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The Independent Truth: "Truth Answers Five Points of Criticism"

University of Tennessee - Knoxville

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FOR A BIGGER, BROADER AND BETTER U. T.
Take the Mile-stones off Our Neck

"Know The Truth and I Shall Make You Free"

TRUTH ANSWERS FIVE POINTS OF CRITICISM

COMMITTEE OF ONE

FIVE KERNELS OF FACT WERE GLEANED FROM THE CRITICAL SHEET BY A CONTRIBUTOR TO THE TRUTH WHO DISCUSSED THE FIRST ISSUE WITH FELLOWS STUDENTS.

THE STUDENTS IN GENERAL REGRETED (1) THE NAME OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FINANCES; (2) THAT WHAT APPEARED TO BE DESTRUCTIVE CRITICISM OF AN HONOR SYSTEM; (3) THAT NO NAMES WERE SIGNED TO THE ARTICLES; (4) THAT THE PAPER LEFT THE IMPRESSION OF A FLY ATTACK ON DR. H. A. MORRIS; (5) THAT THE TRUTH WOULD INFLUENCE PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS TO SEEK ELSEWHERE WHEN SELECTING AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING.

IN ANSWER, INDEPENDENT TRUTH WOULD SAY:

1. THE STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE UNIVERSITY RECEIVED $900,000.00 FROM LAST YEAR'S TAXES MAY HAVE BEEN INACCURATE. $900,000.00 WAS MERELY AN APROXIMATION. FOR IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TRUTH TO SECURE THE EXACT FIGURES, AND UNTIL SUCH FIGURES ARE AVAILABLE, NO MORE MENTION WILL BE MADE IN TRUTH'S COLUMNS OF FINANCE. TRUTH LIVES UP TO ITS NAME; ADMITS ITS MISTAKES; AND FIGHTS FOR THE RIGHT. BUT WHY IS IT THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE TENNESSEE'S ACTUAL INCOME?


3. THE CONTRIBUTORS TO TRUTH HAVE THE RIGHT TO SPEAK OUT ON ANY ISSUE. IF BOTH SIDES ARE WRONG, TRUTH WILL HAVE NONE OF EITHER, BUT WILL CONTINUE TO DO ITS PART TO CORRECT BOTH. NOTWITHSTANDING, THESE SAME CONTRIBUTORS ARE HERE PRIMARILY TO PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF THE UNIVERSITY. THE ACTUAL FINANCIAL OUTLAY IS TOO GREAT FOR THEM TO VENTURE THEIR NAMES AT THE EXPENSE OF THEIR WRITINGS. TRUTH REGRETS THAT MANY READERS HAVE GIVEN THEIR NAMING PAGES MORE THAN A PASSING GlANCE. IT INVITES THE HEARTY SYMPATHY AND COOPERATION OF ALL. IT IS WORKING FOR THE GOOD NAME OF THE UNIVERSITY. IT REALIZES THE POTENTIALITY OF ITS STATEMENTS WOULD BE MULTIPLIED IF THE NAMES COULD BE ADDED.

4. TRUTH IS NOT ATTACKING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE. IT RECOGNIZES HIS COMPETENCY AND ABILITY FOR EXTERNAL CONTROL. TRUTH DOES REGRET THAT THE PRESIDENT TAKES SO LITTLE ACTIVE AND TANGIBLE INTEREST IN THE UNIVERSITY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND PERDURS IN PASSING THE BUCK DODGING THE QUESTION. IT WOULD RESPECTFULLY SUGGEST THAT WHAT SEEMS TO BE ABSOLUTE POWER BE REMOVED FROM THE REACH OF ANY ONE MINORITY.

5. TRUTH RECOGNIZES A GREAT ERROR IN ITS FIRST ISSUE. IT STATED MANY EXISTING DEFECTS IN OUR INSTITUTION AND SUGGESTED MANY MORE. THESE DEFECTS, IF THEY ARE NOT ADJUSTED IMMEDIATELY AND THE LOSSES PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED, MAY CAUSE MANY PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS TO CONSIDER OTHER SCHOOLS IN PREFERENCE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE.

THE "BACKED" OF TRUTH WOULD REGRET SUCH RESULTS.

