FFA new horizons

The magazine of the National FFA Organization

September/October 1997

Hang Time

Taking agriculture to zero gravity

At convention Z

26 reasons to be at National FFA Convention

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BlackHawk

College, Convention & Concert Contest

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BlackHawk

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Unless you're Michael Jordan, you're not going to have much luck defying gravity. Unless, of course, you're one of the two former state FFA officers from Louisiana who took their pollination research to new heights aboard a NASA zero gravity flight.

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With the 70th National FFA Convention just a couple months away, here are 26 reasons–one for each letter of the alphabet–you should start planning your trip. This one promises to be one of the best conventions ever.

24 Sport Shooting Special Section

The National Shooting Sports Foundation invites you in for a look at how to make shooting a great experience for everyone. Find out how to make your land better for hunting, and learn the skills you need when hunting on others' land.

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FFA Mission Statement
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 resources systems.

q&a

National officer **q&a**

one on one with

Charlie Jones

What's been the biggest thrill of being a national officer?

The opportunity to go to a state convention and just sit down and have a one-on-one conversation with an FFA member.

What do you do when you're not busy with FFA?

I like to go home and just relax and go walk around the woods around our house. I go to movies and play basketball–I'm a huge basketball fan. I also love to watch NASCAR and watch and play golf.

What single event made you most proud to be an FFA member?

The proudest moment of my FFA career was when my sister was elected state officer. She's now state FFA secretary in Alabama. To go back home and see her speaking and taking part, and to know maybe I had a little influence on that—that's been the greatest thing for me and that's the main memory I'll take from all my years in FFA.

What do you plan to do after convention?

Sleep (laughs). Just get ready to go back to Auburn in January to finish my degree in agricultural economics.

VITALS

National southern region vice president: Charlie Jones
Hometown: Billingsley, Alabama
Age: 21
Chapter: Billingsley
Advisor: Clayton Spencer
SAE: Horse production and forage crops
Education: Junior at Auburn University
Major: Agricultural economics
Favorite book: "Truman" by David McCullough
Favorite band: Van Halen ("by far," Charlie notes)
Favorite movie: "Braveheart"

timeline

Age

13 • joined FFA in seventh grade

14 • competed in district dairy judging CDE
• elected FFA chapter reporter

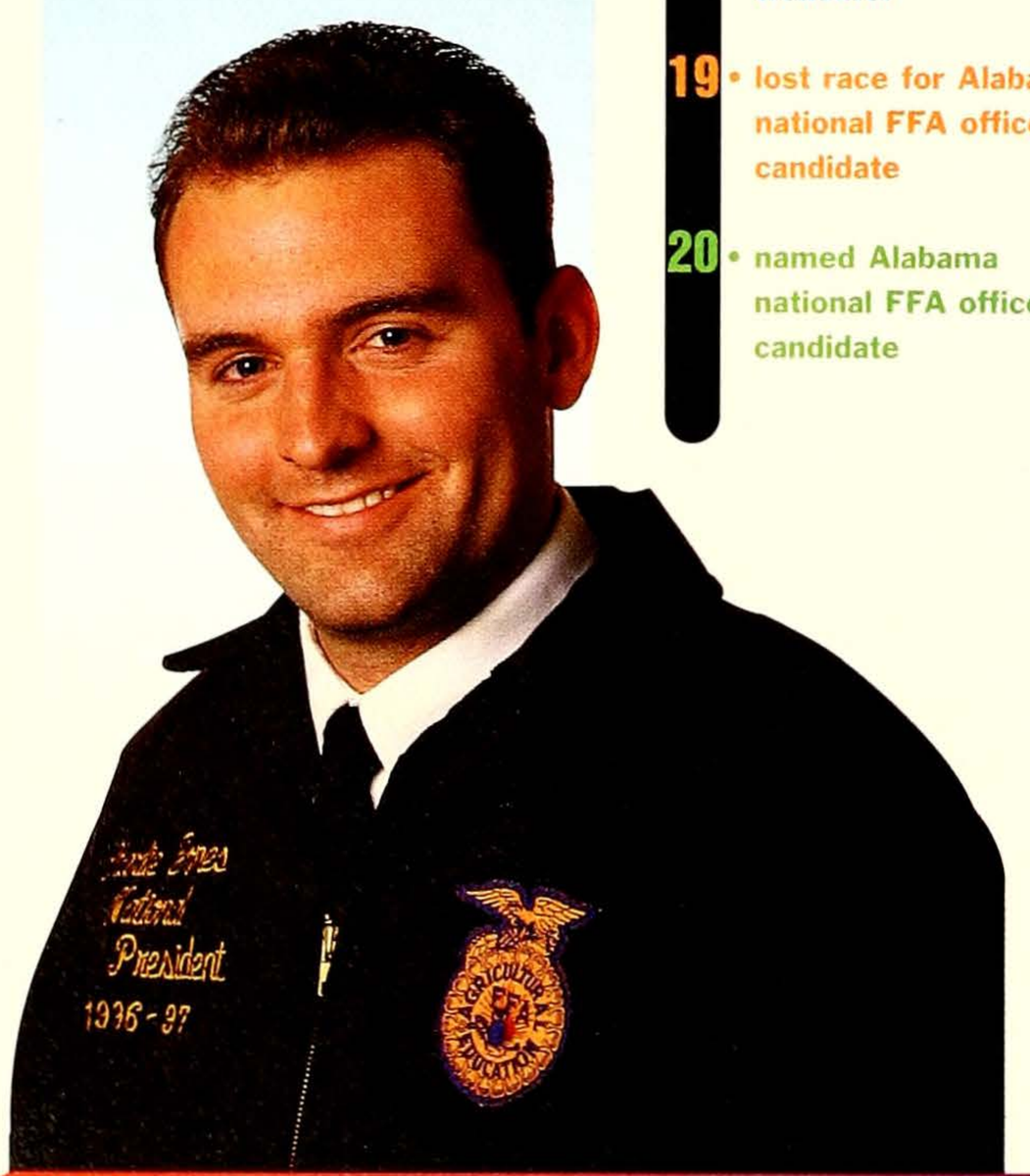
15 • elected FFA district officer

16 • attended first national FFA convention as Alabama delegate
• attended Washington Leadership Conference

17 • competed in state FFA public speaking contest
• elected state FFA treasurer

19 • lost race for Alabama national FFA officer candidate

20 • named Alabama national FFA officer candidate



National southern region vice president: Charlie Jones

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BUZZ

A brand of their own

Kristy Wells, reporter of the Colstrip, Montana, FFA Chapter, says her chapter is always looking for new fundraisers. This year, the chapter enlisted the talents of local FFA alumni member Helen Curran, who handcrafted this one-of-a-kind quilt. Surrounding the FFA emblem in the center are the brands of 40 Colstrip area ranchers. In addition to collecting a $10 fee from each rancher included on the quilt, the Colstrip FFA members sold raffle tickets at school events, raising over $1,000 for their chapter.

The Colstrip FFA Chapter raffled off this one-of-a-kind quilt featuring the FFA emblem and the brands of local ranchers.

Indy update

New National FFA Center on track

"I Believe in the Future," the campaign to raise money for a new National FFA Center in Indianapolis, has come closer to reaching its goal of $8 million, which will cover the costs of land, building, moving and new technology.

Thanks to generous support of the following corporate and foundation sponsors, nearly $2 million has already been raised.

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Essay does it

If you're a junior in high school (class of '99) and a current FFA member, here's a great opportunity for you to win $5,000 for college. It's a scholarship essay contest sponsored by outdoor apparel maker Walls Industries. Here's how it works. Write a 250-word essay on the future of the family farm. One female and one male winner will each receive a $5,000 cash scholarship and an expense paid trip to be photographed for a Walls magazine ad. Each winner's FFA chapter will also receive $2,500. To enter, call 1-800-447-WEAR for an official entry form and contest rules. Deadline for contest submissions is December 31, 1997.

erich'ssay

Hope you had more fun this summer than the *FFA New Horizons* design team. They put in some long hours in front of their computers this summer, giving the magazine's departments a new look. You'll notice they're bolder, brighter–and just plain better.

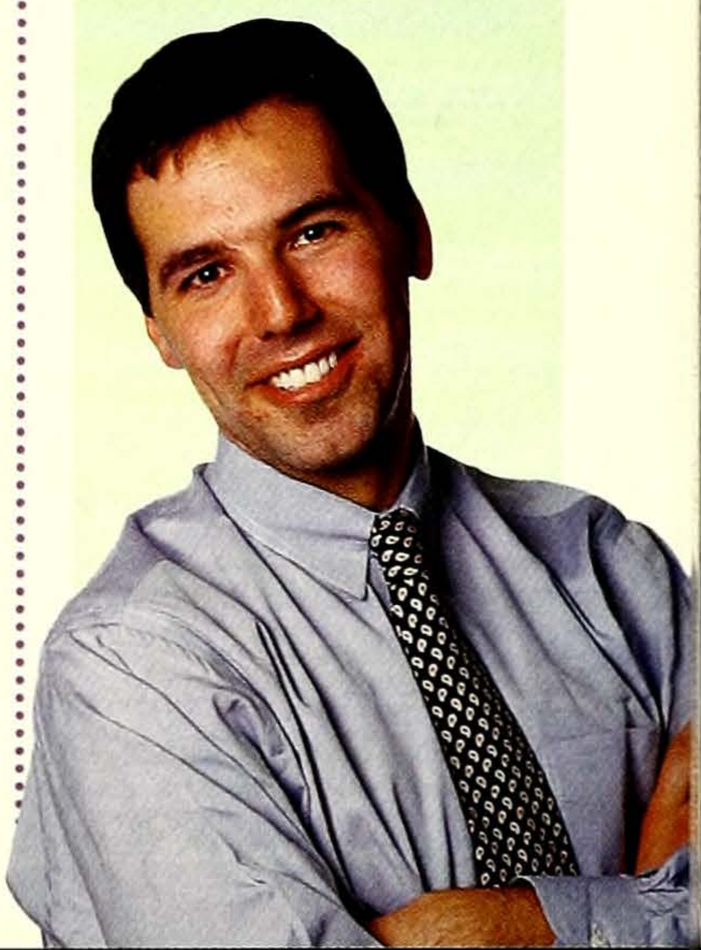
After you're dazzled by the new look, check out what else is cooking in this issue.

Think you need to go to space to experience zero gravity? Wrong. Check out our cover story, "Hang Time," where two former FFA members took part in a zero gravity project (without going to space) which will help pioneer agriculture in space.

Still haven't decided if you're going to attend the 70th National FFA Convention in November? Check out "The A to Z Convention Guide" for 26 reasons why we want to see you there.

erich gaukel, editor

e-mail: erich@inforel.com



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Imagine going to college with an extra $5,000 in your pocket. Well, if you're enrolled in an FFA program your dream could come true if you win the Walls "CA$H FOR COLLEGE℠" Scholarship Essay Contest.

