

FFA

MAY-JUNE, 1995

New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

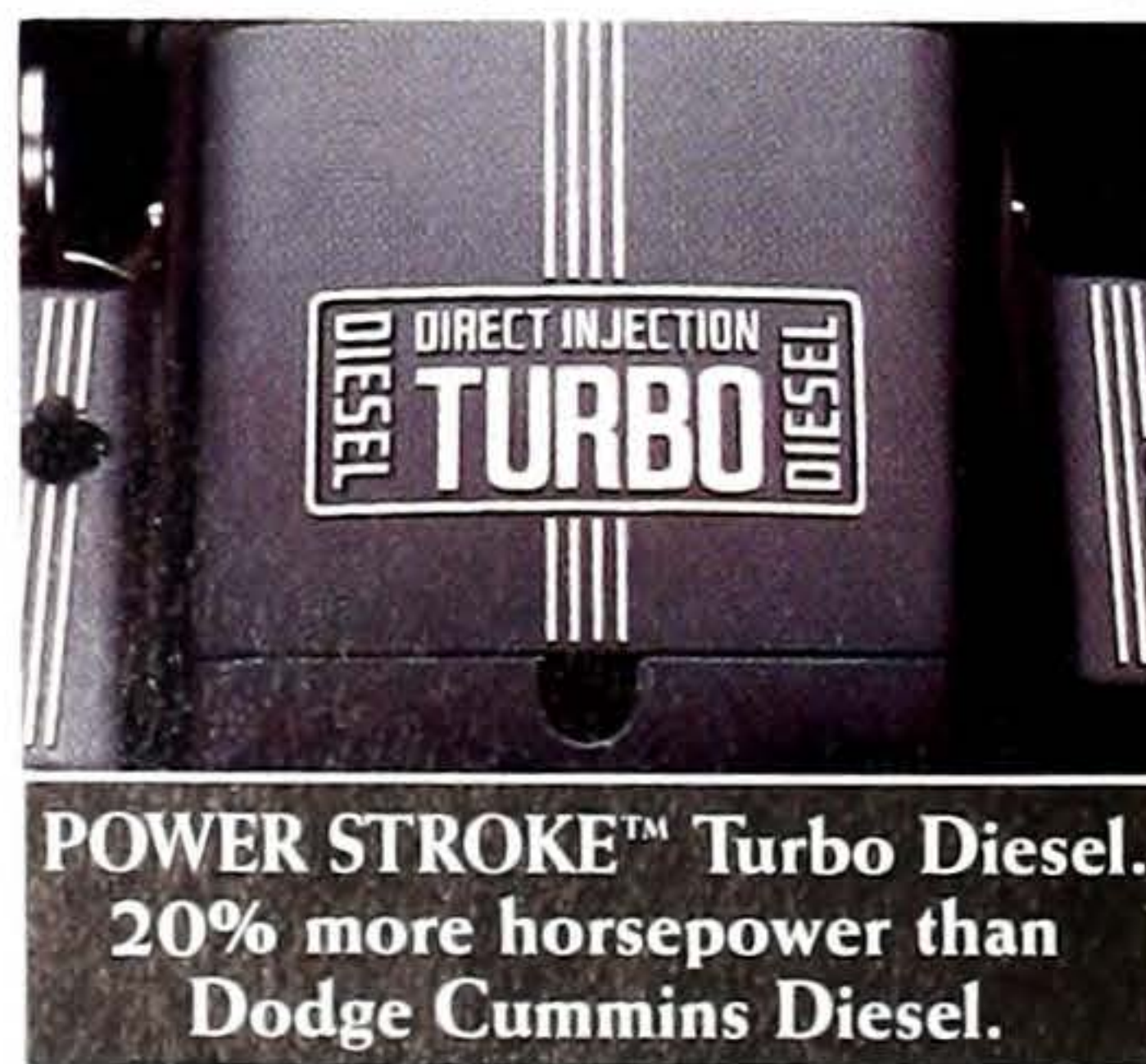
**Check Out
FFA Camp
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FFA New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

May-June, 1995

Volume 43 Number 5



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The FFA Mission

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education.



The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of all human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff as an equal opportunity employer.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Do We Or Don't We Increase Dues?

Six years ago national FFA dues went from \$3.00 to \$3.50. Although they're still the same price today, the National FFA Board of Student Officers and Board of Directors voted to recommend a dues increase to this year's national FFA convention delegates.

Board members will decide what size of increase to recommend at their July board meeting.

If their recommendation is for \$1.00, and the delegates vote "yes" that means national dues will be \$4.50 in 1996-1997.

How does that compare to other student organizations?

Annual fees for Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) and Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) are \$5.00.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Future Homemakers of America (FHA) dues are \$6.00.

Collegiate FBLA dues are \$9.00 and the Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization's dues are \$25.00.

CD's often cost three times the possible \$4.50 dues. And you could eat well at McDonald's with your dues money. After two Happy Meals, you would still have more than 50 cents left.

Do you think dues should be raised? Check out the facts below and then contact your state FFA officers, state advisor or your chapter advisor and let them know what you think.

FFA Financial Facts

Future Needs

- As FFA continues to grow and participation expands, there will be a need to replace some of the staff positions that were eliminated in 1991.

- It will take dollars to expand:
 - awards and career development events in agriscience, biotechnology, food science, the environment, agricultural communications and leadership

- positive contact with counselors, school boards and school administrators
- local and national promotional efforts such as print, radio and TV public service announcements
- and rebuild organization reserves

History

- National membership expanded each of the last three years.
- For the first time in many years, the organization balanced its budget and met the board-mandated target for 1993-94 financial goals.

- Since 1991, the annual National FFA Foundation sponsorships increased by 32 percent to \$6 million.

- For 15 years, prior to recent membership increases, membership plummeted from 509,000 to 384,000. To deal with financial challenges brought on by fewer members, more than 20 percent of the national FFA staff positions were eliminated to balance the budget and FFA cash reserves fell substantially below recommended levels.

Sign Up Now For A Week Of Adventure

You can attend the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) any of these weeks: June 13-18, June 20-25, June 27-July 2, July 11-16, July 18-23, July 25-30 and August 1-6.

For details phone Kim Bailey, 703-360-3600, ext. 309 or write to WLC, 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.

Freshman Tandy Layton and FFA advisor Steve Nichols from Ignacio High School in Colorado will be at WLC. They won the *FFA New Horizons* drawing for free registration.

Russia Anyone?

Here's your chance to travel to Russia, Moldova or the Ukraine. Phone or write Marti Lindell: 703-360-3600, ext. 238 to find out more.

Student Editorial Board

Eight state officers, kicked off their year as part of the new *FFA New Horizons* student editorial board, by visiting the National FFA Center March 14-17. Board members are: Marci Harnish, Pennsylvania; Matt Smego, Michigan; Eric Richer, Ohio; John Helms, South Carolina; Raleeta Thornton, Georgia; Jesus Trujillo, New Mexico; Wendy Stafford, Oklahoma and Tony Kaufman, Nebraska.

Do We Know Where You Live?

Thirty percent of *FFA New Horizon's* mailing list addresses are incorrect or incomplete. This costs extra money and sometimes means magazines aren't delivered. Please check with your post office to get your accurate zip plus four code and any box or house number and let your advisor know your correct address.

And if you're moving, we want to make sure the magazine moves with you. Please let us know your new address by phoning: 703-360-3600, ext. 231 or 229.

Checkoff for Sheep

1994 Sheep Production Proficiency Award winner Kathy Mann will head Sheep Team '95, a group that will work to promote the sheep industry and the upcoming checkoff referendum.

If you would like to join Sheep Team '95 or find out more about the referendum, phone 1-800-EWE-VOTE.

Big Bucks For Business Owners

You have a chance to win \$1,000, just by letting FFA staff know about your money-making enterprise. Through the Agri-Entrepreneurship Program (ask your advisor for an application) each chapter winner will be awarded at least \$50 and the top ten national winners will each take home \$1,000.

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Managing Editor, Lawinna McGary
McGary Communications



Questions Answered Here

You Asked!

Q:

I am a freshman in high school and have been very active in FFA. I want to become a state officer. What practices do I need to know to accomplish this dream?

Paula Holtz

Anita FFA, Anita, Iowa

A:

Shhh! Be vewy, vewy quiet. A leader is forming. It's Paula Holtz. She's setting goals. Asking questions. Starting her journey towards becoming a better person.

All she needs is the "look" and she'll be a state officer for sure. Wrong! Big hair, little hair or no hair—it doesn't matter what covers your cranium, if you don't have a plan and the determination to carry it through, you will miss many chances to achieve.

Fortunately, Paula is headed in the right direction. She knows what she wants and is charting her path to get there.

Goals To Set

- be active at and above the chapter level
- develop a strong Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Program
- earn the State FFA Degree (For details see your *Official FFA Manual* and contact your state office.)

How To Meet Goals

Break your state officer goal into

smaller chunks. Start local. Attend and actively participate in the chapter's monthly meeting. Try every possible chapter FFA activity at least once. Lend a hand when events need organizing. Pitch in, even if you know you might not be recognized for it. People notice when you genuinely care about others. They'll let you know they noticed when it comes time to vote.

Plan activities for learning public speaking, interviewing and parliamentary procedure skills; enhancing your SAE and getting involved above the chapter level.

Attend FFA leadership workshops like the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC), Made For Excellence (MFE) and state FFA camp to improve your self esteem and focus your goals. (See page 5 for more WLC details.)

Visualize yourself in the position. Imagine greeting members at your next state convention, giving workshops and encouraging members to strive for their best.

A good state officer listens well, is confident, dresses appropriately and presents workshops and speeches with skill.

Be sure to ask FFA advisors and state officers for tips on doing well in the state officer nomination and election process.

If you follow your plan, whether you're elected or not, at least you know you contributed to good things in your chapter and that you became a better person in the process. ...

National Officers On Tour

'95

Destination Japan

The national officers are back in the U.S., converging upon state conventions as you read this. In the last few months they've been to Japan, and they've drummed up support for the national FFA organization during their business and industry tour. Take a peek into their travel highlights of the last few months.



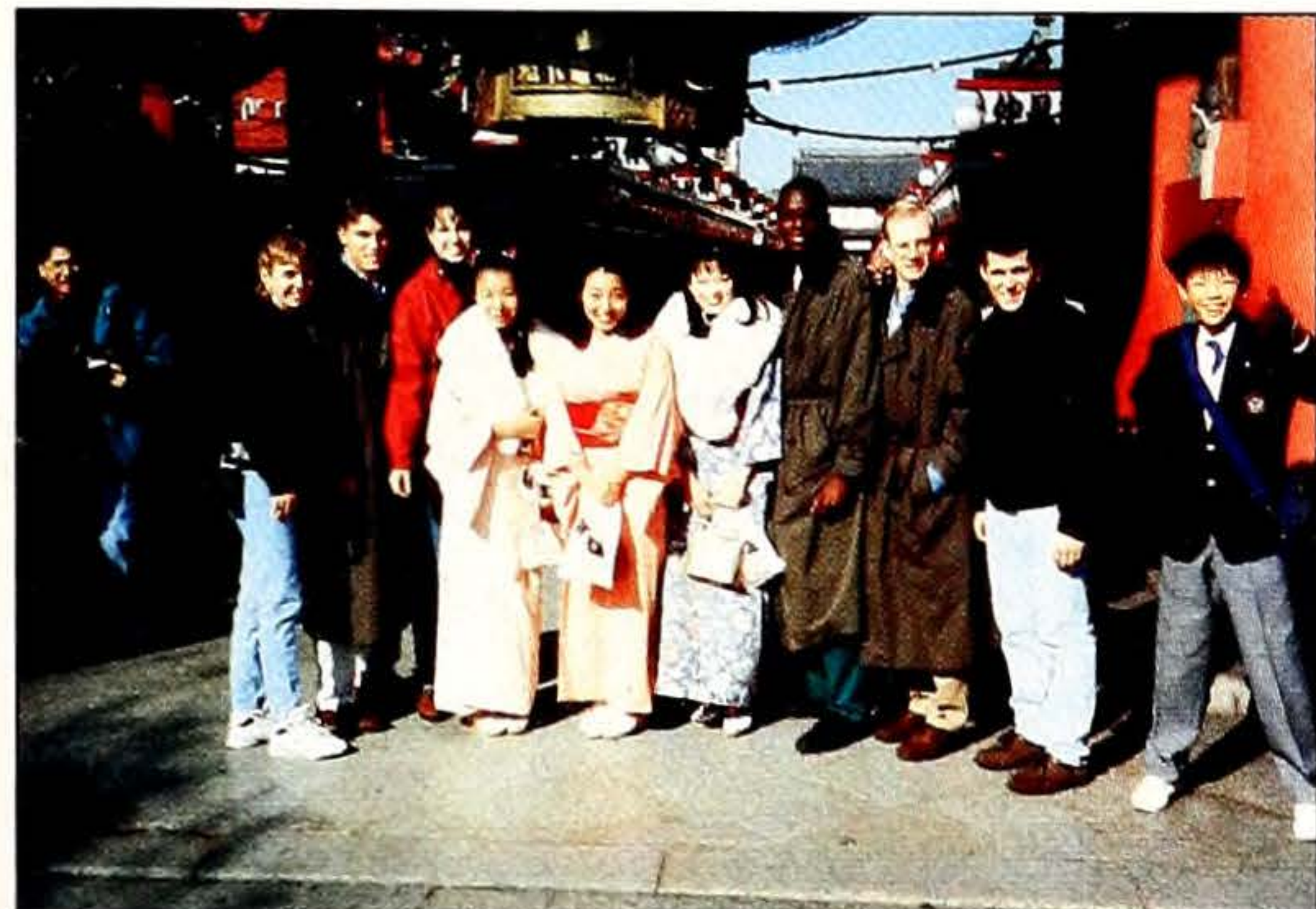
"This is my nose." Western Region Vice President Greg Vetter, played Simon Says while visiting Clear Creek, Texas, during his National Officer Experience Tour to Texas. Pairs of officers taught leadership workshops together to develop their skills before going solo.



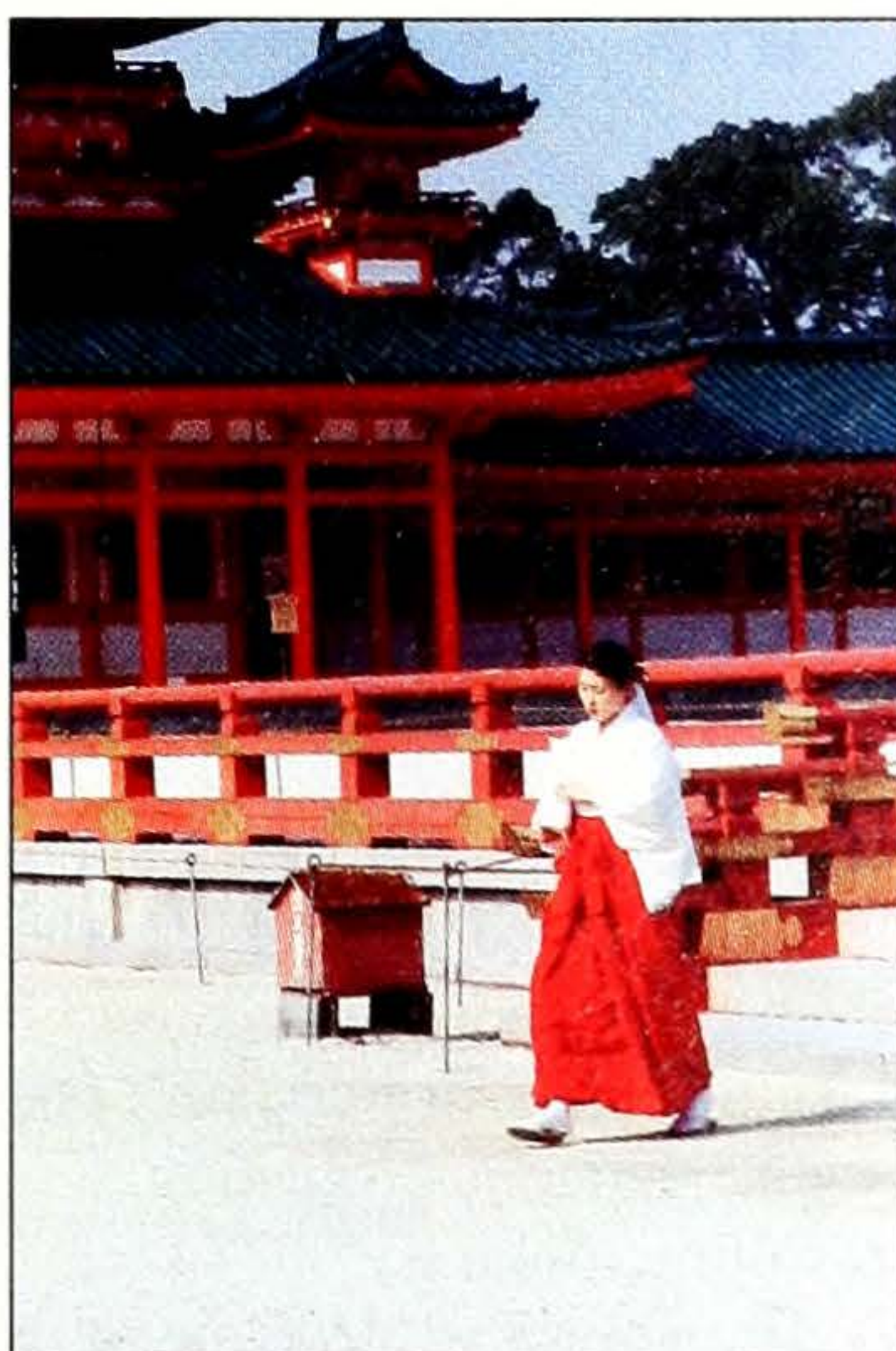
Meeting The Future Farmers of Japan's (FFJ) national officers "was a great opportunity for us to meet other young people involved in agriculture. It was really a neat experience because they had all taken time to prepare three and four minute speeches, all in English, because they wanted to impress us—and that they did." It was also wonderful, says National FFA President Corey Flournoy, "to see representatives from different countries come together."



