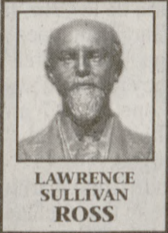


THE BATTALION

From Sully's view

University landmark expresses concerns with students and administrators

Students of the former Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, hear my words — our dear school is in peril. Peril, I say! Each day, the sun lumbers out of its celestial bed and throws its rays upon our campus to wake us from slumber. But each day seems to be worse than the one before. By noon on most days, I have seen such sad circumstances that my bronze heart grows colder. Today's AMC is a bewilderment of strangeness and offense! I do declare I have never seen such posterous goings-on, and I will be much relieved when a number of these activities are banished from our great campus. Today, my courtyard is clear. But, lo, how often has my view been besmirched by the rantings and ravings of wild-haired preacher-men. With words of fire and brimstone, they cheapen my noble courtyard as a crass pulpit. They speak of damnation and salvation with such fiery and direct words that one would believe them to be the Messiah himself! They seem fit to boil over with fury and religiosity, but their condemnation of the students at AMC will not be tolerated so long as I stand here. The preacher-men, with their anger-filled words and finger-pointing tendencies, should rededicate themselves to providing for their own salvation before they seek to condemn the souls of my beloved Aggies. My superiors at the college's scheduling department tell me my courtyard is to be a "Free Speech Area," but I say this: I did not suffer through Reconstruction to have my

