

Exxon should be responsible for oil cleanup

Six weeks have passed since the Exxon Valdez spilled 10 million gallons of crude oil into Prince William Sound, but the Exxon Corporation still has no effective plan for cleaning up its mess.

On Monday, Exxon submitted to the Coast Guard and Alaska state officials a revision of a plan they submitted April 15 for cleanup and disposal of the oil. The revision provides for 600 fewer cleanup workers than the original plan, and it calls for Exxon to clean approximately 300 miles of beaches, leaving 191 miles of oil-covered coastline to what Exxon terms "natural revitalization."

Under proposals from the oil giant, sludge recovered from the cleanup would be burned or buried and environmental laws might have to be bypassed. The plan makes no provisions for continuing the cleanup beyond mid-September, when poor weather and logistical problems may hamper any work.

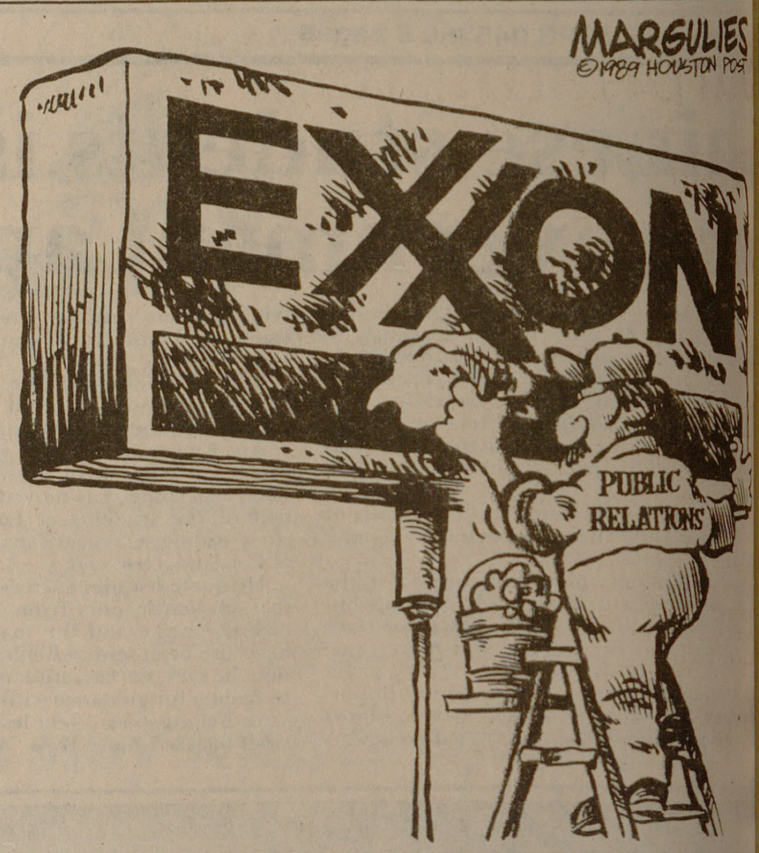
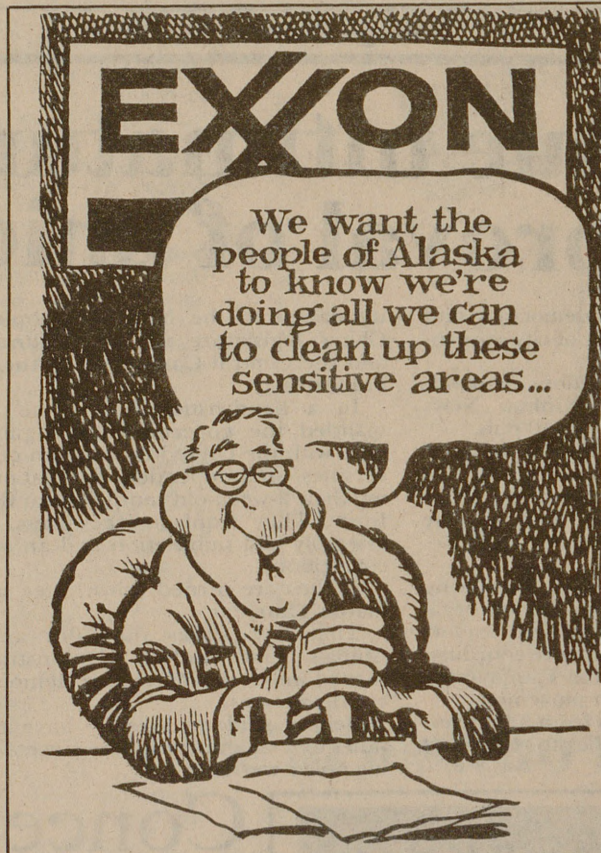
Exxon officials said the revised plan is necessary because of the high cost of labor paid to cleanup workers, but the estimated \$60 million in labor presents a negligible burden to the world's largest corporation.