TRUTH FURTHER BELIEVES IT IS BETTER TO PRESENT THE SITUATION IN AN HONEST WAY AND ENDURE THE CRITICISM THAN TO CRYSTALIZE INTO CONSTRUCTION, ACTION THE MANY IDEAS ITS READERS HAVE. IT MIGHT FURTHER SUGGEST, AS A MEANS TO AVOID VITUPERATIVE CRITICISM, THAT CERTAIN HIGH EXECUTIVES BE RELEASED OF SOME OF THEIR JUDICIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND BE ALLOWED TO DEVOTE MORE OF THEIR TIME TO RESEARCH AND LECTURE—WORK FOR WHICH THEY ARE NOT APPOINTED. IT WOULD SUGGEST THE ADDITION TO THE STAFF OF ONE OR MORE COMPETENT MEN TO TAKE UP THE DUTIES THUS RELINQUISHED BY THE PRESENT INCUMBENTS.

IN THE ABOVE REMARKS A CONTRIBUTOR HAS MODERATELY ENDURED TO CORRECT PRESENT EXISTING MISCONCEPTIONS OF TRUTH'S PURPOSES.

WRITTEN EXPULSIONS

EVERY SINCE THE UNIVERSITY HAS FUNCTIONED THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF BOYS DROPPED FROM THE ROLLS OF THE INSTITUTION AND THERE HAS BEEN AN ESPECIALLY LARGE NUMBER FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS. WE DO NOT Doubted whether most of these boys deserved to be shipped from the University.

The president has been a good man students who have been fired or sus- pensed and the administration has refused to send written notices to their parents why their sons or daughters were shipped of suspend- ed. There has been more of this kind of business than the average student suspects. Is it not fair for the parents that they should have the University's reason for dismissing their children?

In practically every case where the administration had a good reason for firing the student the parents do receive notice from the Dean's office. But when the case is well made out against the student and there is considerable doubt as to whether it is just to ship a particular student, then frequently the administra- tion does not send the notice. Is this fair to the student?

One case giving us a good example of this. A student of good standing clipped eight lines out of a paper in the library, was called up and suspended for ten days. He did not know this was against the rules and offered to replace the paper, but he was suspended. He asked the administration to give him a written notice so that he could show his parents the exact reason he was suspended, this was promised several times but somehow never done. This way prevented the administration from giving it to him. Finally they promised to send it to his parents right away. So the students went home, no explanation came and nothing ever came. It was hard for the student to make his father believe he was suspended for cutting eight lines from a three cent newspaper.

When the student returned he thought probably the letter had been lost in the Christmas mail so he asked the superintendent if he had been sent out. He received the reply: I did not think it necessary, we do not have to give a written notice why we dismiss students.

The student protested, "But you promised," this did not help the situation any.

Is this the way to make a student respect authority? Is this the proper management for a democratic institution?

Weather Forecast

Conditions unsettled, but with a great change in the temperature of the Administration.
Independent TRUTH

Editorial Staff

OUR RECEPTION

The initial issue of Truth was greeted with unexpected cordiality, which was greatly appreciated. Of course there were some that are always too narrow minded to do anything but follow the lead of those in power, and these used the hammer as much as possible.

The attitude of the administration was very surprising and almost disappointing to the editors of the Truth, for actually we secretly hoped that the administration, when it realized that there was really discontent among the students, would start to cooperate in an effort to eliminate the trouble. We see now that the technique used by the administration in this case has been a complete failure.

If the administration had been right in its policy of stopping any such anonymous paper, they could not help but see that the Truth was the best interest of the school but it had to use questionable methods in order to present its ideas.

The administration should have seen that the Truth was working for the best interests of the school and trying to better conditions. They should have seen that an on-campus paper would not be understood over the state and its criticisms were a signal that the administration was in the wrong in treating students as second class citizens. The administration was placed in the position of a second class citizen by the administration itself.

We had hoped for was an invitation from the administrators to make ourselves known on the condition that we would not be fired. After we had presented ourselves, then they could have shown us where we were wrong, and we would have devoted this issue to the idea that we had been wrong and that we should have done something to stop such a paper. What we had hoped for was an invitation from the administrators to make ourselves known on the condition that we would not be fired.

