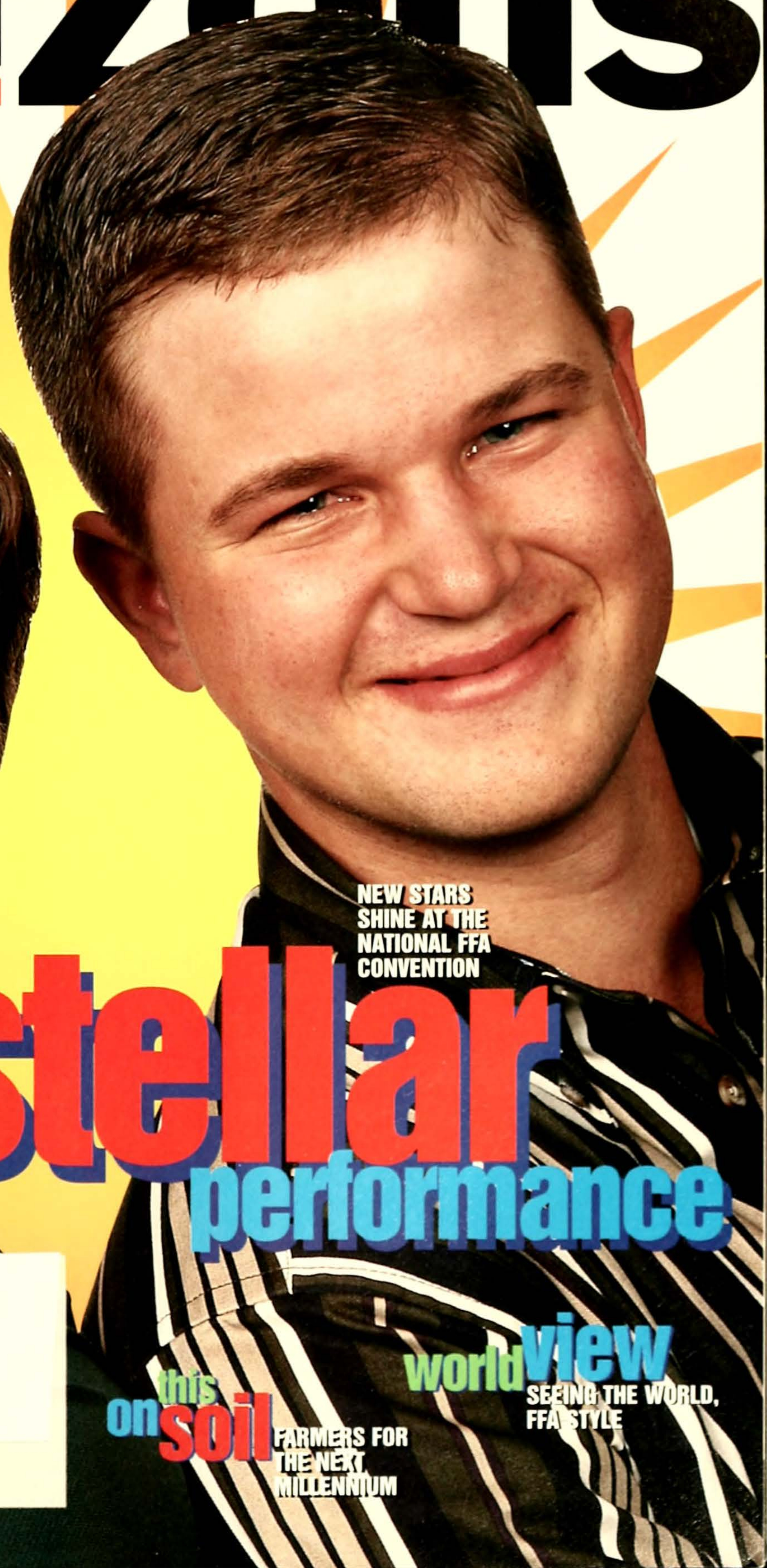


FFA

new horizons

The magazine of the National FFA Organization

January/February 1998



NEW STARS
SHINE AT THE
NATIONAL FFA
CONVENTION

stellar
performance

this
on soil

FARMERS FOR
THE NEXT
MILLENNIUM

worldview

SEEING THE WORLD,
FFA STYLE





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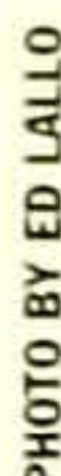
NEW HOLLAND

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**A message
from your
1997-98
National
FFA Officers**

