

Opinion

Sully takes rigid stance on traditions at A&M

"Psst . . . psst, over here." I looked around but there was no one to be seen.

"Over here young man," called the mysterious voice. I searched in vain once more.

"Would you kindly lend me a hand, young man?"

"Where are you?"

"I'm standing directly behind you."

I turned around but saw nothing except Sully's statue. "Look, I don't feel like playing games. If you need help, then tell me where you are. If you keep hiding I can't do anything for you."

As I looked in back of the statue, it called again.

"Face me," it commanded.

I turned toward Sully, in the direction of the voice. Then I saw it — Sully — began to speak.

"Could you scratch my right knee?" I scratched.

"A little to the left . . . ah, yes that's much better. What time is it?"

"It's about 4," I responded. This is nuts, I'm talking to a dead man's statue.

"Thanks. I can't read the face of the clock on that new bell tower down the way, it's too small.

"Can't you tell the time by the sounding of the bells," I asked.

"No, they just ring in my ears."

"What did you want with me anyway?"

"I just wanted to speak to someone."

"Do you mind if I get this on tape?"



John Hallett

"Go right ahead. . . . It gets lonely here. So many people walk past me everyday, yet no one pays any attention to me. I don't get any respect."

"Yes, you do," I replied. This statue honors you. Every Wednesday Lambda Sigma holds Sully's Symposium right here so that students may address campus leaders."

"It wasn't held here last week."

"It was canceled due to rain," I said.

"I was here. By the way, can you tell me what happened to my gardens?"

"What gardens? . . . the only gardens I know of are the Floral Test Gardens on Houston Street."

"Nothing is sacred anymore."

"Sure there is, Texas A&M still has many traditions."

"Young man, what is tradition? Many traditions are such practices that have outlived their usefulness, yet some person or group continues following them because they refuse to change. Such traditions are nonsense. The A&M that I knew was intended to be more pragmatic than it is today.

"Don't misunderstand me, there is nothing wrong with conservative values. But when A&M's traditions and conservatism stand in the way of practicality, no purpose is served. Too many traditions require people to live in the past."

"I think a lot of students would disagree with you," I replied.

"I'm not referring to traditions such as yell practice or bonfire. I speak of traditions that existed at one time or another, such as racism and chauvinism."

"Now wait a minute. . . . Who are you to speak? Weren't you a slave owner?" I retorted. "Weren't you a chauvinist?"

"We have all made our mistakes. The point is to learn from your errors. The reason I am still standing here is to watch over this college, excuse me, University. And I will continue to stand here as long as I am needed."

"Aggies are proud and rightly so. I still love this University but I feel that one of its greatest faults is that it has never learned humility. There are times when we should be humble. I stand here proud of my accomplishments, yet I stand humble. We must admit our mistakes and move on, striving to be the best we can."

"Too many people here are obsessed with 't.u.' The purpose of this University is not to compete with the University of Texas, it is to give the students of Texas A&M the best education possible."

"Can I assume then that you are against this 'world-class university' business?" I asked.

"Never make assumptions, you know what they say about that," Sully responded.

"Well, what do you think about it?"

"We should set as a goal not to be the best university in the world, but to be the best university that A&M can be. And if you get right down to it, my colleague, President Vandiver, never said anything about a 'world-class university.' He wants A&M to be a university that plays a more important role in global affairs — a 'world university' in the truest sense of the word."

"What's the strangest thing that has ever happened to you," I asked.

"That's a difficult question to answer," replied Sully. "I really lead a pre-

tty boring afterlife. I don't do much but hang around. I hear people talk a lot, though."

"I've stood here and overheard students and alumni referring to A&M's past in such a way that you would think this place was a monastery until it had been overrun by the Mongols."

"When I came to here in 1891, there were many citizens of this great state who hesitated to send their sons to this institution because A&M had a reputation for gambling and drinking. I found it to be an exaggeration, but it was true in the sense that the cadets did have their vices. Boys will be boys. . . ."

Getting back to your question, about the only thing I can think of is being painted green by Baylor. By the way, how is the team doing?"

"We're five and two. We lost to Alabama and Baylor."



