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State and Local

A&M professors set up program to help area minority students Mentor plan to pair B-CS sixth-graders with A&M students

By Jeannette Nicholson Reporter

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Curriculum education professors their department has developed vay to try to combat the fact that number of minority students is

reasing in elementary and secdary schools and decreasing in gher education

Donna Wiseman, assistant profesr in educational curriculum and struction, said 52 percent of the idents in Texas school districts are minorities. And another assist nt professor, Pat Larke, said the omy may be to blame.

The Mentor program, developed by Larke and Wiseman, will match a minority students with Texas A&M students to help the children ome more aware of opportunities ailable to them.

The project is two-fold because oth the children and their mentors

High court

rules in favor

of customers

overall academic performance and provide, through the A&M students, a positive role model.

So far, 26 A&M sophomore education majors have been chosen to participate in the program. Larke said the program will help them "to develop instructional strategies that would enable them to become more effective as classroom teachers

While the program is targeted primarily toward education majors, Wiseman and Larke hope students from other A&M colleges also will show interest in the project because many minority students already have definite interests. For example, child interested in agriculture could be paired with an agriculture student.

will gain through the experience. be matched with 26 sixth-graders the mentorship network will attend Larke said she hopes the program will improve the minority student's overall academic performance and mer. The students chosen showed a willingness to work with minority students," Larke said. A certain de gree of commitment, sensitivity and acceptance of other people were other encouraging personality traits, Wiseman said. And the students had to pass both a written test and a per-sonal interview.

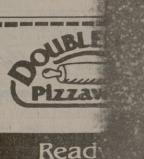
To be chosen, the minority students had to show a willingness to work with the project coupled with a of his or her college years — some of high degree of parental involve- the toughest years for both, Wisehigh degree of parental involve-ment, Larke said.

Written communication between the A&M students and the children will begin sometime in the next 30 days. Larke said. This will continue until they have their first meeting at a picnic in early October. The mi-The students already chosen will nority students, their parents and tion, she said

ies, Wiseman said.

The A&M students will mentor the same child for three years, earning a total of six credit hours through a special seminar set up for the project. This will effectively carry the child through the sixth, seventh and eighth grades and the education student through the end man said.

The program's long-range goals are to extend the work to include education majors working with minority students in the secondary school system, Larke said. They hope this will continue and reinforce the child's exposure to higher educa-



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Parents want in-school tests after teacher contracts AIDS

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas preme Court on Wednesday, or the first time, applied the thebry of implied warranty to services such as repairs.

The court said the "caveat mptor" — or buyer beware rule "as applied to services such as repairs is an anachronism patently out of harmony with modern service-buying practices.

"It does a disservice not only to the ordinary prudent purchaser but to the industry itself by encouraging the purveyor of shoddy workmanship," the ma-prity opinion by Justice Franklin pears said.

The Supreme Court ruled in a arrant County lawsuit filed by Lonnie and Donna Barnes against Melody Home Manufac-

turing Co. The Barneses sued after the modular pre-fabricated home they purchased from Melody de-veloped puddles and dampness over the years. Over two years afer moving in, they discovered that a sink was not connected to the drain in one of the interior

A jury awarded \$5,000 in damages, and the 2nd Court of Apeals at Fort Worth affirmed the rial court. The Supreme Court

MIDLAND (AP) — Some worried parents want Midland public schools to arrange district-wide AIDS testing following confirmation that an elementary school teacher contracted the disease

But school officials say they have no plans or money to arrange the tests, spokesman Becky Ferguson said Wednesday.

About 200 parents met Tuesday at an elementary school where a teacher voluntarily accepted disability leave after contracting the AIDS virus.

School officials have refused to identify the teacher, who received positive confirmation of acquired immune deficiency syndrome Friday. School board members called a press conference Saturday on the matter and mailed letters to all of the school's parents and staff members.

Hope Slaughter and Norma Ladd, parents of students at the school, said they will press school officials at their next meeting to ar-range for AIDS testing of all students. They said they also want annual tests for AIDS on teachers and cafeteria workers.

"My child has cried several days over this," said Slaughter, who said her 13-year-old son Tony was in the teacher's class last year. She asked the school board to arrange and pay for AIDS testing

man said the district cannot afford knowledge to make policies concernto test its 18,000 students, faculty and staff members. "Why would my (tax) money set

your child more at ease than your money? he said. "If you're worried,

have it (the testing) done. Ferguson said Wednesday the AIDS-afflicted teacher will not return to teaching next year and will continue on medical disability leave. She said AIDS testing probably

"I'm concerned simply because I don't think anyone has enough knowledge to make policies concerning (AIDS). Until they find out, I think they should treat it like leprosy."

Jerry Norman, parent

would not be on the school board's agenda when it meets next week. Two Midland physicians joined Newman at Tuesday night's meeting

to answer questions about the dis-Many parents in attendance were

afraid their children could have been exposed to AIDS. "I'm concerned simt

ing it," said Jerry Norman, whose two children attended the school until January. "Until they find out, I think they should treat it like lepro-There is virtually no chance any

of the students or staff were exposed to the AIDS virus, said Dr. David Snyder, a Midland oncologist, and Dr. James Humphreys, executive di-rector of the Midland City County Health Department. "Hospital workers don't even get

AIDS from patients," Humphreys said, adding that hepatitis B, a virus with the same high risk groups as AIDS, is "1,000 times more contagious.

Bill Morrow, a Midland attorney whose wife, Sheila, teaches at the school, urged school board members to adopt a workable policy for deal-ing with AIDS before the start of the next school year

Newman said he has asked school district attorneys to study the issue of AIDS in the school system and draw up potential AIDS-related school policies. Newman also invited input on the policies from teachers and parents' organizations.

The school district's sole healthrelated hiring policy relates to tuberculosis: under state law, anyone hired by the school system must show a negative result on tests for

upheld the appeals court.

But board president Fred New- don't think anyone has enough that disease.

Clements gives OK to eight anti-crime laws

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Bill Clements signed Among the bills that were signed are measures that will: Gov. Bill Clements signed ood news for citizens and bad news for lawreakers

The legislation was passed by the regular sesion that ended June 1, and Clements' office said he bills will take effect in 90 days.

"I want to emphasize that this is, in fact, a very, ery important and comprehensive crime pack-gethat has been passed," Clements said.

"These bills are good news for Texans who deand safe streets and protection for their famis and property," he said. "Conversely, these ills are bad news for those who refuse to conorm to the established rules of society

"The effect that the criminal element has had our society is staggering.

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• Create regulations on the sale and transfer of chemical components of controlled sub-

• Allow for an extension of time under the speedy trial act when the prosecution requires scientific analysis of evidence such as drugs

• Allow the state to appeal criminal law rul-ings of trial courts on legal issues that terminate the case. Sponsors said the bill will, for the first time, give equal access by both the prosecution

and defense to judicial review

• Permit the transfer of certain delingu youths from the Texas Youth Commission to Texas Department of Corrections.

Rider Scott, the governor's general couns said the legislation signed Wednesday "is go to make a difference for the citizens of the st of Texas, for law enforcement, for prosecut for years to come.

"These are some compelling and sweeping changes," he said.

The bills were an outgrowth of an anti-crim task force's recommendations, and task for chairman Charles Terrell of Dallas said furth recommendations will be forthcoming.

"We'll have a lot more in the future because we've just started," he said.

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