Your 1997-98 National FFA Officer Team

Amber Miller
Amber Miller



contents

January/February 1998

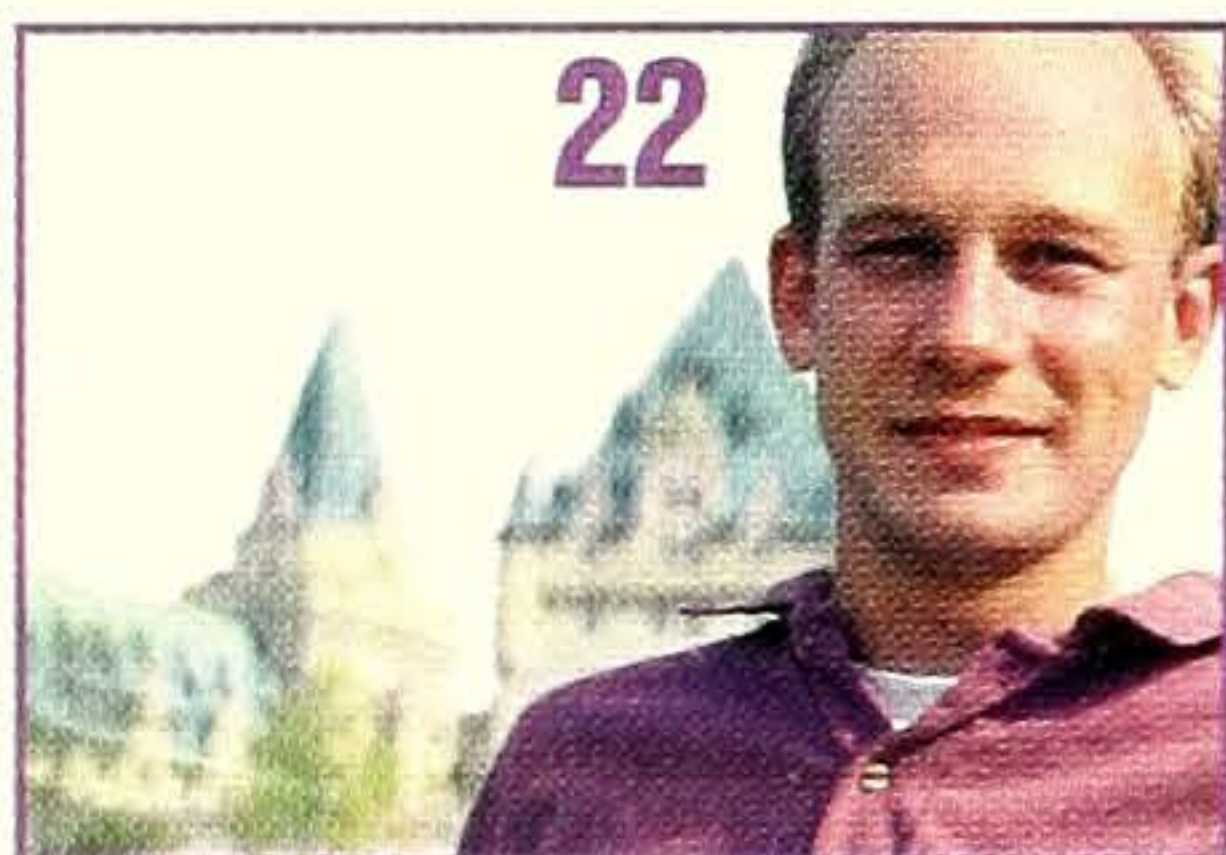
coverstory



10 Stellar Performance

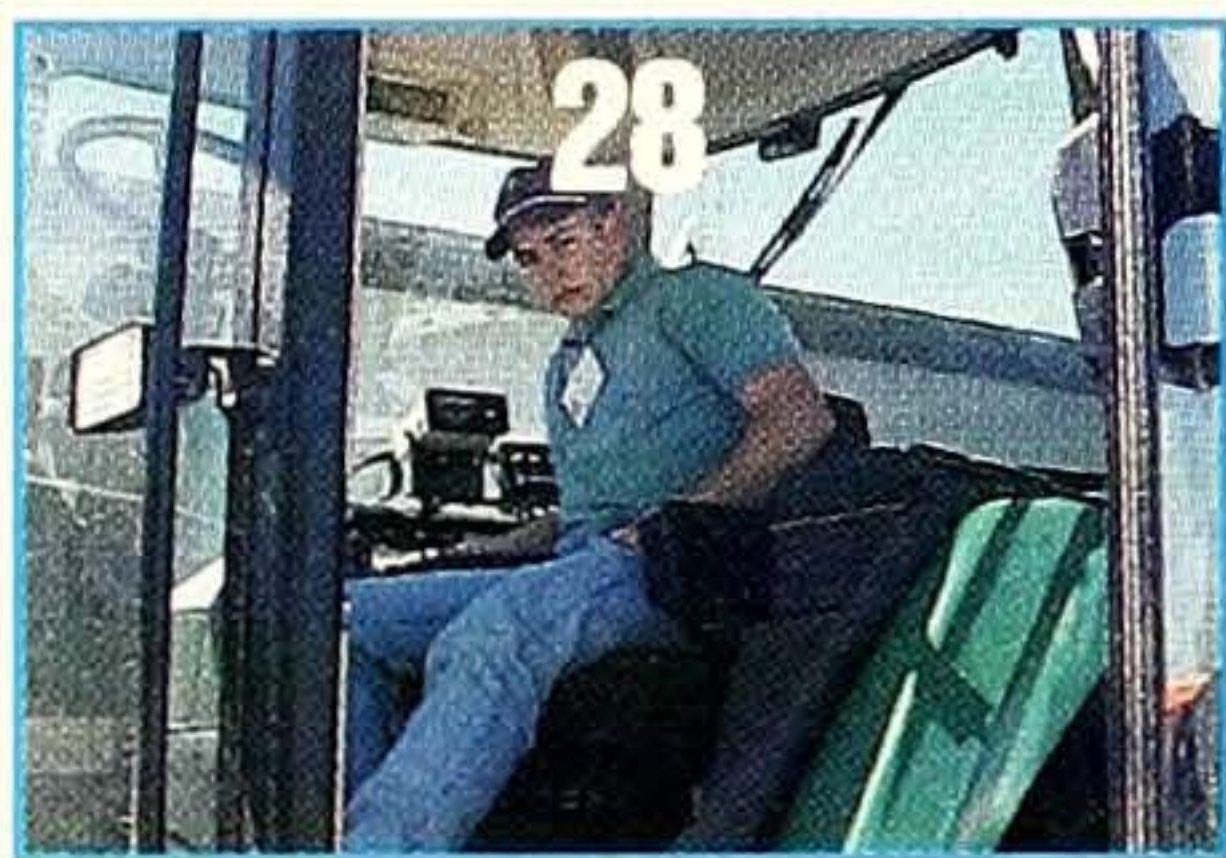
A record-breaking crowd of 44,021 set the stage for the 70th National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Hear from the speakers and fellow FFA members, and get the scoop on your new national FFA officers.

features



22 World View

Join us on a visit to Ottawa, Ontario, the capital of Canada. Lee Schroeder, a former national FFA officer, recently finished a summer-long internship with the Foreign Agricultural Service in the United States Embassy there. Catch a glimpse of how U.S. agricultural products are marketed abroad and what it's like to visit another country.



28 On this Soil

While the Illinois corn and soybeans rose from the soil last summer, so did the outlook for 38 of tomorrow's farmers. It's all part of the New Century Farmer program, where collegiate agriculture students from all parts of the country come to Illinois for four days of workshops that will prepare them for careers in production agriculture.

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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.



On the Cover: American Star Farmer Mike McIntyre and American Star in Agribusiness Mark Dudgeon. Photo by Ed Lallo

WHERE THE FUTURE IS AS BRIGHT

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For the past 50 years the FFA and Ford Truck have worked hard to cultivate success in agriculture. Even after all this time, it's still a hard-working partnership. This year there's more reason to celebrate. Ford is commemorating 50 years of F-Series and 50 years of supporting the FFA. At this milestone, we are introducing the Ford Truck Scholarship Fund. Because when looking to the future, education is the best way to ensure success.



q & a

one on one with Hillary Smith

What are you most excited about as the new national FFA president? I think all six of us are just really excited about the year that lies ahead. The focus of our team is to work with the members. So, we look forward to the chance to meet members—and the business and industry people.

At what point did you think that you wanted to be a national officer? It's hard to say. I think the first time I ever considered being a national FFA officer was at our state convention when national officers visited. It just seemed like a great opportunity to meet so many FFA members all across the nation.

What advice do you have for FFA members?

