

Listen Up—

Students Attack Concept Of Female Cheerleaders

Editor: In regard to the issue of female cheerleaders, I would like to express a few beliefs which I hope I share with many other Ags.

The main point of my argument against female cheerleaders is not whether or not women have a definite place in athletics at A&M (they have proven that they do), but instead I am concerned with the loss of uniqueness at this school.

Sure, every other school around has their male-female cheerleading unit with their matching costumes, leading a crowd of bell-ringers, pennant wavers, and horn-blowers. But never by bells, flags, horns, or colorful clothing has any school come near to reaching the effect of A&M's simple, yet extremely coordinated, yelling system.

Perhaps I will be called a traditionalist, but I feel that our style of yelling, being initiated by men, needs to be carried on by men. I am quite glad to see women at A&M, and I feel they would be capable of doing a good job of generating spirit. But how can we let A&M lose its individuality to become just another coed university?

I suggest to those who favor female cheerleaders that they compare Aggie spirit and crowd response to that of our "neighbor" 100 miles to the west. I believe that most everyone will agree that A&M has the better means of coordinating school spirit—male yell leaders.

John Vaughan '75

Editor: In answer to Mr. Cummings' degrading remarks about Texas A&M, it would be a sad state of affairs if A&M were to break down its traditions to become like that of another university, the fact that we are different is what makes TAMU a unique university.

Texas A&M is proud of its traditions which includes male yell leaders and the yells that we have. Our yells are not like other schools because they were strictly formed by the student body long ago, and now are traditional. Other universities have "cheers" similar to those of high schools, and we are glad that ours are different.

Although, the tradition of male yell leaders should never be changed, we feel that it wouldn't be hard to find some qualified member of the Corps who could lift 115 lbs. and do a back flip with agility. Contrary to his belief, 'True Aggies' are proud to bear that nickname. We agree with L. G. Raun, Jr.'s statement that he came to A&M because he was proud of its traditions and

FOR BEST RESULTS TRY BATTALION CLASSIFIED

we feel that if Mr. Cummings feels the way he does about A&M, he should go to T.U.

David Veal Jim Knight Ricky Marbach

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Editor: In the last week a few of our student leaders (mark the term "leader" because this is my subject) have been strongly attempting certain changes in our student organization. Progressive change at A&M is good, however change for the sake of change is not. I refer to the recent idea of female Yell Leaders.

Perhaps many fail to understand that the five Yell Leaders have a position of leadership and not merely one of cheer and prestige. These leaders have the responsibility to 1) provide student input to the Athletic Department, 2) Control students at sport events, 3) Build the Bonfire, and 4) Provide direction to the Fish Yell Leaders. The Head Yell Leader is also a member of the Southwest Conference Sportsmanship Committee and a member of the President's Advisory Committee.

An excellent example of good Yell Leader leadership and control happened last Saturday. When we were singing the Twelfth Man an over-joyous TCU student made the mistake of "rubbing in the victory" and began to mimic the Aggie spirit. This created an immediate reaction in the stands and with a few cries of "Old Army Fight" about 45 Fish began pouring out onto the turf. Much to the disappointment of many heated Ags, the crowd was turned back and a fight was prevented by the Yell Leaders. How much control would a pretty cheerleader have had?

The Aggie Bonfire is perhaps the biggest A&M event that requires strong leadership. The Yell Leaders run Bonfire. Much planning and organization goes into this massive project. Can a status-symbol with a nice smile command trucks, security, communication, heavy equipment, finances, maintenance, and tractors as well as 4,000 male cutters, stackers, and loaders in a gigantic construction project?

At many universities pretty twirlers, homecomings, and floats are nice; but this is Texas A&M rich in a different kind of tradition and excitement. Even though we now have a female population, the preponderance is still heavily on the male side. By the very nature of our organization we still require strong positive leadership by Yell Leaders elected for ability and not cheerleaders elected for Football-game decoration.

