



THE "CITY COUNCIL," left, faces its citizens in a ninth grade classroom at Allen Jay School during a week-long course called "\$\$\$ To B . . . U . . . R . . . N . . ." coordinated by members of the Model City Commission staff. The Council, elected by the group, consisted of

(left to right) Becky Powell; Vickie Hill, mayor; Tony Sparks; Joey Luck; and David Key. Lou Cecil was absent from the picture. In the picture on the left, one of the host teachers, Bob Laidlaw, is standing in the background.

Course Is A 'Mock Model Cities'

A class at Allen Jay School last week was given money to burn.

The class was told they had \$1 million to spend however they wished. They had only to decide how.

The students were participating in a new Model Cities "mini-course" called "\$\$\$ To B . . . U . . . R . . . N . . ." (Build Urban Responsibilities Now) For Community Improvement."

Conducted by four members of the Model Cities staff, it was given one class meeting a day for one week.

The purpose of the course, geared for school students on grade levels seven through twelve, is to orient young people to the process of participating in decision-making. It can show them how, as citizens, they can make a positive impact on the decisions that shape their own lives, and the life of their community.

Hosting the representatives of Model Cities were Jeane Hilderbrandt and Bob Laidlaw, teachers at the country-run school in southeast High Point. The 27 ninth graders in their combined Vocations and Basic Occupational Training classes participated.

INVOLVED CITIZENS

To show students how citizens can actually become involved in the decision-making process, the class broke itself down into four groups: one consisted of an elected mayor and five City Councilmen, and the others of special interest groups — task forces — to identify problems and plan solutions.

This "mock Model Cities" set-up enabled the four Model Cities staffers to coordinate discussions and guide students in seeing the importance of speaking out, establishing priorities, gathering information, planning ahead, and working together to solve problems.

The class itself identified the program areas they were most interested in: physical environment, education, and health. As the task forces planned their projects, so did the "City Council."

On the third day, spokesmen for the task forces presented its ideas and proposals to the Council, who voted on the expenditure of the \$1 million which they had been "given" at the

beginning of the week.

On the fourth day, the class heard what the High Point Model City Commission did with a similar amount of money. The Model Cities structure was discussed, with staff members stressing the need for residents to understand their government and keep informed of its work.

The class also discussed ways to improve government, reverse unpopular decisions, elect new officials, and so forth.

On the final day, the class was asked to evaluate the course itself. Revenue sharing was explained, as well as city-wide task forces and the future of Model Cities in High Point.

COURSE AVAILABLE

"\$\$\$ To B . . . U . . . R . . . N . . ." is available to any class in High Point whose teacher requests it. It is designed to blend into students' normal courses of study, and enhance lesson units in civics, social studies, history or political science, or sociology.

Besides showing students the opportunities they have as citizens of a community, the mini-course also shows the importance of keeping abreast of current affairs on a local level. It shows the possible partnerships which exist between people and their elected officials, as well as leaving a positive image of Model Cities and the link it provides citizens with City Hall.

The idea for an in-school course such as "\$\$\$ To BURN" came from the Minneapolis Model Cities program, who conducted a similar series in the public school system there. High Point Model Cities staff members redesigned the course, added to it, and hopefully made it more comprehensive relevant for local classrooms.

Those involved in the planning and carrying out of the mini-course were Rosetta Hudson and Melinda Holmes of the Information and Evaluation division, themselves former school teachers; social planner Dot Lang, a certified teacher; and Emily Hedrick, public information officer.

Sickle Cell Outreach Agency will hold an open house at their office at 402 Harrison Street Sunday, December 17, from 2 to 4 o'clock. Refreshments will be served. The public is invited!

Know Your Rights

(In the last issue we discussed how a wife could get a court-ordered separation from her husband that would divide the property and give her support and sometimes alimony.)

If I get alimony without divorce, is this a permanent payment?

In North Carolina this type of alimony is permanent so long as no divorce is granted. If the wife files for a divorce this alimony stops when she is granted the divorce. However, if the husband is the one who files for the divorce, then the alimony continues even after the divorce. Of course, all alimony of any kind stops when the wife remarries, although she can still collect child support if there are any children involved.

Is there any way I can get a divorce in North Carolina for any other reason than one year's separation?

Yes. A wife can be divorced from her husband, or husband from wife, on the grounds that the spouse has committed adultery. This action can be brought six months after the adultery occurred. The husband or wife cannot testify against each other, and the adultery must be proven by the testimony of independent witnesses. This trial will always be before a jury. If the dependent spouse proves adultery she will be divorced and may be granted permanent alimony and attorney's fees.

There is no reason to bring this kind of action unless you are sure of your proof, because it usually involves a long and expensive trial. Most people prefer to use the simpler method of one year's separation.

What about the rights of a husband in a separation or divorce action?

Sadly, the husband does not have too many rights. His major protection is that if his wife abandons him without legal provocation, she cannot demand alimony or attorney's fees and usually the husband will get to keep more of his property.

The husband always has the right to reasonable visitation with his children, unless he is found to be a very bad influence on them. He may have the right to custody of his children if the circumstances are right or the mother is unable to care for them for any reason.

The husband usually has a right to retain half of the marital property, although if there is not much property the wife may get it all.

Letters to the editor, story ideas, and comments are welcomed by What's Happening! It's your newspaper; use it!
Contact Emily Hedrick, 885-9081.

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Editor Emily Hedrick

Why Consumer Education? 'So We Won't Get Jipped'

Consumer Education is a big part of the Model Cities agency called Consumer Credit Counseling, located at 142 Church Avenue.

Recently, Doris Lindsay, educational counselor of the Consumer Credit Counseling staff, visited Mr. Shields' sixth grade class at Union Hill School and presented a course in consumer education.

Here are excerpts from some of their comments:

Greg Handy — "I learned to read before buying something. And to use our money wisely. . . . So we won't get jipped. . . . It was fun to learn what CONSUMER EDUCATION means. I hope Mrs. Lindsay will come back."

Odell (no last name given) — "Take newspapers to the store to see if the price is the same as the paper's is. When you go to buy furniture, buy what you want and don't let the seller make you buy something higher."

Michael Blackmon — I learned very much about Consumer Education. When I grow up I'm going to read ads closely and read contracts. And I think consumer education is a help to everyone. When something is too high, FORGET IT!"

April Tuttle — "Always save your money. Never spend your money foolishly. Only buy things you really need. Always make sure the things you buy aren't broken. Never buy food that is not fresh or stale. Always get your money's worth."

Lori Nall — "Consumer Education is help. When I tell my parents they will save a great deal of money. I learned a great deal of information. Thank you a lot!"

Pam Craver — "Always read the contract before you buy a home, car or anything that has one. Never buy until you do. Never deal with dirty dealers. Always make sure your dealer is honest."

Dwayne (no last name given) — I learned not to buy anything without a guarantee. And I also learned that most advertisements are crooked. And some are straight. And some are puffed up. And still some have no information on the project."

Tina B. (initial only) — "Don't look at something that you think is too much. Because you might just slip and buy it and your husband will kill you. And do not buy things that look like junk. Because you might take it home and it will fall apart."