Message from the Issue Editor

Dear Readers,

Are we evil by nature? Is there such a thing as necessary evil? If left to ourselves will we naturally exhibit a good character or a bad character?

Religion and philosophy throughout the ages have tried to answer these questions, but we still do not have an answer everyone can agree on. What interests me is how much influence these questions have in our lives. These are also some of the questions which keep the entertainment industry alive. Comics, novels and movies have delved into these questions with varying perspectives and takes.

“You complete me” says the Joker to Batman as they engage in battle in “The Dark Knight”. The Joker taunts Batman to kill him. However Batman does not kill; and though often pushed to the limit, he does not waiver from his moral code to not kill. The Joker interestingly also does not want to kill Batman because he is “just too much fun”; he believes he owes his very existence to Batman, as Batman’s evil counterpart and that both of them are meant to be who they are.

Batman has avowed to protect his city from crime and evil; and even though they operate with the same objective of fighting crime and evil in the City, the police consider Batman an outlaw, a vigilante who operates outside the law. With his dual nature as a crime fighter as well as an outlaw, can we still consider Batman a hero? With the loss of faith in the system to impart justice, someone who can impart justice by any means is idolized in our society. This is very well reflected in Indian movies, where the hero imparting his own brand of justice is accepted by the public as often the only way to deliver justice; and this is reflected in our

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everyday lives where people are willing to take the law into their own hands. Is it justice, when justice is achieved by any means, within or outside the prescribed laws of a civilized society?

In the Graphic movie, and later a movie of the same name, “Watchmen”, world peace is achieved based on a lie. One of the characters wants the world to know the truth and for that he is murdered by one of his friends. Is it really peace when the very foundation of it is based on a lie? How much “evil” would one be willing to commit to justify achieving one’s goal?

In the movie called ‘Transformers’ or any of the Marvel or DC universes, the villains come searching for the heroes wherever they reside to challenge them in battle. Would they have even considered coming had the heroes not resided in that place? In these universes too, not all citizens are happy to have heroes in their midst who seemingly attract “villains” to their cities for pitched battles of good vs. evil, and would rather see the heroes leave if only it would leave their city in peace. The heroes themselves consider it their duty to protect the city from the villains, irrespective of the reason or cause. Would it have been better had they not revealed their powers? Like the old gunslingers of the west, people come searching for them looking for a challenge, usually ending with the death of one. Would it have been better if they had not shown their heroism? Consider also the alternate scenario, if the “heroes” were not already in that place, would an ordinary citizen have risen up to the occasion to fight the evil/villain, and in the process become a hero?

So what makes a hero? Does a hero with hidden superpowers but with no opportunity to exercise or display his superpower still remain a hero? Or do we need a villain to bring out the “hero”? Is there a reason why there are villains? Maybe the villains are just the necessary evil to bring out the power of the “hero”. Just as Batman is tested on his moral code to not kill by the Joker, these villains are the medium through which the heroes are tested to the limits of not only their physical ability but also their moral limits. Would Bruce Wayne be Batman if there was no Joker to fight against? And conversely, would Joker be relevant if there was no Batman to fight his evil?

Is there such a thing as necessary evil? Imagine a world where there is no evil or villains in real life. How do we test our moral limits? How do we know how much good or how much evil we are capable of unless and until we face evil and the suffering it brings to us? Without a villain, would there be a hero?
**Campus News**

**A Talk on Creative Writing:** The department of English organized a talk on creative writing titled “Of Ink and Paper” on the 7th of November 2015 in the campus auditorium. The event was graced by resource person Ms. Vishū Rita Krocha, who is a prominent author and journalist having several books to her credit works as a columnist for *The Morung Express Daily, Nagaland*.

**PhD Progress Seminar:** Research scholars of the 1st batch of the PhD programme of the university presented their papers in the *First Progress Seminar* on the 23rd and 24th of November 2015. Experts from IUN (including Prof. C P Alexander, Pro Vice Chancellor) and other colleges (including Dr. Tabassum Khan, Asst. Professor, Unity College, Dimapur) were present. The Vice Chancellor, Col. (Dr.) VRK Prasad attended the seminar through video conferencing from Hyderabad.