Entering is easy. Just write a 250-word essay on "The Future Of The Family Farm," and send it to us along with a completed entry form and a photo of yourself and your FFA project. The contest is open to all 1997 high school juniors enrolled in an FFA program. From the entries received, one girl and one boy will each get a $5,000 college scholarship and an expense-paid trip to a photo session where they'll be photographed for a national Walls magazine ad.

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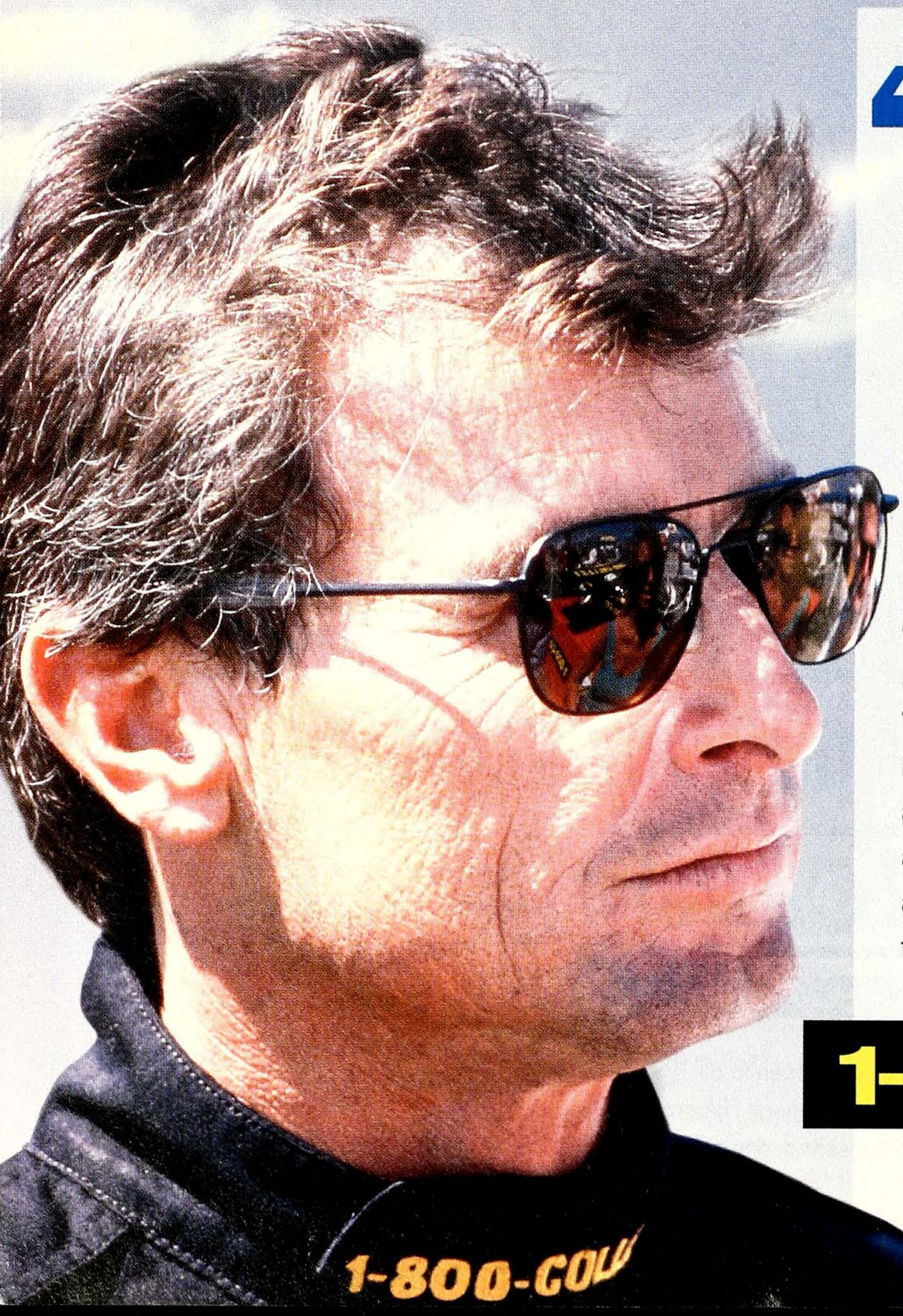
Hurry, the contest ends December 31, 1997!

Call 1-800-447 WEAR for an official entry form and complete contest rules!

set your sights achieve your goals



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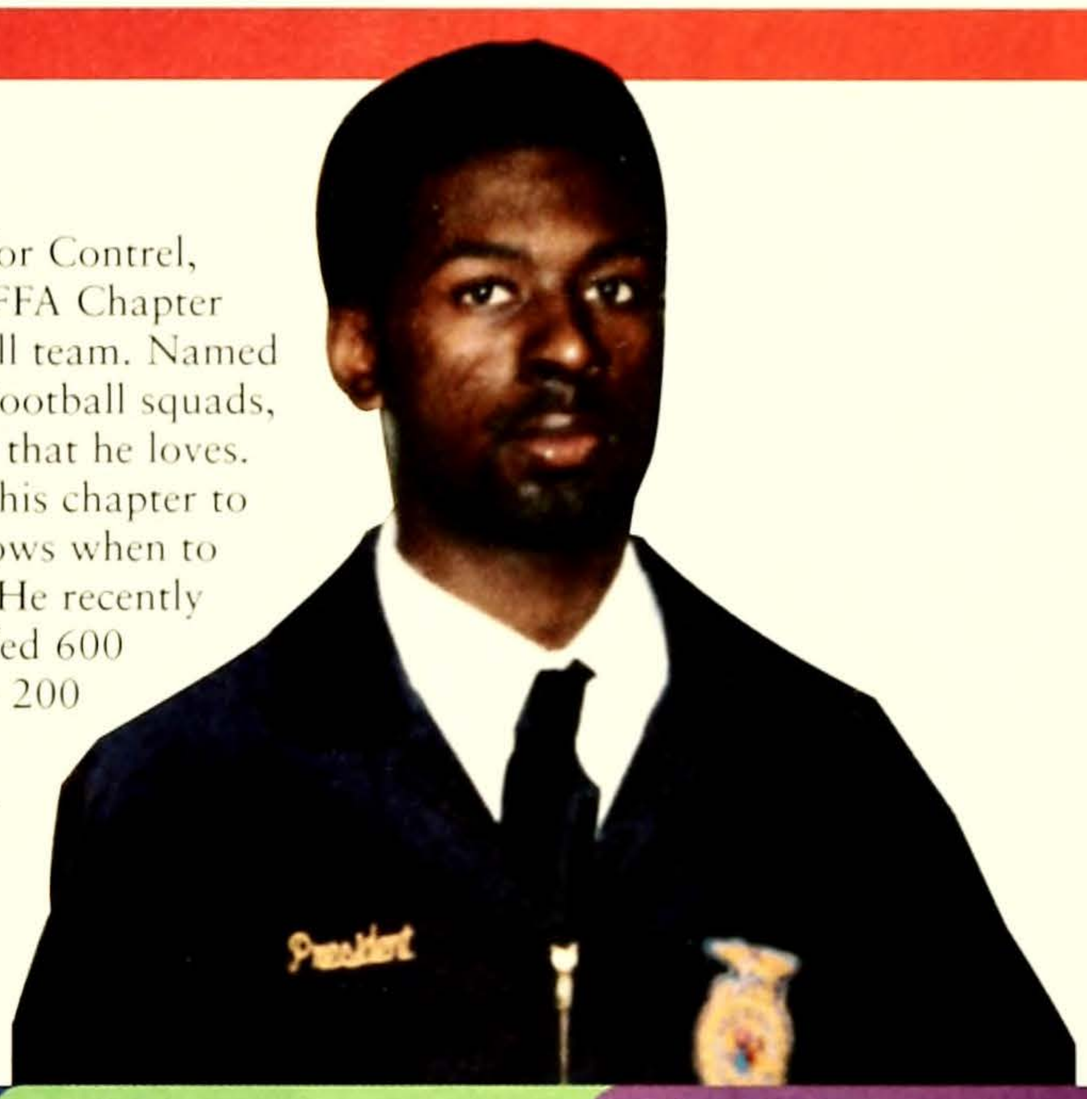
VIRGINIA

Contrel Brown



Life is a constant balancing act for Contrel, who is president of the Arcadia FFA Chapter and captain of the school football team. Named to the all-district and all-region football squads, Contrel has excelled in the sport that he loves. But when it's time to work with his chapter to help the community, Contrel knows when to call a time out and get to work. He recently led a chapter food drive, which fed 600 families, and a health fair, where 200 people from the community stopped by for health screenings. Contrel also helps manage 10 poultry houses, each holding 23,000 birds.

IOWA

Allison Newton

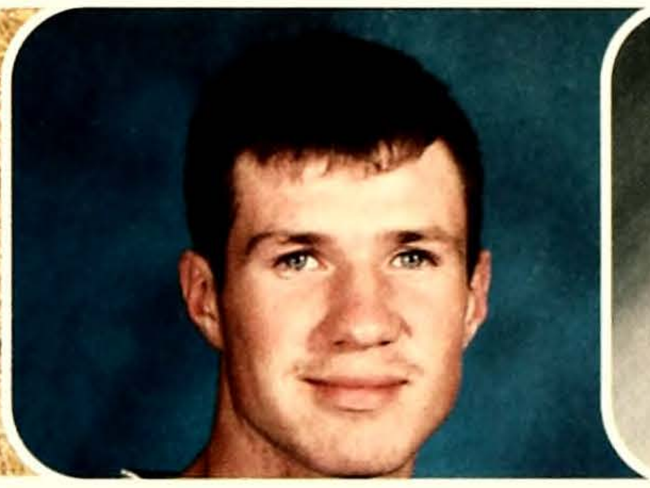
Whether she's demonstrating FFA activities to visiting students from Russia or developing the St. Ansgar FFA Chapter's website (www.st-ansgar.k12.ia.us), Allison, 17, is no stranger to hard work. Now a senior, this 1996-97 Iowa North Central District sentinel earned her Iowa FFA Degree and is now expanding her three SAEs in hopes of earning the American FFA Degree. Allison, who's also a member of her high school wrestling team, served as freshman class president.

GEORGIA

Carol Spruill

In the 29-year history of the event, she's the first female to win the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation's state wiring competition for FFA members. Carol's wiring ways, coupled with top-notch speaking and problem-solving skills, gave her the winning edge. Each participant was required to wire a circuit, give a demonstration speech, and solve 25 problems using the National Electric Code and an agriculture wiring handbook. Carol is a member of the Jackson County FFA Chapter.

