

Railroad

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been reported in *The Battalion* since 1975.

At a press conference at Eastwood Airport Nov. 6, Railroad Commissioner John Sharp announced the commission's intent to investigate the problem and hold a public hearing several weeks later. Sharp said Texas A&M Board of Regents Chairman David Eller had asked the commission to intervene, *The Battalion* reported Nov. 9.

But the meeting was cancelled. Booker T. Morris, counsel to Sharp, said Friday that Southern Pacific had agreed to work with the Board of Regents toward a solution.

"We met with them (University and railroad officials) prior to starting a fact-finding investigation and gave them until the end of this month to work it out themselves," Morris said in a telephone interview from Austin. "If it is apparent that the situation remains at the end of this time, the commission will get involved."

Before the Railroad Commission can take action, it will have to con-

duct an investigation, Morris said. "We would rather the railroad and the University set an agreement than take government action," he said. "I think they're getting closer and I expect that they will reach an agreement soon."

Zeigler said the depressed-track plan is one option being discussed by the committee.

"The purpose of the committee is to determine what is the most feasible design concept — one each agency agrees is the best plan," he said. "We are still looking at the design concept."

"We looked at elevating Wellborn Road, but it has been virtually ruled out as a recommendation of the committee. Another plan still has possibilities — relocating the railroad tracks to another location."

The plan to lower the tracks has been most favorably received, Zeigler said.

"My feeling is that although no one has made a firm recommendation, our department, if forced to decide today, would choose the depressed section," he said.

College Station City Councilman Dick Haddox said he likes the proposal.

"I don't know if I can speak for

everyone, but based on their rendition, it looked great," he said. "It would be a tremendous improvement out there and an amenity to the community."

Once a plan is approved, officials must tackle the problem of funding the project.

"Funding is one of the big questions," Zeigler said. "Part of the project could be covered by money from the Highway Department, just like any other highway improvement, with money coming from state and federal funds."

Other possible sources are the railroad, the city and the University, he said.

"It is a general consideration that the railroads may participate in funding the project, but no one will estimate the extent of their involvement," he said.

"Outside the campus proper, the cities would have an obligation for right-of-way (purchasing land to widen roads, for example) and utility costs. The city would have to pay to have utilities moved and adjusted."

"On campus, there are campus-owned utilities. These costs could be borne by the University. The University may or may not contribute to the construction costs."

Remember King

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fulfilled, and blacks as well as whites are to blame.

Racism exists, as shown by CBS sports commentator Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder's remarks about black athletes, Price said Saturday at a celebration by the Dallas Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center. Snyder was later fired by CBS.

But it exists in part because blacks have failed to fight for their rights and to command respect, Price said.

Price said blacks have wasted energy by political infighting, have failed to develop their own businesses and have not solved the problems of teen-age pregnancies and poor achievement in school.

But some Austin high school students, who weren't alive when King was assassinated, say their lives would not be the same if he had never lived.

Laura Coe, Phillip Vasquez and Ann Armstrong are in an advanced social studies class that spent much of last week studying King's fight for equality.

"I think I have a lot more opportunities as far as my education goes," said Coe, 17. "There are a lot of places that I have the opportunity to go to now that I wouldn't have if it hadn't been for him."

Vasquez, 17, said his grandparents and even his parents were stymied in their education because they were intimidated by prejudices.

"They used to pick cotton in the cottonfields because that's all they could do," he said. "My grandfather only reached the fifth grade."

Armstrong, 17, said the civil rights movement enabled her to go to school with kids of all races.

"I would probably be prejudiced if it hadn't been for his legacy," she said.

King

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King after he was shot in Memphis, said this past week that he believed America had become more racist since King's death. Is America more racist?

A: John Jacobs, president of the Urban League made a similar statement. The incidents such that we are reading about at Howard Beach suggest that there are people that resent the attention that has been focused on minorities and the affirmative action to bring minorities up to par with the majority in this country. These individuals have used despicable tactics to try and widen the gap between the races. I believe these are isolated events that do not truly reflect the thinking of the majority of Americans.

Q: According to the Texas Plan, a university should have the same racial mix as the general high school racial mix. A&M Director of Affirmative Action George Wharton says that in Texas, about 14 percent of high school students are black, and that about 2 percent of A&M students are black. What is A&M doing to narrow that gap?

A: A&M's problem is a state problem. Other institutions are faced with the same challenges. One of the things is to increase the pool. Otherwise, the institutions of the state will compete for a limited number of (black) students that are college-prepared. One of the things A&M is doing is ensuring that people of different ethnic backgrounds know they are welcome.

The other thing A&M has to do, along with other institutions of the state, is to create programs that prepare a larger number of minority students who can become college ready. We must increase the pool.

A&M's minority outreach centers go into metropolitan centers and give students a clear indication of what will be required to go to college. We also let them know about our interest in them coming to A&M. But the emphasis of the program is bigger than just recruiting minorities to come to A&M. It is helping to pre-

pare those students about what to expect if they go to college, whether it's A&M or any one of the other schools.

Q: Looking more specifically at A&M, where is the University in light of King's dream?

A: A&M today is taking aggressive, pro-active steps to further integrate its students, faculty and staff in such a way that is proportionate to the general population.