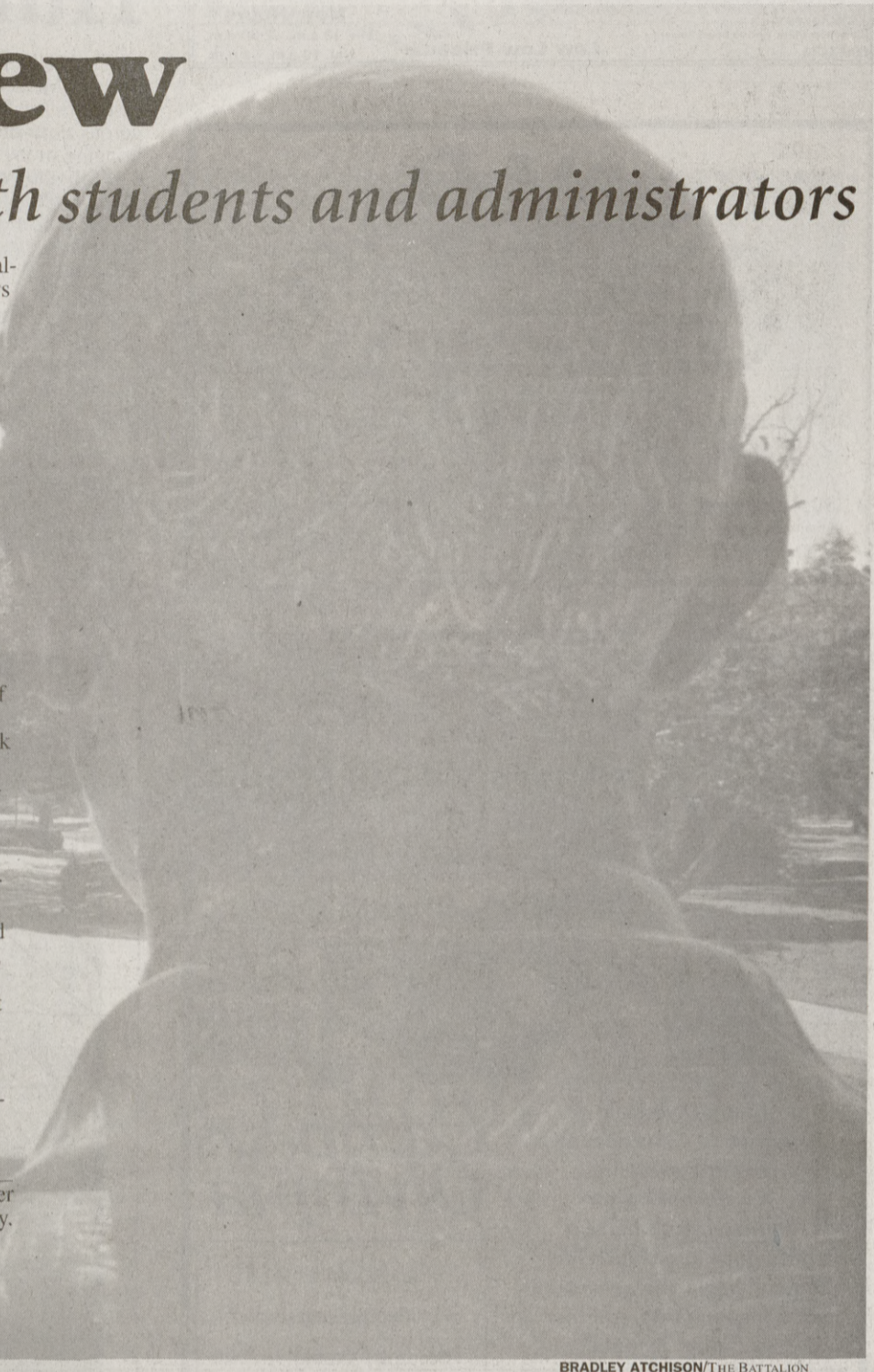


LAWRENCE SULLIVAN ROSS

place at this fine agricultural college be usurped by Bible-beating heathens. There is another woe that wrestles me, one that is worsened by the fact that my own students carry it out. Gentlemen of AMC, I must be brief and direct — end the foolish act of polishing my visage. When first designed by the estimable Monsieur Pompee, my bronze finish was intended to age gracefully into a beautiful brownish hue. But alas — years of applying Brass-O polish has made my coat grow dull and my hairline recede. What horror! I will not let my forehead be extended by anyone less than the Almighty himself. After all, I am supposed to resemble the other noble gentlemen whose personages grace the majestic campus of AMC. Each day, General James Earl Rudder teases me about my overwhelming glare, and every night brags about his fine patina finish. So gentlemen of Aggie-land, put down your polish for Lawrence Sullivan Ross! And whilst I speak of other statues, I would be remiss in my commentary if I did not pass on a certain complaint from one of my peers. E. King Gill, your 12th Man, says he is plumb tired of being moved about. Mr. Gill is a proud man, and he will not much longer stand for having his personage transplanted all about this campus. Over the past few years alone, Mr. Gill was moved from behind what I hear called the "Horseshoe," to a small park across the thoroughfare, and now he resides once again behind a much enlarged version of the said "Horseshoe." Please, gentlemen of AMC, decide on an appropriate place for the distinguished Mr. Gill, and leave him there in peace.

Finally, I must relay to you another malady that has been cast upon me in my days in front of the reconstructed Old Main. Whoever is responsible, please stop stealing the coins at my feet. At first, I was offended by this gesture; I thought, "Do the gentlemen of AMC think I am a beggar? That I am to live off the charity of others?" Then, after some thought and time, I realized that these donations were offered to me out of respect for my hard work, and that with all these pennies, I could buy any number of fine goods and wares. I thought, "Perhaps I will purchase some comfortable linens or maybe even a new plow." But just as soon as I began dreaming of what I could purchase with my accrued coins, some gentleman in all tan attire took my monies. Thief! Know you not that I was elected Governor of our state of Texas on the prestigious Compromise Party's ticket? I was fighting the Comanche when I was just a boy — do you think I will not come after you, thief? Gentlemen of AMC, I am sorry to bend your ear with such strifes and tribulations, but they must be said. Our dear college will show no progress if our issues are left unaddressed. So heed my words and for God's and Lawrence Sullivan Ross' sakes, think of them every time you pass my bold and noble visage. Gig 'em and farmers fight!

Lawrence Sullivan Ross is a former President of Texas A&M University.



BRADLEY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION

Mail Call

Students' opinions opposing in off-campus bonfire debate

In response to *Brandyn Martin's* Sept. 26 Mail Call, Martin states that "if a majority of the student-led organizations do not support an off-campus bonfire, then neither does the majority of the student body, most likely." The majority of Aggies are not in student-led organizations, so how can these students decide for the majority about views concerning an off-campus bonfire? It also seems *The Battalion* is running biased articles supporting Texas A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen's decision against Bonfire. In the past three weeks, there were three articles expressing views against having an off-campus bonfire. I propose that *The Battalion* — in order to represent fair views that it claims to express — conduct a 4,000-person random survey of students. This would bring out the truth about the student body's position on an off-campus bonfire.

