



Attorney Bob Phillips, for Martha Winstead, raises an objection to the line of questioning taken by an attorney for the other side.



Attorney Rick Wilson, for the Church of the New Family, attempts to discredit a witness's credibility.



Despite intense grilling from his mother's attorneys, Seth (Jeremiah Winstead) maintained his composure throughout the proceedings, even to the point of remaining calm when he stated, "That woman is a vessel of Satan."

# On Trial!

Martha Winstead burst into tears as Judge Lee Arbetman denied her petition for custody of her son Jeremiah, a petition she filed under the new statute 2001, which allows the court to appoint a custodian for an adult unable to care for himself.

And, not infrequently, by general laughter.

The courtroom was actually the library of Webster's R. L. Thomas High School; the attorneys, the witnesses and the spectators, actually area teachers; the statute, though based on an actual law elsewhere, a fiction.

The statute was specifically designed to allow parents to remove children from religious cults. In the Winstead case, Jeremiah had joined the Church of the New Family, whose beturbaned leader is former realtor Albert Smith, now going under the name of Solomon. Jeremiah, who has taken the name of Seth, was deemed by the court to be capable of caring for himself and protected by the First Amendment in the exercise of his freedom of choice in aligning himself with Solomon's group.

The mock trial was led by attorney and author Lee Arbetman, assistant director of Washington's National Street Law Institute. It was staged as part of a two-week long Institute on Law and the Social Studies, an ESA Title IV-C project, under the direction of Peter W. Knapp.

The theme of the institute was First Amendment freedoms and their relationship to the judicial process. The teachers studied freedom of the press, freedom of speech and what constitutes obscenity, freedom of religion and the civil rights of both teachers and students.

The trial was a heated affair, frequently interrupted by Mrs. Winstead's sobs, and by the chanting and hissing of the group of Solomon's followers who attended the proceedings.

Photos by Susan McKinney  
Text by John Dash



Visibly shaken by the proceedings, Martha Winstead is consoled by another of her attorneys, Jolene Lynam.



Deprogrammer Rick Patterson, in the course of the trial, acknowledged that he averages approximately \$50,000 a year income from his activities as a "rescuer" of children from religious groups.



Solomon (Albert Smith) and members of his "family" paid close attention to the testimony given by Seth.



Judge Lee Arbetman presiding.



Seth, his attorneys and members of his church, pose for a victory photograph at the close of the trial.

vas  
ing  
of  
her  
re-  
and

Bob  
ent  
and  
Jim  
nia;

ins-  
will  
ser,  
leve  
mer