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The magazine of the National FFA Organization

May/June/July 2001

out of your
head

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THE WORLD ABOUT AGRICULTURE

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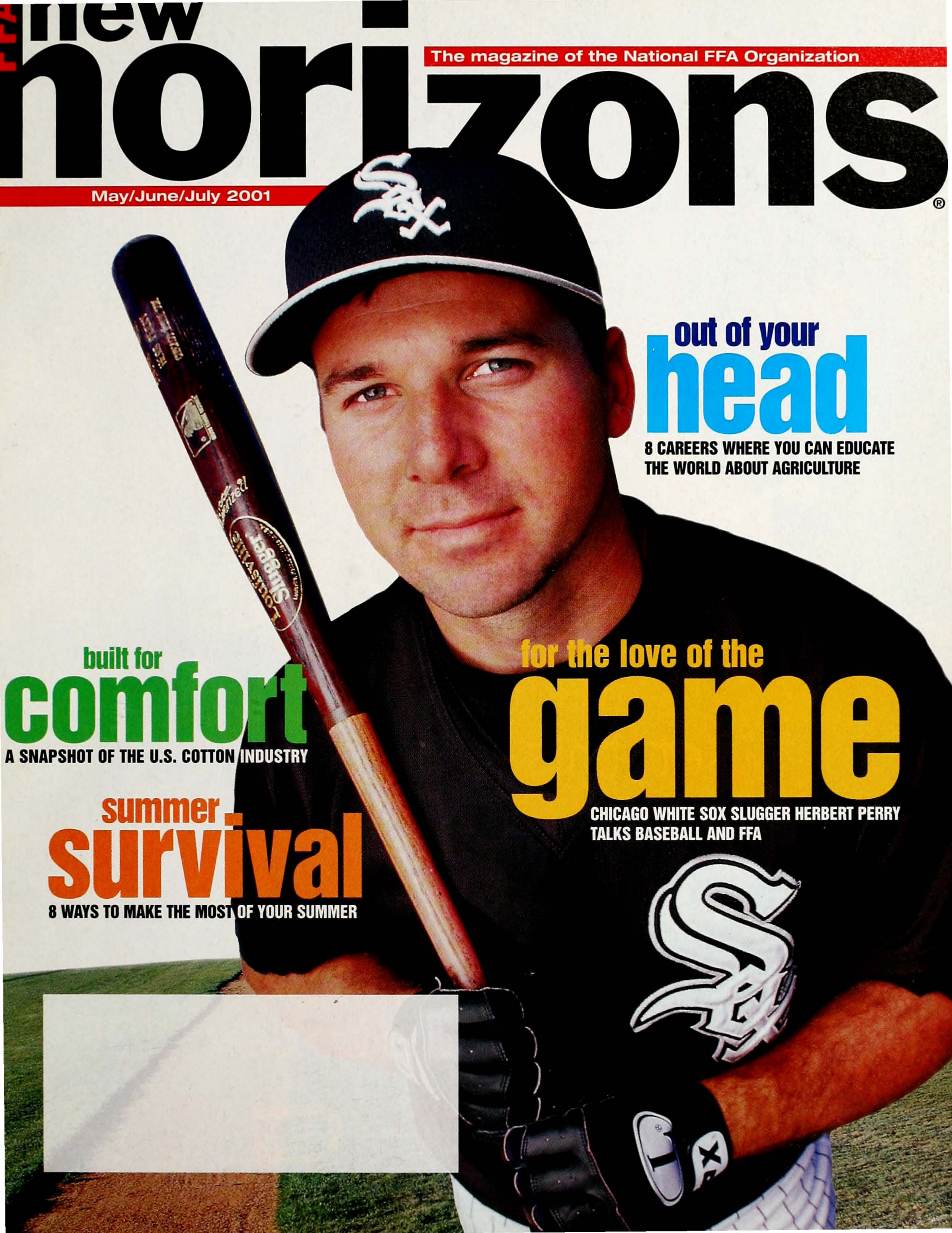
A SNAPSHOT OF THE U.S. COTTON INDUSTRY

summer
survival

8 WAYS TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SUMMER

for the love of the
game

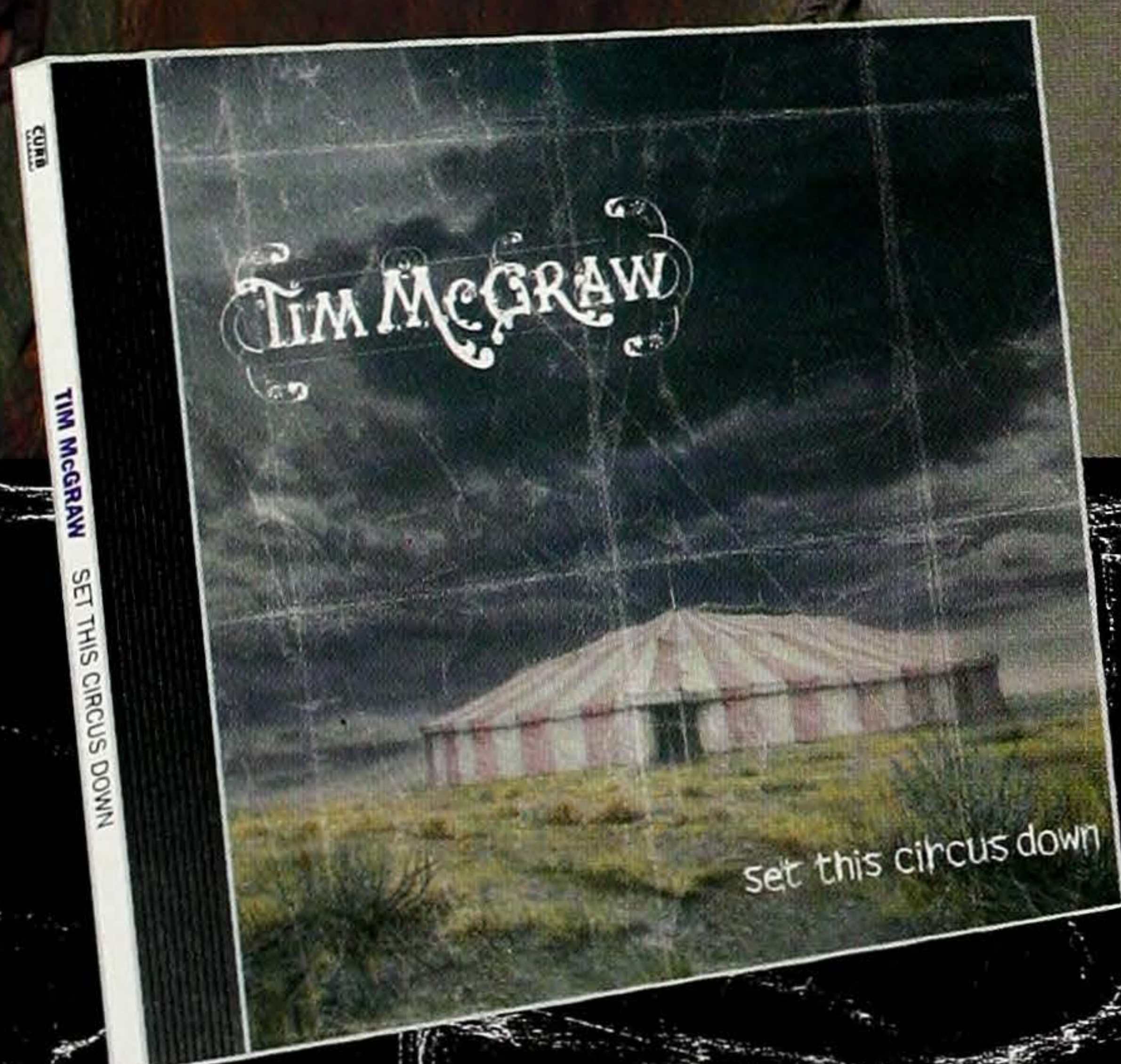
CHICAGO WHITE SOX SLUGGER HERBERT PERRY
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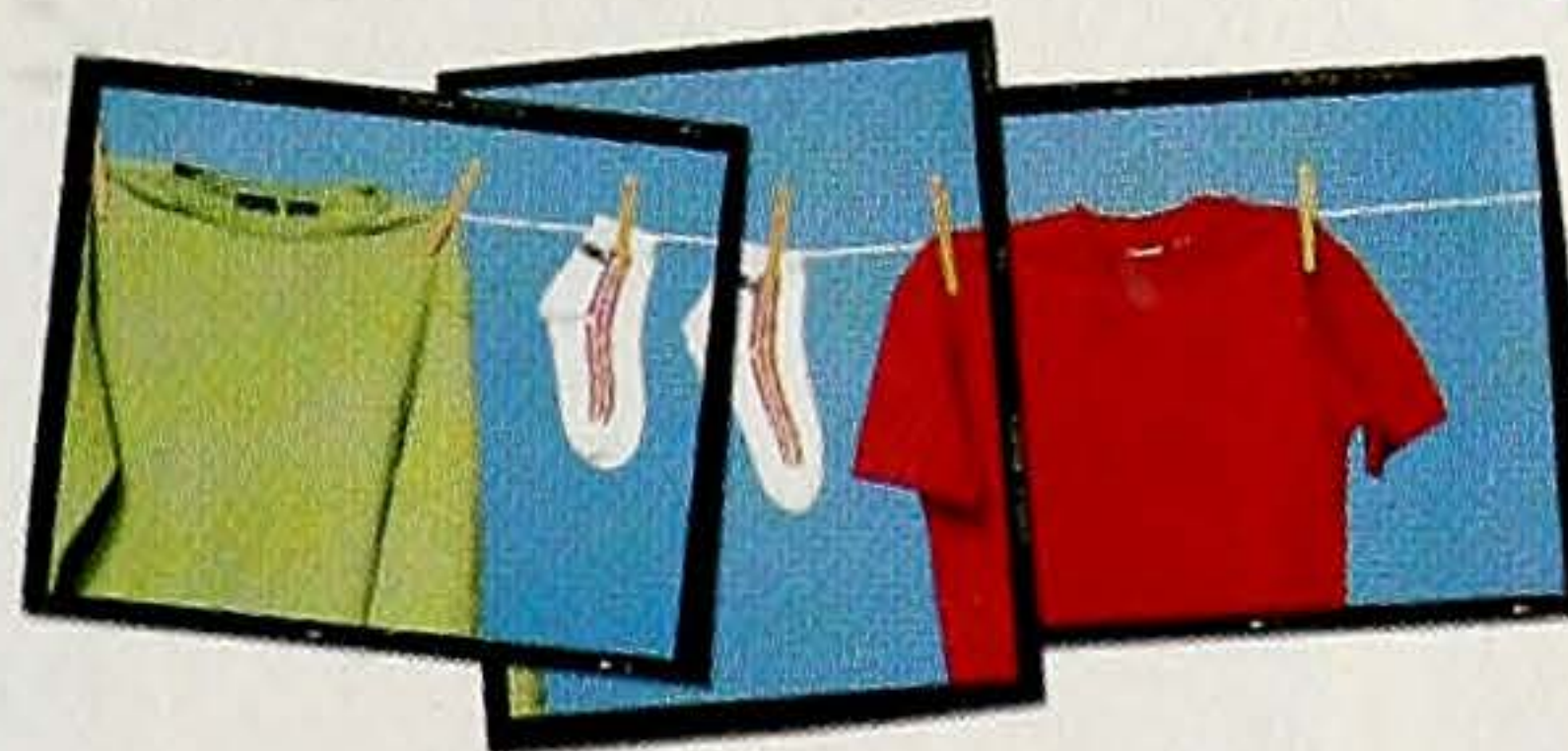
12 Summer Survival

You're already counting the days until school lets out. Unless you have a plan you might get to the middle of July and find yourself counting the days until the end of summer. Here are 8 ways to make the most of your break.



16 Out of Your Head

Did you know that your knowledge of agriculture is in demand? Here are 8 careers where you can use your knowledge to educate the world about agriculture, food, the environment and beyond.



20 Built for Comfort

Did you know that the dollar bill in your pocket is made out of cotton? You'll find more interesting facts about cotton in this snapshot of the U.S. cotton industry.

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On the cover: Chicago White Sox slugger Herbert Perry, a former FFA member from Florida. Photography by Shane Morgan.

missing magazine alert! If you know of any FFA member who has not been receiving FFA New Horizons, please have that member fill out this coupon and mail to: **Membership Services, National FFA Organization, P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960.**

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one on one with Doug Kueker

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

When I was little I loved He-Man and She-Ra, the Smurfs, riding on the tractor with my dad in the field, fishing, going on adventures in the woods and family trips to the lake. I still love being outside, traveling, getting out and doing things around the farm and spending time with friends.

You and the national officer team just got back from a 15-day trip to Japan. What's it like to visit the other side of the planet?

Phenomenal! A trip like that is a great personal growth opportunity. I was moved by the respect the Japanese people showed us. It didn't matter if we were on packed subways, walking on busy streets or visiting high schools—we were always treated with a great deal of respect.

How did you develop the confidence it takes to become a national FFA officer?

I remember reciting the FFA creed for the first time as a freshman in high school. I stood before the class absolutely petrified. I went through with it and after that speaking got easier. Confidence comes from a number of those experiences where I had the courage to step outside of my comfort zone.

In college, you're majoring in agricultural education. Why do you want to become an agriculture teacher?

It's part of my passion. I want to help students get motivated and excited about life. I also want to challenge students to believe in their abilities and find direction in their lives. I love to work with people who hunger to learn.

What are some of the pivotal experiences in your life?

Those that best stand out include the passing of my father in 1992, high school graduation, working at summer camp, traveling to New Zealand and leaving home for college. Why? I've grown and discovered more about who I am from these experiences.

You played in symphonic and jazz bands in high school. What did you gain from those experiences?

I had the chance to travel, but it also fostered that sense of learning for the sake of learning. If I want to learn more, I can just pick up a new piece of music and find a piano or saxophone and try it out. I learned the basics in school and now I can apply them anytime. The rhythmic aspect of it didn't hurt either—it makes a big difference when I make it out to the dance floor. ★

VITALS

Hometown: Sweet Springs, Missouri

Age: 21

Chapter: Sweet Springs FFA

Advisor: Dan Hill

SAE: Beef production placement

Education: Junior at University of Missouri-Columbia

Major: Agricultural education

Favorite band: The Eagles

Last good book I read:

No One's Perfect, by Hirotada Ototake

Favorite Food: Pumpkin pie

Best movie I've seen lately: "Frequency"

Hobby: Being outdoors

TIMELINE

Age

- 14** • attended first state FFA convention
- attended first national FFA convention
- 15** • lost chapter FFA creed competition
- 16** • named FFA chapter treasurer
- 17** • lost FFA district extemporaneous public speaking competition (for the second year in a row)
- attended Washington Leadership Conference
- 18** • elected state FFA president
- 20** • earned American FFA Degree
- traveled to New Zealand through the FFA global international program
- 21** • elected national FFA vice president



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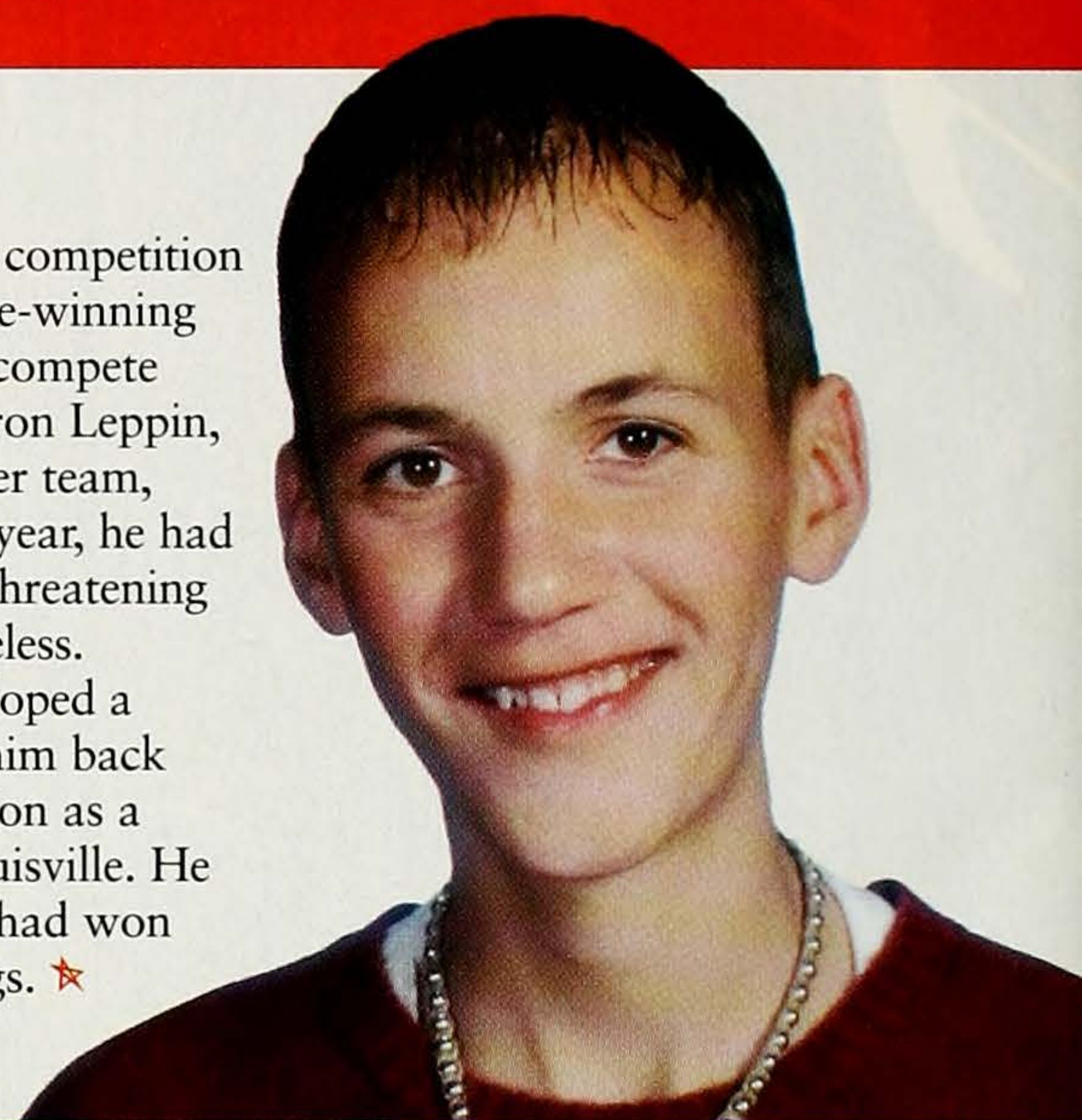
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MISSOURI

Aaron Leppin

Even though there's no official FFA knowledge competition on a national level, a group of state knowledge-winning teams from around the country did gather to compete during the 2000 National FFA Convention. Aaron Leppin, a 16-year-old member of the Milan FFA Chapter team, was just glad to be there. During the previous year, he had suffered through treatment for a rare and life-threatening illness, which rendered his digestive system useless. Doctors at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota developed a tube-feeding apparatus for Aaron, which got him back on his feet. With the FFA knowledge competition as a goal, he studied hard and made the trip to Louisville. He gave it his all, and when it was over, his team had won and Aaron led all individuals in point standings. ★



WISCONSIN

CALIFORNIA

ARIZONA

PENNSYLVANIA



Cheryl Steinbach (advisor)

The Granton FFA Chapter just celebrated its 60th year. Thanks in large part to Cheryl Steinbach, Granton's FFA advisor, the chapter is stronger than ever. With her strong leadership and dedication, she has made the Granton FFA one of the most popular activities among Granton High School students. She has helped make the program a two-star national chapter award winner, and she works hard to make sure she's available for the students when they need her. ★

Would you like to see your FFA advisor recognized here? Find out how at the top of this page!



