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Mousetrap

The online edition of the Times of India column by Peter Griffin

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Communications consultant, creative director, columnist, travel writer, blogger.

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19th March, 2006

The traditional model of information dissemination is top down – experts, professionals, editors, call them what you will, find and select content and then present it to their readers. This newspaper you're holding is an example. The restrictions of space (or time, in the case of broadcast media) make that a viable model. On the web, those restrictions don't hold. Or, at least, they're not that strong. Each of these sites represents a challenge to the established way of doing things.

Radio YOU

The Kamla Bhatt Show

Kamla was India's first podcaster ('podcast' is a neologism, from the popular iPod music player + broadcast; it basically means a sound file you can download and play on your digital music player or computer), with talknewsindia.libsyn.com and

newsaboutindia.blogspot.com. Podcast shows like hers require little investment: a computer and a recorder, a sound editing app (many free options available) and a net connection. Of course, to gain an audience, you need good content, something she has been working hard on, and has continued to do after a move to the USA. She has just launched her own "show" and has already scored her first coup, an interview with Azim Premji. Not many conventional radio shows can claim that!

Reader suggestions welcome, and will be acknowledged. Go to http://o3.indiatimes.com/mousetrap for past columns, and to comment, or mail inthemousetrap@indiatimes.com. The writer blogs at http://zigzackly.blogspot.com/.

Published in the Times of India, Mumbai edition, 19th March, 2006.

posted on Saturday, March 18, 2006 2:48 PM

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