Brandon McGhee
Class of '00

In response to *Tom Nowak's* Sept. 25 Mail Call, Relax, Tom. There is no conspiracy against you and your "group." I do not agree with most of *The Battalion's* viewpoints, but this is one that I do agree with. Nowhere in the article did it say that we were to worship Bowen and his decision to take a break from Bonfire for a couple of years, just to respect it. It was not a decision he came to haphazardly. Just like any other militant group, the Keep The Fire Burning (KTFB) brigade has taken the issue way too personally. As I recall, some of the parents of the students who perished in last year's debacle have

denounced the existence of KTFB and have pleaded with the student body not to have a bonfire until the process can be re-evaluated by qualified individuals. I do not see that as such a bad thing. I went to first cut my freshman year and never returned — not because I had no love for Bonfire, but because there were a thousand nimrods out in the woods with axes and chainsaws not paying any attention to what they were doing. If that is how it was handled when it was a University-sanctioned event, I would hate to see how it works when headed up by KTFB. Now, the off-campus bonfire will be a group of a thousand nimrods with axes and chainsaws. Already, this sounds like it is fast becoming simple revenge disguised in the form of a "memorial to the fallen Aggies." Do you think the parents of those students know better than you whether or not their children would want to "keep the fire burning"? Wait, I guess you would know better.

Steven Rasch
Class of '97

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 300 words or less 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 014 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters may also be mailed to:

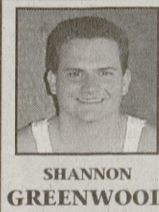
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The more the merrier

Satirical look at justification of polygamy

Many people attribute the ills of society to a decline in family values. One family-oriented solution to this problem might be polygamy, in which one man has multiple wives. Clearly, polygamy could be the solution Americans are looking for.



SHANNON GREENWOOD

Of course, there are those who believe in romance, that each person has one soulmate. These people will never be able to accept polygamy, but a girl who believes in Mr. Right might be able to accept it. Just because one guy is Mr. Right for one woman does not mean he is not Mr. Right for others. Why should only one woman get the best guy? Polygamy is for the studs — the best lovers with the most money. If one guy can satisfy five women, what is wrong with that? The women are happy and the guy is probably ecstatic.

Church banned polygamy to conform to the Greco-Roman culture. One might argue that polygamy is an anachronism and should not be practiced in modern times. However, many non-Western cultures currently practice polygamy. The only reason it is not prevalent is most men in those cultures do not have enough money to afford multiple wives. Raising a family requires resources. Families demand a lot of time, energy and money.

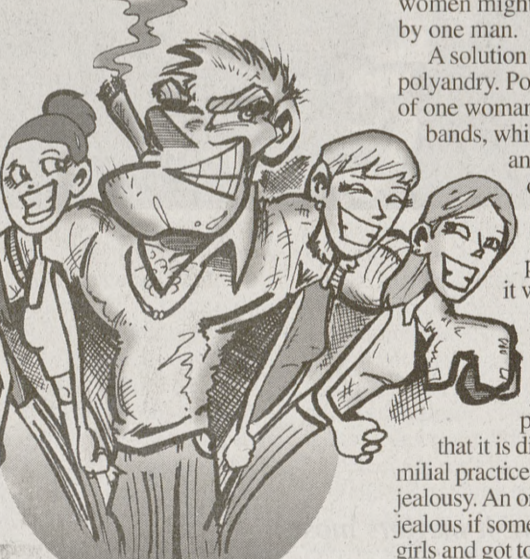
A person might think that a polygamist family might be male-oriented, but the above statement shows the contrary — women who choose a polygamist lifestyle have a lot of freedom. In a household with mostly females, women are going to have a lot of control over what is going on. Why is it that women cannot share? If a great guy has a lot of money, only a selfish nymphomaniac would refuse to share him with several of her closest friends. Some women might not even be satisfied by one man.

A solution for women like that is polyandry. Polyandry is the practice of one woman having multiple husbands, which is not accepted by any major religions. It is only practiced in desolate places — like Tibet — where the people are so destitute that it would require several men's resources to afford a wife and family. The only major argument against polygamy, other than that it is different from current familial practices in Western culture, is jealousy. An ordinary guy would be jealous if some rich stud got all of the girls and got to keep them.

It is sickening that Bill Gates is likely to have the most wives. Gates probably could afford hundreds, if not thousands, of wives. One can only hope that, if polygamy becomes acceptable, Gates will not be able to handle them all. Polygamy is a family-oriented lifestyle that could solve many societal problems attributed to a lack of family values. Polygamy is justified by religions and by the many happy people who already enjoy a polygamist lifestyle.

This article is meant to be satirical, but there may be some people who agree with these arguments and decide to live a polygamist lifestyle. They might be justified, but they definitely would be considered strange by their peers and neighbors.

Shannon Greenwood is a senior computer engineering major.



RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION



MIKE LUCKONCH
ATLANTA CONSTITUTION