

new horizons

The magazine of the National FFA Organization

September/October 1996

countdown
to convention
10 GOOD REASONS YOU SHOULD BE IN KC

life
before jeans
THE TALE OF
EARLY WESTERN WEAR

a cut above

TAKE A RIDE WITH

TWO CUTTING HORSE CHAMPIONS



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A Trip To The FFA Convention?
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ARISTA
NASHVILLE

a few minutes with

Bill Catania

Tell us a little bit about your background.

I live 500 miles west of New York City, in a small town of about 3,000 called Westfield, New York. In Westfield, I was involved in concord grape production, turf and landscape management, plus a wide variety of activities and sports. My greatest hobby is auto racing.

Auto racing? How did you get involved in auto racing?

I started racing when I was a junior in high school. That was why I got involved in FFA. I wanted to develop my mechanical skills, learn how to weld so that I could build my own race car. I joined FFA in the ninth grade. During my first two years in FFA, I was not involved in leadership activities, but instead concentrated on developing my mechanical skills. I built the car in the 11th grade. It was an amazing experience to apply what I learned in FFA to the real world and to help me accomplish a goal.

What made you pursue a leadership role in FFA?

I used to be one of those FFA members who didn't think it was cool to wear the FFA jacket. I didn't see what this organization had to offer. But my advisor pushed me to go to the 65th National FFA Convention. And by going there and wearing the official dress, I felt great pride in the organization. I saw the leadership, the competition and the recognition that FFA members got by becoming involved. That really lit a fire under me.

How will the leadership skills you and other FFA members are developing apply later in life?

Eighty-five percent of most jobs depend on communication, teamwork and interaction. Technical knowledge is important, but perhaps even more important is how you present yourself and how well you work in a team environment. That is what employers are looking for.

What is most rewarding about being a national officer?

Something I really enjoy is getting mail from members that I have met. When I give a workshop or a speech, I often get mail afterward from members telling me how they benefitted from it, and how before they didn't see the potential they had inside, but once they had been through that workshop they could. That is what really makes you feel good. ★

VITALS

Name: William Catania
Age: 19
Position: Vice president, western region
Hometown: Westfield, New York
FFA Chapter: Westfield FFA
FFA Advisor: Phil Baidema
SAE: Turf and landscape management, fruit production and horticulture
College/major: Fredonia State University/agricultural education

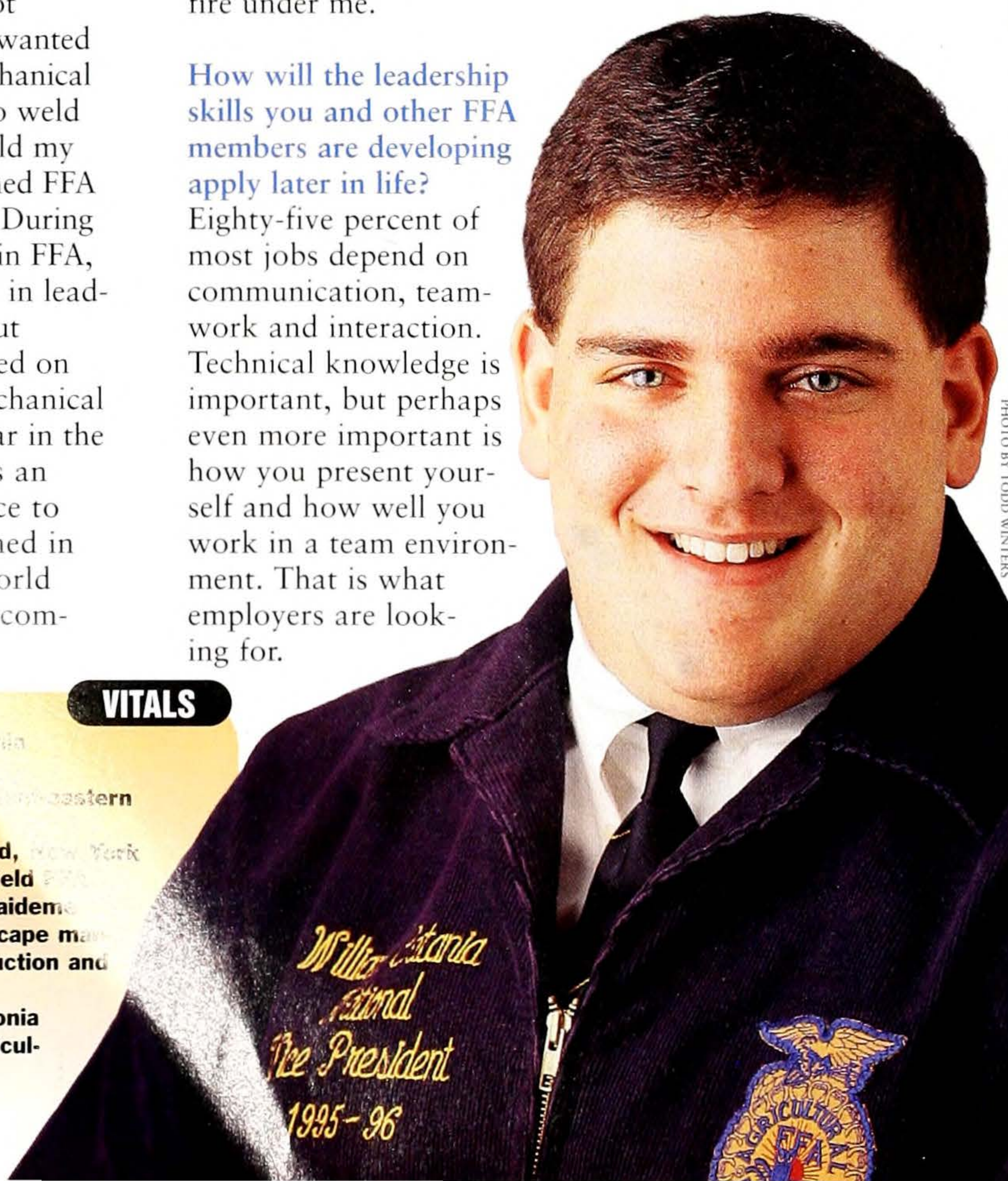


PHOTO BY TODD WINTERS

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FFA New Horizons (ISSN 1069-806X) is prepared and published bimonthly by ABC/Capital Cities on behalf of the National FFA Organization, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education as a service to state and local agricultural education agencies. Periodical postage rate is paid at Alexandria, VA and additional mail offices.

POSTMASTER: Address all correspondence to: FFA New Horizons, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.

SUBSCRIPTION: \$5.00 per year in U.S. and possessions (FFA members \$1.75 paid with dues). Single copy \$1.50; five or more 75 cents each. Foreign subscriptions, \$8.00. Copyright 1996 by the National FFA Organization.

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

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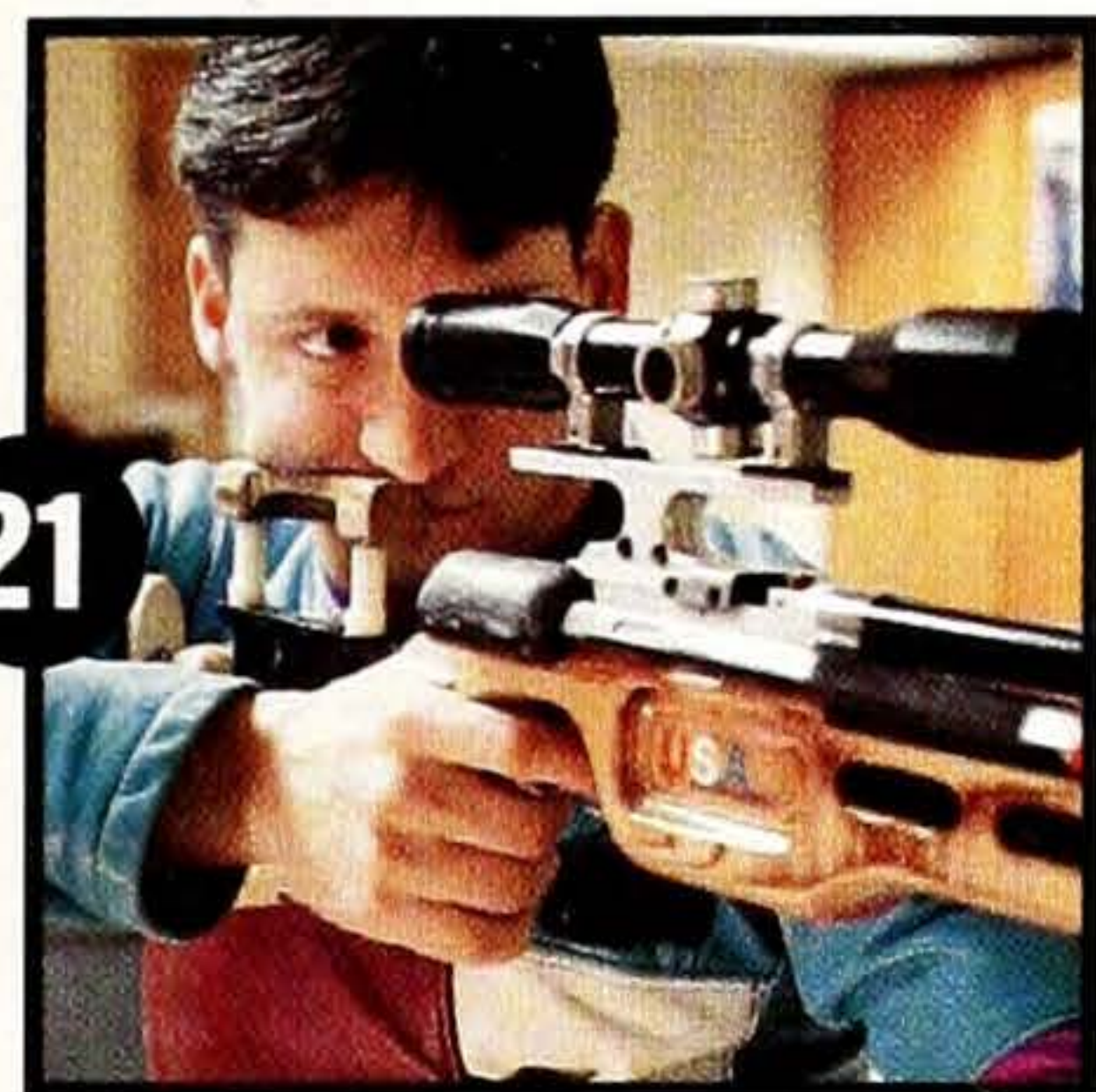
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FFA Mission
FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Agricultural Education Mission
The mission of Agricultural Education is to prepare and support individuals for careers, build awareness and develop leadership for the food, fiber and natural resource systems.

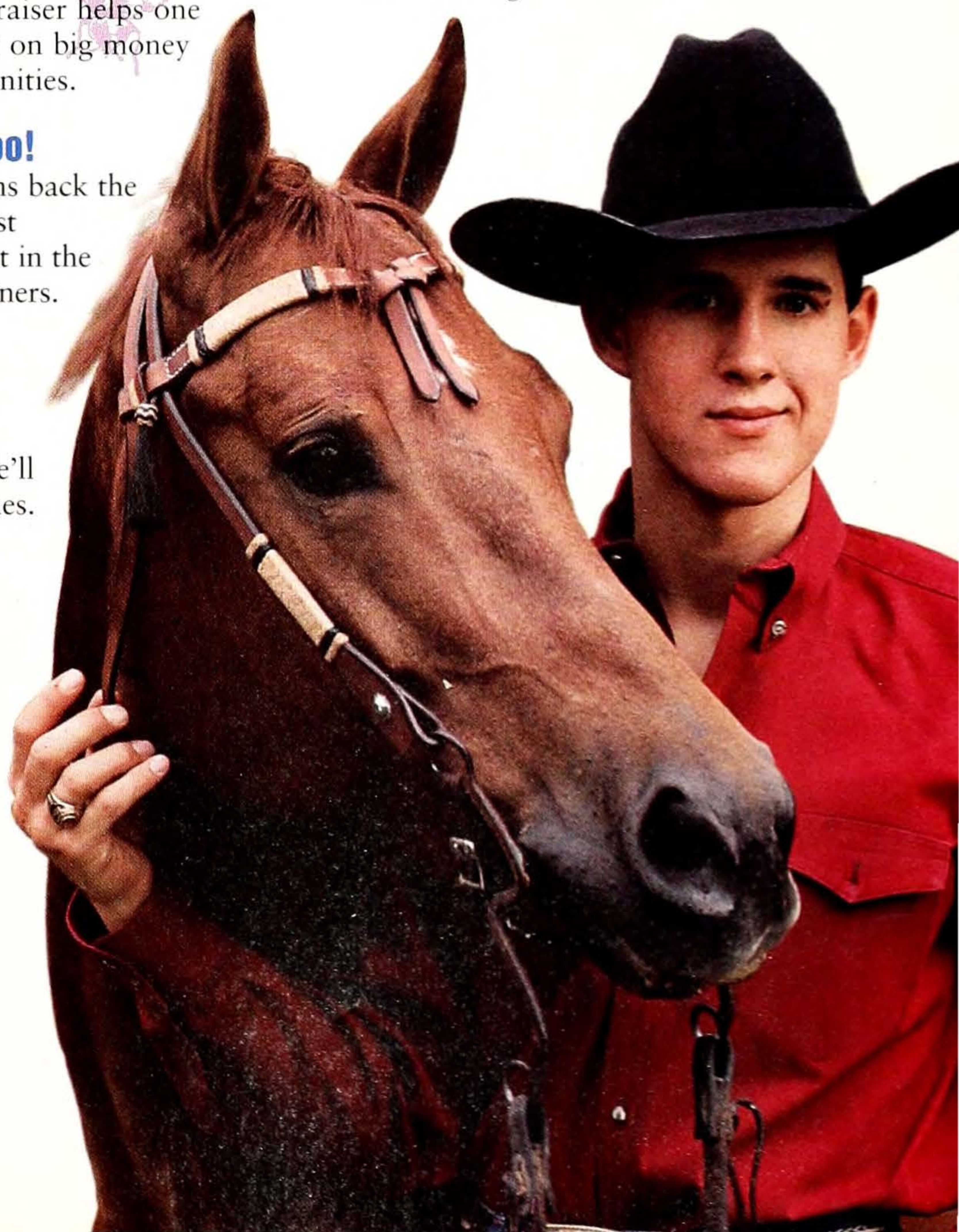
FFA is on the move

The National FFA Board of Directors and National FFA Officers voted in July to relocate the FFA business offices from Alexandria, Virginia, to a new location. You'll still receive the same great products and services from FFA, and the organization will be better positioned for the future. The boards also reaffirmed their commitment to help establish a national headquarters for agricultural education, which should help FFA strengthen relationships with other agricultural organizations and our friends on Capitol Hill. The board is conducting final negotiations with potential cities and hopes to announce our new home in the next issue of *FFA New Horizons*!

cover story

12 A cut above

If you love horses, here's your chance to slide into the saddle with two FFA members who happen to be champions in the fast-paced sport of horse cutting.



Joel Bernhard

Joel recently earned his state's proficiency award in Food Science and Technology sponsored by General Mills and Mariani Packing Co., Inc as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. He was also selected to Badger Boys State—an American Legion Leadership/Government Program that allows only 1 to 2 males per school district to attend. What's more, this Lomira FFA member plays trumpet for the state FFA band, is a chapter officer, a drama club member and an avid hunter. He even bagged his first buck with the help of his brother. Joel does it all while overcoming his blindness since birth. ★



OREGON

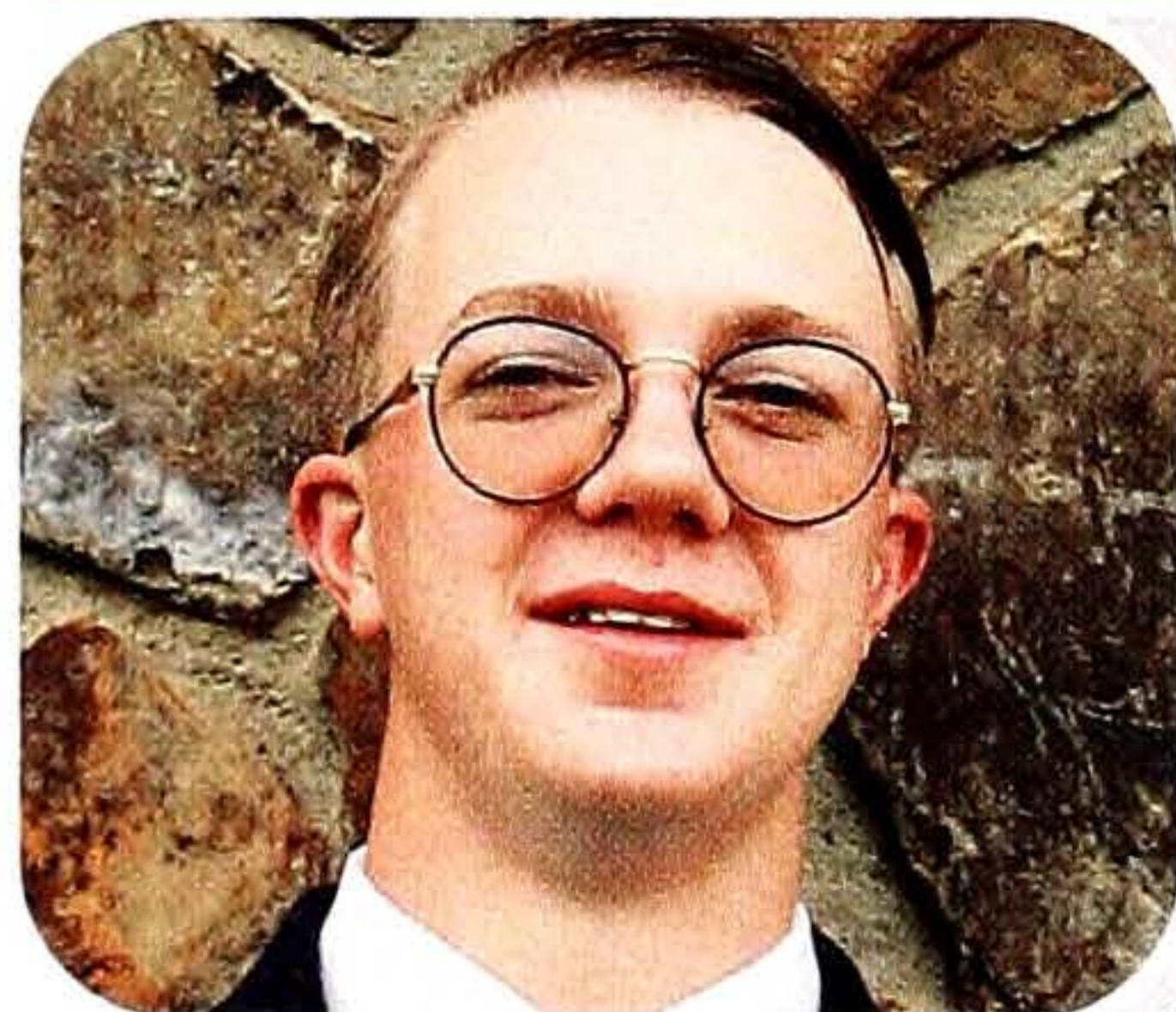
Beth Neidermeyer & Mandy Regula

At the recent Jackson County Spring Fair in Central Point, Oregon, Crater FFA members Beth Neidermeyer and Mandy Regula teamed up to show Beth's lamb at the livestock auction. With Mandy's help, Beth competed in conformation and in showmanship at the fair. Her lamb, affectionately named "Em," was recognized as a reserve class champion and was sold in auction for \$4 per pound. Congratulations to Beth on her award and a special thanks to Mandy for her teamwork and mentoring. ★



Mandy Regula (left) helped fellow Crater FFA member Beth Neidermeyer show her prize-winning lamb at the Jackson County Spring Fair.

OKLAHOMA



Dee Linn

Dee Linn was recently awarded the Discover® Card Tribute Award State Scholarship, a \$1,500 accolade earned by nine high school juniors in Oklahoma. Dee received the prestigious award for his many accomplishments in agricultural research, community service and high school extracurricular activities. Now a senior at Frontier High School in Red Rock, Oklahoma, Dee plans to continue to his education after graduation and hopes to become a farmer. ★

COLORADO



Donald Edwards

Another FFA member to win a Discover® Card Tribute Award is Donald Edwards of Yuma High School in Yuma, Colorado. Donald, a high school senior and FFA and 4-H member, devotes his time to supervising recycling drives and canned food collections, educating students about farm animals, and spearheading community improvement projects. He also works part-time on a dairy farm where he's honing his animal science skills to become a veterinarian or farm manager. ★

WYOMING

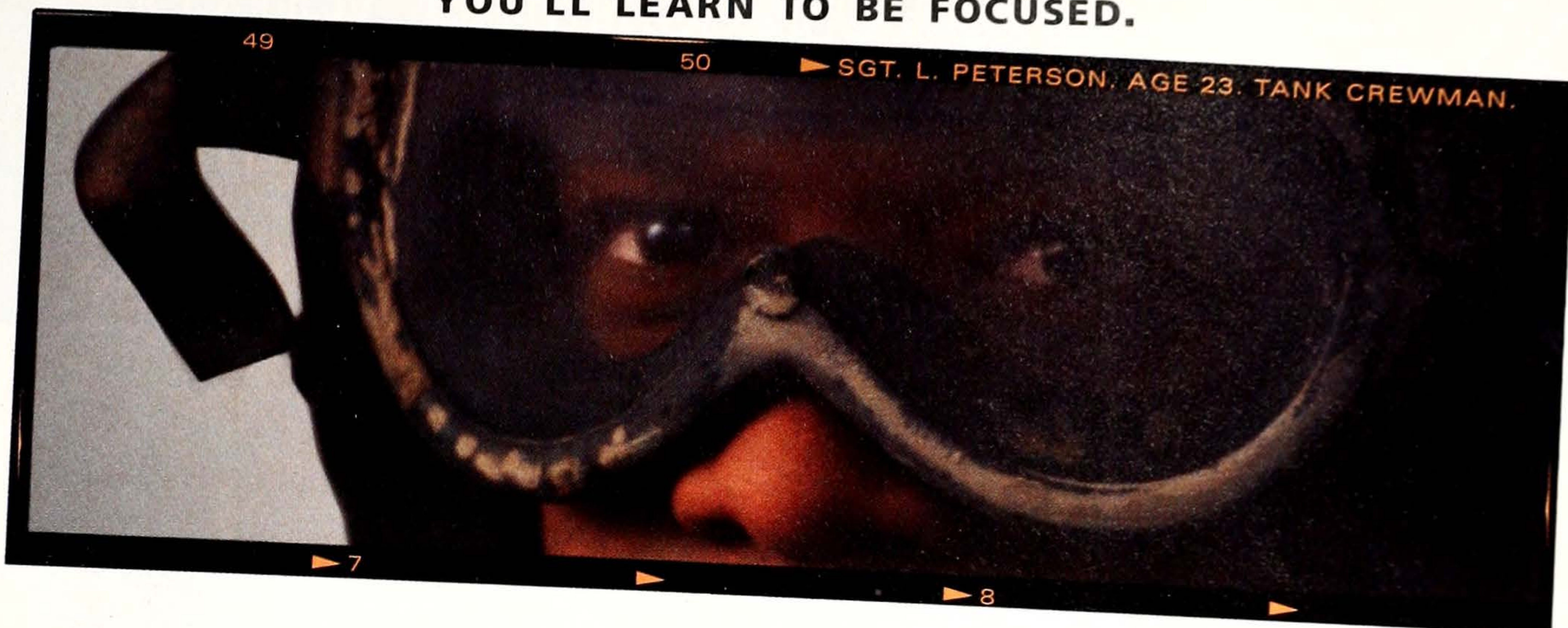


Amanda Fraker

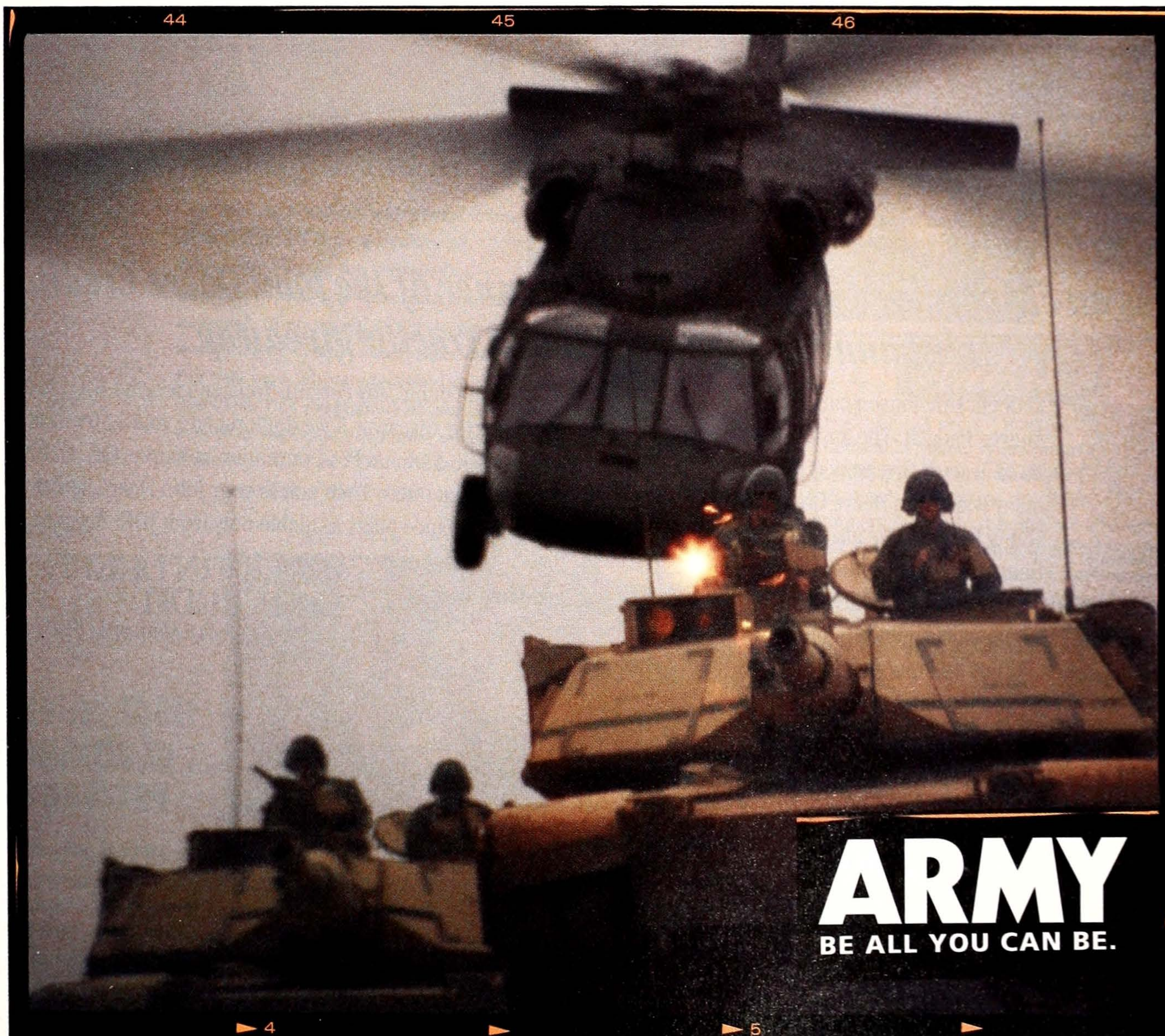
The next time you're surfing the 'Net, check out <http://www.buffalo.com/ffa>. That's the home page of the Wyoming FFA Association which was created by Amanda Fraker of the Buffalo FFA Chapter. Amanda, a high school sophomore, spent countless hours gathering information from across her state and then programming, designing and inputting the text on this colorful and informative web site. ★

Editor's note: In our last issue, we misspelled FFA Star Kimberley Hannum's name. Kimberley is the National Vocational-Technical Student of the Year for 1996.

YOU'LL LEARN TO BE FOCUSED.