Can you get there from here? Trisha Bailey, southern region vice president, shows a Tokyo Engei High School student where she's from in Florida.



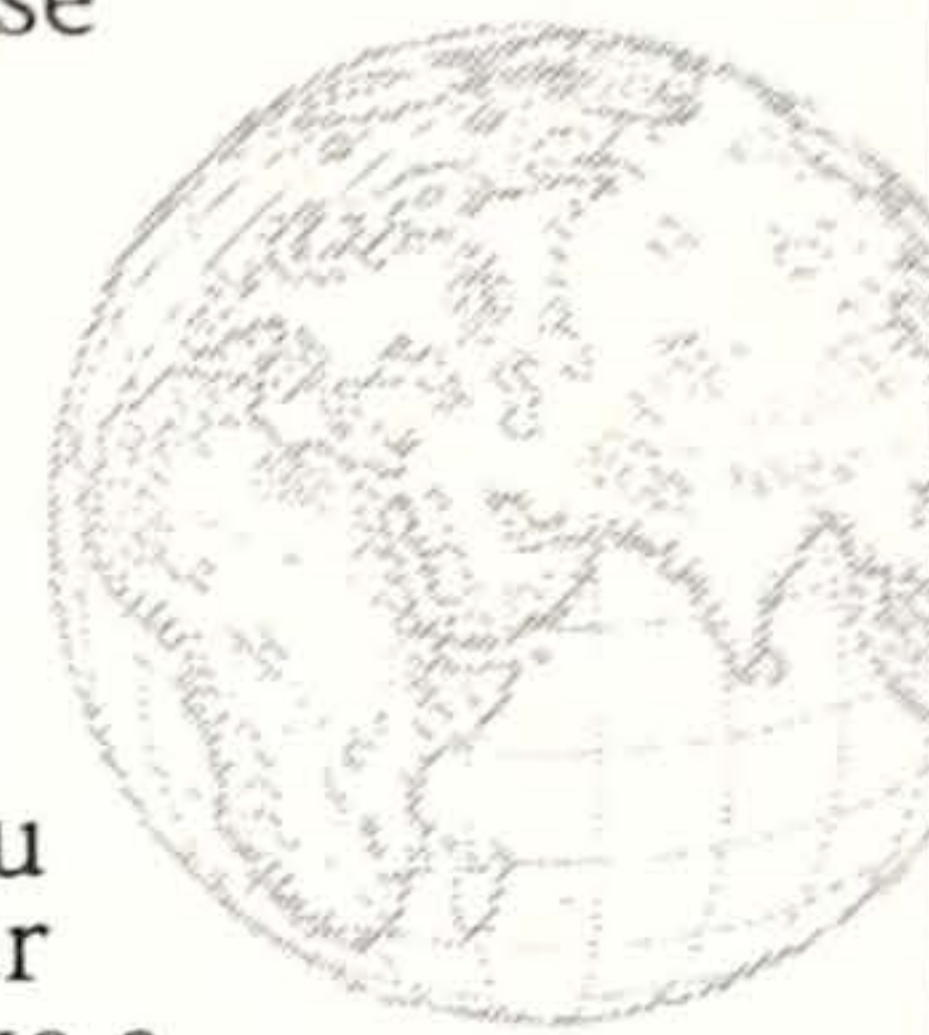
The trip to Japan, says Corey, "is something I'll always remember because of the people we met and how friendly they were."



A temple attendant at Heian Shrine in Kyoto.

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U.S. CITIZEN: ☐ Yes ☐ No

AGE _____

TYPE OF FARMING EXPERIENCE YOU HAVE: _____

How Long? _____

Where Does All Of The Hazardous Waste Go?



"Since most pits were only cleaned once or twice a year, sludge had plenty of time to settle in and become one with the pits. I lost 50 pounds because of the intense work and the intense pressure you're under to get the job done in the time allotted," says Jason.

Story and Photos by Lawinna McGary

Meet an FFA member who knows

Poish-blackish, gummy, gooey sludge clings to FFA member Jason Phillips' boots as he works deep inside the dark, football field-sized pit. As he dislodges sludge with his shovel, an eight-inch vacuum hose slurps the loosened muck, and anything else in its path, into a truck tank.

Don't get too close! The hose's powerful vacuum pressure once latched onto and broke a co-worker's arm.

Is this guy being punished for some awful crime?

Nope. It was just the first of Jason's many summer days working at Cousins Waste Control Corporation. The company contracts with auto manufacturers to clean and dispose of, or store, paint sludge (leftover material that doesn't stick to the car when it is painted).

There's nothing pretty about paint sludge. "There were times where I'd be physically ill because I couldn't take the smell or I couldn't take the sight. Sludge is disgusting, revolting looking..."

But after a while "you get your rhythm going," says Jason. You get used to sounds of the vacuum hose; to

the darkness, you can't see anything outside of the spotlighted area you're working in; and to not talking, since the noise of the hose drowns everything else out."

Besides, this was just a short-time, summer job. Jason knew he would soon be back at the University of Findlay to finish his major in hazardous waste management.

Plus, he was making pretty good money—\$7.50 an hour for regular time, \$11.75 an hour for overtime and \$15 an hour on Sundays.

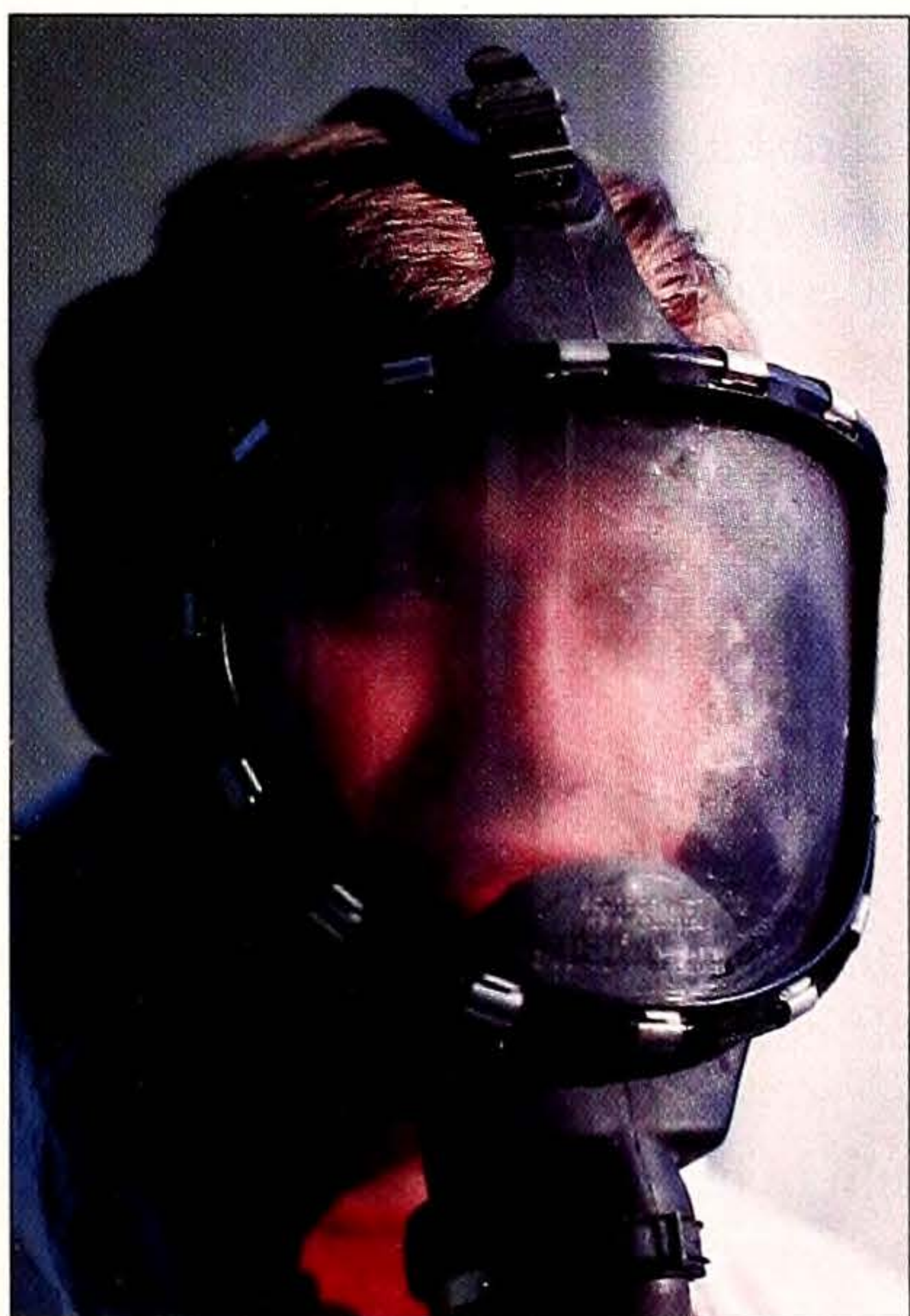
Eventually, the Hamler, Ohio, native plans to work with environmental policy and compliance regulations. Although he believes regulations are valuable, Jason also says some policies

are too complicated and need to be "changed so that they fit each person's own needs."

And he wants to make sure that no group is unfairly forced to pay more than their part of decontamination. An example where Jason believes this is happening is with a local Lake Erie clean-up effort, in which farmers may have to foot the bill.

"Coming from my ag background, I was appalled and disgusted... It's unreasonable. A small farmer can not even begin to afford the immense amount of money it takes to clean up water. If this goes through, huge farmers who own half the county will be the only ones who can survive."

With his on-the-job experience, you can bet Jason will not only survive, but thrive in his career. Until then he'll add more internships to his resume, focus on finishing college and work on cleaning the world. "I recycle probably two or three times as much as I used to. And I've made my family do it. I see the effects of waste on the environment and on the future...what it's going to cost. If I can stop that now, before I'm getting paid for it, then maybe my job will be easier in a few years." ...



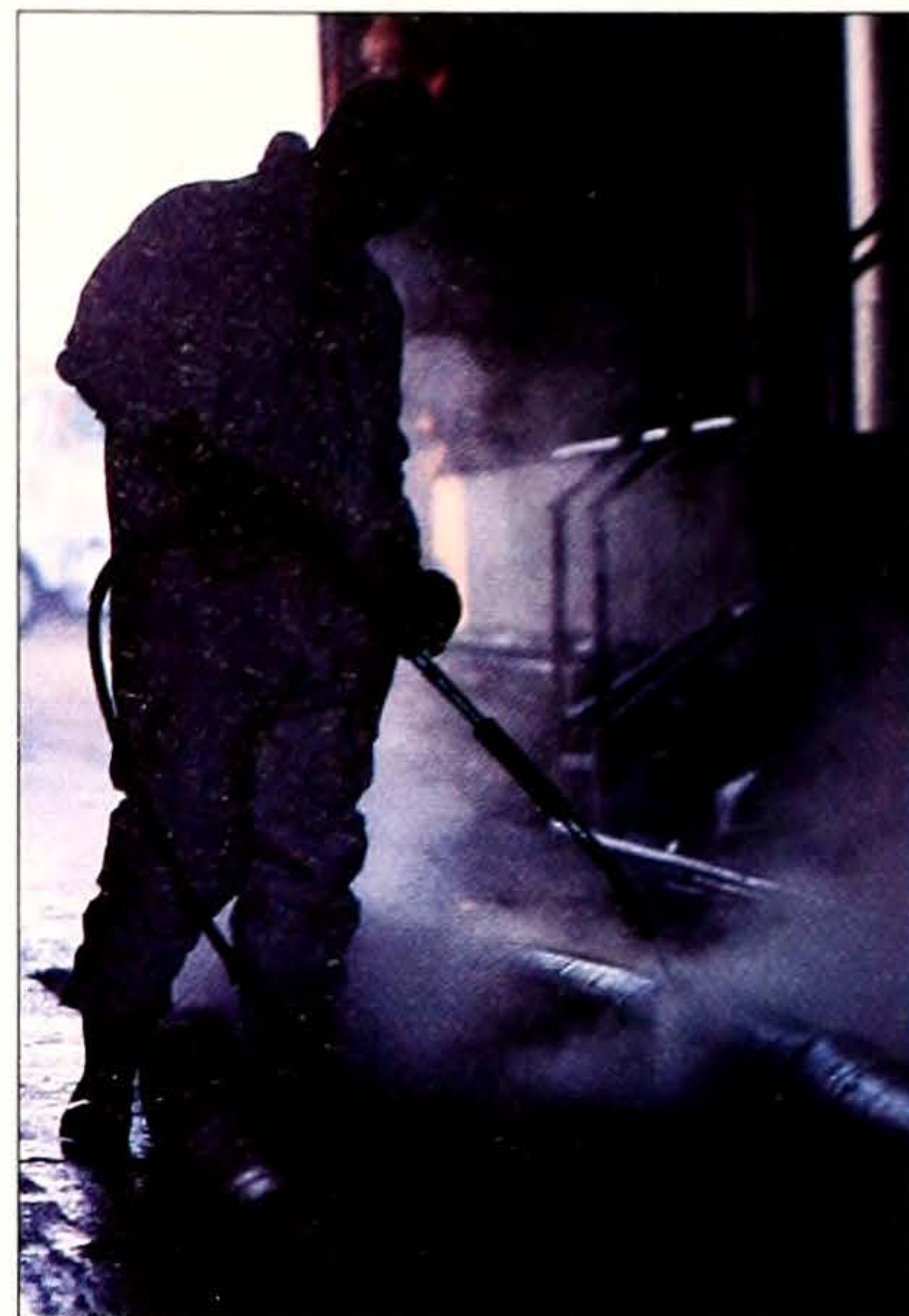
Imagine a huge pit full of this paint sludge. "There were times when the sight of it alone was enough to make me ill," says Jason.

Kinds Of Jobs Connected To The Big Cleanup

"Environmental work has become dramatically more technical, and the hottest careers are overwhelmingly in science and engineering fields," according to the book *The New Complete Guide To Environmental Careers*, by Bill Sharp and Kevin Doyle.

Types of work listed in the book are:

- Lab work.
- Field work. Many environmental protection and natural resource entry-level jobs involve fieldwork.
- Planning and design. This includes planning for: water quality and watersheds, solid waste, land-use and natural resources such as forestry, fishery and wildlife management, water issues and recreation.
- Policy-making.
- Regulatory compliance. State and local governments are main sources for these types of jobs.
- Public information and education.
- Research.
- Information management and computers. "The environmental field lives on data. Billions of water, soil and air samples. Millions of compliance reports. Reams of laws and regulations. Scientific research studies. Budgets, memos, reports, articles, statistics, maps, aerial and satellite photos, permits, and so on. Gathering data, organizing it into some comprehensible system, entering it, manipulating it, and maintaining it is a huge part of environmental work in all sectors."
- Working with people. Jobs with plenty of consumer contact include: recreation specialist, consultant, public information officer, lobbyist, environmental manager and almost any position in the nonprofit sector.



"Sometimes it would grab your clothes and if you're not physically strong enough... it could suck you in," says Jason of the eight-inch hose that works like a vacuum cleaner hose to slurp up paint sludge.

Check your local library for technical schools and colleges that offer environmental programs. Other resources are:

- *The Environmental Career Guide*, by Nicolas Basta (1991). Provides information on environmental jobs and employers and how to prepare for an environmental career. Published by John Wiley & Sons, 605 Third Ave., New York, NY 10158-0012.
- **Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)**. Computer searches can be done on environmental education careers. ERIC/CSMEE, Ohio State University, 1200 Chambers Rd., Room 310, Columbus, OH 43212-1792.
- **Conservation Directory**. Lists and describes organizations involved in conservation work. Also lists colleges and universities that have conservation programs. National Wildlife Federation, 1400 16th St., NW, Washington, DC 20036
- *Outdoor Careers*, by Ellen Shenk. Published by Stackpole Books, P.O. Box 1831, Cameron and Kelker Streets, Harrisburg, PA 17105

Step *Right Up* Into **Sales**

You Might Find A Job Fit In This Vast Career Field

By Rich Dunn

We're slashing prices! Buy now! High-pressure sales people who want short-term gain—at your expense—are no fun to deal with.

