

What Price Truth?

Now is the time to search for truth and knowledge. It is an unending, life-long search. The worlds within, and the world without, abound with new ideas and new relationships waiting to be known and understood.

If we want old knowledge, it is stored in books of which the library teems. If we are content with old knowledge, we can continue to believe the things we have been learning and telling ourselves all these years. Strange, how repetition reinforces plausibility.

If we want new knowledge, we must question the old answers and old truths and bring them up to date in light of current life and current experiences. The quest for new knowledge and truth is a bold and exciting adventure that only the strong and courageous willingly undertake. Facing the truth about life and ourselves takes courage that few men possess.

Old truths are like old shoes; they are comfortable, seem irreplaceable. But time brings the need for new truths and we must accept them, as new shoes, even though they may hurt a great deal at first.

You have been told that there are universal truths; and maybe there are. How do you know when you have found one? This is like saying, "This is it! You need look no further." We should never limit ourselves; especially in the sphere of truth.

It takes courage to travel the untread paths to knowledge. Your worst enemy will be that part of yourself that clings to the pleasant security of dear and familiar half-truths.

Now is the time to enter the realm of creative thinking . . . treading the paths unseen and untouched by others. It has been said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." There is a price for freedom and a price for truth. You will find that it is worth every cent.

—Robert H. West

Malignant Talk Is No Party Game

Have you ever played the party game called Gossip? It is a simple game in which the participants sit around the room and a simple sentence is whispered around the group. When it returns to the originator, he says it aloud and then states the original sentence. The object of the game is to see how distorted the sentence gets. For instance, the sentence could begin as: "Mary has a silly giggle," and could end up as, "Harry eats rotten figs."

The example is extreme, but it will do. The operating principle has a serious significance in real life. This can mean hurt feelings or even broken friendships.

Campus gossip is an especially dangerous problem. Students live in a closely knit situation which affords many opportunities for loose talk. When the books are put aside, talk begins; and for some reason, others always enter the conversation. Quite often the volume of words is in inverse proportion to depth and accuracy of information.

The problem is obvious. To avoid responsibility for it is to keep a closed mouth or to say only what can be backed up with facts.

Malignant talk is like cancer — unknown of origin and painful of consequence.

—Creek Pebbles

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LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



Letters to the editor...

Two momentous milestones have been reached. The importance of these cannot be apathetically accepted. An obvious first is the attainment of senior college status. Constituting a vital part of the success of Mars Hill as a senior college is the second achievement, the formation of the Student Government Association.

There are two roads along which Mars Hill may travel in future years. The choice as to which one we will follow must by necessity be made now, at our beginning. We could, along the first road, go on to become an institution renowned for its standards of learning and for the atmosphere of integrity and responsibility created by the students. This step must be initiated by today's students, for a college is what its students make it.

In order for us to attain our ultimate goals, we must have consistently enforced standards at Mars Hill. This requires not only

Paper's Lament

Getting this paper out is no picnic. If we print jokes people say we are silly; If we don't they say we are too serious. If we stick close to the office all day, We ought to be around hunting material. If we go out and hustle, We ought to be on the job in the office. If we don't print contributions, We don't appreciate them; And if we do print them, the paper is sometimes filled with them. If we edit the other fellow's write-up, we're too critical; If we don't, we're asleep. If we clip things from others' papers, We are too lazy to write them ourselves; If we don't, we are stuck on our own stuff. Now, like as not, some guy will say We swiped this from some other paper. WE DID!!!

enforcement by the faculty, but also a purposeful involvement on the part of each individual student. For these students to feel this responsibility they must have a decisive part in forming the standard by which they are expected to abide. The student government provides just such an opportunity, if students are permitted to exercise this entrusted power.

From the student government could evolve an honor system, whereby the entire student body, rather than only those students holding positions in the student government, would feel free and even obligated to uphold the standards of the college. If we fail to realize these objectives, we automatically choose the other road, one of lost ideals and obscurity.