Exxon should be held completely responsible for the total cost of the cleanup effort, including reimbursement to the hatcheries and fishermen whose seasons were ruined or adversely affected by the spill; revitalization of the wildlife that died as a result of the spill; and reimbursement to the federal, state, local and foreign governments, companies and private individuals who have participated in cleanup efforts.

If there is a silver lining to this disaster, it is an increased awareness by citizens of their environment. Groups from Bryan-College Station and Texas A&M, including the Texas Environmental Action Coalition and Aggies for Mother Earth, are organizing awareness campaigns, while consumer activist Ralph Nader is leading a national boycott against Exxon products.

The federal government has thus far shown no commitment to taking Exxon to task for this disaster. That leaves consumers to send out the message that we won't let mega-corporations trash our environment and then stick us with the bill.

The Battalion Editorial Board



Don't cry over spilt oil

"That's what I like," said Slats Grob-nik, with a snort and a snicker. "I like a guy who doesn't make any snap decisions."

Who are you talking about?
"Who else? Our new leader, the commander in chief, the great horseshoe player, President Bush."

What has brought on your sudden admiration?

"Well, he said the big oil leak in Alaska is the oil company's fault, but he's going to send in troops to help clean it up anyway."

I think that is a decision we can all agree on.

"He took two weeks to think it over. He didn't make up his mind right away like I did."

You did?

"Yeah, as soon as it happened. I figured if it is Exxon's boat, and they run it into some rocks, and it's their oil that's spilling all over the ocean, it's their fault."

Mike Royko
Columnist

I think most people thought that way. "And then when they gave the captain of the ship the old breath test, and they find out he was loaded to the gills, I says, that's it, they're in trouble. This had to be the worst driving under the influence case in history."

"OK, so like I said, right after it happened, I figured it was the oil company's fault. Especially when I read they didn't have enough equipment to sop up all the spilt oil, and they had cut back on the payroll by getting rid of some of their spilt-oil experts."

A short-sighted move.
"So I'm waiting for Bush to do something. I mean, this is one of the worst things we've ever done to nature. And we haven't been exactly kind to the birds and the bees, and the fish and the flow-ers."

I have to assume he was confident the oil company was capable of dealing with the problem.

"That figures. You got an oil company that lets some boozer run a ship and you know real fast it don't have enough equipment to clean up the mess but you're confident they can handle the job. If there's ever a fire in the White House, I hope he dials the fire department, and not some pizza joint."

But, as you pointed out, he has finally concluded Exxon must bear all financial responsibility, and he has sent in military personnel to help with the cleanup.

"Yeah, that's nice. But I wonder there are any personal-injury lawyers who will represent millions of dead fish, sea otters and birds."

But what would you have had the President do?

"I don't know. That's why he's President and I'm not."

Well, there's no point in crying over spilt oil.

"Tell it to the fish."
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Lady Aggies cannot be No. 1 without support

As another successful year in Aggie-land comes to a close, our minds tend to think in unique ways. Because it is the end of the semester, it is not only appropriate for us to be stressed out, but it is also time to celebrate and be excited. It is a time to reflect as well as a time to establish new goals and look toward the future with anticipation.