Fortunately, today's sales representatives are trained to build long-term relationships with their customers (farmers, veterinarians, researchers, etc.) Their job is to provide services and products that will help their customers' and potential customers'

businesses be successful.

For this to work, no lying allowed. If another company's product is best for the situation, the sales person will have to fess up.

If not, the customer will find out anyway, after it's too late, and the crop, animal or whatever didn't do very well. Trust vanishes. Say bye to this customer's business.

You're in luck if you would like to say "hello" to a career in sales.

Crop protection, seed, feed and insurance companies, as well as farm cooperatives, are just a few of the businesses that need people to increase sales of their products.

Julie Ochsner is a sales representative for Elanco Animal Health swine products, based out of Indianapolis, Indiana. She calls on large producers, veterinarians, feed dealers and animal health distributors in several

Midwestern states.

This businesswoman is responsible for managing her territory as if it were her own company. She focuses her time and energy wherever she feels it will generate the most sales for the company.

Employment history and special training

Ochsner, who served as a national FFA officer, also interned with Farmland Industries in member relations and then with Elanco Animal Health in swine marketing.

Her first full-time job was selling agricultural television network programs to local television stations.

School/technical training needed to get job:

Ochsner has a bachelor's in Agribusiness from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Field sales personnel need a college degree, a thorough understanding of the agricultural market and excellent communication skills.

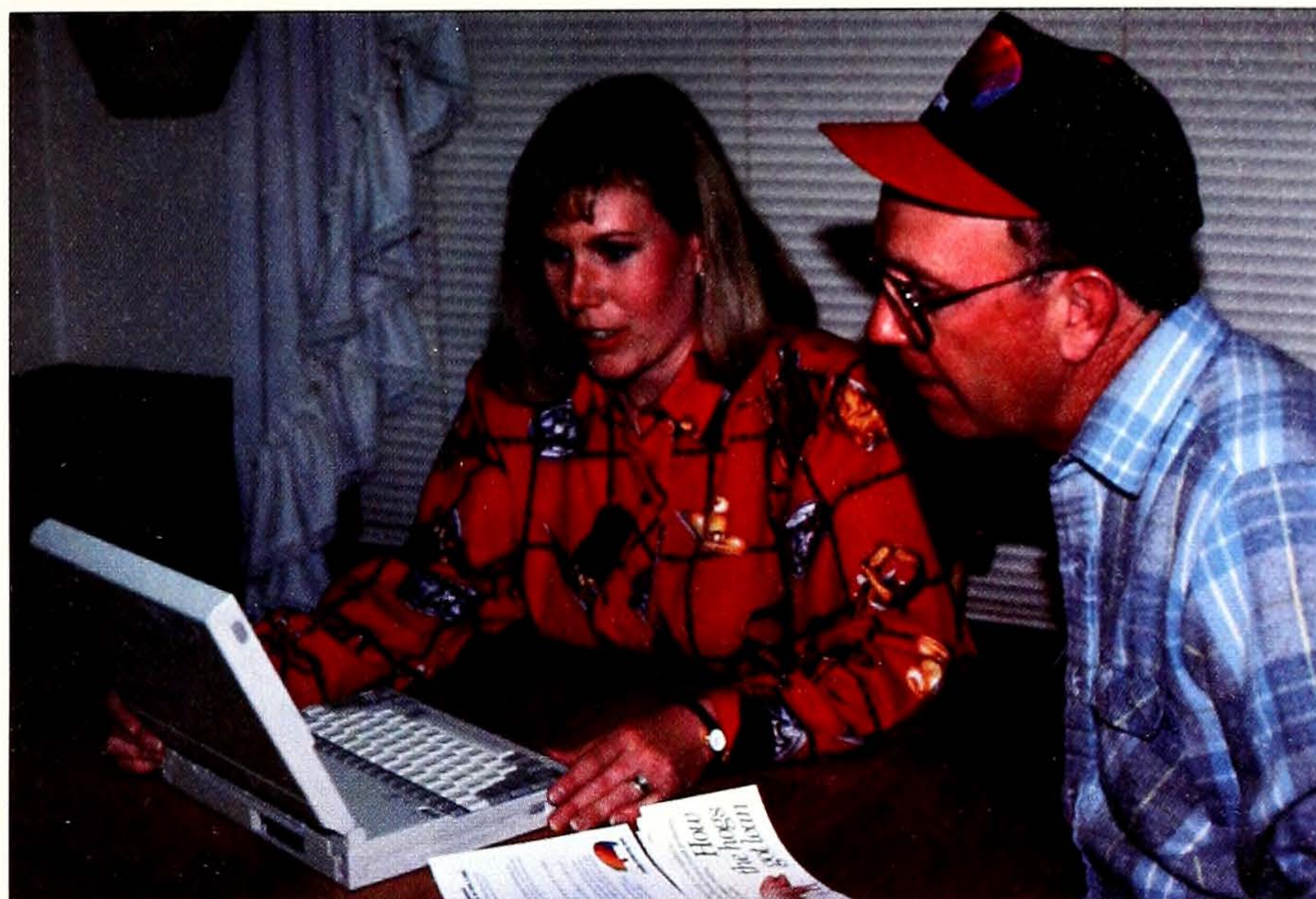
Since she is free from daily supervision, it is a challenge to meet sales goals without anyone pushing or checking on her progress.

Tools for success...

FFA leadership and public speaking training taught her to remain poised and self-confident. Ochsner believes her secure attitude inspires others to have faith in her and the products she represents.



Julie Ochsner, left, often visits producers.



My favorite part of job is...

"...being able to provide the customer with a service beyond what the product can do. It's very rewarding to have people respect you and treat you as a part of their business."

Least favorite part of job is...

"...the strain of being on the road so much to cover a large territory is hard physically and mentally."

The reason I got into this job is...

"...it combines a lot of things I like: the livestock business, animal health, working with new people."

Salary range:

(All salary estimates are approximate and can vary considerably between companies and regions of the country.)

Starting: \$30,000-35,000
(plus company car)

Mid-range: \$45,000-50,000

High: \$80,000 and up

Capable people from field sales often get the opportunity to move into product management or other areas after a few years of field sales experience. ...

Real World Experience

Sharpen your sales and marketing skills in these FFA events: The Agricultural Sales Career Development Event; the Marketing Plan Project; and the FFA Commodity Marketing Activity. For more information on the first two events contact Carol Duval at the National FFA Organization, 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160. To find out more about the FFA Commodity Marketing Activity write to Greg Egan at the same address.



Wrangler

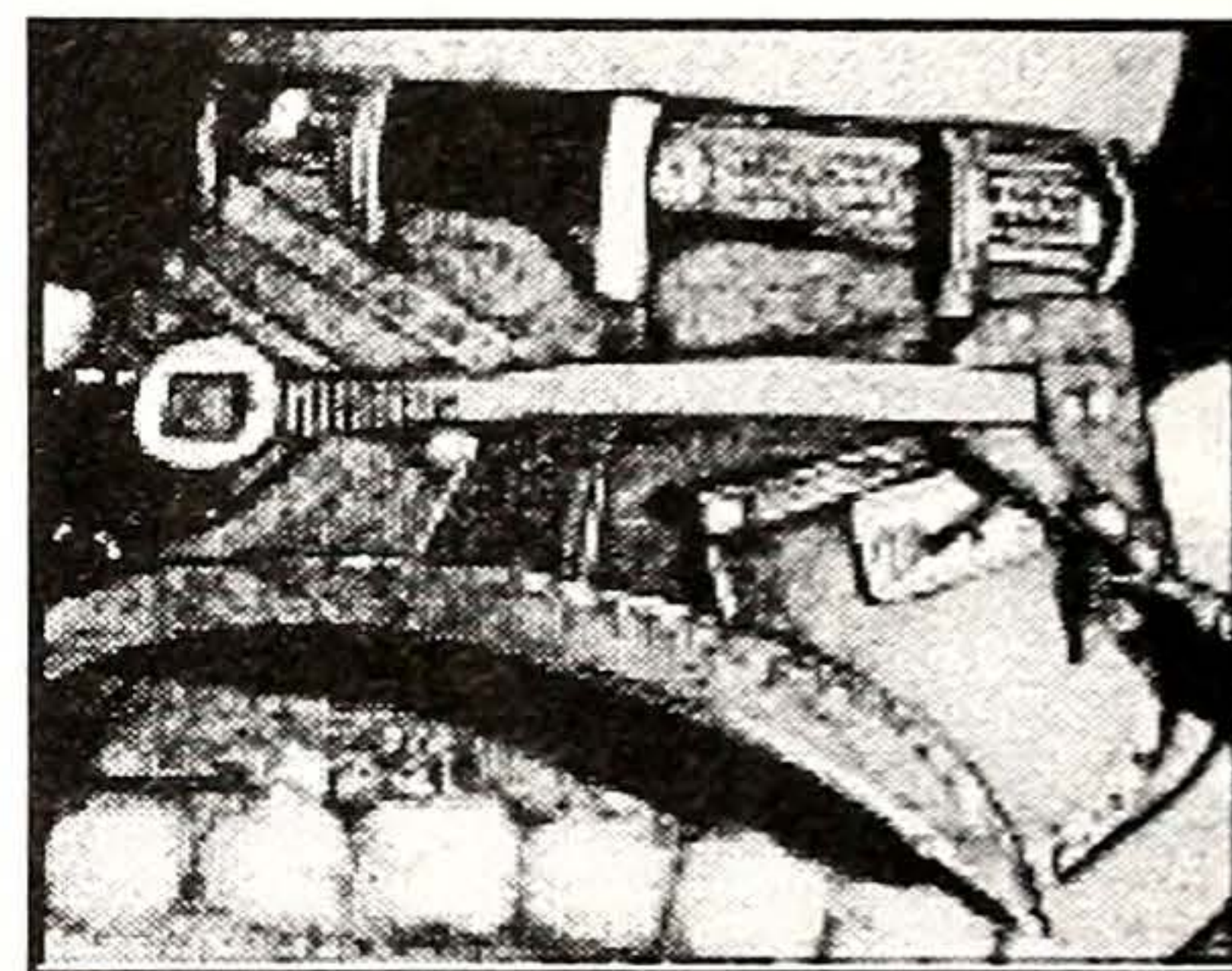
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While you may be talented in some of these areas, it's a safe bet you haven't reached perfection in all of them. Even high-powered politicians like Newt Gingrich and Bill Clinton can't cover all of the leadership bases.

And forget national FFA officers—while they've mastered many skills—they're mere mortals like the rest of us.

What does this mean? If national

FFA officers aren't perfect should you give up?

Don't worry. There's hope. Just follow the Universal Laws Of Leadership.

Number one:

There are no superleaders.

Number two:

Everyone (that means you) has leadership potential and a leadership style.

Okay. Let's see if you've got the concept.

1. Which one of the following people is a leader?

A. Oprah Winfrey B. Michael

Jordan C. Garth Brooks

If you picked Michael Jordan, you're right. He works together with his teammates—whether they are in baseball or basketball uniforms—to lead them to victories.

But the other two celebrities are also leaders.

Oprah is a wonderful listener.

And give country singer Garth Brooks a hand for leading by setting a positive example. "You don't see him doing drugs and alcohol," says Luke Acree, Washington, Kansas, chapter president.

These sports, media and country

ARE YOU A SUPERLEADER?



By Lawinna McGary



Photos by Author

During the WLC superleader workshop members wrote the top ten qualities a leader should possess. They taped their answers on this "superleader" volunteer.

music giants have at least one thing in common with you—a unique leadership style. Find yours below.

NETWORKER

Quietly makes connections and puts people in touch with each other. Do much of the behind the scenes work. These are the people who set up chairs for meetings, decorate for the banquet and generally keep things running smoothly.

TEAM CAPTAIN

Cheers the team on, energizes them, unites others for a common purpose and keeps the team on task. Say “Hello” to Michael Jordan’s style.

COUNSELOR

Gives advice, lends a listening ear, is reliable and a role model. Oprah Winfrey is a perfect match.

COMMUNICATOR

Gives great speeches and is persuasive. President Bill Clinton fits the bill.

EDUCATOR

Shows others how to perform skills, shares knowledge and is a role model. Your agricultural education teacher is suited for this style.

GUARDIAN

Provides security by being in control and telling others what to do. A parent may fit this role.

ADVENTURER

Courageous, takes risk and likes to try new things. This was Martin Luther King’s lifestyle.

“Everybody is a leader. And being a leader doesn’t necessarily mean performing in a certain way or being on stage and speaking into the microphone,” says Robin Perez, 1995 WLC conference leader and former FFA member from Tollhouse-Sierra, California.

At WLC, “We asked ‘what are the top ten qualities a leader should possess?’” says Robin. “Members wrote down things like honesty, integrity, motivation. No one put down, African American, over the age of 25, should be rich. ... They all put down qualities, things that can be developed,

regardless of race, age or other factors.”

Okay, it’s settled. Leadership is in your bones. You have what it takes to contribute. So how do you develop your skills to maximize your leadership potential?

Practice what you do well, whether it’s setting up for that chapter meeting or stepping up to the mike. Give yourself credit for your achievements instead of bashing yourself for weaknesses.

Then, just to keep things interesting, volunteer for duties at which you aren’t naturally gifted.

If you adore the spotlight, try listening more and pitching in with the team, instead of always directing the action. If silently hanging out in the back row of classes and meetings is your thing, try speaking up.

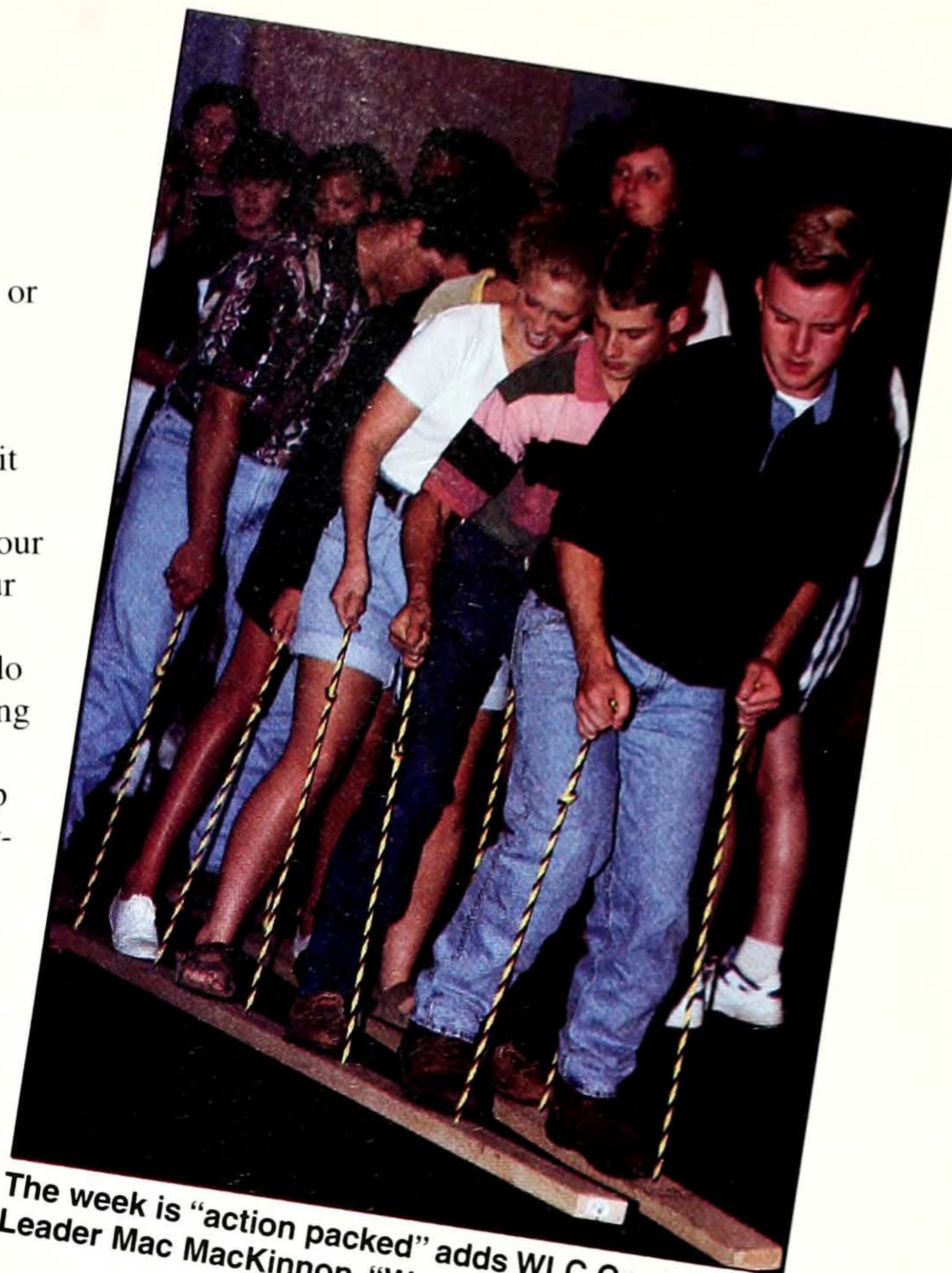
Each time you step outside of what you feel comfortable doing, you’ll gain confidence for sure, and maybe even some recognition.

