



THE DELHI SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

DSC Newsletter March 2011

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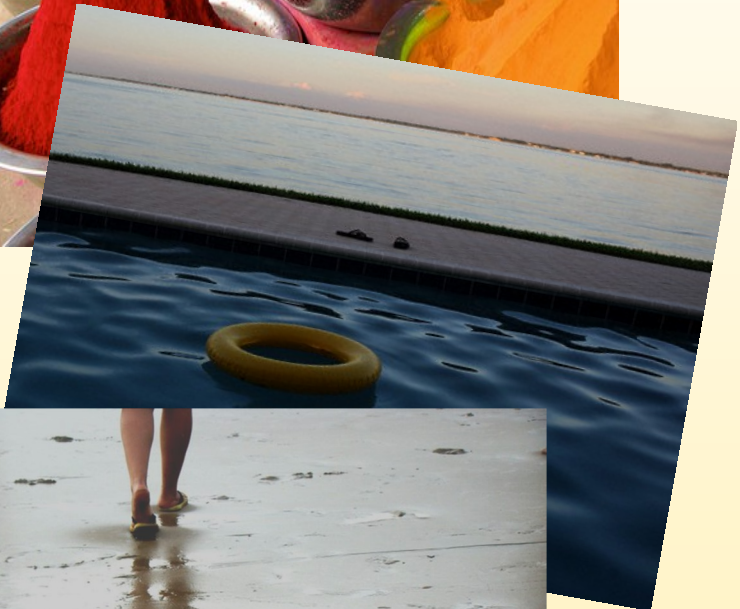
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On Campus

Thesis Presentations by PGDPC XV

The ritual of Thesis Presentations began with gusto, as student executives of PGDPC XV presented their research on new and exciting areas. This year the topics spanned fields as diverse as Photojournalism to Communicating Religion to the more technical ‘The Role of PR in Crisis Management’. Over the next two issues, the Editorial Team will bring to you a synopsis of the thesis presentations, a glimpse into topics less known till date.

Communicating Religion

Ms. Megha Jaiswal, PGDPC XV

One of the most unique presentation this year was ‘Communicating Religion’ by Ms Megha Jaiswal. An explanation of how two juxtaposed words ‘Communication’ and ‘religion’ may not have anything in common and yet are indispensable. The paradox in the phrase ‘Communicating Religion’ is that Religion as an entity , instead of being promoted through different means of communication, has been now used as a tool in communication



wherein it functions as a backdrop against which a brand or service gets promoted. The presenter gave a comprehensive account of the origin of different religions in the world and a narrative of their evolution. A crucial insight which resulted from the presenter’s research on the topic was the preference of spirituality over a particular religion by the youth. The concept of spiritualism over religion has been gaining momentum in the recent years. The idea that spirituality is a more serene manner of connecting with the divine powers and attaining a ‘spiritually cleansed self’ has come into the limelight lately.

In the age of disturbed values and instability the idea of distancing oneself from religion seems to be a viable and preferred choice and the only substitute that remains in sight is that one idea of spiritualism which does not adhere to a strict book of rules.

Photojournalism

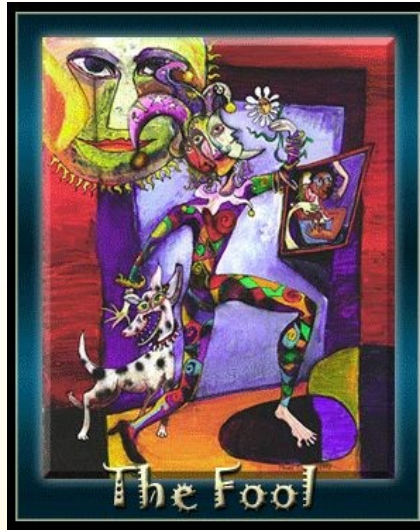


Pictures taken by Ms. Rashi Walia

Ms. Rashi Walia
Student Executive
PGDPC XV

The thesis presentation on 'Photojournalism' by Ms. Rashi Walia was replete with strikingly beautiful pictures taken by renowned photographers and herself. She didn't just limit her presentation to the history, significance and the types of photojournalism; she made her presentation excessively interesting by giving the audience tips on evolving their photography. She also illustrated the difference between photography and photojournalism. She mentioned that photojournalism can serve as an instrument for democracy & justice. It also aids rein in violence & oppression.

THE FOOL



Ms. Khushboo Mehra
Student Executive, PGDPC XVI

‘That, of course, is the great secret of the successful fool - that he is no fool at all.’