Rachel Wolfshorndl

When 16-year-old Rachel isn't spiking the volleyball, she's usually busy with FFA-related projects, working at her aunt's flower shop or studying. Such is the life of a student with a 4.0 grade point average, who is also sophomore class secretary, FFA chapter historian and a member of the junior varsity volleyball team. In FFA, Rachel is on several judging teams and has tried her hand at parliamentary procedure and the agriscience fair. ★



Jay Roy Horner

When you spend 1,500 hours building a greenhouse for special education students at a local elementary school, you deserve to win. And that's exactly what 19-year-old Josh did at the 2000 National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. He took first place in the national proficiency award program in the area of Home and/or Community Development. Josh, a quiet leader in the Peoria FFA Chapter, plans to pursue a career in the construction industry. ★



Carrie Kocher

In her four years as an FFA member, 18-year-old Carrie has done it all. This two-time chapter treasurer has competed in public speaking, agriculture sales and service, parliamentary procedure and creed speaking. She maintains a supervised agricultural experience program (SAE) in food science and has attended the national FFA convention and every state FFA convention. She helps out with Project PALS® and participates in sports and Spanish club. ★

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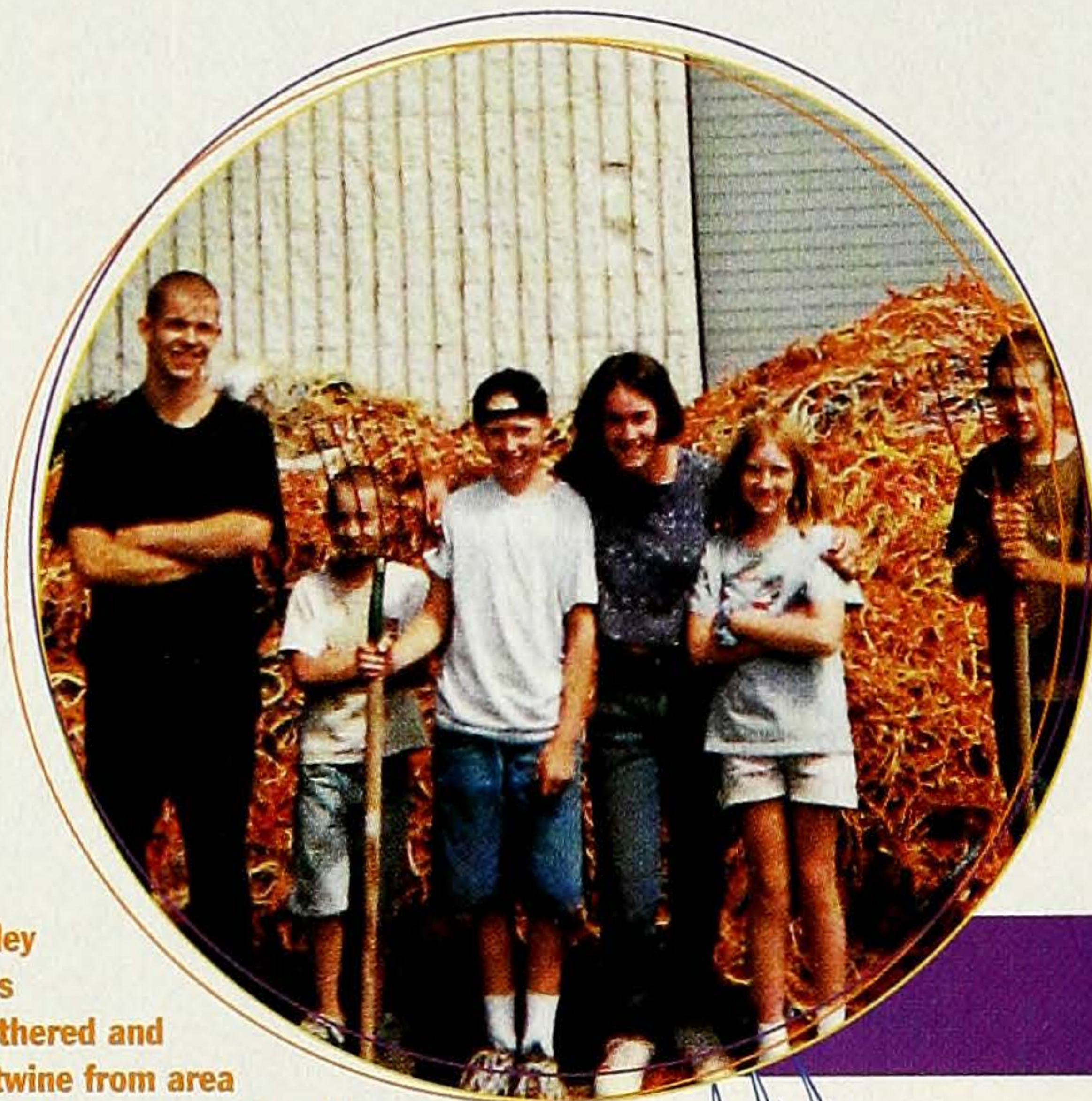
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ffa in action

FFA chapters making a difference



The Carson Valley FFA Chapter has aggressively gathered and recycled baler twine from area ranches. Pictured here are participating FFA members with their 4-H siblings who help out. From left, Tyrel Dressler, Brian Hoskin (4-H), Kyle Martinez, Aimee Hoskin, Shannon Martinez (4-H) and David Hoskin.

KENTUCKY

Tiny tractor pull

When the Livermore Elementary School asked the McLean County FFA Chapter to participate in its first annual Agriculture Day, the FFA members knew exactly what activity to do—the pedal pull, an event they do every year at the McLean County Fair. With pedal-driven tractors donated by local equipment dealers and a pull sled built several years ago by FFA members, the event provided loads of fun for everyone.



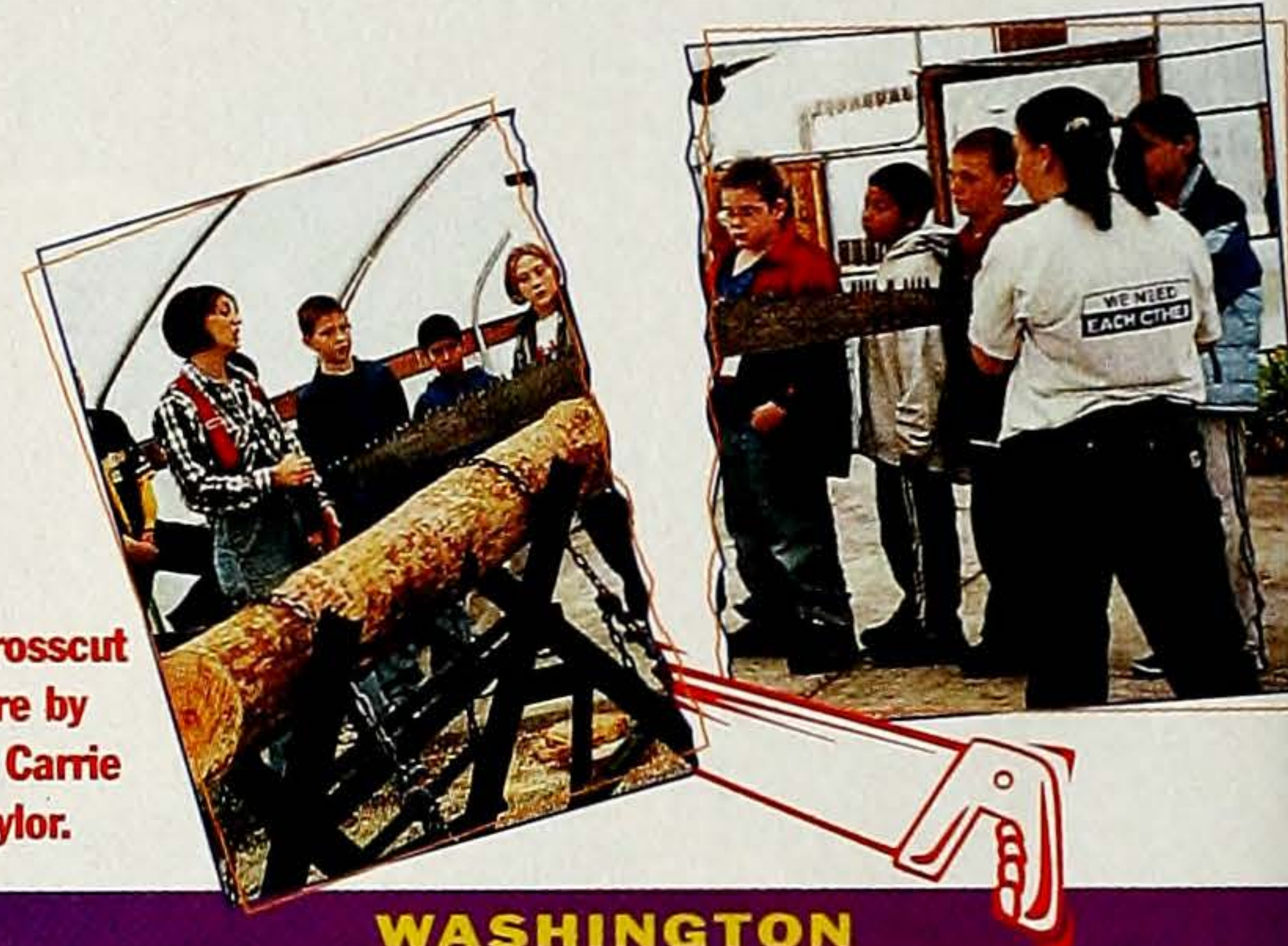
NEVADA

A mountain of twine

Recycling has become a favorite community service project at the Carson Valley FFA Chapter in Gardnerville. When chapter members noticed pileups of used plastic twine—the stuff local ranchers use for baling hay—they contacted a local plastics company and worked out a deal where the Carson Valley FFA goes to the ranches, collects the piles of discarded twine and hauls it back to school. The plastic company then sends a truck over and picks up the twine and recycles it. That's good news for the community—and the planet.

An elementary school student muscles his way to the finish line in the McLean County FFA Chapter's pedal pull event.

The "misery-whip," or crosscut saw, is demonstrated here by Rochester FFA members Carrie Penly (left) and Kenzi Taylor.



KANSAS

Furniture gardens

The Concordia FFA Chapter knows how to have fun with plants. On a nature trail they developed and maintain, they came up with 27 distinctive—some downright unusual—gardens. In the "Flower Pots" garden, they planted cactus, poison ivy and moss roses inside half a dozen old toilet bowls. Nearby, at the "Flower Bed," an old bed frame holds a "bed" of creeping phlox. Other must-sees: a kitchen stove with "Pots and Pansies" and "Range Plants." Then there's "Couch Potatoes," a garden made to resemble a couch (potatoes grow where one would normally sit).

The Concordia FFA Chapter's one-of-a-kind gardens. Pictured here: "Range Plants" (bottom) and "Flower Pots" (yes, that's cactus, poison ivy and moss roses growing in those toilets).

WASHINGTON

Sink your teeth into this

Before the advent of chain-saws, loggers had to use crosscut saws—called "misery-whips" back then—to cut trees down. It was a tough job that took two people. As part of Agriculture Days last fall, members of the Rochester FFA Chapter invited 140 fifth-graders to school for demonstrations on the crosscut saw and projects involving apples, wool spinning and dyeing, agricultural mechanics and animal science.



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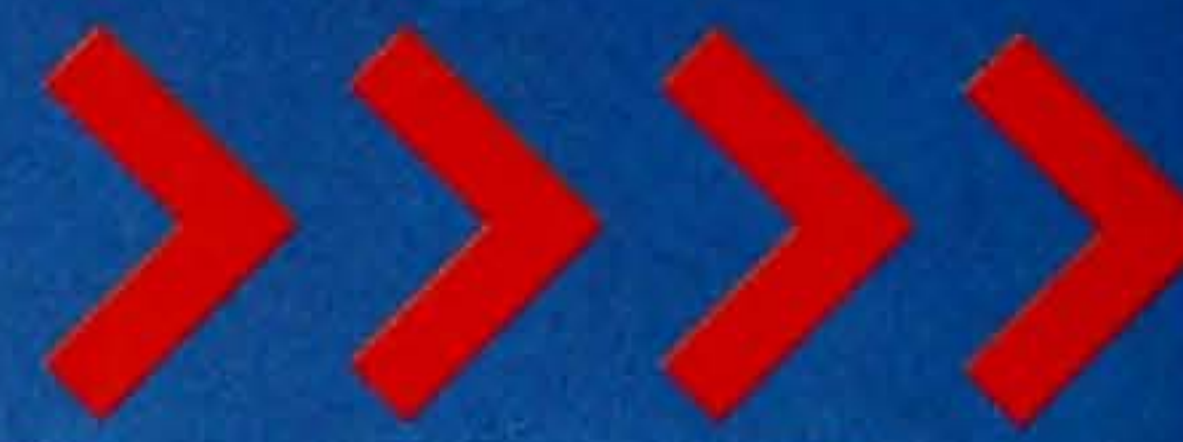
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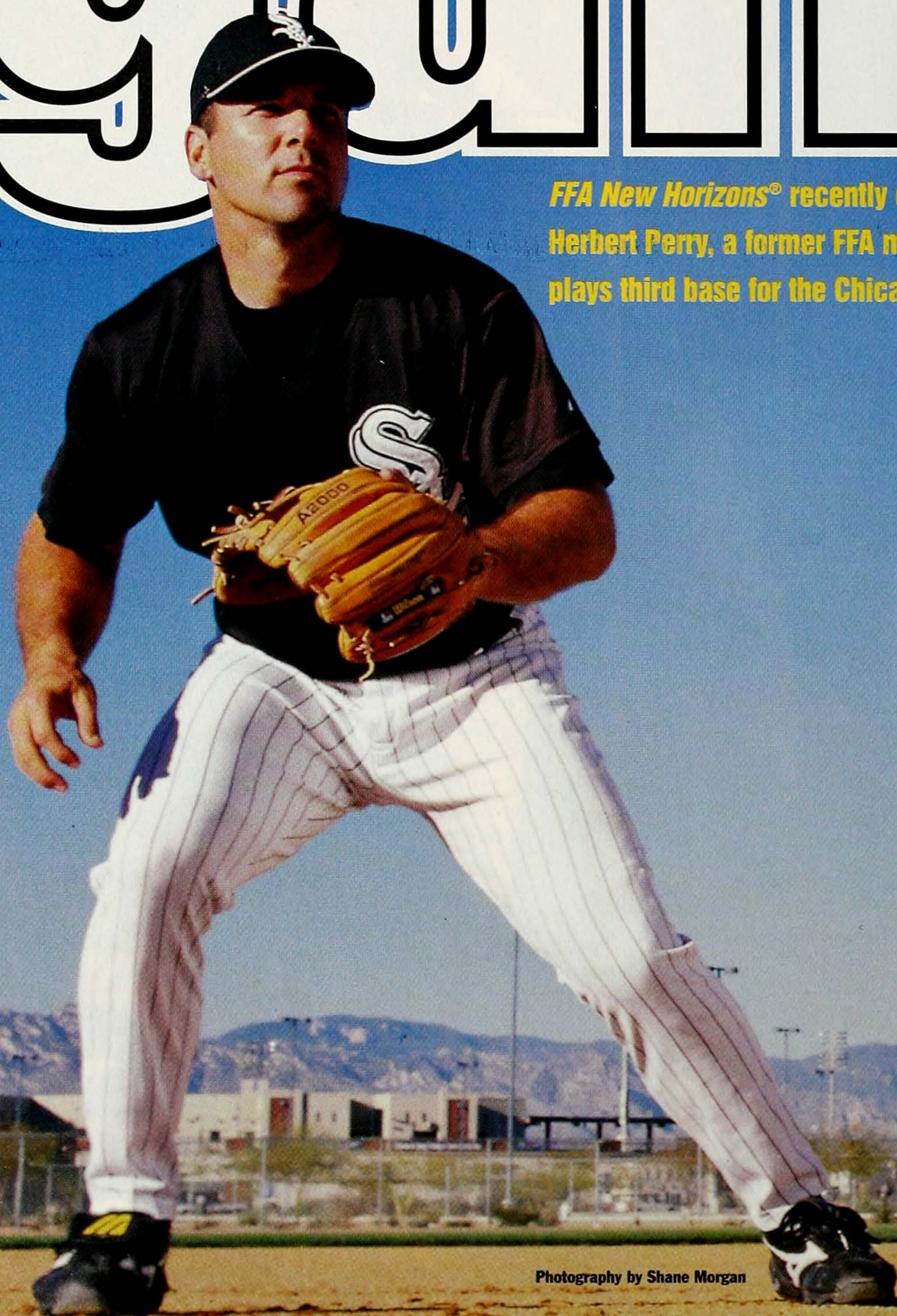


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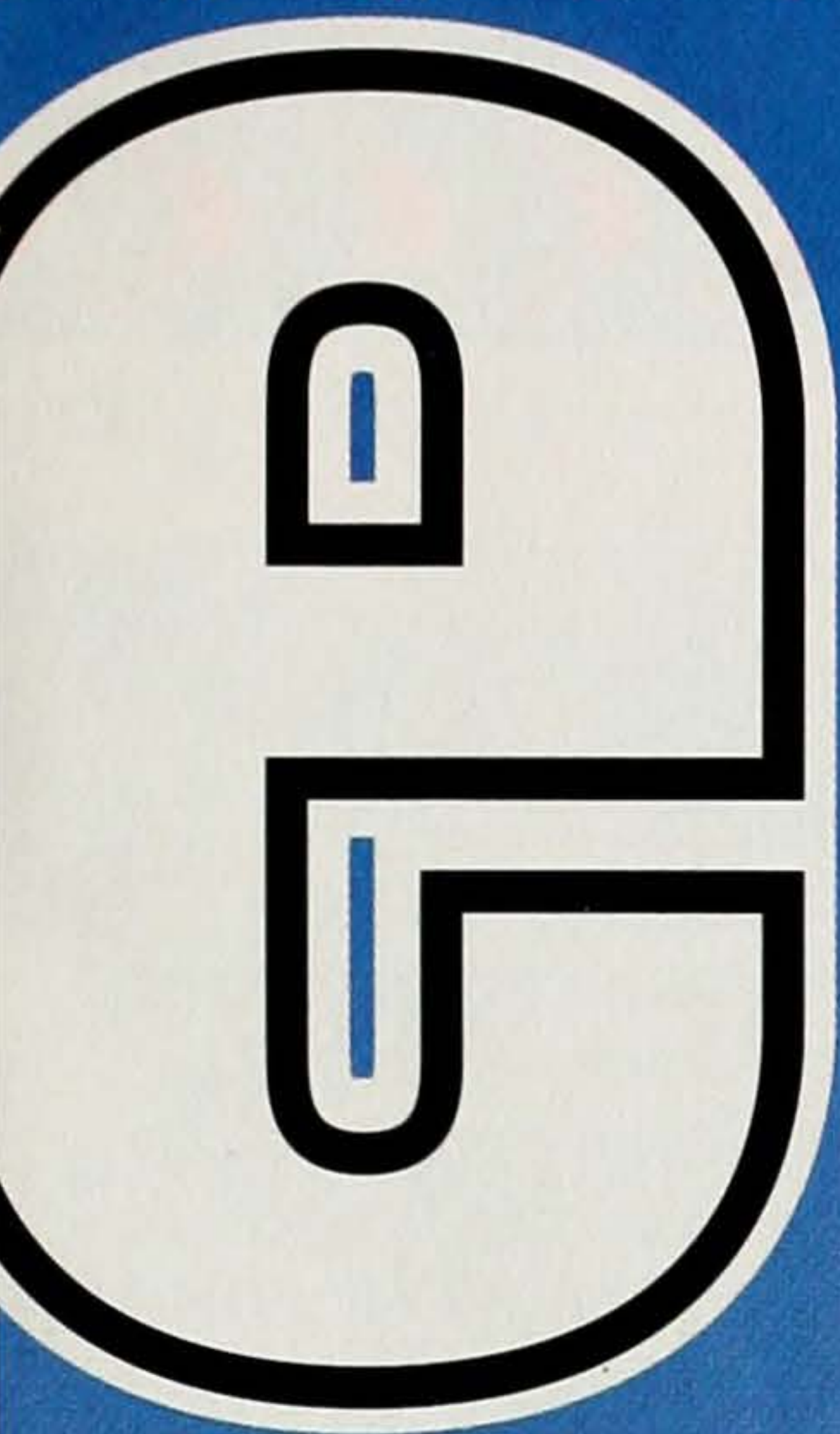


game

FFA New Horizons® recently caught up with Herbert Perry, a former FFA member who plays third base for the Chicago White Sox



Photography by Shane Morgan



By Erich Gaukel

In grade school, Herbert Perry used to come home from school, then race over to his grandmother's house. Out in the barn, he'd grab a tobacco stick (the hardwood strips his family had used to string up tobacco years earlier) and break it until he had one just the right length for hitting homeruns. With bat in hand, he'd head out to the ball diamond—a patch of weeds really—and the game would begin.

"I'd throw up a rock and hit it," Herbert explains. "I had a fence made up of weeds and stuff. If I hit it over this weed, it was a homerun. If it landed on this side, I had to hit it again. I just played hours and hours by myself, just sitting there



Herbert spends the offseason at home in Florida, where he runs a dairy farm with his dad and brother.

making up scenarios. At that time I was a Dodger—it was *all* Yankees and Dodgers in those days—and I'd be facing Goose Gossage or somebody like that."

Herbert grew up in and around the town of Mayo, a small Florida town where the Florida peninsula and panhandle meet. He still lives right outside of town in a ranch-style house he and his family moved into three years ago. That's where *FFA New Horizons* caught up with Herbert early on a Monday morning in February, just a few days before he was to shove off for White Sox spring training in Tucson, Arizona.

Born into farming

It was here in Mayo that Herbert's dual life in baseball and agriculture began. His father, who had grown up on a dairy farm, left agriculture for several years while he went off to college and the military. He got back into dairying in 1969, the year Herbert came into the world.

Other than doing chores on the farm, Herbert says he was always looking for something to do. Once he was old enough to play sports, however, things changed. "They start little league at six

years old and everybody plays. Then you go to football in the fall, then you have a basketball league. And when you're growing up, there's nothing else to do. You played sports, and I loved to play."

Focused on FFA

But sports weren't the only things on Herbert's plate at Lafayette High School.

"FFA was one of the most enjoyable things I had going through school. I played sports, but I always looked forward to having the forestry contests, land judging and livestock judging. I was on all those teams, plus all the other stuff—parliamentary procedure and public speaking."

During his junior year in high school, Herbert's forestry team finished first in the state and earned a trip

to the 1986 National FFA Convention in Kansas City, which happened to be the same week as the school's biggest football game of the year—against the third ranked North Florida Christian in Tallahassee.

Herbert, the quarterback, and the rest of the forestry team—which also included the right guard, middle linebacker, center, left guard, flanker, wide receiver and tailback from the football team—left on the three-day trip to Kansas City.

"Our football coach is about having a cow because none of us were here to practice. We got up to Kansas City and about froze to death, then we came back here and we ended up winning the game 15-14," Herbert recalls with amusement. "Our coach forgave us for that."

