

Listen Up

Male yell leaders forever?

Editor:
In regard to the letter on May 6 about "Women Belong at A&M," we would like to express our opinion. Texas A&M is unique because of its traditions: one of which is male yell leaders. One of the reasons that we came to A&M was the traditions, and we would like to keep them as long as possible. Sure, the introduction of the waggies into the corps caused an upset of one tradition, but tradition still remains. You do not see waggies wearing Senior boots or in the band, do you? This is a part of tradition that

will remain the same, we hope. Having male yell leaders is another tradition that we would like to see remain. What Miss Grissom does not seem to understand is that if girls wanted to break the tradition, we are sure there would be enough girls with enough guts to do it. If there are any girls like this, we are sure that they are in the minority; the majority of girls on campus do not want female yell leaders. If we elected females to this post, we would be like any other Mickey Mouse college (like UT or Arkansas). Our yell leaders would become in essence "cheer-

leaders," and probably would end up doing "rah, rah, rah, sisboomba . . ." stuff.
Tradition is important at A&M, and it does not necessarily have to involve only the corps: non-regs can get involved in many of the traditions the corps started. We need a combined effort on the part of both corps and non-regs, girls and guys to keep the traditions alive here, because they are as much a part of this university as classes and books are.
**Phyllis Wiese
Marla Painter**

Editorial

FBI needs watching

The recently uncovered FBI campaign to harass and disrupt domestic political groups and discredit their leaders should be repulsive to those who still hold to the American democratic ideal.

Was the public apology on Saturday by FBI Director Clarence M. Kelly for past FBI misuses of power an empty gesture to help the FBI weather the storm of criticism now besetting it? Or is Kelly really trying to give the FBI a new image?

Bureaucratic structures are known for being self-perpetuating, whether needed or not.

Kelly's apology was an abrupt change from his past denials of FBI wrongdoing, and it leads one to wonder whether he is worried about the FBI being abolished or severely restricted in its activities.

Kelly's denials withered under the continuing revelations by the Senate Intelligence Committee. He now confesses the FBI's sins and asks for forgiveness.

While Kelly blamed past FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover for the misdeeds, he also included a saving clause by pointing out that "many of the activities being condemned were, considering the times in which they occurred—the violent '60's—

good-faith efforts to prevent bloodshed and wanton destruction of property."

Who knows when the next crisis may come when the FBI feels it is justified in overstepping its legal bounds in using its authority?

The FBI's use of its broad authority to gather intelligence about domestic political organizations points out the inherent danger of allowing one man to oversee its operations.

The use of a federal agency to manipulate public opinion concerning something as vital as political preference may be one reason why minor political parties remain that way.

Although it is fairly obvious that a federal domestic investigative arm is needed, such an agency should have strict accountability to several elected representatives of the American people.

The Senate Intelligence Committee apparently remained undaunted by Kelly's apology and yesterday began work to establish an intelligence oversight committee to control the federal intelligence-gathering system.

But even then, we can trust the FBI only as much as we trust our elected representatives.

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Campaign staff cut

Ford tries old strategy

Associated Press Special Correspondent

President Ford's campaign payroll is being cut sharply to put more money into the quest for primary votes as he battles Ronald Reagan for the Republican presidential nomination.

Ford himself has dusted off an old strategy in a campaign he said was beginning anew, and he is testing it in two primary election contests with Reagan today.

No matter what happens in Nebraska and West Virginia — and both sides say the two elections are likely to be close — Reagan will remain the leader. Ford can't overtake him even if he takes both states' delegates.

Ford's problem now is to reverse the resurgence that has put his challenger out front in Republican delegate strength.

And unless he can start doing it today, his admittedly nervous managers could find themselves facing a real crisis next week.

The staff cutback at the President Ford Committee is designed to save about \$60,000 a month to be spent

News Analysis

directly on primary campaigning, particularly on television.

The number on the payroll at Ford headquarters in Washington stood at 207 on May 1, Grace Marie Prather, a committee spokeswoman, said it will be down to 152 by Saturday, and to 145 by June 1.

The biggest cut, from 80 to 40, is in the finance committee, which already has finished most of its work, Mrs. Prather said.

As of May 6, the Ford campaign had spent just under \$9 million, she said. Candidates for presidential nomination are limited by federal law to \$10.9 million in campaign spending, with another \$2.2 million allowance for fundraising expenditures.

There are still 14 GOP primaries to go before the national convention so the Ford campaign may have to ration its spending lest it bump against the limit before the contest is settled.

Today's primary stakes are largely psychological, with Reagan trying to

build on his momentum and Ford out to stage his own comeback.

Next week, the ante is higher, for the primary election parade reaches Michigan, the President's home state. Defeat there would be a disaster for Ford. His campaign there will be even more difficult if Reagan sends him home a loser — again — from today's primaries.

"I think Michigan is a key state," a top Ford strategist said. "If we don't do well there, we've got problems." A home state loss would put Ford where Reagan was seven weeks ago — fending off questions and suggestions that he quit the race.

Reagan already has intensified his Michigan campaign, once planned as little more than a token effort. The former California governor has noted pointedly that Ford's home territory is really only one congressional district, the Grand Rapids area he represented in Congress.

Reagan is due to campaign in Michigan Thursday and Friday. Ford plans to hunt votes there Wednesday, and again Saturday and Sunday.

Getting high on eyedrops

By WARREN E. LEARY
Associated Press Science Writer

RESTON, Va. — Marijuana eyedrops effectively relieve symptoms of glaucoma and are ready for tests on people suffering from the eye disease, researchers say. But those taking the drops will have to put up with a side effect — "getting high."

A Medical College of Georgia researcher said Monday that animal tests show liquid marijuana "is as good or better than any anti-glaucoma medication currently available."

Dr. Keith Green, associate professor of ophthalmology, said research emphasis was being placed on substances related to or derived from marijuana "that hopefully won't have the euphoric side effects."

Addressing a science writers' seminar sponsored here by Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc., Green said a new anti-glaucoma drug would give patients a valuable alternate treatment to the few drugs now available for this purpose.

Glaucoma is a condition in which the fluids of the eye do not drain properly, causing a buildup of pressure within the eyeball. This pressure can damage the optic nerve and distort the structures of the eye, leading to loss of vision.

The condition is the third leading cause of blindness in the United States and affects an estimated two million persons.

If detected early, drug treatment can slow down or arrest glaucoma. But if this fails, frequently surgery is the outcome.

Green said he became interested in marijuana as a possible glaucoma drug in 1971 after a report by researchers at the Jules Stein Eye Institute in Los Angeles. That study found that volunteers who smoked marijuana showed a drop in pressure within the eye.

"The clinical potential of this finding was immediately obvious, although my approach was rather skeptical at first," Green said.

The researcher found that a single drop of marijuana's most active ingredient, called THC, dropped eye pressure in rabbits for five hours. The rabbits also got a marijuana "high."

The marijuana causes blood pressure in the eye to lower, he said. Reducing blood pressure causes less fluid to be forced into the eye.

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