Next, attend FFA conferences where presenters focus on leadership.

At WLC, for example, “you are learning life skills: effective communication, how to work with people who are different than you, how to be an effective part of a team and who you are as a person,” says Robin.

“Because you’re away from home in our nation’s capital for a week, with people you don’t know...you realize that ‘oh, I can make it on my own’.”

“I was pretty shy before D.C.” says Luke. But it kind of hit me like a wall that it was okay to open up to people. “It (WLC) just gives you a sense of confidence that you can take along with you.”



The week is “action packed” adds WLC Conference Leader Mac MacKinnon. “We do very little sitting.”

WLC—A CLOSER LOOK

Who can go: “Anyone can come. Any FFA member period—from people just finishing a freshman year to those who have graduated from high school,” says WLC Conference Leader Robin Perez.

WLC philosophy: “You set your own pace. You really regulate and decide how much you’re going to do and how much you’re going to get from it,” says Robin.

What you do: “One of the coolest things is touring D.C. and meeting your congressman,” says Robin. “You see everything from Arlington clear to the capitol and everything in between,” adds fellow WLC Conference Leader Mac MacKinnon and past FFA member from Western Boone, Indiana.

You’ll also learn about personal development, teamwork, citizenship and goal setting.

Check with your FFA advisor or phone Kim Bailey at 703-360-3600, ext. 309 for more information.

Go where members make friends, find adventure and learn life-long leadership skills

Photos by Andrew Markwart

FFA members at Camp Oswegatchie in upstate New York canoe, swim, play sports and attend leadership and nature workshops.

Tip A Canoe—Or Try Not To—At FFA Camp

By Chris Feaver

The team of 12 Florida FFA members had a mission; move a long, heavy log several feet before another team of 12 did the same. Sounds simple, but there was a catch. The team had to move the log while balancing on a log and rope formation and trying not to fall.

After much hemming and hawing, some jostling and stumbling and a few futile efforts at glory, they developed a plan. While locking arms to steady each

other, team members simultaneously lifted the log with 12 left feet.

“Every time I go, I get something new out of it,” says Megan Tanner, a three-time Florida Leadership Adventure camper.

Last year, a scavenger hunt led Tanner and other FFA members on a long trek through the woods and across a lake. “It was a team competition. We had to work together and solve riddles. We got to work on our teamwork and

communication skills,” she says.

By solving the riddles, the campers figured out which way to go next. (Hint: There is no such thing as a mama bull.)

Anywhere You Want To Be

You don’t have to head for Florida swamps to cash in on FFA summertime fun. Many states have FFA camps.

In the wilds of Minnesota for instance, members canoe, play

volleyball, hike, dance and perform in a talent show.

When they're not enjoying sports, the outdoors or entertainment, members learn about the real world in how to dress for success, public speaking, and other workshops. Public speakers are often invited to talk to the students.

"It is really a fun week," says Laura Klein, a junior at Kimball High School in Minnesota. "We get to relax and hang out and get to know the state officers and other state FFA members. It's much more laid back than meetings during the school year."

The easy going atmosphere and outdoor setting helps make meeting people easy, says Klein. "We have time to get to know the other campers. I made several friends who I still keep in touch with."

"At other events you are there to compete and win a contest," says junior Amber Wolf, Elko, Nevada, who has attended FFA camp for several years. "At leadership camp you are relaxed and you talk to everybody. It is just a summer get together with the whole state."

Ask your advisor for more details about how you and your friends can get to FFA camp.

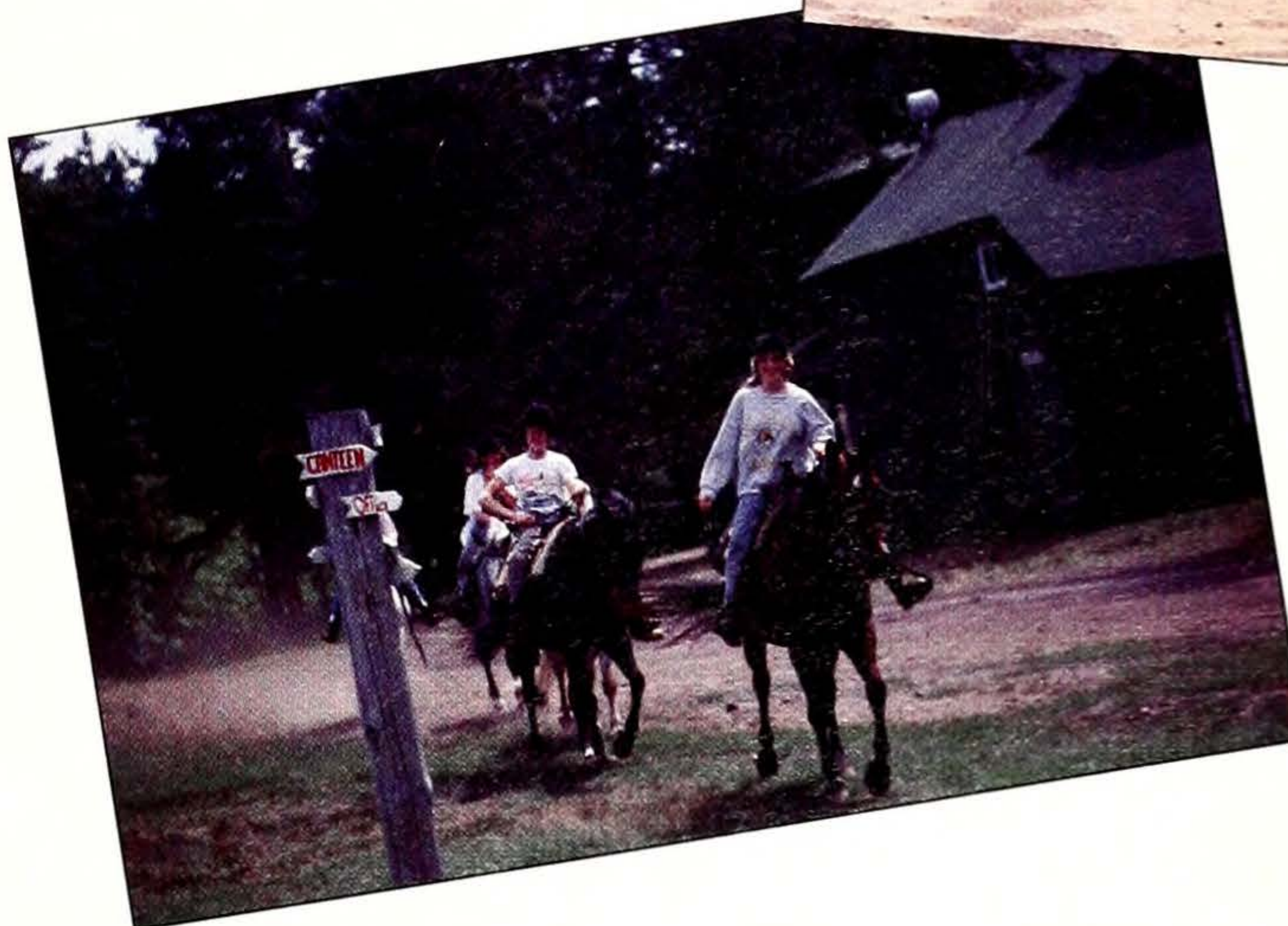
Find Out About Speciality Camps

FFA members test their outdoor skills at an environmental camp in Minnesota and learn about logging techniques at a forestry camp in Florida.

Your state FFA staff may offer summer sessions focused on career areas. Check with your FFA advisor for details.



"It is really a fun week. We get to relax and hang out and get to know the state officers and other FFA members."





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By Susan Zillinger

Not Your Everyday FFA



Photos by Author

Heather McKinney, on tractor, reacts to FFA Advisor E.A. Leatherman's comments. FFA member Josh Liller takes in the scene.

Who's taking who to the senior prom? What's on the menu for lunch? Will softball practice be rained out? Will eighth period and 3:30 p.m. ever arrive? FFA members at this school have the usual things on their minds. But unlike most students, they don't head home at the end of the day.

Instead, they go to their dorm to watch T.V.; to play ping pong, pool, or a video game; or to change clothes for a swim or sports practice. If it's Friday, they pack for their trip home.

Hearing impaired and deaf students at the West Virginia School for the Deaf, Romney, West Virginia, have the same curriculum and graduation requirements of public schools as well as extra activities such as baseball, basketball, volleyball, softball and cheerleading.

FFA programs though, are adapted to meet their needs.

"This is not your everyday FFA," says FFA assistant advisor and full-time science teacher Tom Engelman. "We've modified everything. For example, the chapter revised the FFA Creed so that it is more recognizable to deaf students by changing the order of the words, without changing the meaning."

"Our FFA students Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Programs are



"Be patient" with hearing impaired and deaf students says sophomore Tressie Mitchell. "I came to the West Virginia School for the Deaf after six years of public school. I wasn't used to the different sign language, and the students signed very fast. It takes getting used to. I'm still learning."

similar to other chapters except on a smaller scale. Students are responsible for caring for small animals, such as rabbits, rats, guinea pigs, an iguana and a pet tarantula," which are part of the science program at the school, says FFA advisor E. A. Leatherman. "We also assist in the maintenance of the school grounds, and are repairing the school greenhouse this year."

Heather McKinney's small animal SAE and FFA involvement helped shape her goal to attend "New River Community College and someday become a veterinary assistant."

Dana Jackson files, types, and handles applications and bookkeeping at the Farmers Home Administration office. "The biggest hurdle our students face in participating in FFA or other programs is the language barrier," says Leatherman. (See "How To Include Hearing Impaired Students" sidebar.)

To help communication, Leatherman put a student in charge of the dairy cattle judging team. It worked. Students won second place individual and fifth place team awards in the West Virginia dairy cattle judging contest. "We owe our best finish to the fact that nothing was lost in the translation," says Leatherman. Members have also participated in regional and state forestry, nursery/landscape, floriculture and public speaking competitions.

Senior Billy Calhoun says FFA helped him forge strong friendships, and to feel part of a group. "It's more involved, more interesting, and there's more to do (than school without FFA). And you won't be lonely."

For Jackson, FFA means "learning how to be yourself and having the confidence to stand in front of others."



How To Include Hearing Impaired Students

The biggest myth hearing people have about the deaf is "they can't do anything," says Josh Liller, a sophomore at the West Virginia School for the Deaf. "I had heard that all my life...until I came here and got involved in FFA," says junior Joe Cosner.

Their best advice to hearing students and advisors is to learn more about the deaf and to encourage hearing students to learn to sign. More tips are below.

1. Be friendly. "Hearing impaired students can become isolated easily. The culture is different, but these students have the same feelings, emotions and needs as other teenagers," says Jan Dodgins, photography and journalism teacher.
2. Show kindness and patience
3. Include them
4. Try to communicate (use body language, pen and paper)
5. Smile
6. "Remember that these students have the same IQ as hearing kids, they just can't hear. Treat them like a peer," says Dodgins.
7. "Try not to be intimidated. Know you'll be frustrated. It's mostly fear of the unknown," says Tom Engelman, science teacher.



There are different kinds of sign language. Total Communication is a philosophy that the School for the Deaf adheres to. This includes using auditory training, body language, finger spelling and facial expression in addition to signing exact English to get the concept across. Signed English is the literal translation of every word being spoken. In this school, teachers sign and speak the lesson at the same time as well as using every other method available.

Take a walk in the real world to jump start your career

By Bob Bruce

Gena Boekeloo thought she would ease into work with an internship. She was wrong.

"There is no special treatment—I was given the same privileges and responsibilities as the other employees," she says. "They didn't expect you to be a high school student. They expected follow through. It was okay to have questions—just go ahead and ask—but they didn't expect you to get to a point where you didn't know what to do anymore and then just sit there."

"They" were staff researchers at Asgrow seed company at the Upjohn Farm in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Gena, who researched corn and soybean hybrids to find high-yielding, high-performing varieties, was one of three FFA members picked to assist staff.

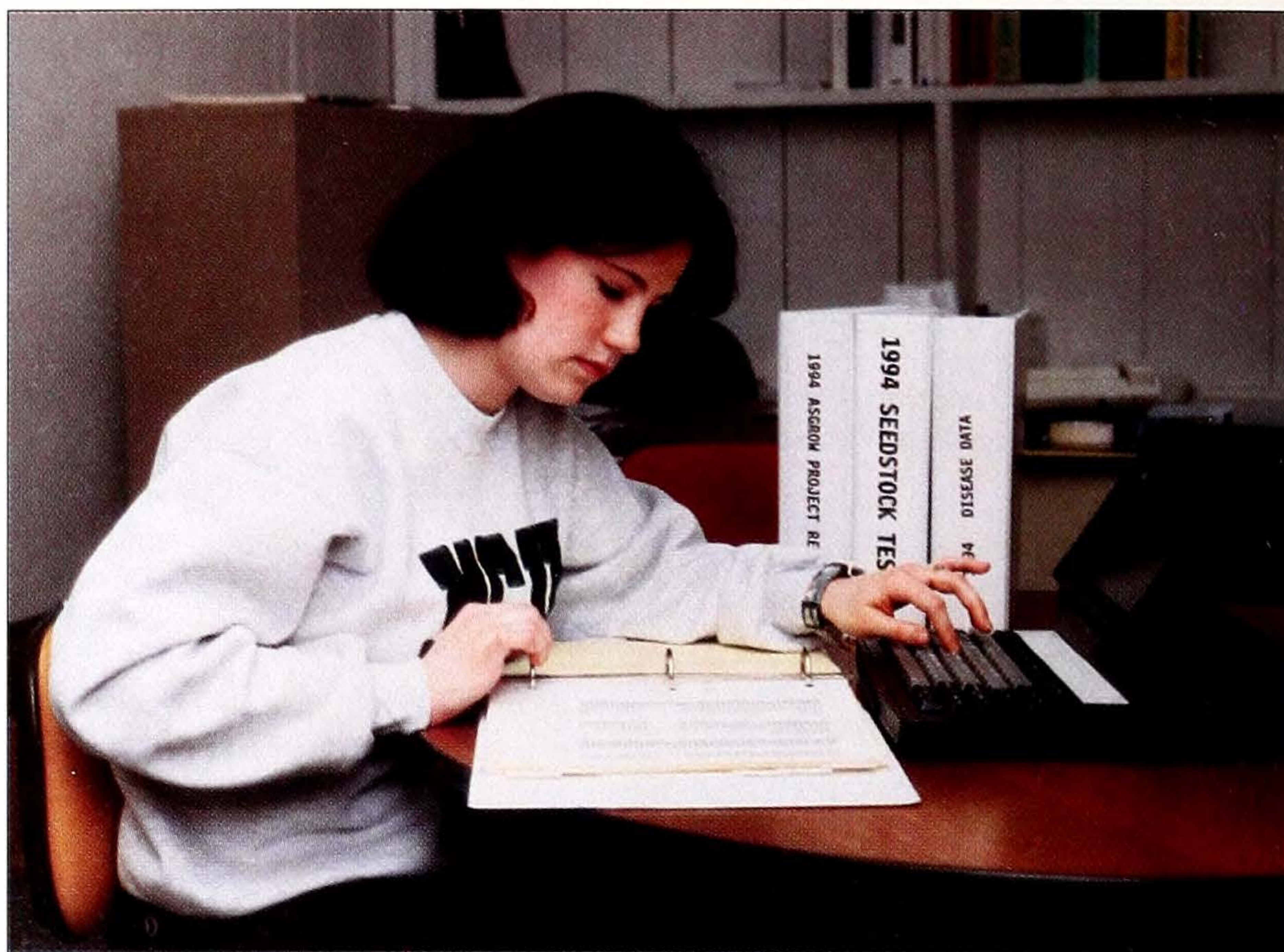
She interned part time during her senior year and worked full time the following summer.

"It was almost always field work that summer—out in the sun taking measurements on various test crops. One of the most critical aspects of genetic research is accurate record keeping. We took all field notes on a palmtop computer and downloaded information into our database."

In the fall, farm staff collected yield trial test weights and moisture data with a computer on the combine.