OHIO



John Huss

A couple of summers ago when he heard ranchers in southwest Texas were in desperate need of hay due to drought conditions, John, 17, a Star Chapter Farmer from the Woodmore FFA Chapter, dropped what he was doing and began a relief effort. As school farm coordinator, he knew he had some extra hay, so he hired enough trucks and drivers to send three truck loads to the Texas ranchers, who chipped in for the freight costs. John plans to attend The Ohio State University.

NEW MEXICO

Marla Jo Harral

As president of the Moriarty FFA Chapter, Marla, 17, has made her community a better place by organizing such community service projects as Toys for Tots, food baskets and community clean up. This state FFA degree recipient lives on a cattle ranch, where she works on her SAEs consisting of feeder and show steers and dairy heifers. She's a member of the New Mexico Club Calf Association and took third high individual in livestock judging at state competition last spring.

Haiti

by Erich Gaukel

Big G

Former Louisiana FFA state officers help clear the way for agriculture in space

In "Apollo 13," when Tom Hanks and Kevin Bacon floated around inside their space capsule, they were actually flying over the Gulf of Mexico aboard NASA's specially equipped KC-135 jet. Ron Howard, director of the blockbuster hit, wanted the real thing for the space scenes, where zero gravity rules.

Two years later, Mandie Tabor and Catherine Smith, both former state FFA officers from Louisiana, travelled to the Johnson Space Center in Houston for their own adventure in zero gravity aboard the same KC-135.

The zero G zone

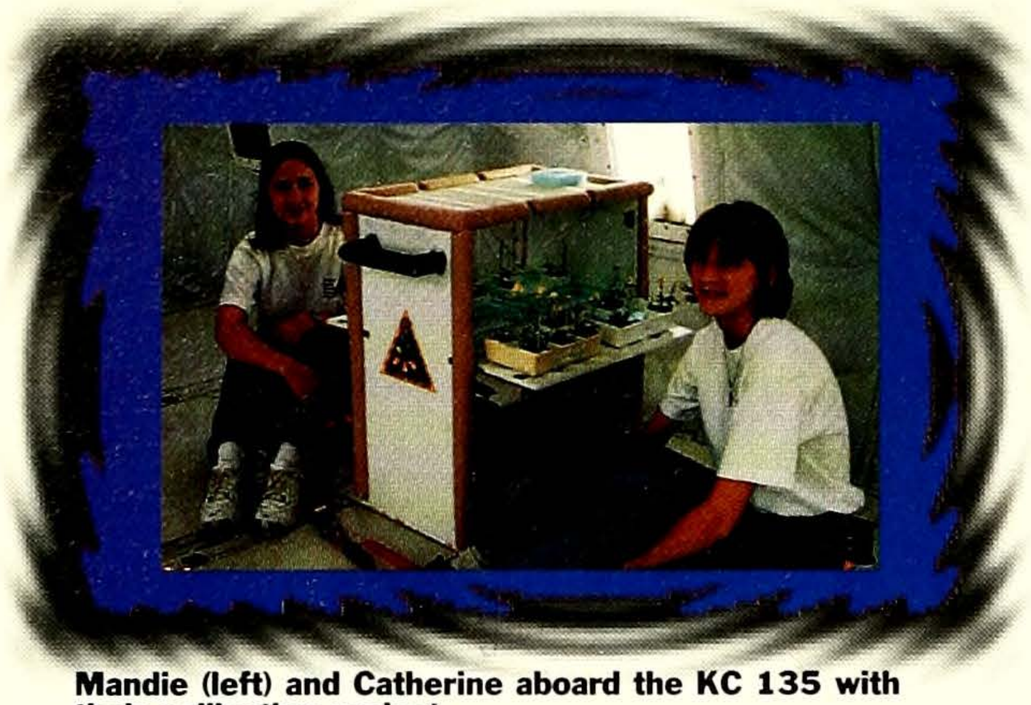
A standard in the training of astronauts for the Apollo and Space Shuttle programs, NASA's zero gravity program (formally known as the Reduced-Gravity Program) got its start in 1959 to investigate how people and equipment function in a weightlessness environment.

Just this year, NASA started the Reduced-Gravity Student Flight Opportunities Program. Here, college and university teams compete for a chance to perform gravity-defying research. In this, the first year of the program, 70 teams applied. Mandie's and Catherine's Louisiana State University team was among the 25 teams selected by NASA to participate.

NASA's goal for the program is simple: keep college students in the science and technology career fields.

Louisiana's finest

Applying the agricultural and leadership skills they forged in FFA, Mandie and Catherine spent an entire semester in the lab preparing their project for the zero gravity flights. Mandie, an environmental management systems major, and Catherine, a pre-med major, worked on the project with two other LSU students and a faculty advisor, Dr. Mary Musgrave. Together, they sought to investigate what effect, if any, zero gravity has on the pollination



Mandie (left) and Catherine aboard the KC 135 with their pollination project.

process of the *Brassica rapa*, a cousin of the turnip, commonly known as the Wisconsin Fast-Plant.

While it's a small-scale project–so small that individual pollen grains are counted–it's having a colossal impact on long-term human habitation of space.

"If we're going to use plants in space for food and atmosphere and water regeneration," Dr. Musgrave explains, "it's going to be necessary for those plants to be able to complete a life cycle even when there's no gravity. Proving you can pollinate plants in zero gravity is one step along the way."

The team had to develop the actual research on the ground, and then figure out how to conduct the experiment in zero gravity. Though the preparation went on all semester, the trial and error process continued until the very end. "We had to develop and refine the techniques we were to use," Mandie says. "A week before the flight I had to change mine, because the old ones weren't working."

Such technical problems couldn't be worked out without effective communication.

Catherine says FFA helped her and Mandie tremendously here by making them better at "just being able to meet with people, being more comfortable around people. FFA teaches you, more than anything, how to be social," she says.

No fear

With most of the pre-flight preparations done, Mandie, Catherine and the team headed for Houston. Before flying, each had to undergo an Air Force medical exam and eight hours of NASA physiological training.

Mandie and Catherine breezed through the tests. NASA officials, however, scratched Catherine's name from the flight list due to her asthma.

Disappointed, but not discouraged, Catherine refocused her efforts on ground support, where she coordinated the pre- and post-flight preparations.

Breaking the laws of gravity

Even though the KC-135 is sometimes referred to as "The Vomit Comet," Mandie and her LSU teammates found no need for the flight sickness bags. The zero gravity flights really aren't that much different than a ride on a good roller coaster. When you're speeding over the top of a hill on a roller coaster, your body is lifted off the seat. At the bottom of the hill, the opposite happens–you're plastered to the seat. This is exactly what's happening inside the KC-135, which flies in a series of 30 to 40 arcs. At the top of each arc, the passengers inside experience 20 to 25 seconds of no gravity, or zero G. At the bottom, it's double gravity, or two G.

Crunch time

Mandie found that the short time window of zero gravity environment presented its own challenges. As the jet approached the top of each arc, Mandie said she had to hold a flower in one hand and a bee-stick (the thorax of a bee glued to a toothpick, used to collect pollen) in the other. You had to be "ready to go as soon as you hit weightlessness because you only had twenty seconds."

After they finished the pollination, these plants were then allowed to go to seed so embryo development could be compared to a separate group of plants the team pollinated on the ground right after the flight.

"We found that there's no way zero gravity affected pollination," Catherine explains. Adding that researchers in the past have had little success in making plants grow in space, she explains, "We wanted to go back to that primary step in plant reproduction, pollination, to see if that was the step that was causing all the problems." Now that they know it's not, Catherine says the rest of the reproduction cycle will need to be examined, bit by bit, until the problem is found. ★

learn more

Want to know more about NASA's zero gravity program for college students?

Write:
NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
Reduced-Gravity Office, Ellington Field
Mail Code: CC43
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what's HOT what's NOT

Don't forget to fill out the What's Hot / What's Not Survey on page 19.

Movie
- Liar Liar
- The Cable Guy

TV Show
- Home Improvement
- Roseanne

Career
- Veterinarian
- Lawyer

Athlete
- Michael Jordan
- Dennis Rodman

Actress
- Demi Moore
- Pamela Anderson Lee

Actor
- Tom Cruise
- Jim Carrey

Band
- No Doubt
- Spice Girls

Pickup Truck
- Chevy
- Ford

Clothes
- Wranglers
- Baggy

Sport
- Basketball
- Golf

Weekend Activity
- Fishing
- Staying home

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ffa in action

Hartford FFA Chapter members tour a New Holland plant. Front row, from left to right: JR Petteys, Hollie Miller, Bob Chapin, Tina Wooddell, Fred Burch. Back row, David Swezey, Bridget Beecher, Paul Wooddell, Derek Shaw and Kevin LeRoy.

NEW YORK

Back to the future

It doesn't seem possible that you could see robotic arms and laser tooling devices at work in a farm equipment assembly plant, and then drive down the road and see a 50-acre, 40-Holstein dairy farm operate without the use of electricity. That's exactly what the Hartford FFA Chapter members saw when they traveled to Pennsylvania this spring. Along with FFA members from the Greenwich, Schuylerville, Cambridge and Salem FFA Chapters, these time travelers saw the contrast in technologies during visits to a New Holland assembly plant and an Amish dairy farm.

IOWA

Operation payback

When many Iowa towns and cities fell victim to severe flooding in 1993, FFA members from Ohio came to help. The tables turned this spring when Ohio experienced its own severe flooding. Members of the Eddyville/Blakesburg Agri-Power FFA Chapter, still grateful for the Ohio aid they received a few years back, immediately organized a relief effort. With the help of surrounding communities and businesses, six semis loaded with silage, bales of hay and straw, clothing, canned goods and cleaning materials soon headed for Ohio. Chapter members then piled in a bus to help out in any way the could. When they arrived, they rolled up their sleeves and helped residents of Ohio and Kentucky get their lives back on track.

Eddyville/Blakesburg FFA Chapter members take a break from cleaning and gutting a Kentucky home ravaged by floods.

All work, no pay

WISCONSIN

Kickapoo FFA Chapter members work up a sweat as they install new playground equipment for an elementary school.

When Viola Elementary School students, staff and parents raised money and bought some much needed playground equipment for the school grounds, the project hit a snag. With no money left to pay for the installation, they turned to members of the Kickapoo FFA Chapter. With toolboxes in hand, chapter members Bronson Miller, Christina Klingman, Shawn Shawley, Chris Field, Tressie Campbell, Chris Hamilton and Brandon Ryan showed up and, with some additional help from the community, got the project done.

Sharp garden

CALIFORNIA

Using cactuses donated by organizers of a local horticulture fair, members of the Pershing FFA Chapter in Fresno teamed up to brighten up their school grounds with a cactus garden. Employing skills and knowledge gained in FFA, these students designed the layout of the garden, including a cobblestone walkway, which they hope will bring people through the garden. The goal is to build an awareness of cactuses among other students, many of whom might be surprised to learn that some parts of the prickly plants are edible and, at different times throughout the year, yield colorful flowers.