We as students can continue to plod complacently through our campus life, disregarding the fact that we are the only ones who can make this choice; or we can make a determined and conscientious effort to prove that we are mature enough to merit this confidence from the faculty.

If you have considered this letter a joke, you have not read into it its true purpose. We are not "rebel rousers," but students vitally concerned for the future reputation of our college. We would encourage those who are interested to talk with us for a better understanding of our purpose.

—Dolly Lavery
—Ellen Havens

A Sad Story

He read the textbook,
He studied the notes,
He outlined both.
Then he summarized his outline.
Then he outlined his summary on 3x5 cards.
Then he reduced the card outline to one single card.
Boiled the card down to one sentence,
Boiled the sentence down to a phrase,
Boiled the phrase down to a word.
Entered the exam,
Analyzed the question,
And then, forgot the word.

Thanksgiving Is Important Too!

Four, three, two, one — home again, home again! Thanksgiving and the joy of being home is foremost in the minds of each of us. This paper goes to press and is read. Away from the grind of classwork and the busyness for a few days will do us all a lot of good. It's been a long time since we arrived in Mars Hill. Much has been done or not done. The case might be. Teachers are reminding us of past-due parallel and papers that should have been done earlier. Pressures of activities and late hours of study are finally catching up adding up to the fact that we need a vacation.

The HILLTOP staff wishes to say "thanks" to each club reporter and faculty member who has contributed to the newspaper thus far. Especially is a word of appreciation due to our faithful advisor who works diligently to help put the staff together. The staff also wishes to say thank you to the administration and others who make our work possible.

Thanksgiving is sometimes spoken of as "Thanksgiving." Most of us will eat hearty meals cooked at home and enjoy being with our families. Some of us will experience the absence of a loved one for the first time. "Thanksgiving" is the awareness of what we have to be thankful for each day. Ours is a rich heritage (as we are reminded each chapel period), and we ought to be thankful for it. We should be thankful for the privilege of living at this time of Thanksgiving. Over the tables laden with food and during hours of relaxation, may each of us be free to come back more dedicated to the rough work ahead as we plan those papers and prepare for exams.

From your newspaper staff — a hearty and wholesome Thanksgiving time wherever you are and whatever you do!

—Mary Mattison

Is Thanksgiving For Nov. 28 Only

Thanksgiving is the smell of fall in the air. It is the time of year when trees look as if an artist had spilled his many colors and each received its own brilliant shade; it is the sea when the cold nips the sea of noses protruding between caps and scarves; it is a time of family and plenty; it is the call to families to come together at reunions and eat until they can no more; it is the smell of a turkey roasting sizzling in the oven; it is the warm, fragrant smell of rice and gravy and all the trimmings so necessary for a Thanksgiving dinner; it is a time which inspires families to come to church and thank God for another good year; it is a time of young and old; it is the pealing of church bells and the world-wide chant of "thank-you, thank-you for this blessed day!"

Now Stop! Think! What is it like the day after Thanksgiving?

Everyone gripes because he ate too much of his favorite skirt won't fit due to a few excess pounds which were added the day before; the weather seems too cold; the house is dirty from the bottom; the dishes are still in the sink because everyone was just too tired to clean up before going to bed; the whole family is off schedule because they went to church the day before; the house is in a turmoil and everyone is complaining about one trifling thing or another; mouths and hearts which whispered words of thanks and love the day before are now shouting and shouting out of selfishness and hate.

Everyone seems to have forgotten that Thanksgiving was just the day before and all too soon things are back in the same old "grind."

Are hearts pure that beat "thank-you" and pump out selfishness tomorrow? Are we truthful that whisper gratitude today and plain tomorrow? Are Christians sincere when they let the festivities of the day of Thanksgiving absorb their good-will?

No! Thanksgiving is not a day. It is an attitude which daily expresses itself in praise and gratitude to Him, Who is the giver of all things good and true.

—Adapted