

THE BATTALION OPINION

EDITORIAL

THE BATTALION

Established in 1893

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MOVING FORWARD

Texas A&M should combat Hopwood by increasing minority recruitment.

If the University has its way, it will find a way to circumvent the impact of the Hopwood decision. Higher-education officials from around the state came to Texas A&M yesterday to discuss new solutions to increase minority enrollment at Texas universities.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals prohibited race as a factor in admission and financial-aid decisions for higher public-education institutions within Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi March 18, 1996.

The University should be commended for the many panels and discussions it has held since the Hopwood decision.

However, it is essential that the University take immediate steps to implement the ideas that have been garnered from discussions, especially yesterday's conference.

It was notable how quickly the University reacted to the initial decision, but almost eight months later, the University has yet to develop a definitive plan or combatting the effects of the Hopwood decision.

Several alternatives were offered at the conference that, ending further development, could be viable options to replace affirmative action.

One possible solution by speakers suggested increasing minority enrollment by focusing on factors in the application such as geography, income and parental education in order to ensure a diverse

student body.

However, the most viable solution offered yesterday would concentrate on minority recruiting. Because the University's reputation for welcoming minorities into its arms isn't exactly world-renowned, it is necessary to take steps to combat Texas A&M's image to increase minority enrollment.

For the long term, the University should push the Texas Legislature to resolve to fix the real problem — unequal primary and secondary education.

Affirmative action began because all students were not on an even playing field. Affirmative action was simply an attempt to even out the playing field after the fact.

It is now time for the state of Texas to get to the root of its problems. By providing the means for all students to obtain an equal education, race, income and other factors will be irrelevant in admissions.

Another suggested solution would be to have the decision clarified by the court. As it stands, though, further clarification would require a university to violate the Hopwood ruling to get an affirmative action case back into court.

Texas A&M and other state universities must be truly dedicated to ensuring that all students have an equal opportunity to higher education. Whatever solution is eventually chosen, continual cooperation between Texas universities, the Texas Legislature and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is essential.

Sullivan Ross rededication sullies A&M

Never have I been so disappointed by the student apathy here at Texas A&M. I am downright hot at the fact that more Aggies did not turn out to support the rededication of Lawrence Sullivan Ross' grave in Waco last Saturday. There is simply no excuse.

Columnist



Aja Henderson
Senior political science major

He was a fine man who played an integral part in making Texas A&M what it is today. He served as the University president, and he did big things for Aggieland. On top of all of this, he had time to serve valiantly as a Confederate brigadier general. It is incomprehensible why some misguided people have problems with the man.

So he was a slaveowner... big deal. Lots of people owned slaves, including our founding fathers. And we know that the founding fathers were

great people without flaws. I'm sure that ol' Sully was a good slaveowner — he probably didn't even whip his slaves much, except when they really deserved it (like when they didn't pick their cotton fast enough or had the audacity to try to learn how to read).