Putting the finishing touches on their cactus garden are members of the Pershing FFA Chapter.

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Movie _____
Actor _____
Actress _____
Athlete _____
Musician or band _____
Car _____
Pickup truck _____
Magazine _____
Website on Internet _____
Place to go _____
Weekend activity _____
Sport _____
FFA event _____
Clothes _____
TV show _____
FFA fundraiser _____
Career _____

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what's NOT

Movie _____
Actor _____
Actress _____
Athlete _____
Musician or band _____
Car _____
Pickup truck _____
Magazine _____
Website on Internet _____
Place to go _____
Weekend activity _____
Sport _____
FFA event _____
Clothes _____
TV show _____
FFA fundraiser _____
Career _____

Name _____
City/Town _____
State _____
Zip _____
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Chapter _____

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Achievement Nothing can beat the feeling of achieving your goals. Each year, thousands of FFA members leave the national FFA convention having achieved their goals. Some are American FFA Degree recipients or competition winners, while others have come simply to develop leadership skills, explore career opportunities with industry professionals or learn from motivational speakers.

Business For delegates, the national FFA convention means business. Their task is to shape the future of the National FFA Organization. Last year, 463 delegates from all corners of the country came to the convention two days early to discuss ways improve FFA programs and activities.

Career Show Bigger and better than ever, the FFA National Agricultural Career Show (upstairs at Bartle Hall) will be bustling with hundreds of exhibitors. You'll meet agriculture industry professionals and college representatives, load up on all kinds of free stuff and meet like-minded FFA members. Also get a chance to meet rodeo champ Ty Murray at the Imperial Schrade booth on Thursday, November 13.

1 to 26

The 70th National FFA Convention is just around the corner. Here are 26 reasons you should be there.

by Erich Gaukel

Convention Guide

Dance After an exhilarating day of convention activity, hang up the official dress, put on your casual digs, and head over to the convention dance upstairs at Bartle Hall. Join thousands of FFA members as they move their feet to the thumping sound system and hypnotic light show.

Entertainment You need look no further than the FFA ranks for top-notch entertainers. You can catch fellow FFA members on the Municipal Auditorium stage as part of the National FFA Talent Program. They'll sing their hearts out, dance out of their shoes and strum up a storm.

Food Court Conveniently located next to the career show, the food court will keep you fueled throughout the convention for breakfast, lunch and dinner. You can sample local cuisine at Judy's Bakery or grab a bite at Domino's or Subway.

Great Stuff Once again, the National FFA Alumni Association invites you to bid at its silent auction. Last year's merchandise included guitars, photos and memorabilia autographed by the likes of Garth Brooks and Ty England. Look for more of the same plus artwork, hardware and other great stuff.

Hotels Each year, FFA members set up camp at nearly 80 hotels during the national FFA convention. Besides the luxuries of cable TV, swimming pools and maid service, hotels are a great place to unwind after a long day at the convention, get to know FFA members from other states and, of course, get some much-needed sleep.

Internet If you haven't yet surfed the Internet, you're probably wondering what all the fuss is about. You can log on to National FFA Online at the career show. Join in on a conversation on a bulletin board, check out tomorrow's convention schedule, or just follow your mouse.

Journal Keep a national convention journal–it's a great way to document your involvement in FFA. Even if you only write a few lines a day, it will help keep the convention experience vivid in your mind. When you get home, illustrate it with convention photos and memorabilia, such as ticket stubs and schedules.

Kansas City American history is embedded in Kansas City. Check out these low-cost historical sites: The home of the late painter Thomas Hart Benton, known for his depictions of American rural life (3616 Belleview, phone 816-931-5722, $2); The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (corner of 18th St. and Vine, phone 816-221-1920, $2); Lewis and Clark Point, the campsite of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1806 (a few blocks northwest of Bartle Hall near 9th St. and Broadway, free).

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Laser light Show It's electrifying, it's energizing, it's inspiring–it's awesome. You'll find it only at the convention general sessions in Municipal Auditorium. Don't even think about missing it.

Media It's difficult not to attract media attention when over 40,000 students come together to develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. Last year CNN covered the national FFA convention. This year, "Channel Earth," a DIRECTV television network devoted exclusively to serving farmers, ranchers and rural residents, will broadcast from the convention.

National FFA Officers They've been on the road since last year's convention. Now hear the 1996-97 national FFA officers give their emotionally charged retiring addresses. Then, at the closing session, feel the energy level rise as the gavel is passed to the newly elected 1997-98 national FFA officer team.

Organ by Olé The national FFA convention just wouldn't be the same without house organist Peter Olé. For years he's been entertaining FFA members in Municipal Hall with his singular, upbeat style. He can get a crowd clapping along to his tunes faster than you can say "polka."

People With attendance figures exceeding 40,000 for the last few years, the national FFA convention is the largest annual youth conference in the United States. Take some time to people watch. See if you can spot, or better yet meet, an FFA member from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Quality speakers President George Bush and Terry Bradshaw are just a couple of the distinguished speakers to have addressed the national FFA convention in the last few years. The tradition will continue this year with inspirational keynote addresses slated for each of the general sessions. Among those already on the schedule is Ron Archer, a well-known motivational speaker who has taught teamwork skills to NFL players and Fortune 500 executives.

Rodeo The American Royal Rodeo, located at Hale and Kemper Arenas, is the place to catch all the rodeo action—bull riding, bareback bronc riding, saddle bronc riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, and women's barrel racing–plus a hot country music lineup of Diamond Rio, Blackhawk, Little Texas and Toby Keith. The FFA livestock, dairy and meat judging all happen here too, so grab your boots and head on down. Tickets are available at the convention registration desk.

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http://www.agriculture.com/contents/FFA/student/travel/index.html

Shopping Mall On your way to the food court from the career show, you'll walk right through the shopping mall. Load up on FFA shirts, hats, boxers, jewelry and souvenirs. You can also stop here for cowboy boots, cowboy hats, work boots and the hottest in western apparel.

Tours See how the United States monetary system works at one of the nation's 12 Federal Reserve Banks. Watch as TWA maintenance technicians work on jets. Grab a hard hat and see electricity made as you walk through the Kansas City Power and Light Company's "Towers of Power" coal burning facility. Or visit the zoo (see letter "Z" below). Find out more about these and other FFA Educational Tours at the convention registration desk.

User's guide When you register for the convention, you'll receive a pocketsize copy of the National FFA Convention Guidebook. It tells you when and where every session, workshop, meeting, meal function, contest, speech and tour happens. Don't leave the hotel without it.

Value When you think about it, there's not much you can get for $25 these days. You could buy a couple CDs, or a pair of plastic shoes, or maybe a night at the movies. If you really want to see your $25 do wonders, however, attend the national FFA convention. This small fee gets you in the door for three days of exciting activities, programs and events.

Workshops Worth the registration fee alone, workshops for students will provide you with lessons lasting a lifetime. Several exciting workshops, conducted by former national FFA officers and industry experts, are offered in areas of premier leadership, personal growth and career success. Space is limited, so grab your seat early!

Xylophone This is one of many musical instruments played superbly by members of the National FFA Band. Together with the equally talented members of the National FFA Chorus, this group is among the first to arrive in Kansas City for the national FFA convention. They put the extra hours into rehearsing, practicing and learning new music. Tune in for some great sounds.

You Remember, you are the reason the national FFA convention exists. Take advantage of its many offerings—the speakers, the competition, the career show, the workshops, the people—and you'll find the experience one of the most rewarding of your life.

Zoo If you want to check out some exotic animals, check out the Kansas City Zoo, which has undergone a recent $71 million expansion. Among the animals you'll spy are chimpanzees, meerkats, a cheetah, a giant hornbill, African lions, river otters and warthogs. You'll also want to catch a movie in the zoo's new IMAX Theater.

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Rule of the Hunt

Respect is the name of the game when hunting on others' land

By Gregg Gutschow
managing editor, North American Hunter Magazine

It's opening morning. You're safely belted into your treestand. Your preseason scouting tells you this is the spot that nice eight-point you've seen a few times should pass as he moves from his nighttime feeding in the nearby crop field to the brushy hillside where he beds during the day.

Your hunter's instincts are right. The buck eases down the faint trail a few minutes after legal shooting time. You calm your pounding heart as best you can, take careful aim . . . the buck falters and falls.

While you should take great pride in your accomplishment, you should also think of this opportunity like the actors going on stage at the Academy Awards. Each of them has a long list of people to thank for the support they provided on the road to success. So do you. Among those who helped you to experience this moment is the person who first introduced you to hunting and took you into the field for the first time. Then there's your hunter safety instructor who taught you the right and safe way to hunt.

Maybe the most important person to thank, however, is the landowner who allowed you to hunt on his place and on whose property that buck was born and lived for all these years. You owe him more than thanks–you owe him respect.

Building respect

Developing a good relationship with landowners is something that we must be mindful of every day. The obvious courtesies are certainly important: Always ask for permission well ahead of time. Provide the landowner your

continued on page 26...

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Newton, CT 06470-2359

Or, if you're online, visit:
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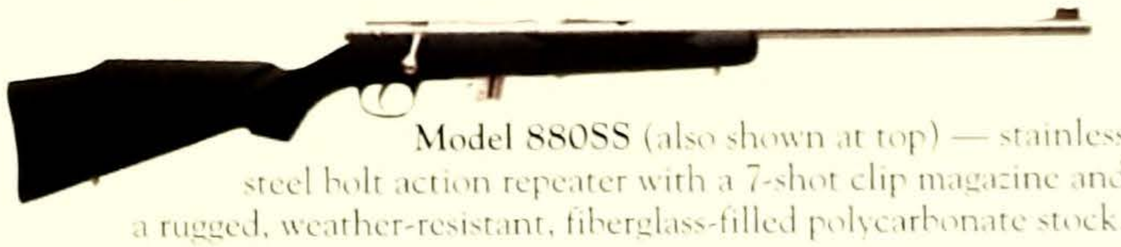