Continued

Herbert's road to success

At Lafayette High School in Mayo, Florida

- ◆ As a pitcher, Herbert threw a perfect game and three no-hitters and set a state record for most strikeouts (210) in a season
- ◆ MVP in high school baseball, football and basketball
- ◆ Member of winning state FFA forestry team
- ◆ Student council president

At the University of Florida

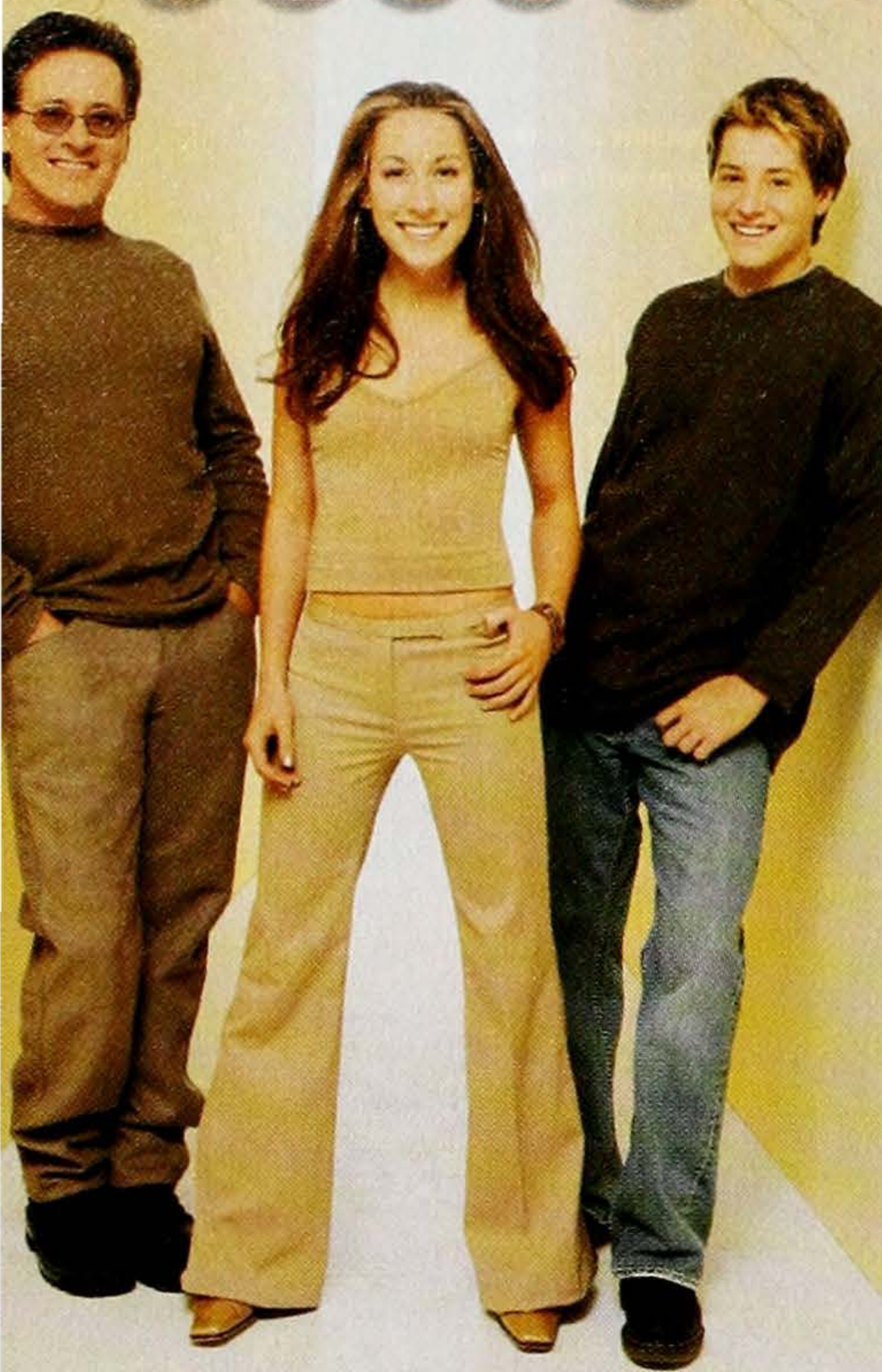
- ◆ Played football and baseball
- ◆ Selected to academic All-SEC in 1988
- ◆ Earned All-SEC honors in 1989 and 1991
- ◆ Hit seven homers in seven games

As a professional baseball player

- ◆ Played in 1995 World Series with Cleveland Indians
- ◆ Played in 2000 American League Divisional Playoffs with Chicago White Sox

THE WILKINSONS—

SHINE



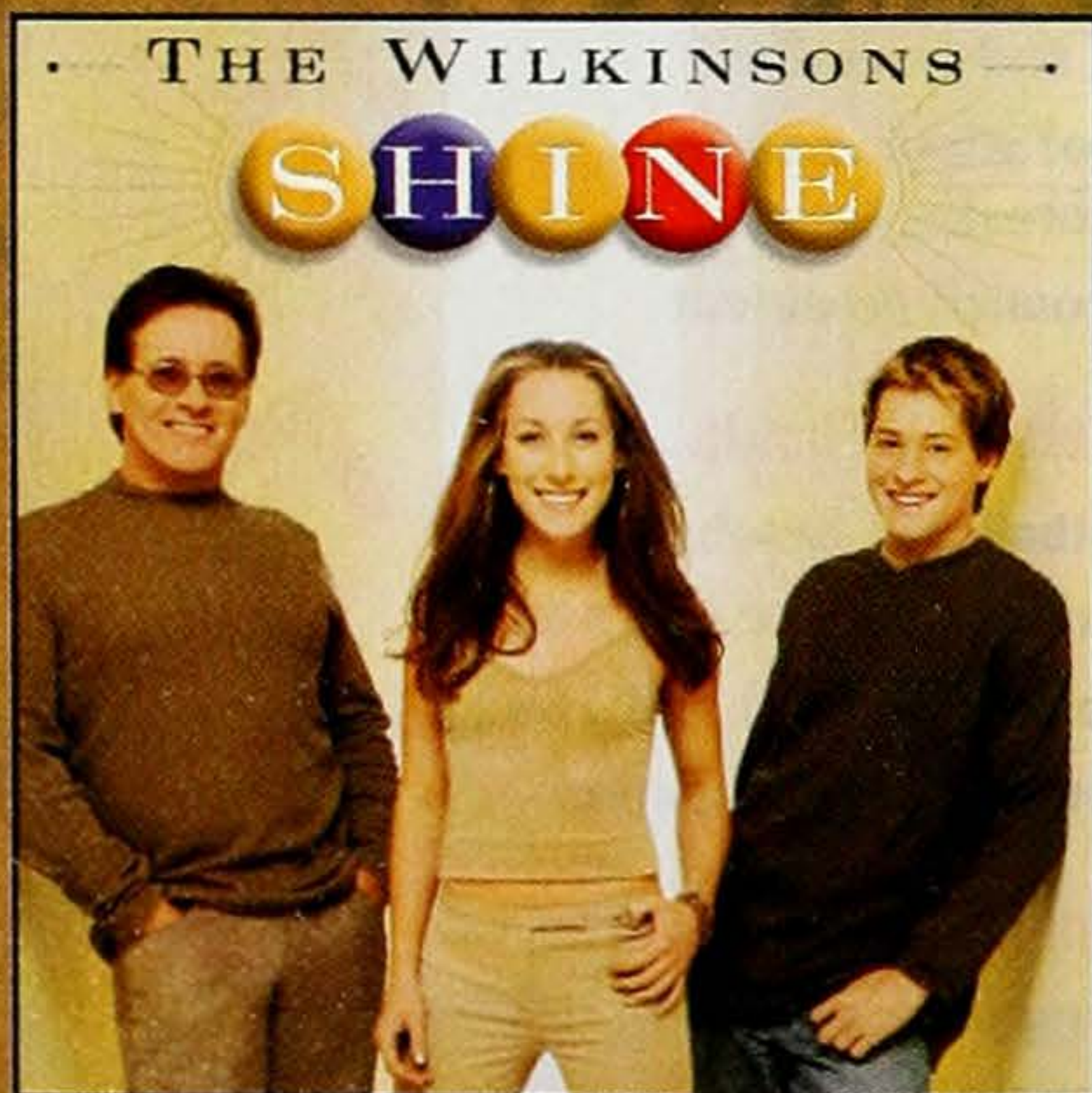
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On to college

College recruiters had their eyes on Herbert, who starred on the baseball, basketball and football teams. He accepted a scholarship to play football and baseball at the University of Florida in nearby Gainesville. The transition from small town to NCAA athletics proved to be difficult. "I was 18 years old and absolutely lost," he says.

He missed the friendly atmosphere and slower pace of life in Mayo. In Gainesville, he had to deal with intoxicated students in the bleachers who heckled him during baseball games. "I wasn't used to that. Being from a small town, I'd never met anyone who

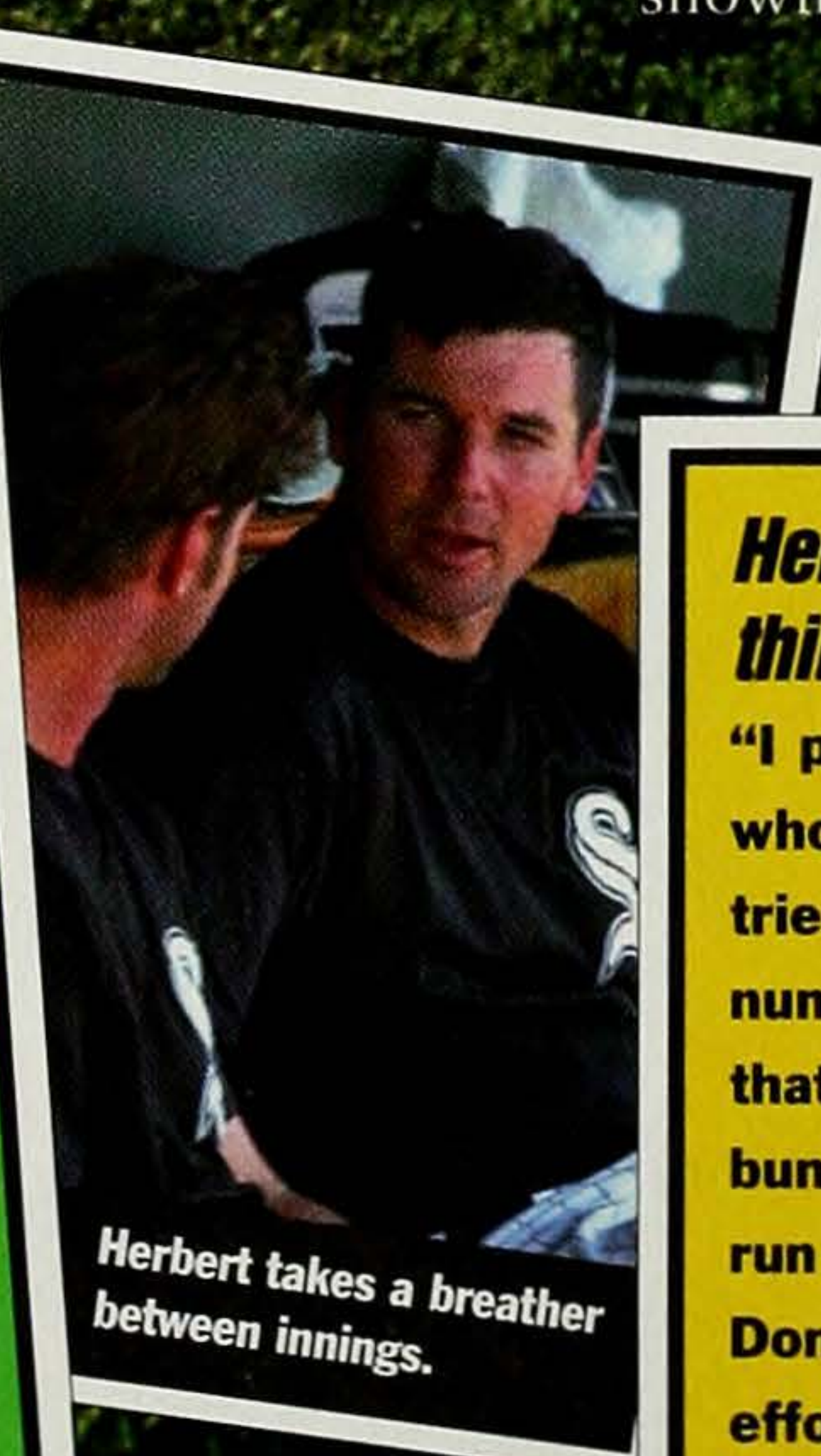
was just flat mean—and these guys were *mean*. I couldn't stand it. I'd get up there and get that feeling you get when you have to speak in front of a hundred people. I was like that every game. Just absolutely sick. By the next year, I had learned people a little better. I was one naive young man when I left Mayo."

Playing both sports began to wear on Herbert by his junior year. He decided to concentrate on baseball and the strategy worked. After a couple of average seasons on the diamond, he suddenly started playing baseball like he knew he always could. His batting average and power climbed and his defense improved. He got hot right when the big league scouts started showing up at games.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STIANE MORGAN

Herbert ... On negative thinking:

"Negative thoughts are what eats a baseball player alive. If you walk up to the plate, and you're thinking, 'I hope I don't strike out this time,' you're dead. You just might as well take your bat, throw it out there on top of the plate, and stand there with your hands on your hips. Because you have no chance."



Herbert takes a breather between innings.

Herbert ... On taking things one step at a time:

"I played with a guy once who told me that he just tries to put one positive number into his statistics that day, be it a sacrifice bunt, an RBI, a walk and a run scored, a walk or a single. Don't try to do a 4-for-4 effort every day with a homerun and 3 RBIs—those days just happen."

The big leagues

The Cleveland Indians signed Herbert during his final season at Florida. After a few injury-plagued years in the minor leagues, Herbert got called up to Cleveland. Then, on June 17, 1995, Herbert found himself standing in the batter's box against Andy Pettite of the New York Yankees, one of the winningest pitchers in modern baseball. This wasn't the Yankees Herbert faced in his grandmother's backyard. This time, Herbert was facing the real New York Yankees.

As the pitch came, Herbert saw the ball, and he hit the ball—just as he had hit rocks with the tobacco stick—and it flew a mile. The first homer of his big league career, and it came against the Yankees. The next time up to bat, he promptly sent another one over the fence.

Up and down—and up again

Herbert continued to hit well and play sparkling defense at third. The Indians went to the World Series that year, and Herbert played in three of those games against the Atlanta Braves, to whom they

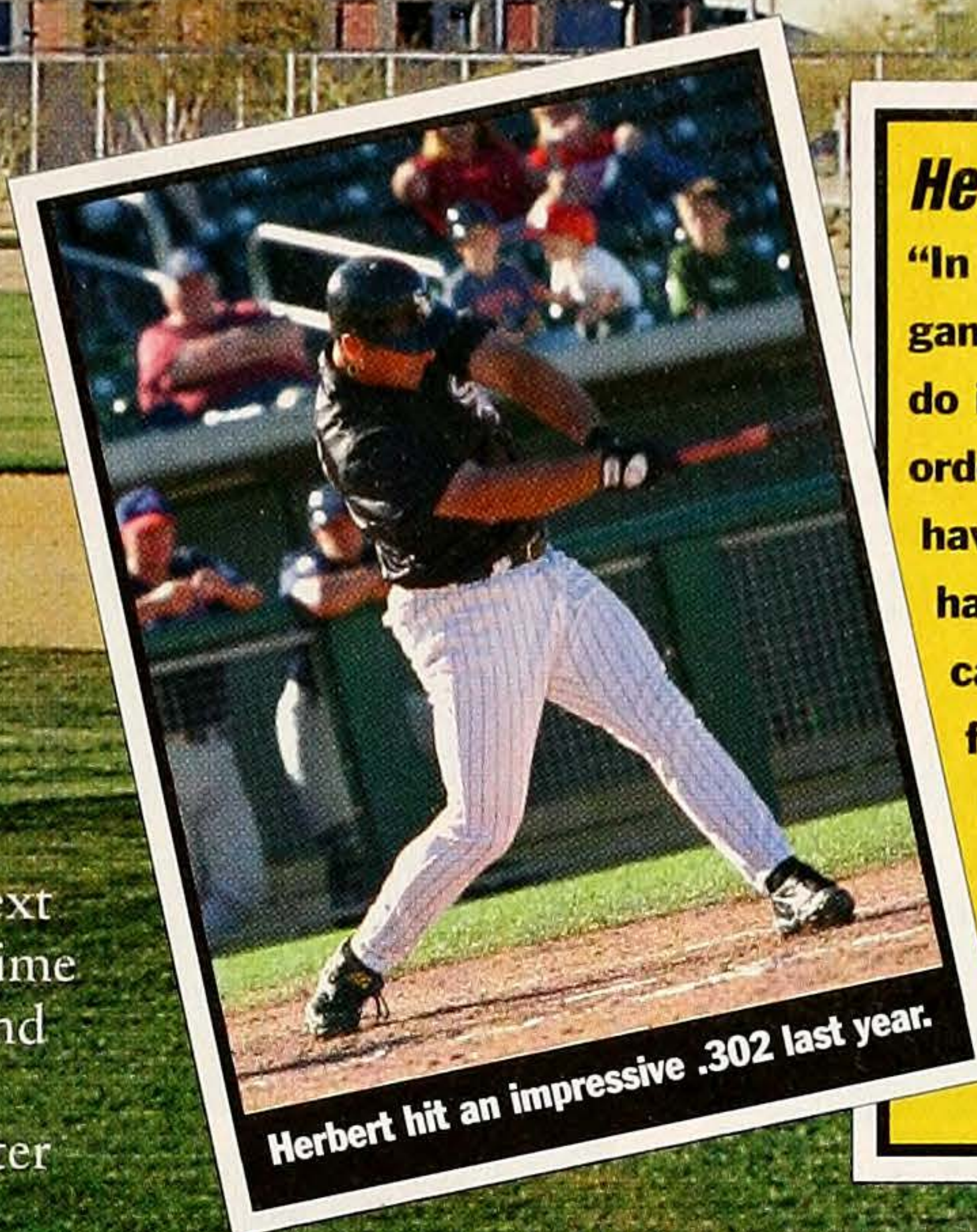
eventually lost. The next season, Herbert split time between the Indians and their Triple-A team in Buffalo. Three days after Cleveland sent him to Buffalo, he injured his knee. He wouldn't play a regular season game in the minors or majors for almost two years.

His big break came when the Chicago White Sox acquired him early in the 2000 season.

In a lot of ways, this is when everything came together for Herbert. First, he quickly realized he had an ally in Sox manager Jerry Manuel. Second, he had joined a team with young players and good chemistry. Finally, he had learned to manage his injuries with exercise. With an opening at third base, Herbert quickly won the job and became the starting third baseman.

The White Sox jumped out to the lead in the American League Central Division and never looked back. Herbert had his best year in the majors, hitting .302 with 12 homers and 62 RBIs while committing just 10 errors.

After a great regular season, the White Sox ran out of gas and lost to Seattle in the American League Divisional Playoffs.



Herbert ... On baseball:

"In baseball, the ball is the game and all we're trying to do is manipulate that ball. In order to do that, you have to have backyard mentality. You have to be as loose as you can possibly be and have fun ... Baseball is about 10 percent physical and 90 percent mental. It's all learning how to realize, 'Hey, I don't control this thing at all.'"

Disappointed, the team flew home from Seattle, knowing they had let a great opportunity slip away. They remained optimistic, however, knowing that they were a young team that would only get better. Herbert, who could have made more money by becoming a free agent, signed a new contract with the White Sox during the offseason. "I think we have a really good chance to win this year, and that's who I want to win with."

Back home

When Herbert arrived home after the playoffs last October, he didn't have time to sit back and reflect on the season that could have been. He and his brother Chan, who plays for the Atlanta Braves' Triple-A farm team in Richmond, Virginia, were busy tending to the calving going on at the 800-cow dairy operation they run with the help of their dad, who still runs his own dairy nearby. "Good calving is like good pitching," he says, proving that

baseball is never far from his mind.

During the offseason, Herbert spends lots of time on farm business—meeting with the veterinarian, fixing fences and checking on calves. But his favorite offseason activity is spending time with his wife and three children. He doesn't get to see them all that much during the baseball season, so he savors every moment with them.

Whether he's working on the farm or playing on the baseball field, Herbert tries to keep his life as simple as possible. He does this by focusing "on the little things."

He uses baseball as an example, but this advice can be applied to just about anything: "You don't go up there and try to see the whole playing field at one time," he explains. "You just try to see the little ball. You see the ball, you just try to hit the ball. When a ground ball is hit to you, you just try to catch it. Just do one thing at a time. It's the same thing in life." ★

summer SURVIVAL

By Erich Gaukel and Chris Hayhurst

8 ways to make the most of your break from the classroom

1. A trip to D.C.

A Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) session, according to event organizer Tina Paris at the National FFA Organization, is the place to go to hone your leadership skills. Each of the summer's seven sessions lasts for one week and includes leadership workshops, a chance to meet members of Congress and plenty of time for sightseeing. For more information, contact Tina at tparis@ffa.org or at 317-802-4309. Or visit www.ffa.org/conferences/WLC

2. Pedal across the state

Pump up your tires, oil that chain and adjust that seat—it's time to ride that bicycle. Regional and cross-state bike rides are growing in popularity. In fact, there's probably a ride near you that would be a perfect family activity or a bonding experience for FFA chapter officers. Here are just a few of the rides: BRAN (Bicycle Ride Across Nebraska),

Cycle Vermont, WOW (Wheelin' Over Washington), GOBA (The Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure), Tour de Wyoming, BAMA (Bicycle Across Magnificent Alabama) and the list goes on. Advance registration and fees are usually required. Visit the National Bicycle Tour Directors Association web-site (www.nbtlda.com) for a complete list, dates and links.

3. Can you say SAE?

The great thing about a supervised agricultural experience program (SAE) is that it can be whatever you want it to be—a business of your own or placement in a job using your background and skills in agriculture. With the advice of your FFA advisor and parents, you can develop an SAE program tailored to fit your interests and schedule. The experience will sharpen your business sense, open your eyes to career opportunities in agriculture and make you eligible to compete in the proficiency award program. For more information on SAEs, talk to your FFA advisor or visit www.ffa.org/activities/html/programs.html

4. Plant a vegetable garden

Get your hands dirty this summer by planting a garden. First, you'll need to find a piece of ground. Try to find rich loamy soil on a gentle south-facing slope. Your location needs to receive at least six hours of direct sunlight. Some of the veggies that grow best in hot summer sun are beans, corn, cucumbers, peppers, squash and tomatoes. With watering, fertilization and a watchful eye, you should have an abundant crop of vegetables before long. If you have tomatoes and zucchini coming out your ears by the end of the summer, donate the extras to a local food bank. For gardening tips, visit www.garden.com or call your county extension agent.

Continued on page 14



HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF.



AGAIN.