If our criticisms were false and the administration knew that they were in the right, they would have done something to stop such a paper. What we had hoped for was an invitation from the administrators to make ourselves known on the condition that we would not be fired.

We hold that the best way to keep our state funds is to make the University a school of which the state can be proud to cut off all the budget. We will have to show the state that it is getting value received for the money and this will never be done by filling up the state with students who have been here and are disqualified with the wa ylings that are run, and a large majority of the senior class feel that way and will carry that impression with them into the state. We think it is high time that there be a change in policy. What the world wants today is results and no excuses, and we fear that the administration has offered more excuses than results in the past four years.

It makes Tennessee such a fine fine to this school that the state will not have the heart to "hold out on us." What we want is an administration that will not be afraid to make a decision for the right and know that this is the best policy.

STUDENT EXPRESSION

Under the guise of apparent in-financial, the truth, the author has said that the students are doing all they can to secretly detect the backers of this. It is this very thing they should do, but why don't they do it above board.

The first move of the Powers was to call an absolutely ridiculous meeting of the Publication council to inform the staff of the "students" weekly, and that there was to be absolutely no mention in the columns of the Orange and White of the question of the Art department, the work of Dr. Sprouls, and above all things there was to be no mention of the Truth. This session is to be absolutely secret, for you know there is no official censorship of the press at U. T., but the truth will cut.

Now, these three questions above all others are the main interest to the student body. Now, if ever the students should express their opinions. If the Truth is merely the expression of a small dissentent element, why were the columns of the Orange and White shown in the "more level headed" students to vent their anger on an anonymous paper criticizing the leaders and shaming us in the eyes of our friends? There is but one answer and that is that the administration fears the power of the Truth because it is the truth.

The editor of the Orange and White has been criticized very unkindly by several students who have criticized her because she has taken in some of the recent questions. Let us say in her behalf that it is not her faults, for the editors of the "student publications" are only fit paws in the hands of the Administration. The paper is only a tool of the Administration. We have to know that the editor's recent criticism was the direct result of a close and conferenience with the Dean, and there is nothing else but that editorial could do. The publication of the paper is absolutely controlled by the administration, refused to allow the paper to publish the reply of the Argus department this week. Is this fair play? If it is not, is it right to expect men who train the leaders of tomorrow to practice fair play?

The Truth wants to urge the editors to continue their work until the publication of the Hill, in spite of the administration and the discussions of the school problems to cut them off. As the administration is so mean that it is not possible to have a close and conferenience with the Dean, editors please express their criticism freely and work for the real good of the school.

We wish to commend the Knoxville News for its fearless publishing of the facts concerning the University.

The other Knoxville papers boost the good and had indirectly, in deed appear to shut their eyes to the bad. The Knoxville News makes an intelligent disinterested, and good ally itself to the side of progress. Progress does not lie in the direction in which the other newspapers of the city are tending. Indiscriminate boosting may help a community towards matters that are not good. But it is doubtful that it will do even that in the long run. But we are absolutely sure that we can advance us morally and intellectually.

Again let us say that the Knoxville News has published all they can and is not SECRETLY DEFECT the backers of it. This is the very thing they should do, but why don't they do it above board.
The Truth About The Law School

Why Don’t Trustees Receive Petitions Addressed to Them?

Last year practically every honored society in school, every literary and debating club, the president of every allied organization, and the Dean of the University signed a petition addressed to the Trustees of the University of Tennessee asking for a department of public speaking. Dean Hopkins had always talked in favor of the proposal, and President Morgan had given every indication of being interested. The very vitals of a successful law school can only be taught in its department. The primary object of the department is to train the student to be a lawyer.

The teacher's job is to give the student the ability to think for himself, to make his own decisions. The law is a very complex subject, and it is impossible for any teacher to teach in such a way that the student will understand and use the material. The teacher must be able to communicate his knowledge to the student, and this can only be done through the medium of the written word.