I think the biggest thing any FFA member can do is take advantage of opportunities. Our organization is full of opportunities—there is something for everyone. Get involved. If you don't like the first thing you try, or it's not for you, try something else. There's a place for everyone. The hard part is just trying to figure out where your place is. ★

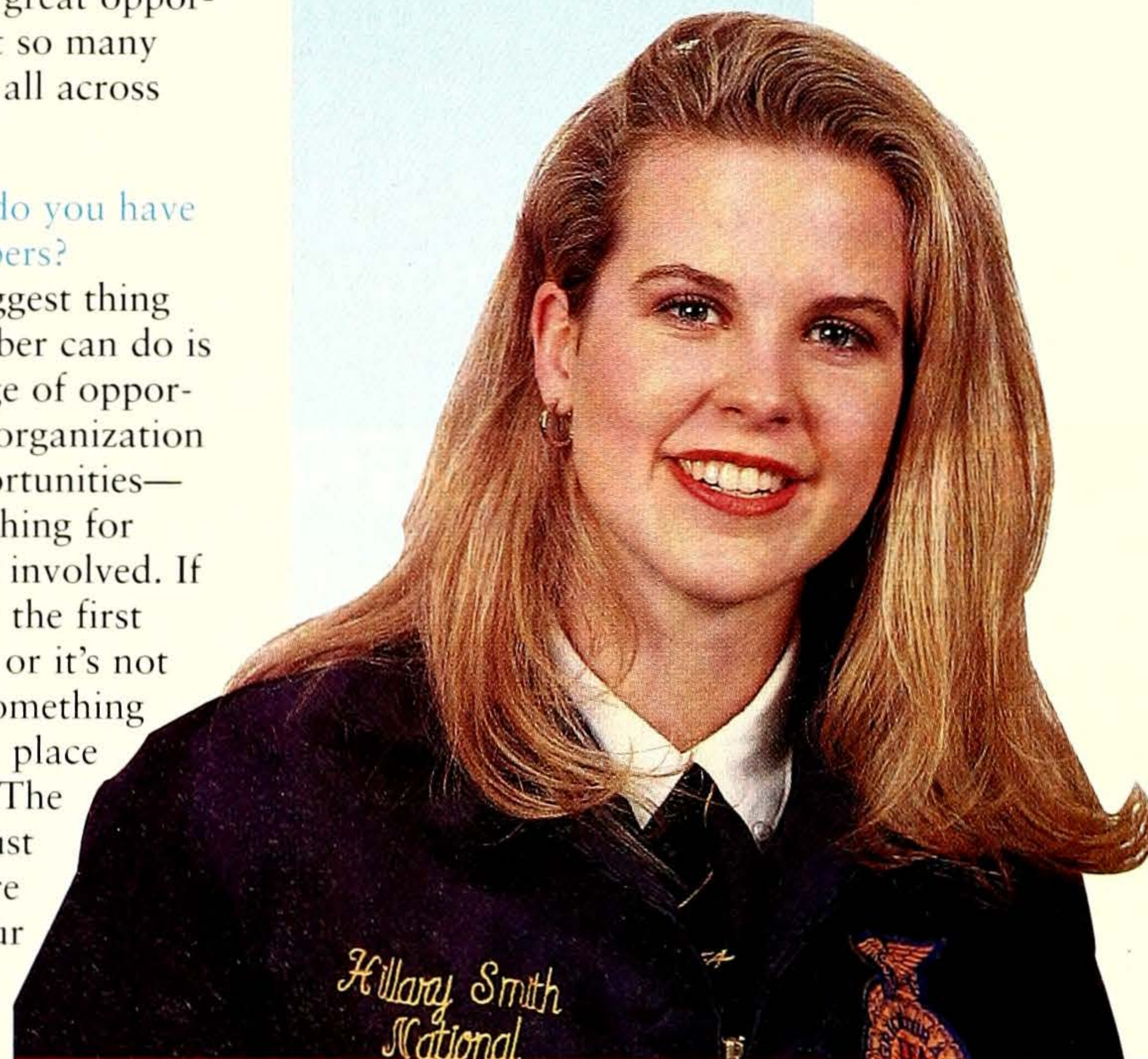
VITALS

Hometown: **Perry, Georgia**
 Age: **20**
 Chapter: **Perry**
 Advisors: **Argene Claxton and Tim Lewis**
 SAE: **Swine and fern production; placement in cotton production**
 Education: **Sophomore at the University of Georgia**
 Major: **Agricultural economics**
 Favorite movie: **The Secret Garden**
 Favorite book: **The Grey Fox (a biography of Robert E. Lee)**
 Favorite band: **John Berry**

timeline

Age

- 15** • enrolled in agricultural education
- lost class officer election
- 16** • lost district public speaking competition
- 17** • elected state FFA vice president
- member of national winning nursery/landscape CDE team
- 18** • won national prepared public speaking competition
- 19** • left home to attend University of Georgia
- 20** • elected national FFA officer



National president: **Hillary Smith**

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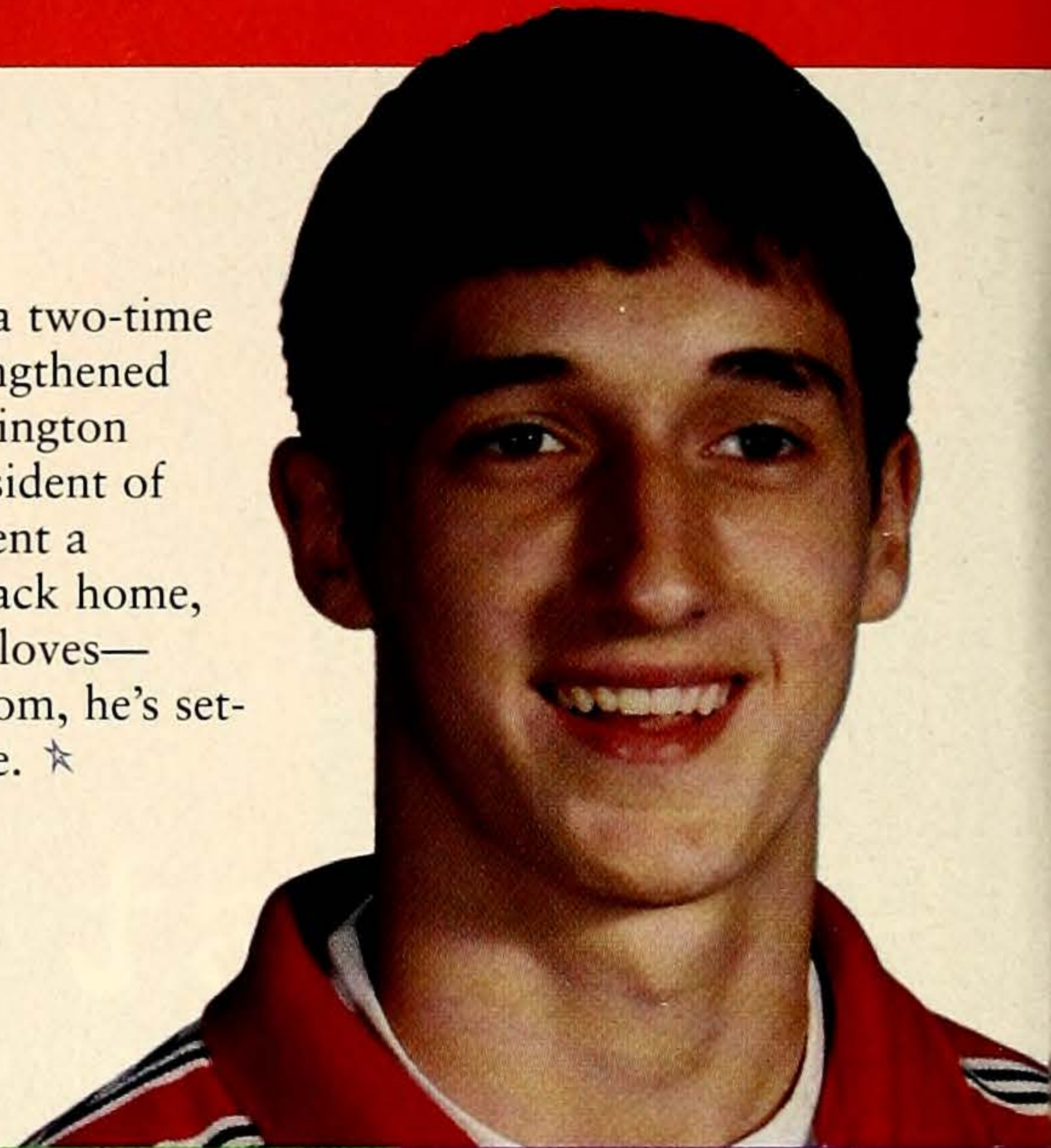
MISSISSIPPI

