

Spicer, an associate professor at the Institute of Sciences and Technology at the Texas Health Science Center, was charged with soliciting sex from a minor. A headline in this edition misstated his legal status. The newspaper regrets the error.

One article on Marion Alcorn, a professor at the Department of Physics, said that severe weather had killed in Bryan. The article cannot be related to global warming.

from page 1.

the court's refusal to intervene does not address the issue of the case, could the state consider medical marijuana laws? The court definitively puts to rest federal threats against patients," said Lloyd, an American Nurses Union attorney. Patients, doctors, and groups in the case. In Tampa, head of the Policy Project in said the court "has no doubt that states have the right to protect medical patients under state laws. Physicians have the right to protect their patients' honest recommendations. Federal government not."

es, a prosecutor in who used marijuana to treat HIV-related illness among those with federal policy protecting the Clinton administration. That policy evoked federal licenses of doctors to recommend marijuana.

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ce secretary, Don't eat message at a saying, "We need to move the entire country to a more secure, energy and region." "Less successes" in electrical power and hospitals.

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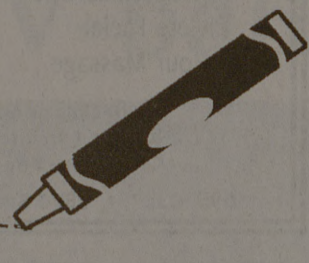
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# AGGIELIFE

## Lasting Impact



PHOTOS BY SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

Left: Catherine Sturgeon, a senior biomedical sciences major, hugs Carnesia Miles, 10, after a dizzying game of spinning around the bat.

Top right: Trachrisalyn Hanley, 11, looks down from the playground equipment at her mission leader.

Middle: Jennifer Alcantara, top, and Roshundra Redman, both 9, play on a Williamson Park playground slide during Youth Impact.

Bottom right: D'uonte Ruffins, 10, left, and Shonn Ralls, 11, right, listen as junior speech communications major Clint Boiden leads them in a discussion.

By Kim Katopodis  
THE BATTALION

**M**clean Sanborn stands in front of a group of children with a megaphone in hand while jumping and waving his free arm in the air.

"We do it like HA, we do it like HO but you don't hear me though," Sanborn shouts as the children join him. "It's the birthday jam at Y.I. today, it's all good and coming your way. So we're settin' it off on this special day, we're comin' up singin' Happy Birthday."

The song is just one of the ways Sanborn, a nuclear engineering major, and other members of Youth Impact try to identify with the kids they mentor. Youth Impact pairs Texas A&M students with at-risk kids between the ages of 5 and 18. The kids are mostly black, underprivileged and considered "at-risk" because of their home lives.

"This group of kids is what we call at-risk because most don't have a father figure," said Mitchell Kleckley, a 2002 graduate of A&M. "I think it's important that those of us who have grown up with that to give that father figure back to them and help the kids out in whatever way we can."

Kleckley participated in the program for three years before graduating and moving back home to become a youth minister.

Youth Impact, which many of the leaders and children also refer to as "mission," was started 25 years ago and is affiliated with Grace Bible Church. Its mission is to bring the gospel to the 250 urban youth in the program so they can impact the community, said Ryan Poehl, director of Youth Impact.

Youth Impact began when a group of four college men started playing basketball with kids in Southgate. They played every Thursday, then more students joined in and Youth Impact was born.

Each Thursday, Youth Impact leaders disperse throughout neighborhoods in Bryan to pick up kids involved in the program. They meet back at Williamson Park in Bryan where they play for an hour and then have a lesson and small group time with the kids.

After a group lesson, the girls scurry off to find their leaders while the male leaders have to chase the boys down for group time.

"I like to call it controlled chaos," said Jennifer Petersen, a senior sociology major.

Petersen, along with Sanborn, is in charge of Big Littles, the third- through fifth-grade age group within Youth Impact.

Tay Tay Horace, 10, said she has fun with her Youth Impact leader.

"She's my friend and she's very nice," Tay Tay said. "She got long hair and I like to braid it and stuff. These mission leaders are off the chain."

Catherine Sturgeon, a senior biomedical sciences major, has been involved in the program for three years. She said she has wanted to work with urban youth since seventh grade and became involved in Youth Impact once she got to A&M.

She has been a mentor for several girls but has formed a special relationship with two, Sherdrain Jones, 12, and Oney Lee, 9.

"One on one, I take them to the park and try to

expose them to things they don't see day to day," Sturgeon said. "I also try to get into their lives and challenge them by teaching them about the Lord and basically leading by example."

Youth Impact encourages the children to memorize Bible verses and be respectful to the people around them, Petersen said. Every week, they give out the Bumblebee Award to the participant who was especially attentive or respectful in the previous week.

"The bumblebee concept is that a bumblebee has tiny wings and technically, shouldn't be able to fly, but it ends up carrying itself," Petersen said.

Like Sturgeon, Petersen has developed a close relationship with one of her girls. In addition to seeing her in a group setting every week, Petersen has been picking up Kayron Davis on Fridays for the past three years.

"The whole basis of the ministry is ... taking a child under your wing and using teachable moments in their lives so they can take what they've learned back to their neighborhoods," Petersen said.

Petersen said she has not only formed a bond with Kayron, but also with Kayron's family, which includes her mother Earline, twin brother Keyron and younger brother Michael.

"The first year, her mom was a little intimidating because I would pick up Kayron and her mom wasn't very sociable," she said. "But I now work at Blue Baker with her and through giving her rides home and getting to know the family, we're really close now. I was invited to the kids' birthday party the other week, so we're tight."

This past summer, Kayron was one of 42 kids given the opportunity to go to camp through Youth Impact. They raised funds for camp by having a pancake breakfast, a letter writing campaign to Youth Impact alumni and a presentation on Parents Weekend.

Kayron said she had a great time swimming and doing all the typical camp activities. She said she made friends in her cabin, except for her bunkmate who she didn't like because "she was all up in my business."

Some bonds formed through Youth Impact do not end after graduation. Kleckley returns to College Station periodically to see Brandon Headge, whom he mentored for three years.

"I'm here because of Brandon. I keep up with him and check in on him all the time," Kleckley said. "I make sure he is doing well with his grades, his friends and making good decisions in his life."

Youth Impact's goal is to turn the program over to kids who have gone through it.

"We want to teach these kids what it is like to build relationships," Kleckley said. "This will allow them to grow and turn around and take back their neighborhoods."