During the winter, Gena packaged, labeled, and treated the corn so it would be ready for nurseries in Puerto Rico. Then in March, it all starts over again as the station gets busy preparing summer nurseries.

Plant research, Gena discovered, is a year-round job. It is also much more intense than she had imagined. But, she says, it's what researchers need to do to



"It takes eight to 12 years, (for a hybrid to be developed) and there's a lot of work and dedication from the people that are behind it all," says agricultural communications major Gena Boekeloo.

Avoid Job Shock

continue improving crop yields and quality.

"The point was to get a new hybrid out," says Gena. "Every day I learned something new there. They were looking at all kinds of things—how to improve stalk stiffness, or how to adjust the tightness of the ear." The kernels should be tight enough so the birds can't eat the grain, but loose enough so they will dry.

It was hard work, both during the school year and over the summer, but Gena says she gained skills that enhanced her college entry application to Michigan State University. And—at \$5.25 an hour—she made some nice bucks in the bargain.

...

Gena's Tips On Landing An Internship

If you're not sure who offers internships, ask your advisor, FFA Alumni or Farm Bureau members, staff at local universities, extension offices, chamber of commerce offices and anybody else involved in business or agriculture for leads.

"Developing contacts is a key in getting an internship," says Gena. If a company gets a resume from a high school student they probably aren't even going to look at it unless they've heard of that student before."

- Once you know where the internships are, find out more about the companies offering them. What products do they produce? What services do they provide? Read magazine and newspaper articles that relate to their business. The more you know, the better you'll be able to target your cover letter and resume toward the position. (You'll also "WOW" interviewers with your initiative and interest.)

- Once you're an expert on the business you want to work for, let them know who you are. Phone and introduce yourself. Practice selling yourself before you call, they may want to interview you on the spot. Write a list of your skills and interests and commit it to memory. Be ready to answer the questions: Why do you want an internship with us? and Why should we hire you?

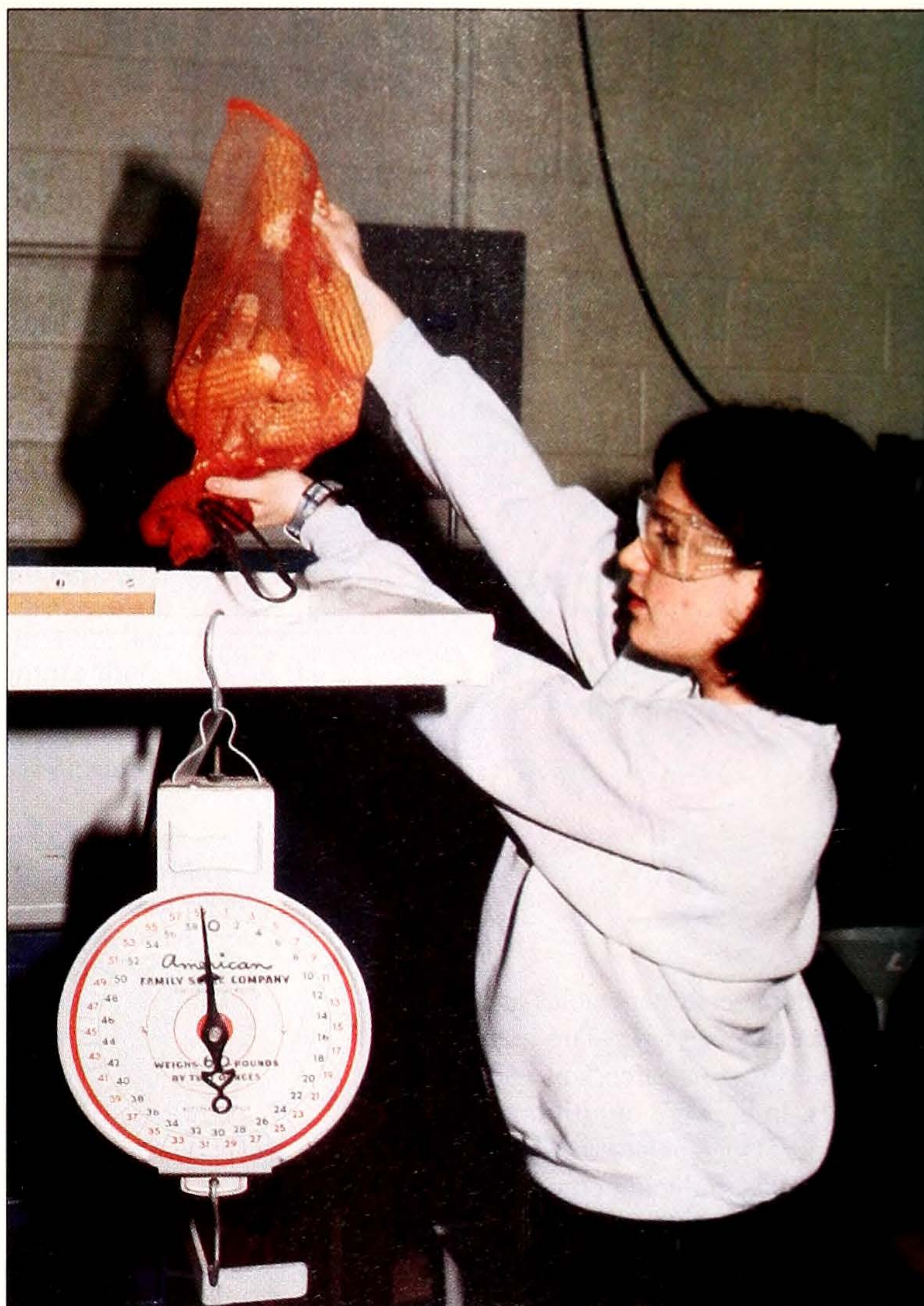
While you're on the phone, ask how to apply for the opening. Who should you send your resume and cover letter to? Is there an application to fill out?

Before you hang up, ask for your contact's title and how to spell his or her name.

- If you have not heard from the company within two weeks after sending your resume, call your contact and arrange an interview if possible.

- After your interview, send a thank you letter and then wait for a response.

"This may seem like a lengthy process," says Gena, "but the experience and the myriad of other benefits you will receive as a result of a quality internship make each step worth the effort."



The first step in seed processing is putting whole ears of corn into the sheller.



Gena sorts through boxes of experimental corn from a winter nursery in Puerto Rico.

We took all field notes on a palmtop computer and downloaded information into our database.

ATTACK!

This Exciting Job Market

By Bob Bruce

Bioengineered vegetables and bioenhanced grains are marching out of the research labs and into the fields. In the case of artificially-produced bovine somatotropin (BST), given to milk-producing cows, and the Flavr Savr tomato, these products have already made their appearance on grocery store shelves. After more than twenty years of experimentation, the age of genetically engineered food is upon us.

Bubbling away in test tubes across the country are bioengineered strains of corn that require fewer pesticides and herbicides, pineapples that ripen more uniformly, squash and cucumber that need less water, snap peas that stay sweeter longer, grains that have more protein, bell peppers with longer shelf life, coffee beans that have less caffeine, and everyone's favorite—kidney beans that don't cause flatulence.

Full Speed Ahead!

In 1994, the U.S. agricultural biotech industry was estimated at around \$55 million. By 1998 that is expected to reach \$475 million—a more than 400 percent growth in just four years.

Part of the driving force behind all this activity is a simple equation: while world population is expected to double by 2030, the amount of land devoted to crop production is steadily decreasing. The key to keeping the world's people fed, is producing more and better food on existing or fewer acres, while being nice to the environment in the process.

Agricultural biotechnology is shaping up to be one of the main growth industries of the future. As public acceptance of bioengineered



Illustrations by Bill Fricke



food products increases, employment options for people interested in biotechnology research, development, and marketing is expected to explode.

Lab Coat Labor

Many of these new agricultural-related jobs will have little to do with getting up with the roosters and working all day in the fields. Instead, technicians will be camping out in labs working with tissue culture and DNA

As public acceptance of bioengineered food products increases, employment options for people interested in biotechnology research, development and marketing is expected to explode.

synthesis, caring for animals in research facilities and growing plants in greenhouses and growth chambers.

To get an idea of just how big the biotechnology industry has become already, a recent survey by the Food and Drug Administration asked experts from government, business, and universities what they thought about the future biotech developments.

Virtual Reality

There are nearly 800 different plant and animal genetic modifications that are technically feasible, say the experts. Three-fourth of those—things like a new strain of corn that resists the European corn borer, or a green bean variety that protects itself against brown spot disease—are close enough to reality that given funding, interest, and regulatory approval, they could be commercially available within five years. ...

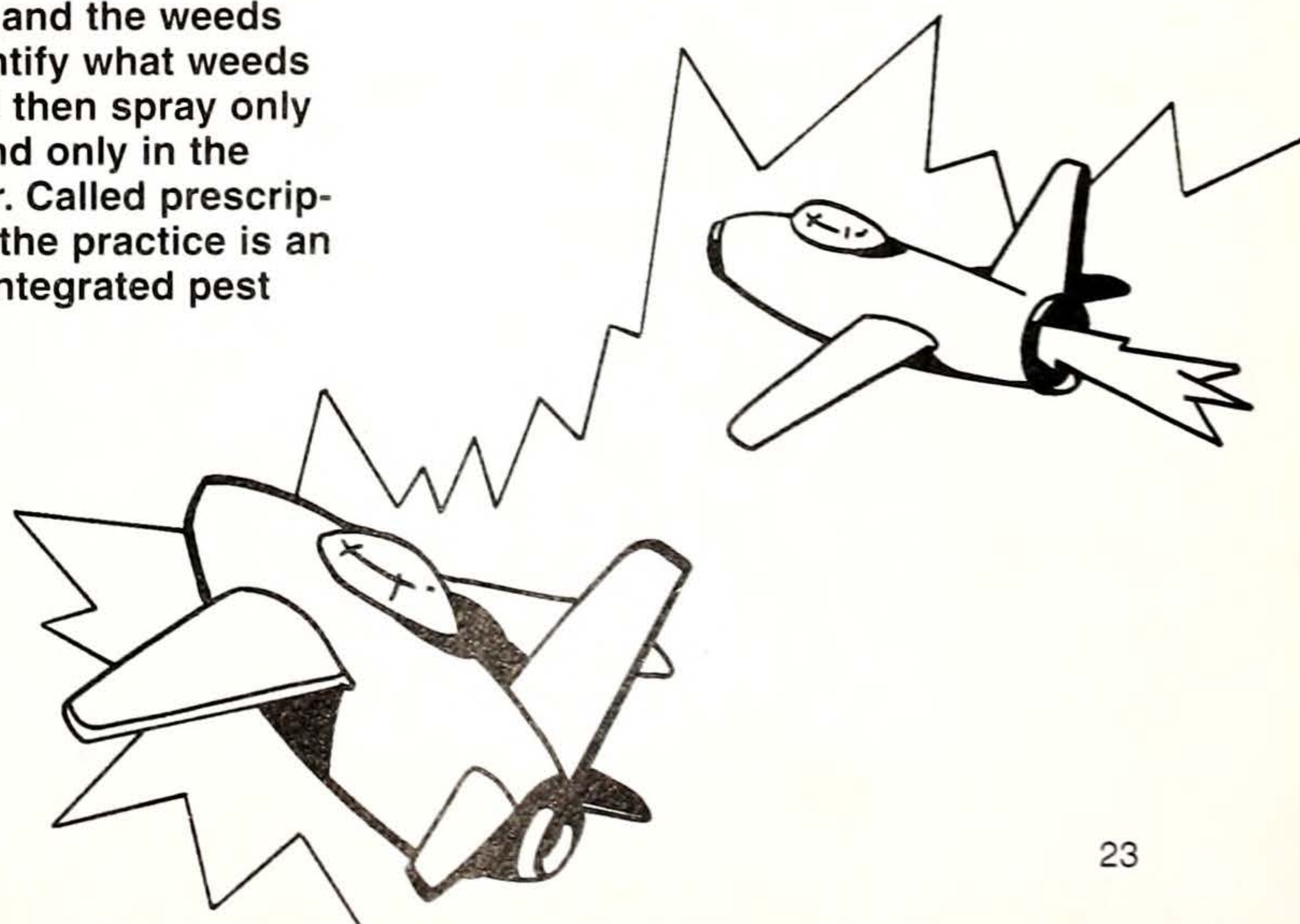
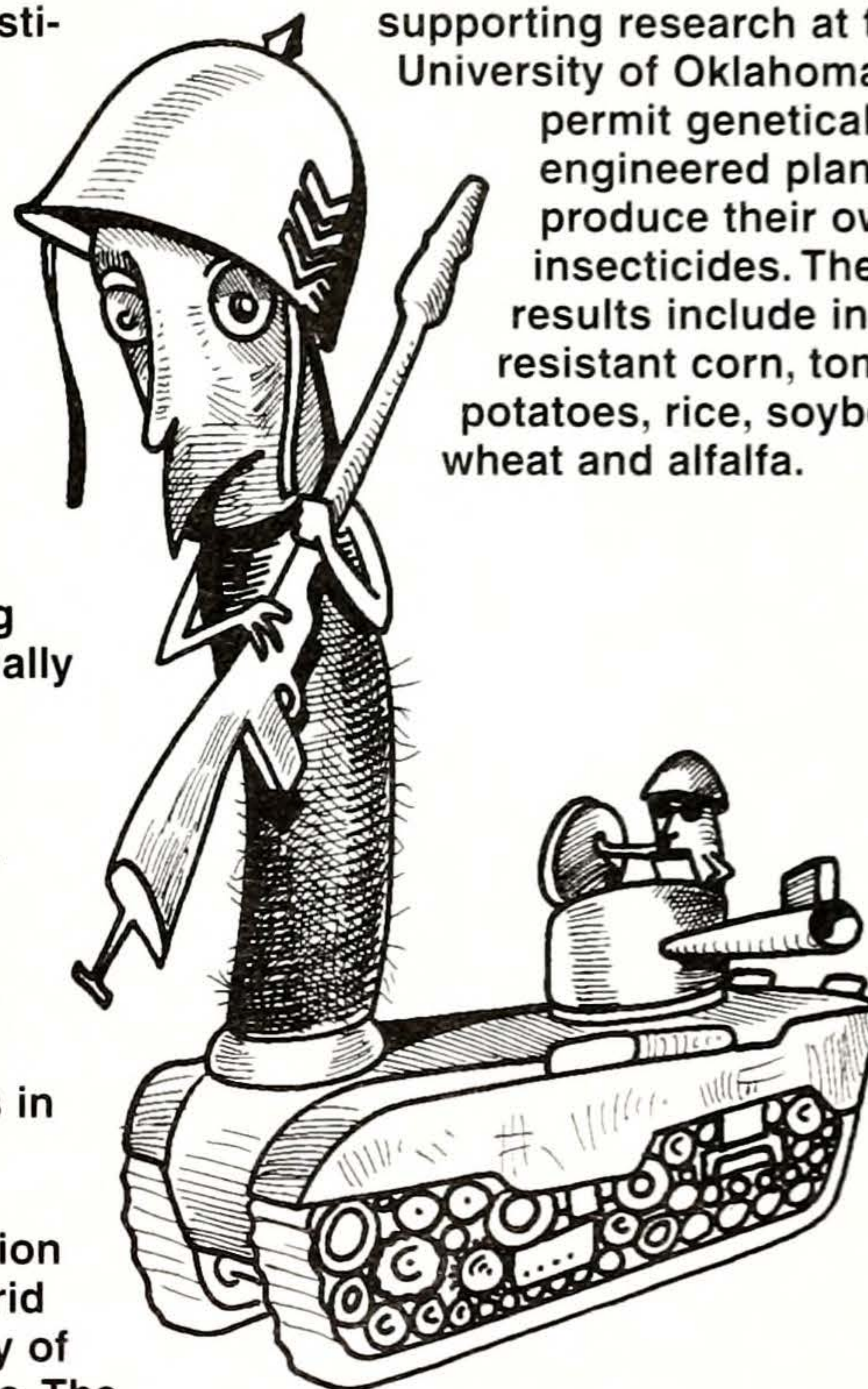
Watch Out For Biotechnology Developments

Sandoz Agro Inc. recently held field trials on a new biopesticide, a genetically-altered bacteria called *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt). Bt targets the armyworm, a pest that in 1992 was blamed for more than \$72 million in damage to California alfalfa, cotton, and sugarbeet crops.

University of Arkansas staff members are working with bacteriocins—bacterially produced antibacterial agents—to reduce food-borne illnesses and food spoilage. Bacteriocins are similar to antibiotics in that they kill bacteria, but unlike antibiotics they are digestible proteins that cause no known ill effects in humans or other animals.

Dekalb Genetics Corporation is field testing a corn hybrid that is resistant to a family of broad-spectrum herbicides. The benefit to farmers of such a hybrid is that instead of treating their fields with weed killers before the crops are planted (the traditional method), they can instead plant their corn, wait until the corn and the weeds begin to grow, identify what weeds are appearing, and then spray only for those weeds and only in the places they appear. Called prescription weed control, the practice is an important part of integrated pest management.