calling **all** stars

FFA members selected as "FFA Stars" will receive \$500 from 1-800-COLLECT which can be applied to the Washington Leadership Conference or an FFA International Experience. You can nominate yourself or any FFA member. Write us a note and tell us why you think you or your nominee is an "FFA Star." See page 36 for more details. ★

Nic Belk

This two-time state football champ doubles as a two-time president of the Weir FFA Chapter. Nic, 18, strengthened his leadership abilities last summer at the Washington Leadership Conference, where he served as president of the banquet committee and was chosen to present a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Back home, Nic goes over the top in all the other things he loves—hoops, baseball, golf and chorus. In the classroom, he's setting the standard with a 4.1 grade point average. ★

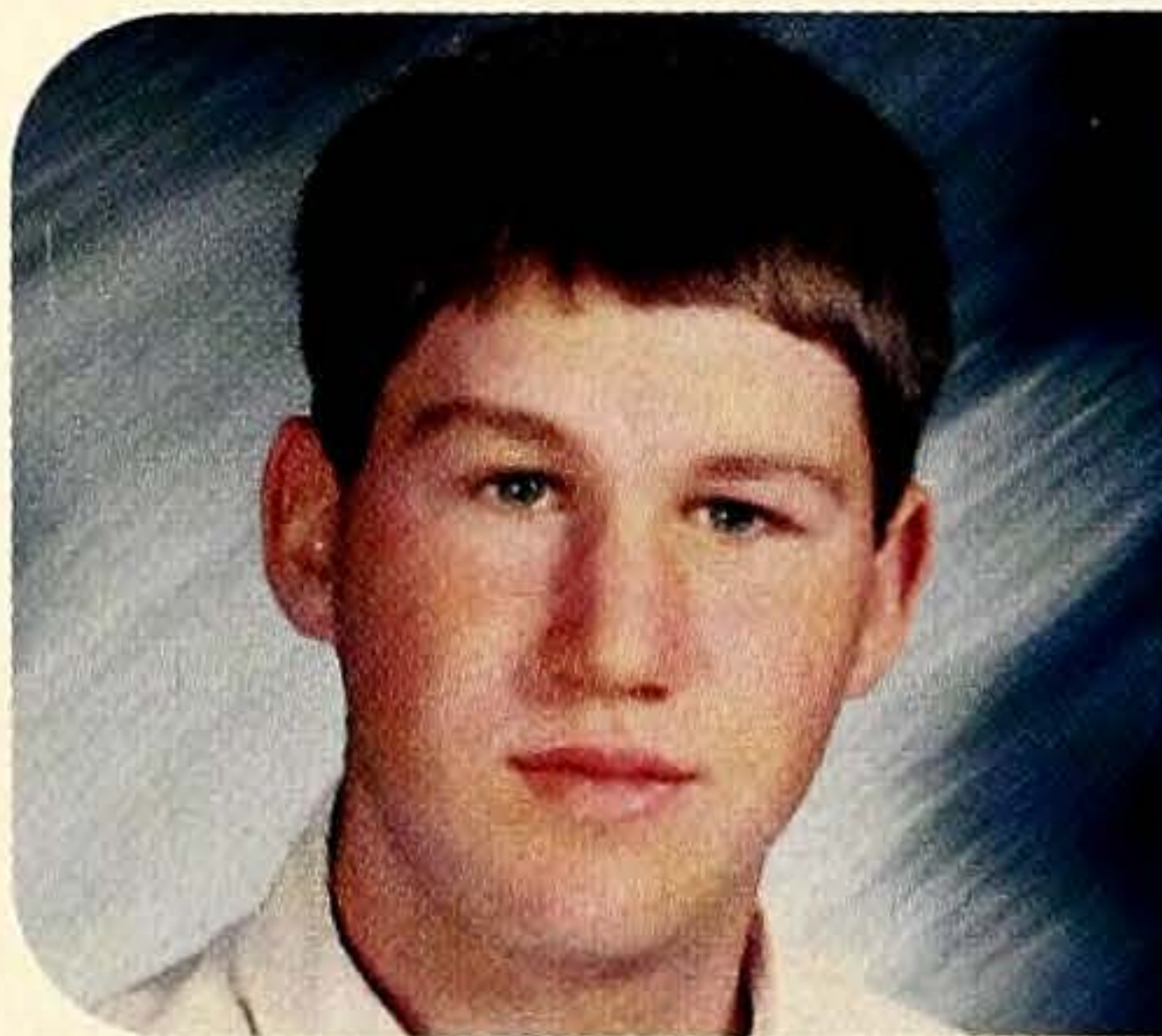


NEW YORK

OKLAHOMA

MASSACHUSETTS

COLORADO

**Adam Collins**

Adam ran for district president last year and lost. He could have given up right then and there. But he didn't. He's planning to run for state office this year—because he wants to make a difference. Sounds like he's already doing that. Last year his chapter elected him treasurer and outstanding FFA member. Adam also took first at the state employment interview competition. Adam is now working hard on his SAE and hopes to soon receive his state FFA degree. ★

**Chas Robbins**

This 16-year-old Spiro FFA Chapter president says he knows there are many opportunities in this world, and it's his goal to take advantage of them all. Right now he's junior class secretary/treasurer and National Honor Society reporter. Last year he led his FFA chapter's blood drive effort, which helped fend off a local blood shortage. Chas raises show swine, breaks and trains colts, and helps his family raise a strong, healthy herd of Longhorn cattle. ★

**Yvonne Burke**

Music and FFA are the two big things in Yvonne's life. In FFA, she's vice president of her chapter and a first place winner at the state prepared public speaking contest. On the music side, Yvonne, 16, puts in long hours as a member of the Cape Ann Symphony Youth Chorus, which just put the finishing touches on their own CD. She also sings at church and enjoys playing guitar and piano. In college, she hopes to major in natural resources, so she can someday work to preserve the environment. ★

**Chrissy Thomas**

You can't keep Chrissy away from the action. At the age of 15, she's already a tough competitor in barrel racing, pole bending, and she's now learning to break-away rope. But she really loves showing. With an SAE that includes breeding beef, breeding and market sheep and market swine, Chrissy has won awards at local jackpots, as well as county and state fairs. This FFA chapter secretary's goals are to be a state FFA officer and to study equine management. ★

