Message from the Issue Editor

Dear Readers,

The task of writing an editorial like this is rather a daunting task and something I find burdensome, it is something I like as much as I like going to the dentist for a root canal treatment, however, the privilege that was given to me was something which I could not postpone nor pass it.

As I struggled to write something interesting, from the world of motivational gurus to sharing a story, stumbling upon the words of Martin Luther King Jr. struck a chord so pertinently. He writes, “There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right.” These deeply challenging words brought me back to the recently concluded students’ seminar on “a Conversation on Politics” where a platform for dialogue was created to engage students cutting across disciplines in constructing their future in a more informed manner amidst the changing social and political reality. From attack on our constitutionally protected rights through determining consumption of a particular type of food resulting in death like we have seen in Uttar Pradesh, moral policing, to visualizing a country where homogeneity, mediocrity and subservient citizenry is encouraged as seen in the Hindu Rashtra national project of the right wing extremist RSS, VHP, Bajrang Dal etc. are some of the things which are dangerous for the well-being of a pluralistic country like India. It is indeed, a trying time for our own sensibilities and concerning others. This rising intolerance which we have been encountering for many months in India as well as around the world is the biggest challenge we face today as students and educators in pursuit of knowledge, of truth and of justice, in other words the pursuit of happiness and the Good life. Whether we like it or not, we are placed at a juncture that would change the course of history from being a tolerant society to an intolerant one.
The question of whether to question or not to question has never been more appropriate than ever before and as students. Therefore, it is so important to inculcate and train the mind towards a critical inquiry. Universities like ours have a significant role in building a tolerant and respectful society. This can only happen with the cooperation and consent of both the teachers and the students. We owe it to ourselves and the future generation.

Ms. Kaini Lokho
Assistant Professor
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Seminar on Politics: The department of Political Science conducted a *Conversation on Politics (An Interdisciplinary Post Graduate Students’ Seminar)* on the 15th of October 2015. Mrs. Achilo L. Kikon, Asst. Professor & HoD of the department chaired the seminar. The keynote speakers were Dr. Dolly Kikon, Political & Legal Anthropology, Stockholm University and Dr. Akum Longchary, Editor, *The Morung Express*. Post graduate students from the departments of English and Political Science presented papers which included: (i) The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act and its Effect on Human Rights in the North Eastern State of India, (ii) Human Trafficking: A Threat to Social Security in North East India, (iii) The Influence of the Past Traditions in the Present Time; in regard to the Unequal Treatment of Women, (iv) Indo – US Nuclear Deal, (v) Gitanjali from the Religious Aspect, (vi) Globalization and India’s Growing Economy, and (vii) Environmental Hazards and Human Rights in India.

**Tapasya Team Annexation:** This month the Tapasya Team has been further annexed with 14 new student members from both the undergraduate and post graduate classes of the various streams.
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 seventh installment in the series.
Incident 4: Pip’s arrival in London.

Pip visits Miss. Havisham’s place thinking she is his benefactress.

Miss. Havisham,
I am going to London and I am very grateful for everything you have done for me.

The next morning he departs from his family.

On reaching London, he goes to Mr. Spenlow’s office.

Good morning, Pip.
I’m doing good.

You will be leaving at 8 o’clock tonight, young gentleman, Mr. Jinny.

Good morning sir. How are you?
Hold On

Soyimla Akum, MA (Eng.) 3rd Semester

When you feel life’s on the edge
When your dreams and aspirations blur
Doubts overshadows your hopes
And anxiety overtakes your resolve
Let just hold on, hold on for your life’s sake
Hang out for the last time
Maybe the line may not be the end yet
So just hold on till dawn

A smiling face at worst of times
A word of comfort has been great strength
Even though fortitude ebbs lower
Where fear rides high and death seems imminent

How devastating thought it is
Devoid of your known faces
Afraid, alone and exposed
Fearful of the unknown for the next phase

You see a light dawning your mind
When the world seemed endless
Burden melts, enlightenment through faith
So just hold on till dawn

...
As we look into this generation, many people are so ungrateful. We have so much yet we complain so much. We have so much to be grateful for yet we take for granted all that we have and we just want more and more. Some people live un-happy life because they don’t have what they want and they are convinced that once they get whatever is their want, they will be happy. It is like happiness is a destination – “once I get into this relationship then I’ll be happy”, “once I get this job, this car, then I’ll be happy”, “Once this problem turns around then I’ll be happy”. But, the reality is that you can have all the money in the world, all the expensive gadgets, cars, and still be unhappy. And, if your happiness is only reliant on the temporary physical things, you are setting yourself up for disappointment. If your happiness is only reliant on a person, what happens when that person walks out of your life? They are taking away your happiness with them.

I am thankful to God everyday with the family that I have, that I have a roof over my head, the food and water to eat and drink, friends and a good education. I mean, how can I complain? I have so much. You might have so many things you want, but there is so much you have. There might be a lot wrong, but there is a lot right. Do you continually thank your parents for everything they have done for you or do you continually ask them to give you more and more?

It doesn’t matter whatever state you are in life, how depressed you feel, how anxious and suicidal there’s always something to be grateful for. So, take your time and try to be a little bit more thankful and appreciate what you have because there are many people out there that would like to die to have your life.
Behind Their Prayers

Inakali Assumi, MA (Eng.) 3rd Semester

They say their prayers daily
They go to church regularly
Not a fault to be seen in them
That’s the way they conceal it.

They say they love humanity
They pray for the suffering
So, when they see one – they turn away
That’s the way they conceal it.

They talk about love,
None has ever loved God like them – People say
So, when there is a friend in pain
They say empty prayers and leave
Saying, God will take care of everything.
That’s the way they conceal it.

...
Photo-Synthesis

Sketch by
Kekhriesilie Richa,
BA 3rd Semester.

Best Contribution of the Month
The Editorial Board

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