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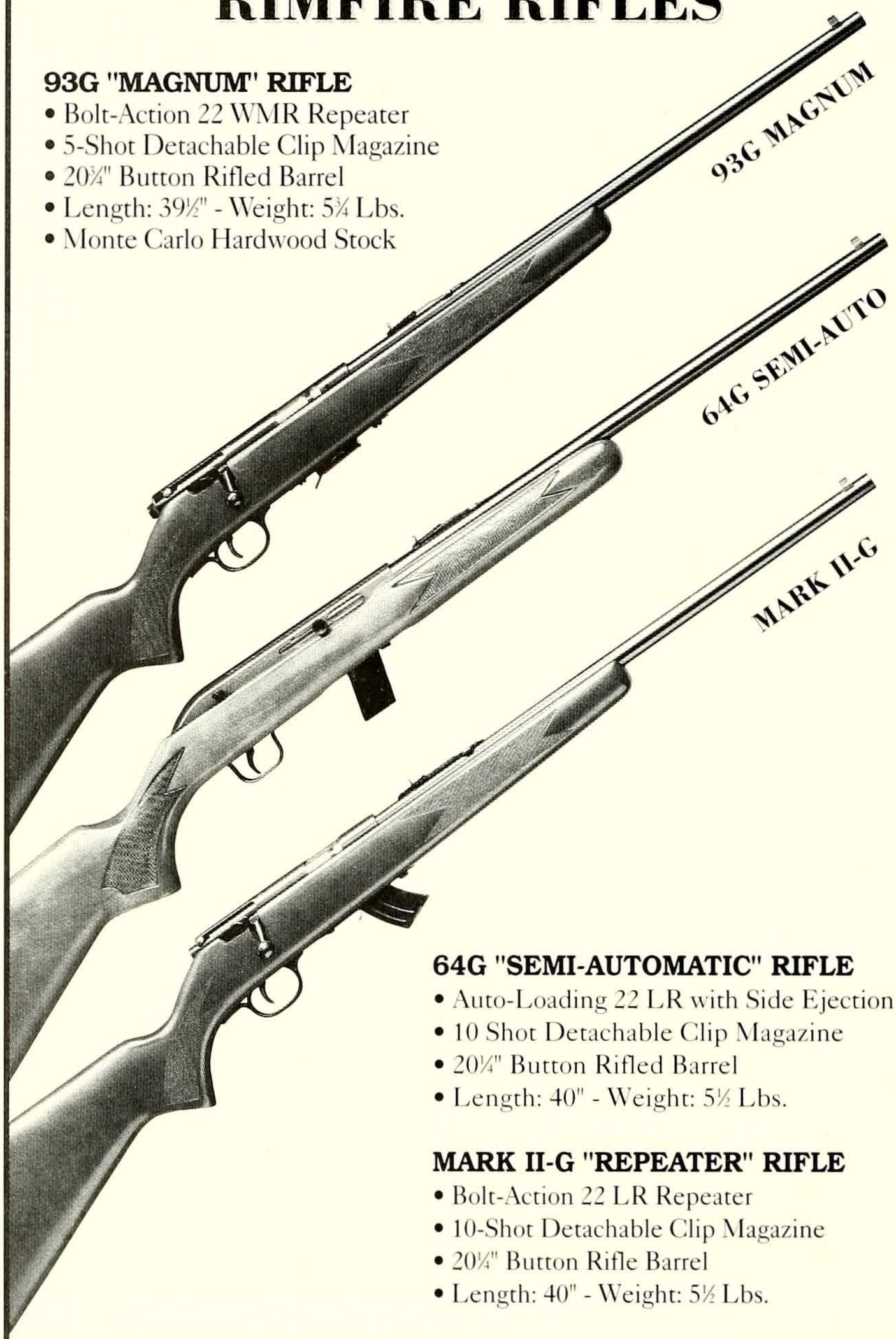

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...continued from page 24

name, address and phone number and a description of your vehicle (including tag numbers). Never leave anything behind. Always leave gates as you found them. Immediately report to the landowner anything unusual like livestock on the loose or trespassers on the property. And, offer part of your bag as a gift and always be courteous to the landowner's family and help.

All of that's a good start, but earning a landowner's respect for hunting in general goes much farther. It has to be a part of everyday life.

Suppose you've had permission to hunt a piece of property for a couple of seasons. You've done well and treated the landowner and his property with respect. Then, during the off-season, your name shows up in your local newspaper's police reports because you and your friends were investigated for an underage beer party.

When the landowner sees that, he might start thinking all hunters are drunks. You just lost a place to hunt and hunting's image is tarnished a bit more.

Keeping respect

Remember, when you buy a license and take up a gun or bow, you take on all the responsibilities of being a hunter. Like it or not, that means everything you do reflects back on hunting.

Now imagine that during the off-season your name shows up in the paper as part of a story on the great conservation project where your FFA chapter volunteered to work on nearby wildlife refuge.

The same landowner sees the story and says, "You know, that youngster who hunts on our place really does care about wildlife and improving the land. Next time he comes out scouting, I'm going to tell him where I saw that great big 12-point last week."

Now you and the landowner share mutual respect, and that's what you're really after.

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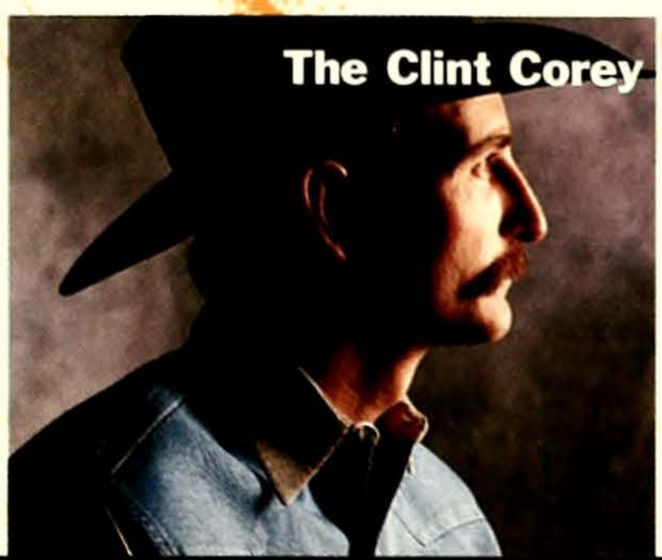

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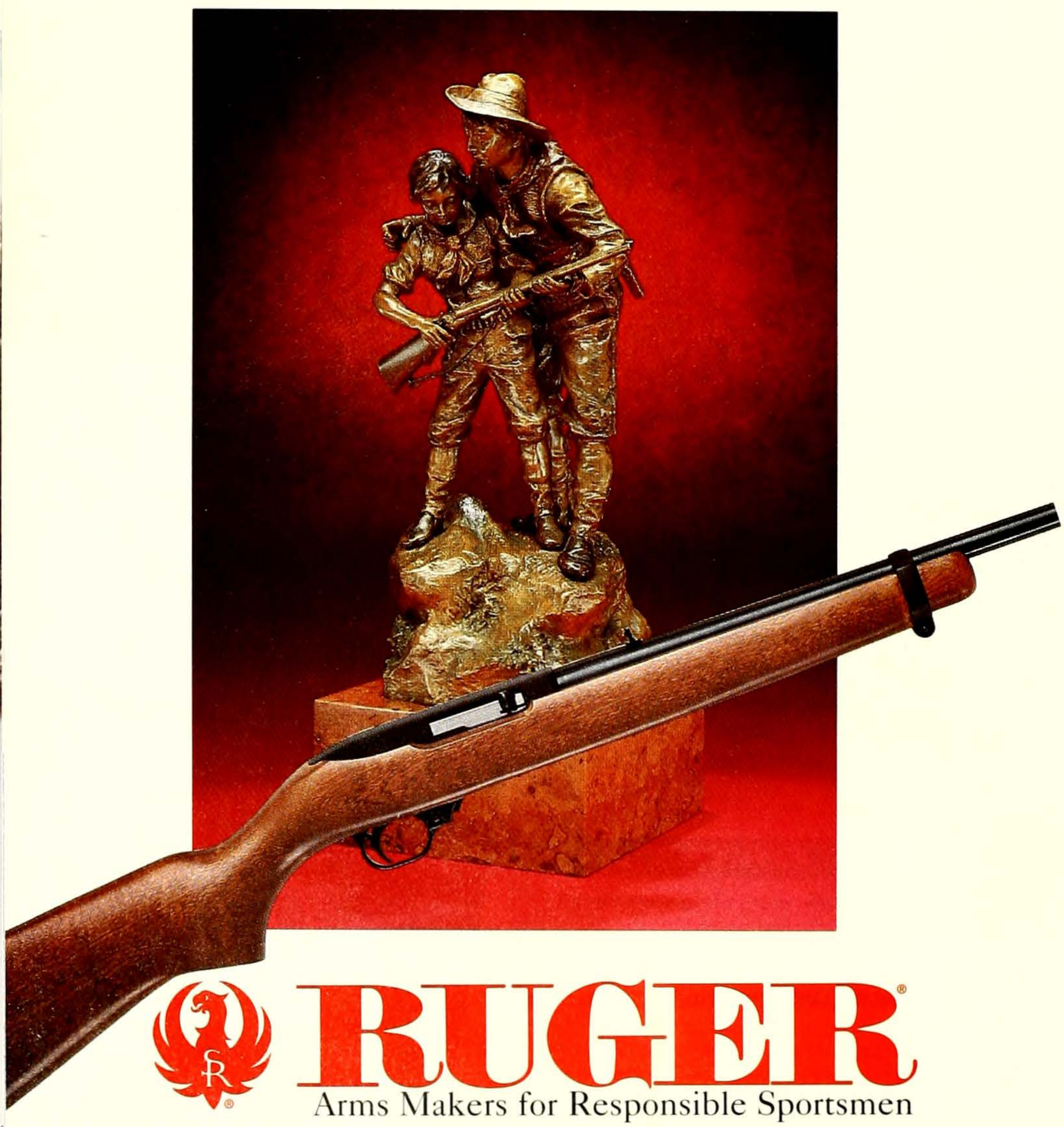

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By Bill Miller

executive director, North American Hunting Club

There's a big new word that gets tossed around among politicians and bureaucrats these days. It's biodiversity. All boiled down, it means preserving habitat for all kinds of living things.

Heck, farmers and other conservation-minded landowners have known about and have been practicing biodiversity for a long, long, time without the "guidance" of city-dwellers in white lab coats. We just call it stewardship of the land, or "keeping some wildlife on the place."

The benefits of maintaining and enhancing wildlife populations on your property are both aesthetic (it's just nice to have wildlife around) and financial (leasing land for hunting or other wildlife-related recreational pursuits can sometimes boost a farm or ranch income 50 percent or more).

Branching out

Obviously, if you are a hunter yourself, you'll enjoy having healthy game animal populations on your property, but hunters also appreciate having non-game species around. Think about it. To shoot a few deer, you'll likely put in many, many hours in the woods. Those would be some mighty long hours if you didn't

have song birds to hear; hawks and eagles and buzzards to watch soar; weasels and skunks and badgers and raccoons and others to watch go about their daily lives. Plus come trapping season, those critters can contribute directly to the financial benefits as well. John Wooters is one of the world's top experts on hunting white-tailed deer. He manages his South Texas ranch specifically to produce trophy bucks, yet he also makes sure that there is abundant habitat for other wildlife, especially birds. John is also a devout bird watcher and darned proud of it. "Hunters should be the world's greatest bird watchers. We spend all those hours in the woods looking for deer, watching the birds is just a natural companion to that," he says. John has a long "life list" of different bird species he has spotted while hunting.