Pioneer Hi-Bred International is supporting research at the University of Oklahoma that will permit genetically-engineered plants to produce their own insecticides. The hoped-for results include insect-resistant corn, tomatoes, potatoes, rice, soybeans, wheat and alfalfa.





Robin Rainwater, third from left, and other students put up an owl box.

No Plows or Sows Required

How a suburban FFA member is active in agriculture

By
Bob
Bruce



There are no cows to tend, no corn fields to harvest and no tractors to drive in Robin Rainwater's life. So how did she and about two dozen other urban FFA members get to do agronomy research in their own back yards?

It's all part of the Sustainable Production Education Program (SPEP), that deals with *sustainable agriculture, **integrated pest management and cover crops.

To be specific: Robin, is looking at how plants—vetches in particular—help orchards by returning nitrogen to the soil, helping control erosion, regulating soil temperature and by attracting good bugs and keeping out bad bugs.

Even though where Robin lives is essentially a suburb of Sacramento, California, she says carrying out her project is no problemo. "I'm doing my whole project in one-gallon pots in the shade house at my high school," she explains. "It's not hard at all."

Next!

After college, Robin hopes to go into either agricultural communications or agricultural education. Either career, she says, has a good future and neither one requires a person to have a farming background.

The SPEP is a result of a partnership between the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, UC Davis, and Sierra Orchards, a walnut operation.

The husband and wife team of Craig and Julie McNamara, who own the orchard, are strong believers in sustainable agriculture, both in terms of keeping the soil replenished and able to grow healthy, profitable crops, and in terms of keeping the farming culture alive.

"Even though you may not farm or want to farm," says Craig, "there are still many opportunities in agriculture."

"If you have an interest in biology, or genetics, or botany, you can incorporate your interests into both a good education and a good job. The agricultural-related career possibilities today are incredible," he adds. ...

Say What?

Terms Every FFA Member Should Know

*sustainable agriculture

Systems of producing food and fiber in which use of resources and environmental protection are kept in balance with the needs of productivity, profits and incentives that are necessary for the agricultural marketplace.

**integrated pest management

A process for controlling pests by using various methods based on cost of treatment, cost of not treating, severity of infestation and environmental impact.

FFA members from several schools participated in the Sustainable Production Education Program.

MAILBAG

Out With The Old

In response to the letter on official dress in the March-April issue, I definitely agree that skirts are out of place in the modern FFA. This rule was created in the 60s when a woman's place was still considered to be in the kitchen.

Dallas Fryer
Kalispell, Montana

I find that skirts are uncomfortable. Here in Utah the winters are usually very cold. I also am proud of my uniform, but when a cold wind blows up your skirt, it chills the enthusiasm. I think we should be able to wear nice dress slacks at appropriate times.

Emily Stark
Brigham City, Utah

I think wearing dress pants would be fine. Growing up on a farm, I was used to wearing Wrangler jeans, a T-shirt and an old pair of cowboy boots.

For me, wearing a skirt would be like a cow wearing bell-bottoms.

Danielle French
McLeansboro, Illinois

Like Brandy Cloud, I'm proud to be an FFA'er. But I don't think we need to wear skirts.

Look, we are doing jobs that, back in the old days, were strictly for men. That's why they wore the pants. I think it's our turn. We've earned it.

Megan Arnold
Cashmere, Washington

Safety Correction

We mistakenly published a photo on page 28 of the March-April FFA New Horizons, in which an FFA member was not wearing the recommended safety glasses or gloves. It's crucial to always wear safety glasses, gloves and other appropriate safety gear when you're using sharp tools or working with material that may splinter or spark.—Ed.

Just The Facts

The syndicated "Ann Landers" column recently ran comments from Susan Lambright, Woodville, Texas, in which she described a pig at the Tyler County fair being given water to increase its weight so it would be eligible for a weight class. This practice is known as drenching.

In the letter, which was presented as fact in Landers' column on February 24, Lambright said, "I would like to know what kind of (Future Farmers of America) we are running at Woodville High School. I was one of many who stood by helplessly and watched an FFA student murder his pig at the Tyler County Fair in Texas."

Anna Zettle, Monroe, Wisconsin, says, "I realize that sometimes things are not what they seem when reported in newspapers so I, and I'm sure many other people, would like to know if this is what REALLY happened, or is there more to the story?"

Here are excerpts from Carol Moffett's response. She is Superintendent of Woodville I.S.D.—Ed

"On Thursday, September 28, 1994, a hog at the Tyler County Livestock Show died as a result of drenching. This practice is not prohibited by show rules, and the hog's death was accidental. The same evening, however, our high school principal directed this practice be stopped pending an investigation.

"On Friday, September 29, he conducted an investigation of the incident. ...On Monday, October 3, I issued a directive against drenching in any future events.

Woodville High School "...will be conducting a review of all our livestock show practices to make sure they are appropriate for our animals, and we encourage other districts to review their practices as well. The students and adults involved in this incident may have shown a lack of judgement, but we are absolutely certain that no one intended to harm this animal."

Should females have to wear skirts as part of official dress? Brandy Cloud, Kinta, Oklahoma, said "no" in her letter published in the March-April FFA New Horizons (page 23).

Keep skirts, they look more professional; was the message from about one-third of the letters we received. And a few members said skirts should be optional, but not mandated; but most FFA members agreed with Brandy and said skirts are an uncomfortable, unneeded tradition.

Here are a few samples of what FFA members said.—Ed.

Don't Mess With Tradition!

I can't think of a more professional image to create than by wearing skirts with our official dress.

Any business is liable to accept a nicely dressed, well-groomed person over an informally dressed individual.

Eventually in life each of us will be placed in a position where we must look efficient through dress and manner. We should use FFA as our training for this moment. After all, when you look good, FFA looks great!

Abra Ungeheuer
Centerville, Kansas

Pro Choice

Most of the girls in our chapter, including myself, don't like to wear skirts. We prefer black slacks. Skirts are so uncomfortable for outside activities. At banquets and dinners though, I think it would be nice to wear skirts.

Let's try to change this without a hassle and let it be the females choice to wear either slacks or skirts to any FFA activity.

Leanna Osterloh
Eddyville, Iowa

Defender Of The Fields

How you can make money protecting other people's crops

By Bob Bruce



Kathy and Gary Edwards were Josh's first customers. "I was really young for a crop scout when I first started and they were willing to let me go at it. They trusted the word of my boss."

Josh Miller, Marengo, Iowa, has never lived on a farm. But he spends his summers trekking through mile after mile of corn and soybeans scoping for pests.

"When I was a freshman looking for a SAE Program (Supervised Agricultural Experience Program)," says Josh, "I really had no idea where to start. My dad ran a grain elevator across the road from our house for about ten years, but other than that I had no farming background whatsoever."

He quickly learned about agriculture while working as a crop scout for Crop Tech Services in Cedar Rapids.

On The Lookout

Crop scouts monitor farmers' fields for crop growth, weed infestation, insect population and plant diseases. With the detailed data they collect, they recommend when and how to control pests.

"I look at development of the corn as it goes through its stages. I report on the leaf stage, the plant height, tasseling..."

Because insect populations can increase so quickly, Josh inspects every week, rain or shine. "If the field is basically flat and uniform," he says, "I can make a big zigzag swipe through the field. A couple of my farmers though are in mountain goat country almost, and that can be real hard."

While the job is generally peaceful, Josh says he has been chased out of corn fields by angry deer and he's gotten spooked once or twice by coming upon a crater left by a lightning strike. "But the hardest part," he says, "is when the corn gets to be eight or 10 feet tall and you can't find your way through." At those times, he says, a good sense of direction is his most valuable asset.

Good people skills are also important, says Josh. "I've learned a lot in

this job about dealing with people. Every farmer is different. They have different personalities and they like things done differently."

In three years of crop scouting, Josh earned more than \$2,400 and took top state honors in the Agricultural Sales and/or Services Proficiency Award Area. He now services 1,400 acres, and even employs his brother. "It was a good deal for him," says Josh. "He needed an SAE too, and now he's making his own money."

While Josh doesn't know if he will stay in agronomy after he graduates from college, he says that his SAE has convinced him that there is a real future in agriculture, even if you don't live on a farm. ...

An Insider's Report on Crop Consulting

"There's a definite need out there for crop consulting, and the profession is growing fast," says Dennis Berglund, general manager of CENTROL Crop Consulting, Inc., Twin Valley, Minnesota. "It's not a get rich quick or anything like that, but for the right person it's a good, fun position—even during the 16-hour days."

Berglund says a 1992 survey done by *AgriFinance* magazine shows the national salary average for crop consultants as \$53,939. "The lowest average—\$39,714—was in the southeast, and the highest average was the mountain region at \$68,750."

All 18 of Berglund's staff members have four-year agricultural degrees. "In addition to a general agronomy background," he says, "we also have advanced training. My specialty is in plant pathology, for example, but we also have people in weed science, entomology, and soil science."

Business, management and computer skills are crucial.

"And people skills too," adds Berglund. "If you have someone who is very good technically but can't get the point across one-on-one, they won't succeed as a crop consultant."

To see if you can survive in a field where insects and pests sometimes thrive, Berglund suggests you follow in Josh's footsteps and land a summer position with a crop consultant.



Trisha is close to her father, B. Courtney; mother, Melissa Bailey, sitting and sister, Jill, far right.

I jumped into FFA with both feet and left mom and dad out on the clothesline, clue-less as to what I'd get into next, as I bounced from one event to another. But I soon discovered that I could not accomplish everything on my own.

Whether they were shuttling me to and from practice or the airport, sharing in the excitement of my victories, or consoling in the pain of my defeat—my parents understood.

Like many of you, I feel so fortunate to come from a close-knit family. Unfortunately, we all have this habit of getting so caught up in our day-to-day routines that we tend to take our families for granted. The people we sit at the dinner table with—occasionally—or ask to borrow the car or truck from—again—are those special people we probably treasure the most, but show appreciation for the least.

Sometimes we feel so distanced from our families because we have this notion that our parents are changing, or that they don't understand. Well, it took me several years, but I finally discovered that we are the ones who are changing, not our parents.

Every day we experience new obstacles our families went through

before we were even thought of. How can our families understand what we're thinking if we don't take time out of our busy schedules to explain?

I learned the hard way that all we have to do is STOP. Watch TV with your dad. Listen to mom tell about her day at work. You don't even have to make conversation—just be there.

If we let it, FFA can be a link to connect us even closer to our families. We may never have the chance to experience and achieve as much as we will within the next few years. Why go through this phenomenal time in our lives alone?

Watch, I'll show you just how easy it is... Mom, dad, Jill—thank you so much for always being there for me, even when I thought I didn't need anyone else. Now I know I do. Love, Trisha.

See, that wasn't so bad. Why don't you give it a shot? Your precious family deserves nothing less.

Trisha Bailey



FFA IN ACTION



Georgia

Exceptional Environmental Efforts



Kansas

Theater Renovations Receive Community Response

Melissa Gillig, Reporter, South Barber FFA, Kiowa

South Barber FFA members renovated a local theater for their Building Our American Communities (BOAC) project last year and received an overwhelming response from the communities of Kiowa, Hardtner and Hazelton. Members collected more than \$30,000, and then made sure all kinds of repair work, such as fixing the walls, wooden seats, seat upholstery and bathroom stalls, was done. ...

Vice President Gore presented Morgan County High School, Georgia, FFA member Megan Howard the Presidential Environmental Plaque for her chapter's award-winning environmental projects over the past five years. The projects range from operating a citywide recycling center to developing a three-acre environmental laboratory.

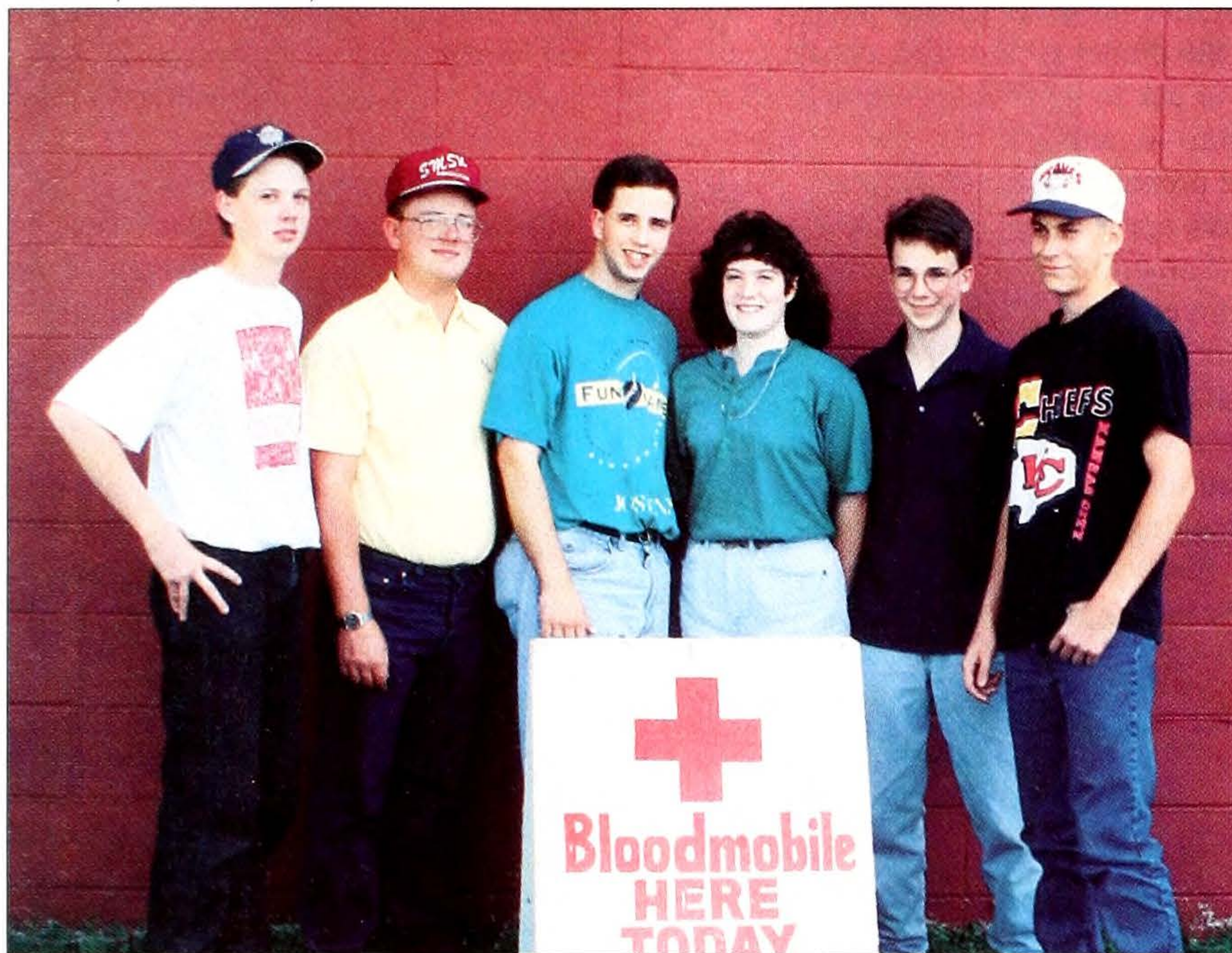
(Action Continued on Page 28)

FFA IN ACTION

Missouri

How to Run a Successful Bloodmobile

Halfway FFA, Halfway



Halfway High School's FFA chapter knows how to run a successful Bloodmobile: they've collected more pints of blood than there are people in their tiny community. According to American Red Cross Bloodmobile coordinator Suzanne Allen, the Halfway chapter "has done an amazing job in organizing, publicizing, and running Bloodmobiles. People come from all over the region to donate blood."

Halfway FFA members performed a skit for other high schools to teach them how to run a successful Bloodmobile, and distributed Bloodmobile flyers and signs around the community. Then during the three-hour blood drive, members serve as greeters, donor escorts, refreshment distributors, and administrators to ensure all the paperwork is filled out properly and the donors are properly thanked. ...

These members, left to right, set up for the blood drive: Jeremy Ashlock, Jeff Voris, Jeremy Whistance, Melody Vest, Andy McDaniel and Brad Kennedy.