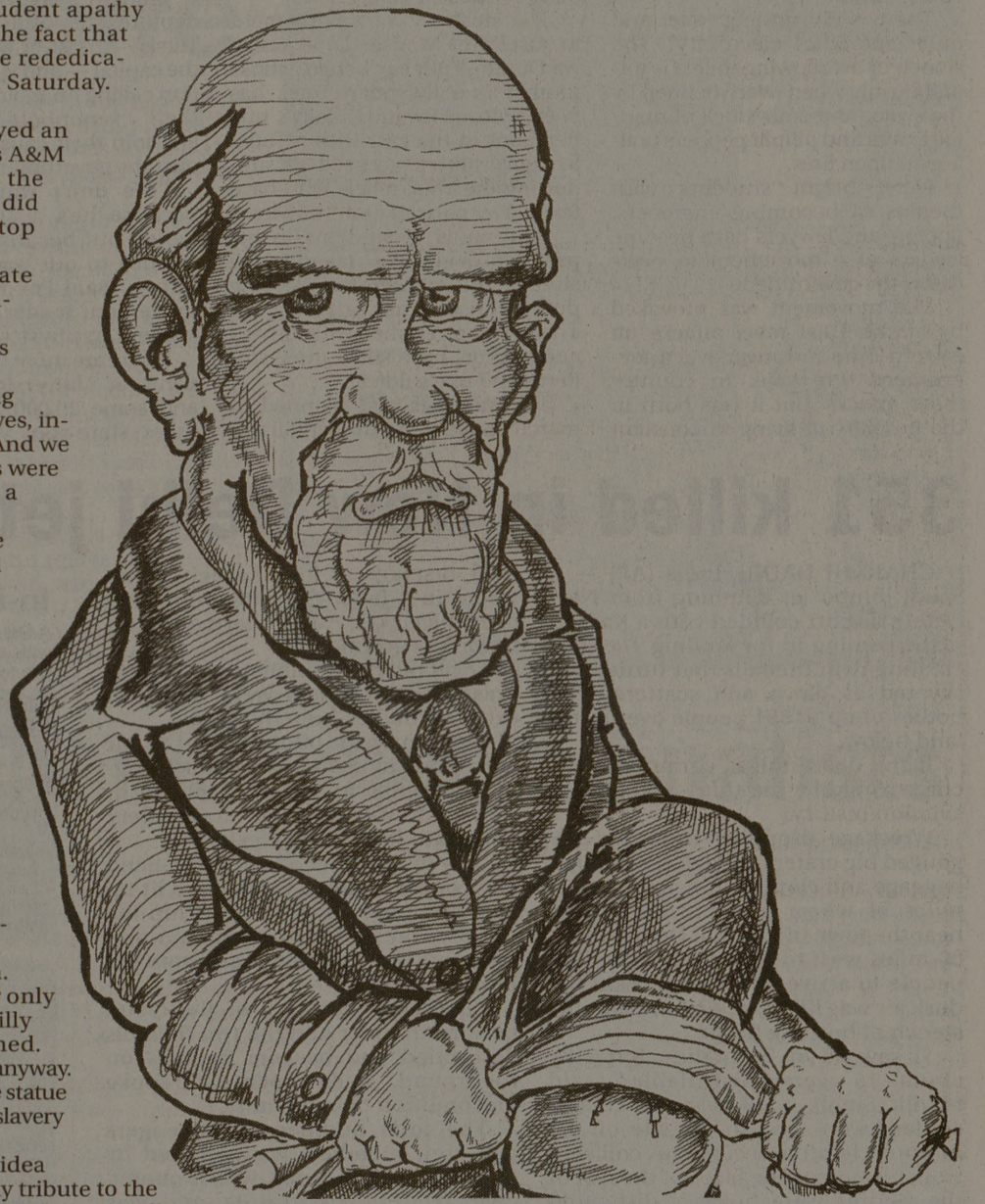
Plus, the fact that he called black people niggers isn't a big deal, either. "Nigger" is actually a positive word, but the damned liberals in this nation have turned it around to be negative. Seriously: "Nigger" is actually a term of endearment, kind of like an affectionate nickname. It's obvious that Ross was just a well-meaning man who refused to succumb to politically correct terminology, which deepens curiosity as to why he is not appreciated more.

And the sponsorship of the rededication by the Sons of Confederate Veterans only added to the appeal of the event. After all, everyone should be grateful to the veterans who put their lives on the line to preserve a way of life that included slavery. Do not believe those gory horror stories of slaves being maltreated. They loved their situation. The false portrayals in movies like *Roots* and *Glory* only confuse the issue. They are almost as bad as that silly *Schindler's List* — as if the Holocaust really happened.

It's about time African-American students get over it. They should stop holding grudges and start polishing the statue every day to show that there are no hard feelings. Even if slavery had its kinks, that was a long time ago.

Well, the rededication is history, but I have a great idea for all the students who missed the opportunity to pay tribute to the Glorious Sullivan Ross. My proposal: a "Back to the 1890s" day. A Sully look-alike could be hired and all the African-American students could dress in gunnysacks, the women in fashionable headcloths. This would definitely be good bull.

The outrage many Aggies are feeling about now is probably close to how African-American students feel when we walk past that statue. Sully represents the most embarrassing period in American history. He fought to perpetuate an institution based on the notion that African Americans were inferior to whites and deserved to be owned by whites. This makes him a racist, plain and simple. He may be an Aggie, but that does not justify his bigotry.



Everyone should have problems with that figure sitting smack in the middle of this campus, regardless of his or her race.

So should the Sully statue be removed? Why not? Erect a monument that lets everyone feel like they are a part of this University, similar to the Twelfth Man?

Just as it seems preposterous for African-American students to walk around in headrags, it is equally preposterous that anyone expects African Americans to smile as they walk past Sully.

I regret to say that I could not attend the event — I was busy reading the racist death threats I received last semester. Darn.

ELECTION RESULTS

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MAIL CALL

Class of '97 Council apologizes for shirt

We would like to respond to the concerns raised about the Senior Elephant Walk shirt design.

We apologize for any offense we might have caused. It was not our intention to exclude any member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of 1997.

We followed a process that we hoped would yield the right design for the shirt. However, we obviously were not as sensitive to the issue of inclusiveness as we should have been. We sincerely apologize.

