

Local

# Students design model cities

By CHRISTINE BRZOZOWSKI  
Battalion Reporter

Skyscrapers loomed in the architect's imagination as he envisioned plans for a bustling metropolitan center. An entire new city was pushing at the edge of his mind, ready to come to life in model form, and maybe even one day to grow life-size and beat with the pulse of urban American humanity.

Such were the dreams of the sixth-graders at College Station's Oakwood Middle School as they constructed their New Town Development Projects, which will be on display in the City Hall lobby until Dec. 15.

Teacher Carol Murphy's goal in having the students build model cities was to give them a better understanding of what makes a city.

"We had some projects made of wood, some of poster board, some of notebook paper," Murphy said. "They used styrofoam, cardboard, sugar cubes, test tubes, even metal."

The students are studying social science and city government, which tie into city planning.

"The students had to decide where the shopping center should be in relation to the houses, and how they as citizens could improve the town."

"The most frequent suggestion was public transportation," Murphy said. "They're at the age where their parents can't take them everywhere they want to go... they want to be able to hop on a bus."

This is the third year the sixth-grade class has worked on the project. Murphy said the students were really looking forward to it.

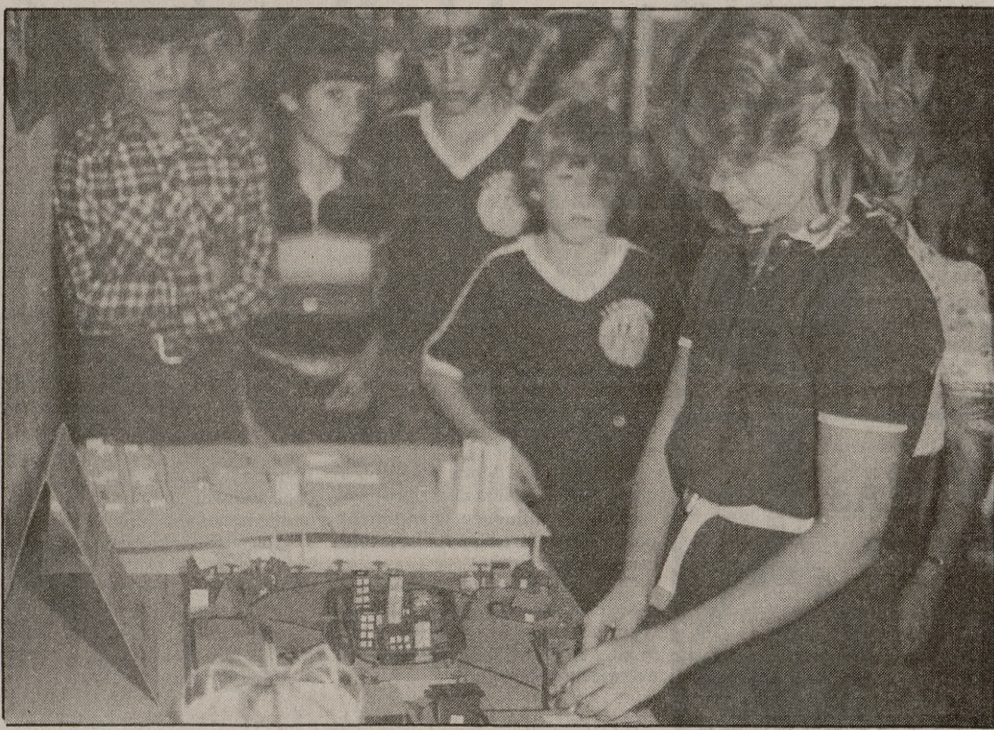
"I was even thinking of not doing it this year, but the kids asked for it," she said.

Some of the students went all out building their cities.

"The projects were supposed to be the size of a poster board, but one boy built his real big," Murphy said. "He wasn't a finalist. We couldn't get in the car to get it over there."

One unique project was a city entirely under water.

"This boy made a metal trough that he soldered together and filled



Staff photo by Jeff Kerber

A sixth-grader from Oakwood Middle School makes a final adjustment on her model city.

The models, part of a social science project, are on display in the College Station City Hall.

with water. You could see the buildings inside weren't filled, and he had little plastic people, too," she said.

To the delight of the young engineers, this year's project coincided with Community Awareness Week at City Hall, and the models even got recognition from the mayor.

"The kids were just beside themselves," Murphy said. "They each got a certificate from the mayor that said, 'In appreciation for your suggestions... we will try to implement them.'"

"And the media was there — KAMU-TV did a gorgeous job of taking pictures of the kids."

The presentation took place Wednesday night at the City Council meeting. Murphy said the children were very mature, despite the fact they couldn't wait to get their certificates home to frame them.

Murphy was very pleased with the

way the project turned out. She said she was satisfied that her students had learned a lot from building the cities, and said, "I was really surprised how much the community picked up on it."

## Contest's best to be awarded

By CHRISTINE BRZOZOWSKI  
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Entries in this year's Student Book Collector's Contest are expected to exhibit some tough competition for last year's winners.

Themes of winning entries last year included Tarzan, the Old Testament, American prisoners of war in Southeast Asia and prize-winning westerns.

"A well-organized collection will win," Charles Thurston, chairman of the contest sponsored by Friends of the Texas A&M Library, said. "Particularly one dealing with a certain author, subject, or theme."

The entries of the 33 finalists have been judged, and an awards ceremony is scheduled for 2 p.m. Friday at 204C Sterling C. Evans Library and is open to the public.

Ten \$100, and two \$25 awards are available as awards for the best collections, provided the judges — a magazine editor, a print company owner and a nuclear engineering professor — find the entries "up to snuff."

The awards ceremony will include a speech by Jack Maguire, executive director of the Institute of Texas Cultures, entitled "Texas: Amazing but true."

Thurston said the ceremony will be the first time the winners hear about their awards.

"It adds a little excitement," he said.

The winning collections will be on display in the display cases in the library for two weeks after the winners have been announced.

Each finalist was required to submit a short statement describing the collection as a whole and an annotated bibliography of 25 titles in the collection.

Preliminary judging was based on the bibliographies, and final judging took place after the students brought in their actual collections, which in-

cluded all kinds of books — even paperback — to the library.

"We try not to make a lot of rules," Thurston said. "We don't like to restrict the judges."

Generally though, the judges look for "collections in which each title relates to the collection as a whole; where there is a coherent structure to the organization of books."

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