

The Montagnard People

A Tribe of the Vietnam Highlands

Tiffany Edmondson
Staff Reporter

a tribe of the Vietnam highlands who aided the United States in

the Vietnam War. They were left in the jungles of Vietnam. The U.S. government brought them

over to start a new life.

Beall began this project through a Catholic church in Greensboro that sponsors the Montagnard families.

Hipp and Lunny both traveled to Greensboro over the summer to an apartment where the families met for class.

Hipp described the project as a "home-ec" class for women. They taught the women some English by identifying simple items such as clothes and food.

They also brought an anatomical

sketch of the human body to help the women relate to their own bodies.

"It was terrifying at first, not knowing if they would respond. But they were really nice, friendly people."

Karen Hipp

Hipp said, "Some of the women were pregnant so when they identified with the word pregnancy they were always

interested in learning." By doing this the women also learned to go to the hospital in an emergency.

Hipp and Lunny also took the women to the grocery store to help them identify basic fruits and meats. They taught them measurements and how to use different cooking techniques such as boiling and frying. They also showed the women how to price food and eat on a small budget.

The Montagnard women also became interested in makeup and asked the students how to wear it.

Erika Wessman, who was one of the first to teach the class

last spring, said, "We had to start with elementary learning and it took a long time to have a comfortable communicating relationship." The Montagnard men knew more English than the women because they had to get

jobs and communicate outside the home.

The students that taught the Montagnard people agreed that it was an intimidating experience. Hipp said, "It was terrifying at first, not knowing if they would

respond. But they were really nice, friendly people." Both Hipp and Wessman agreed that teaching the Montagnard people was a cultural exchange and they learned as much from the people

as they taught.

Hipp said, "Although we were teaching them the American culture, the Montagnard people still have their culture ingrained into them, and we had to respect that."

Mr. StudyHall

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Monday-Friday Saturday -Sunday
4:00 pm 1:00 pm

Grand Opening Party!

Sept 25th
Free Cookout 4:00 pm
Lots Of Fun!

FEATURING!
POOL TABLES COOKOUTS
LIVE BANDS KARAOKE
FOOSBALL MUG NIGHT
VIDEOS DARTS
HORSESHOES