**Board of Governors Meeting:** The 6th Board of Governors meeting of the university was held at the campus on the 26th of November 2015. Members attended the...
meeting from various locations including ICFAI Business School (Hyderabad), ICFAI Business School (Mumbai), IU Nagaland both physically and through video conferencing.

Advent Christmas: The celebration for the Advent Christmas program for 2015 was carried out on the 3rd of December 2015 in the university auditorium. The program was chaired by Shiyeto T. Chisi, BA 5th Semester. Rev. Robert Kikon, Pastor, Father’s House Church (Dimapur) graced the program with his inspiring talk and very practical insights on the true meaning of Christmas celebration. Students as well as faculties took active part in the celebration.

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Great Expectations (A Graphic Novel) – Part 8

Ms. Temsurenla Ozukum, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English

This graphic novel is the outcome of a class project which was conducted as part of the internal assessment for a course titled “Fiction from Richardson to Hardy” in the MA (English) class. For this project, the class was divided into eight groups and was assigned different tasks based on the text “Great Expectations” by the Victorian novelist, Charles Dickens.

One of the groups was assigned to create a comic book based on fifteen important incidents found in the novel. They were very creative and delivered a presentation using these comic panels involving events and incidents which Pip, the protagonist undergoes and overcomes as he attains adulthood.

Here is a short summary of the novel:

Great Expectations is the coming of age story about Philip Pirrip, otherwise known as Pip. The novel is narrated by Pip, a young orphan who seeks to become a gentleman in order to earn the love of the beautiful but cold hearted Estella. Estella has been adopted by the rich but strange lady Miss Havisham to seek revenge on men. With the help from a mysterious benefactor, Pip leaves his country home in Kent for London to become a fine young gentleman. In the process, he distances himself from the coarse life and upbringing of which Estella has made him ashamed. Eventually, Pip redeems himself and the novel ends with Pip as a matured and chastened individual.

This is the eight installment in the series.
Incident 8: Pip comes to know about Miss Havisham's revenge plot.

Pip goes to Bernard's Inn and realizes that Mr. Pocket is the pale young gentleman he met before in Miss. Havisham's place.

Do you remember the night we met when we were young?

Oh yes. I remember you.

They engage in a conversation and Pip comes to know about Miss Havisham's plan to revenge on矛 he through Estella.

Mr. Pocket introduces Pip to his friends.

Gentlemen, meet Pip.

Hello, I am Dummell.

Hello Pip, I am Sportop.

Pip and his friends are invited to Mr. Jaggers' place for dinner.

Thank you sir for inviting us.

My pleasure. Please feel free to continue with the dinner.
A Paper That Divides People...

Abdul Rahim Laskar, BCA 1st Semester

The hottest topic,
From the prince to a pauper,
All they talk about is ‘money’,

Aged 9 - 99,
All they dream about is money,
MONEY - MONEY - MONEY!
Money gives pleasure, comfort, luxury, respect,
And it goes on......
Does it really?

Too much money - one goes hiding,
Too less money - one becomes shameless.
The rich forget the beauty of giving,
The poor forget the beauty of living.
The luxuries of the riches - I can only dream,
The miseries of the poorest - I can only imagine.

Some are buying plots on the moon,
Many sleep with no roofs over them.
The statistic is like a slide in the park.
Pooh! We study, sign, dance, and yes even eat.
Because money follows.

Money, it is sucking the humanity out of everyone.
Yet, we all drool over it.
A paper that divides people.
Why then, do we love?

...
In our modern electronically connected world, electricity has become as essential as water. Without electricity, civilisation would be greatly crippled. It would not be possible to perform many activities which contribute to economic and technological development. Communications and standard of living in particular would suffer greatly from its absence.

During the year 2014-15, the per capita electricity generation in India was 1,010 kWh. Out of this, around 69% of the energy generated was from coal, natural gas and oil sources. This puts a big strain on India’s reserve of fossil fuels. Although efforts have been made to explore and take advantage of renewable sources of energy, they are not capable of producing enough electricity to meet the energy demands of India. In situations like these, nuclear energy has to be considered. Currently, India has 21 nuclear reactors in operation in 7 nuclear power plants which account for 2% of the energy produced in India.