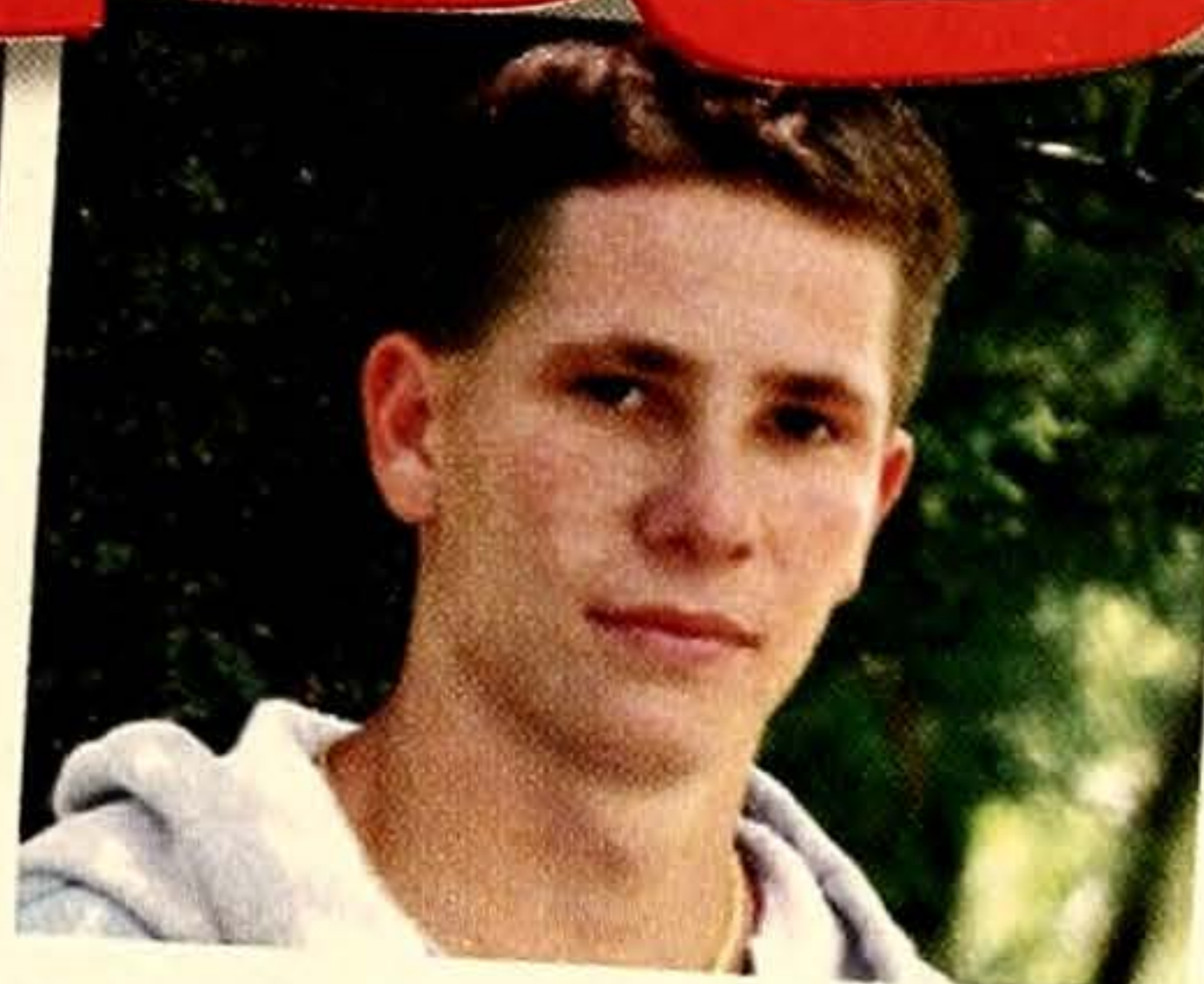
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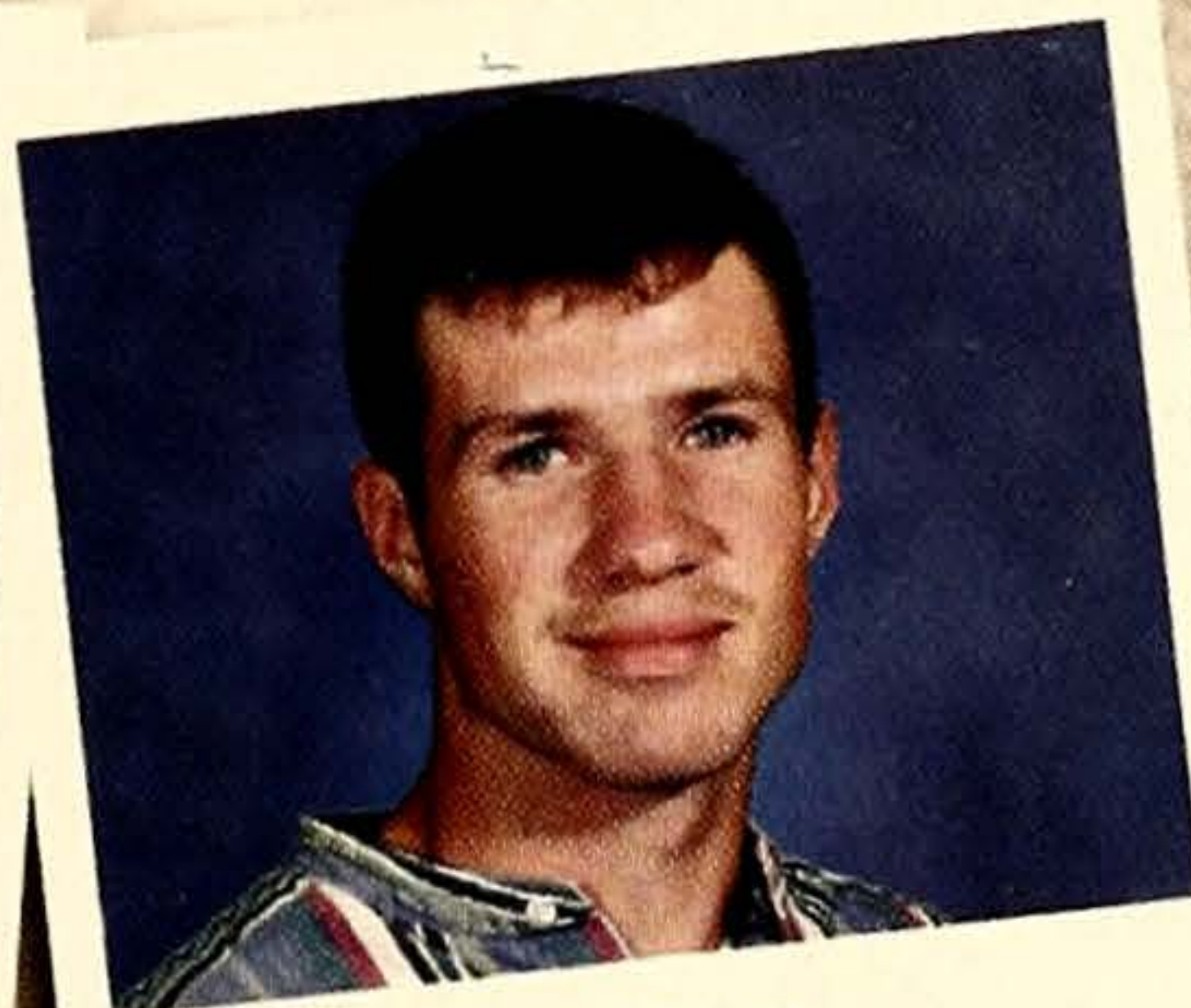
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Each FFA Star Receives \$500!