**CHEVY SILVERADO HD.
2001 MOTOR TREND TRUCK OF THE YEAR.**

THE TRUCK. Who says it's tougher the second time around? Obviously not us. Sure, we enjoyed seeing the Silverado¹ win Motor Trend's Truck of the Year award. But now we're back. And this time success has a new name. Silverado Heavy-Duty, the latest winner of Motor Trend's Truck of the Year honor. The most powerful heavy-duty pickup you can get! Most powerful gas engine. Most powerful diesel engine! Most payload capacity of any full-size pickup.² And most standard torque. Now that's how you repeat history. Silverado Heavy-Duty. It's more Truck. From Chevy.™

The most dependable, longest-lasting trucks on the road.³ 877-THE TRUCK or chevy.com/silverado

SILVERADO HD



LIKE A ROCK

1 Based on available horsepower. 2 Based on properly and comparably equipped vehicles. Maximum payload capacity includes weight of driver, passengers, optional equipment and cargo. 3 Dependability based on longevity: 1981-1999 full-size light-duty truck company registrations. Excludes other GM divisions. All claims exclude other GM vehicles. © 2000 GM Corp. Buckle up, America!

summer survival

5. Career detective work

Here's an exercise that can help you identify and perhaps narrow your career interests. On a sheet of paper, write down five jobs you think you would really enjoy doing. Then try to find real people who do those same jobs. Ask your parents or FFA advisor if they happen to know of anyone, or you can just let your fingers do the walking in the yellow pages. Once you find a contact for each job on your list, call or write to those people and tell them you would like to meet with them to learn more about that job. For a list of career ideas, visit www.ffa.org/careers/index.html

6. Be a happy camper

There's no better way to build friendships, learn teamwork and have a blast than by attending FFA camp. It's a time for unlimited fun, but it's also a time to learn how to work with others as

a team while growing as an individual. Check with your FFA advisor or state FFA association for information on camp opportunities in your state. If there is no FFA camp in your area, try getting a group of friends together to attend another camp in your area. Or, you could go it alone. Either way, you'll go back to school this fall with lots of stories to tell.

7. Experience the world

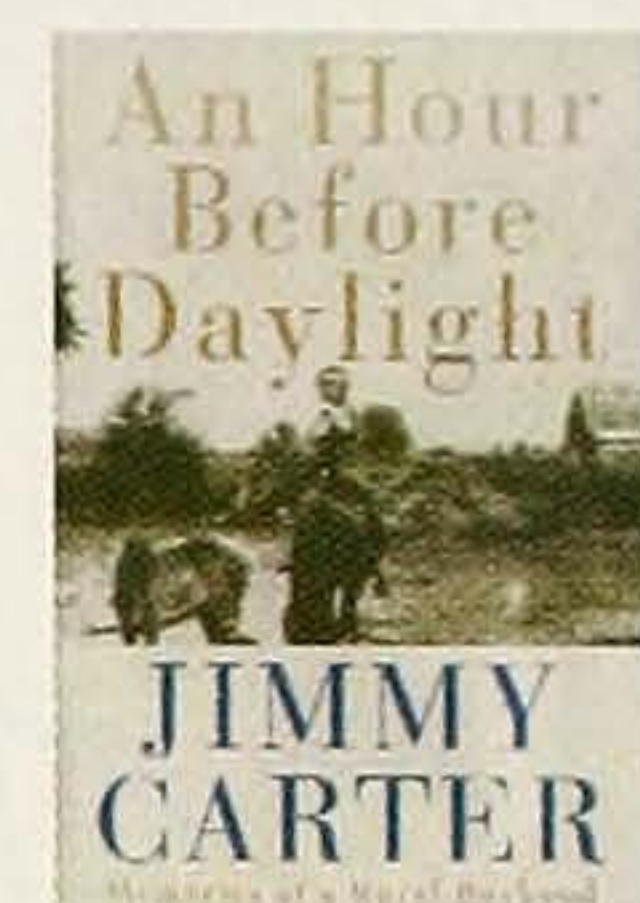
While it's probably too late to go abroad this season, now is the time to start dreaming of foreign lands for the new school year or next summer. The FFA international exchange program offers a slew of options. If Australia, New Zealand or Europe sound like places you'd like to visit, do some research this summer to find out where you would most like to go. Getting a summer job might help you pay for the trip. To find out more, call 888-332-7853 or visit www.ffa.org/international

8. Read a Book

Summer is a great time to relax and read. Here are some titles you might want to check out from your library:

An Hour Before Daylight: Memories of a rural boyhood by Jimmy Carter

The former U.S. president and FFA member delivers a fun and detailed account about coming of age on his family's Georgia farm.

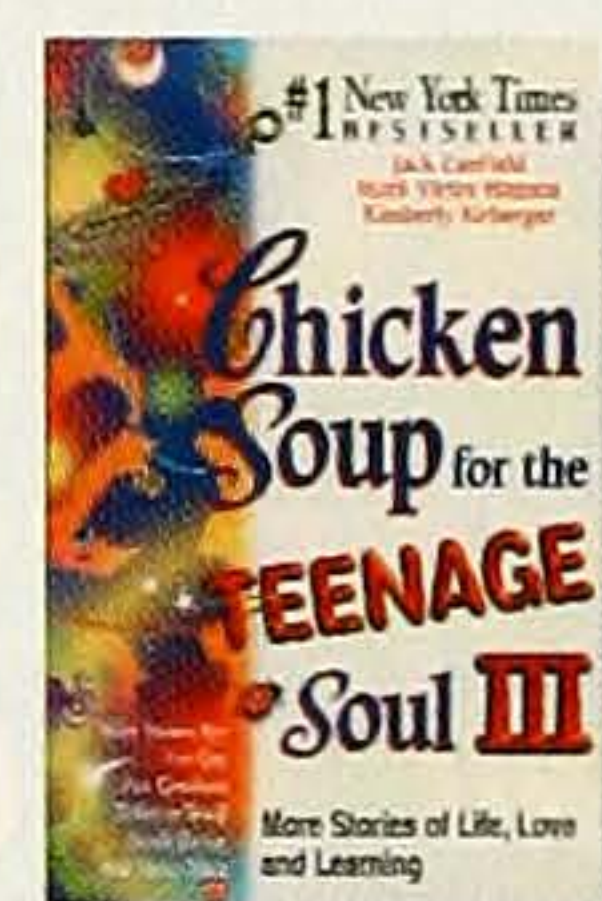


Start Something: You can make a difference by Earl Woods and the Tiger Woods Foundation

Lots of Tiger-tested advice from Earl Woods, the golf champ's dad. A few examples: follow your passion, not the pack; showing off is not the same as showing confidence; lose like a winner.

The Kid's Guide to Service Projects: Over 500 ideas for young people who want to make a difference by Barbara A. Lewis

You'll never run out of ideas for your FFA chapter's community service projects after you finish reading this.

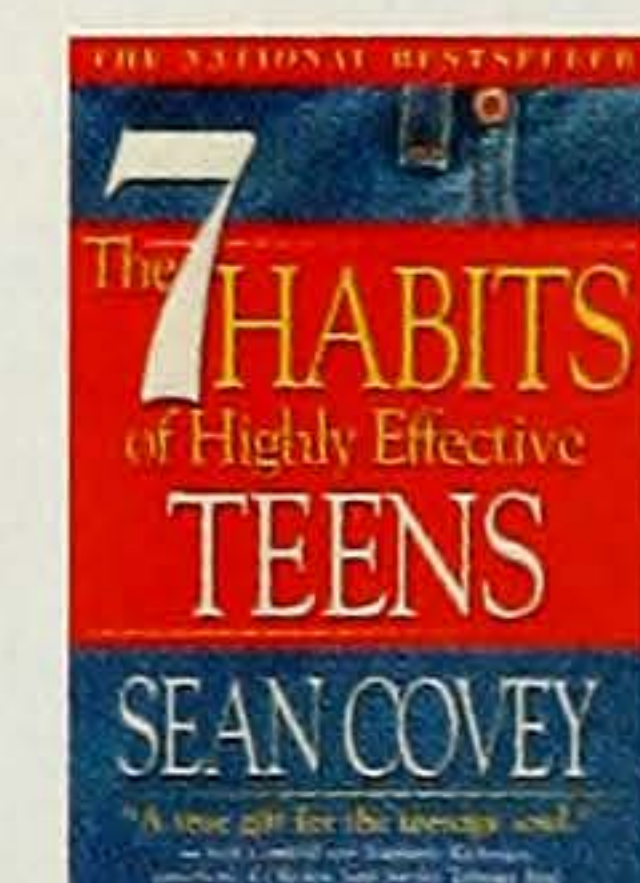


Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul III by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and Kimberly Kirberger

The latest version the best-selling book in which teens write about issues they face every day.

The 7 Habits of the Highly Effective Teens: The ultimate teenage success guide by Sean Covey

Using his seven habits as points of reference, Covey teaches you to learn about yourself and to use that knowledge to improve the quality of your life.



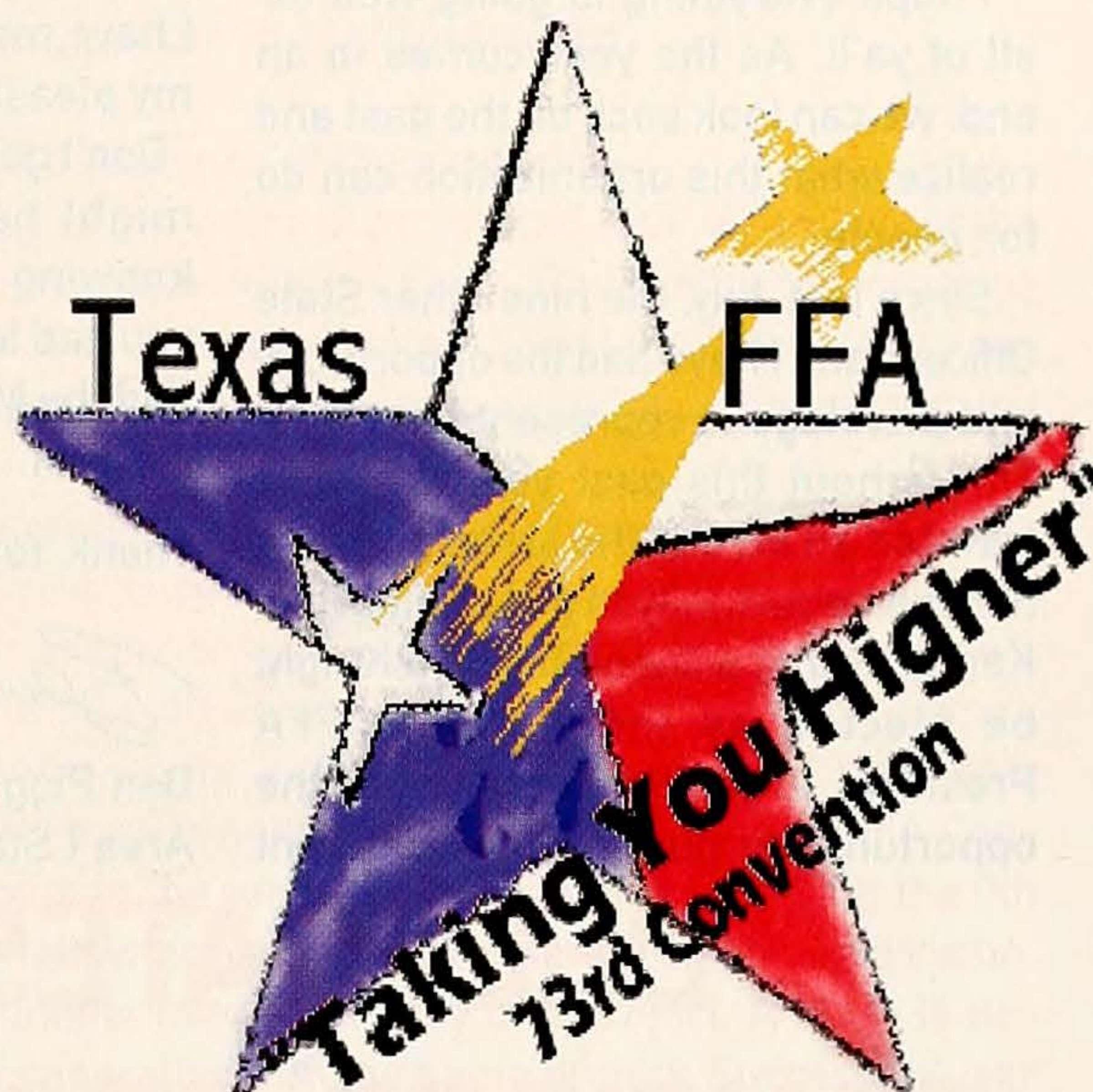
Texas

May / June / July

FFA News

THE BAYOU CITY--

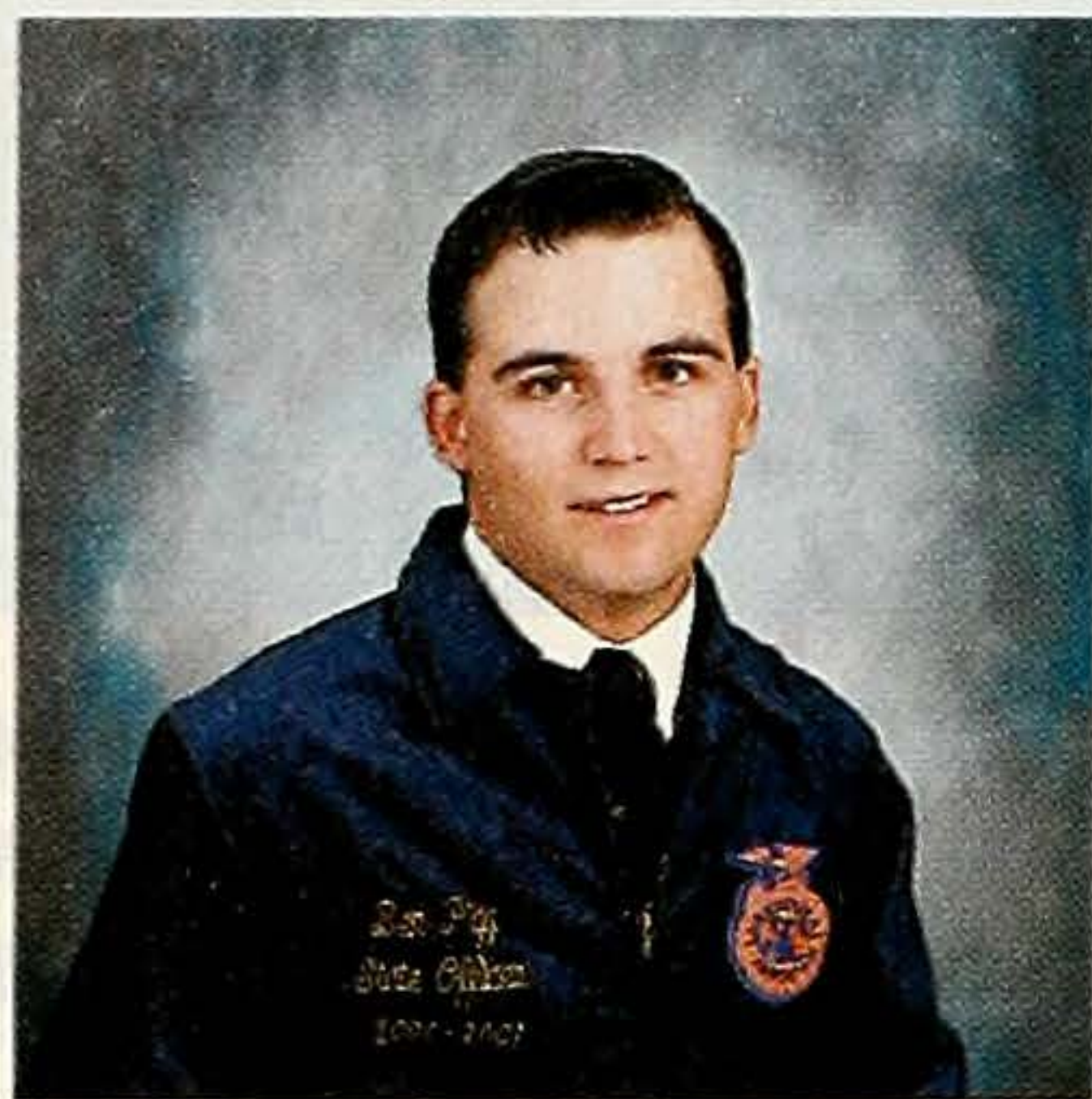
HOME OF THE 2001 TEXAS FFA CONVENTION



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A Message from the Vice President



Howdy Texas FFA,

I hope everything is going well for all of ya'll. As the year comes to an end, we can look back on the past and realize what this organization can do for people.

Since last July, the nine other State Officers and I have had the opportunity and privilege to represent all of you. Throughout this past year we have traveled all across the state, and also had the opportunity to go to Louisville, Kentucky and witness Trent McKnight be elected as the National FFA President. In addition we have had the opportunity to put on many different

camp. Throughout the year we have been able to meet many of you - the members. *YOU* are the reason that we are here today. The reason this organization is so great, is because it is an organization for the members, run by the members.

I want to take this opportunity to personally thank everyone for this wonderful experience that I have lived over the past year. To those who have touched my life, I thank you. To those I have met this past year, it has been my pleasure. To all of you I leave this- "Don't go through life wondering what might have been, go through life knowing that you gave it everything you had to give." Live life to the fullest, and the Man upstairs will take care of the rest.

Thank You & May God Bless.

Ben Pigg
Area I State Vice President

DELEGATES TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS

Delegates to the Texas FFA's 73rd Convention will have the opportunity to voice their positions and vote on a number of amendments and proposals.

An amendment adding the Discovery FFA Degree to the state constitution will provide a degree for the growing number of members enrolled in junior high agricultural science programs.

The officer team is advancing an amendment which would modify the state's presidential election process by creating a bicameral electoral procedure. The proposal features a system similar to the two-house legislative process.

"The procedure would not add time to the process, nor would it take away

any of the edge currently enjoyed by larger areas," says state First Vice President Dustin Clark. "It would allow smaller areas to compete."

The officers are also proposing a change in the national officer candidate selection process, adding a nominating committee to replace a popular vote. The proposal does not require a constitutional amendment.

The officers have also developed committees which will meet at the state leadership conference in June to make program-specific recommendations for review by the delegate body.

All proposals are subject to approval by the state board of directors prior to their introduction on the delegate floor.

MAY/JUNE/JULY



The Texas FFA News is published bi-monthly by the Texas FFA Association. Advertisement rates may be obtained by contacting the FFA

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TEXAS FFA AGRISCIENCE FAIR

CATEGORIES:

- I Biochemistry/Microbiology/Food Science
- II Environmental Sciences
- III Zoology (Animal Science)
- IV Botany (Plant Science)
- V Engineering (Mechanical/Ag Egr Science)

DIVISIONS:

- I FFA Members, Grades 7,8,9
- II FFA Members, Grades 10,11,12
- III Teams of Two, Grades 7,8,9
- IV Teams of Two, Grades 10,11,12



Texas FFA Agriscience Fair Rules/Guidelines

PROJECT COMPONENTS:

A. Log Book - containing accurate and detailed notes of a well-planned and implemented project.

B. Research Paper/Project Report - including the following: title page, table of contents, abstract, introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion and conclusion, acknowledgments, and literature cited.

C. Interview - a question and answer period between the student(s) and judge(s).

D. Display - eye-catching and informative so that observers can quickly assess and understand the project and the results achieved.

E. Judging - judges evaluate (1) how well the scientific method was followed; (2) the detail and accuracy of the log book and project report; and (3) whether tools/equipment were used in the best possible way.



- (1) All registration will be completed in advance of the event date.
- (2) Registration form, four (4) copies of the entry abstract and four (4) copies of the entry research paper/project report with Judge's Score Sheet attached must be postmarked no later than **June 15** to be eligible to participate. A \$30.00 entry fee must accompany each registration. Due to the judging schedule, late entries will not be accepted.
- (3) Competition is open to all FFA members in grades 7-12. Eligibility of each participant will be verified by checking the chapter's FFA roster. Names of participants will be reported to the Area Coordinator before the Area Degree Check deadline.
- (4) Participants must be present in official dress while their entries are being judged.
- (5) Participants are limited to one entry. Grade is determined by the age of the member before completing the school year immediately preceding the Texas FFA Convention. A participant may compete in the junior division upon completing the 9th grade year, and come back the following year to compete in the senior division. Each student and/or team of students may enter only one project. A team is defined as two members working cooperatively on the same project. Successive year projects must indicate a change or growth in the project from the previous year. The first place winners in each category are ineligible to compete in the same category of that division again.
- (6) Winners of the five categories in each of the four divisions will receive scholarships and will be eligible to advance to National FFA Agriscience Fair competition.
- (7) There is no limit to the number of participants a chapter may submit.
- (8) Each participant is required to meet with the judges to explain their project. Explanation and questioning may not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. Schedule of judging times for each participant will be posted at the set-up site. Students with conflicts due to participation in other events need to notify the Agriscience Fair Coordinator during set-up to arrange alternative judging time. Students who are late for their appointed judging time will be disqualified.
- (9) Exhibited projects and project reports shall be the result of the student(s) own efforts.
- (10) Complete event guidelines and entry form can be found on the FFA website at www.txaged.org.