There are quite a few advantages of producing energy via nuclear sources the biggest one being lower emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Compared to the amount of greenhouse gases produced to the amount of electricity generated, nuclear energy is a much cleaner alternative to energy produced from fossil fuels. However, it is widely accepted as a somewhat dangerous, potentially problematic, but manageable source of generating electricity. Radiation isn’t easily dealt with, especially in nuclear waste and maintenance materials, and expensive solutions are needed to contain, control and shield both people and the environment from its harm.

In conclusion, there is no perfect energy source. Each has its own advantages and compromises. The dialogue about using nuclear power centres on weighing the risks against the rewards, as well as the risks inherent in other forms of power generation.
As part of their coursework (English Poetry), the BA (I) General English students were required to compose poetry in class – What you will read below is a result of their effort – there is a budding humanist in each one of their voices. These are some stunning poems because of the honesty and the humanness of the words... "All’s divine in desire" in The Simple One is a Dante-like turn of phrase. A Girl is very simply but effectively put through. Crystallized has quite a song-like quality to it, imagine it being sung along to some very strong metal riffs. The Hills Have Eyes - curious this one, for it invokes the deformed/dysfunctional horror-noir as an analogy of the destruction of nature, but ends in hope. Winter far from bleak, it also ends as an opportunity to rediscover warmth. This is my letter...Hard hitting but deferential - a paradoxical but protestant register rings through against the institutionalisation of religion and life itself. Hills out at age-old institutions without batting an eyelid, and for simple logical reasons, which age-old institutions tend to get quite googly about.

The Hills Have Eyes

We are ruining the nature
We must change our behaviour
Though the world is growing more advanced
We can’t stand a chance
If she pours her wrath on us
That day will be the last of us
And you can’t hide your lies
‘cause the hills have eyes.
So be the change you want to see in them
Because we are all in the same game
We’ve destroyed almost everything
And now we cannot recreate anything
But gone is gone
Nothing can be done
it’s the point of no return
Do the best with what you have, learn
Now, act your best
To save Mother Nature
’Cause nothing ever lasts forever
Or else, we’ll all suffer.

--- Wenu Nroko

Winter

Winter! Winter! Yes, it is here
With its harsh cold, it is here
Festive mood everywhere
As it brings every year
Hot coffee sips near the fire
Wrapped around the blanket as I desire
Families coming together

Surrounded by love and warmth as they gather
Love and joy everywhere
As it comes every year.

--- Sasha Thejavino

Crystallized

Crawl back to life,
It’s been far too long
Crystallized
Round interstellar moons
Seed of light, into your atmosphere
What’s your world like?
Is the house we’ve built still here?
When the beat of my drums,
Meets the beat of your heart,
You know why I couldn’t love
Any other.

--- Kepangwar Pongen

The Simple One

If I may say,
The world I know is so beautiful,
The world I know is so magical,
With you by my side.
I’ve been waiting many hours
By the silent moon,
In the wild the jungle flower
Your toxic perfume...

--- Merentoshi Longkumer

This is my letter to the Naga

This is my letter to the Naga,
The news that Nature told me.
So much of talent in Nagas, not utilised,
Most common thing, to aim for Civil Service.
Never met a Naga who truly says,
“I love what I do, Civil Service is my passion”
Most do Degree without knowing, like me,
Choose your own path and career.

Don’t study with financial sustenance in mind,
Have purpose and passion centered in Christ.
Your purpose and passion that matters,
Parents push their children to be like them.
Dreams of children dictated by parents.
Only one life, don’t throw your life away,
Enjoy heaven and enjoy earth too.

I really love Nagaland,
Except for the road, everything’s wonderful.
Hope churches stop being built instead build roads,
Nagas are very talented and hospitable by nature,
Want to see this beautiful land developed,
Most educated and most talented
Come together and reform the society,
Give change a chance or never.

--- Wenu Nroko
Photo-Synthesis

Photograph taken by
Rupanka Bhuyan,
Dept. of IT & Mathematics, IUN.

“Lonely Road”
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