BUZZ

Food for all

For eleven years the World Food Prize Foundation has been presenting an annual award to people who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity, or availability of food in the world. On hand for the 1997 ceremony in Des Moines, Ia., were two national FFA officers—Rachel Fehringer and Brad Montgomery—and the Iowa FFA officer team. They saw the prize awarded to Dr. Ray Smith and Dr. Perry Adkisson, two agricultural researchers who jointly developed Integrated Pest Management (also known as IPM), which has helped farmers wean themselves away

from heavy reliance on synthetic pesticides. Like the Nobel Prize, the World Food Prize has become an internationally recognized event. The foundation's Council of Advisors now includes former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and American Red Cross President Elizabeth Dole, who is seen here talking with Lisa Ahrens and Thomas Goodhue of the Iowa FFA officer team. ★



Elizabeth Dole, President of the American Red Cross and a member of the World Food Prize Foundation's Council of Advisors, shares her thoughts with Iowa FFA officers Lisa Ahrens and Thomas Goodhue.

The write stuff

If writing is your thing, be sure to check out *Writes of Passage*, a literary journal just for teenagers.



Read poems, essays and short stories written by teens for teens. It's fun to read through and, if you've been doing some writing of your own, you can submit your own work for consideration. To find out more about subscriptions or submissions, call, e-mail or write:

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817 Broadway, 6th floor
New York, NY 10003
e-mail: WPUSA@aol.com
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erich'ssay

Okay, I admit I slept through the New Year's celebration this year, but I did manage to come up with some New Year's resolutions . . .

1. I will pick better jokes for the Last Laff page.
 2. I will not wear new shoes to National FFA Convention again.
 3. I will brush my hair before my photo (below) is taken again.
 4. I will pick much better jokes for the Last Laff page.
 5. I will not slam the door on my way out of the house in the morning.
 6. I will not run another "What's Hot/What's Not" page that includes either of the following words: Dennis Rodman.
 7. I will not watch TV (unless, of course, it's Seinfeld, the Cubs, The X-Files . . .).
 8. I will quit using colons in my writing: Well, maybe not.
 9. I will delete all old messages out of my e-mail box (at least the ones from '96).
 10. I will not write another column about New Year's resolutions.
- If you've got your own '98 resolutions, write them down and e-mail or snail-mail them to us (see "The Mailbag" for address). Maybe *your* list will appear in our next issue. Please include your name, address, chapter and phone number.

erich **gaukel**, editor

e-mail: erich@inforel.com

mailbag

My dad retired from the U.S. Army in the middle of my sophomore year. I had to start at a new school and that was the first time I ever heard of the FFA. I joined the Canyon FFA Chapter and raised a pig my junior year. I enjoyed the experience very much.

I think being a member of FFA teaches responsibility

and independence, and encourages community involvement. It also motivates students in school and helps them to become well-rounded individuals. It's a great life experience.

Moving around from place to place as much as I have, I've seen a lot of people who could use an FFA project. If every high school

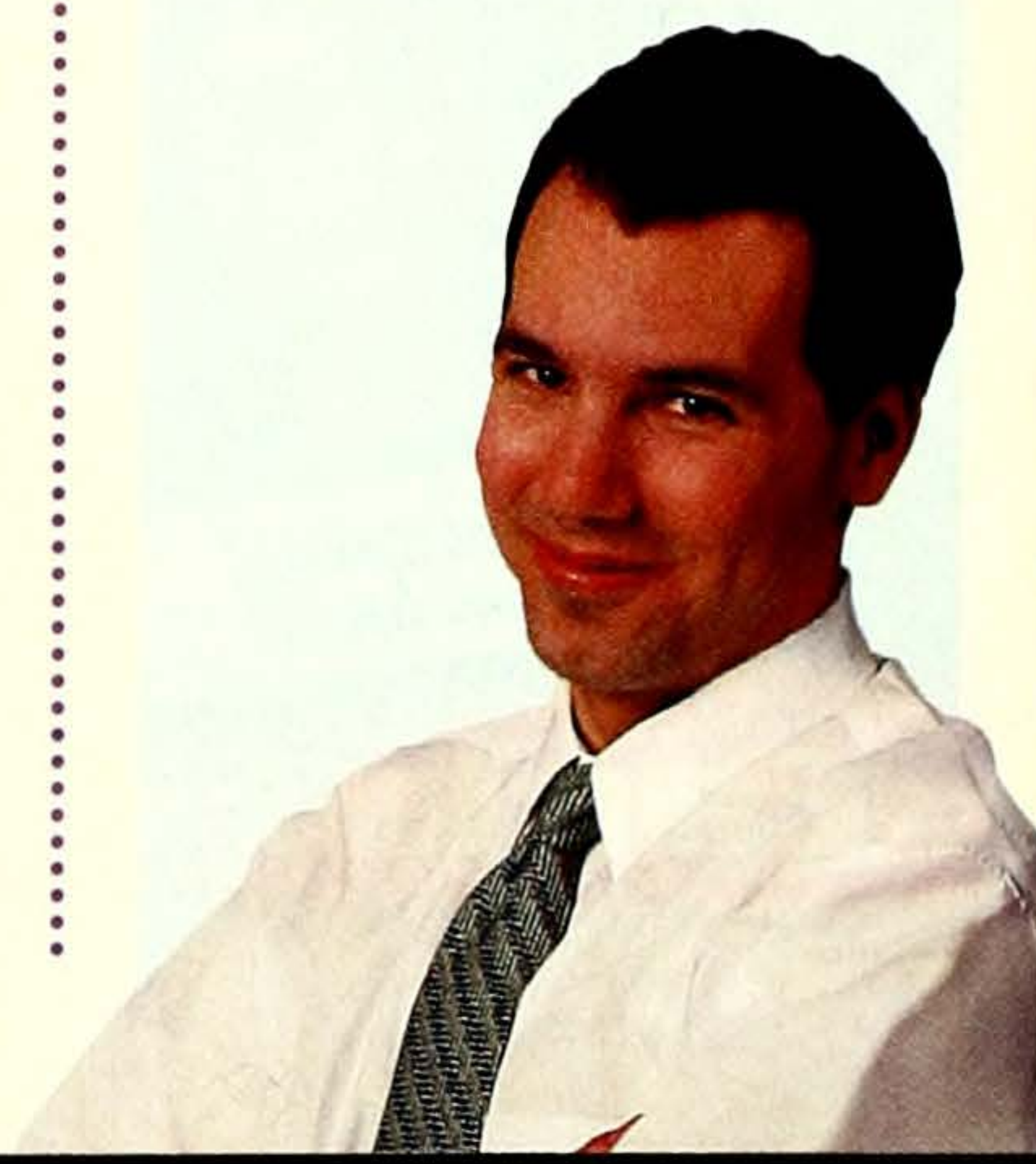
student—especially inner city kids—could raise a project, can you imagine what a great world this would be?