Q: Are you referring to the Texas Plan coordinated by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights?

A: Yes, the Texas Plan is a guideline that gives finite goals and is somewhat of a measuring stick of how we should be doing.

Q: When do you see A&M reaping the benefits of the outreach centers?

A: The true benefits won't be seen (immediately), simply because we are working with students of the 8th and 9th grade. Obviously, they need another four or five years. There will be some impact in the next year because we have reached some juniors and seniors. But the real benefits will be in the next four or five years.

Q: Until those benefits are reaped, what should A&M strive for?

A: The next stage for A&M is the acceptance that there is a common interest here. Every student who is here wants to improve himself. He is here because he wants to gain a technical discipline that will enable him to earn a living and make a contribution to his community. And so there will hopefully come a time when these common interests will galvanize us, and bind us, and enable us to view our experiences here as an opportunity to become better prepared to take our meaningful place in society.

Q: So, when will that time come at A&M?

A: You can answer that question by saying that it will happen sooner when each individual recognizes they are a vital cog in the wheel and that their own sensitivity will be required to make this a reality.

ATTENTION UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ORDERING A SENIOR RING

The last day a senior ring can be ordered with 92 hours is January 29, 1988, 5:00 p.m., providing the following criteria is met:

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If you have any transfer courses that were completed by the end of the Fall 1987 semester or before, which will enable you to meet the 92 hour requirement, it is your responsibility to see that Transfer Admissions, Heaton Hall, receives an official transcript from the school attended. These transfer credits must be entered onto your A&M transcript before January 29, 1988. After that date, it will require 95 hours to qualify for a ring.

If you will complete 95 hours and all the other requirements at the end of the current spring semester, please come by the Ring Office, Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center after February 5 to sign up for a preliminary eligibility check. Further details will be available at that time about placing your application for a ring order during the semester.

Any student that has already met the requirements and wishes to order a ring in January, must come to the Ring Office and fill out the form for eligibility to be verified. This must be done at least 2-3 days in advance of ordering. January 29 is the deadline for ordering a ring for receipt prior to May graduation. February 26 is the deadline for the receipt prior to August graduation. Office hours are 8:00-5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.

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World & Nation Briefs

Government troops encircle compound seized by rebels

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Troops loyal to the civilian government on Sunday encircled a northern army compound where rebel Lt. Col. Aldo Rico and about 100 sympathizers seized control of a regimental headquarters.

The independent news agency Diarios y Noticias reported a second military mutiny in southern Argentina, at army Infantry Unit 35 in

Santa Cruz province, but said it was quashed without incident.

It also said there was "unrest" in the army brigade of Las Lajas, in southwestern Neuquen Province. The agency quoted garrison commander Gen. Antonio Balsa as saying the problems had been resolved and order restored.

Government officials denied that the rebellion by officers demanding

an end to the prosecution of officials in the previous military dictatorships was spreading.

Corrientes Gov. Ricardo Leconte told President Raul Alfonsin by telephone that the rebels led by Rico had taken up battle positions in "machine-gun nests" inside the complex of Infantry Regiment 4 at Monte Caseros 325 miles north of Buenos Aires.

Supreme Court judge blocks deportation of Palestinians

JERUSALEM (AP) — A Supreme Court judge Sunday blocked the deportation of Palestinians accused of fomenting anti-Israeli unrest in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Judge Shlomo Levin issued the temporary injunction as military authorities reported a lull in the six-week wave of violence in Gaza and scattered incidents in the occupied West Bank.

Leaders of two Gaza refugee

camps appealed to the army to ease curfews imposed on their communities and to free detainees but were told that order must first be restored. At least partial curfews were in effect in about half the territories' refugee camps.

Cabinet members criticized authorities over the presence of armed police on the Temple Mount, Islam's third holiest shrine, during violent

demonstrations in Jerusalem on Friday.

Levin said Mohammed Abu Samra, 26; Freij al Kheiri, 39; Hassan Abu Shaqra, 37, and Khalil Quqa, 39, were allowed to stay in the Gaza Strip until the army shows the Supreme Court its reasons for ordering them deported.

Such injunctions are common, and are usually overturned once the army's case has been heard.

City council puts end to machine-gun shooting at reservoir

READING, Pa. (AP) — It's not easy to find a good place to shoot up things with a machine gun, and the Reading City Council has made it harder by banning the sport at the city reservoir.

Gun enthusiasts have been holding organized shoots at the reservoir, blasting away at old bathtubs and junk cars with a World War II 30-cal. Army machine gun, World War II German military machine guns and contemporary MAC-11

and Uzi submachine guns.

"Machine-gun owners are just like guys who collect Ming vases or old cars," said James Graves, managing editor of *Soldier of Fortune* magazine, which sponsors a machine-gun shoot at its annual convention in Las Vegas.

"And once you have them, you want to use them," Graves said.

Weapons at the events were owned by licensed gun collectors and dealers. Pennsylvania has more

than 7,500 legally registered machine guns, and shoots are held throughout the year, according to *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Owners of automatic weapons also must have federal permits — the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms reported 127,215 machine guns registered in the United States in 1986.

While the shoots are legal, most are unadvertised, word-of-mouth affairs.

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