

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Fired campaign employee says 'just following orders'

HOUSTON (AP) — A woman fired from the staff of Republican presidential hopeful Pete du Pont says any actions she might have taken were based on orders from campaign officials, the *Houston Post* reported in a copyright story.

"I know they're accusing me of wrongdoing," Rosanne Robertson said from Delaware in a telephone interview published in Sunday's editions of the *Houston Post* and the *Dallas Times Herald*. "If there was

my wrongdoing, I was just following orders."

Robertson, 24, was fired Friday amid allegations she orchestrated forgeries of 136 signatures on petitions to get du Pont on the March 8 Texas primary ballot.

She did not admit to any wrongdoing, nor did she elaborate on any orders she might have been given, the *Houston Post* reported.

Du Pont announced Saturday he will pull out of the Texas primary

because of the forgery allegations. In a prepared statement du Pont released in New Hampshire Saturday, he said, "I have determined that no one in the management of my campaign authorized or had any knowledge of these activities."

Later, du Pont said, "I found out who was responsible. I dismissed the member of my staff. I don't think the president would be any different than a candidate. I think it's a question of whether you're honest."

Robertson's father has retained attorney Steve Shaw, former head of the criminal division of the U.S. attorney's office in Houston. A private investigator also was hired to look into the case.

Fred Stern, press secretary for the du Pont campaign, denied that Robertson was directed by staff members to forge petitions.

"Rosanne told our lawyers that she did this on her own," Stern said, "that she got no money and that nobody from our campaign told her to do it."

Robertson said she was surprised when she read the du Pont campaign had fired her.

Robertson graduated last summer from the University of California at Santa Barbara and moved back to Houston for a short time, she said. In mid-August she moved to Delaware to work on du Pont's campaign as an unpaid volunteer. About a month later, she was made a paid staff member.

Her father, Guy Robertson, is president of Houston-based Pilgrim Launderers and Cleaners.

Apparent forgeries have been reported on petitions belonging to Sen. Bob Dole, former Secretary of State Alexander Haig and New York Rep. Jack Kemp, but so far du Pont is the first candidate whose paid campaign staff has been linked directly to the forgery scandal.

## Council receives new plan to aid railroad problem

By Tracy Staton  
Staff Writer

The long-standing war over the railroad tracks parallel to Wellborn Road may be quelled by a "peace plan" presented to the College Station City Council last week.

If the proposal is implemented, Texas A&M students will no longer have to directly cross the railroad tracks or the road to go "across the tracks."

Wellborn Road and the Southern Pacific railroad tracks would be lowered into a 26-foot trench, and intracampus traffic would cross at ground level on bridges, according to Carol Zeigler, district engineer with the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation.

Zeigler presented the plan at the council meeting as a representative of a committee composed of state, county and University officials.

The renovated section would extend from just north of University Drive to just south of Jersey Street, Zeigler said. Estimated cost is \$25 million, and the project could take years to complete.

"In this type of construction where we build a grade separation, we could be working on one section for 18 months to two years," he said. "Depending on funding, we may not build it all at one time. The total could be spread over a number of years depending on how quickly funds are set up."

Zeigler said there is no firm funding strategy for the project. Possible contributors are the University, the city of College Station, Southern Pacific and the highway department, he said.

"Cost figures are very vague," he said. "We have no detailed design and no detailed estimate. We have identified possible sources, but no one has determined how much money could be expected from any source."

The plan is the latest attempt to resolve a problem whose most dramatic effects have been two fatal train-automobile collisions. Eleven collisions have occurred at crossings in College Station since 1977; attempts to remedy the situation have

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Photo by Shelly Schuter

## Prepare for inspection

Freshman Corps of Cadets members Dan Villarreal and Jim Huggler prepare their beds for inspection. In order to pass inspection all of the bed covers must be tightly secured to the mattress with safety pins.

## Extremely low turnout mars presidential election in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Most Haitians stayed away from the polls Sunday in a presidential election run by the military-led junta, boycotted by the opposition and marked by fear, confusion and bribery.

The junta-appointed Electoral Council issued no turnout figures after the polls closed at 6 p.m., but opposition leaders estimated that only 5 to 20 percent of the eligible voters had cast ballots.

Marc Bazin, one of four main opposition leaders boycotting the elections, estimated the turnout at no more than 20 percent.

Gerard Bissainthe, political coordinator for the National Front for Concerted Action, one of several groups that organized Saturday's national strike and urged Haitians to boycott the election, said turnout was less than 5 percent.

Electoral Council official Michel-Ange Duchaine declined to give an estimate. "I have nothing to base a guess on," he said. "We will have to wait and see."

Unofficial tallies were expected early this week, with official results to be announced by Sunday.

Many people stayed home because of fear of violence or pessimism about the fairness of the poll.

Few Port-au-Prince residents crossed police barriers set up near polling stations to ensure security. Several hours after polls opened at 6 a.m., some stations reported that not a single person had entered.

Voting also was sparse in the northern city of Cap-Haitien and Jeremie in the southwest, according to local radio reports and foreign reporters.

A young man, speaking on condition of anonymity, said "I'm not going to vote because the election doesn't meet our aspirations." He stood in a group of about 20 near two polling stations. None intended to vote.

"The winner has already been decided," he said, laughing nervously and edged back toward an alley as an armored personnel carrier rumbled past. "We don't know who, but the army does."

