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## THE BATTALION OPINION

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Thursday • November 14, 1996

### Sensationalism abounds in column

Regarding Aja Henderson's Nov. 13 column, "Sullivan Ross rededication sullies A&M":

Henderson asks us to read her work with interest and belief. If Henderson has actually received death threats, I apologize for those among us who are closed-minded and too immature to keep our beliefs and opinions to ourselves.

However, I do wish to question the quality of Henderson's work. Is it possible for me to take seriously a columnist who earlier this semester encouraged students to take an active part in their education and quit cat-napping?

Henderson should remember we are attending one of the top public institutions in both the state and the country. If the end purpose of her column is to start a ruffle and make waves, then she should stop.

We are in the process of maturing from kids to adults and do not need a columnist who is unable to make that step herself.

Jeffrey L. Befort  
Class of '96

So slavery is bad — that is a given, but does Henderson really believe that whites were the only ones to own slaves?

It is widely known that many Southern blacks owned slaves of their own. They, like the white farmers, were only out to make a profit.

And by the way, Henderson should not consider herself an African-American. The good majority have never seen Africa and never will.

It is good to be proud of your heritage, but that is like calling myself a Czech-American.

And does Henderson think all blacks come from Africa? I can even tell you the answer to that: Hell, no. Lest you forget your aboriginal cousins in Australia and the surrounding islands.

Matt Lucas  
Class of '00

First, I would like to say that Lawrence Sullivan Ross was a great man. Not only was he a brigadier general and president of Texas A&M, but he was also governor of this great state of Texas.

I don't think anyone is condoning that Ross was a slave owner, but I do think that he should be honored for his achievements. Removing his statue would be absurd. That would be like tearing down all the statues and monuments of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson because they were pro-slavery. Get real!

I think that some people like Henderson need to come out of the past and stop seeing things as a confrontation between blacks and whites. It is time she realizes that we are all in this thing called life together.

Jon Andes  
Class of '00

Henderson is right: Sully needs to go. I find it despicable that in this day and age there are still

memorials to anyone who was a slave owner. The statue of the evil man should be melted down or auctioned off to raise money for some minority scholarship.

But why stop at Sully? There are literally hundreds of other memorials that bring back memories of the good ol' days.

For instance, the University of Virginia was founded by the slave-owning Thomas Jefferson. Burn it down! We all know that the White House is named so deep all the "niggers" (that's a term of affection, you know) pressed, letting them know Whitey is in charge. Better burn down and build the Plaid Ho-

Darrell Abramson  
Class of '96

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Lawrence Sullivan Ross did create the antebellum culture. For Henderson's informant, Sully was never in favor of the war of secession.

Yet, despite his own personal opinion, he chose to accomplish his duty as a citizen of Texas by bearing arms in defense of his land, a testament of selflessness, bravery, honor, and character. Sully did many things for himself, for his family for education, for the state for this blessed nation.

Ignorance may be bliss for those who don't like to think, unfortunately as a student, a professed journalist, and a political scientist, Henderson seems to discount the virtue of research as a means of support.

Here's a friendly tip Sir Francis Bacon gave us: Knowledge is power.

Incidentally, I am extremely proud of those true Aggies at rededication ceremony who possessed the character and moral courage to do the right thing, know who you are.

American needs more leaders such as yourselves.

Jose Diaz  
Class of '96

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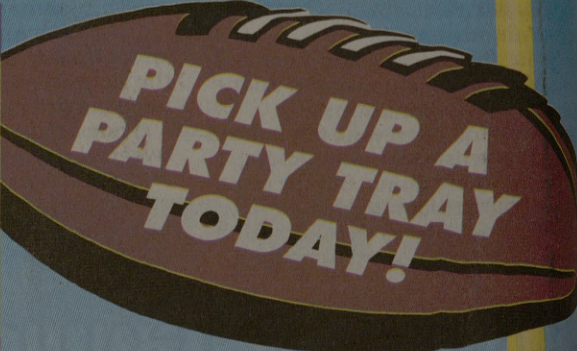
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