MAY/JUNE/JULY

TEXAS FFA CHORUS--

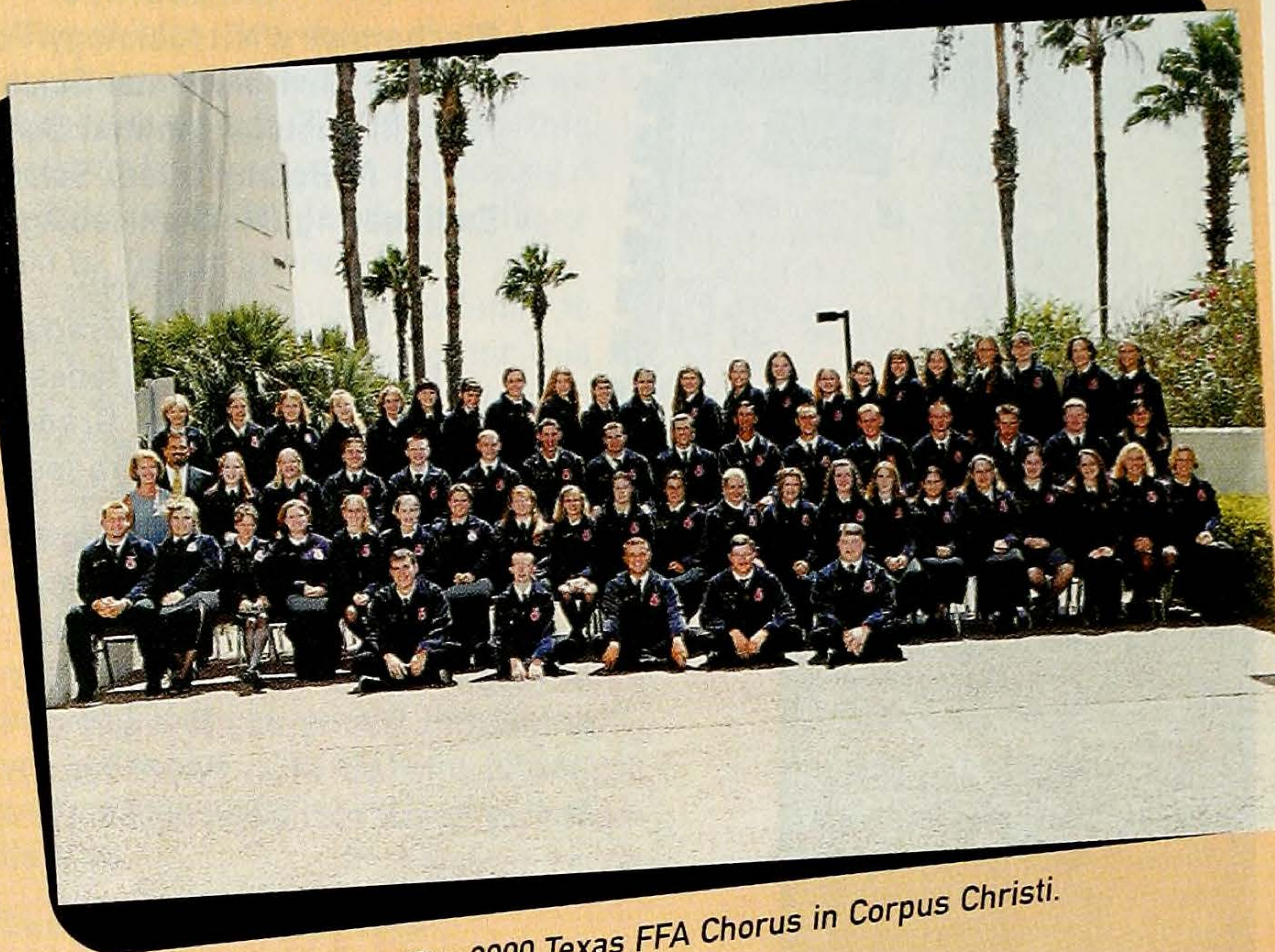
A VOICE FROM THE PAST RETURNS

What began on somewhat shaky ground in 1995 has found solid footing as an integral part of the Texas FFA State Convention. This year, the 73rd Annual Texas FFA Convention will welcome back the direction and leadership of Chorus Director Roger Kelly. The 1994-95 Texas State Officer Team had a goal that included the inception of a state chorus and that dream became a reality under the guidance and support of three individuals. The 1995 National FFA Chorus Director Roger Kelly, Texas FFA Executive Secretary Jack Winterrowd, and Texas FFA Chorus Coordinator David Frazier came together, following the national FFA chorus guidelines, and began the Texas FFA Chorus.

The idea for a state chorus in Texas began as an outgrowth of traditional FFA activities because of the enormous interest shown by students in Texas. Over the years, the chorus component of the state convention has really given students a different outlet to pursue that has built a bond between the ag education and choir programs in local high schools across the state.

"Not everyone will be a district, area or even state FFA officer," stated Jack Winterrowd. Winterrowd is the former Texas FFA Executive Secretary and currently is the agriculture science teacher at Cedar Park High School. "This gives kids an opportunity to fit into their niche within the FFA and really excel in an area where they have a natural talent."

The Texas FFA Chorus in 1995 was a mere 45 members strong, with four members being male FFA stu-



The 2000 Texas FFA Chorus in Corpus Christi.

dents from out of state. This number has gradually increased over the past six years and has grown to 72 members strong in 2000. For the first two years of the chorus, FFA students from other states were allowed to try out for the group in order to build interest in the event. The eventual goal of the leadership behind the chorus is to reach an optimal number of 100 participating members.

"The chorus has really taken off over the years and the quality of members has gone through the roof," stated Chorus Coordinator David Frazier. "We are thrilled to have Roger Kelly back again this year and because of his involvement we will likely have a larger number of students participating in the future."

If a student once participates in the state FFA chorus there is a high likelihood that students from that school will continue to participate in years to come. Winterrowd states that it is a tradition that students carry on and many students even participate in all four years.

"My interest in starting a state chorus was sparked by the number of students at Snyder High School who were involved in the choir but also wanted to be involved in the FFA program," said David Frazier.

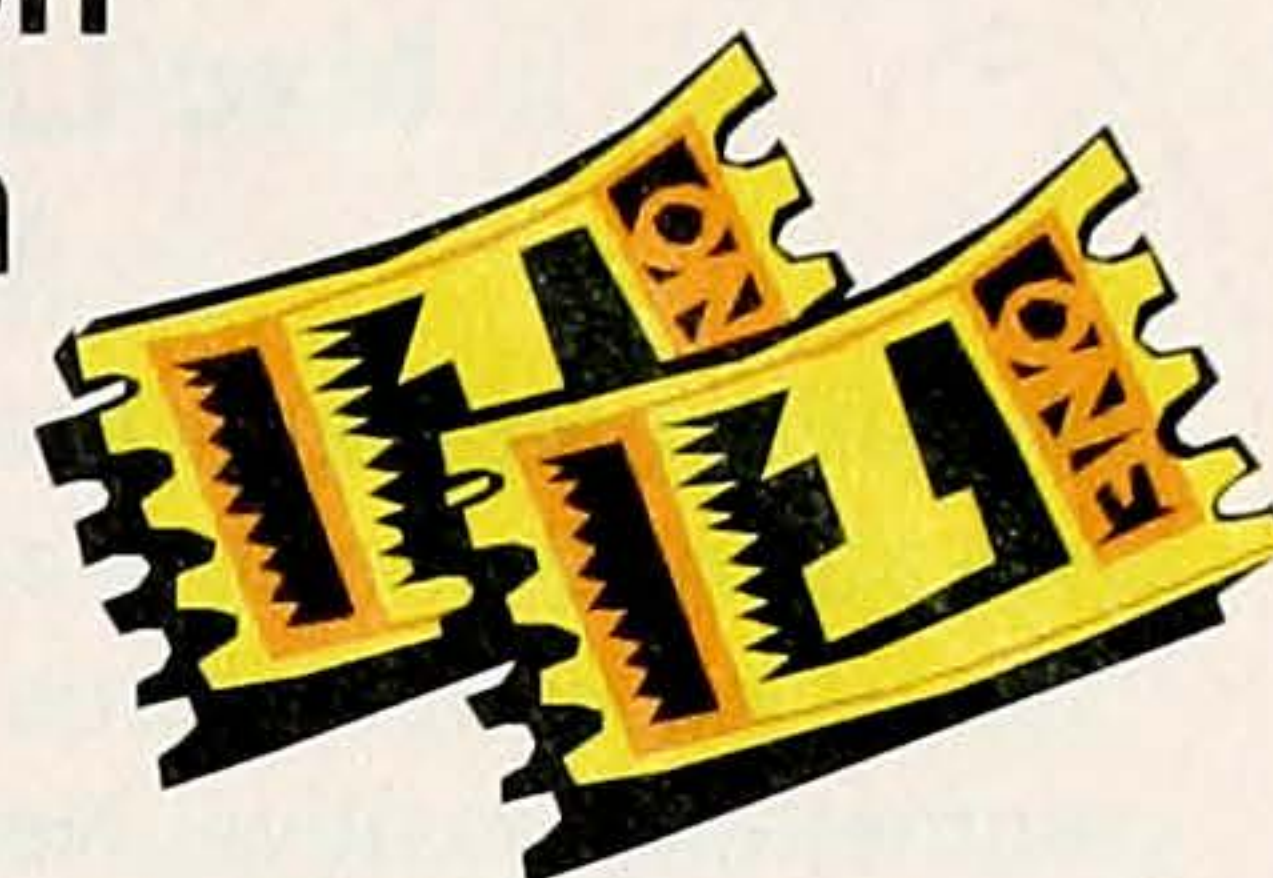
Frazier stated that the chorus has really helped his students excel and has also been a great recruiting tool over the years and had only a positive impact on his FFA program. He further stated that the chorus could not have progressed to the point it is at today without the continuing support of the FFA Executive Directors over the years.

The Texas FFA Chorus will be performing for their seventh straight state convention this July in Houston. We look forward to the musical selections of these very talented FFA members from across the state.

Chorus Director Roger Kelly is the Fine Arts Coordinator for Liberty Public Schools in Liberty, Missouri. Jack Winterrowd is an agriculture science and technology instructor at Cedar Park High School. David Frazier is an agriculture science and technology instructor at Snyder High School.

2001 CONVENTION LUNCHEON TICKETS

Leadership Luncheon Tickets Order Form July 11-12, 2001



Tickets will be available for sale for the Wednesday and Thursday luncheon at the convention. They can be purchased at the FFA Booth in the Exhibit Hall area, which will be staffed by FFA Courtesy Corps members and advisors.

The Leadership Luncheon for the 73rd Annual Texas FFA Convention will be held on Wednesday and Thursday at the Reliant Astroarena. The meal cost is \$7.00 per meal ticket. Complete the order form below and mail it with full payment to the address indicated. Order forms may also be obtained from Texas FFA Association website at www.txaged.org. Teachers may pick up their luncheon tickets at the Courtesy Corps Booth at the State Convention on either Tuesday or Wednesday.

LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON TICKETS ORDER FORM

Advisor's Name: _____

Chapter Number: _____

Chapter Name: _____

Chapter Address: _____

City/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Please mail order form and payment to:

Texas FFA Leadership Luncheons
614 E. 12th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Number of Tickets Ordered: _____

Wednesday: _____ Thursday: _____

Total amount of funds enclosed (at \$7/ticket) \$ _____

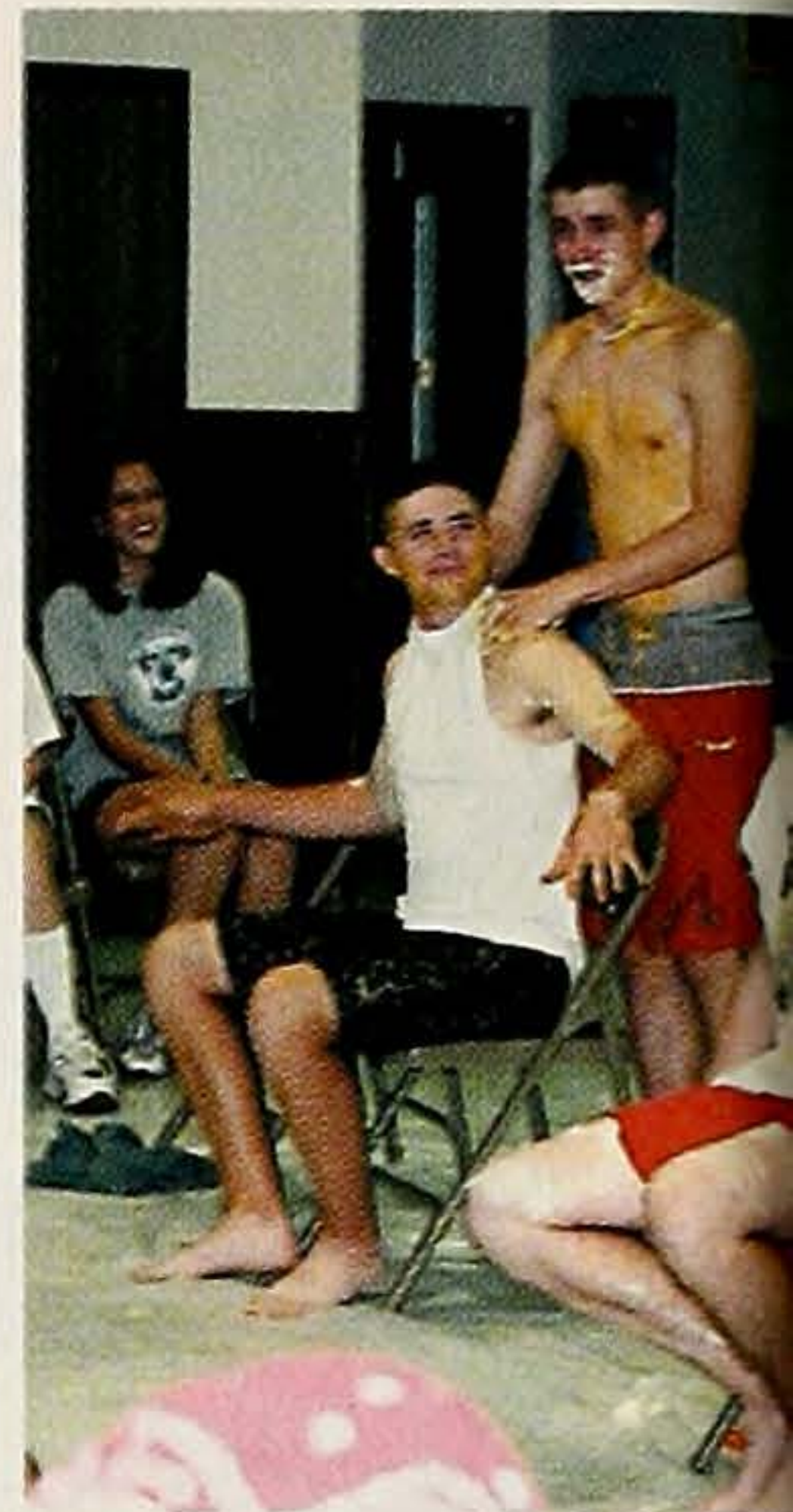
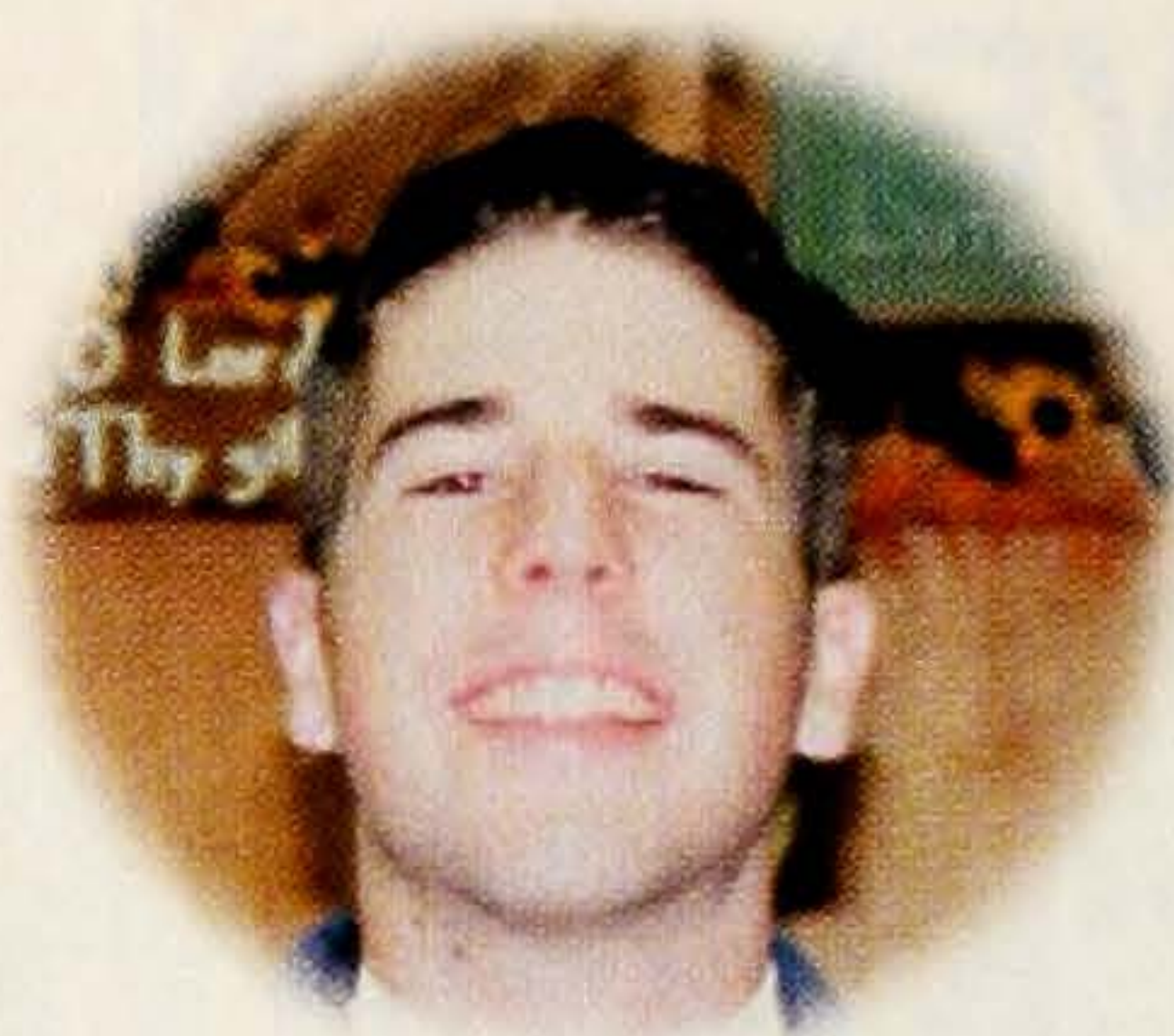
The deadline for ordering tickets is **June 25, 2001.**

MAY/JUNE/JULY

FAREWELL MEMORIES . . .

Mac Laas Area X
Yoakum

Proudest Moment: The last day of Greenhand Camp in Trinidad we all were nervous--realizing the reaction of these kids would tell us we were failures as leaders or that we had accomplished something positive. Near the very end, the rest of the officers and I were speaking as a group about goals, never giving up, and above all giving your best, when suddenly we all realized these kids were actually listening. Listening, learning, and absorbing all that they could. This warmed my heart and made me feel the most pride I have ever felt in my entire life. Then and there I knew I was a part of one of the greatest things on earth, the circle of brothers I have and the Texas FFA. I'm so proud to be one of your state officers and I thank you for everything you have given me. God Bless!



Dustin Kinder Area IX
Livingston

Most Memorable Moment: We were touring the Astrodome complex for convention planning this spring. The officers kept trying to get the courage to ask if we could play football. Finally, Brad just asked if we could play football in the dome--and they said YES! So, we grabbed the ball and I finally got to fulfill my dream of playing football in the Astrodome.



Dustin Clark Area VIII
Waxahachie

Most Memorable Moment: The officer team got to have lunch with some of the Dallas Cowboys and the owner of the team. We were allowed to take pictures with some of the team and even got to try on Dave Campo's Super Bowl ring. Sitting with the owner and his family during lunch was something I will never forget.



Matthew Kempen Area VII
Somerset

Proudest Moment: Having heard a member tell me that I really hit home with them and had an influence on their life.

Most Embarrassing Moment: Doing an Andy Kaufman skit at a greenhand camp and none of the campers understood it and I looked like a fool!

Most Humorous Moment: Hearing Mac tell the team that there are three things you don't mess with.



Damon Young Area VI
Mineola

Most Embarrassing Moment: When I performed a spectacular water skiing wipe-out on a crowded lake during which I lost my shorts.





OF THE 2000-01 OFFICERS

Brad Mabry Area V
Weatherford



Favorite Moment: When Dustin Kinder and I went skiing for the first time. Dustin Clark, Clay Cade and another friend left me on the bunny slope to practice. The ski patrol stopped me to tell me that my skiing was endangering others. They told me to get lessons. Clay and Dustin Clark volunteered to give lessons--down a black diamond (professional slope)! To say the least, I was a scared young man! Clay and Dustin Clark laughed their heads off all the way down the slope--thanks guys!

Wes Cooper Area IV
Olney

Most Embarrassing Moment: At the first Greenhand Camp I was going to sit down and Brad pulled the chair out from me in front of all the greenhands!
Proudest Moment: My sister won the State Job Interview Contest this year. I couldn't have been more proud to be her brother.



Jason McClure Area III
Montgomery

Most Embarrassing Moment: I was giving a speech as a district officer and everyone was snickering and laughing. When I finished a friend came up and told me my pants were unzipped!

Clay Cade Area II
Rotan

Most Embarrassing Moment: What was kind of a serious situation that really wasn't very funny at the time. I have a medical condition that causes paralysis and this occurred one evening while I was in the shower. Rotan is a pretty small place, and as luck would have it, who showed up with the volunteer EMS crew, but a female friend. I felt like I was dying of exposure.



Ben Pigg Area I
Turkey

Most Embarrassing Moment: The time I was rolled in the mud in front of the whole world and maybe the entire universe at the State FFA Leadership Conference.

"Standard of the West" Winners



Exemplifying the Spirit of Agriculture

Miriam Smith Liberty FFA; Area IX

Miriam Smith from the Liberty FFA chapter is described by her FFA Advisor, Mr. Keith Ming, as being the kind of person who makes the best of any given situation. Her current situation is being a student at Sam Houston State University where she is majoring in agriculture education. Her goal is to one day teach agriculture education at the college level.