The Student

Why is it that a student, just, because he is a student, is looked on as incompetent to discuss the questions of the day? Just because the first issue of the Truth was not a yellow sheet and seemed to show a little original thought, many people would not agree that it was the work of the students. But the complement of a few students is more than the achievement of the faculty, or the alumni? We feel greatly complimented at these conjectures, but why are they made? Those who did concede that the Truth was the work of the students, refused to credit it on that account. The average citizen fails to realize that over 25 per cent of our student body are of age and just as much citizens as you or me. With this general impression of the student abroad, is it not high time that the student should speak for himself? We think so, and since it is impossible for us to use our publications, we are forced to turn to the use of an anonymous paper.

We understand that the Dean in a conversation with one of the faculty, merely laughed at the Truth, and said that its editors should not be disturbed, but ought to make themselves known. Now we don’t think an anonymous paper should be signed at all, for it will be misunderstood and probably hurt the school. Therefore we challenge him to make his challenge public in writing, and we ask that we can afford to make our names known.

Blended Stories

Long ago there was a beautiful forest located in the land of Sun-
shine, and in this forest there lived a happy band of forest folk, who were ruled over by Three Bears. Years before these Three Bears had been chosen, but now they had been chosen to look after the forest as their own. They had not broadened their ideas or changed any in their rule over the forest folk and they looked on them- selves with consuming satisfaction. They were so beloved of themselves that when one owled the others provided if one of them was wanted some food the others were always ready to get it for him, but if one of the forest folk wanted to make any change, or ask any questions, the three big bears delighted in scaring the little creatures away or making some suggestions. They gloried in their prime, and could not realize that, with their changed policy to hold their principles of equal standing in the forest, the whole change in the life of the forest folk.

From far and wide the Forest Folk came, and in one great army they came to sue, petition in Dean Hopkins’ office. This action, seems, was taken without any notice to any of the multitude of signers, or to the Debating Council of the University. The ability to speak in public is one of the essential things that can be learned by those who wish to make their training influential in the world. The money which the University could do nothing for the good of the school. Now, ninety percent is an enormous amount—yet it was raised in a few moments.

And the result? Oh, as usual, the “Powers that Be” proceeded to re- fuse, to allow the matter to come to the trustees at all—either with or without their sanction. Their words pledging for the matter evidently did not bind them—it was not in black and white, except as published.

Agricultural Department, which had itself endured the movement heartly so that its graduates might be helped by such a speaking course in preference to the usual cut-and-

BLURRED STORIES

Alberts Leaders, students, and others, for the work of the year. The story is true, but the names have been changed to protect the interests of the individuals involved.
The Right of Petition

Since the nobles of England in the Middle Ages forced King John at Runnymede to grant them certain privileges and rights, now known as the Magna Carta, the civilized people of the world have been struggling and even fighting for freedom of speech and a voice in the government. This has been traced through the centuries by such events as the French Revolution and the Revolution in the World War, which, as is said, was fought to preserve democracy and to destroy autocracy. While this has been a world-wide movement, it seems that the University of Tennessee has been moving in the opposite direction. It has not even been influenced by the changes that have come about in many of our universities and colleges toward a more liberal administration, until now there exists a virtual autocracy.

The editors of the Truth—and we feel that we represent the sentiment of the majority of students on the Hill, if our observation be correct—think that we have a right to know something of the administration which directly affects the life of the student. We have been informed from a reliable source that there have been two faculty meetings since the opening of the University in the fall. If this be true, how can the students’ interests be represented? Is not the faculty in a position to know more detailed student needs, individually, their desires and thoughts, than any other group? And if the faculty seldom meets to discuss common issues, how is the students’ viewpoint to be presented? The so-called student publications are censored by the same autocratic administration. Because of this condition, the students have been forced to adopt other means of expressing themselves, resorting to pen and papyrus at various times in the past, but with the same result. It is doubtful whether these petitions have ever been considered. One recently presented, more than a week ago, brought no response from the administration.

Such a condition of things can have nothing but a detrimental effect on the new students.

The high school graduate comes to the Hill imbued with the spirit of democracy that has been taught him through his whole school career, only to find himself thrust into an environment of absolute autocracy. He soon learns that he has no right to free expression, and that his thinking is for him. He lives in a ‘tension atmosphere for years, if he remains at the University, and then he merely bides his time, using his powers of independent thought. If he dares to complain, he is promptly told that if he does not like the way things are run, he can withdraw and go elsewhere. But this is not always possible, as many students are not financially able to go to another institution, and are therefore forced to remain, often against their inclinations.