Earn a buck

Hunting leases and daily trespass fees for hunters are the most obvious financial benefits of having healthy game animal populations on your property, but they are not the only ones. If you have healthy populations of all types of wildlife on your place, there are lots of folks who will be willing to pay to enjoy it. You could lease access to a dog training club, anglers, birdwatchers, mountain bikers or scout troops. With the right set-up and insurance you might even be able to offer trail rides or hayrides.

When it comes to making decisions about wildlife management on your property, remember: by maintaining and enhancing all types of wildlife, you have personal pleasure and financial benefits to gain-and nothing to lose.

continued on page 30...

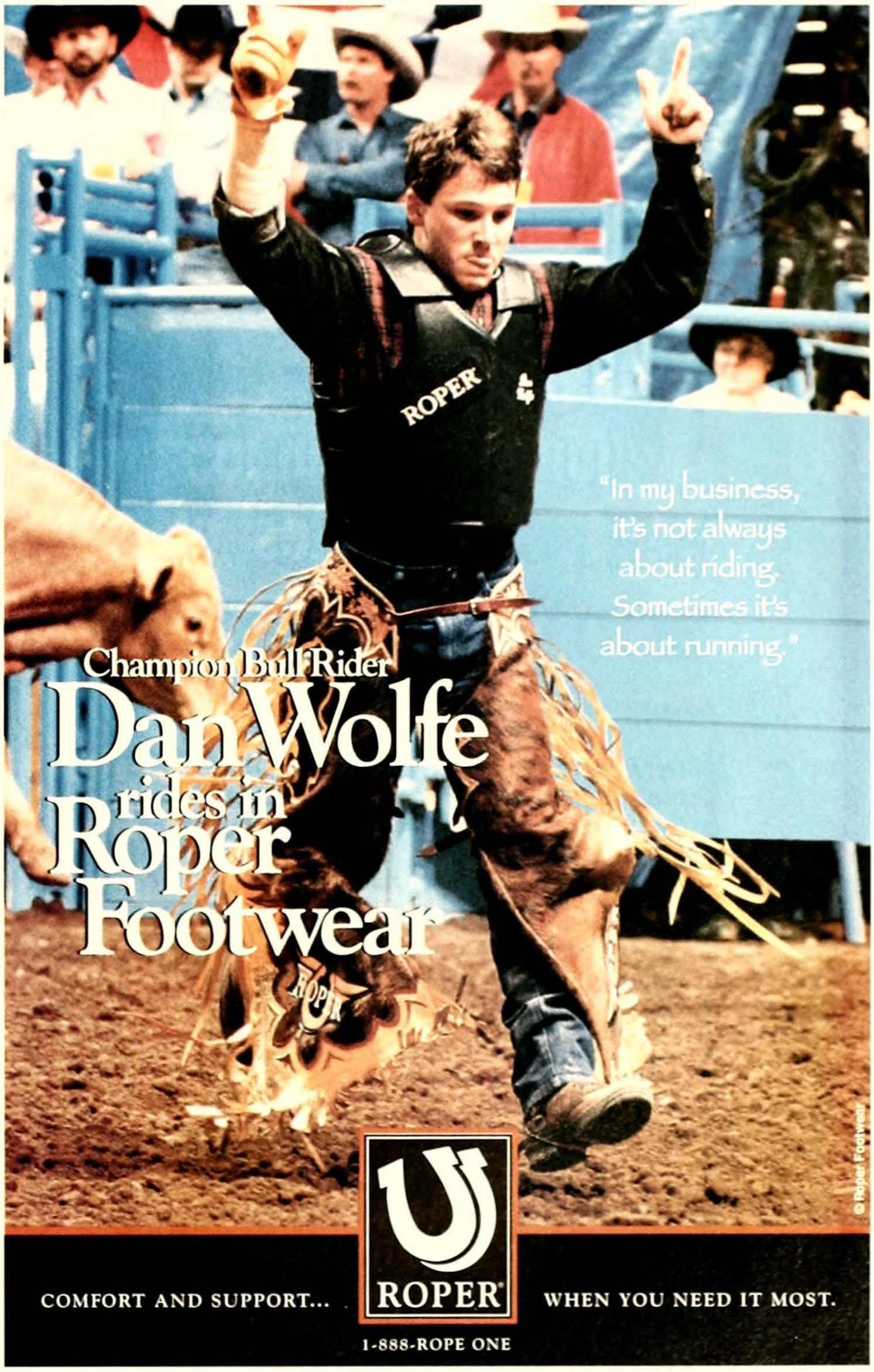
The North American Hunting Club . . . Then and Now

In 1998, the North American Hunting Club turns 20. And though a lot of things have changed at the club during those two decades, the foundation of the NAHC remains firmly rooted in the hunting tradition.

Today, the Club is proud to call more than 750,000 hunters across the continent "members" and to offer the largest multi-species hunting publication in North America. *North American Hunter* is aimed at helping its members to hunt better, safer and smarter. With that goal in mind, *North American Hunter* boasts a field staff that consists of the best hunters and outdoor writers to be found. From squirrels to Alaska brown bears, you'll find hunting adventure and information on the pages of *North American Hunter*.

And this is just a small sampling of what makes the Club unique. NAHC members can also travel to the Club's annual Jamboree or one of its Club Day events to spend a few days of fun with staff members and Club personalities. From seminars, to shooting events, to fundraising banquets, Jamborees and Club Days are all part the camaraderie and being in the company of friends that hunters so enjoy.

If you'd like to become a part of this unique fraternity of hunters, call the North American Hunting Club today at 800-922-4868. You'll enjoy all NAHC member benefits for just $18 a year.



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Tips to keep critters on your place

You'll have more wildlife around if you provide them with their favorite places to live and favorite foods to eat. Anytime you can enhance habitat and feed sources, you'll benefit the animals. With that in mind, here are a few simple things you can do to increase the numbers and types of wildlife on your property:

- Make fence lines extra wide and leave corners of circle irrigation fields in their natural condition
- Plant shelter belts of trees and bushes
- Participate in the Conservation Reserve Program
- Construct and place shelters for specific birds and animals like bluebirds, wood ducks, bats and others
- Leave some crops in place along the edges and corners of fields
- Do not disturb nesting birds or animals with young
- Do not cut hay fields until after upland birds have their young off the nest
- Many game animals are "edge" species, meaning they prefer transitional zones between agricultural land and mature forests. Consider this factor in harvesting timber from your property.
- Seek assistance from government and private conservationist groups who may be willing to undertake projects on your place in return for hunting/fishing access.

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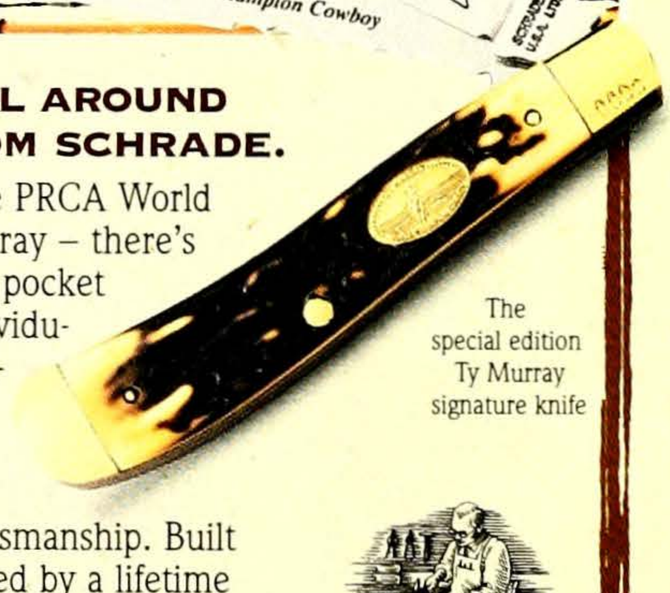

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Help Make Your Chapter A Part of FFA's Future

Pave the way.

Become a permanent part of FFA's future. Chapters, officer teams, families and individuals who donate $150 will be recognized with an engraved paving brick prominently displayed outside the new National FFA Center. In addition to the thousands of visitors who will see your name, chapters and officer teams contributing by October 3, 1997 will be recognized at the 1997 National FFA Convention in Kansas City. What makes your contribution more valuable is that John Deere, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., and Elanco Animal Health will match your gift, with a potential of $500,000 going toward the new center. Several chapters have already "etched" their name in FFA's future. Join them as they pave the way. To guarantee that your brick will be in place by the dedication, respond by January 31, 1998.

I BELIEVE in the *future.*

It's one thing to believe in the future; it's another to invest in it.

YES, I want a brick at the National FFA Center!

Enclosed is my contribution of $150 ☐ check ☐ credit card

Name on brick _____

_____

(Maximum of 2 lines, 14 characters per line. Please type.)

This is a: ☐ Chapter ☐ Team ☐ Memorial ☐ Individual

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Credit Card No. _____ Exp. date _____

Please make checks payable to: National FFA Foundation

Return to the National FFA Foundation Office, P.O. Box 45205, Madison, WI 53744-5205. Direct questions to (608) 829-3105. *Your contribution is fully tax-deductible.*

Invest in the New National FFA Center

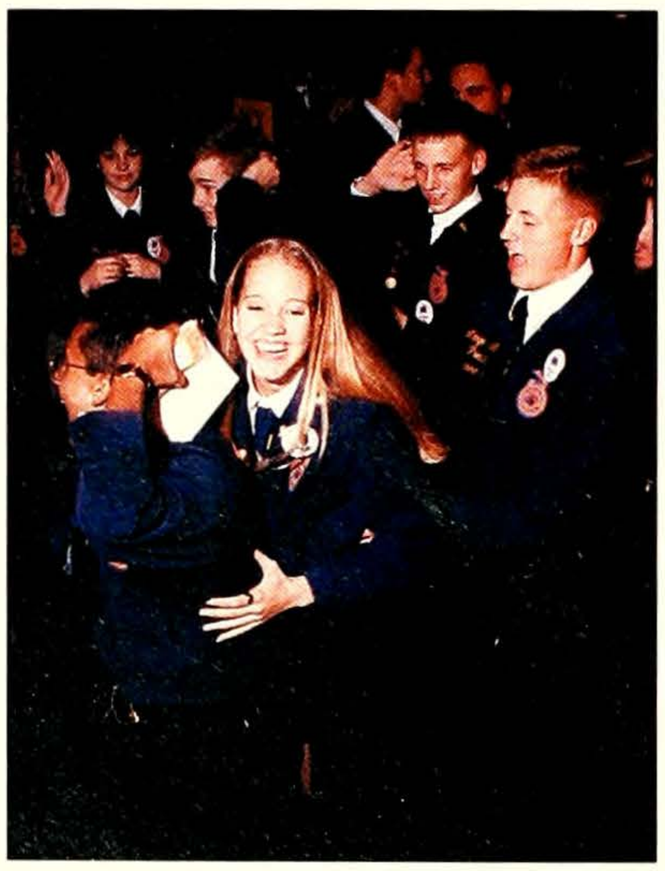
Receive permanent recognition for your chapter

Pave the way

Have your chapter or officer team name inscribed on a paving brick prominently displayed outside the new National FFA Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. Join over 200 chapters that have already reserved a spot for their name. Your $150 donation not only shows your belief in FFA's future, but lets you become a part of the future. All visitors to the center will recognize that you personally helped build a future for FFA.