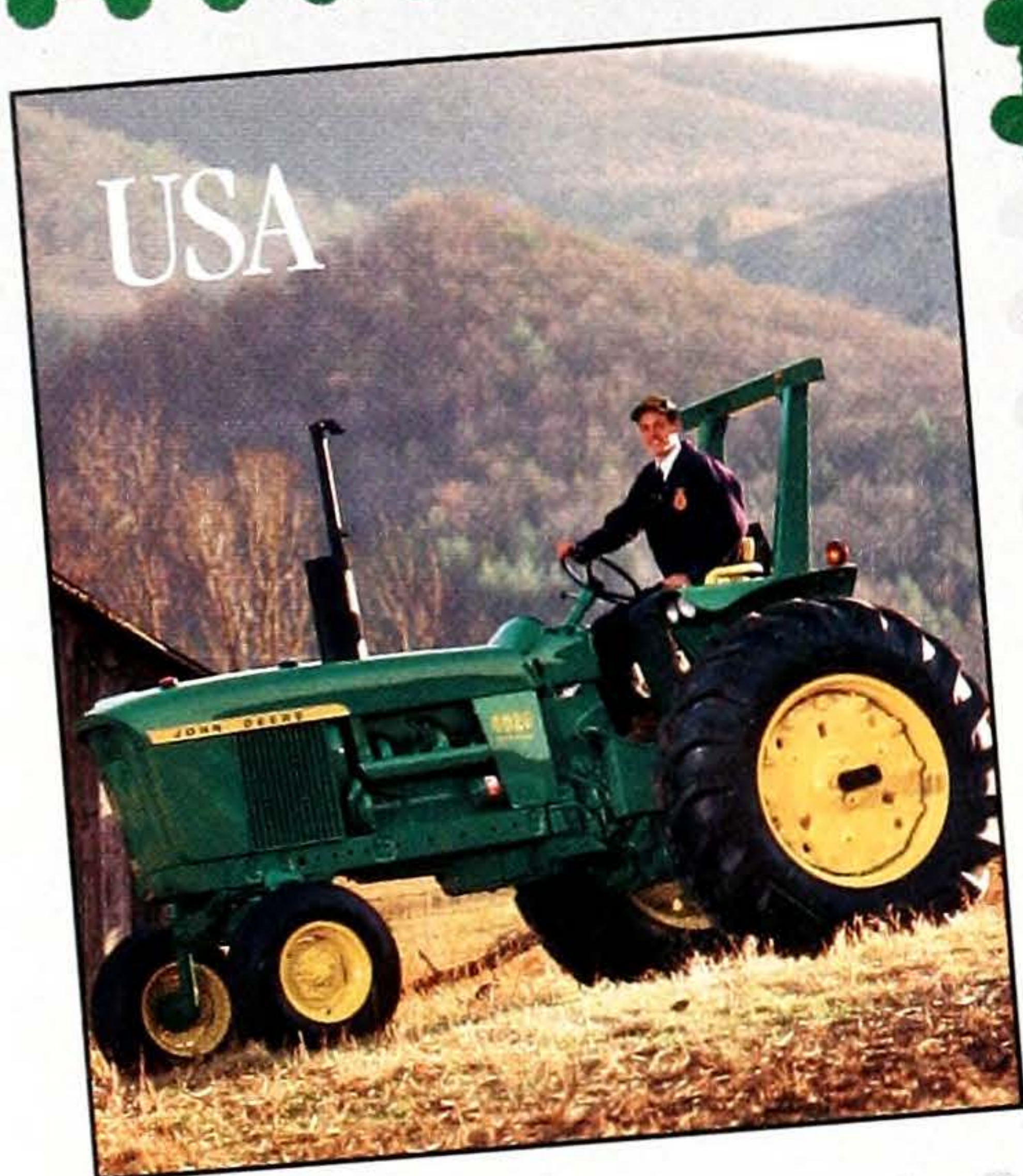
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***The JDC Classic 4020 Tractor Giveaway
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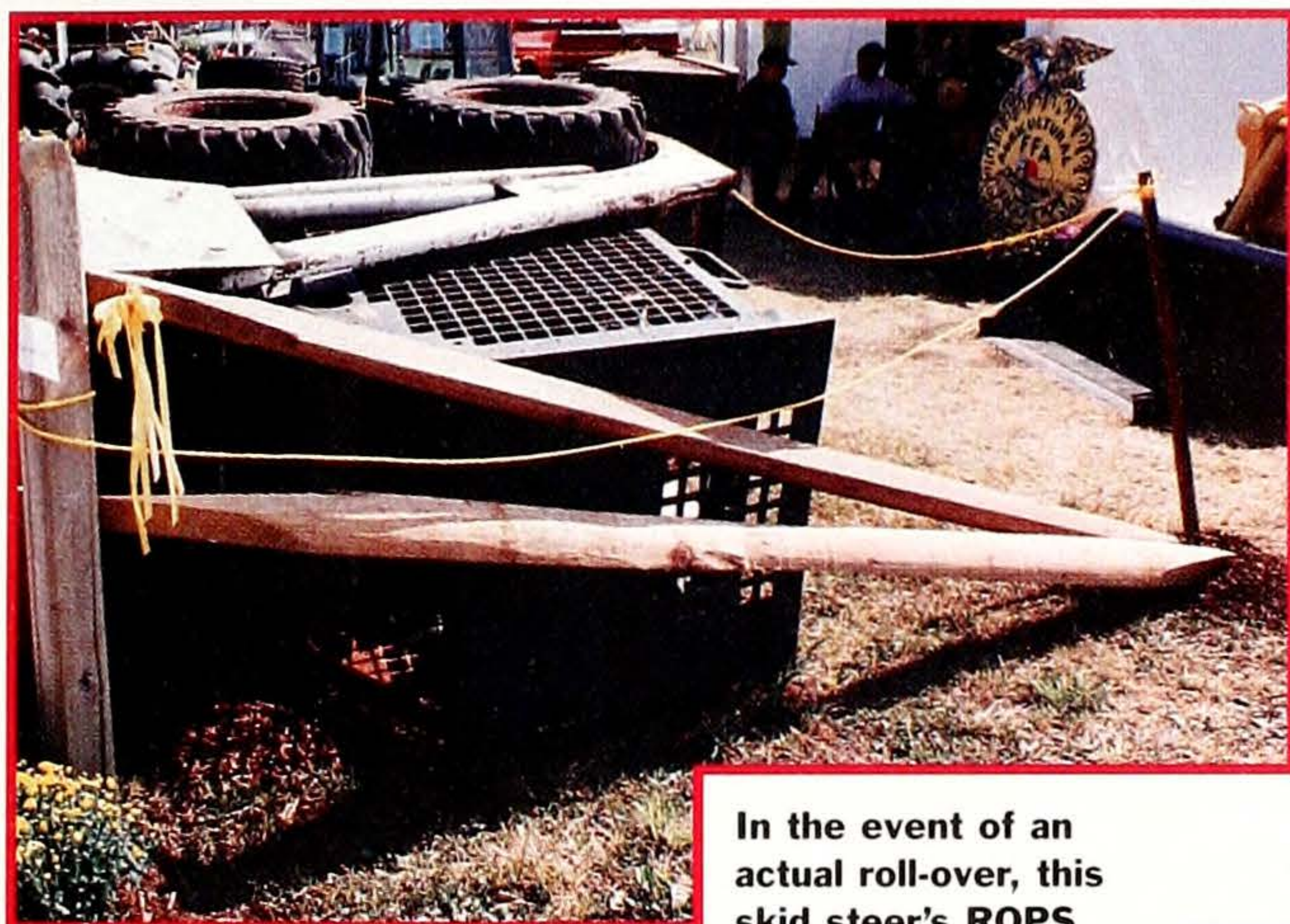
Name _____ Age _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Home Phone Number (_____) _____ - _____

FFA Adviser Name _____ FFA Chapter City _____

Entry forms must be postmarked by October 25, 1996. No purchase necessary. The JDC Classic 4020 Tractor Giveaway is open to all current active FFA members in good standing throughout the continental United States. Merchants, advertising and promotion agencies, employees (and their families) of Deere & Company and its subsidiaries are not eligible. FFA Advisors and FFA Corporate Members are not eligible. Contact your local FFA Advisor for rules and full details.





In the event of an actual roll-over, this skid steer's ROPS could be a lifesaver!

MARYLAND

Farm safety first

Fifty-two percent of tractor fatalities are caused by roll-over accidents. So the Walkersville FFA Chapter, of Walkersville, Maryland, took it upon themselves to spread a message of safety at the Great Frederick Fair with a booth dedicated to promoting Roll-Over Protection Structures (ROPS) for farm equipment. The chapter featured safety-oriented video programs, informative literature and even a display with two overturned tractors—one with a ROPS and one without it—so visitors could see for themselves just what a lifesaver a ROPS can be.



Left to right: Secretary Riley, Altus FFA member Leah Campbell, advisor Bruce Farquhar, and Lisa Greenlee of Southwest Technology Center, Altus' community business partner.

OKLAHOMA

Award time in Altus

Altus High School was awarded one of just 12 U.S. Secretary of Education Awards for Outstanding Vocational-Technical Education Programs for its successful approach to preparing students for today's diverse agricultural job market. This award is especially meaningful because Altus was the only agricultural education/agriscience program to be honored this year. This prestigious accolade recognizes excellence in local school-to-work and vocational education, and was personally presented to Altus FFA representatives by Richard W. Riley, the U.S. Secretary of Education.



Broadway FFA members recently hosted a visit by the national FFA officer team members who encouraged them to get involved in chapter and state activities.

FFA In Action
continued on page 34

VIRGINIA

Giving their regards to Broadway

The national FFA officer team's busy schedule recently brought them to Broadway High School in Broadway, Virginia. During their inspirational visit with FFA members, Seth, Andy, Bill, Cody, Clara-Leigh and Joe encouraged their audience not to be afraid to set goals and to actively participate in all of the activities FFA has to offer. The officers also field-tested the National Leadership Conference for State Officers before they began presenting it to state officers across the country.

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A New Footprint on the American West™

what's eating Stillwater County?

Come face-to-face with flea beetles and computer bugs as FFA members use agriscience to fight the spread of harmful weeds by Michael Speck

You don't have to wear a lab coat and work in a top secret research facility to be on the cutting edge of agriscience. Just ask some of the 25 members of the Columbus FFA Chapter in Columbus, Montana.

Under the guidance of advisor Jim Larson, these FFA members are pushing the limits of agriscience in a variety of fields—from agronomy and entomology (the study of insects), to satellite mapping and biotechnology. And in the process, they're gaining important scientific skills and preparing themselves for exciting career possibilities.

Meet the beetles

The Stillwater Project is a prime example of the Columbus FFA Chapter's agriscience focus. Working with the Stillwater

County Weed District, the county extension office, the Agriculture Research Service and the Bureau of Land Management, FFA researchers released a few predatory species of beetles on area ranches and farmlands to fight the effects of leafy spurge, a noxious weed that consumes valuable livestock grazing lands. The insects devour the weeds, but resist eating the nearby crops or pastures.

"The adult beetles don't do much harm. But the beetle larvae takes care of the root crowns of the leafy spurge," says Kenny Keever, a 19-year-old Columbus graduate active in the Stillwater Project. Kenny says the beetles "put the hurt to the leafy spurge," by slowing the spread of the brightly colored weed. Sheep are also used to graze on the weed.

Luke Larson, Columbus FFA president, adds "The beetles won't com-

pletely solve the problem, but they do have an advantage over chemicals in that they work year-round and attack the weeds at their roots."

Luke and his fellow researchers have seen "about a 40 percent reduction" in leafy spurge in areas where the beetles are present.

So how do you keep track of tens of thousands of beetles roving the land in Stillwater County?

Simple. With information gathered by satellites.

The Columbus team uses a roving GPS unit (Global Positioning System) to map the terrain where the bugs are fighting the leafy spurge. The GPS unit taps into a constellation of 21 satellites orbiting the planet and downloads geographic data into the team's laptop computer. Working with the weed district's CAD (Computer-Aided Design) system, the researchers then generate detailed maps showing weed infestations and movement patterns, insect

Below: FFA members are recognized by a representative from the Bureau of Land Management in Washington, D.C.



Above: FFA member Ben Larson sweeps through a field of leafy spurge.

Left: A student researcher examines a sleeve box full of insects.

releases and environmentally sensitive areas. According to Luke's older brother, Ben, "The maps let us see results and change over time. We then make reports of our findings to the weed district, and they, in turn, give us advice to use in the project."

From bugs to biotechnology

The Stillwater Project is just one of the agriscience programs at Columbus High School. FFA members are also heavily involved in biotechnology work, ranging from tissue cultures to embryo transfers and plant cloning. "Biotechnology is the new frontier of agriculture," says Brent Thompson, a senior. "We're discovering new directions for farmers and ranchers instead of using the same techniques that have been passed down to them."

To aid in various experiments, the students built their own Laminar flow hood for about \$400. This device, used to maintain a sterile environment during biological experiments, typically costs more than \$4,000.

Columbus FFA members also are exploring exciting career possibilities that require a high degree of scientific knowledge. Computer technology and television broadcasting are two such areas in which the students are gaining hands-on skills. The school has 16 computer terminals at its disposal and a full video production system. Stephanie Gibson, chapter reporter, works behind the scenes to broadcast Columbus Cougar basketball games to area residents. "I'm interested in computer graphics, so I helped create video introductions for basketball games that had the players' names and numbers," Stephanie says. "I also helped with a video intro for National FFA Week."

Giving back to education

Besides helping their county fight noxious weeds and learning more about agriscience, Columbus FFA members are also hard at work sharing their knowledge with others. For example, many students participate in the "Seeds

of Change" program, which promotes agriscience education to teachers, students, community members and even international representatives. Recently, a team of Columbus students traveled to North Dakota to talk with teachers about some of their projects. Others have conducted agriscience workshops for about 4,000 Billings-area elementary students during the Northern International Livestock Exhibition.

The Columbus FFA members work so hard to promote agriscience education because the subject itself is so important. "Agriscience affects everyone," notes Elisha Lewis, Columbus FFA vice president, "whether it's through food production, food prices, the economy or the environment."

Look for the Agriscience Fair Demonstration at this year's National FFA Convention. The Fair is sponsored by Monsanto Crop Protection. ■

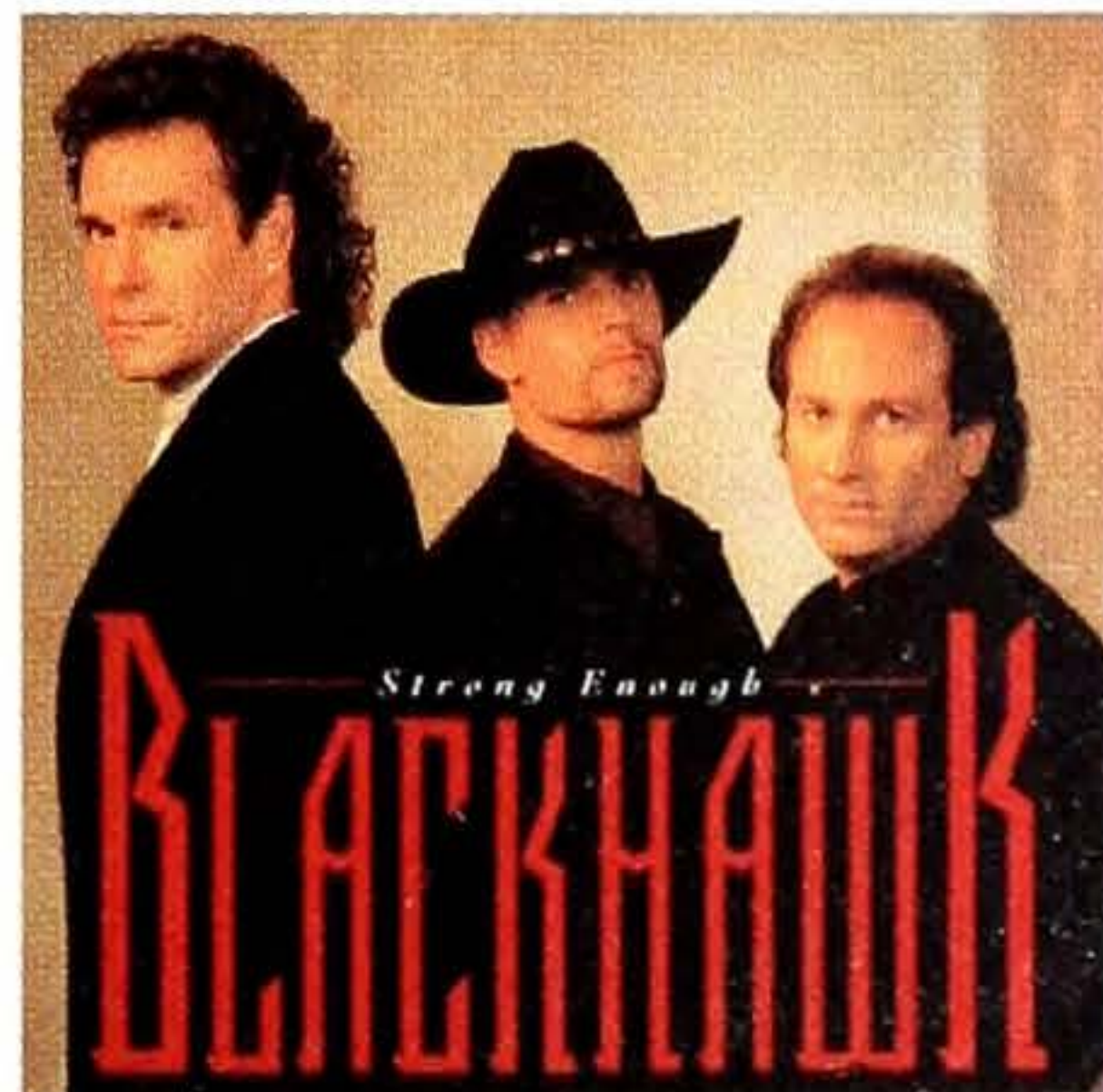
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In a cutting horse contest, victory or defeat is decided within two-and-a-half very short minutes. But that brief period of time can seem like an eternity for the rider who must remain gracefully poised atop her bolting horse as it attempts to separate one cow from a herd of 40.

"Riding a cutting horse is really exhilarating—at times even breathtaking," says 19-year-old Carthage, Missouri, FFA member Matt Denney. "Sometimes you come out of that arena feeling like you just ran a mile."

The goal of a cutting contest is to cut two or more cows from the herd before the buzzer sounds. The rider selects the cow to be cut, after which she must drop her hands from the reins and let the horse work at separating the cow alone. The horse's first move is to push the chosen cow out from the safety of the herd. The horse then must keep the cow out by heading

it off at every turn and eventually scaring it into either standing still or running off in the opposite direction. While the horse does most of the work, the rider is more than just a passive observer. She must remain in control of the situation and is allowed to give the horse cues through spurring or by pressing the animal with her legs.

"When we're showing our horse, we're worried about our horse's position, the amount of time we are spending on one cow, and correcting the horse if he needs it through body signals," Matt says.

Almost every weekend, Matt and other modern-day cowboys and cowgirls hit the highways, their horse trailers (and often families) rumbling patiently behind them.

"We can work for years and drive 500 miles for two-and-a-half minutes," Matt notes. "But it's worth it. When you go to the cutting, it's about more

than just those two-and-a-half minutes. You're there because of the camaraderie and friendship. You go to have a good time and give the best performance possible."

52 weekends a year

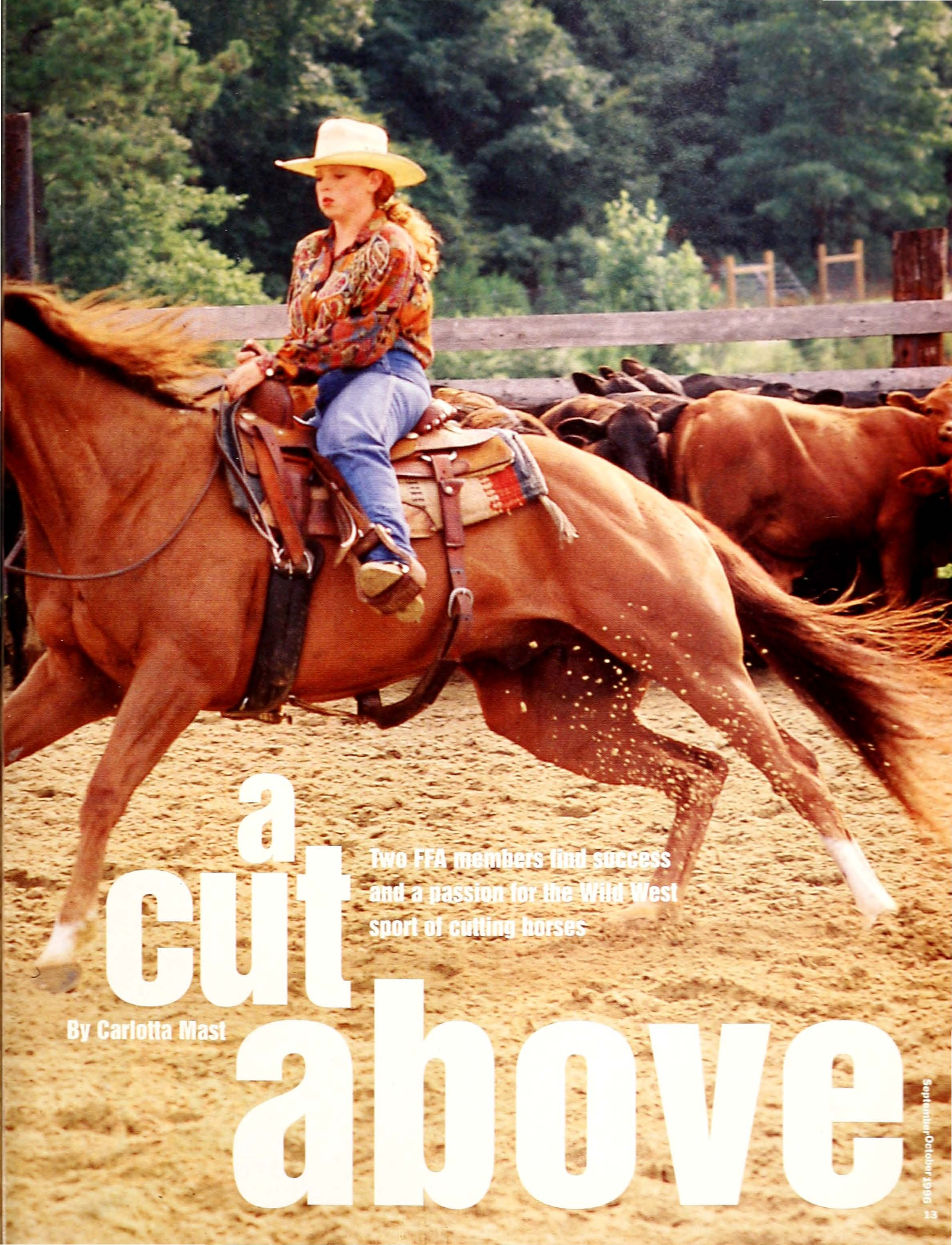
Saltillo, Mississippi, FFA member Tiffany May is one of those dedicated cutters who competes every single week.

"Cutting gives me something to do on the weekends," the 16-year-old says. "It's just really fun. You get up on that horse and let him work the cow. It's a terrific thing."

Matt has been cutting for 10 years; Tiffany for four. Both come from cutting families. "My dad, my step-mom and my step-sister all

(continued on page 14)

Saltillo, Mississippi, FFA member Tiffany May and her horse, Spikealena, head off an angry cow during a recent cutting horse competition. The goal of this sport is to separate two or more cows from a herd of 40 in two-and-a-half minutes.



a cut

Two FFA members find success
and a passion for the Wild West
sport of cutting horses

By Carlotta Mast

above

compete, so we go to the shows together," Tiffany says.

Both Matt and Tiffany dedicate a majority of their time to the sport, and they have the awards to show for it. Matt, who was the top youth rider in the National Quarter Horse Association in 1994 and who now competes as an adult cutter, is working toward being named the NQHA World Amateur Champion. Tiffany, who

National Quarter Horse Association (most cutting horses are Quarter horses) and other equine organizations.

A little cow sense

Finding and training the right horse are essential aspects of the sport. It is said that a good cutting horse is born with "cow sense"—a gift from the dusty days of the Old West that enables the horse to predict a cow's

work with a cutting horse trainer to prepare for competitions.

Because Spikealena was bred for cutting, Tiffany says the horse is a natural in the arena.

"I really don't have to do much," she says. "Every now and then I just give him a little help with my legs."

Matt trains his own horse, Bon Jovi.

Cutting horses must go through two years of training before they compete.

"We'll start working a horse on cattle when it turns two, and by the end of its third year we have the animal ready to show," Matt says. "So it's not something that we can train the horse in a month to do."

Tiffany and Matt have incorporated their cutting activities and horse training and maintenance into their Supervised Agricultural Education programs.

More than the score

During a cutting contest, points are earned for grace and showmanship, and lost for failing to adhere to cutting rules or for losing control of the cow.

Penalties include one point for reigning (picking up the reins and attempting to steer the horse); three points for a "hot quit," which is when the rider stops working the cow before it is stopped or turned away; and five points if the horse quits working the cow and runs off. If the cow gets back to the herd, that's a five point penalty, too. Every rider starts with 70 points with scores ranging from 60 to 80 points.

"A very good ride with lots of eye appeal, a good degree of difficulty and the horse controlling the cow may be scored between a 74 or 75," Matt says. "There's never been a horse that has scored an 80 because there's never been a perfect run."

Both Tiffany and Matt have scored 75—a very good run. But, as both note, a score isn't the only thing that measures a cutter's success.

"Your goal in there is to have a ride that you are happy with," Matt says. "If I go in there and I am riding really well and my horse is doing his very best but we sort out a cow that is absolutely crazy and the cow beats us back to the herd, the judge has to mark us a penalty for that. But I know that my horse was doing his best and that I was doing my best, and that there was nothing we could really do about losing that cow. I have to be happy with that." ■



ranked as the No. 10 youth rider by the National Cutting Horse Association two years ago, has a shot at being NCHA youth champion. To accomplish this, she must attend as many cutting contests as possible.

"This is a very important thing for me," she says. "I'm not sure I'll make it this year but I hope to do it before I turn 18. I hope to make at least the top 10 again this year."