Because of the close proximity of Elephant Walk and the volume of shirts needed to serve the class members, it is not feasible to design another shirt before the event.

Again, we apologize. In the future, we will make sure this issue is thoroughly addressed.

Melanie Bradshaw
Class of '97
Elephant Walk Chair

Accompanied by 33 signatures

that only a man can become a priest? Is this the only criteria? Does it matter how devout a Christian you are? Does it matter that you live by the teachings of the Bible and never take the name of the Lord in vain?

I wonder if people would blindly follow the Church if the pope decreed that no one of a particular skin color could become a priest.

Let's call it what it is — by not admitting women to the priesthood, the Church is practicing sexual discrimination.

Discrimination, no matter how it is rationalized or defended, is wrong. Period.

Wendy Jones
Class of '98

as part of a group or to become an official member of a group. No one ever intended to humiliate, injure or kill someone through hazing. Yet it happens every day both across the country and right here at A&M.

Recently, a student suffered a permanent injury from a hazing incident. Fortunately, it has been several years since an A&M student died from a hazing incident.

We ask the A&M community to demonstrate its disdain for hazing.

Refuse to purchase the "Pro Hazing" T-shirt. Confront those who may be wearing the T-shirt about why they feel it is appropriate to endanger the mental or physical health or safety of another student.

Refuse to participate in any hazing activity and report any hazing activity to one of our departments.

There are many honored traditions at A&M. Hazing is not one of these honored traditions. Help us stop hazing at A&M.

Ted Hopgood, MG
Commandant

Ron Sasse
Director, Residence Life and Housing

Carolyn Adair
Director, Student Activities

Brent Paterson
Director, Student Life

Students don't learn to write right

The icy hand of fear clutches his throat. He's been driven stark raving mad. Petrified out of his mind, he cries himself to sleep at night. Is the apocalypse nigh? No, it's just time for Joe Aggie to write a paper.

Columnist



Bryan Goodwin
Junior English major

spell check without being shocked at the number of errors. And forget about grammar check. If Joe Aggie needs a computer to tell him what a sentence fragment is, it's time to check back into grade school.

His two biggest allies in writing this paper are two word-processing tools designed for the

lack of knowledge and a sincere desire to be doing anything but writing this paper, our hero sits down and begins what we shall decline to refer to as "the creative process." Simple sentences flow from the keyboard onto the screen: Subject, predicate. Subject, predicate. The dance is enticing. He pours out the pitifully inadequate contents of his mind, but it's still not enough. What now? Learn more?

Hell, no. Increase the font to the maximum size acceptable. Change the line spacing from double to two-and-a-half. Throw in a couple of extra lines between the title and the first sentence (stick it up if a title page is used). Increase the margins. And don't forget the unwritten slacker law that on a five-page paper, one line greater than half a page counts as a full fifth page.

Voila. Finished. As he reads, "Thus, the jelly doughnut and chocolate-covered doughnuts are as similar as they are different," his heart swells with pride — not at the paper he's written, but at the facsimile he's constructed.

He may get by. He certainly won't do well. But his conscience is clear, with nary a nagging voice telling him that maybe, just maybe, his priorities are in the wrong place.

most common denominator. Fortunately, he's got a secret weapon: He knows what the teacher wants.

Boom. Knowing what the teacher wants to read is the key to making a good grade in many courses, because the teacher is often as excited about reading the paper as the student is about writing it.

The comparative paper is now ready to begin. The thesis is all worked out: He's using the time-honored, "While jelly doughnuts and chocolate-covered doughnuts are similar, they are also very different" format, a sure-fire crowd-pleaser so overused my English teacher has declared it the antithesis (no pun intended) to a good thesis statement.

Armed with a shoddy idea, a

Nothing strikes more fear into the average college student's heart than writing a paper. Exams are bad, but they can be fooled. If one knows how to play ball, tests don't necessarily have to be representative of the amount of information actually learned.

Papers, on the other hand, stand as a declaration of one's intelligence and knowledge to the world. They're like stripping naked in a room full of critical professors and saying, "Here I am. What's wrong with me?"

Papers are great opportunities for Joe Aggie to get tripped up. For one thing, his actual knowledge of the material is probably less than comprehensive. Many students also lack basic writing skills — there aren't too many people who run

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 300 words or fewer and include the author's name, class, and phone number.

The opinion editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy. Letters may be submitted in person at 013 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters may also be mailed to:

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College Station, TX
77843-1111

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Fax: (409) 845-2647
E-mail: Batt@tamvm1.tamu.edu

For more details on letter policy, please call 845-3313 and direct your question to the opinion editor.

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