Be recognized as one of the first to donate

This is your opportunity to take the lead in your state and be recognized among the first to contribute to the new National FFA Center. In addition to the thousands of visitors who will see your name, you will be recognized on National FFA Online, www.ffa.org. Those contributing by October 3 will be recognized at the 1997 National FFA Convention in Kansas City. Last year 43,000 people attended the convention. Don't be left out when chapters are acknowledged for early contributions.



Your money is worth more than you think

Each year 1,000 companies show their belief in you and FFA by investing $7,000,000 and time in FFA programs. They look to past and present FFA members as future employees. Now, three more companies are showing their support of the new National FFA Center. Over 1/4 million dollars in challenge grants have been pledged by John Deere, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. and Elanco Animal Health. This means each $150 contribution you give will be matched by our sponsors, with a potential of $500,000 going toward the new National FFA Center. Make a difference while insuring that your chapter, alumni or officer team is permanently recognized in the new Center!

Bud Porter and Don Margenthaler of John Deere present a $375,000 check to Holly Bentley, National FFA Secretary.

"I Believe in the Future"

These chapters and individuals have invested $150 toward the "I Believe in the Future" campaign and will have their name etched on a paving brick at the new National FFA Center. (Contributions as of July 1, 1997)

Alabama
Horseshoe Bend FFA

Arizona
Ken & Evie Gregerson
Chandler FFA
Gilbert FFA
Star City FFA

Arkansas
Amity FFA
Cave City FFA

California
Denair FFA
Elsie Allen FFA
Fowler FFA
King City FFA
Manteca FFA
Norco FFA
Red Bluff FFA
San Bernardino-Cajon H.S. FFA
San Gorgonio H.S. FFA
Santa Paula FFA
Tollhouse-Sierra FFA
West Valley FFA

Colorado
Haxtun FFA
McClave FFA
Valley FFA
Yuma FFA

Connecticut
Northwestern Regional FFA
Storrs Regional FFA

Florida
Bradford FFA
Durant FFA
Hamilton Co. FFA
Marshall FFA
Tomlin Middle FFA

Georgia
Central of Talbotton FFA

Guam
Guam GWHS FFA

Idaho
Minico FFA

Illinois
Armstrong FFA
Catlin FFA
Charlston FFA
Clinton FFA
Colchester FFA
Fieldcrest FFA
Georgetown-Ridge Farm FFA
Iroquois West FFA
Jamaica H.S. FFA
Kansas FFA
Liberty FFA
Manteno FFA
Mt. Carroll FFA
Mt. Vernon FFA
Newark FFA
Olney FFA
Olympia H.S. FFA
Paris FFA
Paxton-Buckley-Loda FFA
Petersburg-Porta FFA
Pinckneyville FFA
Prophetstown-Lyndon-Tampico FFA
Rockridge FFA
St. Joseph - Ogden FFA
Wayne City FFA

Indiana
Attica FFA
Bremen FFA
Central Nine Career Center
Clinton Central FFA
Clinton Prairie FFA
Crothersville FFA
Delphi FFA
East Central FFA
Forest Park FFA
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Hamilton Southeastern HS FFA
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Mt. Vernon FFA
North Daviess FFA
North Decatur FFA
North Harrison FFA
North Miami FFA
North Newton FFA
North Posey FFA
North Vernon FFA
Oak Hill FFA
Prosser FFA
Riverton Parke FFA
Rushville FFA
South Adams FFA
South Decatur FFA
South Putnam FFA
Southern Wells FFA
Southmont FFA
Southridge High FFA
Tri High FFA
Tri-County FFA
Triton Central FFA
Turkey Run FFA
Westview FFA

Iowa
Anamosa FFA
Cascade FFA
Charter Oak-Ute FFA
Decorah FFA
Harlan FFA
Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn FFA
'95 Hartley Soil Judging Team
Newton FFA
North Scott FFA
North-Linn FFA
Rock Valley FFA
Rockford FFA
Stanton FFA
West Lyon FFA
West Marshall FFA

Kansas
Centre FFA
Dodge City FFA
Ellinwood FFA
Ellsworth FFA
Greeley County FFA
Holcomb FFA
Kingston Family
Marysville FFA
Northern Valley FFA
Scott City FFA

Kentucky
Barren County FFA
Bath County FFA

Louisiana
Pearl River H. S. FFA - Shannon Taylor Memorial
Pearl River HS FFA

Maryland
Catoctin FFA

Massachusetts
Monument Mountain FFA

Michigan
Alpena FFA
Breckenridge FFA
Byron FFA
Charles L. Bowers School Farm
Coopersville FFA
Corunna FFA
Fremont FFA
Lapeer County Vo-Tech FFA
Olivet FFA
Ovid-Elsie FFA

Minnesota
Caledonia FFA
Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted FFA
Martin County West FFA
St. Charles FFA
Stillwater FFA
Watertown-Mayer FFA

Missouri
Archie FFA
Ash Grove FFA
Farmington FFA
Farmington FFA - Travis Stam Memorial
KC East Agri-Marketing Comm.
Smithville FFA

Montana
Bainville FFA
Cheyenne FFA
Plentywood FFA
Ruby Valley FFA

Nebraska
Bayard FFA
Broken Bow FFA
Central City FFA
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Grant FFA
Norris FFA
Pender FFA
Sutton FFA
Tri County FFA
West Holt FFA
Wheeler Central FFA

New Hampshire
Keene Chapter FFA

New Jersey
Warren Hills FFA

New Mexico
Tucumcari FFA

New York
Greenwich FFA
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North Dakota
Lisbon FFA
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Ohio
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Ashtabula County Joint Vocational School FFA
Bowling Green FFA
Caldwell FFA
Clermont Northeastern FFA
Colonel Crawford FFA
Danville FFA
East Clinton FFA
Elida FFA
Franklin Monroe FFA
Fredericktown FFA
Gallipolis FFA
Glenoak Horticulture
Hillsdale FFA
Indian Lake FFA
Kenton FFA
Licking Valley FFA Alumni
Lincolnview FFA
Logan Elm FFA
London FFA
McComb FFA
Morgan FFA
North Union FFA
Old Fort FFA
Page Co. H.S. - Randy Keyser Memorial
Parkway FFA Chapter and Alumni
River View FFA
Riverdale FFA
Shenandoah FFA
Teays Valley FFA
Triad FFA
Upper Valley J.V.S. FFA
Versailles FFA
Wauseon FFA
Wayne Trace FFA
West Branch H.S. FFA
West Holmes FFA

Oklahoma
Chouteau FFA
Fletcher FFA
Jenks FFA

Oregon
Glencoe FFA
Lebanon FFA

Pennsylvania
Bucks County FFA
Central Columbia FFA
Chestnut Ridge FFA
Coudersport Spud Growers
Elizabethtown FFA
Kutztown FFA
Mifflinburg FFA
Monroe FFA
Newport FFA
Northwest FFA
Red Lion Area FFA
Somerset FFA
West Greene FFA

Rhode Island
Narragansett FFA

South Dakota
Chamberlain FFA
Groton FFA
Sturgis FFA

Tennessee
Big Boll FFA
South Greene FFA

Texas
Bremond FFA
Como-Pickton FFA
Groom FFA
Gunter FFA
Joaquin FFA
Lexington FFA
Lingleville FFA
New Braunfels FFA
Rosebut-Lott H.S. FFA
Sheldon FFA
Spring FFA

Utah
Bear River FFA
South Summit FFA

Vermont
Springfield FFA

Virginia
Abingdon FFA
Beverley Manor Middle School FFA
Fauquier FFA
James Wood FFA
James Wood Middle FFA
Wm. Jay Jackman

Washington
Enumclaw FFA

West Virginia
Petersburg FFA
Ritchie County FFA
Wirt County FFA

Wisconsin
Auburndale FFA
Auburndale FFA - Ken Ledden
Clear Lake FFA
Denmark FFA
Greenwood FFA
Gresham FFA
Holmen FFA
Johnson Creek FFA
Mayville FFA
Montello FFA
Natl. FFA Fdn. - Doug Butler-
Oakfield FFA/Alumni
Oconto Falls FFA and FFA Alumni
Prairie Farm FFA
Rhonda Bertao (memorial)
Ripon FFA
River Ridge FFA
Sparta FFA
Stevens Point FFA
Stoughton FFA/Alumni
Sun Prairie FFA
Tri-County FFA
Whitewater FFA

Wyoming
Shoshoni FFA
Torrington FFA

State Associations/Foundations
(that have contributed at least $1000 or $.10/member)
Alabama
Arkansas
Georgia
Mississippi
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New Mexico
Oklahoma
Pennsylvania
Virgin Islands
Wyoming

Be recognized at the 1997 National FFA Convention. Chapters contributing by October 3 will be recognized at the convention. All participating chapters will be recognized on National FFA Online, www.ffa.org. To guarantee that your brick will be in place by the dedication, respond by January 31, 1998.

"We believe in the future..."

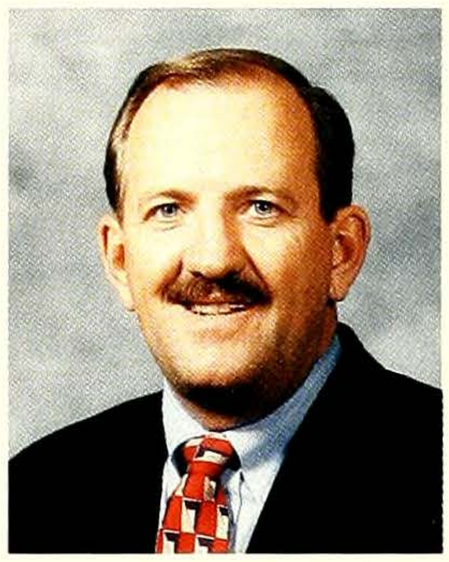
If you're like us, you instantly think of the FFA Creed when you hear *"I believe in the future."* We believe in the future of the National FFA Center in Indianapolis. *"...with a faith born not of words but of deeds."* We now back our vocal support with a deed. We have pledged to invest $1000 in the National FFA Center and in the future of the organization.

The 1996-97 National FFA Officer Team. Left to right, standing: Ray Starling, Charlie Jones. Sitting: Rachel Fehringer, Corey Rosenbusch, Holly Bentley, Brad Montgomery.