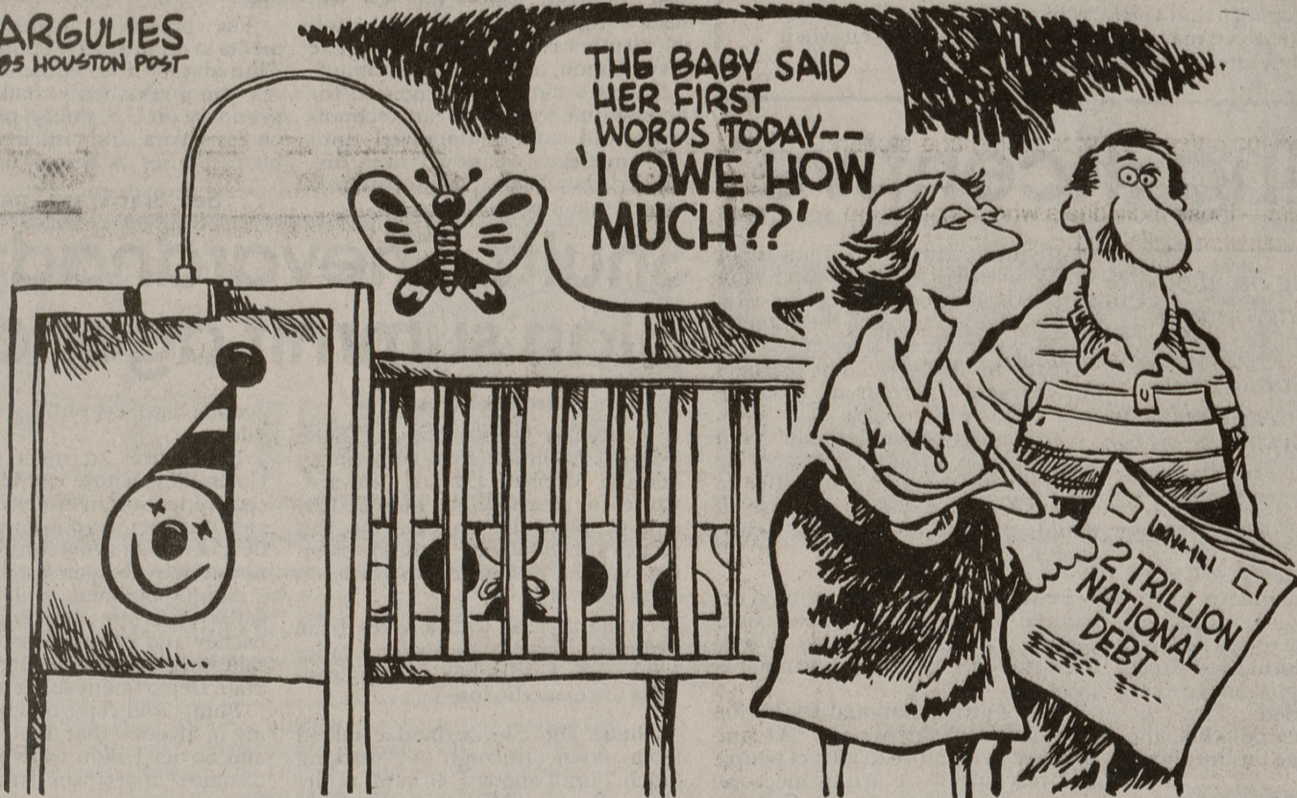
"Roll tide," Sully replied.

"That's not a very nice thing to say," said. "Aggies don't root for the other team."

Sully replied, "I graduated from the University of Alabama."

John Hallett is a senior political science major, a columnist and News Editor for *The Battalion*.

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For sale: political access — send campaign contributions

A friend who earns a living trying to persuade Congress to help protect the Singles Bar Industry told me that political fundraising is getting out of hand on The Hill.



Art Buchwald

He said, "Sen. Doublechin called last week and asked me to contribute to his election campaign. I sent over a check by messenger. This morning he

phoned again and wanted more money. Enough's enough."

"Is it possible he forgot he called last week?"

"He didn't forget. He's holding me up because he thinks I need him."

"Do you?"

"Perhaps. But he doesn't have to be greedy about it. I have other senators to feed as well."

"Suppose you don't send him any more money? What then?"

"He won't answer my calls."

"Would that be so bad?"

"It isn't just the calls. It means that he won't see me, and if he refuses to let me in his office how can I persuade him that the government has to subsidize singles bars? When you donate money to politicians you're not buying their votes — you're purchasing access to power so you can lay out your case," he said. "How does a senator know how to vote when I can't tell him?"