## Military think tank expected to draw scholars, dollars

By Lee Schexnaider  
Staff Writer

The military think tank that President Frank E. Vandiver will head at Texas A&M after he leaves his post is expected to attract scholars in diverse areas as well as federal and private funding.

Vandiver announced Jan. 7 that he would resign as president, saying that he will stay in office until Sept. 1 or until a replacement is named. After leaving office, Vandiver will assume the directorship of the proposed A&M Moshier Institute for Defense Studies. In addition, he will fill a new, one-of-a-kind position as "distinguished university professor."

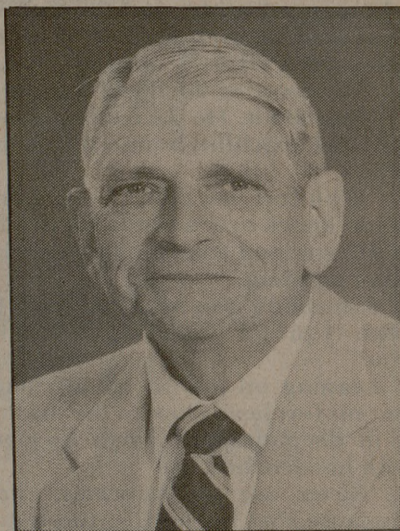
The institute — expected to be formally approved at the Jan. 25 Texas A&M Board of Regents meeting — will focus on the aspects of modern war and its interaction with society, according to its description in the proposal to the regents.

Edward J. Moshier, Class of '28 and chairman of Moshier Inc., will donate \$1.5 million to fund the institute over 10 years. The contribution will be used for operations rather than endowment, according to the proposal.

Moshier, who Moshier Hall is named after, said Vandiver expressed his interest in such an institute and Moshier said he would help fund it.

"I told Frank that I would be willing to give money to it for a period of time, and he said fine, he would go ahead on that basis," Moshier said. Andrea Wilson, Vandiver's executive secretary, said the details of the institute's operations may not be available for two to three months. Vandiver could not be reached for comment.

Dr. Richard Thomas, director for the Center for Strategic Technology,



AP File Photo

Vandiver

said the new institute may attract experts that could aid research in strategic technology.

"If the Moshier center will attract scholars in the liberal arts area that can do defense research, that will be good," Thomas said. "We've been forced to go outside to get the expertise that we need. If Dr. Vandiver's program can bring people to the campus, that would be great."

Thomas said even though his center deals mainly with science, engineering and technology issues, interdisciplinary work is essential in research on the Soviet Union.

"You can study Soviet science and technology, but you'd better understand how that fits in to the entire Soviet system," Thomas said. "So it's important that we do interdisciplinary work here. I imagine that Dr. Vandiver's institute will focus more on the liberal arts kinds of concerns — with politics and history and that sphere of activity."

## Black official at Texas A&M remembers King as inspiration in equality battle

By Mark Gee  
Staff Writer

"I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'"

— Martin Luther King Jr.; Aug. 28, 1963; Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a day to consider his dream at Texas A&M University, said Robert K. Goodwin, the highest-ranking black at a major Texas university — excluding historically black schools.

Goodwin, 39, serves as the assistant deputy chancellor of external affairs for the Texas A&M University System.

This particular Martin Luther King Jr. Day is special to Goodwin, because Coretta Scott King, King's widow, dedicated the ceremonies at the Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta in memory of his nephew, Eric Goodwin.

Eric Goodwin, an aide to Mrs. King, died in an automobile accident in September. Robert Goodwin gave the eulogy at his nephew's funeral.

On Saturday, Goodwin gave the address at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's celebration in Bryan.

## B—CS remembers King on 59th birthday

From Staff and Wire Reports

Parades, marches and some demonstrations around the state today mark the 59th birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. But with no official activities planned at Texas A&M University, students had to join the festivities in Bryan and College Station.

Celebrations in Bryan-College Station began Saturday with the Brazos County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Grand Celebration at the Bryan Civic Auditorium. Robert Goodwin, assistant deputy chancellor for external affairs at Texas A&M, was the guest speaker.

King has been a major influence in Goodwin's life. Goodwin listened to King speak at the First Baptist Church of North Tulsa, in his hometown of Tulsa, Okla. around 1950. It was an overpowering event in the 10-year-old's life.

Goodwin has marched. He has sat in. He has pursued his convictions. He is a child of the civil rights movement.

The following discussion was compiled from two *Battalion* interviews with Goodwin this weekend.

Q: How do you think Martin Lu-

"Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. - The Dreamer" was the theme Sunday at the Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church in Bryan.

Monday, students in Bryan and College Station school districts will have the day off in honor of the civil rights leader. But some students in the state, including those at Texas A&M, are going to school.

Members of the Grand Prairie chapter of the NAACP say they will protest outside the school administration building Monday because classes are being held. School officials decided last week to hold classes to make up a day missed because of

an ice storm that hit the state two weeks ago.

"We will be demonstrating to show our displeasure at the school district's insensitivity to our concerns for Martin Luther King's birthday," said Lee Alcorn, president of Grand Prairie National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Dallas County's first black commissioner says King would be shocked to see the lack of progress blacks have made.

John Wiley Price said that twenty years after King's assassination, his dream of black equality remains un-

ful." What does brotherhood mean to you?

A: We do not have the luxury of being able to only concentrate on our survival at the expense of our brother whether or not our brother is of a different race, or of another economic class, or has a different hair color. We are bound by our humanness.

Q: Ralph Abernathy, who served with King in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and held

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