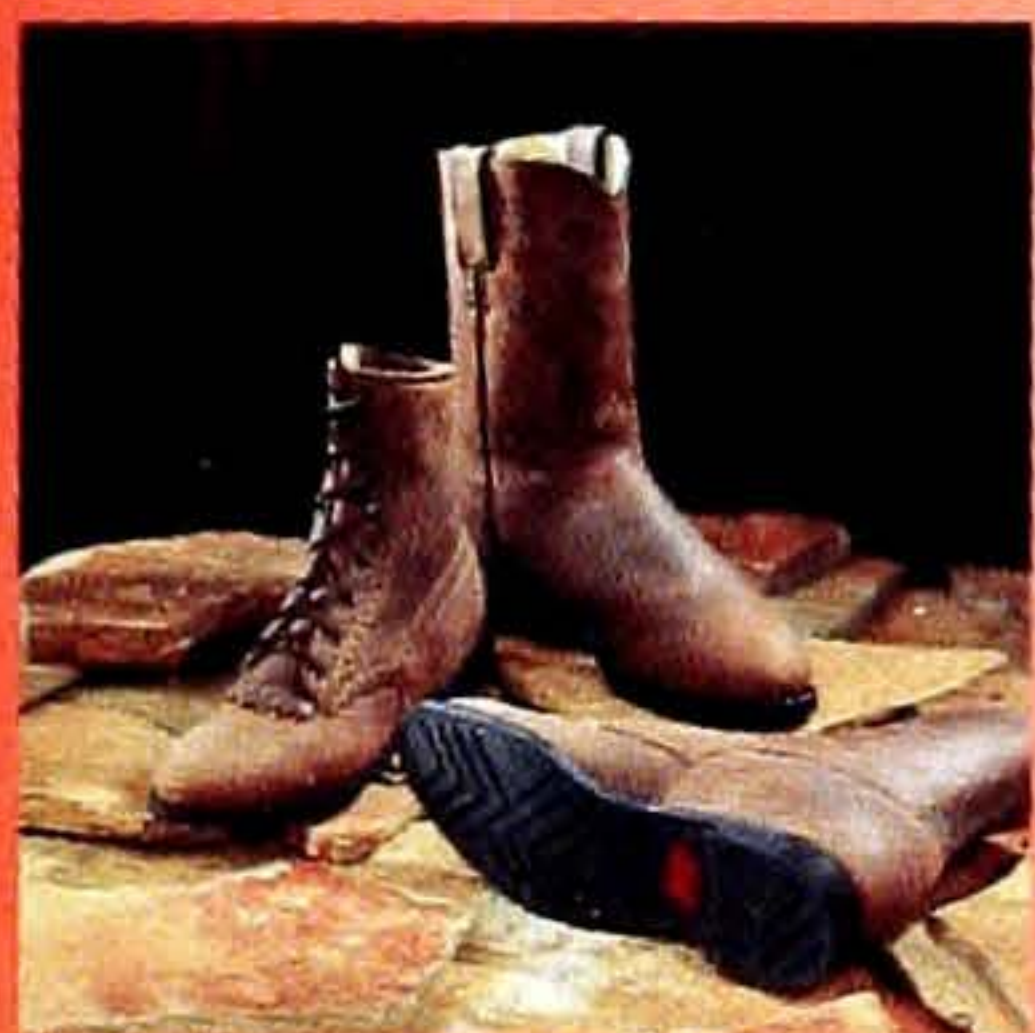
Cutting contests, which are open to all ages, are held year-round and are sponsored by the National Cutting Horse Association, the American Cutting Horse Association, the

Carthage, Missouri, FFA member Matt Denney with his horse, Bon Jovi. This rider and horse team are working toward being recognized as world cutting horse champs.

movements. On the sprawling cattle ranches of the West (where cutting began as a form of cowboy competition more than 200 years ago), a horse's cow sense is what allowed early ranchers to quickly separate one animal—if it were sick or pregnant, for instance—from the rest of the herd. During a cutting contest, cow sense is what determines a successful cut or instant defeat.

Tiffany and her horse, Spikealena,

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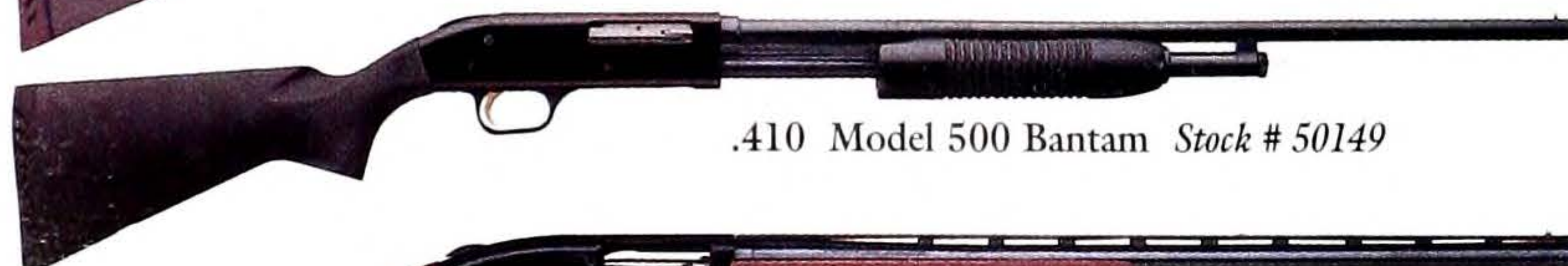
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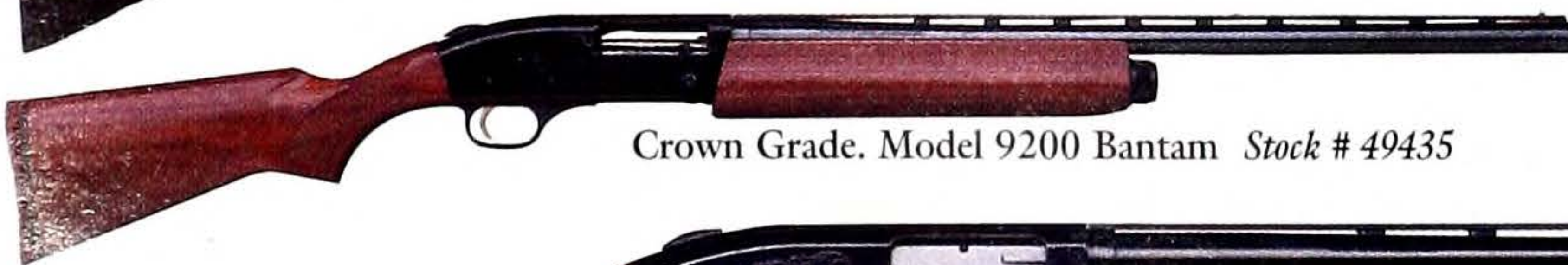
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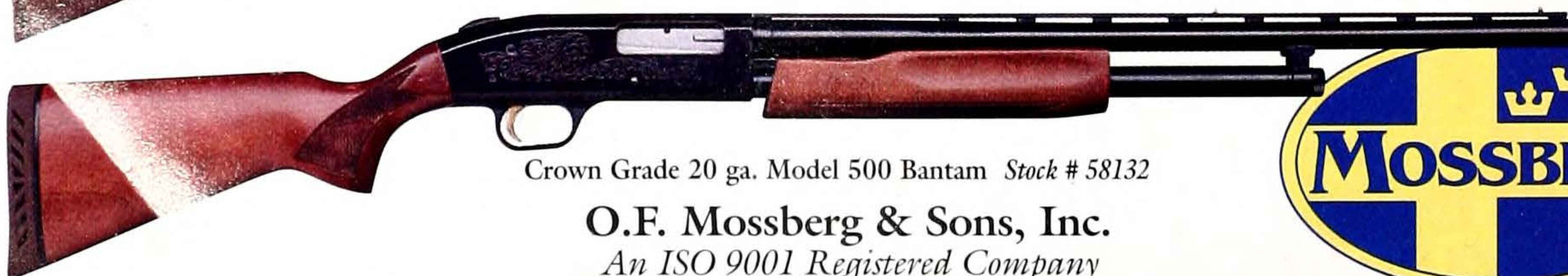
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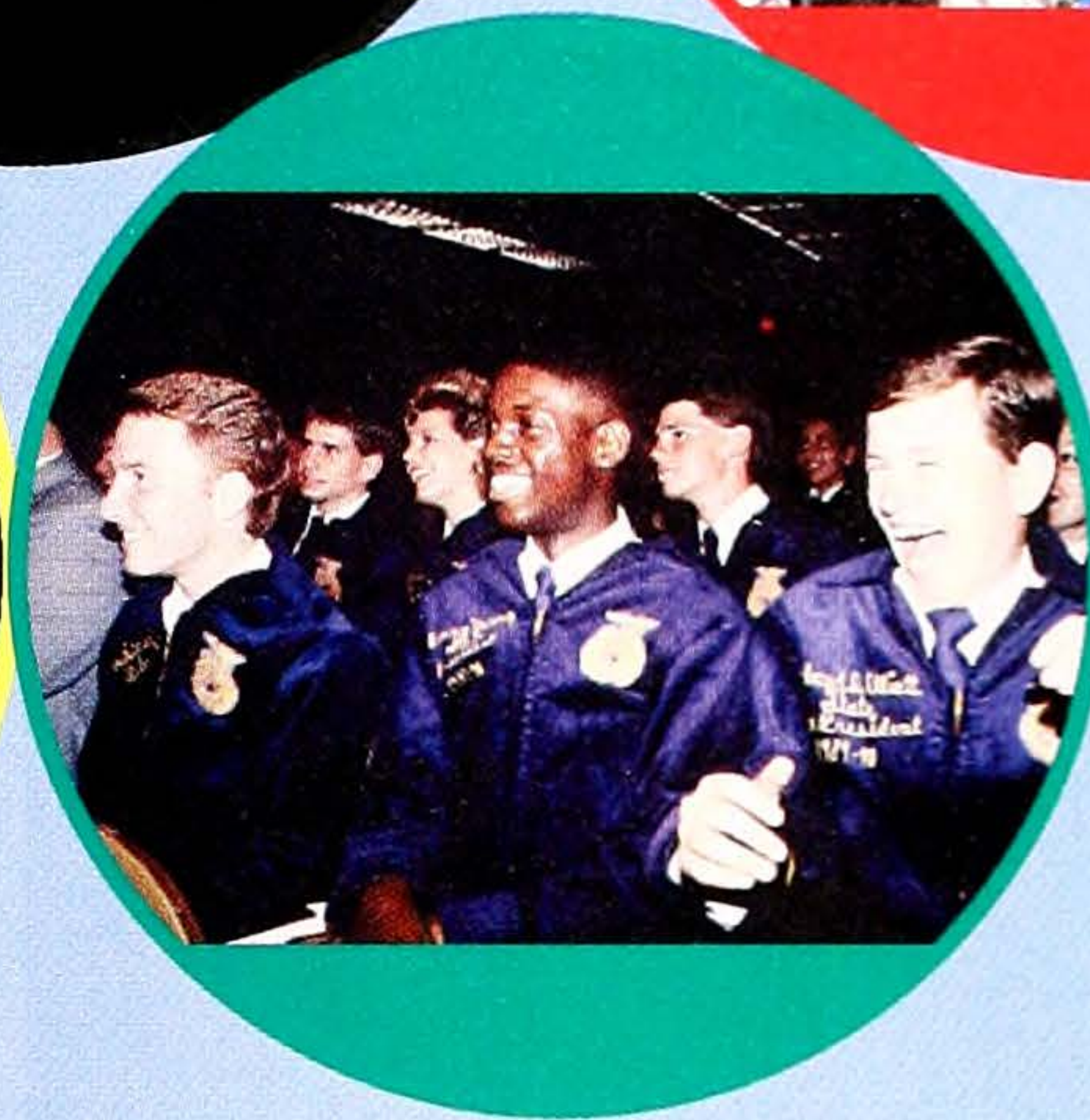
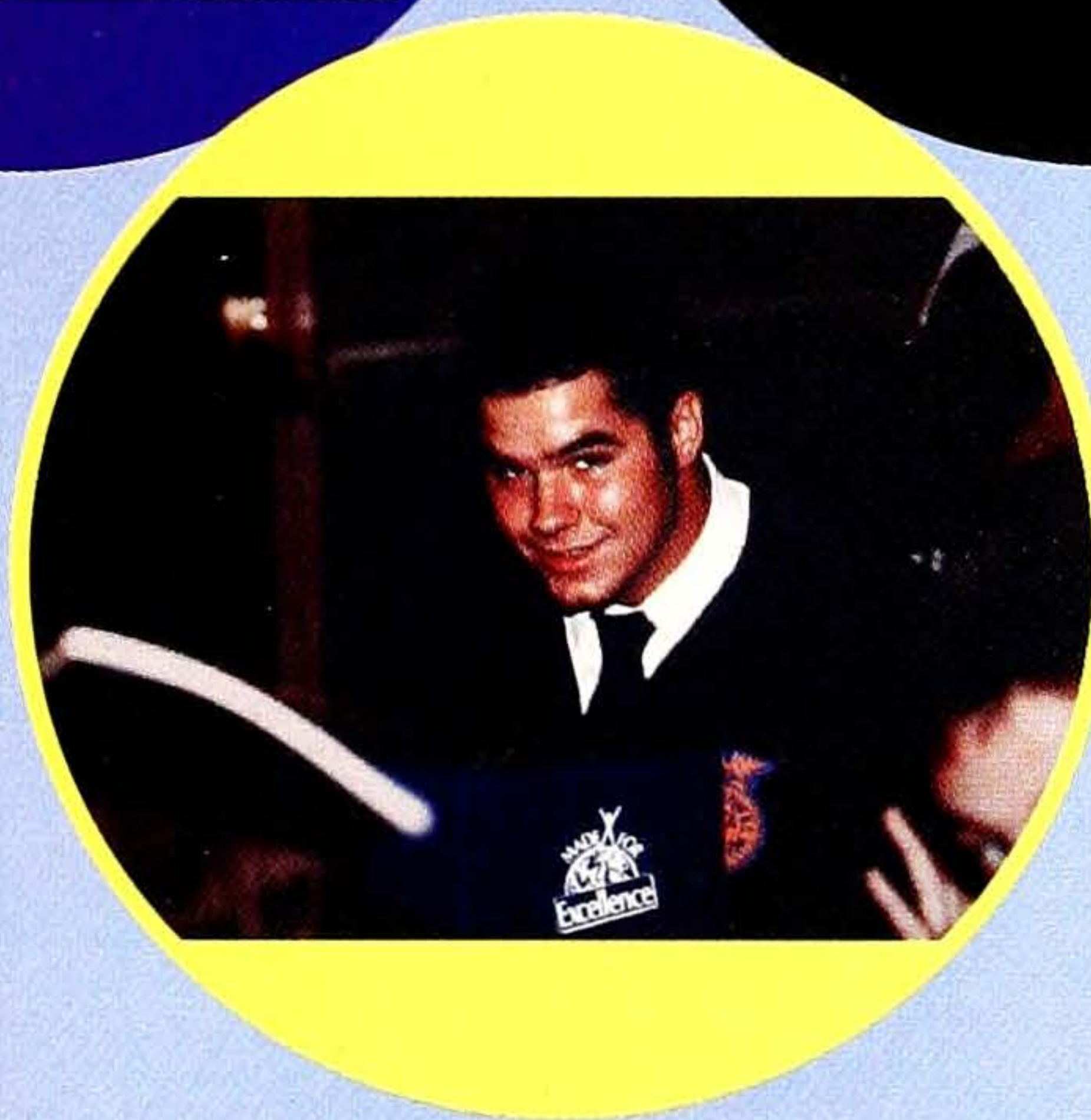
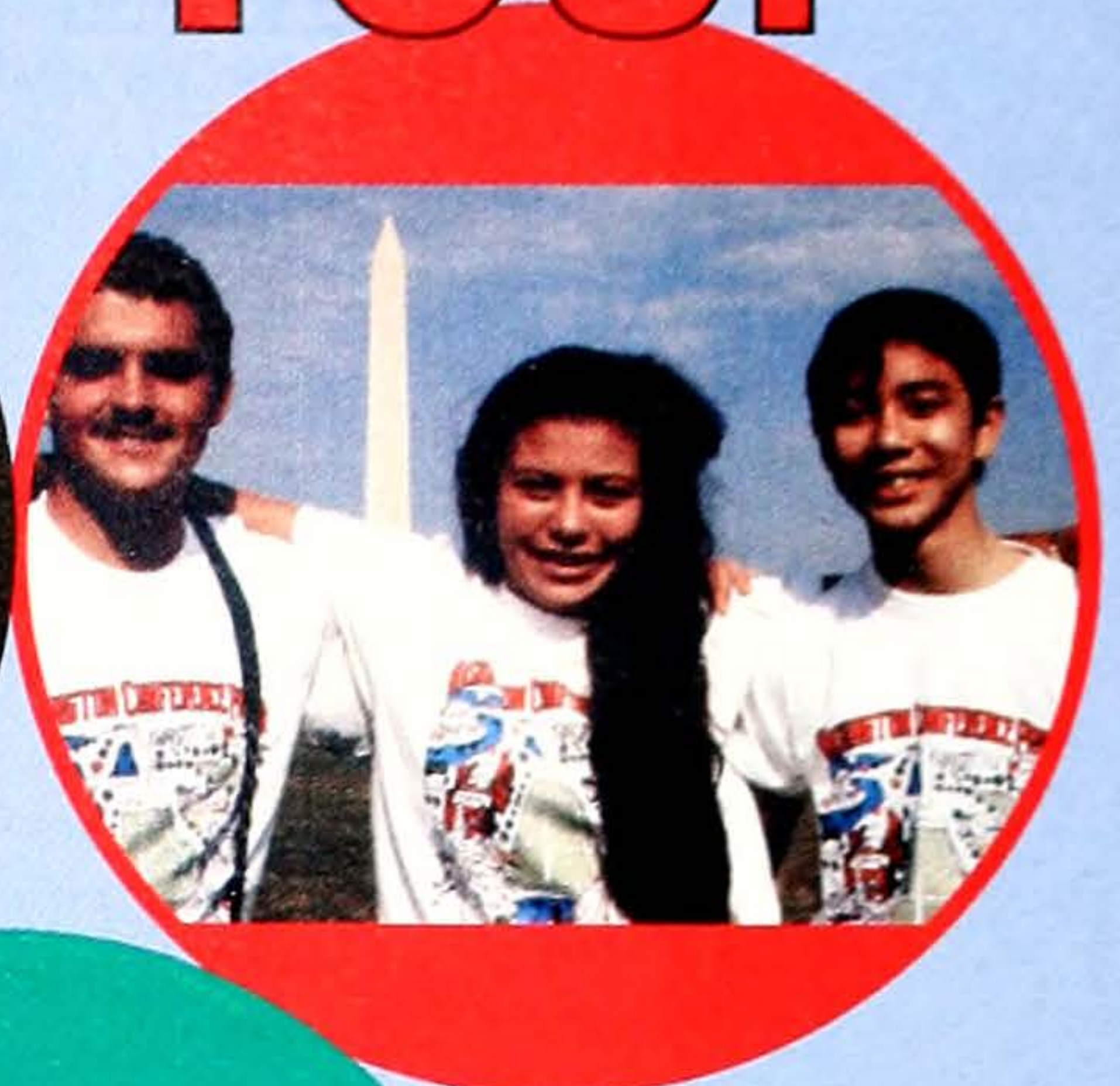
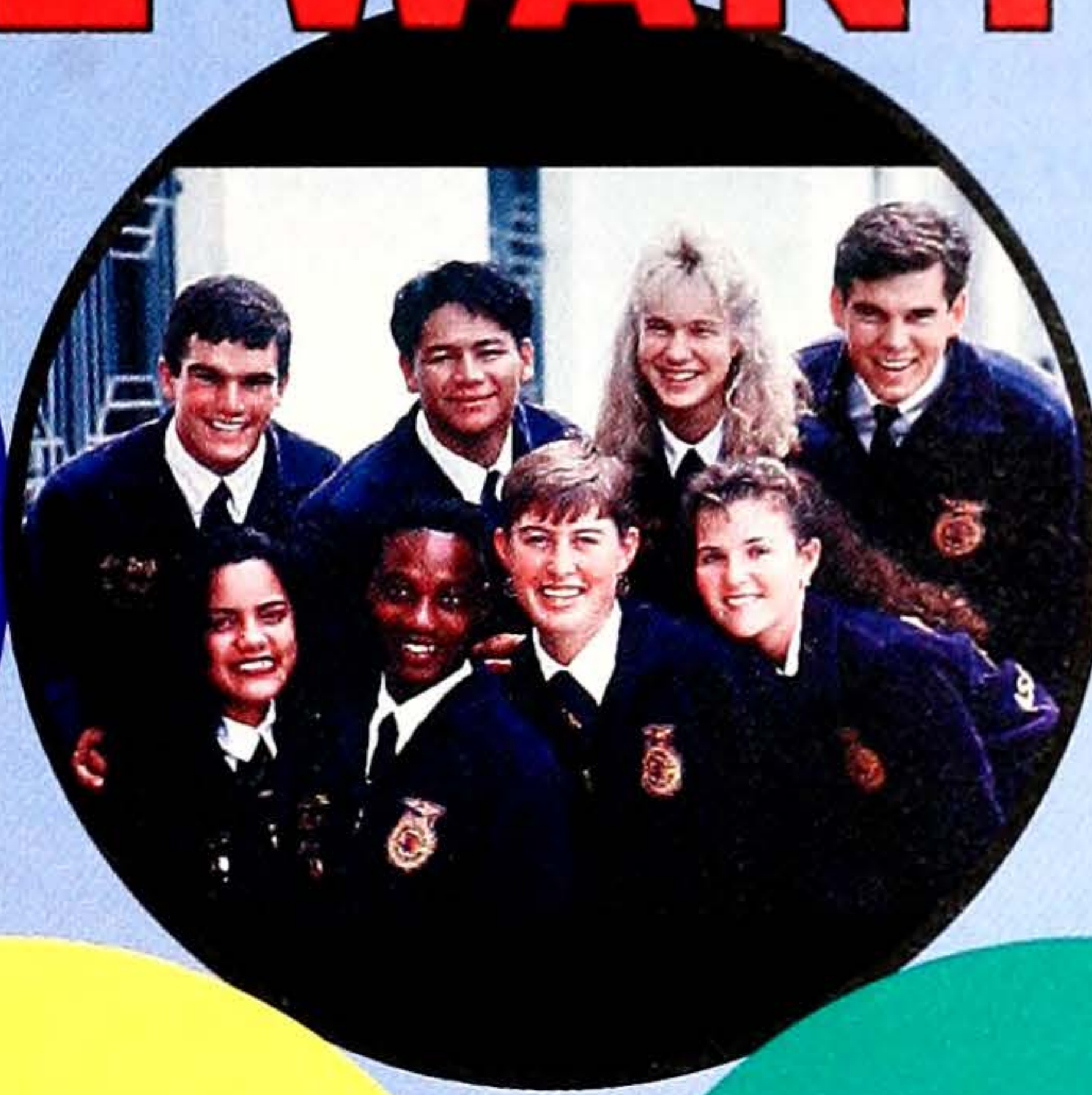
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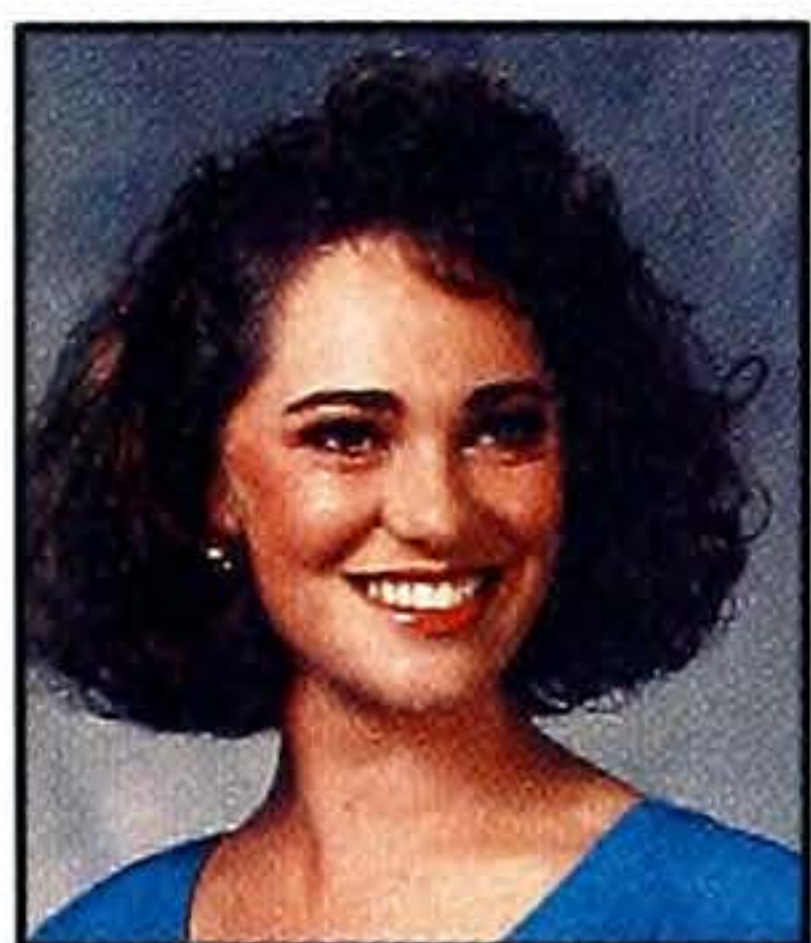
Contact Jim Scott, Student Services Team Leader, at the National FFA Center by calling 703-360-3600 ext. 222 or send e-mail to jim_scott@ffa.org for more information. You may call any of the Team Specialists at the same number, using the extension number listed above.