Sincerely,

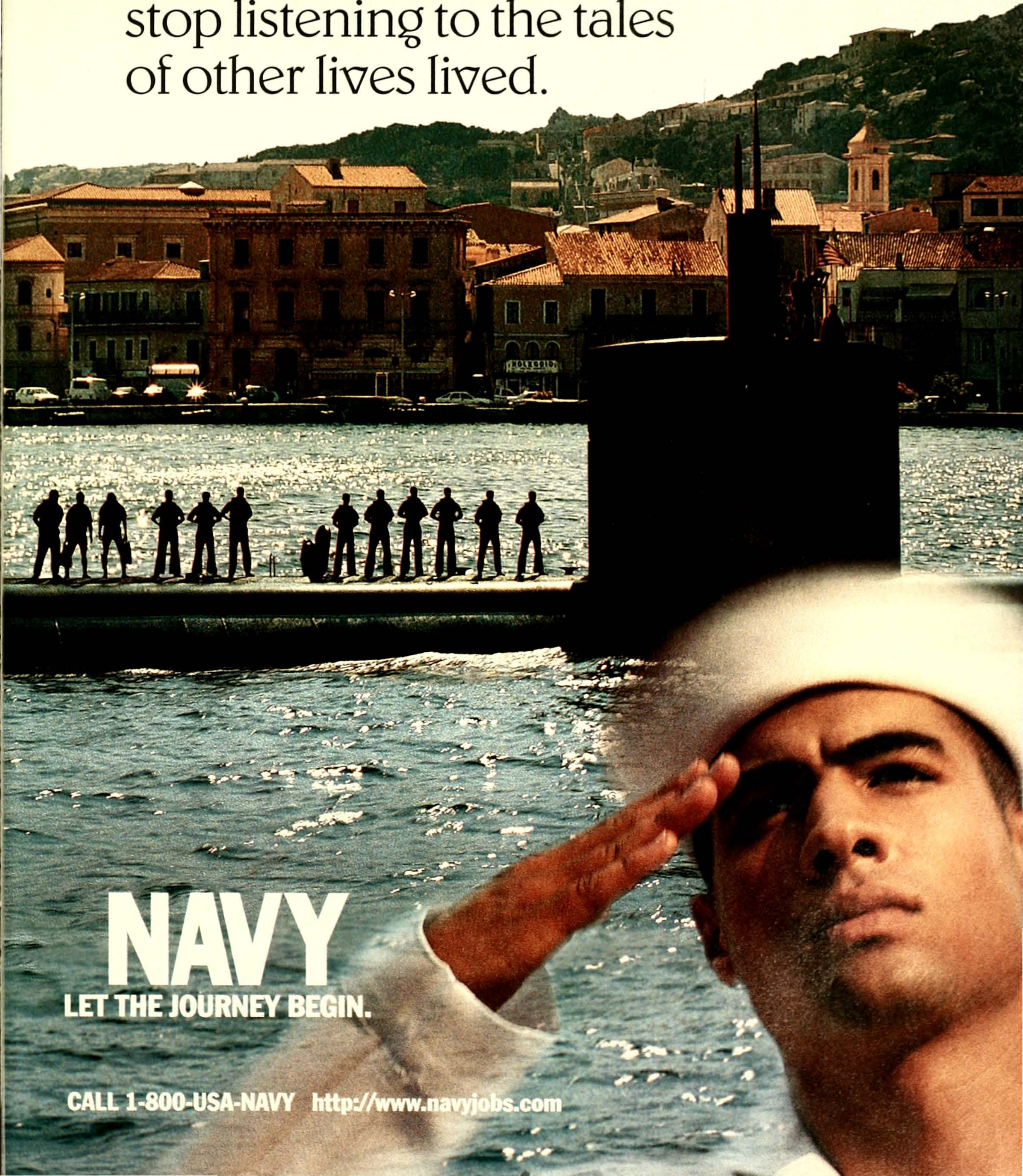
Sherry McGough

Canyon FFA Chapter
New Braunfels, Texas

send your letters to: FFA New Horizons Mailbag, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, Virginia 22309-0160

