

Fight over truth at Loreto debate

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

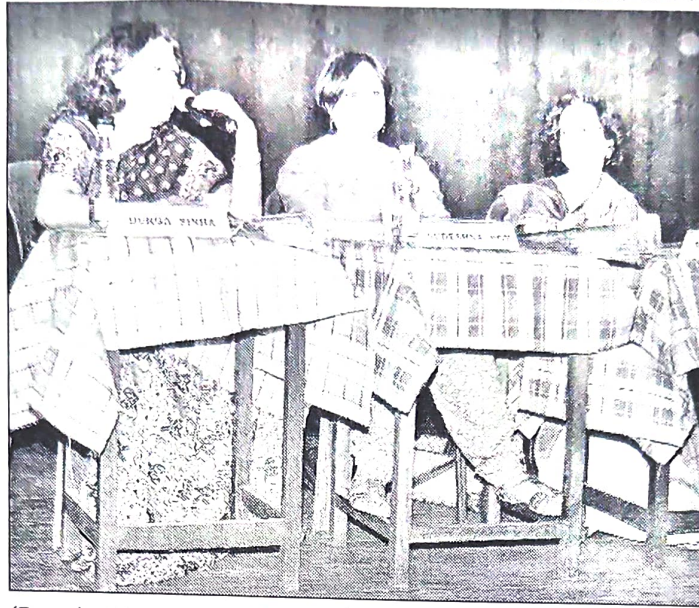
Aranya Roy Chowdhury

Kolkata: Must truth always be sugarcoated? Or is it better to dish out truth without any frills? The 'Past vs Present Debate' at the Loreto College auditorium brought some of the argumentative old college girls back to where they all started out.

Six Loretoites took the stage to slog it out on Friday as part of the centenary celebrations of the college. Those taking the podium were an eclectic mix of filmmaker, journalist and academic who received stiff competition from the students of the college in the battle of words.

The motion: 'The house believes that truth must be told at all times'. The house was proposed by the team of present college girls comprising Shrishti Nandania, Adrija Chatterjee and Krishna Didwania. The motion was opposed by old girls — journalist Bachi Karkaria, filmmaker Sudeshna Roy and dean of ICAI business school, Durga Rani Sinha.

The house was opened by the lead speaker of the proposition, Shrishti, who went on



(From left) Durga Rani Sinha, Sudeshna Roy and Bachi Karkaria at the Loreto 'Past vs Present Debate' on Friday

to say that one must under any circumstances not refrain from speaking the truth. "Satyameva Jayate should be the order of the day," said Shrishti.

Shrishti was, however, counter-attacked in her own words by opponent Durga Rani Sinha who laid out certain basic principles as to why truth cannot be spoken all the time.

"Man co-exists in a society. For practical, ethical and social reasons one cannot speak the truth all the time," Sinha said. Second speaker for the proposition, Adrija Chatterjee, got confused with the topic when she insisted that truth is a moral option and more often than not an advantageous option. "Truth is multi-dimensional

and whether we speak the truth is a personal choice," she said.

Filmmaker Sudeshna Roy went on to share some personal stories. "I realized at a very young age that speaking the truth can be anything but advantageous. It can be spoken sometimes, not all the time," Roy said.

The debate reached a crescendo with Bachi Karkaria's incisive wit and powerful rhetoric that received the loudest cheers from the audience. "The truth is always ugly. You need to conceal and powder it before presenting it. And it is always the adulterated truth that works," she said.

The debate was moderated by former faculty member of Max Mueller Bhavan, Raju Ramani. The opposition managed to successfully impress upon the audience and were declared the winners.

The debate was organized by the Loreto College Alumnae Association. The curtains will come down on the centenary celebrations with a western music performance and a fashion show organized by designer Anamika Khanna, also an old student of the college.

REPORT IN TIMES OF INDIA - TIMES CITY, Pg 2, SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4th, 2012