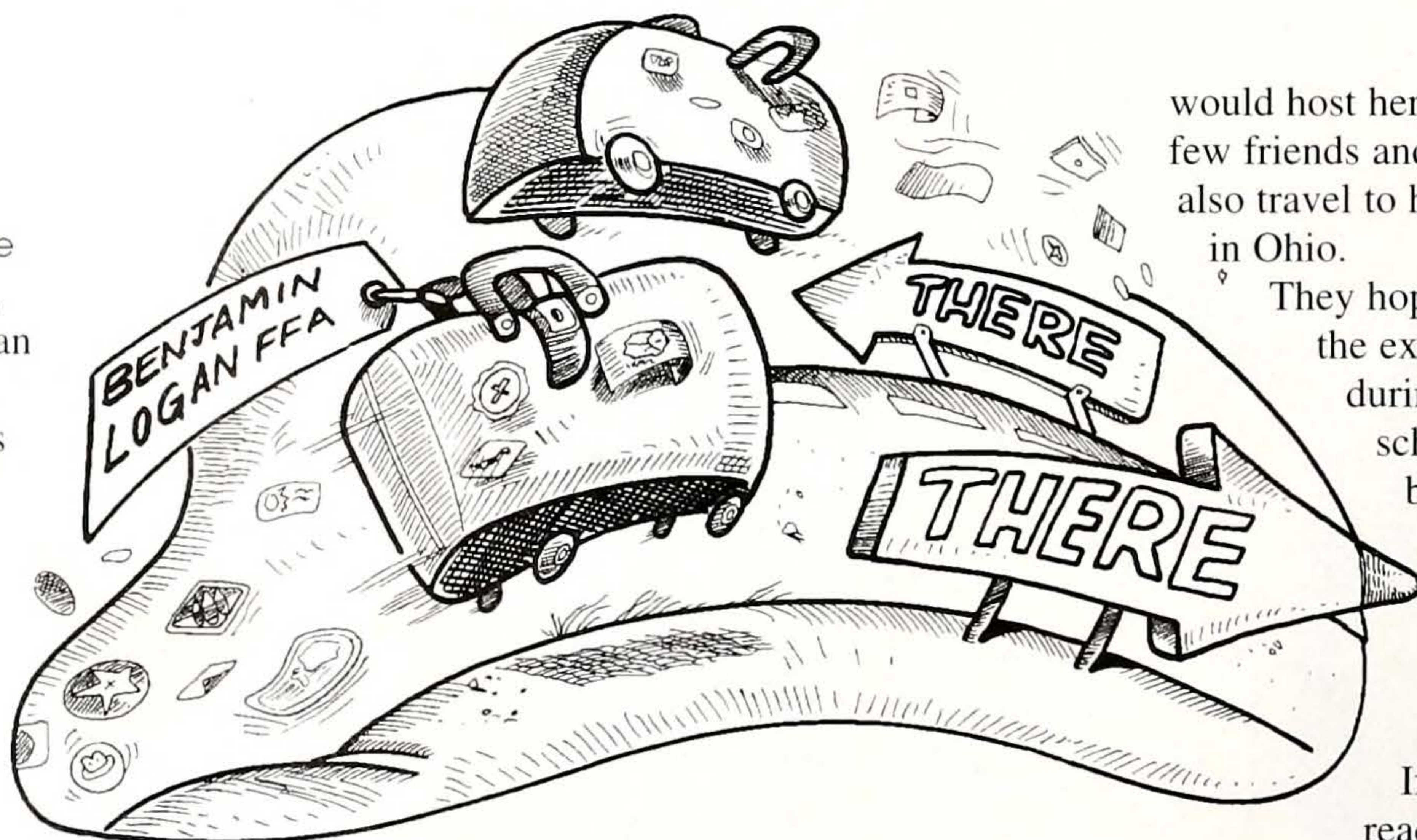
Ohio

Travel—FFA Style

Benjamin Logan FFA, Bellefontaine

More than 450,000 members, 2,500 chapters and 50 states mean there are a lot of different kinds of agriculture and different ways of running FFA. Benjamin Logan FFA members of Bellefontaine, Ohio, want to sample some of those differences. "I think it would be neat to be able to see how other schools are run... to see something different than what we have," says chapter president Beth McCarren.

She wants to hear from other chapter members who



would host her and a few friends and then also travel to her town in Ohio.

They hope to have the exchange during the school year, but would also consider traveling in the summer. If you're ready to hit the road, contact

Beth at: 513-464-2382 or 8837 State Route 638, Belle Center, OH 43310. ...

FFA IN ACTION

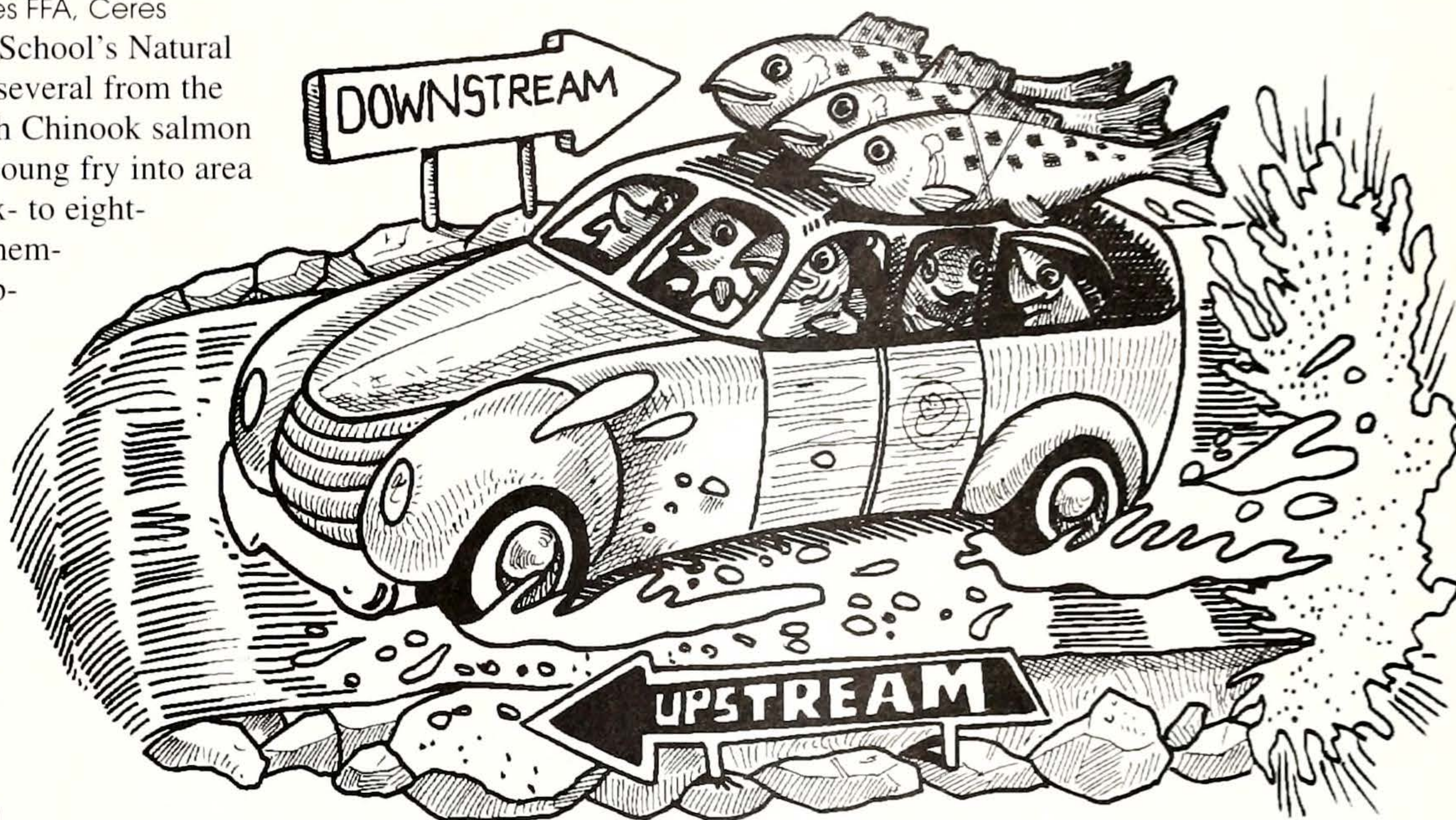
California

Save Those Salmon!

Chris Essman, Reporter, Ceres FFA, Ceres

Students in Ceres High School's Natural Resource class are among several from the San Joaquin Valley to hatch Chinook salmon eggs and then release the young fry into area rivers and streams. This six- to eight-week project allows FFA members to observe the developmental stages salmon undergo before resembling fry. It also provides a hands-on way to learn about fish life cycles. The eggs were salvaged from adult salmon that got lost last fall and ended up in a muddy channel rather than the clear waters of the Merced River.

Wildlife biologists from California's State Department of Fish and Game collected the eggs for distribution to area schools. The program is co-sponsored by the Fish and Game Department, the Los Banos Wildlife Area and the Turlock Irrigation District. ...



Truck Versus Beast



Amber Allen of Lockhart Middle School FFA in Orlando, Florida, and her steer T-Bone have two completely different plans for the family truck. Hopefully, T-Bone will be more cooperative in front of judges at the Central Florida Fair.

(Action Continued on Page 30)

FFA IN ACTION

.....



Jeremy Hibbs monitors the basket toss game.

Justin Waters (left) and Kelly Bow (right) assist a child with the bowling game.



Oklahoma Discovering the Real Celebrities

Janet Troutman, Reporter

Hollywood celebrities and world-champion cowboys teamed up with Edmond FFA at the Ben Johnson

Celebrity Pro Rodeo to raise money for children's medical research. Although stars like Sam Sheppard, Rex Linn, Wilford Brimley, Lee Horsley and Baxter Black participated in the benefit rodeo, the real celebrities, according to Edmond FFA members, were the kids from Children's Hospital of Oklahoma. "They were having a good time and didn't let their problems hold them back," says Sara Taylor. "Many of the children looked perfectly healthy," adds Janet Troutman, "but knowing something is taking them internally touched my heart." Fourteen Edmond FFA members set up games, managed booths, and volunteered with other activities making this day the experience of a lifetime for FFA members and rodeo participants. ...



Edmond FFA members share the excitement of a pony ride with rodeo participants.

Edmond FFA with Ben Johnson and kids from Children's Hospital of Oklahoma.

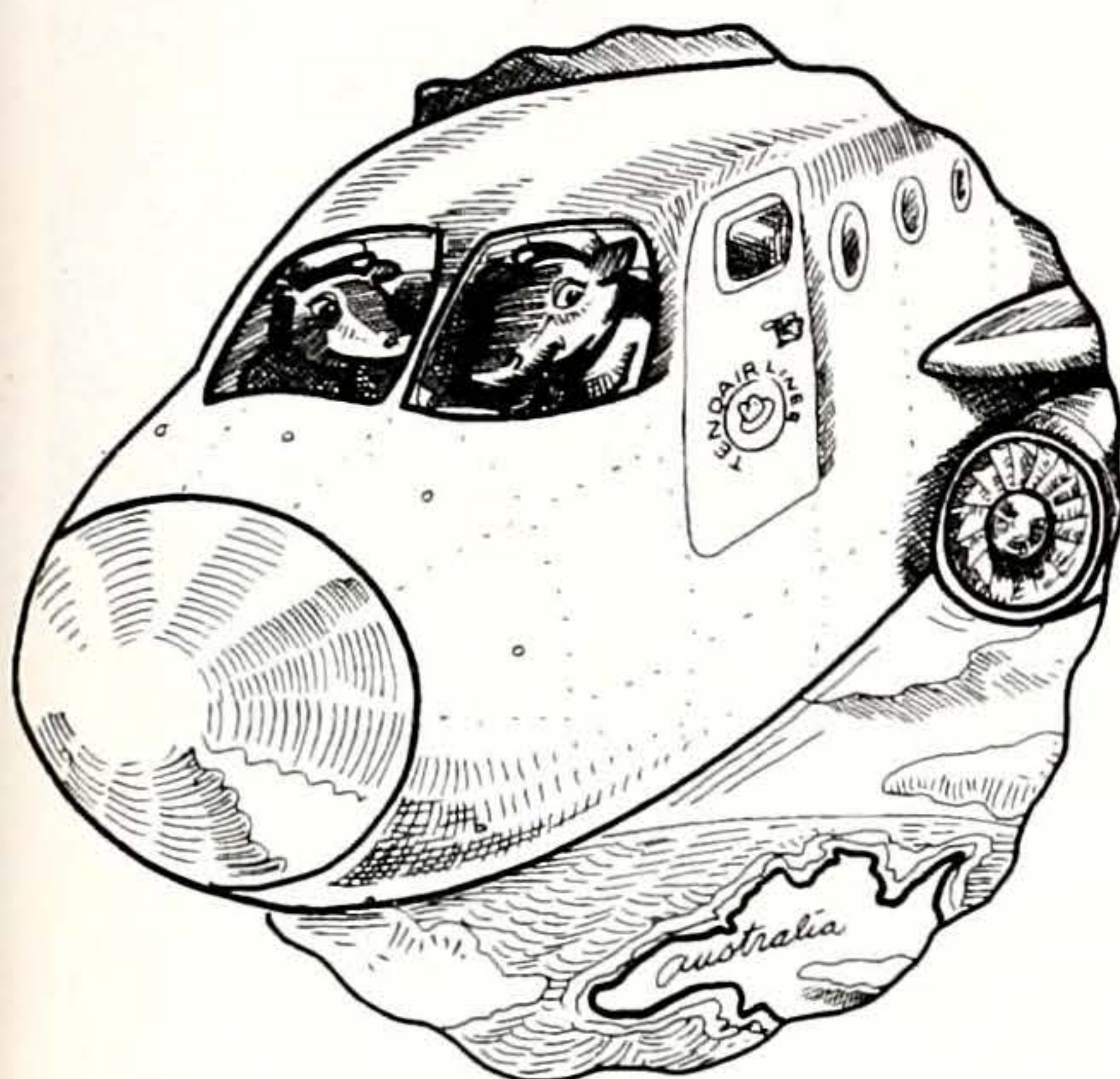


FFA IN ACTION

Utah

Lessons from the Land Down Under

Jason Goble, Mt. Nebo FFA, Nephi



As a senior, Jason Goble knew he didn't want to rush directly to college, which is why an FFA international exchange program appealed to him. A couple of weeks after graduation, Jason was on his way to Queensland, Australia, for a six-month World Experience in Agriculture (WEA) program that "was a perfect transition between high school and college."

Jason rotated among four cattle and sheep operations, called "stations" in Australia, where he stayed in bunk houses and with station families.

While in the land down under, Jason hunted "Roos" (kangaroos) and wild pigs, enjoyed "smokos" (short snack breaks) in the morning and afternoon, and helped break horses, shear sheep, and tend cattle.

Sheep shearing is a little different there, and their horse saddles are different. Would Jason like to return to Australia? "Fair dinkum," he answers, an Australian term meaning "sure," "really," "true," or "yes."

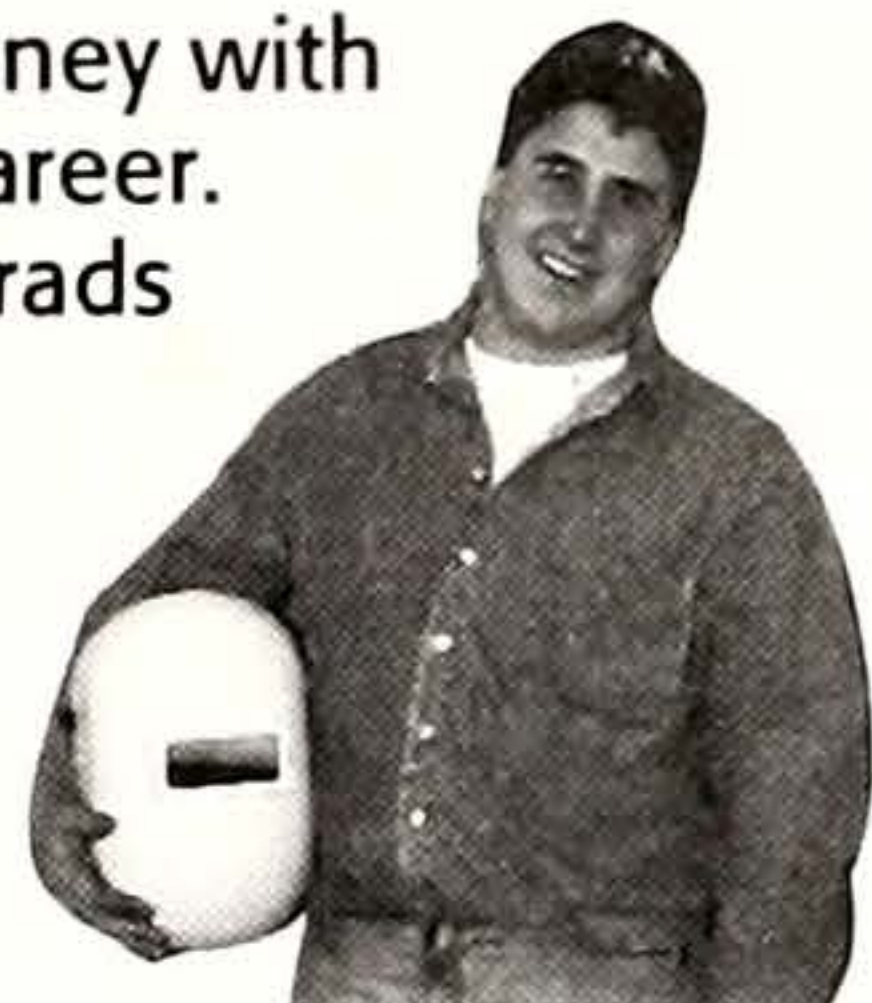
For more information on international programs, contact Bruce White at 703-360-3600 ext. 319.