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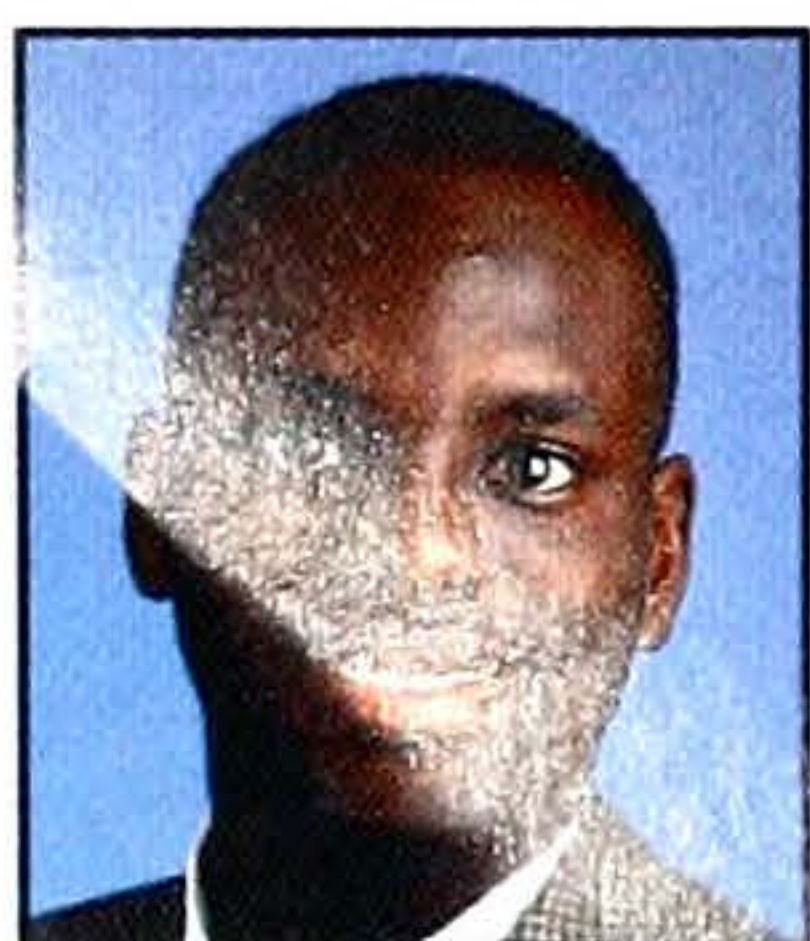
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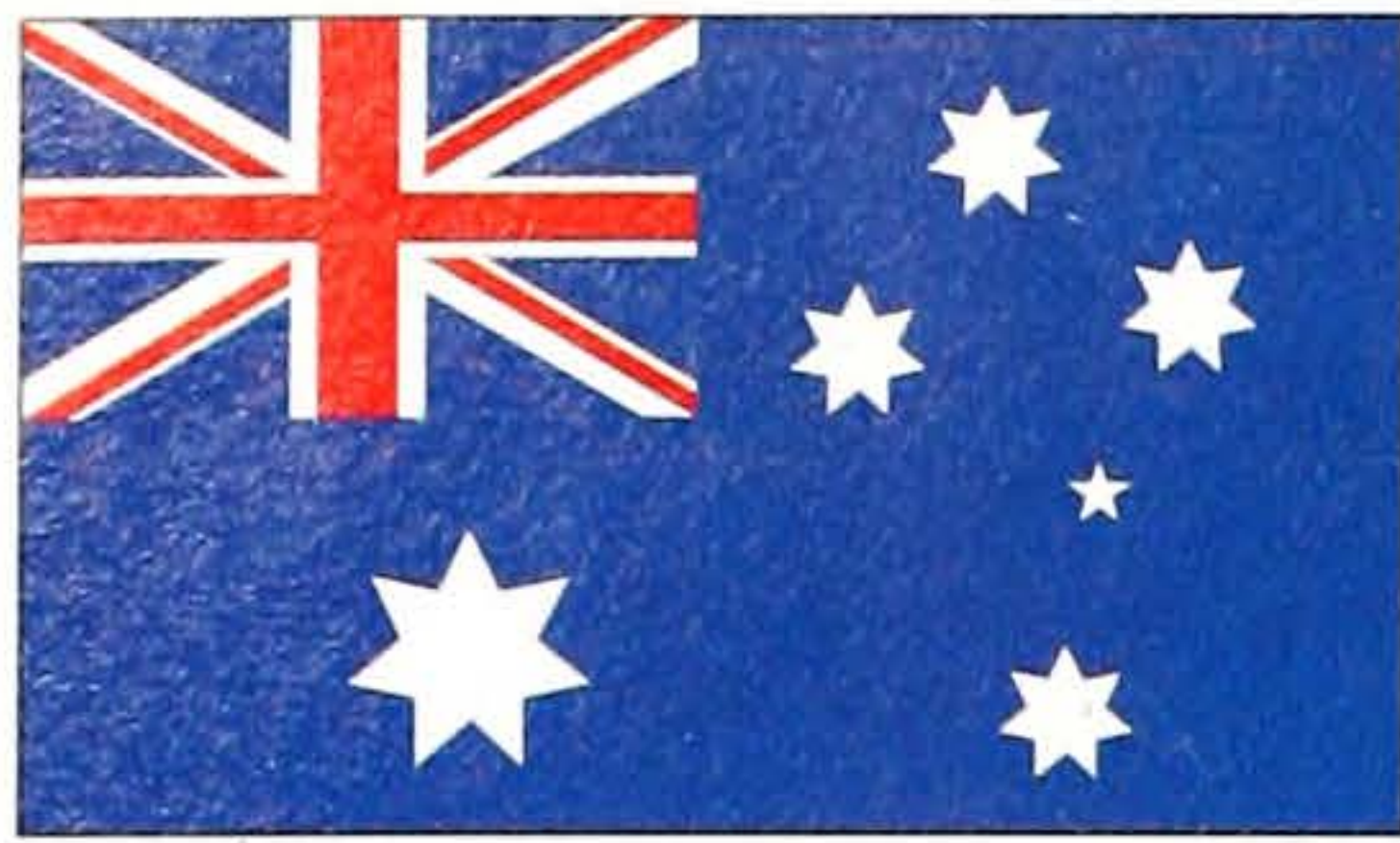
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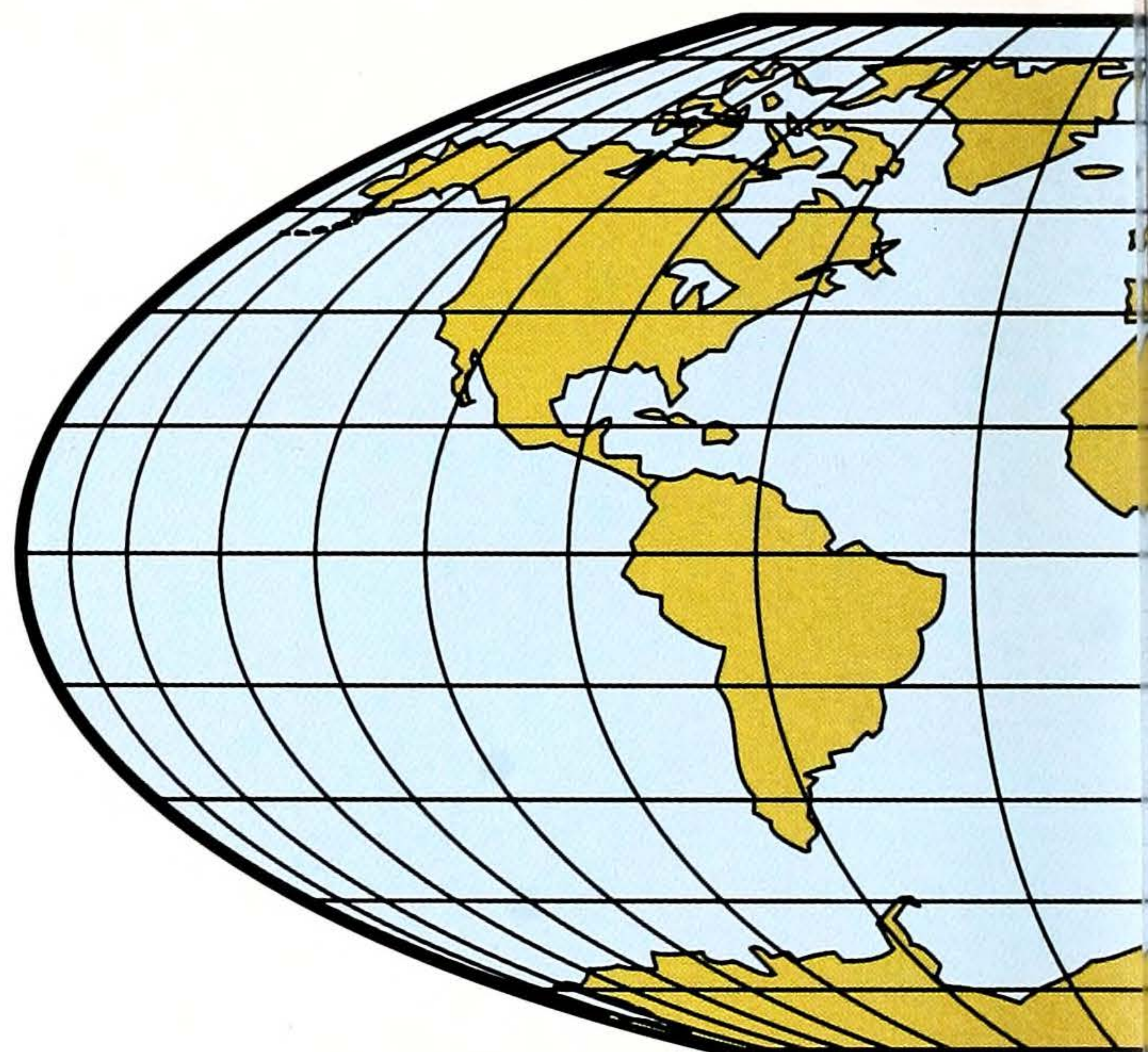


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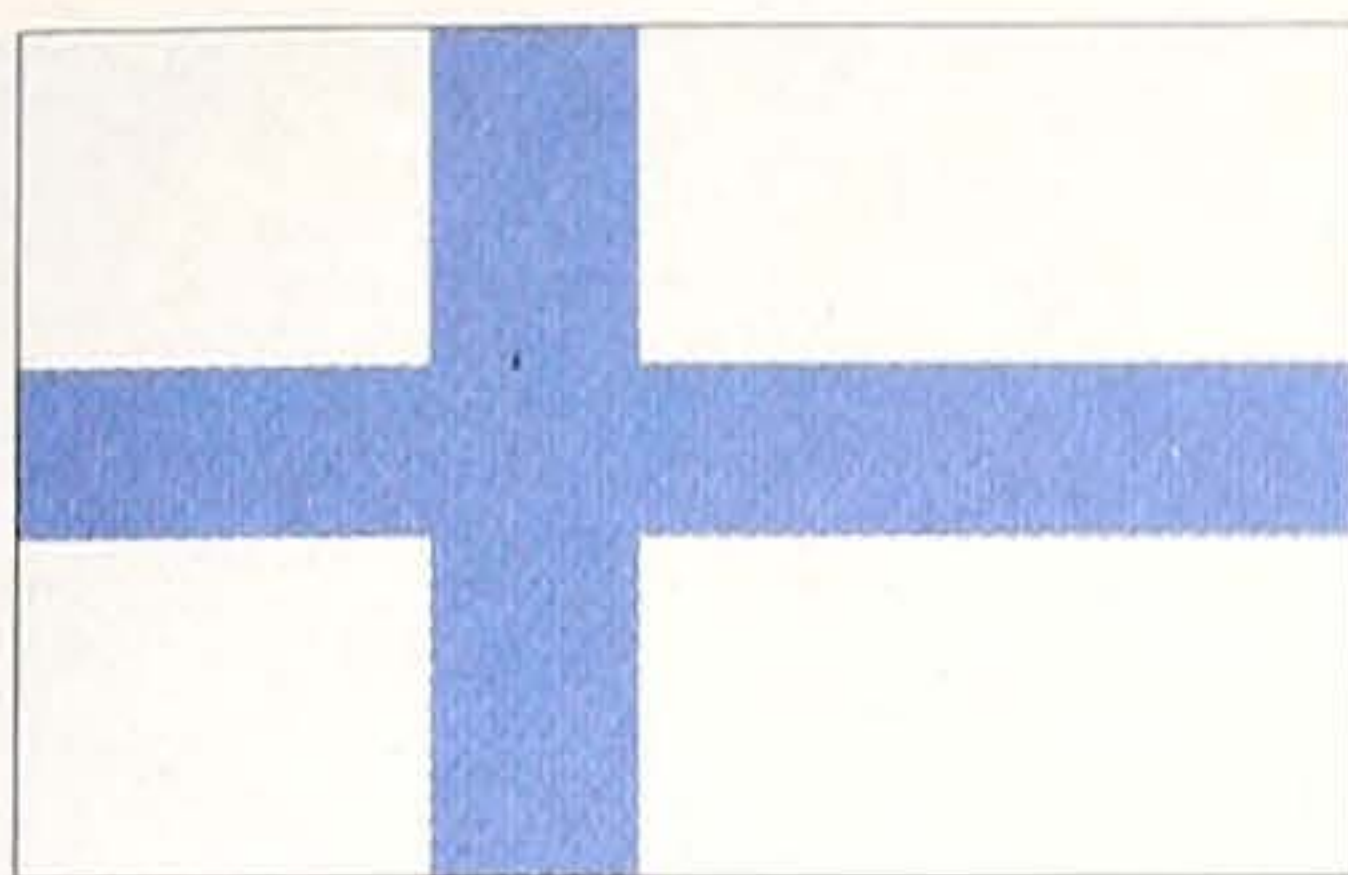


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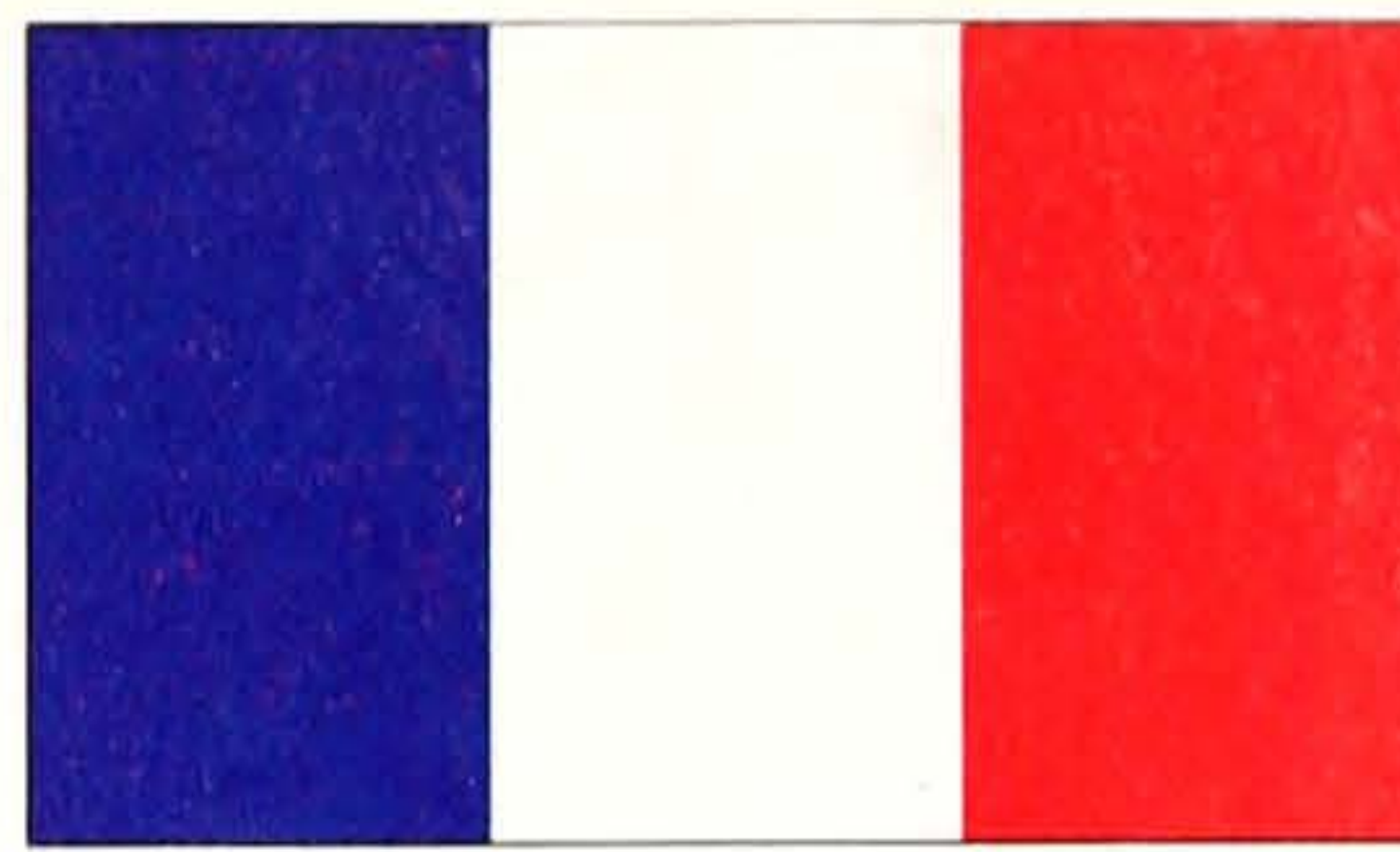


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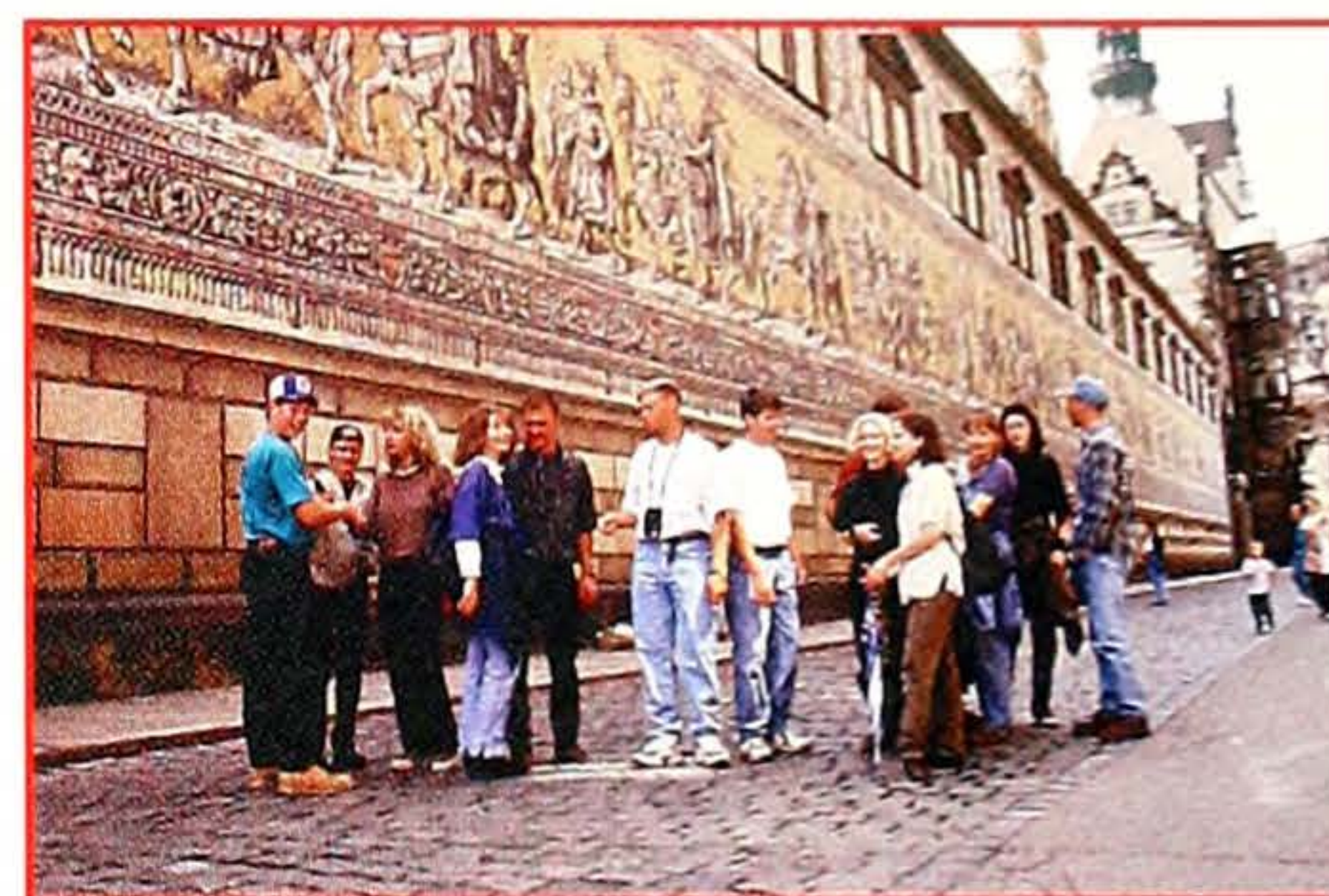
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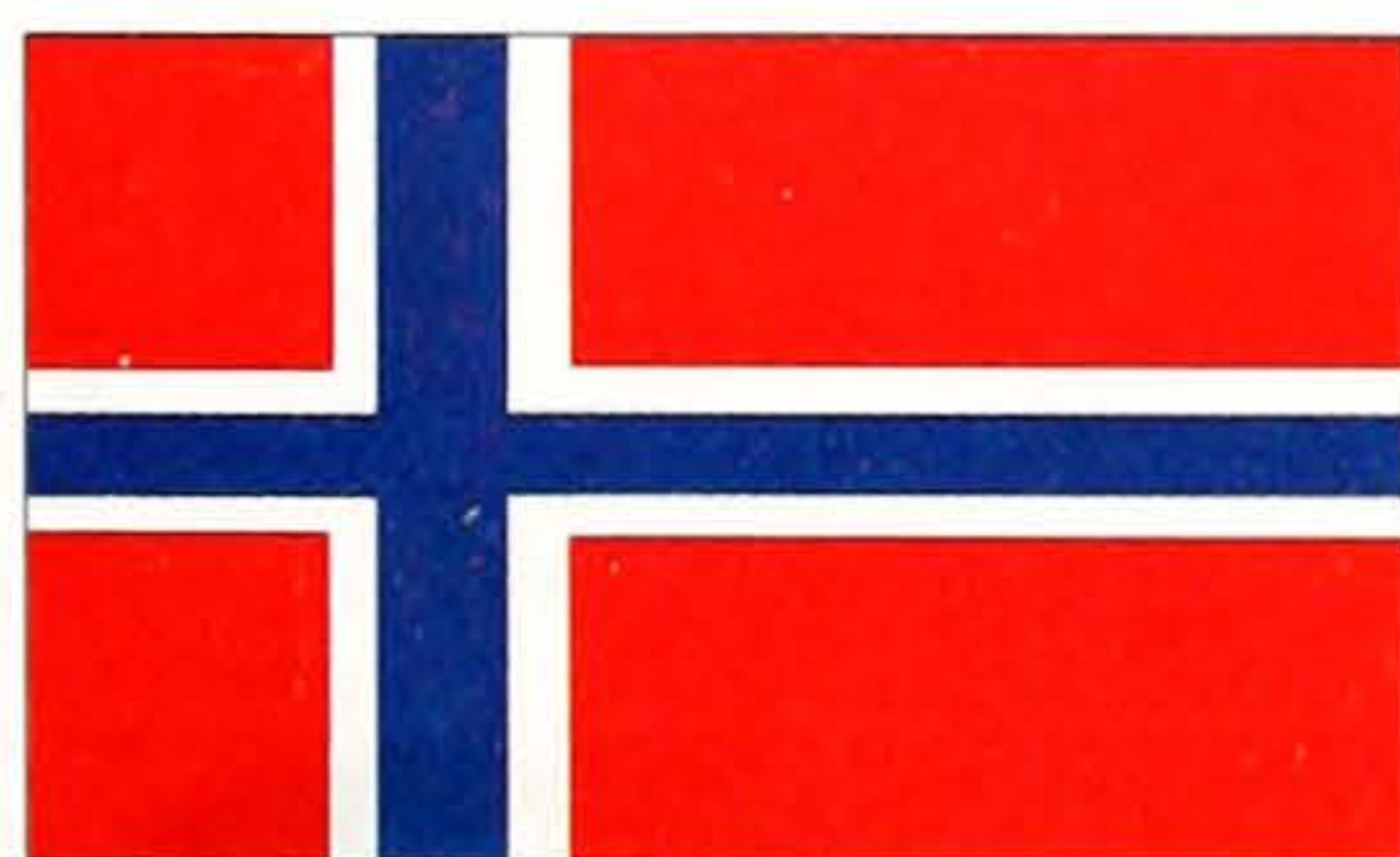
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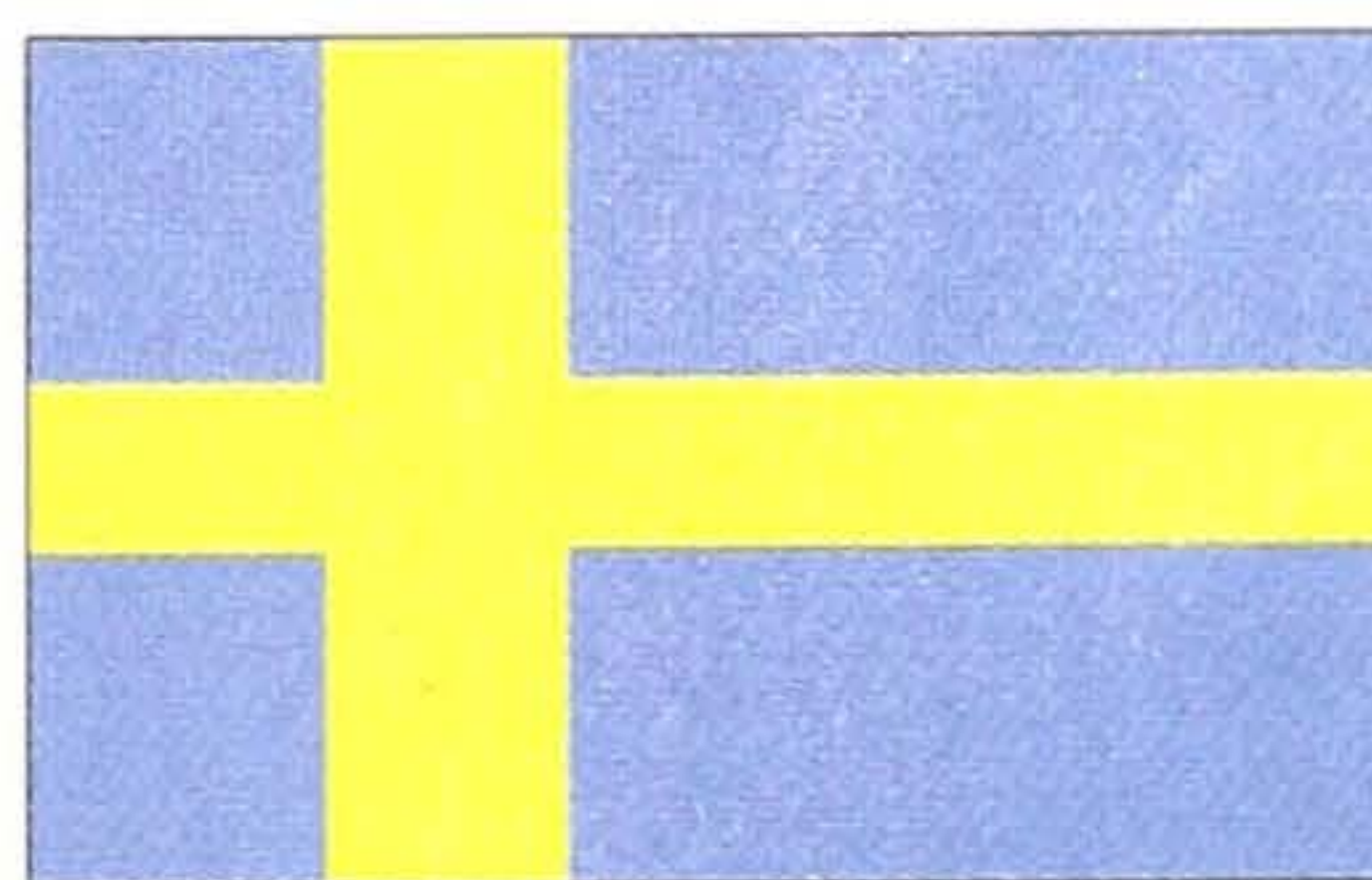
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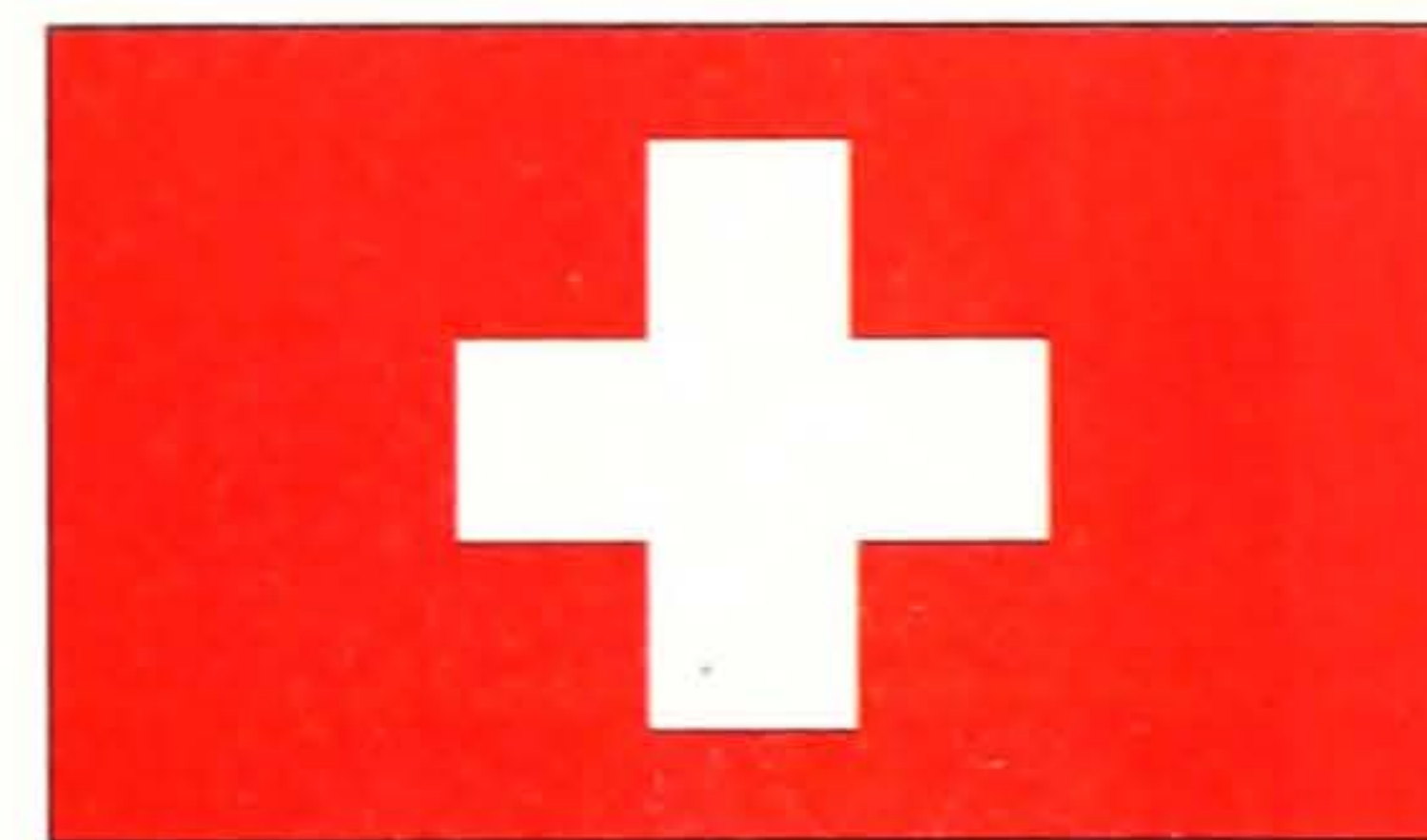
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"This was the best decision that I have ever made." Lynn Casteel, Newell, SD, WEA participant to Australia