I am closing in on my fifth year at Texas A&M. The most important feeling I have to express is that I am very proud to be an Aggie, and I am glad that Bill and I made that decision five years ago when we moved from Kansas and became Texans. It has been a struggle at times and we have not made it to the top yet, but the fight to get there has been a good challenge that has been widely supported by some great people.

The Lady Aggies have arrived, and although we have been called the best kept secret on campus, we are here to stay. We have established ourselves not only with exciting home contests, but also with Southwest Conference Championships, National Championships and numerous individual accomplishments.

The phrase "you've come a long way, baby" definitely applies to us.

I remember my first year here. I had to accompany one of our basketball players to the health center after practice, and while sitting in the lobby, another student asked the player where she had gotten the T-shirt she was wearing. When the athlete said that it was



Lynn Hickey
Assistant Director
for Women Athletic

her team practice shirt, the student looked puzzled and said she was not aware that Texas A&M had a women's basketball team. The doctor had to immediately check my blood pressure!

Progress — we have made it, and we are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Our potential is becoming reality. We have a well-organized booster club and student groups are responding to our needs. We have been able to make strides forward primarily because of a lot of hard work and a lot of caring people. A supportive administration, a staff that can coach and recruit, competitive student athletes and caring fans are all factors that have helped us increase our success.

This is a tough time for collegiate athletics. The horror stories of abuse have filled the media pages, and we certainly have not been spared media coverage on our campus. These occurrences have forced us to recheck our priorities. We now are putting in place a very strong

safety system so this department does not abuse its student-athletes or violate the NCAA rules. With the strong leadership of President William H. Mobley, a collegiate athletic career will be a positive experience for student-athletes at A&M.

Our women's athletic department is here to give young women an opportunity to further develop their talents as athletes and students. We're here to represent the University as best we can in a very visible arena. We are trying to be No. 1 in all facets and do it in a manner so that the people involved are uplifted, not abused.

Let's never forget the Aggie Spirit. In my time here I've seen it grow in new direction, but we still have some weak areas. With the size of our student enrollment, we should never have empty stands at any contests. I don't believe a "two-percenter" is just someone who doesn't support football — the true Aggie Spirit should be present at all events and there definitely are enough of us to fill the stands.

Who can deny the excitement of watching our women's and men's basketball teams battle the University of Texas this year? Who cannot help but get caught up in the excitement of baseball this spring? Don't let that spirit die. Home court advantage is not the court surface itself, but rather the fans sitting around it.

My thanks to those who supported us in the struggle to build a program and an identity. I challenge those of you who return to help us make our future even bigger and brighter. Our job is to try to represent you in the best way possible, both on and off the field. Your job as a student body is to reciprocate by supporting us in the stands.

A&M is a special place and it always will be if we all work together. Some day we will beat UT in women's basketball and we'll pack G. Rollie White. I just

hope you will be part of that effort.

Our teams are here, not for Coach Slocum, Coach Metcalf or myself, but for you, the students of Texas A&M. Win or lose, we're in this together. If the Aggies stick together and we keep our priorities in perspective, we will always come out winners no matter what the final score.

Persons interested in submitting guest columns to The Battalion should contact the Opinion Page Editor at 845-3314.

Mail Call

Dying over dead week

EDITOR:

It seems funny that our supposed dead week is not really a dead week at all. In fact, students are probably more alive that week than many others because of lab exams, term papers and presentations!

Students are supposed to use dead week as a week to catch up for finals. However, it seldom works that way. Often other assignments are given.

I propose that some rules be changed so that students are given at least a tiny rest before finals. Otherwise "dead week" may truly become a "dead week" by killing off people from exhaustion.

Laurie Nagel '90
Accompanied by 14 signatures

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The Battalion

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Journalism.

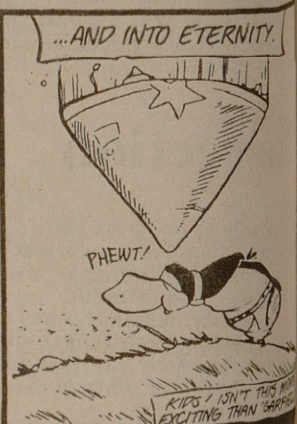
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by Berke Breathed