Smith's interest in this major has been developed through many different agricultural experiences. Growing up on a small farm initialized this dream, and she has broadened her production experiences by raising cattle, goats, and swine. To further her knowledge of the agriculture industry she has actively participated in FFA contests and activities. Her participation has ranged from Livestock Judging to Prepared Public Speaking to attendance at the Washington Leadership Conference. She has excelled as a public speaker during her four years of involvement to the point that she has been chosen to speak to Rotary and Lions Clubs, Liberty Middle School, and as the spokesmen for the Community Action Team.

While FFA activities kept Smith's calendar full, she still made time for other interests such as the drill team, competition in the academic decathlon, 4-H, church youth council, and the National Vocational-Technical Honor Society. Through her involvement with the 4-H she earned the honor of the Gold Star Award. Smith's County Extension Agent said, "She has the excellent character qualities we need in our leaders of the future."

Smith has been chosen as the Area IX winner of the John Justin "Standard of the West" Award for the above listed qualities and goals. Her desire to continue her work with the FFA as an agriculture teacher in the future will prove fruitful for those students' lives she will touch in the years to come.

by Bonnie Lindig

Alexis Balko Calallen FFA; Area X

Alexis Balko from the Calallen FFA chapter is noted for her willingness to extend a helping hand. She has worked within her school and community in such a manner that she has been selected as the Area X John Justin "Standard of the West" Award winner.

"Alexis' willingness to get involved in her education is due largely through her self-discipline and determination to succeed," said Ms. Ada Besinaiz, Balko's counselor. As an FFA member Balko has faced her share of competitions in events such as Agriculture Issues, Radio Broadcasting, Livestock Judging, Farm Business Management, and Creed Speaking. Teamwork paid off as she and her teammates received 1st place State Radio Broadcasting, 2nd place State Quiz Team, and 5th place State Ag. Issues. Another activity that also consumed Balko's time is the band. She has been in the National FFA Band as well as her local District, Region, and Area band. In the remainder of her time, Balko is involved in the Student Council, Business Professionals of America, Young Republicans, and the National Honor Society.

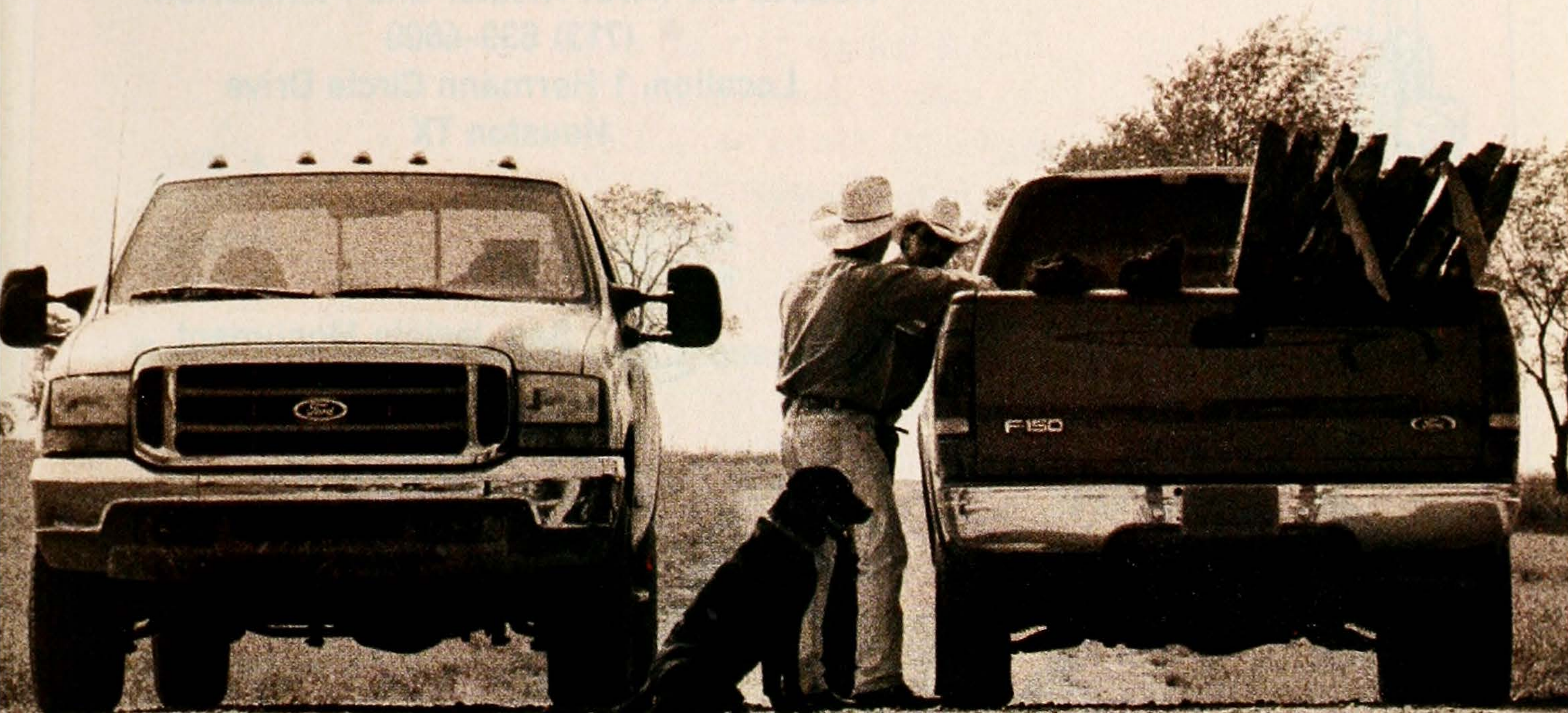
Balko has also spent considerable time in community efforts working at the Loaves and Fishes Food Kitchen, the Sea City Work Camp, the Rainbow House Women & Children's shelter, as well as the Crop Walk for World Hunger. This past year she tutored a younger student in subjects including biology and geometry.

Balko's desire to help people is also playing a factor in her career choice. She is attending Trinity University in San Antonio studying biochemistry. It is her goal to become a pharmacist where she will find fulfillment in helping others.

*Congratulations
2000-2001 Area Winners*

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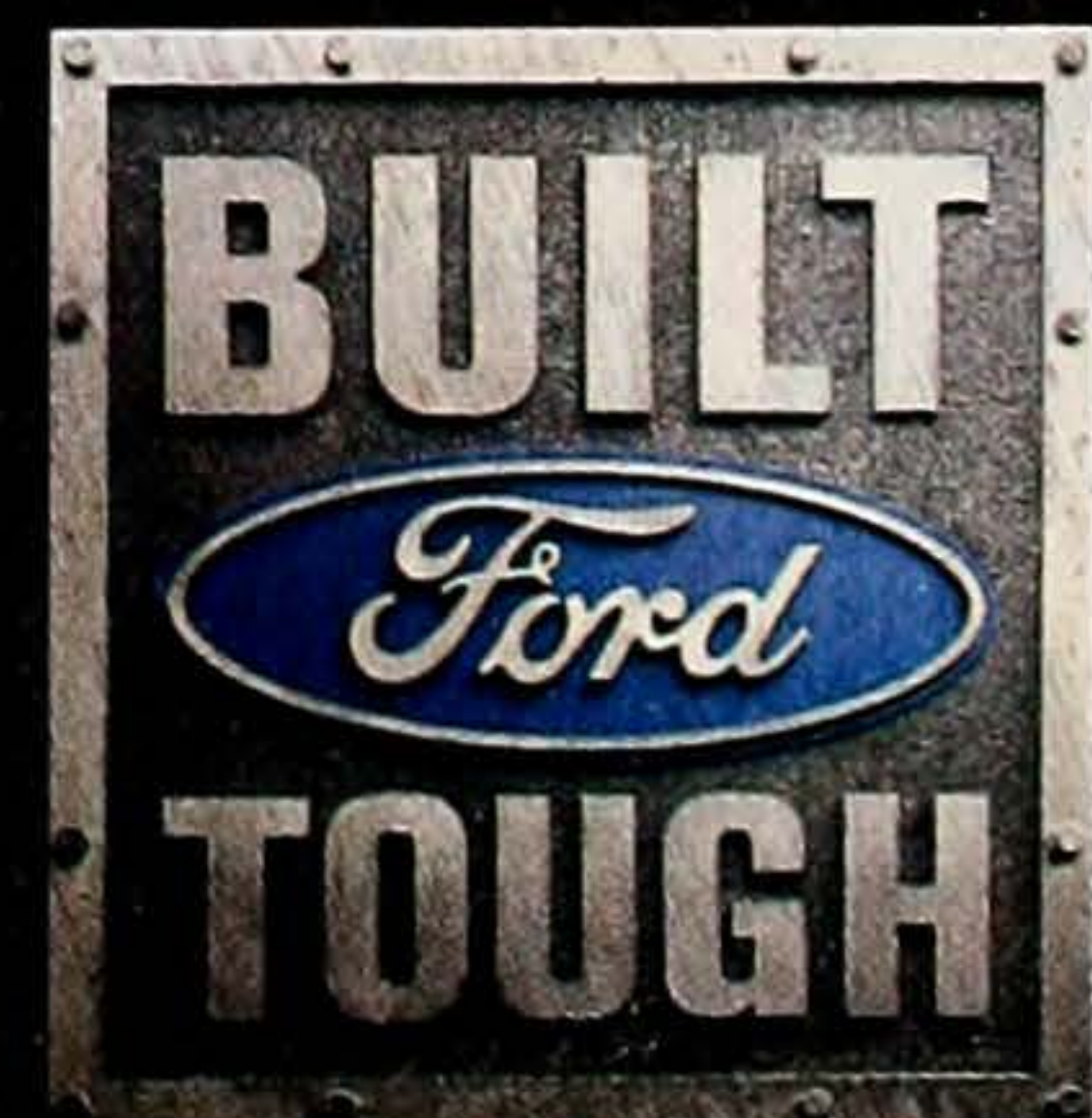
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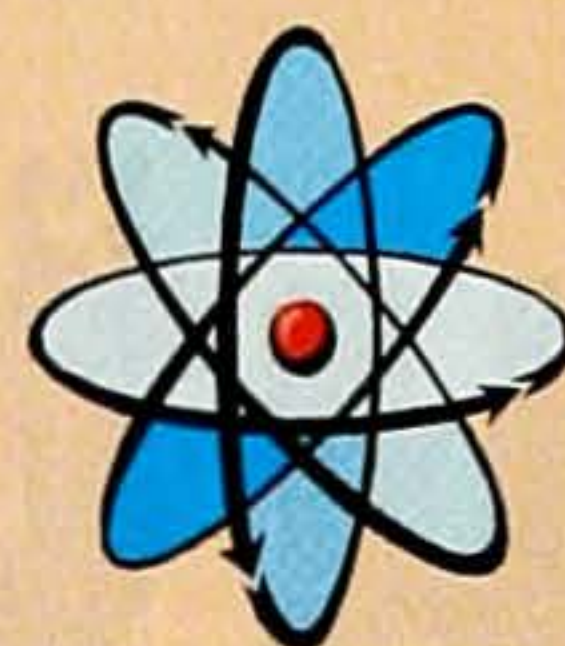
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(713) 799-1234
Location: 9001 Kirby Drive
Price: Over \$30



Museum of Natural Science
Houses the IMAX Theater and Planetarium
(713) 639-4600
Location: 1 Hermann Circle Drive
Houston TX



The Galleria
Fine Shops with Ice Skating in the Center
(713) 622-0663
Location: 5015 Westheimer
Houston, TX



San Jacinto Monument
(281) 479-2421
Location: One Monument Circle
La Porte, TX
Price: Less than \$5



Houston Zoo
(713) 284-8300
Location: 513 N. Macgregor
Houston, TX
Price: Less than \$5



Battleship of Texas
(281) 479-2411
Location: 3527 Battleground Rd.
La Porte, TX
Price: Less than \$5

Imperial Sugar Factory
Tours: M-F 10:00 am or 2:00 pm
Please Schedule in Advance
(281) 491-9181
Sugar Land, TX
Price: Free



Space Center Houston
Learn About NASA
(800) 972-0369
Location: 1601 NASA Road 1
Clear Lake, TX
Price: From \$5-\$15

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AT THE CITY OFFERS

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2525 South Loop West
Houston, TX
(713) 665-3155



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9110 Southwest Fwy
Houston, TX
(713) 771-1777



French Quarter Market & Grill
Cajun, Seafood, Steaks
7610 Cherry Park Dr. #A
Houston, TX
(281) 550-9900

Goode Company Hamburger & Taquery
4902 Kirby Dr.
Houston, TX
(713) 520-9153



Fajita Flats
Tex Mex, Steak, and Seafood
2929 Fondren Rd.
Houston, TX
(713) 789-3338



Atchafalaya
2504 North Loop West
Houston, TX
(713) 683-8880



Joe's Crab Shack
610 South
Houston, TX
(713) 666-2150



CLARENDON COLLEGE

Submitted by
Cynthia Ewing

Anyone involved in agriculture education in the Texas Panhandle--or eastern New Mexico or western Oklahoma--is familiar with Clarendon College. This two-year institution has been in existence for more than one hundred years, with a deep involvement and focus on agriculture education. The college is located in the small rural town of Clarendon, in the Greenbelt that sweeps across the south and eastern section of the Panhandle. The main highway from Dallas-Fort Worth to Amarillo runs through Clarendon, passing directly in front of the college on the west side of town.

High school agriculture students often first encounter Clarendon College by attending one of the FFA leadership activities held at the hilltop campus. The Area I Leadership Camp and several FFA Leadership contests are hosted by the college Agriculture Department, including the Area I Leadership competition which qualifies the winners to advance to State.

Clarendon College also hosts one of the largest FFA invitational judging competitions, or Career Development Events, in the state. Each spring, up to 2000 competitors, coaches, parents and other supporters descend on the campus, almost doubling the size of the town for the day. They spend the day judging the quality of agricultural products from range grasses to side of beef, as well as livestock.

The Agriculture Department, chaired by Jerry Hawkins, offers a full

schedule of classes for students intending to transfer to a four-year college to complete a bachelor's degree. A two-year college provides a student the opportunity to complete the basic classes required for any degree in a small, supportive setting, and to obtain a solid grounding in their major field of study as well. The department works hard to obtain internships for its students, and in the past has sent them to intern with the USDA news organization, USDA meat grading, the American Quarter Horse Association (located nearby in Amarillo), and with the Vocational Ag Teachers Association. Hawkins has maintained his



membership in this association for over 40 years.

Students come to Clarendon College from all

over the state and nation, and transfer to four-year institutions such as Texas Tech and Texas A&M University where they find equal success in their studies. Many students have gone on to obtain advanced degrees. Former Clarendon College students are now teaching and coaching livestock judging teams not only at high schools across the state, but also at several colleges, including Tarleton State, New Mexico State, and West Texas A&M University.

For the Fall 2001 Semester, the college anticipates adding a series of equine science classes so that students can earn an Associate of Science Degree with an equine major, or transfer to a four-year college with these course credits.

Clarendon College is the only state-supported college in Texas offering a

Ranch and Feedlot Operations (RFO) program. Students entering this program may choose to earn the RFO Certificate, an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree, or transfer to a four-year college for a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences. Program director Jerry Gage has worked with universities across the state in assisting students who plan to transfer.

The college is justly proud of its judging teams. The 2000-2001 Livestock Judging team recently placed first at the Houston Livestock Show by the largest margin ever recorded. They also placed first in Denver, second in Fort Worth and in Phoenix, and third in Louisville.

Clarendon College's Meats Judging Teams have been nationally recognized over the last several years. The team won the national junior college competition in Houston this spring for the second year in a row.

The Horse Judging team is in its eighth consecutive year of existence after many years of off-and-on participation. They recently took second place at the All-American Quarter Horse Congress, and have been "in the money" at every competition, according to coach Wayne Miller.

Many of these students go on to compete at four-year colleges, such as Texas Tech, Texas A&M, Kansas State, Colorado State, Oklahoma State, and New Mexico, among others. They are often recruited heavily for that reason.

The Agriculture Department measures its success in how students fare when they go on with their careers both in academics and in the agricultural field, and by that standard, Clarendon College ranks high indeed.

More information can be obtained at www.clarendoncollege.net, or by calling (800) 687-9337.

FFA FOR A LIFETIME

by Bonnie Lindig

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, bustling with excitement and activities, draws an enormous crowd every year. As FFA members come to compete with livestock projects, judging contests, and agriculture mechanics contests, others come to take it all in from the rodeo and entertainment to the shows and exhibition hall. One past FFA member is there for the duration of the show as well as the entire year in preparation for the event.

Dan Gattis, a Midway (Waco) FFA alumni, has been the General Manager of the Show since 1984. What takes a student from Midway High School to Houston, Texas as the General Manager of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo? Years of paying his dues!

As an active member of the Midway chapter, Gattis actively participated on livestock judging teams as well as exhibiting livestock in shows across Texas, including the Houston Livestock Show. Upon high school graduation, Gattis pursued a degree in agricultural education at Southwest Texas State University. He remained a part of the FFA through the Collegiate FFA program and even took the leadership position of President. Gattis also engaged himself in other leadership positions through the American Range Society and the Circle K Club. In 1964, Gattis began his first year as an agriculture science teacher at Round Rock High School.

After earning his master's degree in education, Gattis joined the Texas Education Agency as a consultant. Under this title, he became the Executive Secretary of the Texas Young Farmers Association. He held

this position for six years, before joining the team at Houston in 1976 as the Executive Assistant to the General Manager. In 1981, he was named the Assistant General Manager and then moved to the top in 1984 as the General Manager.

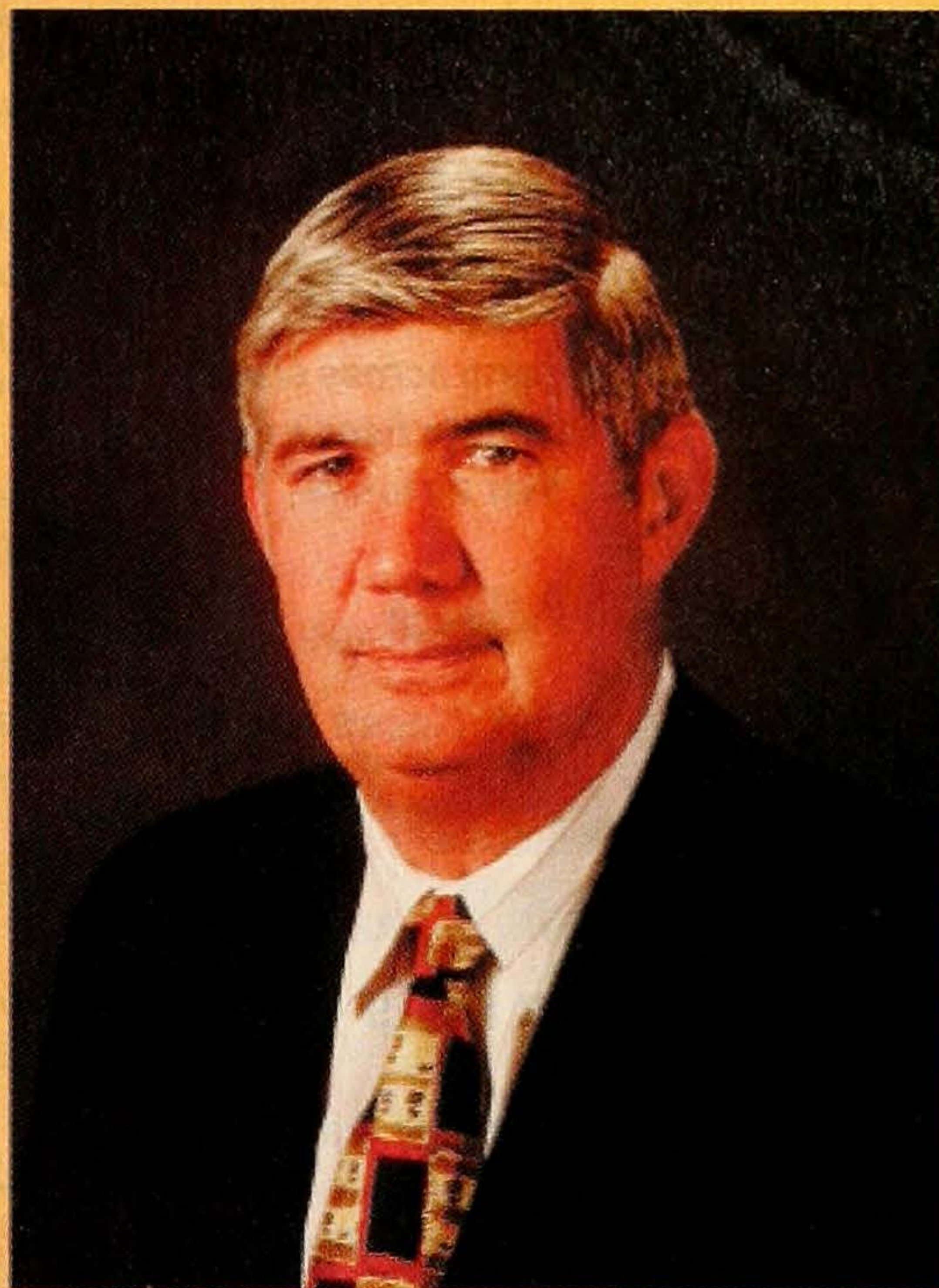
Gattis has not only proven his talents through the success of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo but also through the numerous awards he has received and the associations he has been a part of. The Texas Association of Fairs and Expositions, Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, Gulf Coast Agribusiness Council, the Texas FFA Foundation, Texas Southwest Cattle Raisers Association, and the National Cattlemen's and Beef Association, have all utilized his insight as a board member.

"He brings great FFA and agricultural experience, insight and leadership to our team," says Aaron Alejandro, executive director of the Texas FFA Foundation. "The Texas FFA is fortunate to have Dan Gattis as a leader in our efforts."

Gattis has demonstrated through his career that he has an inherent leadership ability that is well-proven by his distinguished service awards from such noteworthy organizations as the Texas FFA Association, Southwest Texas State University, the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas and the Professional Ag Workers of Texas.