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"I can't help but smile to myself remembering every now and then something from my experience in Russia." Paul Schriever, Harmony, MN

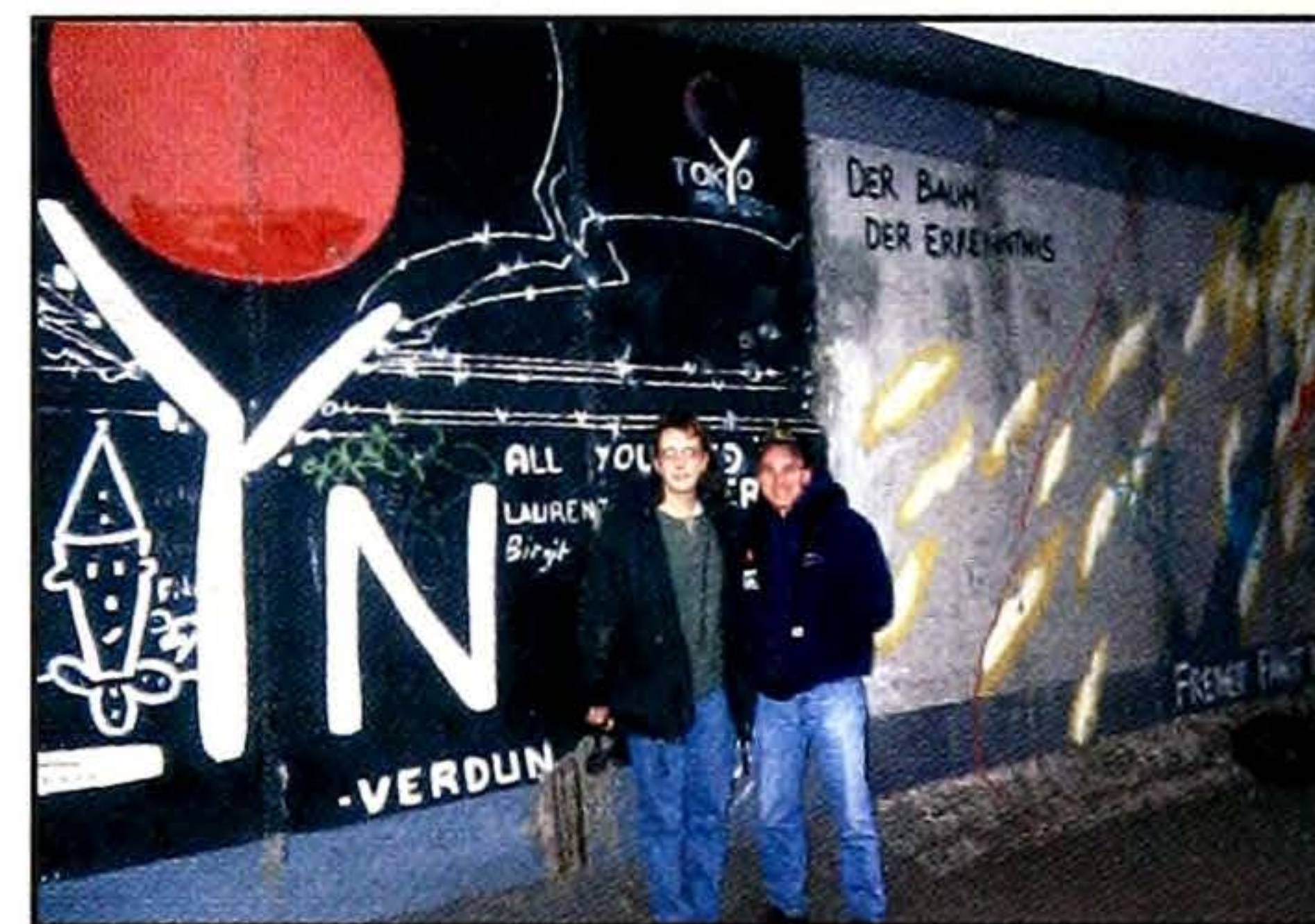
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English is widely spoken around the world. Although an appreciation for the native tongue will enhance your experience, seminar leaders will help you communicate, and it's likely that one member of your host family will speak some English.

"At first I thought it was a little costly but by the end I thought it was worth every penny." Jeff Kerr, 1995-96 Virginia FFA Reporter



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You have made the International **TEAM FFA**; now all you need is the cash to get you there. Fundraising can help get you closer than you might think. The hardest part of fundraising is getting started, so here are a few tips!

1. Develop a plan

Make a list of possible sponsors
Make a list of possible fund-raising ideas

3. Go in person

Groups like to give money to people rather than pieces of paper.

2. Get your local FFA chapter and community involved

Possible scholarships
Possible labor to help with fundraising

4. Say Thank You

Send thank yous to sponsors before you leave. Keep in contact with your sponsors while on the trip. Upon arrival back home, visit each sponsor and tell them about your trip experiences.

Summer of 1997

Washington Leadership Conference

WLC is a great way to pole vault into new heights of leadership skills and see the sights of Washington, D.C., at the same time. Meet and spend five days with "athletes" from all over the United States and share your stories and ideas on what makes your FFA chapter work. So go ahead and make a positive difference in yourself and your chapter by attending the summer's premier leadership conference.

"WLC was an absolute blast!"

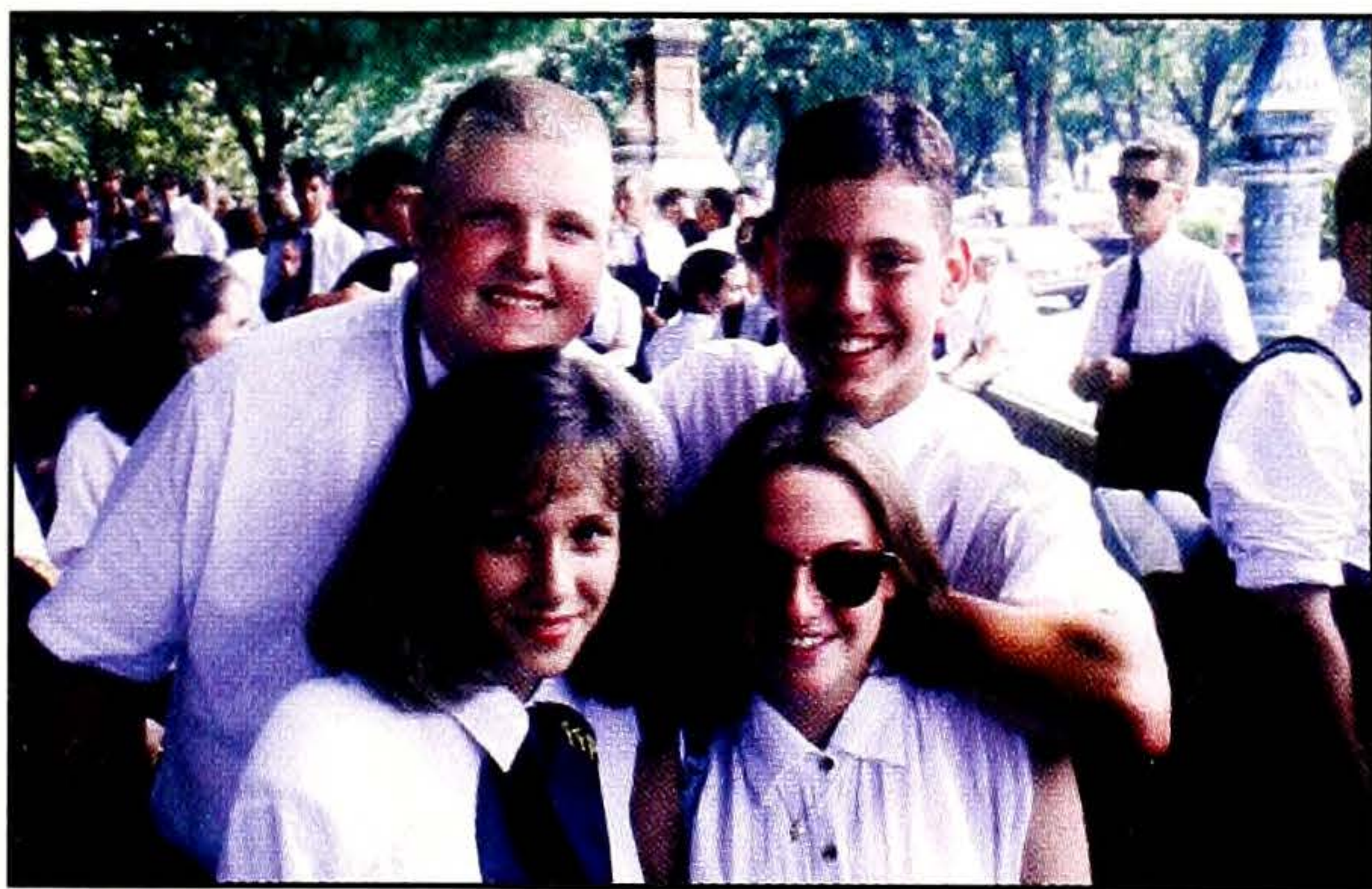
Renee Melton, FFA member, Dade City, FL

"I recommend that every member be involved in the WLC program."

Shawma Kneller, FFA member, Tippecanoe Valley, IN

"It is an opportunity to improve yourself in a very positive and fun way."

Kelly Springer, FFA member, Neodesha, KS



"I thought it would be a great opportunity to better myself as a person as well as an FFA officer."

Pete Pawelek, FFA member, Pleasanton, TX

"Attend WLC for the time of your life!"

Michael Jackson, FFA member, Burlington, OK



"WLC was the best experience of my life."

Keith Miller, FFA member, Mound City, MO

"WLC is full of inspiration and motivation for everyone!"

Molly Brown, FFA member, Briggsdale, CO

Looking for a way to spark new ideas and breath new life into your chapter's program? Look no further, just have your advisor attend the Washington Leadership Conference Advisor Program. They'll receive first-hand the latest news from NVATA and National FFA on critical issues. They'll have time to explore the sights of D.C. as well. This year don't just come to WLC, get your advisor to come, too!

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Michael McIntyre gets down to business at his farm in South Dakota. Michael, 20, owns a lucrative and growing livestock operation.

Cattle call

by Carlotta Mast

Meet Michael McIntyre and two other FFA members who are making a living and a name for themselves as successful, young livestock producers

As young cattle ranchers and dairy farmers, FFA members Michael McIntyre, Traci Ferreira and Scot Zimmerman know what it takes to get up at the crack of dawn every morning to feed their cows and stay up until the wee hours of the night caring for a sick animal. They also know what is required to make sound management decisions, keep their animals healthy and juggle the day-to-day responsibilities of running their own farm operations.

FFA *New Horizons* takes a closer look at these award-winning FFA members to see what it's like to be a successful, young livestock producer.

One young boss

When feed suppliers, loan officers and other ranchers meet Michael McIntyre for the first time, they're usually stunned, says the Lake Central FFA member from Winfred, South Dakota, who runs his own livestock operation.

"They'll look at me and then look at me again," he says. "Most are expecting to meet a 35- or 40-year-old guy, not a 20-year-old college student."

Michael started his beef cattle enterprise at age 14 when he purchased a bottle calf for \$60 from his uncle. He enjoyed raising and showing the animal as part of his FFA activities so much that he decided to turn the hobby into a growing business, he says. So, with dad as a cosigner, Michael borrowed \$150,000 from the bank to purchase his own stock cows and acreage. At the time, Michael was also raising sheep, which he has since sold off in order to concentrate on his cattle operation.

Today, Michael owns more than 300 head of cattle and two plots of land. Total, his farming assets are worth more than \$370,000.

"My plans are to continue purchasing 50 to 100 additional stock cows each year while I'm in college as well as one to two quarter sections of land each year," says Michael, one of the ten

winners of the 1995 National FFA Agri-Entrepreneurship award, sponsored by the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership Inc. at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. "This way, when I get out of school, I will have a good-sized farm operation going." Michael graduated from high school in 1994, attended South Dakota State University for two years and just started veterinarian school at Iowa State University.

As sole owner of his livestock business, Michael makes all of his own management and financial decisions. He's hired several ranch hands to take care of the animals while he's at school. "I've been able to get my farm set up so that I don't have to be there all the time and can run a lot of stuff over the computer and telephone," he says.

To help subsidize his livestock business, Michael also owns and runs a fence building operation, which he began in the summer of 1993.

"This business makes it really nice because I don't have to go to the bank for operating loans," he says. "I am able to run all my farming operations strictly on a cash basis from what I make from fencing."

Putting lessons to work

One Jersey heifer usually costs \$8,000 to \$10,000, so when Traci Ferreira goes to livestock shows to purchase cows for her family's large dairy farm in Lemoore, California, the 17-year-old Hanford FFA member must use her in-depth knowledge of Jersey cows as well as her keen sense of judgment in deciding which animals to buy.

"There's a lot of factors you need to weigh before purchasing an animal," says Traci, who won the California FFA Star Farmer award for her dairy operation last year. "I look for a strong heifer with really good feet and legs and a lot of ribs. I look at an animal's pedigree as well as its traits."

A fourth generation dairy farmer, Traci knows what to look for in a dairy cow from her years of showing livestock in FFA and from watching her parents on the farm. "I've helped on the dairy farm ever since I was a little girl, and I've been raising my own cows since I was 9," she says. "On a day-to-day basis, my job is to feed the calves and make sure the newborns get colostrum (antibody- and nutrient-rich milk). But I can do anything on the dairy that my parents ask me to."

"My parents talk over business

matters with me. They include me a lot, which helps me to learn and get a feel for owning and running a dairy."

Along with helping to care for and manage her family's 450 dairy cows, Traci also has 72 of her own registered Jerseys. Her livestock assets are worth more than \$82,000.

She's worked out a deal with her parents for using their milking equipment, land and feed.

"I get the money from the milk my animals produce," she says. "Then I pay

week job," says the Osseo-Fairchild FFA member. "You're always on call, but that's what keeps it exciting. Sure you get worn out from all of the work. But you always look forward to the day when everything goes as planned and then you can rest."

Last year, Scot was recognized for his superior farm management skills when he won the National FFA Proficiency Award in diversified livestock production, sponsored by Mallinckrodt Veterinary Inc. and Wayne Feed



Top left: Traci Ferreira performs her daily duty of feeding the calves on her family's dairy farm in Lemoore, California. **Above:** Traci, 17, shows one of her award-winning Jersey cows. **At left:** Scot Zimmerman, 19, prepares one of his cows for livestock competition on his farm in Osseo, Wisconsin.

my dad so much a day for animal feed. It's about \$1.50 a day for each heifer (which is a young cow that has not yet born a calf) and \$3 a day for each cow."

Traci, who will be attending a community college near her home this fall, plans to major in dairy science and to run her own dairy farm someday.

Seven-day-a-week job

Nineteen-year-old Scot Zimmerman doesn't have much time for hanging out with friends, going to the movies or doing the things that most people his age enjoy. As part owner and full-time employee of his family's livestock production and farming business in Osseo, Wisconsin, he's simply too busy working to do much else.

From caring for sick cows to harvesting alfalfa hay for the animals to eat to helping pregnant cows deliver their calves, Scot often spends more than 12 hours a day—every day—working on the farm, he says.

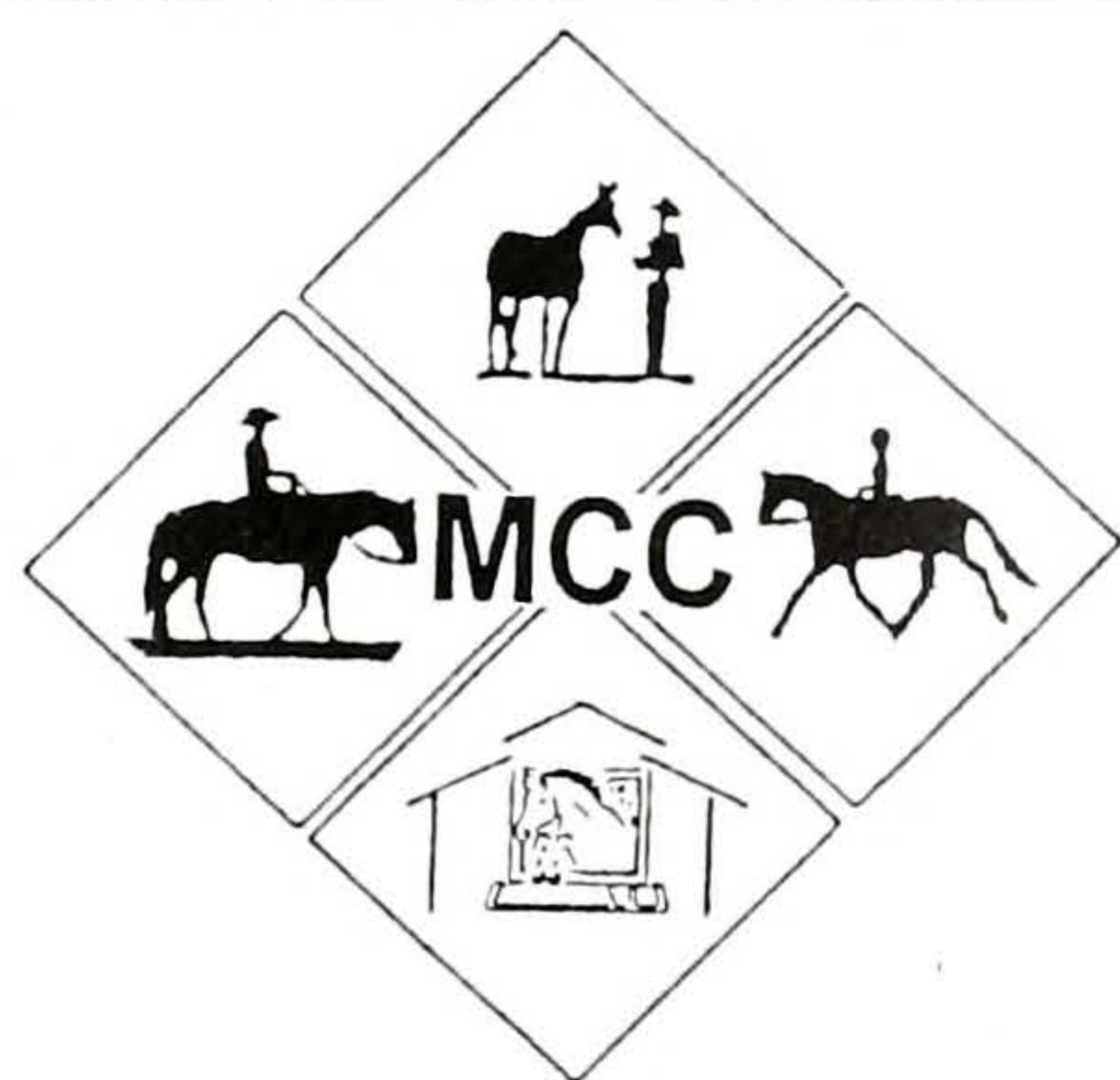
"Raising livestock is a seven-day-a-

Division/Continental Grain Co., as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Scot, who graduated from high school in 1994 and is a third-generation farmer, has played an integral role on his family's farm since an early age. "From the time I could carry a pail I was feeding salt and minerals to the cows," he says.

Scot entered into a business partnership with his dad and older brother in January 1995. The three raise 100 Holstein dairy cows and 120 beef cattle. They also farm 1,200 acres of corn, oats, barley and alfalfa hay. Scot's share of his family's farm assets totals more than \$44,000.

"Now that I'm a partner, I help make all the decisions concerning the cattle and crops on our farm," he says. "I decide which bulls to breed to my cows and which to cull. I play an important part in feeding and milking the cows, and in caring for the youngstock." ■



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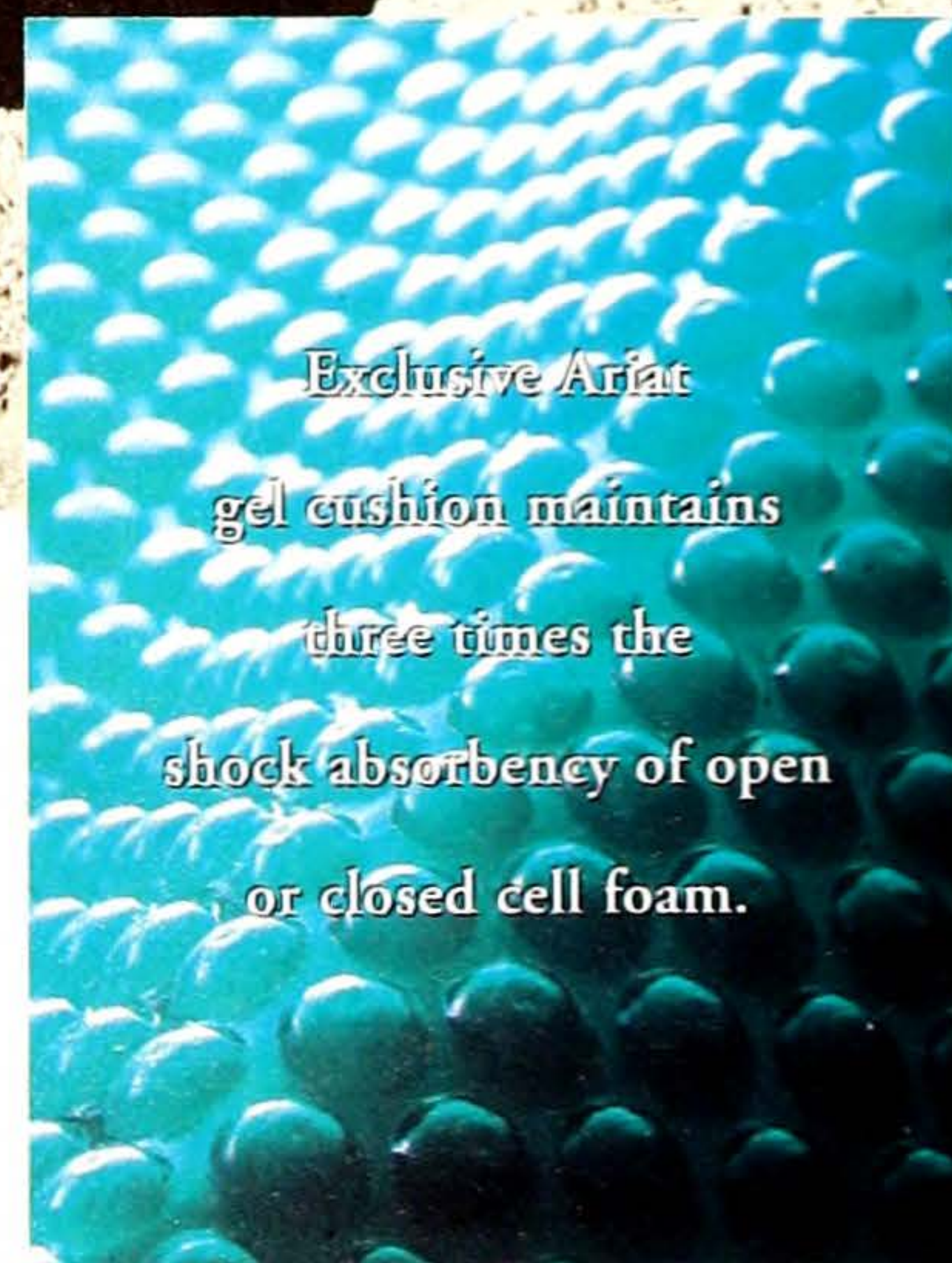


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And, just to be sure all of our 22's are as accurate as we claim, each one is sighted-in

on our test range.

There's more: precision-crowned muzzles; high-visibility cocking indicators on our bolt action rifles; rustproof, brass inner magazine tubes on our tube-loading models; stocks made from solid walnut, solid birch, birch laminate, and fiberglass-filled polycarbonate. Plenty of quality options, plus a 5-year limited warranty*. And every one made in America.

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Model 15YN — "Little Buckaroo"
single shot bolt action 22 rifle with walnut finished
Maine birch stock scaled down for youths and small-framed adults.



Model 39AS — legendary lever
action that comes apart and goes together in seconds.
American black walnut stock with cut checkering and swivel studs.



Model 880SS (also shown at top) — stainless
steel bolt action repeater with a 7-shot clip magazine and
a rugged, weather-resistant, fiberglass-filled polycarbonate stock.

Reach us on the Internet
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*See Owner's Manual for details.

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join the **BIG** League

GO TEAM

You're at the plate. It's the bottom of the ninth. Bases loaded. Your team's down by three runs. And there are two outs.

A bunt won't do. A fly ball? Think again. A liner to center field? No way.

Here comes the pitch. Swing. Crack...you hit a "grand slam" straight over the fence that brings everyone home.

Wanted: FFA heavy hitters

Be an all-star player. FFA needs to score 300,000 new members to strengthen our organization. How can you play? Recruit just three new members to the FFA Major Leagues. Once they join our team, they can take advantage of the hundreds of fabulous opportunities available only through the FFA. Trips. Awards. Scholarships. Leadership training.

No umps

Here's how. Sign up three new members and mail in the certificate on the next page. All you need is your advisor's signature, showing you hit a grand slam. It's that simple.

Major rewards for free agents

That's right. Sign up three new members and receive a congratulatory letter from the National FFA President. Plus, we'll present you with your own lapel pin to wear proudly as a member of the elite Grand Slam Club. And you are eligible for the Grand Slam drawing. Here's what you can win:



Grand Slam
Lapel Pin

1st Base Prize

A \$25 gift certificate good for any merchandise in the FFA Catalog.

2nd Base Prize

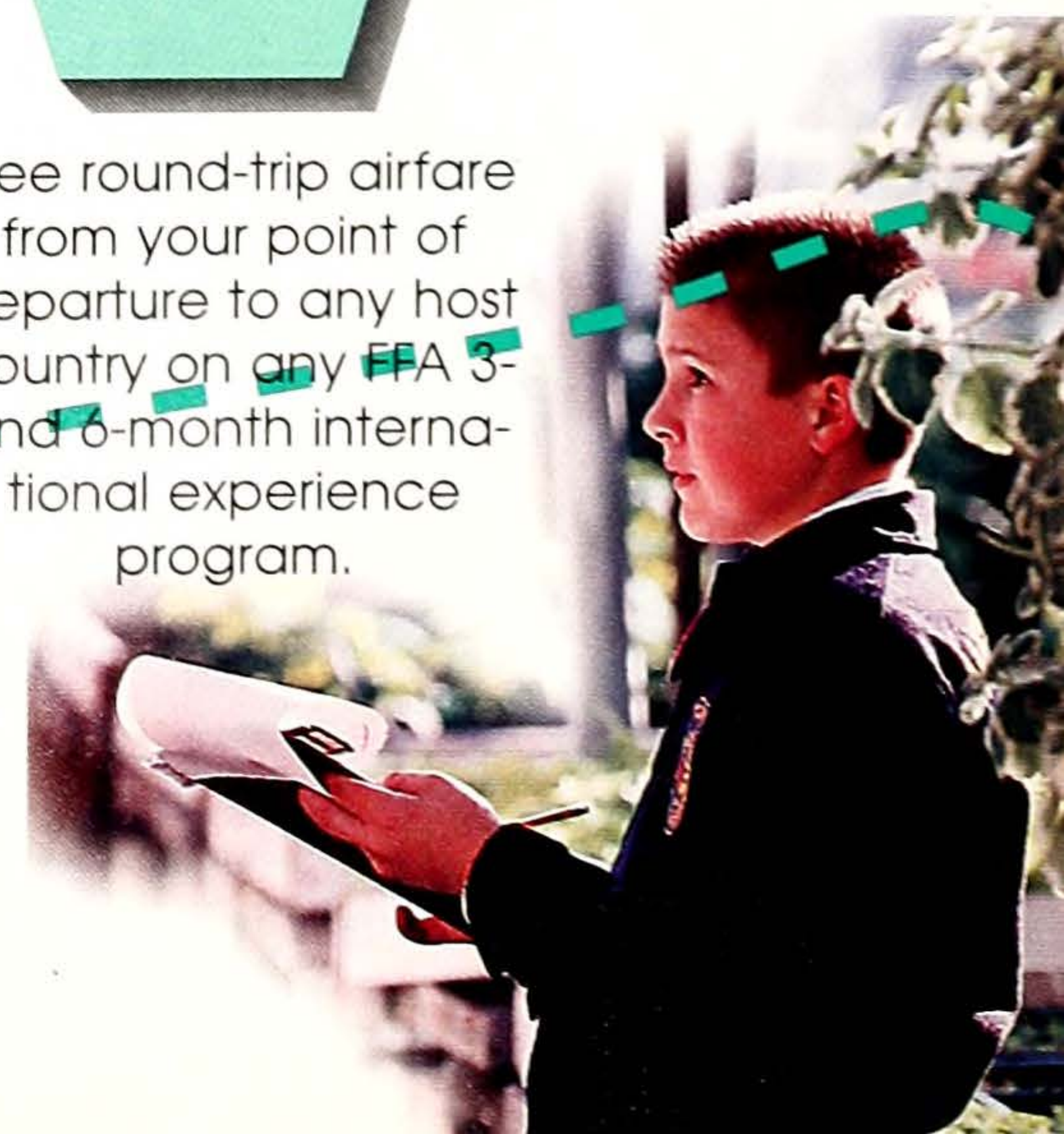
\$45-cash award good for registration at your state's Made For Excellence leadership program.