-Isaac Asimov

The fool is among those collective epithets that have an unusual power to assign status. He/she is a person whose person or behavior is regarded as improper, ridiculous, and hence inferior. Literature, drama and folklore make wide use of the fool as a social type. Historically, in ancient times courts employed fools, and traditional forms which often dealt with transitional periods in the life of the countryside: new year, Lent, Mid-Summer, marriage feasts, funerals, initiation rites and holidays (Christmas, Easter), had fools who played erratic games with these primary foundations of human experience and expressed how the society either managed or mismanaged meaning in both everyday and heightened experiences.

In the 13th century, Medieval England relied on the familiar figure of the jester to serve as reality maintenance constructs, and to create a sense of release for and in the population within the rigid social hierarchies. During the Renaissance the court and aristocratic households in Britain employed licensed fools or jesters, who sometimes dressed as other servants were dressed, but generally wore a motley coat, hood with ass's ears or a red-flannel coxcomb and bells. Regarded as pets or mascots, they served not simply to amuse but to criticize their master or mistress and their guests.

Though the tradition of court jesters and fools was discontinued after the restoration, the fool as a figure continued and still continues to exist within theatrical space. This figure has come to be an institution that allows the society to reflect on and laugh at its own complex power relations. The critical insider who may be low in the social order, but nevertheless possesses a voice that commands attention from all sections of it, and may even unsettle the very apex of the order. A figure which constantly questions our perceptions of wisdom and truth and their relationship to everyday experience. S/he readily applies metaphysical abstractions to attack the routine taken-for-granted aspects of the daily rituals of the audience, becoming an important conduit for determining meaning and clarifying abstractions which rule our lives. The fool lifts the veil of authority, devoid of decorum constantly making silly remarks, acting irreverently, unmasking the unpleasant aspects of power. S/he gives us the opportunity to humorously look at our own values and judgements as the powerful socio-cultural structures of power pull, push, and shape our identity.

Adam and Eve: A beginning of subjugation?

Ms. Tanya Bose
Student Executive, PGDPC XVI

Even though John Milton used his ingenious panache for writing to glorify and amplify the version of the Genesis, in his blank verses of the “Paradise Lost”. Most of our notions of Adam, Eve and the Garden of Eden are contrived from the epic poem rather than the Bible.

God made man in his own image; God patterned man after himself. The paradox being, even though man was made in the image of God, he was created by a substance as meagre as futile as dust. “The Lord formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.” (Genesis 2:7). God gave man absolute dominion over everything in the Garden of Eden – the fish, the birds and every other organism that existed in the Garden of Eden.

After a certain period of time, God then recognizes that Adam cannot continue to remain unaccompanied – so He then creates the first woman, Eve. “The Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from the man he made it into a woman, and He brought her to the man.” (Genesis 2:21). In various texts Eve, is said to have been created to be an ‘aid’, a ‘helper’ for Adam. Thereby instilling a false and naive sense of concealed superiority in Adam, considering Eve was created with his bone and flesh. Milton elucidates his sentiments in the line “this is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh ...”

Feminist theologians have contested the traditional reading of the word ‘rib’. They suggest it instead be rendered as ‘side’. Both men and women have the same number of ribs, which makes them equals in that aspect. But men and women unlike other mammals lack the ‘baculum’ which is present in most mammals, could have been the bone used to create Eve.

Whether the reflections of the anxieties of the modern men and women were showcased or insinuated in the Paradise Lost shall always remain debatable.

Absence

The cool wind's blowing high
The crescent moon's blushing and shy
Feeling solitary in thy absence
The whole sky is a deep sigh,
The night is like an eternal lie.
Your gracious absence,
A pilgrimage for me,
I am the pilgrim and the god myself,
I am the artist and the world itself,
I am the space and the minutest existence.
The world is made of contradictions
I feel in your absence,
Your gracious absence.
God lies there where music loses its magic,
Symphony breaks harmony,
Where absence enshrines eternity
And mystery becomes a revealing ...
....Your gracious absence.



Who knows the art of absence better than you?
Of course the world is for the magicians,
You know how to mesmerize the world,
You know how to make miracles
Milestones of the mankind,
You have the essence of that divine wisdom
The art of absence...
...Your gracious absence.
Absence is the essence of desire
The fragrance of nostalgia,
Absence is the craze for dying
The prospect of a new life,
Absence is the juvenile earth
And its fire

Happy Holi!



Here's wishing all our readers a very Happy Holi! May the colours of the season brighten your life with fun, warmth and love.
Enjoy and spread the colours of Holi!

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