



In case you forgot the name ...

staff photo by Octavio Garcia

The Aggie Band showed off a little during Saturday's game with the Rice Owls, spelling out the team's name in giant letters. The Aggies won, 49-7; see related story page 9.

## Exxon safety to be studied

**United Press International**  
BATON ROUGE, La. — Workers at Exxon Corp. refinery wastewater plants nationwide may have been affected by a harmful substance, a federal safety official said.

Whatever the substance was, it caused an increased likelihood of miscarriage during pregnancy in the wives of Baton Rouge workers, said Dr. Steve Fox of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Evidence suggests reproductive problems can be caused by lead and mercury, which are among hazardous materials handled by Exxon wastewater workers, he said.

The institute is trying to find out why Baton Rouge workers' wives have an increased likelihood of miscarriages during pregnancy, Fox said Friday.

The increased chance of miscarriage showed up in a 1981 Exxon study.

The \$250,000 study showed pregnancies occurring after the husband worked in the treatment plant were more likely to fail than those occurring before such exposure.

"While the severe limitations of the data inhibit firm conclusions, there is a statistical association between wastewater treatment plant exposure and adverse pregnancy outcome," the study said.

The study, by Environmental Health Associates of California, concluded the reproductive cells of male electricians, mechanics and instrument workers might be damaged temporarily by exposure to chemicals.

Exxon officials have said they

will follow up the 1981 study through long-term monitoring of the pregnancies of workers' wives, charting the history of the women's pregnancies or testing reproductive systems of workers.

Federal officials who investigated health complaints at the refinery cited Exxon for three safety violations Friday. However, inspectors said the violations were not serious.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited Exxon for employees working in standing water, holes in the floor over a separator at the wastewater treatment plant and inadequate training of wastewater plant workers in the use of respirators.

The Baton Rouge refinery, which is the second largest in the United States, produces gasoline, asphalt, diesel, jet fuel, waxes and lubricants.

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## Texts can't refer to VD

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — Despite misgivings from Texas Health Department officials and the head of a Senate subcommittee, Texas Education Commissioner Raymond Bynum has directed publishers of health education texts to delete all reference to venereal diseases in elementary and junior high school books.

Bynum issued the directive Friday and indicated the decision to teach sexual information should best be left to local school boards.

"No doubt about it," Bynum said. "They (health officials) would love to see it mandated into the curriculum."

"It's more an issue of do the locals control how it's handled versus the state dictating how it's handled in that area."

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