3rd Base Prize

Free round-trip airfare from your point of departure to any host country on any FFA 3- and 6-month international experience program.

**GRAND
SLAM PRIZE**

Free registration to the Washington Leadership Conference—that's a \$450 value. That's not all. You'll also receive a baseball cap.



Grand Slam

spring training

In pre-season training, you can practice recruiting skills. Take this coaching advice. Sit down with your friends who haven't joined. Ask them what would make them say, "Yes." Then plan your recruitment program, informational materials and activities around what you learn. Share these bases with potential members:



Meet lots of new friends with your same interests.



Travel on exciting adventures to camps, conventions and leadership conferences.



Win a college scholarship. FFA awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships last year.



Show no fear at public speaking.



Laugh with donkey basketball, rafting, pizza parties and other fun activities.



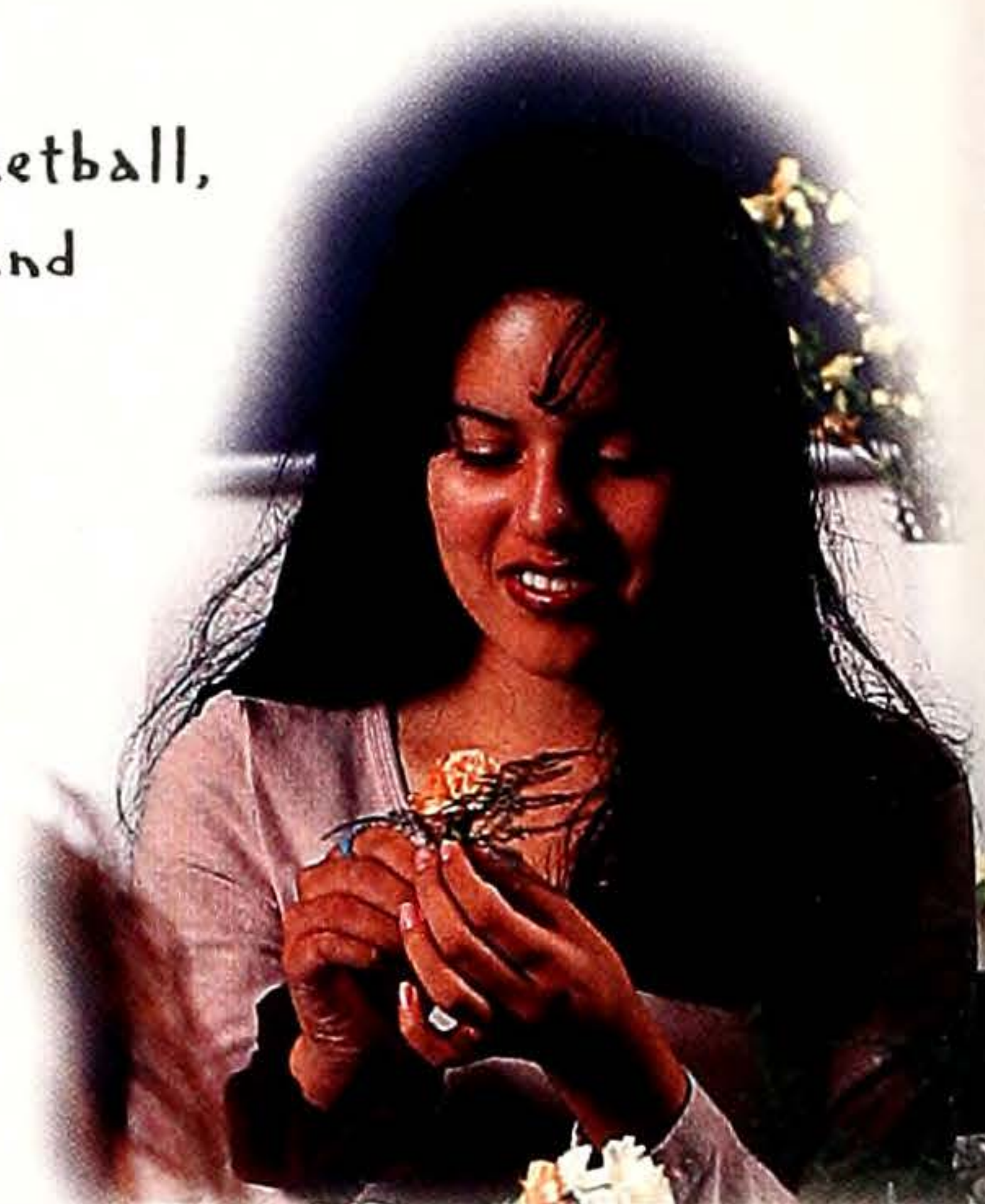
Gain confidence and teamwork with FFA career development events.



Become a leader and achieve your goals.

"FFA is an organization full of experiences, fun, friends and learning. How can anyone give a reason not to be a part of it?"

—Connie Wilson, Fruita FFA, Colorado



Grand Slam Certificate

Mail or fax this completed certificate to the National FFA Organization. Duplicate as needed.

I am a GRAND SLAM PLAYER. These three new members are joining the FFA Major Leagues.

Names of three students you recruited:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

I certify that my student has recruited three new students as FFA members for our chapter.

Your Name _____

Signature _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Home Phone _____

Advisor Name _____ Signature _____

FFA Chapter _____ School Phone _____

Mail your completed certificate to: FFA Grand Slam, National FFA Organization, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160

For more information contact: Kim Bailey, Telephone: (703) 360-3600, ext. 309; Fax: (703) 360-5524

Put Me In Coach, I'm Ready To Play

Ready to hit one out of the ballpark? Talk up fun, friends and adventure in the FFA. Cheer them on to teamwork and leadership. Motivate them to join agriscience or horticulture classes. Focus your attention on friends or incoming freshmen. Here are some easy, fun ideas that will have students saying, "Yes!" in no time.

1st Inning. Pass the A-1. You're on your way to more members with a steak dinner. Ask local vendors or ranchers to donate the beef. **Shawano FFA, Wisconsin**

2nd Inning. Moving right along. Host a cow milking contest, faculty against the students. Don't forget to take time to focus on dairy-related careers such as biotechnology. **Fall Creek FFA, Wisconsin**

3rd Inning. Catch the wave...on a summer rafting or pool party. Invite your friends and be sure to stress how FFA allows you to have fun with your friends. **West Lyon FFA, Iowa**

4th Inning. Hold a skeet shoot and invite the public and young hunters. Be sure to set up your booth to show how they can be involved with the FFA gun safety program. **New Lothrop FFA, Michigan**

5th Inning. Got a green thumb? Give a greenhouse plant to each student who joins the FFA. **Lake Geneva FFA, Wisconsin**

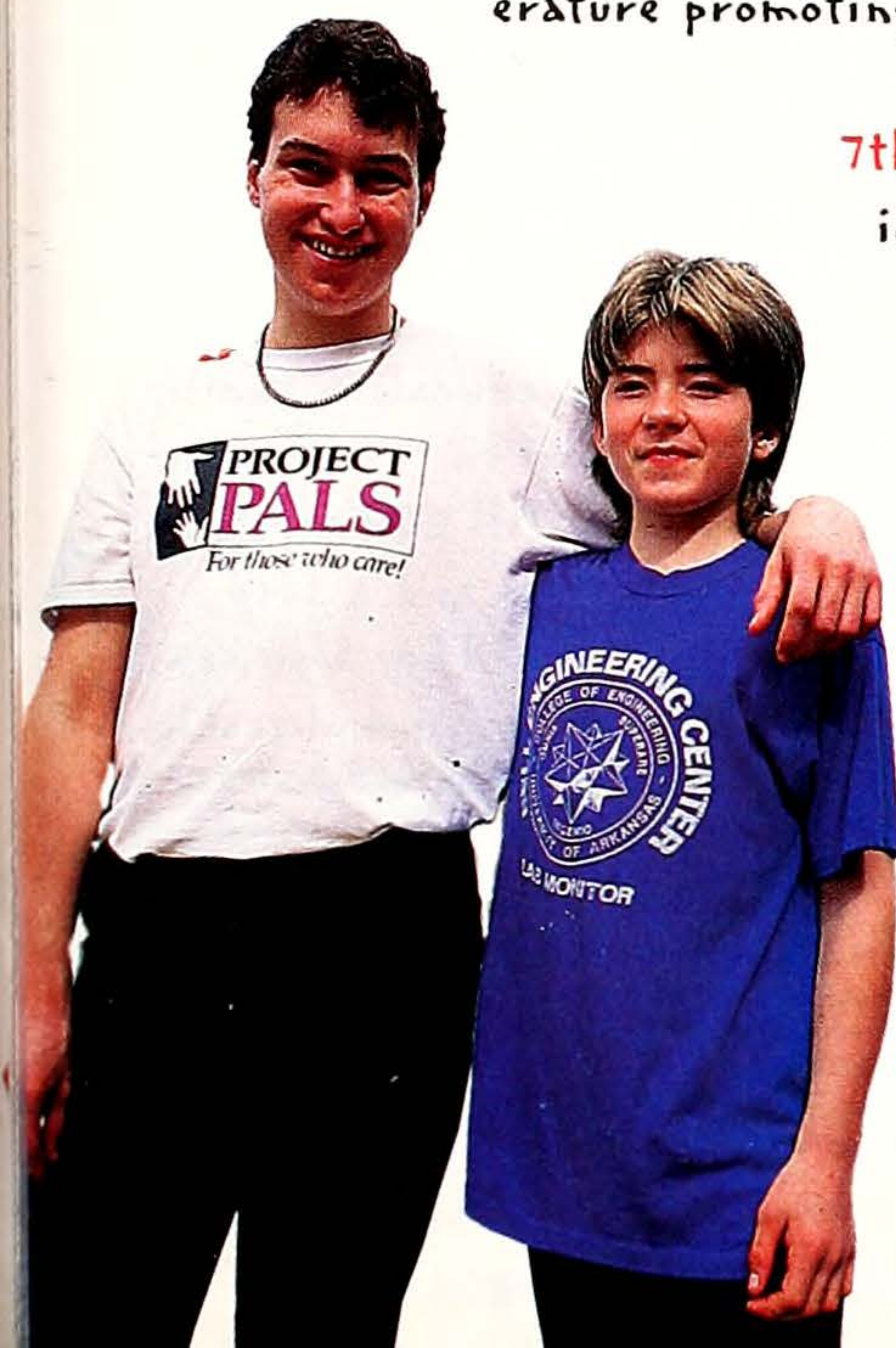
6th Inning. Popcorn. Peanuts. Start your own movie night. During intermission show videos and offer literature promoting FFA. **Fall Creek FFA, Wisconsin**

7th Inning. For those of you who crave sugar...hold an ice cream social. Invite all the eighth grade students and their parents. Be sure to give them a promotional FFA packet. **Katy FFA, Texas**

8th Inning. Host a leadership "lock-in" for all seventh and eighth graders. Have a state or national officer speak on the importance of FFA. **Lakeview FFA, Nebraska**

9th Inning. Go Hollywood! Create a fun skit showing non-members what you learn in agriculture and the FFA. **New Lothrop FFA, Michigan**

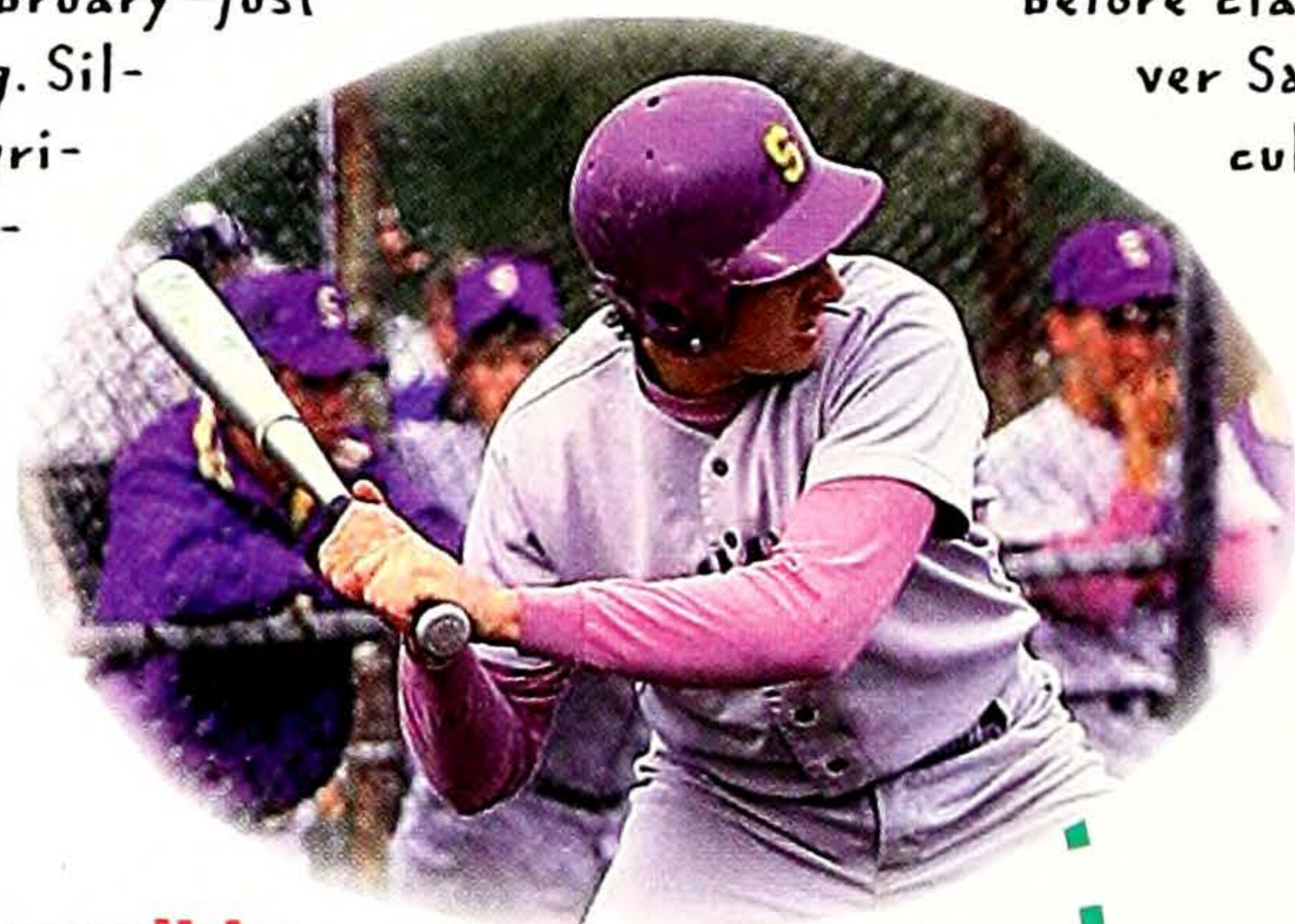
PALS allows members to help other students and share what FFA is all about.



Anyone can buy a ticket and sit in the stands! But, the real rewards come to those who join the team and play the game. Below are members and chapters, just like you, who are stepping up to the plate. Here are some of their strategies for hitting those curve balls. Read these amazing three success stories.

Silver Sage FFA I'm seeing double Elko, Nevada

They are seeing double at Silver Sage FFA. In two years, FFA membership nearly doubled from 46 to 85 students. Amazing. Here's their plan. Every eighth grade student at Elko takes a science class. Plus, these science teachers are loyal supporters of agricultural education. So, the FFA recruitment committee designed a presentation for the junior high science classes in February—just before class enrollment. Wow, that's smart thinking. Silver Sage members discussed the benefits of agriculture careers and FFA. Names and home addresses were collected. Then these potential members and their parents were mailed information about the agriscience course, local and National FFA Organizations. It worked. In the first year, 59 eighth graders enrolled in first-year agriscience.



Altus FFA Mission impossible Altus, Oklahoma

This sounds too incredible to be true. The Altus FFA Chapter has increased their enrollment by 575 percent in the last five years. Unbelievable. Their goal was to attract all types of students. How did they accomplish this mission impossible? Chapter members interviewed students who were not enrolled in agricultural education. Next, the recruitment committee made a list of factors that turn-off potential students. Then the mission began. The FFA leadership class made a recruitment video and brochures to highlight career success in agricultural education and FFA. The next step was to develop aquaculture and biotechnology classes to attract more students. The result? This year enrollment increased 60 percent. Congratulations team!

Bowling Green FFA Planting a seed Bowling Green, Ohio

Bowling Green used to have one freshman class. Now there's three. No kidding. The FFA scholarship committee approached the junior high guidance counselors with this idea. Could all eighth graders spend the day touring the agricultural education facilities? No problem. FFA members demonstrated the skills they learned in their greenhouse and 2 1/2 acre environmental science and 10 acre crop labs. All 350 eighth graders were given a personalized folder with promotional information and a seed packet to remember their visit. Bowling Green FFA didn't stop there. They also sent letters to these students' families. Whew, that's commitment. Their FFA membership jumped from 97 to 147 members.

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 Ag Ed Mission

The mission of Agricultural Education is to prepare and support individuals for careers, build awareness and develop leadership for the food, fiber and natural resources systems.

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. Prepared and published by the National FFA Organization in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education as a service to state and local agricultural education agencies.

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"FFA gives me a lot of confidence and pride in myself."

—Aaron Hennen,
Kimball FFA,
Minnesota

aim with honor

The best hunters follow laws not found on the back of a hunting license



Any good hunter understands the importance of following all game laws and regulations. But every great hunter also knows there are unwritten laws that carry equal importance to those enforced by the local game warden. These unwritten laws comprise an ethical code of honor that guides all true sportsmen and women, and makes hunting better for everyone. Here are a few ways great hunters bring this code of honor to life:

Focus on preparation

The best hunters do all they can to improve their hunting skills. They practice shooting, learn everything they can about their quarry and maintain their fitness to meet the physical rigors of the hunt. In addition, they ensure their firearms are always in prime con-

dition and provide adequate power.

Choose the right partners

Great hunters know they are judged by the company they keep. So, they'll always hunt with companions who share a commitment to safe, responsible behavior. And they'll always give their friends the advantage when it comes to getting a good shot.

Respect the land

Asking permission to hunt on someone else's property, making certain the owner knows of their presence and always showing proper gratitude for their hospitality are all hallmarks of great hunters.

Respect the game

True hunters believe in "fair chase" and never take unfair advantage of the game they hunt. They avoid shooting

at excessively long ranges, use trained bird dogs to recover downed birds, take only what they need, and skillfully prepare and fully utilize all game. And they never, ever leave an area without recovering wounded game.

They are willing to spend an entire hunting trip without firing a single shot, rather than make a single poor decision.

When hunting season rolls around, following all posted rules and regulations

is a great start. But adhering to the unwritten laws of courtesy, respect and good old-fashioned common sense are what separates the great hunters from the ordinary. ■

For more information on hunting ethics, conservation and safety, write to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Flintlock Ridge Office Center, 11 Mile Hill Road, Newton, Connecticut 06470-2359.

targeting Success

Shooter has Sydney 2000 in his sights by Cathy Glazer

Four years ago, back in Whitefish, Montana, Cody Voermans was busy with high school and helping his dad raise cattle and work the fence lines on the family's 600-acre cattle ranch.

If you'd told him back then that four years later he'd be on the U.S. Shooting Team, competing in a running target exhibition event at this past summer's Olympics in Atlanta, he probably wouldn't have believed you. But that's where he was this past July—staying at the Olympic village, meeting athletes from all over the world and watching 24 of his teammates on the U.S. Shooting Team compete with the world's best marksmen.

Cody, now 20, has no doubts about where he wants to be four years from now. He has his sights set on Sydney, Australia, for the next Summer Olympics in 2000. He hopes to represent the United States in running target, one of the 15 Olympic shooting events.

Sydney is a long way from Whitefish, but Cody's shooting skills have already been his ticket to see and compete in many parts of the United States and Europe.

Cody began shooting at about age 7, supervised by his dad and grandfather, a national-level competitive shooter and certified firearms and hunting-education instructor. "My dad and grandfather wanted to pass along their love of shooting and hunting, but they also wanted to be sure I knew the safety

rules and took a hunter safety course."

How far he wanted to go with the sport was always up to Cody.

"Competition—that was my choice," he says. By age 8, he was already learning the competitive aspects of shooting and became the youngest member of the Whitefish Junior Rifle Club, which

made an exception to its minimum age requirement of 9.

Cody soon discovered he loved almost any kind of shooting—air pistol, air rifle and even archery. When he was about 12, Cody discovered running target.

"Our club had a makeshift running target mechanism, and one of the coaches took a short training session in it," Cody recalls.

"We had a makeshift running target rifle with a scope we taped on."

Cody was fascinated with the new challenge, but the coach thought he needed to grow a little more before trying his hand at it. But Cody was persistent. "During team try-outs, there was a 20-minute break, and the coach finally let me try. And I shot well enough to

make the team," he recalls.

Cody went on to win several state championships and qualify for the Junior Olympics.

His parents were supportive, but made it clear that if Cody were serious about pursuing the sport, he'd have to work for it.

"They let me use some of the money I made raising a few steers every year to get the proper gear—the leather jacket, the shoes and the right scope," he says. "That money was always put away for college, but my parents saw that where I was headed with this sport, shooting could help pay for college as well."

By this time, Cody was in high school and had set his sights on making the U.S. Shooting Team. Training before and after school, Cody began moving up in the competitive ranks.

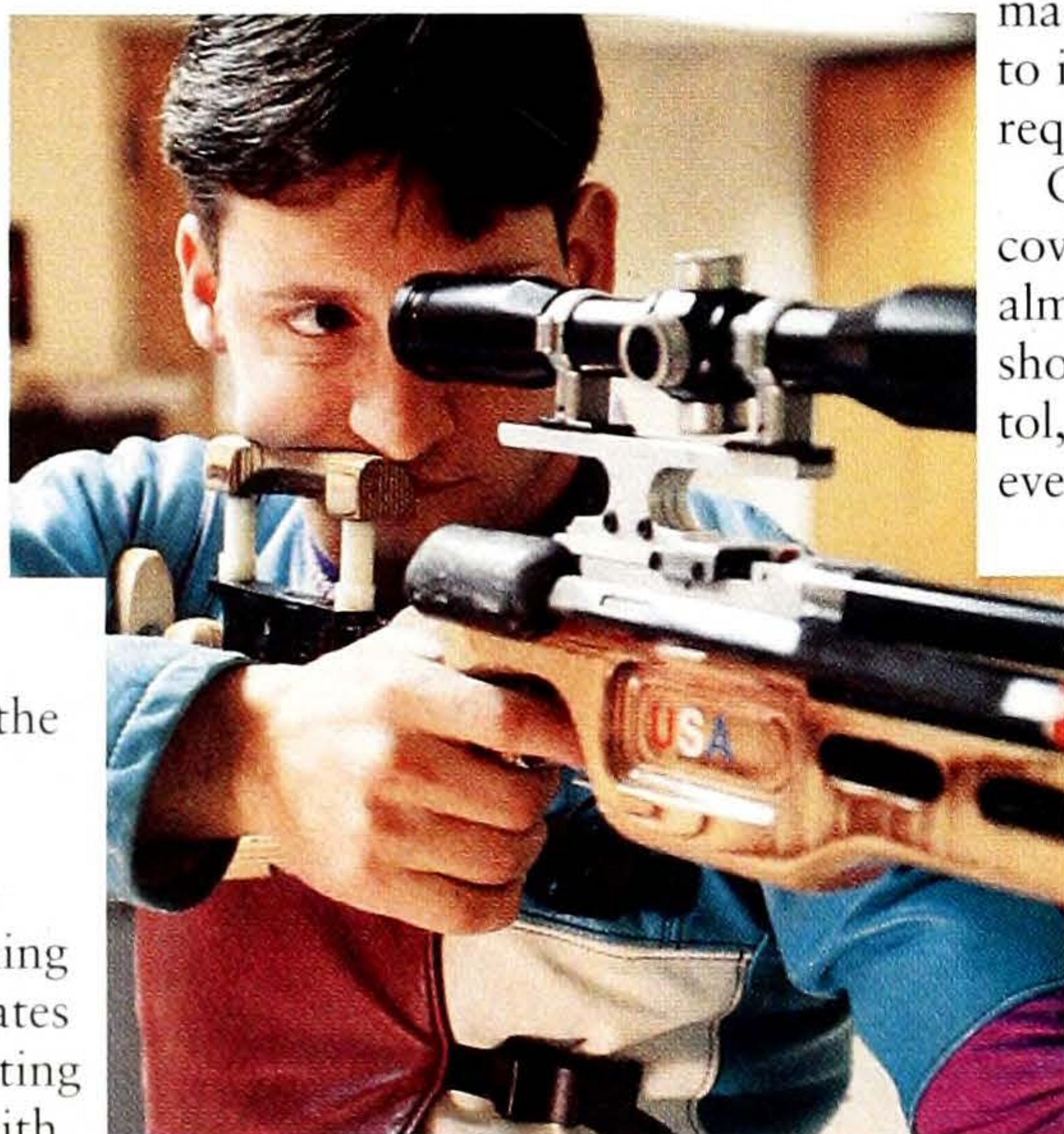
The payoff came when he shot scores in a national competition that qualified him for the U.S. Shooting Team's National Development Team.

Today he's one of 32 resident shooting athletes at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. He also attends the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, majoring in environmental engineering and hydraulics. A U.S. Shooting Team scholarship pays for his tuition, fees and books.

Cody's major reflects his desire to preserve the land. "Growing up on the ranch, I learned respect for the land, what grows on it, and how our lives and the lives of the animals we raise are intertwined," he says.

As an OTC resident athlete, a typical day for Cody starts off with shooting training from around 7:30 a.m. until noon. He then attends college classes from 1 to 5 p.m. Cody also makes time for aerobic and weight training within his busy day.

It's an ambitious schedule, but it suits him just fine. Says Cody, "Being on the U.S. Shooting Team—there's no greater honor that I could have." ■



U.S. Shooting Team member Cody Voermans zeroes in on his bull's-eye. Cody hopes to compete in the 2000 Olympics in the running target shooting event.