"He has to see you. You're a U.S. citizen."

"Senators and congressmen can only talk to so many people a day. They have no choice but to see the people who give to their campaigns, as opposed to those who didn't."

"It sounds reasonable. But you told me that already gave to Doublechin's election. Would he punish you because you didn't give twice?"

"That isn't the way Doublechin sees it. He claims he's in a neck-and-neck fight, and if I want to protect my first investment I have to give again. He intimated that if I didn't he would lose and then the Singles Bar Industry would never have a friend in the Senate again."

"Did you send the money over?"

"I was about to when Congressman Jingo called and asked me to make a donation to his campaign."

"When it comes to giving political money doesn't a senator outrank a congressman?" I asked.

"No sir, Congressman Jingo is a chairman of the House Subcommittee on Singles Bars."

"Does he tilt toward your industry?"

"Not yet. But the fact he called and asked for such a heavy contribution indicates he's not tilting the other way. I sent him the check without fear or favor."

"It's hard to believe our system of government depends on senators and congressmen stooping to plead for money over the phone."

"I've taken 250 calls this year. What happens is the legislator sets aside four hours a day and goes down a list his aides give him of every potential donor. They always call me because I control a political action committee fund. The singles bar owners forward the PAC money to me and I dispense it to our 'friends.'"

"Don't you feel bad about subverting the democratic process?"

"Not really. There wouldn't be a democratic process if we special interests didn't fund it. Every elected official I get out of the hole swears to uphold the Constitution of the United States, as well as say a few nice words about singles bars."

Art Buchwald is a columnist for the *Los Angeles Times Syndicate*.

Mail Call

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer.

Pregnancy not a health problem

EDITOR:

Camille Brown states in her column (Oct. 30) that "it's just as important to prevent a problem before it has settled in." She uses this argument to support her contention that the University Health Center should provide birth control services to "be concerned for the health needs of students." She claims that the director of the health center has missed the point in his stance that only injuries and illnesses should be treated at the center. In actuality, it is Brown who has missed the point along with all the rest of you who are complaining.

Pregnancy for college women is not a problem of health, but a problem of convenience. If you want to avoid this inconvenience during your college years, birth control is readily available in this community for those of you who want it and lack self-control. I see no reason why the University should become your accomplice in sin by making it more convenient. Besides, you already possess a much more potent means of birth control: the simple word "no."

Brian A. Frederick '87

What about other racist groups?

EDITOR:

This letter is in response to Karl Pallmeyer's article on racism. Hey, Karl, your name tells you that they are racists. The group is called the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Notice the name? I guess "colored" could mean white, brown, red, etc. — but we know it doesn't.

You also should mention some of the other racist groups on campus. Organizations such as the Society of Black Engineers, or the Latin American Engineering Society.

Since you are defending the idea of "equality of all" instead of "equal opportunity for all" you also should attack some of the other groups. The Society of Women Engineers would be a good start.

On the other hand, if you approve of the NAACP and think that the other groups I mentioned are OK, then I guess you wouldn't criticize the National Association for the Advancement of White People or the Society of White Male Engineers.

Also, to Saeed and Elaheh Mirzae — boo-hoo! My heart really goes out to the Palestinian Terrorist Cause.

Michael A. Davis '86

The true meaning of 'tip'

EDITOR:

I am sure that your office if being flooded with letters from angry C.T.'s about Penelope Ode's "At Ease" article.

I am a C.T., but I am not as angry as I am disappointed. Disappointed because of the lack of responsible journalism in Ode's article.

First, Ode knows nothing about what she is writing. The abbreviation "tip" means "to insure promptness." It is given before services are rendered. A gratuity, on the other hand, is a reward for extraordinary services; it is given freely. A gratuity is optional.

Who cares if it is mandatory in Europe? We are not in Europe. If she does not like the way her manager derives her salary, then she should find another job. It seems that the author would know something about the subject of her article before writing it.

Second, this is the worst case of muckraking I have seen in *The Battalion*. Ode uses the University newspaper to display her asinine idiosyncrasies. The use of the terms "ignoramuses, demannered and overgrown social midgits" are inflammatory as well as demeaning. There is no excuse for this type of language.

Please Ode, go spread hate somewhere else. The *Highway Enquirer* seems more representative of your journalism ethics. Highway 6 does run both ways. Not necessarily to Austin, but it does run both ways.

Eddie Klein '88

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