What we would like to see is a more liberal attitude on the part of the administration in dealing with the student. Why could not a University of Tennessee make a forward step and place its administration as far as the student is concerned, on a plane comparable with our other universities? Why does there not exist a council composed of the administrative officers, the members not be a council composed of the student and a representative group of students, to act on such cases?

Inasmuch as the administration has been autocratic, and to that extent, we demand, that a change be advisable in method of procedure, if not personnel. And, if the present administrative heads are too set in their ways to meet the growing demand for a change, and cannot work, that the change be by a change of administration.

Men have always appeared to meet crises, and there are those who believe that the University of Tennessee who have been with it for a number of years, of liberal views and broad outlook, who can take over the reins.

The REAL ISSUE

In the midst of all this meaningless talk about evolution, we as representative and thoughtful students of the University of Tennessee have not lost our bearings. In the first place, however, since the matter of evolution has been forced upon the consideration of the University and public during the last year, it may be well to say that what is understood as evolution by the scientists is not at all the same thing as the idea comprehended under the term by the association of churches and ministers who have been publishing their resolutions in opposition to the supposed position of the president (a stand which they have made no direct move to refute) on the subject. But discussion of the matter would lead us too far afield. We would simply say that if, under cover of the "Bryanese" orthodoxy (if it exists) of the administration of the University, three authors of resolutions believe that they have made a blanket enactment upon our grievances, and in possession of the cure thereof, they are very wide of the mark.

Not one of the many associated editors of the Truth is either actively or passively concerned with the question of evolution. They are profoundly interested, however, in the standing and in the health of the growth of what can be one of the greatest of our American institutions of learning if it can be made to thrive through all its parts and branches (including the administrative branch) for genuine academic progress, unafraid of publicity or the searchlight of truth.

What is the issue? Did you not read with the limes as well as between them, in the last number of this paper, that we are convinced that the human element that is guiding our helm is not functioning in such a way as to inspire the best results in any quarter? If we did not say so in so many words, you recognized that we "had it in" for the "Presidentialism" as it exists (and has since our issue, been overwhelmingly proved) in our governing body, with special reference to him who has taken it upon himself, though not the president, to make of our state institution the vehicle for his personal ideas and them alone.

We doubt that he, even if his mind were open to advice and provocative ideas, and even if he could see the "handwriting on the wall" at the present time, is capable of meeting the growing needs of our growing University.

This brings us to the issue. Many students fear the Truth will hurt the University. Many alumni wonder if the Truth will hinder the progress of our institution. Many citizens expect Truth to be the cause of a step backwards by the State University.

The publishers of the Truth realize that the University will suffer because of their publication, but they believe firmly that the suffering of the institution will be little now compared to what would happen should conditions go on as they are. Should one resist and operate to remove a cancer on the grounds that suffering will result, Andrew Carnegie once had a new hospital destroyed thereby losing much time and money, but another building he put in the place of the one destroyed paid for both before the older would have paid for itself. The fire and delay hurt for the time being but paid in the end. Though the Truth hurts U. T. at present, it will remove a millstone from her neck, and will fit Tennessee to run the race faster and surer.

The Truth may hinder the progress of U. T., like the paving of streets hinders traffic, but who can object to the delay caused by laying of good pavements? Truth will for a time slew the march, but shortly Tennessee will have a more rapid smoother, and continued progress, with all hands happy in the fellowship ahead.

So many think the Truth hurts, and is a temporary step backward, but shortly Tennessee will emerge healed of the wounding, with her path well defined and full of energy gained through the experience of a step backward that the forward rush could carry all obstacles. The Truth believes it can give Tennessee a more rapid growth than ever known, a better realization of the students’ needs, and a closer fellowship between every person on the Hill; and on these grounds does feel justified in the temporary disturbance it is causing.

Many students fear the Truth will hurt the University. Many alumni wonder if the Truth will hinder the progress of our institution. Many citizens expect Truth to be the cause of a step backwards.