Running target

Imagine shooting at a bull's-eye no bigger than the end of your pencil eraser while it's moving. That's basically what Olympic-style running target is. Athletes stand and shoot .177 caliber air rifles at paper targets moving across a track ten meters away. Each paper target has two five-millimeter bull's-eyes, or 10-rings, spaced about six inches apart. An aiming dot placed between them helps the shooter track the targets. It's the only shooting event that allows telescopic sights to be used, not to exceed four power. The course of fire consists of 60 shots divided into 30 slow runs and 30 fast runs. For the slow run, athletes have five seconds to track, aim and fire at the moving target; for the fast run, the target is exposed for only 2.5 seconds. ■

Outdoor union

Hunting provides the glue
for family's bond

For 17-year-old Tyson Malek, hunting season offers more than just a chance to bag a prize 13-point buck. The time also gives the Banquete, Texas, FFA member the opportunity to spend quality time with his parents and siblings doing something the entire family enjoys.

"Hunting is something we all love to do together," Tyson says. "No one in my family doesn't hunt." Tyson, who is a senior at Banquete High School, hunts with his mom, dad and his older sister and brother. Members of his extended family—cousins, grandparents, aunts and uncles—also often join in on the sport, he says.

"During deer season we always meet at my grandma's house in the morning, eat breakfast and then go hunting," Tyson says. "Even if we don't see any animals, it's always fun to be out there in the brush with everyone waiting for a deer."

Tyson's dad, Buddy Malek, says hunting is one activity that always brings his busy family members together. "We all work or go to school, but we always know that during hunting season we will have the weekends where we can be together and visit and hunt," he says.

The Maleks lease 1,400 acres of property in southern Texas where the family hunts deer, wild hogs, turkeys and other wild game. Tyson and his family work to make sure healthy animal populations are maintained on the property.

"My family has taught me a lot about conservation," Tyson says. "If I see a 10-point buck but don't think it's big enough, I won't shoot it because it will be bigger next year. If you kill everything off, there won't be animals for future seasons."

Conservation is just one of the many lessons Tyson's dad says he has been able to impart to his son through their many years of hunting together.

"Hunting allows you to teach your children respect for the outdoors as well as for wildlife," he says. "Hunting also helps you teach your children respect for firearms and what they mean." ■

A Father's Advice



If a sportsman true you'd be
Listen carefully to me...

Never, never let your gun
Pointed be at anyone.
That it may unloaded be
Matters not the least to me.

When a hedge or fence you cross
Though of time it cause a loss
From your gun the cartridge take
For the greater safety's sake.

If twixt you and neighboring gun
Bird shall fly or beast may run
Let this maxim ere be thine
"Follow not across the line."

Stops and beaters oft unseen
Lurk behind some leafy screen.
Calm and steady always be
"Never shoot where you can't see."

You may kill or you may miss
But at all times think of this:
"All the pheasants ever bred
Won't repay for one man dead."

Written by Mark Beaufoy of Coombe House, Shaftsbury, Dorset, England, in 1902, on presenting his eldest son, Henry Mark, with his first gun. Reproduced here by permission of the author's granddaughter, Mrs. P.M. Guild.

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Safeandsound

Ten reminders for safer shooting

Don't rely on your gun's safety.
Treat every firearm as if it were loaded
and ready to fire.

**Always keep your gun's muzzle pointed in
a safe direction. Never aim it at something
you don't intend to shoot.**

**Never cross a fence, climb a tree or jump
a ditch with a loaded gun.**

**Load your gun only when you are ready to
use it. Unload it as soon as you're finished
with it.**

**Keep guns and ammunition in separate,
locked storage areas.**

**Always wear eye and ear
protection when shooting.**

**Never shoot unless you're absolutely sure
about your target...and what's behind it.**

Know the range of your firearm.

**Know how your gun operates, including
knowing its basic parts; how to open, load
and close the action safely; and how to
safely remove any ammunition from the
chamber or magazine.**

**Use only the correct ammunition for
your particular firearm.**

hunting tips



Hope FFA's annual rodeo fund raiser gives local cowpokes the chance to try their luck at the pig scramble and other rodeo favorites. The event also raises thousands of dollars for this Arkansas FFA chapter.

ropin' in the riches

Hope FFA's annual rodeo extravaganza raises tons of funds as well as lots of leadership opportunities for this Arkansas chapter by Carlotta Mast

When the Hope FFA Chapter in Hope, Arkansas, began its annual fund-raising rodeo 37 years ago, no one expected the event to become a celebrated community tradition, raking in thousands and thousands of dollars every year for the town's many FFA members. In fact, the rodeo got off to such a rocky start back in 1959 that the chapter considered giving up its bull riding and calf roping in order to focus its fund-raising efforts toward something a little more lucrative.

"For the first year or two, the school barely broke even with the rodeo," says Jack Watkins, a 20-year veteran FFA advisor at Hope High School and a former Hope chapter member. "They talked about stopping it. But the ag teachers decided to keep the rodeo going because it was such good leadership training for the students."

Staying in the rodeo business proved to be a smart move for Hope FFA. Today, the chapter—which at 312 members strong is the largest FFA chapter in Arkansas—earns between \$4,000 and \$8,000 annually with its

week-long rodeo activities. More importantly, the rodeo gives every FFA member the opportunity to get involved in the planning and implementation of this chapter's mega fund-raising event.

"The students are responsible for making sure the rodeo is a success," says Hope FFA secretary Keith Fry. "We do all of the planning and work. So there's no time for slacking off."

Working in 12 committees, chapter members make all of the decisions on how their annual rodeo should be run—from figuring out what snacks to serve at the concession stand to determining what rodeo events to include in the festivities. With the help of Hope High School's four FFA advisors, the committees also handle everything from generating publicity for the rodeo to securing livestock for the events to making sure the arena is in tip-top shape for the upcoming activities.

"Each committee has its own duties," Watkins says. "This is where all of the leadership, publicity, sales and other skills come in."

Held for three nights during the third week in April, the annual Hope FFA rodeo brings in a packed house to the 3,000-seat Hope district livestock coliseum every night.

Only current and former Hope FFA members and local grade school students may participate in the rodeo. Special events are held for Hope FFA "Old Timers"—past chapters members who have been out of high school for five years or more—as well as for young cowpokes who want to try their luck at mutton busting or the pig scramble. The rest of the events are reserved for current Hope FFA members to demonstrate their rodeo prowess.

The Hope FFA rodeo consists of much more than just barrel racing, goat tying and other rodeo favorites, however.

As part of its annual rodeo celebration, the chapter also hosts a parade to stir up publicity for the weekend events, a junior rodeo queen contest and a country music concert. In addition, the chapter holds a Western wear dress-up contest for elementary school students, who can win free tickets to the rodeo.

"We give away thousands of tickets every year," Watkins says. "It is one of the secrets to our success, because everyone of those kids who gets a ticket brings his or her parents to the rodeo."

Tickets run \$3 for adults and \$1 for students. The Hope FFA Chapter earns most of its money from rodeo ticket and concession-stand sales.

Thirty-seven years after its humble beginning, the annual Hope FFA rodeo has become a favorite springtime tradition for the town of Hope. Every year the community supports this FFA fundraiser through impressive rodeo attendance and chapter donations.

"The rodeo is a big deal here," Watkins says. "We could never have turned this fund raiser into such a success without the support of Hope." ■

CASH CROP

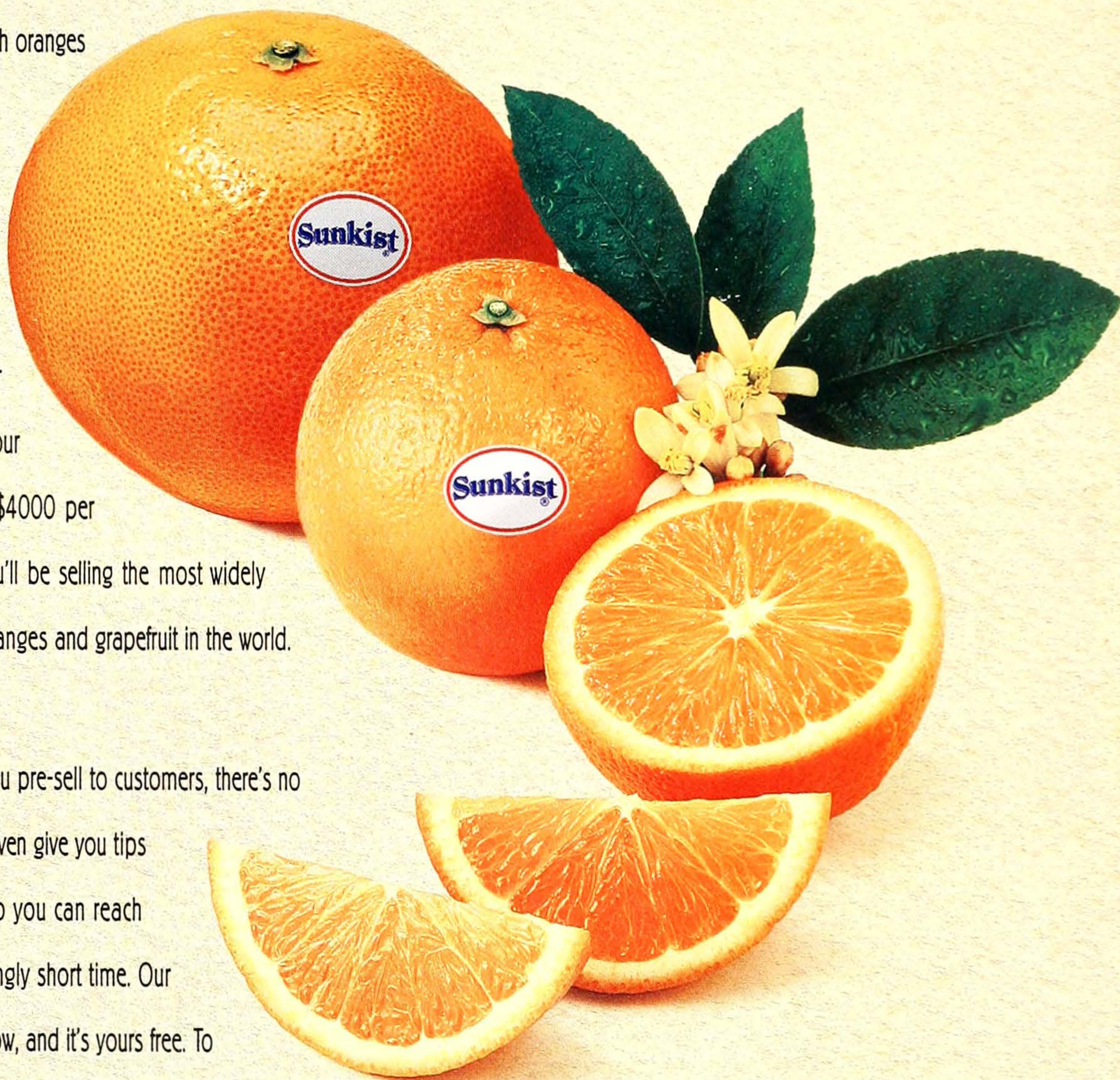
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start at the top



add a Western shirt

buckaroo

Nice outfit,

What cowboys wore before they wore jeans

by George Fels



some denim and a buckle



and some good boots
to get you on your way!

Is there a young person on this continent who never yearned to be a cowboy? To make a home where you hung your hat, to be free under the stars, and to ride off into the sunset at the end? To this day, most of us pay silent tribute to that hardy breed by wearing pretty much the same jeans they did.

But the truth is, when it came to wardrobe, the real cowboys weren't very romantic or style-conscious. What they were instead was practical. Just about every element of what today we

to wet down their necks in the heat, to protect their noses and mouths from dust while trailing behind cattle, and to guard against snow blindness in driving blizzards. Dishonest cowpokes used them to cover their faces during holdups.

In all seasons and in all regions, almost every cowboy wore a vest. While the garment definitely created a certain look, its basic purpose was to host the pockets that held the cowboy's watch or his pencil and book if he marked brands or counted cattle.

When it came to wardrobe, the real cowboys weren't very romantic or style-conscious

consider stylish Western wear was designed for function first and fashion a distant second.

Let's start at the top: The average cowboy wore a Stetson hat called a JB (which stood for John B. Stetson, its maker). The virtue of the Stetson hat wasn't how cool it made cowboys look; it was its durability. You could soak it, dirty it, stomp on it, or shoot a bullet clean through it. Yet, with little effort, it would retain its original character and shape. At the same time, the hat shaded the cowboy's eyes, kept the rain out of his shirt, gave campfires a breeze, and served as a portable watering trough for the cowboy and his horse.

Beneath those hats, the cowboys wore their hair shoulder-length not to annoy their high school principals, but because they knew that the greatest protection to their eyes and ears—in addition to their hats—was long hair.

Shirts basically served to protect the cowboys from the often-punishing weather. A cowboy always wore long sleeves with a three-to-five button placket in the front to keep the cold out in the winter. Shirts were usually hickory or linsey-woolsey, especially in the wintertime. In the summertime, pinstripe, collarless, Victorian-style shirts were preferred. That look remains popular today.

Even the innocent-looking bandana served as a multipurpose tool out West. Honest cowboys used bandanas

The Western look we know today has its roots in the 1890s, and while Levis blue jeans had been around for 40 years by then, they weren't even the cowboy's favorite (although they were conceived with him in mind, as an inexpensive, durable work pant). What most cowboys preferred were heavy, rugged wool pants in striped or checkered designs. In warmer weather, cowboys wore trousers made of cotton nankeen, a tough long-lasting cotton imported from China. The cool comfort and easy care of blue jeans did not win out until the early 20th century. As for cowboys' famous wide belts and gaudy buckles, they wouldn't have done much good with jeans anyway; belt loops did not appear on them until 1922.

As for the women on the frontier, most wore a sunbonnet, a calico dress with a high collar and long

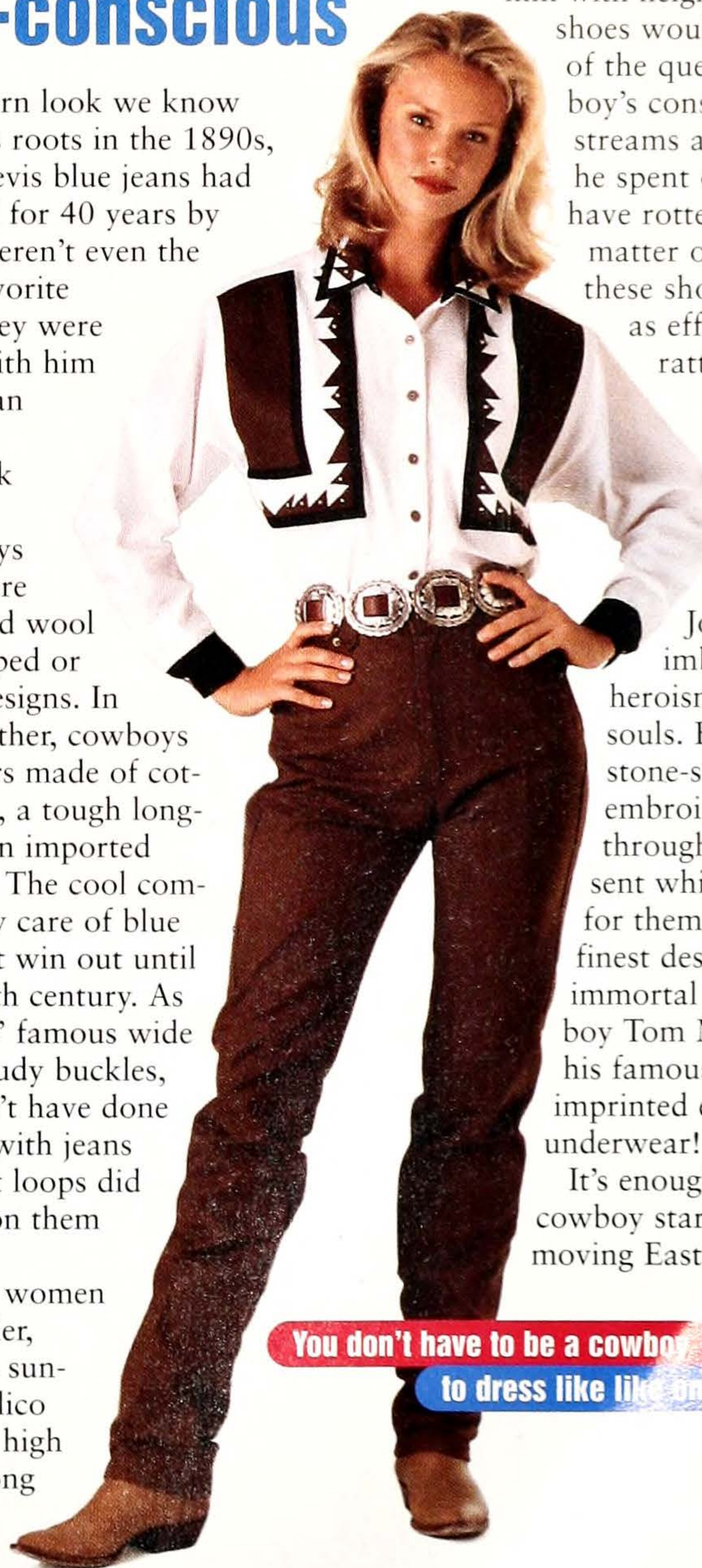
sleeves, and kid, cloth, or leather button-up boots. On those rare occasions when the ladies got to dress up—for weddings, funerals, or goin' to town—the Victorian influence was still dominant in women's clothing well into the 20th century. By 1910, such Wild West stars as Annie Oakley and Calamity Jane were paving the way for future cowgirls, discarding their sunbonnets for Stetsons, then calico for flannel, then dresses for blue denim knickers worn under a short blue denim skirt, and usually a divided riding skirt.

And at the bottom of things, boots in the 1890s drew heavily on cavalry and Civil War styles. But style aside, their high heels served at least two purposes: to keep the cowboy's boots in the stirrups, and to keep his ego intact if his genetics had not blessed

him with height. Conventional shoes would have been out of the question; the cowboy's constant need to ford streams as well as the time he spent outdoors would have rotted them away in a matter of weeks. Besides, these shoes weren't nearly as efficient at foiling rattlesnakes.

By the mid-20th century, well-scrubbed buckaroos like Gene Autry, Roy Rogers and John Wayne had imbedded Western heroism deeply into our souls. But their rhinestone-studded, silk-embroidered garb, clear through to the ever-present white hat, was styled for them by Hollywood's finest designers. The immortal Hollywood cowboy Tom Mix insisted that his famous TM brand be imprinted even on his underwear!

It's enough to make a real cowboy start thinking about moving East. ■



You don't have to be a cowboy to dress like like one

countdown to

40

1996

Ten good reasons YOU belong at the 69th National FFA Convention

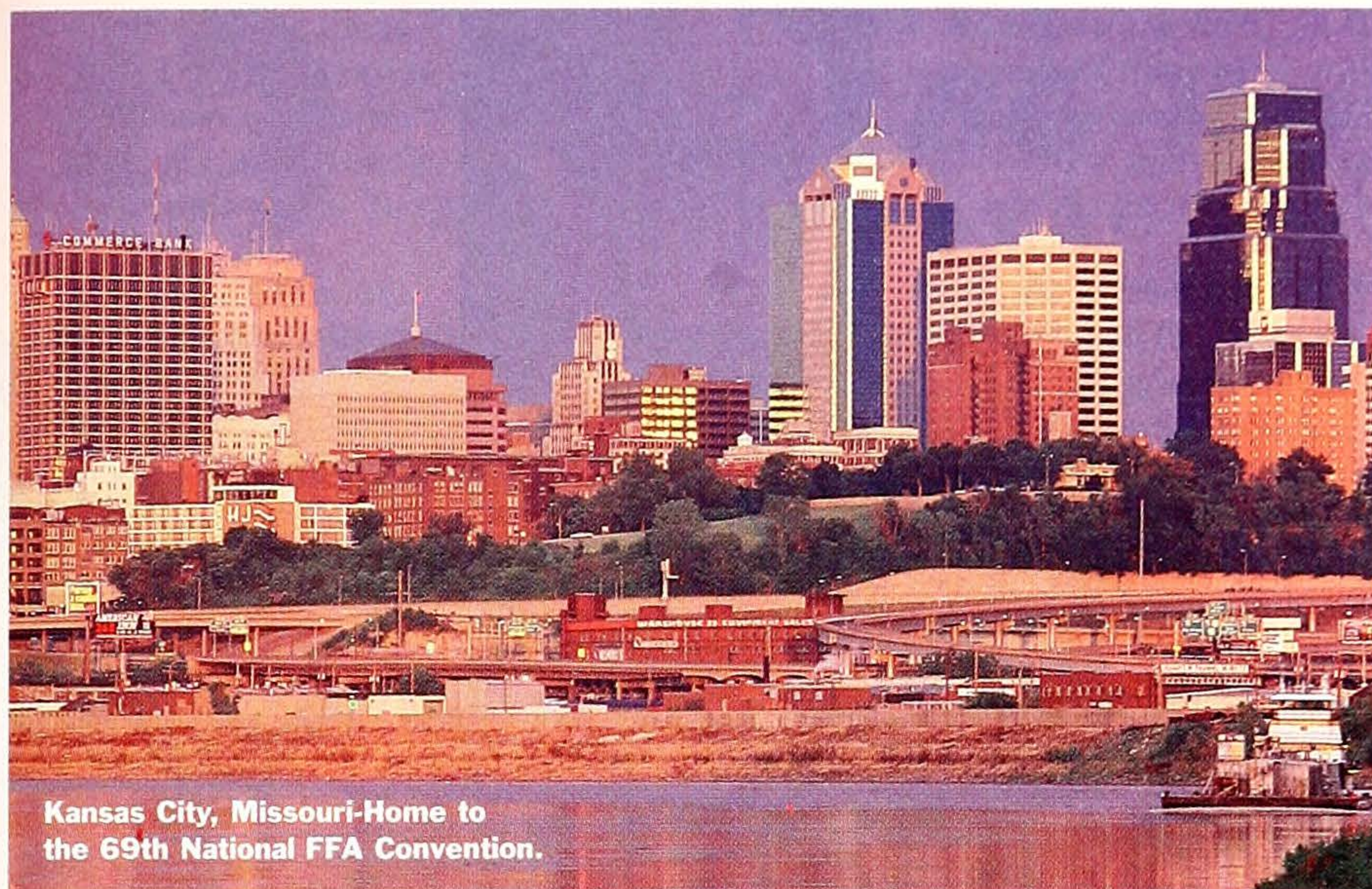
Make your hotel reservations and pack your bags! The 69th National FFA Convention is just around the corner and Kansas City, Missouri, is the place to be on November 14-16, 1996. Themed "FFA Leaders with a Vision," the national convention is a once-in-a-lifetime event you won't want to miss. Here are 10 reasons *you* should be in KC:

1. Make new friends

A record-breaking attendance of more than 40,000 FFA members and advisors is expected to converge upon Kansas City's Municipal Auditorium! It's your chance to share good times and form lasting friendships with fellow attendees from across the country—and around the world.

2. Focus on premier leadership

Hands-on workshops and seminars hosted by former national officers and inspirational guests challenge you to sharpen your leadership skills at every turn.



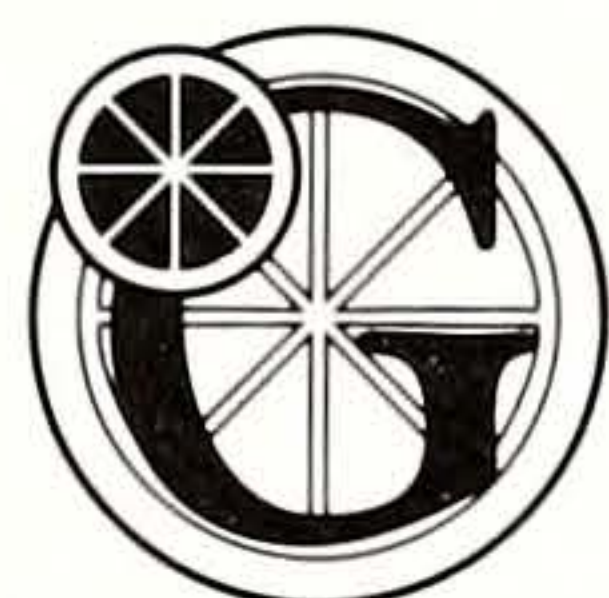
Kansas City, Missouri-Home to the 69th National FFA Convention.

- 3. Promote personal growth**
Eleven new proficiency award opportunities and two more Career Development Events are sure to bring out your winning spirit!
- 4. Create career success**
Visit more than 285 agricultural organizations and corporations, vocational schools and universities under a single roof at the 31st annual Career Show. Bring your questions!
- 5. Cheer on FFA award winners**
There promises to be plenty of handshakes and high-five's as this year's Career Development Event winners, Stars Over America and American FFA Degree recipients share center stage with the nation's top chapters.

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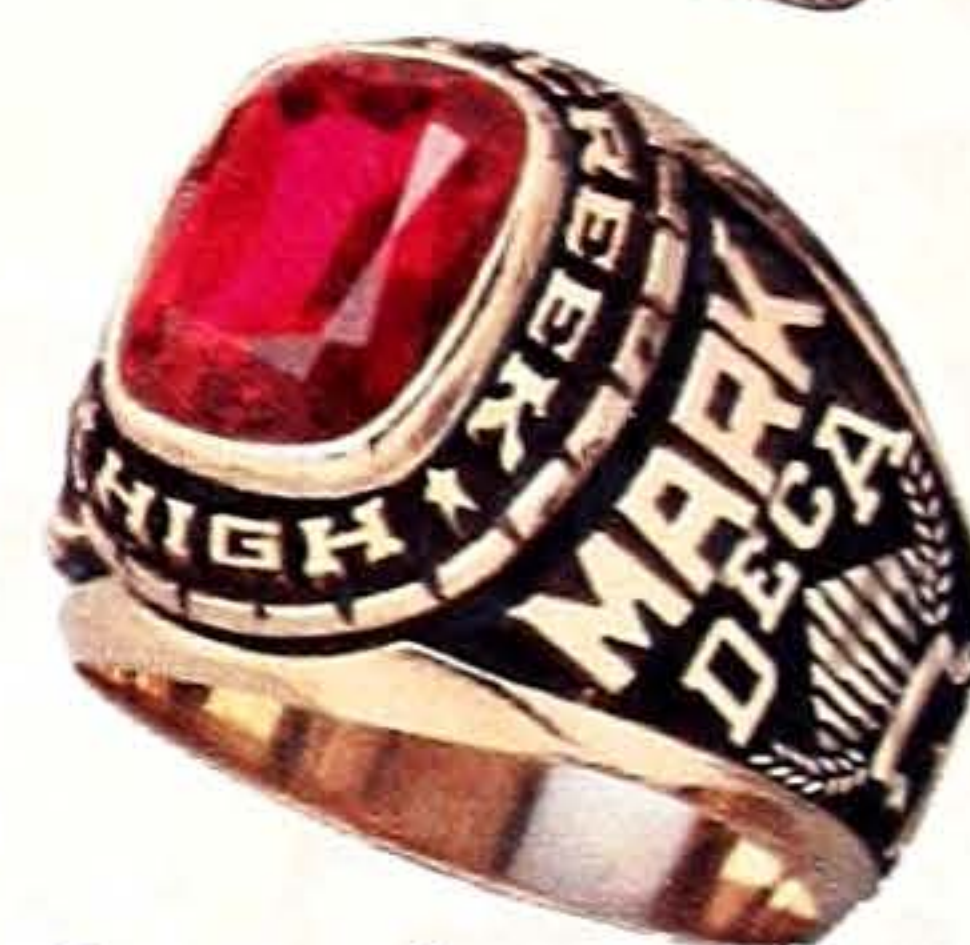
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6. Thrill to spectacular laser light shows

Every convention session is highlighted by a dazzling laser show and pulse-pounding music. We dare you to stay in your seat!

7. Meet the 1995-96 National FFA Officer Team

Shake hands with Seth, Cody, Clara-Leigh, Bill, Andy and Joe, and find out which of this year's candidates will be selected as the 1996-97 national officer team.

8. Explore scientific discoveries at the world's first FFA Agriscience Fair

This year marks the exciting debut of the FFA Agriscience Fair. Get an up-close look at the most interesting science projects FFA members from around the country have to offer.