Jan Bertholf

Editor: I would like to remove the illusion that many students have that football players receive preferential treatment. Many people seem

to think that college athletes have it so easy.

I feel that college athletes have it much harder than regular students. To be an athlete one must work very hard and sacrifice many things in which regular students enjoy.

Some people think that the three freshmen athletes recently involved in the incident where the cars were damaged received preferential treatment. In his decision, Dean Powell, probably took in consideration the time, effort, and sacrifice that these young men have and will invest in this institution.

I am in no way defending the three freshmen athletes, because they were wrong, but I'm merely trying to point out that the life of a college athlete is anything

but easy. As a matter of fact, many students at this university would have already packed up and left, if they had to go through the punishment that the three young men are receiving.

Michael Bruton

★ ★ ★

Editor: We were all aware of the great increase in the number of bicycles on campus which has taken place in the last year. This is understandable since a bicycle is very practical campus transportation and can be lots of fun.

However, there are certain times when a student speeding across campus on his bike is a nuisance and a safety hazard. Every day there are near collisions between pedestrians and cyclists on campus. A sidewalk

crowded with students is no place to ride a bicycle.

Some people seem to have the attitude that since they are on a bicycle and are going faster than people walking, they have the right of way. This is contrary to accepted traffic rules which state that a vehicle should always yield to a pedestrian. Some students seem to get a thrill by trying to get as close as possible to a person as they speed around him.

It should be understood that bicycles are vehicles, just like cars and motorcycles. There are too many people on campus to allow bicycles to be ridden in crowded areas. Bicycles should be kept off the sidewalk and ridden in the street with other vehicles.

Darrell Dunn '75

'Atom Smasher' Treating Hospital Cancer Patients

The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute is now treating cancer patients at A&M's cyclotron.

TAMU conducted an extensive series of animal tests in preparation for human treatment at the \$6 million nuclear installation, often called an "atom smasher." The university also constructed a patient reception building and converted one of the cyclotron chambers into a treatment room.

Joint announcement of the "fast neutron therapy" program was made last spring by Dr. R. Lee Clark, M. D. Anderson president, and Dr. Jack K. Williams, TAMU president.

The two institutions received a \$484,000 grant from the National Cancer Institute for first-year operations. NCI has pledged support of the program for at least three years.

The Anderson-TAMU program is the only one of its type in the U. S. Anderson officials noted considerable success has been reported in treatment of cancer patients with high-energy neutrons at Hammersmith Hospital in London.

"We feel this is a highly significant undertaking which holds promise of being an effective means of treating certain types of human cancers," Dr. Clark noted in the initial announcement. "We think this technique will have the added benefit of allow-

ing the patient to receive fewer treatments of radiation than required by current procedures."

"A&M has considerable strength in the nuclear science and engineering fields and is proud to have its facilities and other resources used for this important program," Dr. Williams stated.

Dr. Clark said patients are driven by limousine from Houston to College Station twice a week. The patients are accompanied by a registered nurse who also is a radiotherapy technician.

Arrangements have been made with Bryan-College Station physicians and hospitals in the event special medical care should be required for any patient while at the cyclotron.

A&M Aquanauts

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live on the surface but make daily trips to the habitat carrying air tanks, mail, food and equipment.

Fife noted Shapiro can make quick trips to and from the habitat because his body will not become saturated with nitrogen during the short period he will be on the ocean floor.

The habitat being used by the TAMU group was designed and built by the Perry Foundation, which makes it available to scientists throughout the country. It is called Hydro-Lab. It is 16 feet long and eight feet in diameter. Fife considers the unit to be "especially good."

"Contrary to the tendency of engineers to make habitats more 'sophisticated,'" he pointed out, "this one has been made more simple and fool-proof."

Even before going under for this seven-day stay, Fife is already thinking about a 14-day mission to determine if any physiological deterioration takes place after a longer stay at such depths.

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