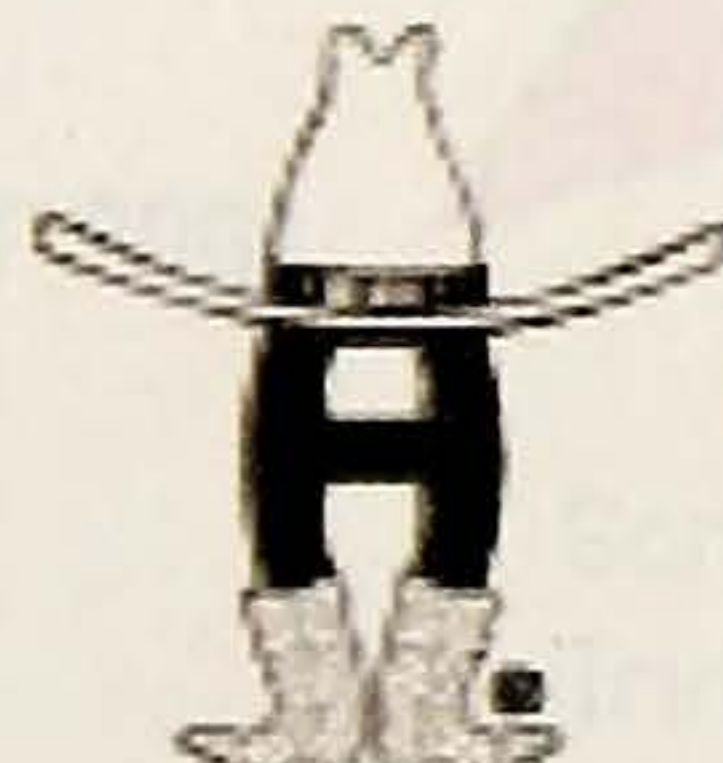
Gattis' life has revolved around the

agriculture industry not only through his work but also his home. The Gattis' remain involved in their small



ranching operation in Williamson County, Texas. His wife Karen is the former head of the Home Economics Department at Friendswood High School. The Gattis' have two sons who have inherited their parent's leadership abilities as well. Their oldest son Dan is a county prosecutor while their youngest son Brent is employed by the United States House of Representative Committee on Agriculture.

Dan Gattis may have the world's largest livestock exhibition under his reigns, but he still remains a guiding force of the organization that has been a part of his life since his early youth—the Texas FFA.



MAY/JUNE/JULY

MEMBER GUIDELINES

Area officers must be in official dress as listed on page 11 of the official FFA manual.

All other members going across stage or serving on the delegate floor must be in official dress that includes:

REQUIRED ITEMS

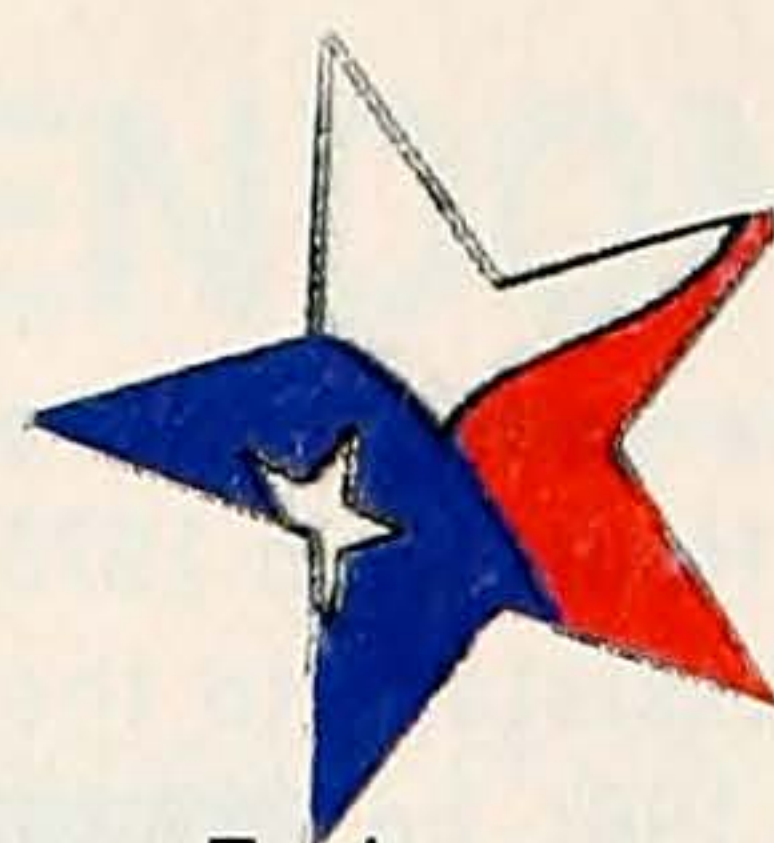
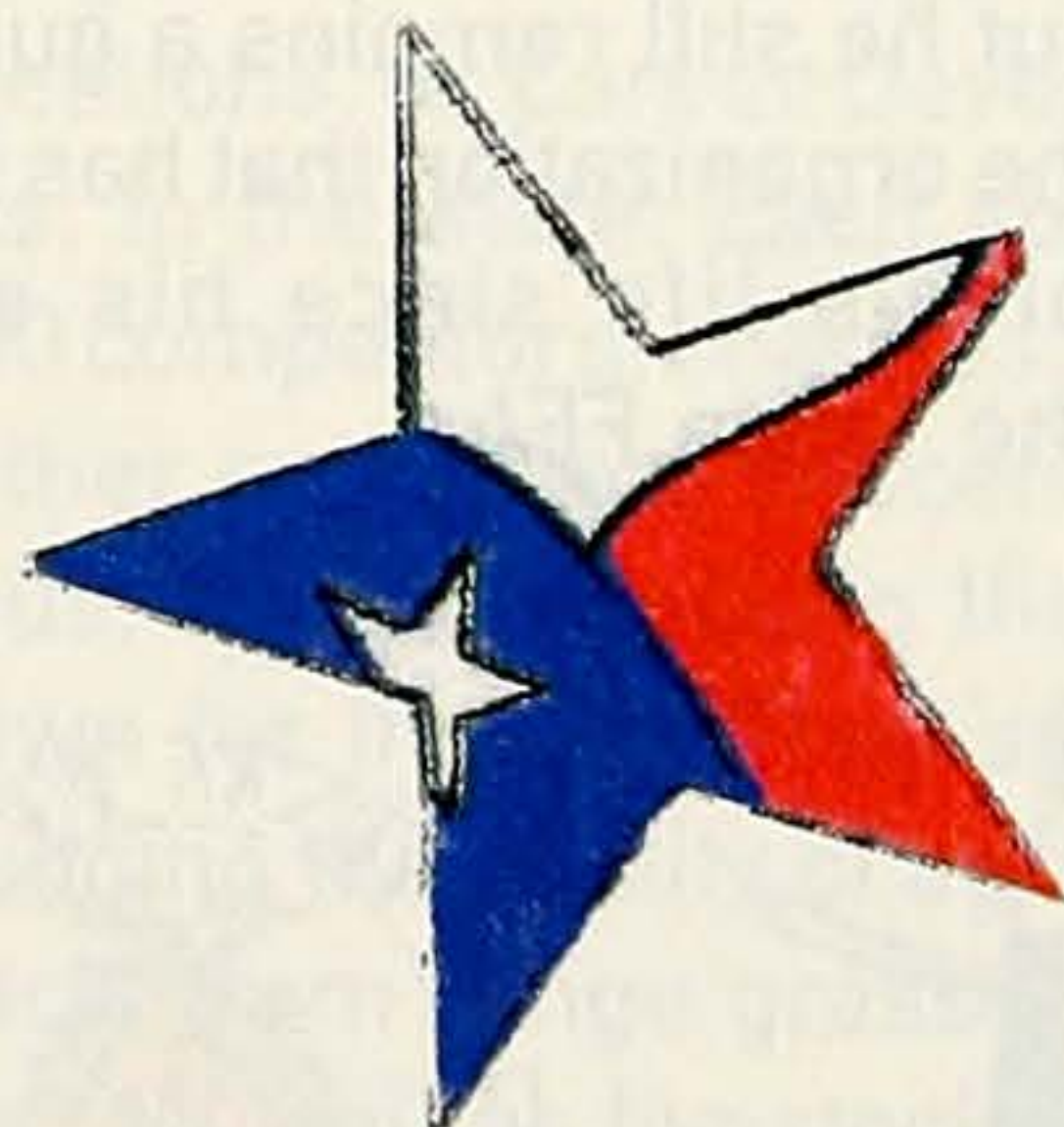
- ⇒ Official FFA jacket, zipped to the top
- ⇒ White shirt or blouse
- ⇒ FFA tie or FFA scarf

TOLERABLE ITEMS

- ⇒ Black slacks, pants, or jeans for young men
- ⇒ Black skirts for young ladies (extended at least to the top of the knee)
- ⇒ Solid black shoes or boots

ITEMS NOT TOLERATED

- ⇒ Blue jeans
- ⇒ White hose on young ladies
- ⇒ Any color of shoe, boot, or footwear other than those listed above
- ⇒ Black slacks, pants, or jeans for young ladies



TALENT CONTEST RULES

- ⇒ Each area may send one talent team to the state contest. The respective area teacher coordinator must properly certify each team.
- ⇒ Each team will be allowed a maximum of EIGHT minutes to perform. The stopwatch will begin when the performance of the talent team starts (i.e. singing, playing, etc.). The stopwatch will run throughout the performance and end when the talent team is completely finished.
- ⇒ One state talent team winner will be selected by plurality vote. Each delegate votes only once for two contestants.
- ⇒ Talent team members must be enrolled in high school and be a member of the FFA at the time of the district level election. All team members must be currently enrolled in an agriscience course at the time of the district election or have been enrolled in an agriscience course during the current school year.
- ⇒ No additions may be made to talent teams after the district election; however, qualified substitutions will be permitted.
- ⇒ Order of performance will be determined prior to the talent contest at the rehearsal.
- ⇒ Talent teams will have a chance to rehearse on-stage prior to the state contest. (Time of rehearsal will be limited by the time between each session.)
- ⇒ FFA Official Dress is NOT required while performing in the state talent contest. The following standards of dress will be enforced:
 - a. No clothing with obscene or suggestive lettering or pictures.
 - b. No clothing with beer, alcoholic beverage, drug or violence promotions.
 - c. No see-through shirts, blouses or shorts.
 - d. No blouses or shirts that expose the midriff.
 - e. Dresses, skirts, slits in the dress and shorts must be no shorter than extended finger length.
 - f. Other items not listed, but considered to be inappropriate will not be allowed. Decisions concerning dress by the contest chairperson are final. Contestants are encouraged to discuss clothing that may be questionable with contest chairperson during rehearsal.
- ⇒ No suggestive actions by any talent team or team member will be tolerated.
- ⇒ There will be no derogatory references- nothing in the songs or performance-related to race, color, creed, or sex. No vulgar language or actions will be tolerated.
- ⇒ Prior to contest during convention week, contestants are not to stage performances, whether they are arranged or spontaneous in nature, outside of the scheduled performance and practice times. Violators will be disqualified.

TEXAS TRIVIA

Compiled by the Texas
Historical Commission

- ★ Nacogdoches and Ysleta are considered to be the two oldest towns in Texas. Ysleta, originally on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande.
- ★ Spindletop, near Beaumont in East Texas, was Texas' first oil gusher in 1901. It signaled the beginning of the state's oil boom.
- ★ On September 8-9, 1900, an estimated 8,000 people were killed in the disastrous Galveston hurricane and flood.
- ★ There are more than 70,000 miles of highways in Texas.
- ★ The tallest point in Texas is Guadalupe Peak at 8,751 feet.
- ★ The largest body of water completely within the boundaries of Texas is Sam Rayburn Reservoir in East Texas, which covers 113,400 acres.
- ★ Texas is as large as all of New England, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois combined.
- ★ Mirabeau B. Lamar, second president of the Republic of Texas (1838-1841), is called the "Father of Education in Texas."
- ★ Jane Long (1798-1880), known as the "Mother of Texas," was a pioneer Anglo American woman settler in Texas.

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

MAY 2001

15	State Wildlife & Rec Mgmt CDE	TSU, Stephenville
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JUNE 2001

1-4	State FFA Leadership Camp	Brownwood
6	State Speaking CDE's	SWTSU, San Marcos
7-8	State FFA Degree, Awards & Scholarship Selection	SWTSU, San Marcos

JULY 2001

10-13	State FFA Convention	Reliant Astroarena, Houston
16-19	State Officer Blast-Off Training	Cloudcroft, NM
23-27	State Presidents' Conference	Washington, D.C.
30-31	Ag Teachers Conference	Corpus Christi

AUGUST 2001

1-3	Ag Teachers Conference	Corpus Christi
TBA	State Officer Training	Trinidad

MAY/JUNE/JULY

*We're celebrating a
successful 2000 Houston
Livestock Show and Rodeo
by giving the Texas FFA
\$ 700,000 in scholarships!*



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What's Hot

This issue's theme is entertainment. Fill out these surveys and send them in right away!

what's hot

Female actor _____

Male actor _____

Female singer _____

Male singer _____

TV sitcom _____

TV soap opera _____

Movie (now in theaters) _____

Movie (on video) _____

Baseball team _____

Website _____

Book _____

CD _____

what's not

Female actor _____

Male actor _____

Female singer _____

Male singer _____

TV sitcom _____

TV soap opera _____

Movie (now in theaters) _____

Movie (on video) _____

Baseball team _____

Website _____

Book _____

CD _____

send your
picks to:

FFA New Horizons
What's Hot
P.O. Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN
46268-0960
egaukel@mindspring.com

Name _____

Chapter _____

Address _____

City/Town _____

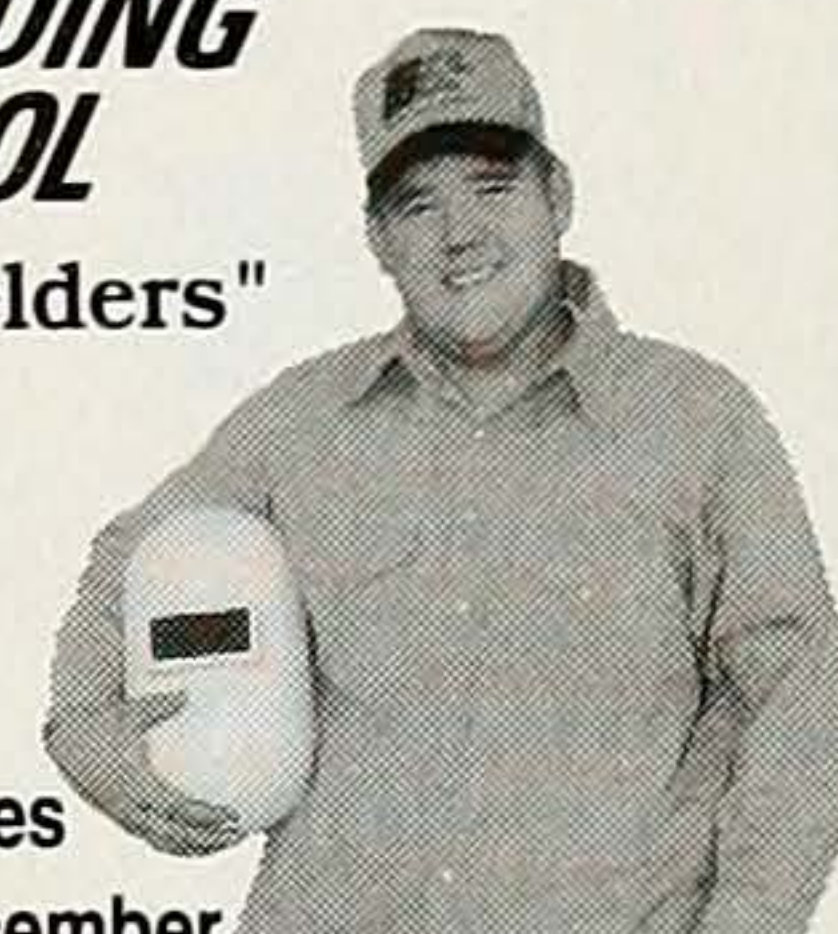
State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

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out of your head



8 careers where you can use your knowledge to educate the world about agriculture, food, the environment and beyond

continued on page 18



By Erich Gaukel
Illustration by Patty O'Friel

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Agriculture teacher

As a middle or high school agriculture teacher, you hold the future of agriculture in your hands. You provide the spark of interest in young people that can ignite a passion for the agricultural industry. By developing hands-on programs, curriculum and activities for your students, you don't just tell students how something works—you show them how it works. You also have the opportunity to be an FFA chapter advisor, a position that allows you to offer your students opportunities in leadership training, competition and teamwork. The projected demand for agriculture teachers in the coming years is very high.



education: In high school, take all available agriculture classes. A bachelor's degree in agricultural education or a related field is required.



Journalist

A journalist is a really a storyteller. You take a story that you have learned through interviews and research, you shape it into a newspaper article or radio report, then you re-tell the story. In agricultural journalism, you must be good with words, but you must also have an understanding of agriculture and the trends and events that affect it. Journalists typically work at newspapers, magazines, radio stations, TV stations and Internet news sites.

education: In high school, take journalism, English and agriculture classes. A bachelor's degree in agricultural journalism, communications or English is required.

College teacher

At the college level, teaching is more specialized than in high school. At this level, you're teaching students who have committed to a major in agriculture. To teach horticulture at the college level, you will need to have a master's degree in—you guessed it—horticulture. This specialization allows for more in-depth study in a particular area. In addition to classroom teaching, you will also be responsible for advising students and performing research in your field of study.



education: In high school, load up on agriculture and classes related to your field of interest. Depending on the type of teaching position, a master's or doctorate degree in your field of study is required.

Dietitian

In broad terms, a dietitian can be thought of as a person who makes informed decisions about what people should eat. In the health care industry, you teach patients how to prevent and treat illness by developing diets tailored for their individual needs. Dietitians also work in the food service industry, where they plan and oversee the distribution of well-balanced meals for cafeterias, schools, restaurants, universities and airlines. There are also opportunities in the test kitchens and marketing departments of packaged food manufacturers and restaurant chains.

education: In high school, load up on agriculture, home economics, math and science classes. A bachelor's degree in nutritional science, dietetics, food science or agriculture is required. In some cases, a master's degree is required.



Publicist

A publicist's job is to educate the news media, general public and targeted audiences about a product, service or news item. Employed by small companies, large corporations, government agencies (including the USDA) and other types of businesses, publicists write press releases, arrange interview requests from the news media and push to get their interests covered by newspapers, magazines, TV and radio. With the recent controversy surrounding genetically modified crops, publicists in the agricultural industry are now working to show that these crops are safe for human consumption.



Agricultural attaché

An attaché is a person officially assigned to a diplomatic mission abroad. In this case, it's someone working abroad for the United States Department of Agriculture. Your role as an agricultural attaché is to educate foreign governments about the benefits of importing American agricultural products. At the same time, you will explore new opportunities for American products in that country. Another part of your job is to gather data on that country's agricultural industry. If, for example, that country competes with the U.S. as a beef exporter, it's beneficial for American beef producers to know what the competition is up to and how much beef they are producing.

education: In high school, load up on agriculture, government and communications classes. Depending on the position, a bachelor's, master's or doctorate degree is required.



Extension agent

As an agricultural extension agent, you are an advisor and problem solver for communities, farmers, agribusinesses and youth. To succeed, you'll need to possess a thorough understanding of agriculture, the environment and rural life. Agents share their knowledge through lectures, workshops, county fairs and visits to farms, homes and businesses. They also communicate via e-mail, phone, mail, fax and even online bulletin boards. As 4-H coordinator, extension agents organize agricultural and leadership activities for youth.

education: In high school, take as many agriculture classes as possible. Depending on the position, a bachelor's or master's degree is required in agricultural education, family and consumer science or a related field.



Park ranger

Protecting our natural habitats and resources is the park ranger's job. A big part of that responsibility hinges on the ability of the ranger to educate local citizens on the proper use and treatment of those lands. Aside from their patrolling and wildlife tracking duties, rangers frequently meet with groups to demonstrate and discuss fire prevention, gun safety, hunting and fishing rules, restoration of natural habitats and the importance of maintaining clean waterways. Rangers also teach hard lessons to poachers and other lawbreakers with fines and arrests.

education: In high school, take agriculture and science classes. A two-year or bachelor's degree in such areas as agriculture, law enforcement, biology or wildlife management is required.



Out of your head

Find more careers and information at the National FFA Organizations' Career Center at: www.ffa.org/careers/index.htm

Check out those who conquered risk and went to D.C...

Read on for more details about how YOU can enter the 2002 contest!



Wravenna Phipps
Platte Valley FFA
Shelton, NE



Drew Sponheim
St. Ansgar FFA
St. Ansgar, IA



Jennifer Bradley
Grapeland FFA
Grapeland, TX



Jessica Mertens
New Raymer FFA
New Raymer, CO



Kory Ruggles
Scranton FFA
Scranton, ND



Maria Ramsey
Talawanda FFA
Oxford, OH



Nathan Fegley
Berthold FFA
Berthold, ND



Devon Dudley
Nettleton FFA
Jonesboro, AR



Tami Shannon
Hillsboro FFA
Hillsboro, OH



Tim Crabtree
Denton FFA
Denton, MT

That's right, these FFA members told us how they conquered risk and won an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for themselves and their advisors. While in D.C., they were recognized in a special ceremony at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, met high-ranking USDA officials and congressional representatives and toured our nation's capital. We believe the winners taught Commander Risk, Miss Manage and Strive a thing or two about managing risk while in D.C.

If you manage risk in your supervised agricultural experience, tell FFA about it and enter your essay in the 2002 Risk Management Essay Contest. Ask your advisor for more details, or log on to www.ffa.org and find out how to enter!



The Risk Management Essay Contest is offered by the National FFA Organization in cooperation with the National Council for Agricultural Education and with funding from the Risk Management Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



An estimated 86.7 million bales of cotton will be produced worldwide in 2000-2001.