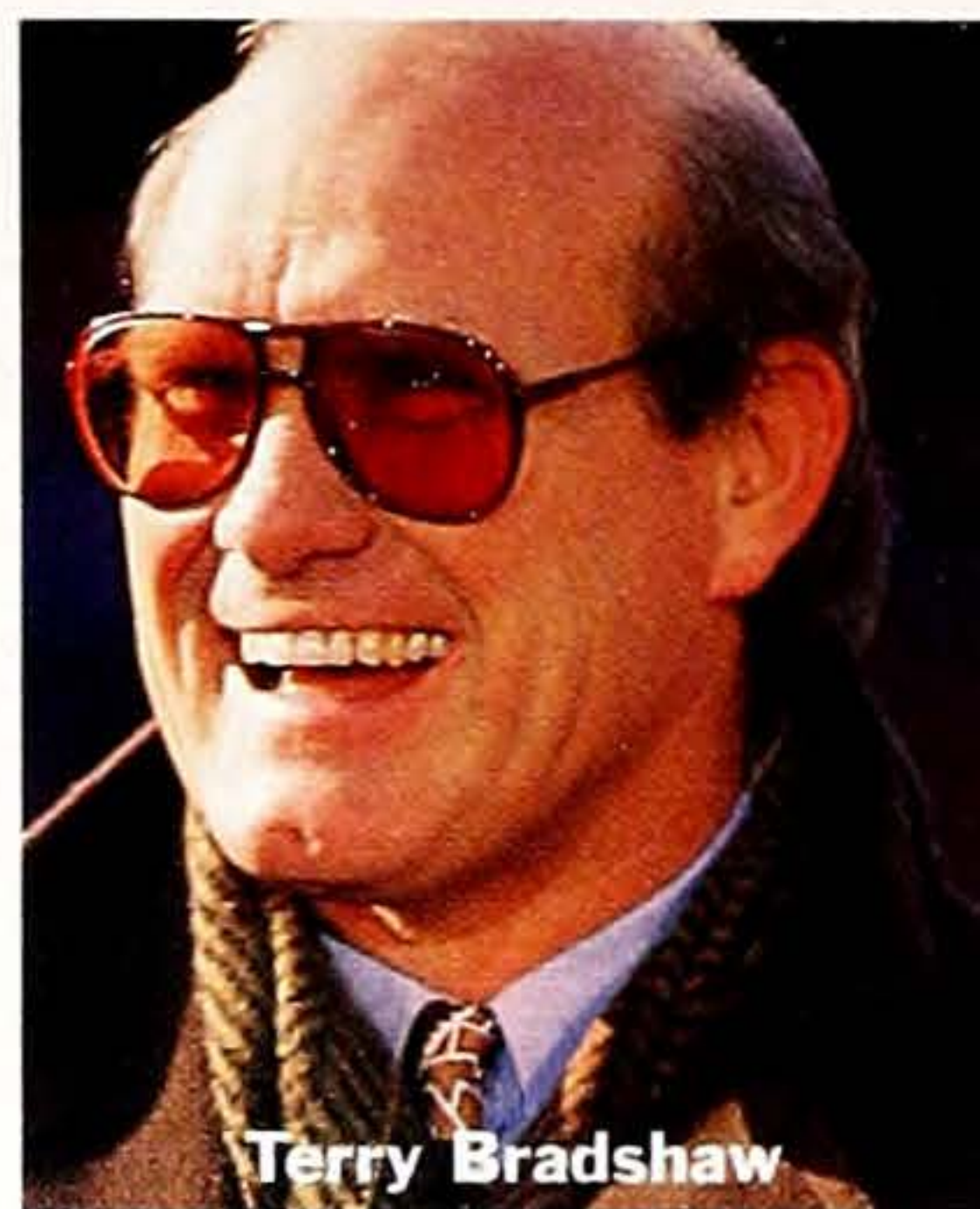
9. Learn from world-class speakers including pro football legend Terry Bradshaw!

Former Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Terry Bradshaw leads an all-star line-up of convention speakers including a former Miss America, a National Teacher

of the Year, and even a creative guru from Hallmark Cards. You won't want to miss what these movers and shakers have to say.

10. But most of all...have lots of fun!

Stuff your face at the food court. Do the two-step at a nightly dance. Watch a rodeo or take in a concert. Visit a Kansas City landmark. Shop til you drop at the FFA Shopping Mall.



Terry Bradshaw

There's so much to do at the National FFA Convention, you'll wonder how you'll do it all in just three days.

Your FFA advisor has all the details on how you can be a part of the 69th National FFA Convention. But talk to your advisor

and book your hotel rooms soon...time is running out! ■

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Local Alumni Affiliate/FFA Chapter: _____

Fill out this card and mail it in for more information, or send it in with your low annual fee of \$7.00 to: the National FFA Alumni Association, 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy. Alexandria, VA 22309 or call us at (703) 360-3600 ext. 293

Ty England, RCA Recording Artist and
National Spokesperson for the National FFA Alumni Association



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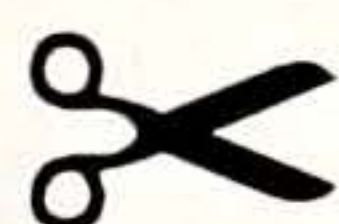
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**FFA Advisors: Call us for more details on fundraising for your Chapter!
1-800-4 SHUR-LOK (1-800-474-8756)**



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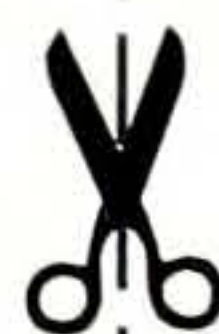
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Advisor: _____

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Telephone: _____



(continued from page 7)

MISSOURI

Kids, candles and cows

The Glasgow FFA Chapter is always looking for new ways to interact with its community. So when the Glasgow Co-op Association recently donated \$2,000 to the



Students line up to dip candles as part of the Glasgow FFA Chapter's Agriculture Awareness Day. Students also learned about small and large animals, crop production, farm safety, chemical applications, ag machinery, basket weaving and butter making.

WISCONSIN

Waupaca's magic bus

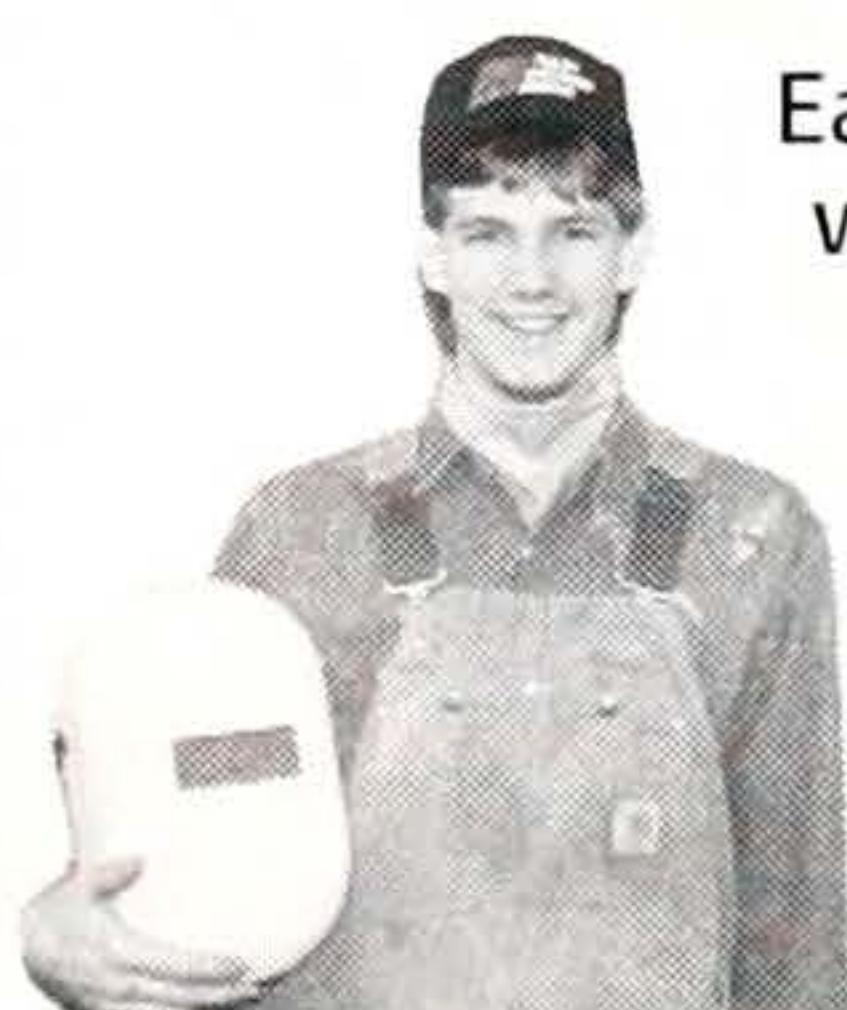
Forget the Batmobile and the Love Bug. Today's mobile FFA members—at least those in Waupaca, Wisconsin—get around in a customized van emblazoned with "FFA and Alumni" in blue and gold lettering. The Waupaca FFA van had been a chapter goal since last summer and was originally going to be purchased with funds raised by successive officer teams. But when FFA parent Pam Peters stepped in and donated a van to the chapter, the funds were re-allocated for painting, mechanical repairs and body work. To restore the van, the chapter raised \$3,200 through sales of Christmas wreaths, cheese and candy, as well as through generous donations from local business and Waupaca FFA alumni.

Here's the van, freshly-painted and ready to roll! Left to right: Missy Schommer; Howard Pope; Kristopher Thompson; Stacey Bacon; Ryan Durrant; Jessica Golding; Melissa Johnson; Danielle Luke; Joshlyn Jerman.



Before...Here's how the van looked when donated to the Waupaca FFA.

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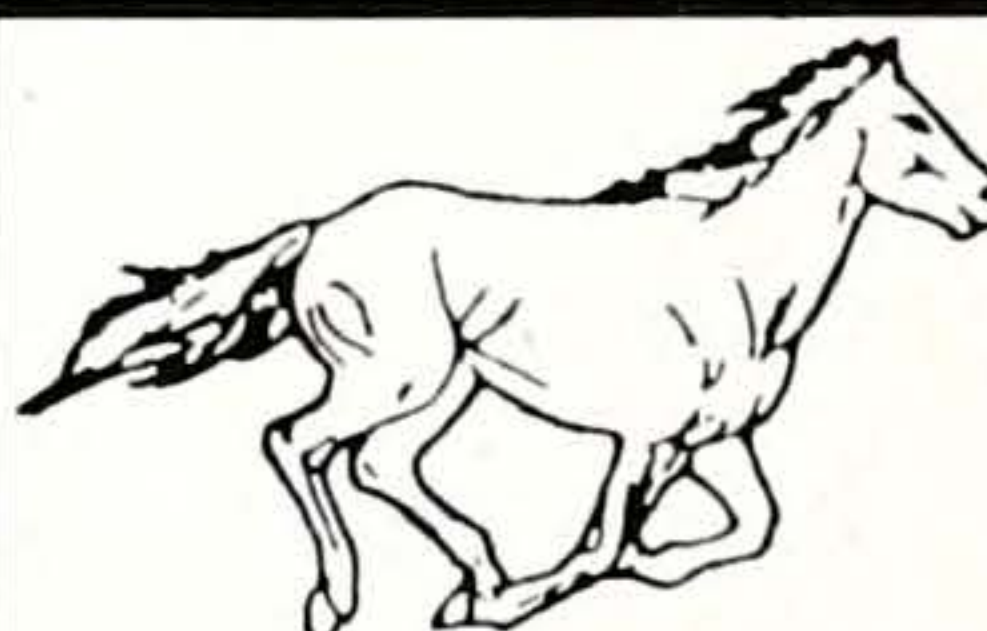
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Last Laff

Q. What's round on both sides and hi in the middle?

A. Ohio.

Pete Knopp

Okeene, Oklahoma

Q. What kind of egg does a rotten chicken lay?

A. A deviled egg.

Amie Mead

Eureka, Kansas

Q. Why isn't your ear 12 inches long?

A. If it were, it would be a foot.

Harvey Dini

San Jose, California

Q. What building has the most stories?

A. The library.

Christy Ingram

Taylorsville, Kentucky

Q. In which months do cows moo the least?

A. In February...it's the shortest month!

Cassie Peters

Kansas City, Missouri

Q. Why did the mother cat move her kittens?

A. Because she didn't want to litter.

Heidi Curfman

Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

Q. What has a mouth, but doesn't eat. A head and bed, but doesn't sleep. And runs, but has no legs?

A. A river.

Stacey Stearns

Storrs, Connecticut

Q. What can you put in a barrel to make it lighter?

A. A hole.

Allen Phinney

North Attleboro, Massachusetts

FFA New Horizons readers have selected Agri-Nuts as the title of Charlie's new comic strip. Thanks to all who participated!

FFA New Horizons will pay \$5.00 for each joke selected for Last Laff. Jokes must be addressed to:

**FFA New Horizons/Last Laff
5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway
P.O. Box 15160
Alexandria, VA 22309-0160**

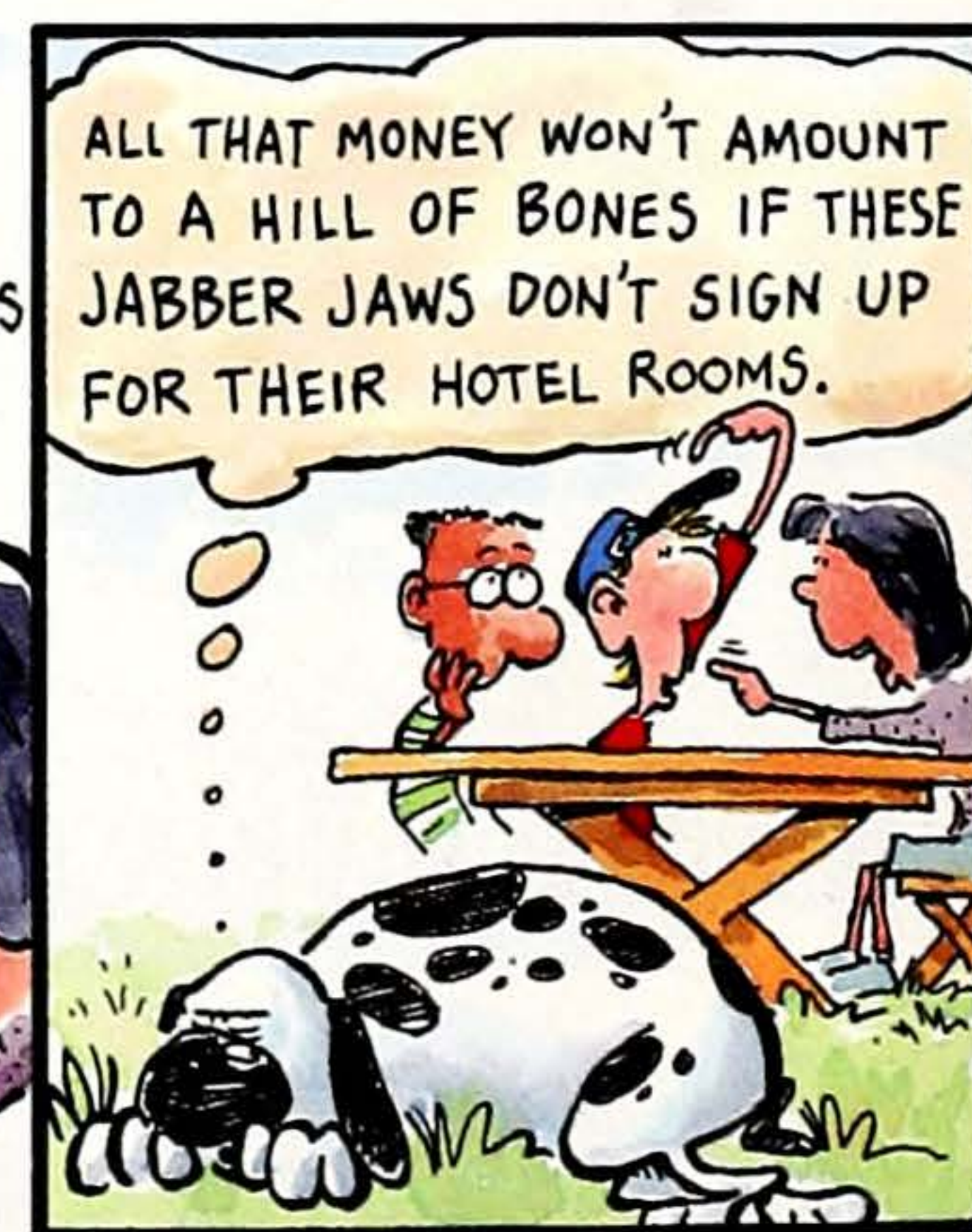
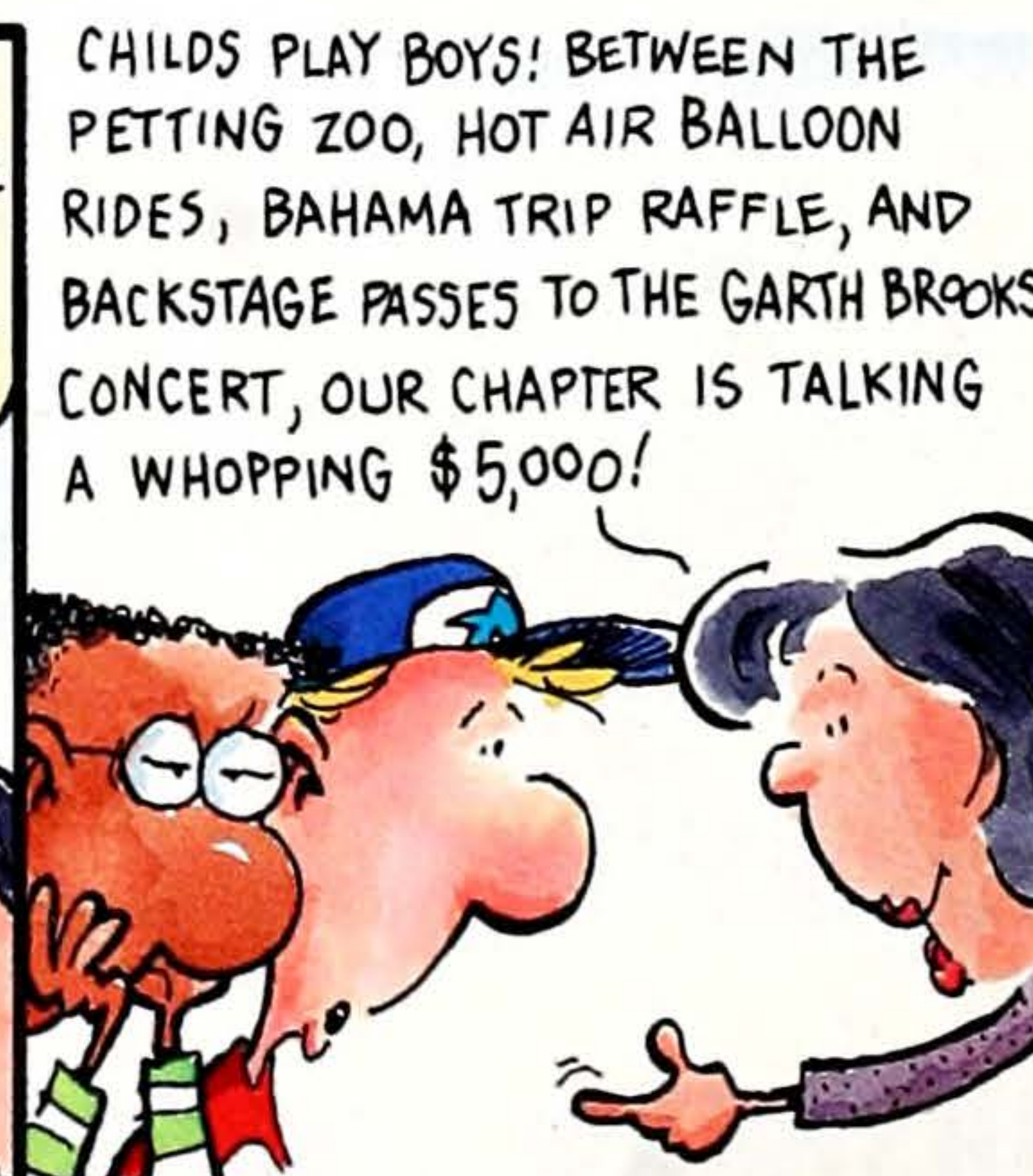
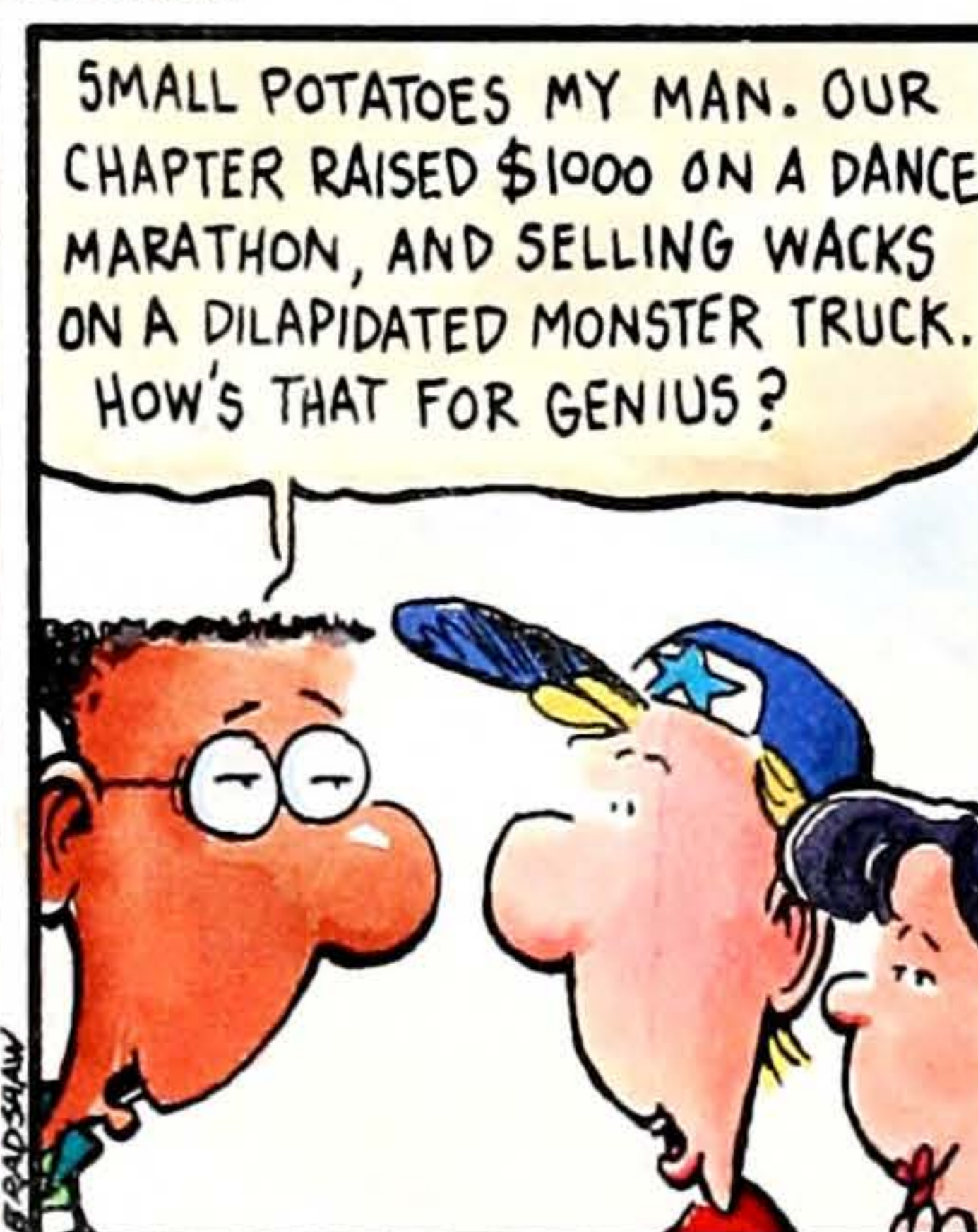
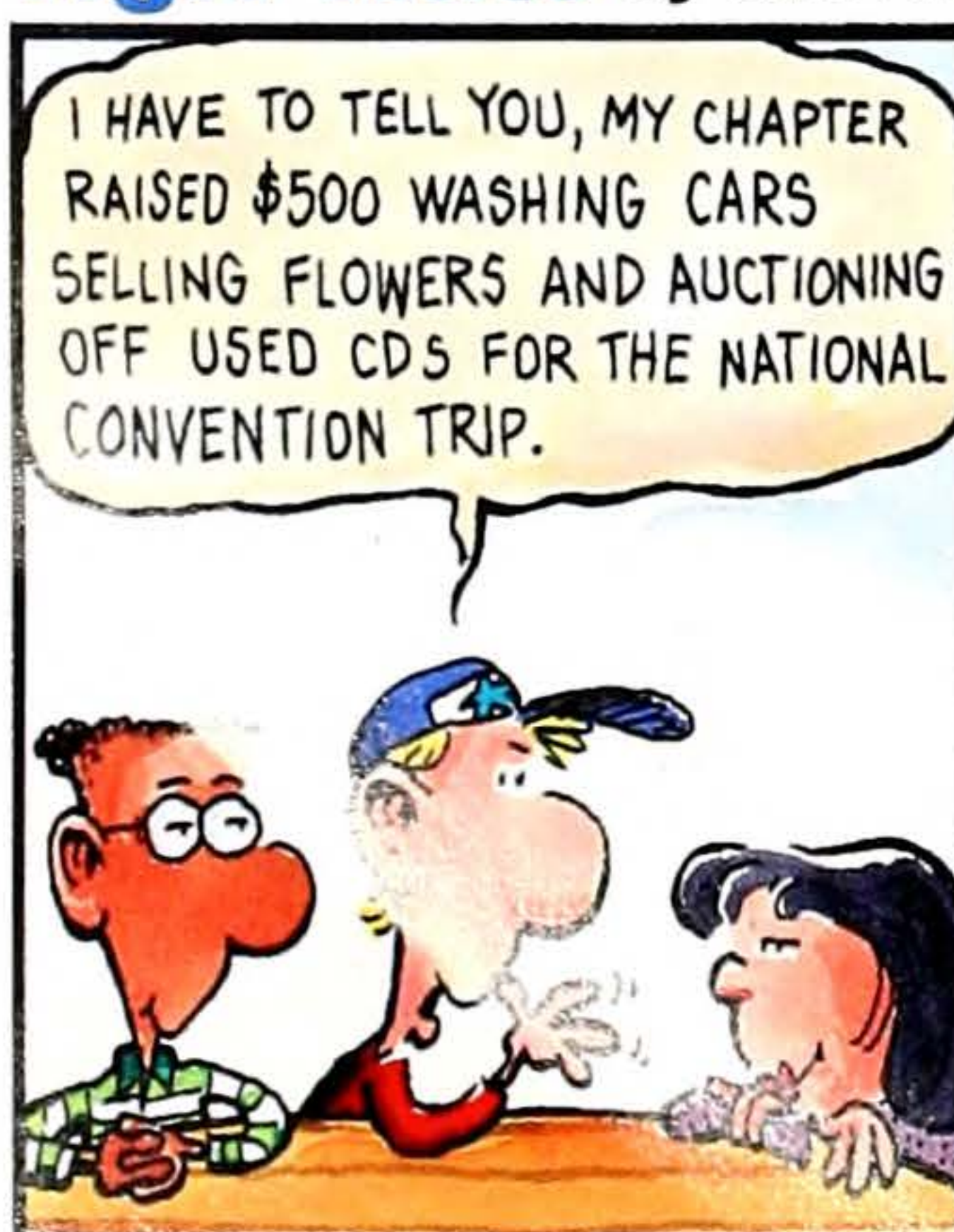
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Did you solve it?

Were you able to crack the code of the FFA Jumble in the July/August issue? If not, here's the answer:
WHERE DO FFA MEMBERS GO TO ESCAPE THE SUMMERTIME BLUES?

B-a-c-k T-o S-c-h-o-o-l

Agri-Nuts by Jim Bradshaw



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