(Action Continued on Page 32)

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Jason A. McCoy, FFA—West Virginia

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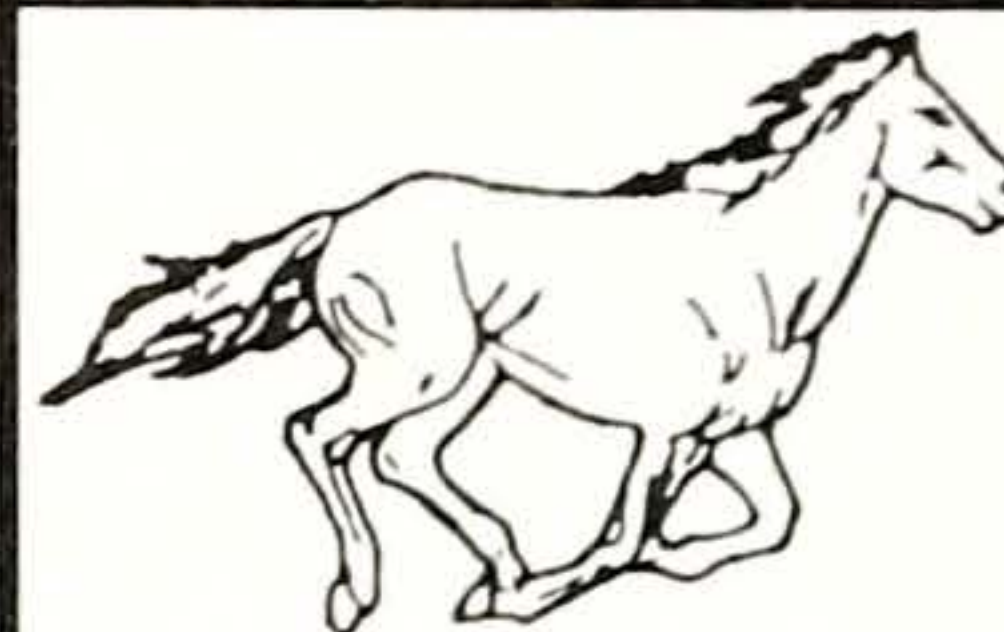
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FFA IN ACTION

Ohio

What's Hot...and NOT at Versailles FFA

Members of Versailles FFA in Ohio know exactly what's up and cool and fun—and aren't afraid to share their opinions. They'd like to see more *FFA New Horizons* features on membership recruitment, fun FFA activities and projects, and chapter interviews. They'd also like the magazine staff to continue features on farm safety, farming in the city, agricultural science careers and FFA member opportunities, like international exchange programs and contests. What do you want to see in the magazine?

And what are your chapter members into? Let us know at FFA New Horizons, 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.

Category	Hot	Not
Movie	"Tombstone"	"Honey, I Blew Up the Kids"
Actor	Clint Eastwood	Tom Arnold
Actress	Sharon Stone	Roseanne
Singer	Alan Jackson	Michael Jackson
Album	Brooks&Dunn's "Hard Workin' Man"	Michael Bolton's "Time, Love and Tenderness"
FFA activity	Food for America/ FFA conventions	Speaking contests
Place to go	The mall	The dentist
Thing to do	Ride horse	Mow the lawn
Book	Stephen King's "The Stand"	"Gone With the Wind"
Magazine	"Sports Illustrated"	"U.S. News & World Report"
Sport	Football	Tennis/golf
Social cause	Environmental causes	Litter clean-ups
FFA event	Versailles FFA banquet	Soil judging contest
Clothes	Blue jeans/flannel shirts	Anything plaid or polyester
TV shows	"Seinfeld"	"Beverly Hills 90210"
Music videos	All TNN videos	Madonna's "Vogue"
FFA fund-raising	Fruit sales	Barn sale/raffle
Career choice	Agricultural communications	Garbage collector



Liberty overalls are hot in Chatsworth, Georgia, say Amber Davis, left, with Lucille, and Kelly Mimbs, with Kerry. Both FFA members are on their chapter's Cattle Show Team.

Virginia

Pioneer Interns Go Back In Time

George Washington, who said, "Agriculture is the most healthy, the most useful and most noble employment of man," would be proud of the 19 FFA members who will spend their summer rebuilding the 16-sided barn on Washington's Mt. Vernon, Virginia, plantation.

To see how you can play a part in our nation's history, write to Frank Saldaña, National FFA Organization, 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.



Photo courtesy of Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

This is how the original barn looked in 1870. When the new barn is finished, oxen, led around in a circle, will tread on sheaves of grain laid on the upper floor. Cracks will catch chaff while allowing kernels to fall to ground level, where they will be swept up and put into four storage bins in the center of the barn.

FFA members building the barn will be: Janna Quaring, Ravenna, Nebraska; Steven Zollinger, Burley, Idaho; Wes Fowler, Aledo, Illinois; Jere Stewart, Nampa, Idaho; Seth Spurgin, Leakey, Texas; Manda Hays, Kress, Texas; Amanda Hyatt, Fruitland, Idaho; Jana Goedken, Ames, Iowa; Trina Lee, Sutherlin, Oregon; Kent Moore, Morgantown, Kentucky; Matthew A. Archuleta, Loma, Colorado; Laura Klein, South Haven, Minnesota; Carla Moore, Prattville, Alabama; Jason Smith, Macomb, Illinois; Chad Marsh, Angleton, Texas; Luis Noriega, Las Cruces, New Mexico; Rachel Dawley, Mexia, Texas; Jennifer Muller, Bryan, Texas and Desraye Assah Noble, Eagle Point, Oregon.

FFA IN ACTION

California

Halloween Handiwork

Sandra Messina, Secretary, Anderson FFA



Through the cooperation of Anderson Union High School's Music Department and FFA chapter, the community of Anderson enjoyed a fantastic haunted house on Halloween weekend. FFA member Allena Clark is shown painting band member Sarah Thompson's face in preparation for the night's haunted performance.

You're Next!

Get Published in FFA New Horizons

Mail your action items to: FFA New Horizons, "FFA in Action," 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160. Who knows? You and your chapter could be featured next issue!

FFA Stars—We Need You

Have you or someone you know done something special, such as overcome challenges, physical or otherwise; organized or contributed to a community project; courageously stood up for what was right or excelled in sports? We're starting a new section of the magazine to recognize these deserving members.

Nominate FFA members by writing Jim Scott at 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy., P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160. Or phone him at 703-360-3600, ext. 222.

Kansas

Trailblazing: Not Your Typical Summer Job

Shawn Papon, senior, South Barber FFA, Kiowa

Last summer, Shawn Papon spent five weeks as a volunteer trail blazer in Jim Creek, Washington, which was a long way from his home in Hardtner, Kansas. Offered through the Student Conservation Association, the trailblazers internship gave Shawn a unique perspective on his future career, wildlife biology. Interns from as far away as New Jersey met at the old-growth-forest site and constructed a one-mile stretch of hiking trail without the aid of power tools. "It was hard work," says Shawn, "but it was a lot of fun, too. I learned how to measure slopes, use hand tools to make steps from dead trees in the forest, and build walls out of river stones, among many other things." When not blazing trails, interns attended conservation workshops and learned more about careers in wildlife biology and forestry. The interns also took a recreational hiking trip to Boulder River Wilderness Area near Arlington, Washington.

J O K E P A G E

.....



Q: Where do little cows go to eat?

A: They eat in the "calf-eteria".

Micheal Batchelor
Andalusia, Alabama

Q: Why did the little boy take a ruler to bed with him?

A: He wanted to see how long he slept.

Ada Fields
McKee, Kentucky

Q: How many sides does a circle have?

A: Two, in-side and out-side.

Wesley Foley
New York Mills, Minnesota

Q: Why shouldn't you tell secrets on a farm?

A: Because the corn has ears, the potatoes have eyes, and the beans-talk.

Sara Hurd
Laingsburg, Michigan

Q: What has hundreds of ears but can not hear?

A: A cornfield.

Andy Ahlers
St. Marys, Ohio

Q: Where do bees wait to be picked up?

A: At the "Buzzstop."

April Young
Evergreen, Alabama

Q: What do you get from an invisible cow?

A: Evaporated milk.

Marcus Perkins
Briggs, Texas

Q: Why do cowboys wear boots?

A: So they won't stub their toes when they kick the bucket!

Earl Otto
Arthur, Illinois

Q: Why are farmers mean?

A: Because they pull the ears off corn.

Kathy Duffield,
Strange Creek, West Virginia

Q: What kinds of vans do cows drive?

A: "Mo-o-ving" vans.

Earl Otto
Arthur, Illinois

Charlie and Friends



"Dad, I thought you might want to see this ad for the 'Peace and Quiet Hotline'. You call this number and get absolute silence for \$3.99 a minute!"

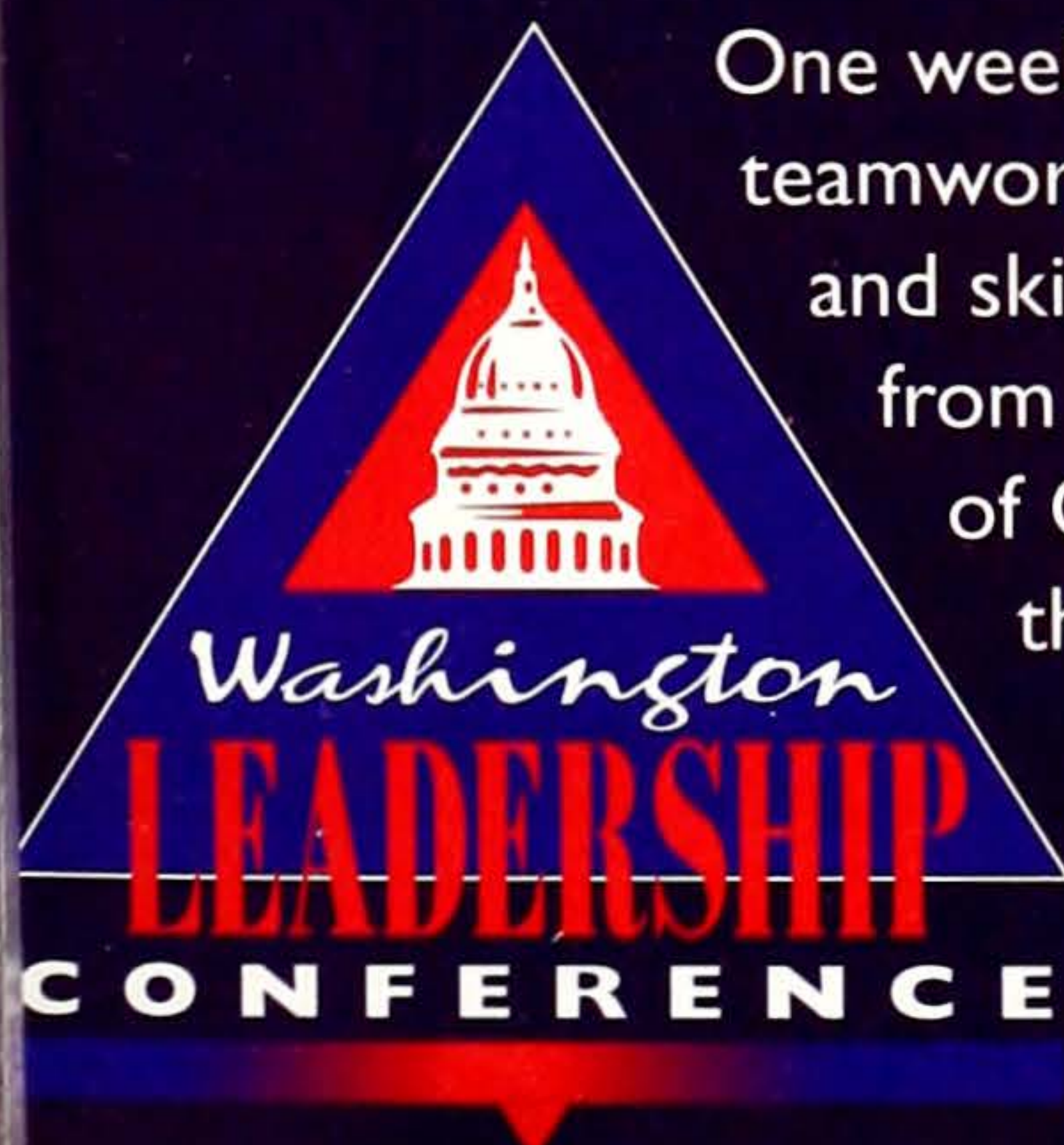
NOTICE

FFA NEW HORIZONS will pay \$5.00 for each joke selected for this page. Jokes must be addressed to FFA NEW HORIZONS, 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 15150, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160. In case of duplication, payment will be for the first one received. Contributions cannot be acknowledged or returned.

FFA WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 1995

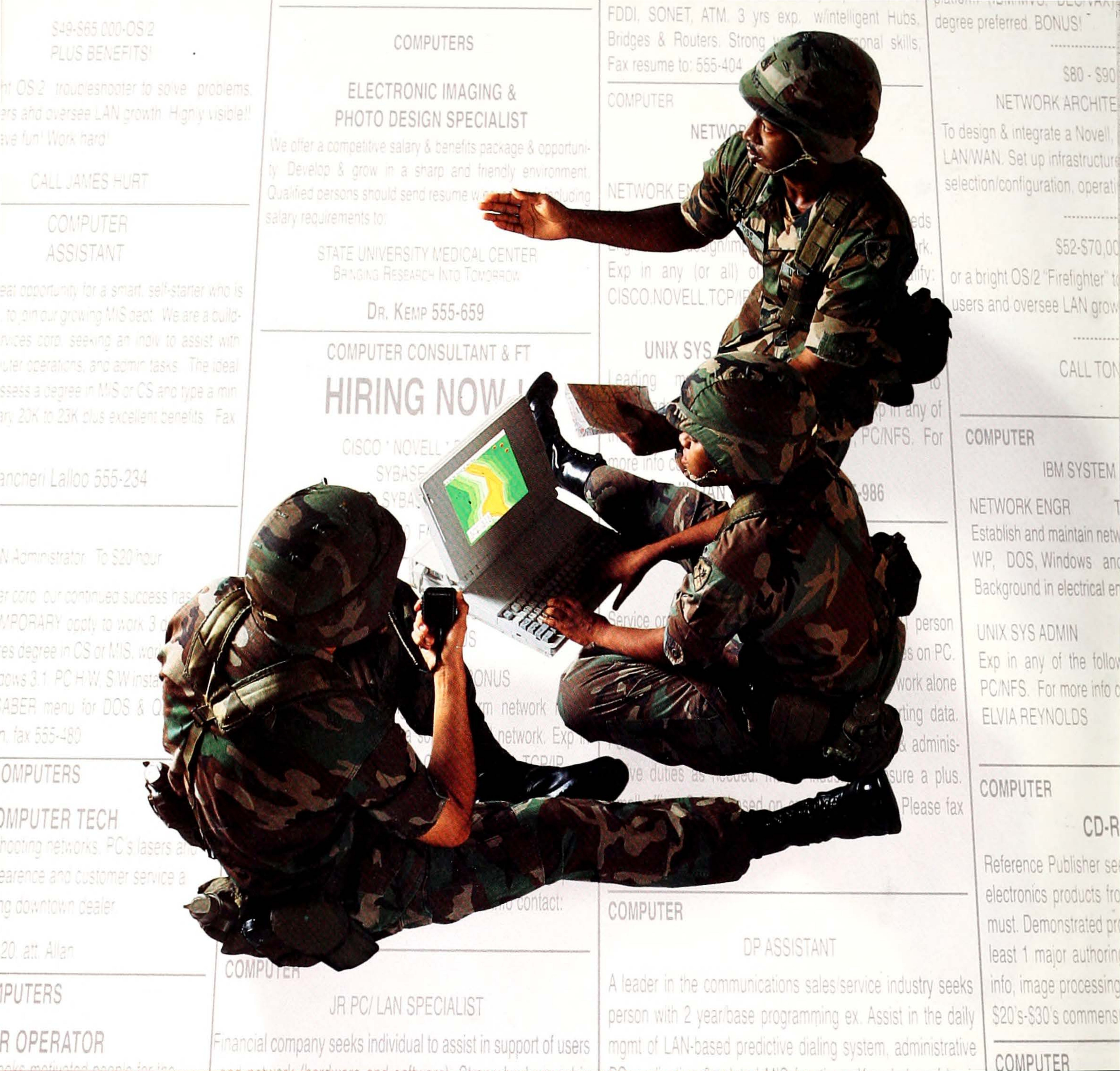


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