for ‘foolish fate’ or divine intervention, to act.
The next day we had an extravagant opening ceremony at the DAIS auditorium. The Conference was declared open by the school's chairperson, Nita Ambani. Then we had an interactive session with Shekhar Kapoor, who, as we all know, is the director of India's famous science fiction film, *Mr India*, and the period drama, *Elizabeth*. Currently, he is making a film called *Paani*. This was quite appropriate since the theme of the conference was *Water* and dealt with water conservation. After a conference photograph, we were divided into discussion groups called Barazzas. The Doon School outshone other schools with some of our delegates being chosen as their respective Barazza leaders. At midday we set off for Matheran, a hill station nearby, where we were to work on the theme project.

On the morning of November 13, we set off to do some social service in a village near Matheran. Matheran is a no-vehicle zone, so we had to walk a lot to get to the village. In the village, all the delegates, wearing their conference t-shirts, constructed a geo-membrane, interacted with villagers and made water-wells for horses. We also ate lunch with the villagers. All the social service certainly gave us a nice bubbly feeling inside. Alongside this, we were also making new friends from all over the globe. When we returned to our guesthouse in Matheran, we had a choice of various adventure activities such as flying fox, rock climbing, spider's web and good old soccer, and ended the day with dinner and a magic show.

The next day started with a dawn walk in which we viewed the lush greenery and the varied wildlife around Matheran. Next, the second keynote speaker, Bittu Sehgal, came to talk to us about water conservation. He was an able speaker and got us engrossed in his discussion. He also runs a nature magazine called *Sanctuary*. Once again, we were divided into our Barazza groups and were supposed to provide a solution for the present day’s water crisis. Though many other schools also spoke up this time, the Doon School contributed its share of innovative ideas. Since it was Children’s Day, we all were visited by the actor, Arjun Rampal. After the regular photograph and autograph session, he left us because of an unusually busy schedule. We were then treated to a viewing of the most fabulous collection of unusual birds, reptiles and snakes from Mr. Ambani’s private collection. However, the most anticipated show was still to come. As the sun was setting, the Gods decided to answer our prayers for water and the rain came down heavily, forcing the programme to be shifted into the dining hall. Each school gave a cultural performance based on the topic of the conference. The day ended with a special barbecue dinner and a DJ night where we danced until our feet ache.

The next day, bidding farewell to all our new acquaintances and with innumerable valuable memories, we returned to School.

On the flip side, income disparities are increasing, corruption is on the rise, our cities are expanding upwards due to space constraints, our population continues to rise, real estate prices are skyrocketing, the cost of living is rising, many resources are becoming scarce and we have to rely on imports. Our infrastructure is crumbling and the rate of developing new infrastructure is far behind the pace of economic growth set by us. Furthermore, our waste disposal systems are inefficient, leave alone our recycling initiatives. Our air is polluted, our water bodies are contaminated, our public transport system is overcrowded and brain-drain continues as many bright young Indian citizens still opt for a long-term career abroad. Bad for us!

In my opinion, we must consolidate what we have achieved and look forward. It is essential to have sustainable economic road maps. India is not just a supplier of manpower but is a nation capable of providing adequate employment opportunities to its own citizens and to citizens of other countries. History teaches us many lessons. The recent global economic meltdown made many mega-corporations and economies face the heat. We should not be obsessed with becoming a mega-economy but instead focus on becoming an efficient economy.

How do we do that? Well, for starters, we need to focus on our financial institutions and further strengthen them, curb corruption in public life, set realistic benchmarks to be achieved by different sectors of the economy and develop a work force which can adapt to change and is constantly upgrading its skills (The youth of today after thirty years will be middle-aged). We also need to opt for better urban planning, upgrade infrastructure, improve health facilities, conserve, and if possible, replace natural resources and focus on sustainable energy.

Our educational institutions must instill visionary leadership qualities in the youth. We need level-headed and pragmatic leaders to navigate us through various issues over the next thirty to forty years. We also need people who dare to dream and have vivid imaginations. Our human resource will continue to be the greatest national asset for years to come and we must harness and nurture it. I hope the India the next generation inherits is not a superficial economy whose bubble might burst but an efficient economy which will stand the test of time.
Holiday Could-dos

Movies

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<td>Due Date</td>
<td>Break Ke Baad</td>
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<td>The Social Network</td>
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<td>Jessica</td>
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<td>Obama</td>
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<td>That Girl In Yellow Boots</td>
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<td>Allah Ke Bandey</td>
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Sports Events

Football:
- Manchester United vs Arsenal (December 13)
- Manchester United vs Chelsea (December 20)
- Arsenal vs Chelsea (December 27)

Cricket:
- New Zealand in India ODI Series (Ongoing - December 10)
- India in South Africa Test and ODI Series (December 16 - January 23)

Tennis:
- Australian Open (January 17 - January 30)

Golf:
- PGA Tour Qualifying Tournament Final Round (December 8)

Music

Albums releasing in December, 2010 and January, 2011:
- All I want is you – Miguel
- Fame – Chris Brown
- Pretty Hate Machine – Nine Inch Nails
- The Beginning – Black Eyed Peas
- Tomorrow – Sean Kingston
- The All American Nightmare – Hinder
- Only One Vide Part 1 – Flo Rida
- I Ain... World Tour – Beyoncé
- The Last Tipps Vol.2 – Nas
- Planet Pit - Pithull

Books

- Shadow Lines - Amitav Ghosh
- The Chosen - Chaim Potok
- Letters to my Daughter - Barack Obama
- The Prosecution of George W. Bush for Murder - Vincent Bugliosi
- Captain Pantaja and the Special Service - Mario Vargas Llosa
- Makers of Modern India - Ramachandra Guha
- Half of a Yellow Sun - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- The Barn Owl’s Wondrous Capers (Graphic Novel) - Sarnath Banerji
- Perpetual (Graphic Novel) - Marjane Satrapi
- Cutting For Stone - Abraham Verghese
- The Last Symbol - Dan Brown
- The Inheritance of Loss - Kiran Desai
- The Museum of Innocence - Orhan Pamuk

Political Events

National:
- Visit of the Russian Prime Minister
- Visit of Chinese Premier

Elections (abroad):
- Myanmar President (by the Parliament)
- Presidential elections, Belarus
- Presidential elections, Comoros
- Irish Parliament
- Portuguese President

Others:
- Referendum on secession of Southern Sudan (Sudan)

Source: http://www.angelfire.com/ma/maxcrc/elections.html

Online Edition: http://www.doonschool.com/publications/the-doon-school-weekly/latest-issue weekly@doonschool.com

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Technical Assistant: KC Maurya Photo Credit: Sparsh Batra

8. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, November 27