Thirty-one percent of the cotton harvested in the U.S. is exported.

built for

comfort

A snapshot of the U.S. cotton industry

You may or may not know this, but those clothes you're wearing—the jeans, the skirt, the slacks or that shirt, to name a few possibilities—are probably made out of cotton. So too are the sheets on your bed, the hat on your head, the towels in your bathroom and, perhaps, the pillows in your living room. Your socks? Cotton, of course. Even that dollar bill in your wallet is made out of cotton.

As fabrics go, cotton is what you might call a heavy-weight. Here in the United States, cotton farmers, working in places like Texas,

Alabama, Arkansas and California, planted more than 15 million acres of cotton in the last year alone. Harvested, that's more than 17 million bales at 500 pounds apiece. Turn the crop into usable products—things like clothing, textiles, oils and animal feed—and you have an industry worth \$25 billion per year.

From seed to sale

"Cotton is one of the best economic crops for growers," says Fred Middleton, spokesperson for the National Cotton Council of America (NCC). "But it's

a considerable investment and it takes a long time to go from seed to sale. You definitely have to stick with it."

That journey, "from field to fabric," as the NCC describes it, kicks off with the planting of the seeds. Cottonseed planting begins in early February in parts of southern Texas. To the north, in states like Missouri and Kansas, seeds might not hit the ground until June. One or two weeks after the seeds are sown, tiny seedlings sprout up from the earth. A month or so later, assuming decent rainfall or



There are approximately 35,000 cotton farms in the U.S., in 2000 those farmers planted 15.5 million acres.

Texas produces about 4.5 million bales of cotton annually, more than any other state.

One bale of cotton supplies enough fiber for 249 pairs of jeans.



adequate irrigation, the growing plants produce flowers. Eventually, after turning various colors—from yellow to pink to red—the flowers fall away. Small capsules, called “cotton bolls,” take their place.

Cotton picking

Each cotton boll is like a miniature pod containing a white bundle of cotton fiber. When the pods open and this fiber is revealed, cotton farmers know it's almost time to harvest. They allow air to dry and fluff the cotton while it's still on the plant, then, beginning in July in southern Texas and as late as November in northern areas, they go to work.

The cotton-harvesting process is nothing like it used to be. Cotton was once

picked entirely by hand, but today massive machines do the job in a fraction of the time. Some harvesting machines snatch the entire bolls right off the plants. Others leave the bolls and take only the cotton fiber. Machines bundle the collected cotton into large clumps, or modules, which are then draped with water-resistant tarps and left in the field.

Of course, harvested cotton would rot if it were left out for too long, so farmers waste little time collecting the modules and shipping them off to the gin, where the cotton is automatically fluffed, cleaned and formed into bales. Cottonseeds are removed and crushed and the seed meal and hulls are used for fertilizer and animal feed. Oil extracted from the seeds is sold for use as cook-

ing oil and as an ingredient in many foods. Finally, the bales of cotton lint, seed-free and classified according to fiber strength, length and other characteristics, are whisked away to the textile mills.

Onto the mill

The textile mill is the last and most important stop in cotton's long trip from seed to sale. Machines at the mills open the bales, separate the fibers, then blend and twist the fibers into long strands perfect for making fabrics. Other machines dye the strands, spin them into yarns and knit and weave them into clothing and other products, which are then shipped to stores throughout the world.

All in all, the cotton-growing, -ginning and -milling process seems

straightforward. But according to Barry Evans, a former FFA member and the current owner and operator of a 1,000-acre cotton farm in Kress, Texas, the real work—the work that takes place in the field—is anything but easy. Uncontrollable factors like the weather, for example, can make or break an entire crop.

“You can do everything exactly right and still the weather won't cooperate,” says Evans. Still, each year he manages to crank out up to 1,400 bales of denim-grade cotton and, all things considered, he thinks he's in the right business. “There are good years and there are bad years,” says Evans. “But I enjoy it. I really do.” ★

If you'd like to get involved in cotton production—or any area of agriculture—talk to your FFA advisor about starting a supervised agricultural experience (SAE).

your money

Tips on managing your cash

you can bank on it



The first stop on the road to financial independence is your local bank **By Steve Dinnen**

A piggy bank is a great place to save money. But a real bank is the way to make money with your money. And it's a great place to establish a relationship with money and finances that you're going to need for the rest of your life.

In your early banking years, you'll need a bank only for savings. Many banks offer special accounts to young people. The bank pays you interest on these accounts even though you don't meet the minimum balance an adult would need in order to receive the same interest rate. Like many other banks, Cenbank, in Ortonville, Minnesota, pays interest and awards prizes such as movie rentals or soda pop to kids who save with them.

Earning interest

A word about interest: Unlike a piggy bank, which just serves as a container for your cash, a real bank will pay you a premium to deposit money with it. This is called interest, and right

now it averages about 1.5 percent a year. So, if you deposit \$100 now, in a year you'll have \$101.50.

Not much of a jump, but it beats what your piggy bank will give you. And if you put more money into an account, or agree to leave it there for a long period of time, you could earn five percent or more in interest.

Another reason why people keep their money in banks is security. If you keep your cash under your mattress and your house burns to the ground, your money is gone. If you keep your cash in a bank and the bank burns to the ground, you're covered because bank accounts valued up to \$100,000 are insured by the

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

Opening a checking account

When you reach a point when you're doing some of your own shopping and bill paying, you might want your own checking account. While such an account gives you more financial freedom, it also carries responsibilities—such as not writing checks for an amount more than is in your account (called an overdraft). Ask your bank for an account that will offer overdraft protection and the smallest monthly fee possible.

These days a checking account usually includes a debit card. This piece of plastic will let you go to

automatic teller machines (ATMs) to withdraw money, even if you're in a different state or country. And many merchants accept debit cards, which let you buy something and have the payment instantly withdrawn from your checking account.

With a debit card, you don't have to worry about dealing with accumulating debt on a credit card (those also are available from banks, once you're old enough). Besides checking accounts, banks are an obvious choice for loans, which you might need to buy a car or pay for college. You'll likely need an adult to co-sign on any loan if you're under the age of 18.

Banks, savings and loans and credit unions often run promotions to attract new customers, so be alert for them. Every institution has a different plan for young savers, so check with three or four establishments to see which one best suits your needs. ★

10 reasons you might need a bank

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Checking and savings accounts | 5 Credit cards |
| 2 Car, education and business loans | 6 Wire money transfers |
| 3 Notary service | 7 Money orders |
| 4 Travelers checks | 8 Cashier's checks |
| | 9 Coin processing |
| | 10 Retirement savings plans |

Imagine there's a drought in the Southwest.

Imagine FFA members in Oklahoma having trouble buying hay for their animals.

Imagine the Franklin Center FFA Chapter transporting free hay to their fellow members in need.

Imagine this is just one of the stories that makes us proud to sponsor organizations like the FFA.



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Here's what you had to say in our last What's Hot/What's Not survey. Be sure to fill out the current What's Hot/What's Not survey on page 15.

hot **julia roberts**
female actor

drew barrymore **not**

hot **jim carrey**
male actor

arnold schwarzenegger **not**

hot **friends**
tv sitcom

frasier **not**

hot **days of our lives**
tv soap opera

passions **not**

hot **gone in 60 seconds**
movie rental

scary movie **not**

hot **los angeles lakers**
nba team

chicago bulls **not**

hot **los angeles sparks**
wnba team

new york liberty **not**

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National FFA
BLUE

body & soul

Tips for healthy lifestyles

just do it!

Exercise—it will do wonders for your body and soul



By Chris Hayhurst

Couch potatoes, listen up. According to a recent report by experts at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there's now even more evidence that exercise—anything from easy walks at the mall to full 90-minute sessions on the soccer field—is one of the keys to a long and healthy life.

Consider this: Nearly half of all American teenagers do not get vigorous exercise on a regular basis. Now consider this: No matter how old you are, regular physical activity reduces the risk of heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, depression, anxiety and certain types of cancer.

It's also an effective means of weight control

and a great way to build strong bones and muscles. In fact, if you can find time to incorporate exercise into your daily schedule, or—if you're already a fitness addict—increase the intensity of your workouts, you're almost guaranteed to notice the results.

Preventative medicine

"The best way to avoid major health problems over the course of a lifetime is through exercise," says Don Franks, a consultant to the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. Franks recommends two different approaches to

exercise: one for those who are not normally active, and another for those who have already made exercise a regular part of their lives.

If the mere thought of moving makes you cringe, it's time to change your ways. "Find a way to be active for 30 to 60 minutes every day," says Franks. Take a walk. Try skateboarding. Learn to dance. Go to the mall and stroll between stores. Whatever you do, be sure to take an occasional rest.

"You don't have to do it all at once," says Franks. "And don't worry about sweating or your target heart rate or anything like that.

Just find a way to move." Of course, if you have chronic health problems, are severely overweight, or if you are a person with a disability that might prevent you from exercising safely, talk to a doctor first.

Move it up a notch

If, on the other hand, you're already athletic and exercise is something you're accustomed to, you may benefit by increasing the intensity of your "workouts," whether that means trying a competitive sport for the first time or just putting more effort into your daily chores.

"Try to get vigorous activity at least three times a week for 20 to 30 minutes at a time," Franks recommends. Serious athletes—those for whom working out is second nature—should also incorporate weight training into their regimen. Doing so (under professional supervision) builds bone mass, increases oxygen-processing ability and reduces the risk of sports-related injuries.

Now, get moving! ★

For more information on the benefits of exercise, contact:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

4770 Buford Highway, NE

Atlanta, Georgia 30341-3724

(888/232-4674) www.cdc.gov/health/adolescent.htm

Or visit the following website, which has fitness calculators and loads of information on exercise programs, injuries, gear and more.

<http://exercise.about.com/health/exercise>



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Last Laff

Q: What did the spider do on his computer?

A: Made a website.

Amy Figueroa

Corpus Christi, Texas

Q: What did one math book confess to the other?

A: I really have a lot of problems.

Tim Dunn, Jr.

Quincy, Michigan

Q: Why can't a dog get therapy?

A: Because he's not allowed on the couch.

Mindy Edwards &

Andrea Knopik

Killdeer, North Dakota

Q: What's the best time to go to the dentist?

A: At 2:30 (tooth-hurty).

Sheena Hamlet

Benton, Kentucky

Q: Did you hear about the two antennas' wedding?

A: The wedding was terrible, but the reception was great.

Rachel Wilson

Chico, California

Q: What did Ernie say to Bert when Bert asked him if he wanted ice cream?

A: Sure, Bert! (Sherbert)

Cory Bloom

Indianola, Iowa

Q: Where do fish go when they're sick?

A: The dock (doc).

Lindi Harrell

Eatonton, Georgia

Q: How can you identify a dogwood tree?

A: By its bark.

John Riley

Hardinsburg, Kentucky

Q: When is a piece of wood like a king?

A: When it's a ruler.

Alicia Lynn

Abbeville, Alabama

Q: How do you get out of a house that has no windows and no doors, using only a mirror and a table?

A: You look in the mirror. You see what you saw. You take the saw and cut the table in half. Two halves make a whole, and you climb through the hole.

Sha'Toya Mitchell

Nashville, Arkansas

Q: What do you call a clam that doesn't share?

A: A selfish shellfish.

Eric Bowers

Somerville, Ohio

Q: Why can't you read a chicken's writing?

A: Because it's chicken scratch.

Donald Dudley

Swansboro, North Carolina

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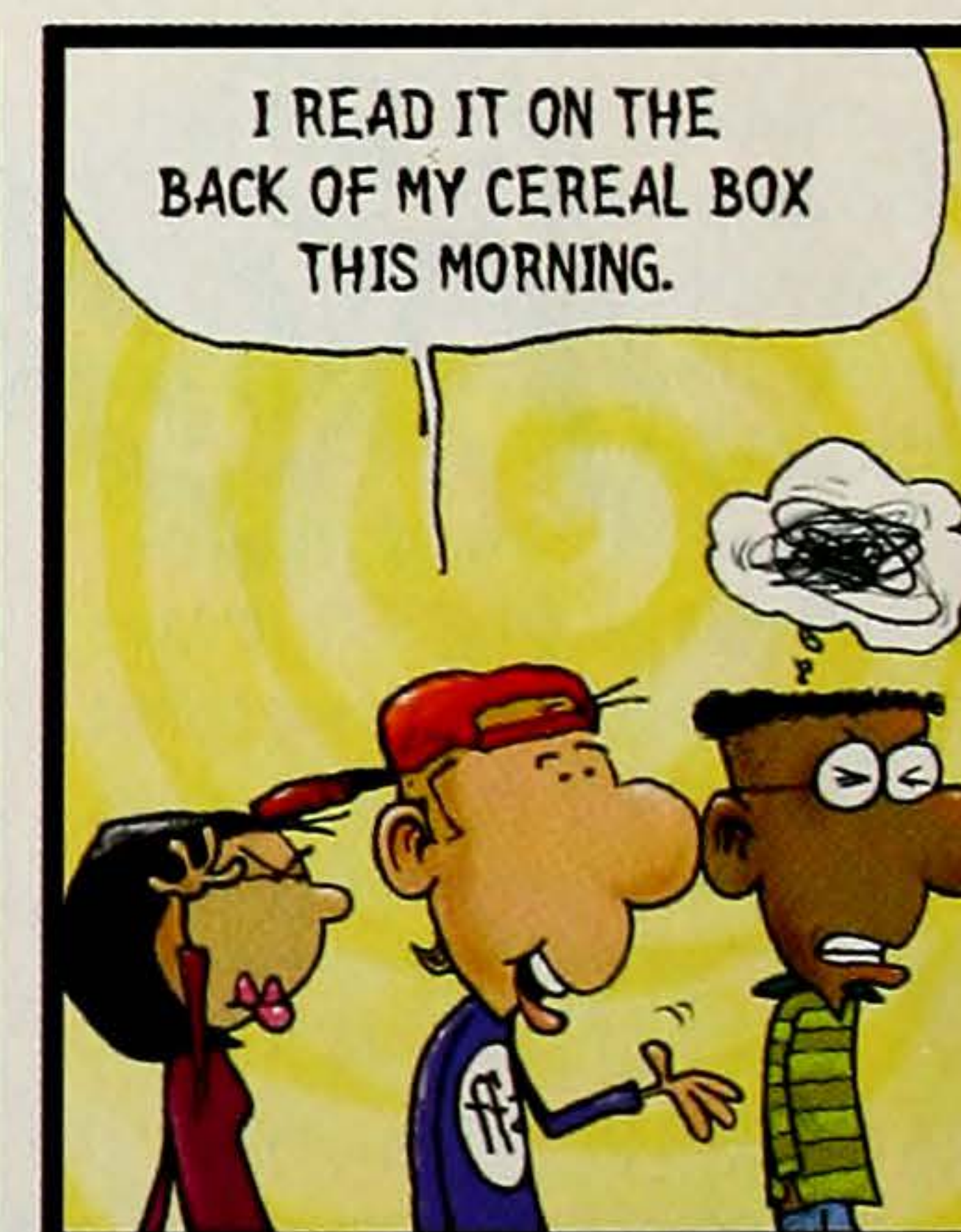
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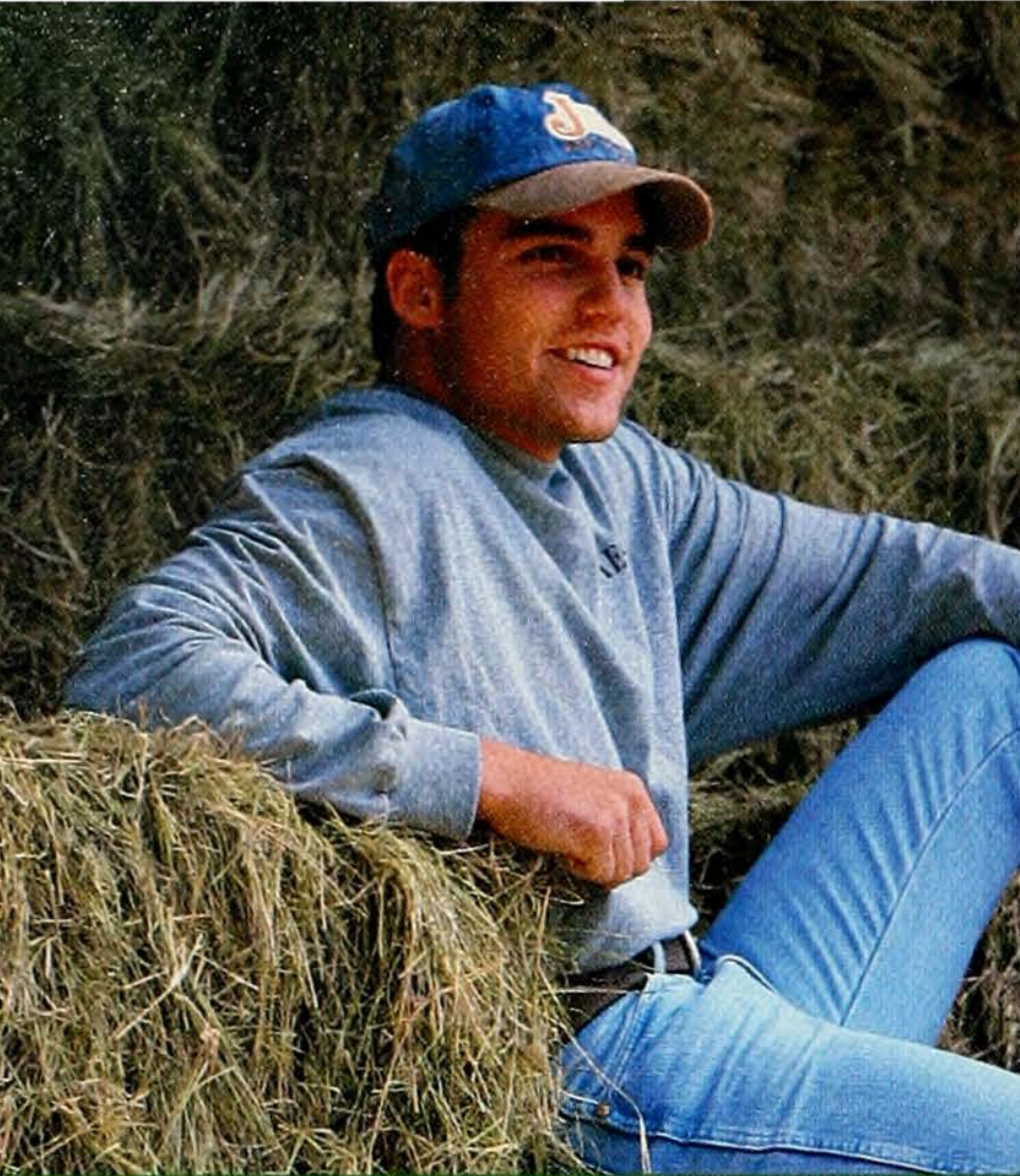
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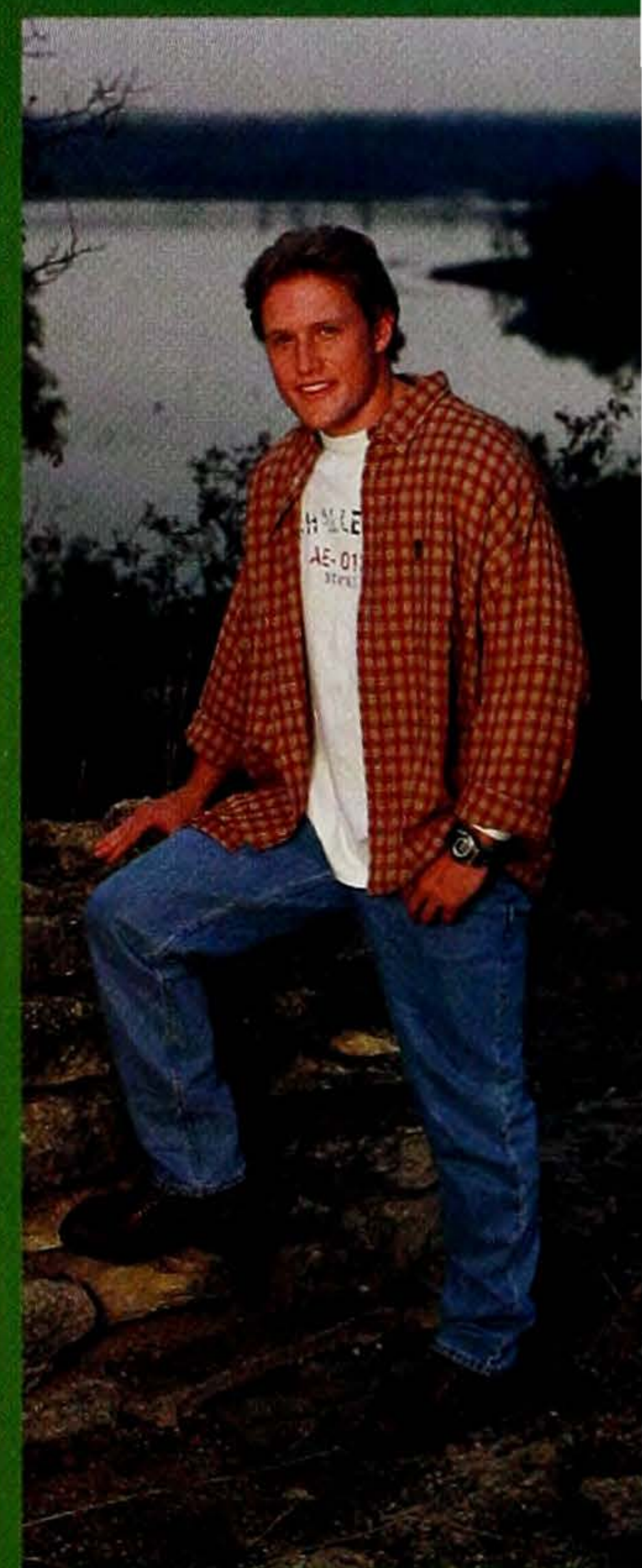


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