"From this ground..."

April 21, 1997, more than 75 FFA members and state officers from Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky and Illinois joined the six national FFA officers and local dignitaries to turn the first ceremonial shovel of soil at the site of the new National FFA Center.

National FFA president Corey Rosenbusch acknowledged the significance of the day. "It's true that from this ground a new building will rise to house the National FFA Organization. But beyond the building, this day signifies a reaffirmation of FFA's commitment to changing the lives of young people. When we build young people we build families and communities. And when we build communities we build a nation."



WAYNE BECK

"I volunteer my time to serve as the chairman of the National FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board. Speaking on behalf of more than 1,000 corporate sponsors, we want to make sure that FFA is positioned to grow and to continue to provide leadership and learning opportunities to students. The new National FFA Center is much more than a building. It represents tremendous opportunities for FFA and agricultural education. Please make these opportunities come true and make your chapter and alumni association a permanent part of the new Center."

— Wayne Beck, Vice President, Supply Management, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

1997 Alumni Auction

National FFA Alumni Association

SILENT AND LIVE AUCTIONS

- Auction bidders need not be present to participate, just call the Alumni office (703) 360-3600, ext. 293 and provide your mailing address to receive an auction catalog.
- **Live Auction:** Preview from Wednesday, November 12 thru Friday, November 14. Auction begins Friday at 6:45 pm
- **Silent Auction:** Open from Wednesday, November 12 thru Friday, November 14 Featured items for the auctions inlcude:

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Got a story idea?

Some of the best stories in *FFA New Horizons* come from leads provided by FFA members.

If there's something going on out there you think would make a great story for *FFA New Horizons*, or if you have questions or comments on a story you've already seen in the magazine, drop us a note.

Just write your story leads or comments in the space below and mail to:

FFA New Horizons
5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway
P.O. Box 15160
Alexandria, VA 22309-0160
***Or* e-mail: erich@inforel.com**

Your name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Age: _____
Chapter: _____
FFA Advisor: _____
Brief description of story lead or comments:
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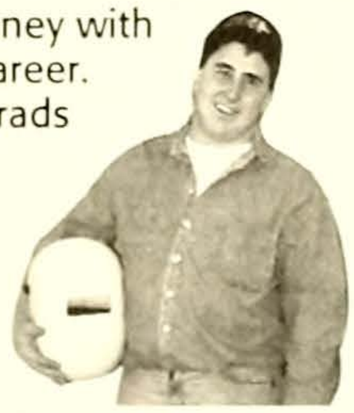

Jason A. McCoy, FFA—West Virginia

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Group _____
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City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone( ) _____

last laff

Q: Why did the seagulls fly over the beach?
A: If they fly over the bay they will be bagels.

Crystal Hogan
Starkville, Mississippi

Q: How do you mend a broken heart?
A: With ticker tape.

Betty Winslow
Bowling Green, Ohio

Q: What's a frog's favorite lunch?
A: French flies and Croak-a-Cola.

Matthew Gatewood
Lithia, Florida

Q: What do pigs put on sore joints?
A: Oinkment.

Krystle Butler
Sterling, Oklahoma

Q: What is a squirrel's favorite ballet?
A: The Nutcracker.

Robert Cooper
Boles, Arkansas

Q: Why are farmers going to replace round bailers with square bailers to bail hay?
A: So cattle will get a good square meal.

Barbara Smith
Speedwell, Tennessee

Q: Why do all chicken coops have two doors?
A: If they had four doors they would be chicken sedans.

Joel Botello
Lone Pine, California

Q: How do you get down from an elephant?
A: You don't. You get it from a goose.

Paul Isham
Gunnison, Colorado

Q: Why can't a leopard play hide and seek?
A: It's always spotted.

William Reuschel
Beaver, West Virginia

Q: Why can't skeletons play music during church?
A: They have no organs.

William Jones
Stanton, Kentucky

Q: When is a blue book not blue?
A: When it's read.

Lisa Sills
Buckeye, Arizona

Q: Why doesn't the melon get married?
A: He can't elope (cantaloupe).

Randy Williams
Monroe, Utah

FFA New Horizons **will pay $5.00 for each joke selected for Last Laff. In case of duplication, payment will be for the first one received.**

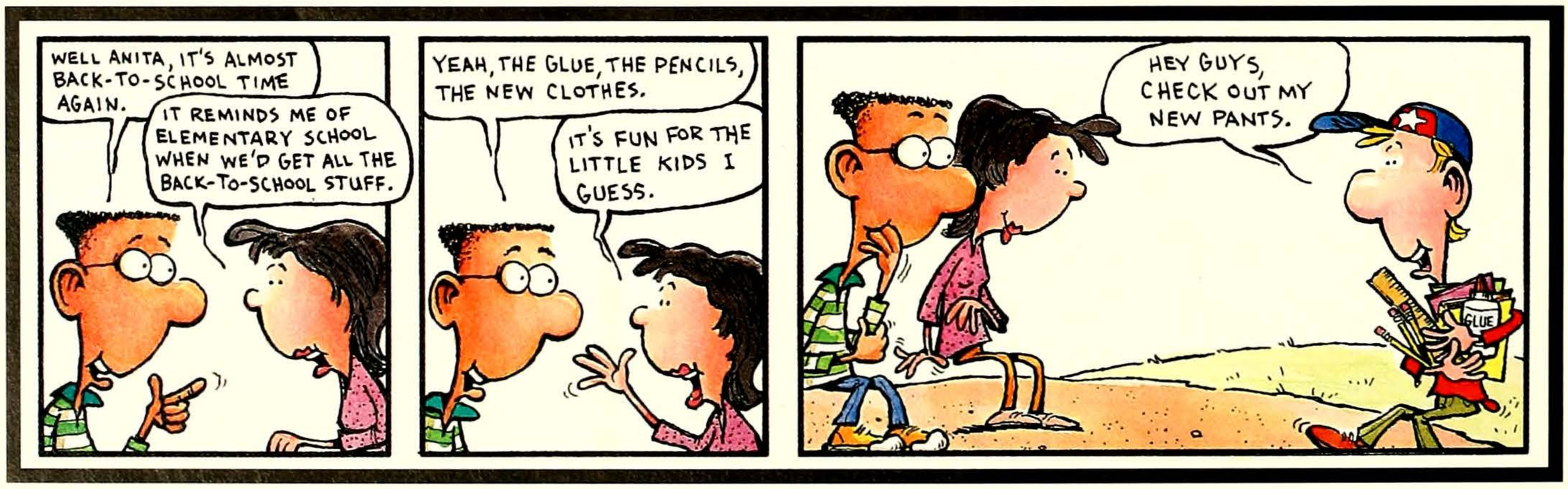
To submit a nomination for "FFA Stars," tell us why you think you or your nominee is an "FFA Star." You must also include the following: color photo, name, address, phone number, chapter and age of nominee, as well as your name and phone number (if different).

Jokes and nominations for "FFA Stars" must be addressed to:

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

Contributions cannot be acknowledged or returned.

Agrinuts by Jim Bradshaw and Michael Bettendorf



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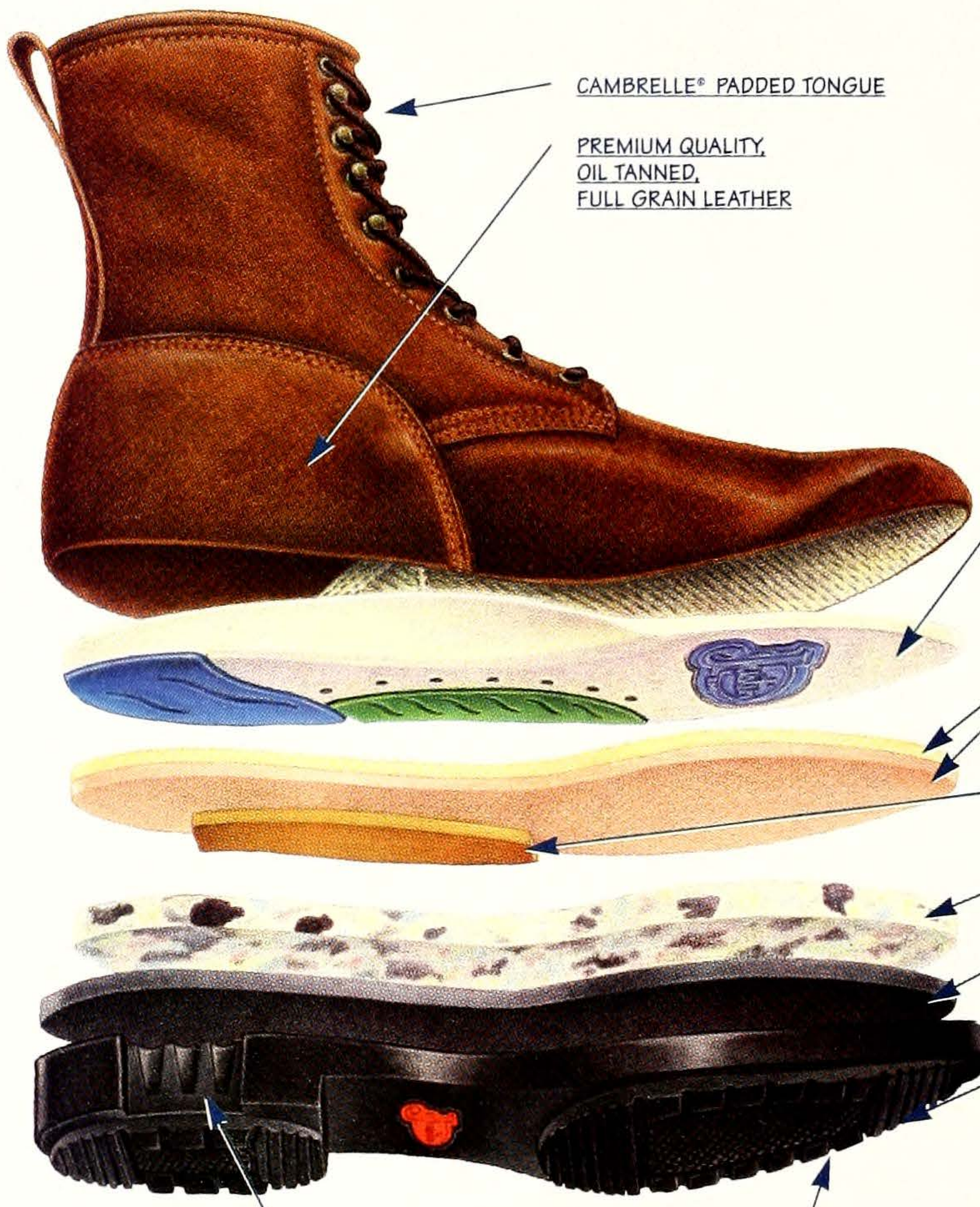

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