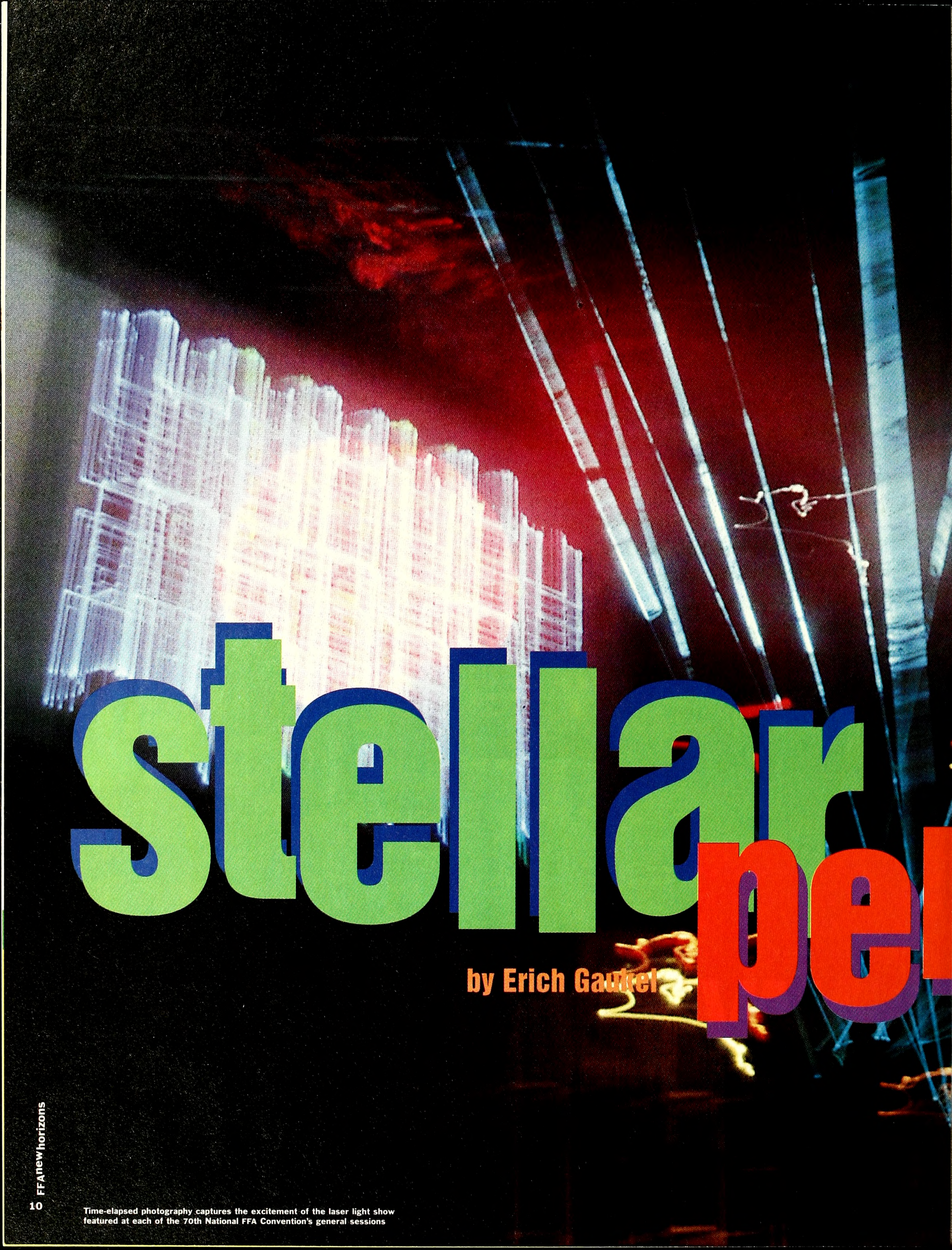


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stellar pep

by Erich Gaukel

As I drove up Broadway to Bartle Hall, hub of the 70th National FFA Convention, traffic moved at a snail's pace. School buses, tour buses, airport shuttles, mini-vans, station wagons, cabs and cars—all packed full of eager FFA members—inched their way to the action. I could read the finger-in-dirt writing on the backs of the buses and vans—"K.C. or bust" and "Kansas City bound."

Looking up at the high rise Marriott across the street from Bartle Hall, FFA members (presumably from the Land of Cheese) had already plastered a huge "WI" on their window. As FFA members crossed Central Avenue in a steady stream, Bartle Hall's outdoor electronic marquee welcomed them to Kansas City.

Other than that, you might never know 44,021 FFA members, advisors and guests had invaded town—except for the fact that you couldn't turn on the local TV news stations without seeing them, open the Kansas City Star without reading about them, or turn on the radio without hearing about them.

Performance

**44,021 attendees descend on Kansas City
for the 70th National FFA Convention**

If you weren't in K.C., the electronic age made it feel like you were. The National FFA Organization's FFA Online staff worked around clock to post up-to-the-minute news online. Channel Earth, the DIRECTV network devoted to agricultural and rural news, beamed live coverage off satellites to viewers across the continent.

Such technological advances as digital cameras, lasers, laptop computers, cordless microphones and cellular phones have not

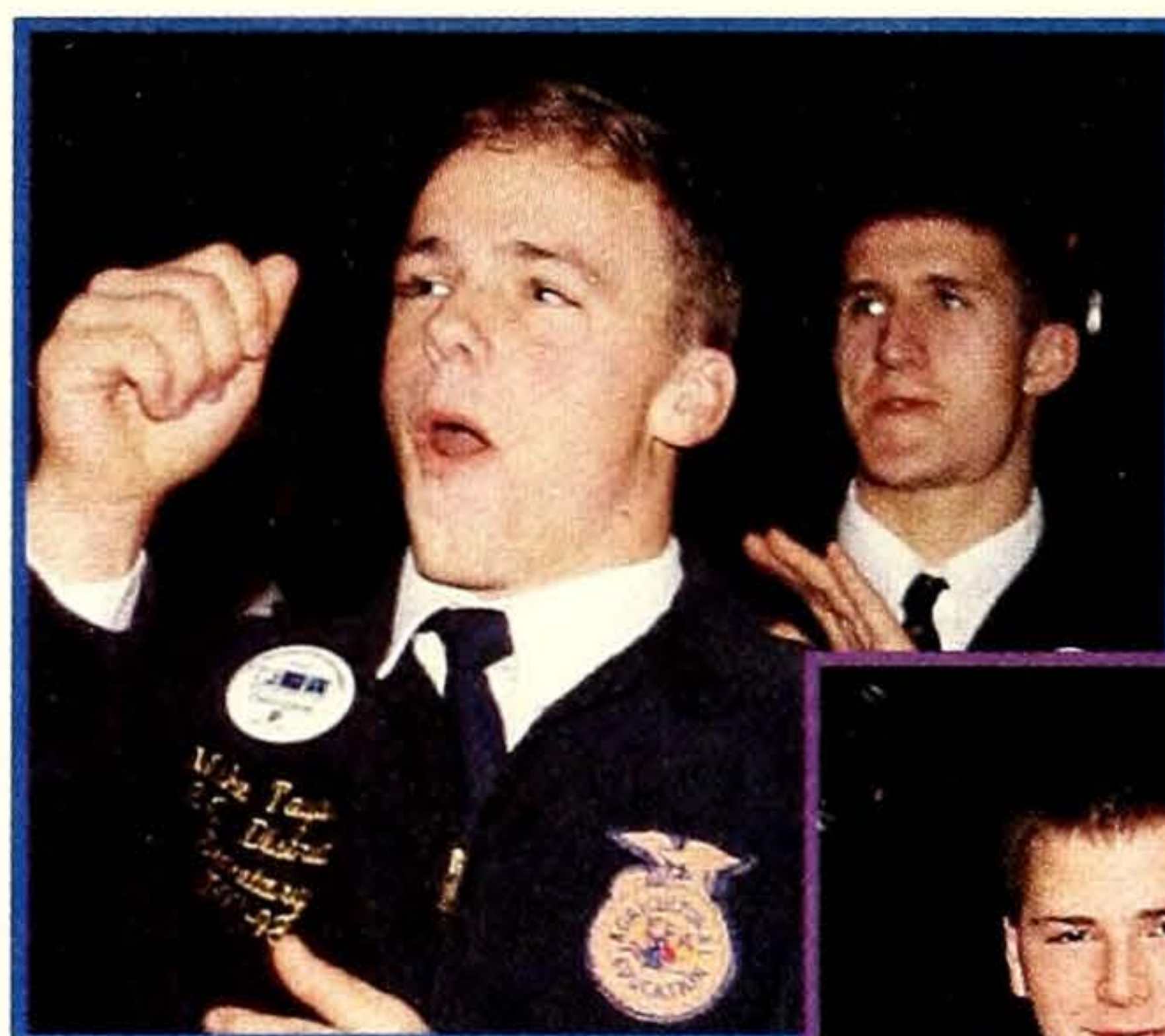
only changed the way we report on the convention, but have improved the way it is organized and staged.

But as much as these things have changed the

Austin, Trace Adkins (see page 19 for a full interview with Trace) and Ty England.

At the Career Show, Ty Murray talked the talk with FFA members at the Schrade booth; an arsenal of Gateway 2000 computers provided the waves for hundreds of FFA Online surfers; college reps from all over the country

president, said he and the president of his chapter came to pick up leadership skills. "She wants to run for state office, and I'm thinking about it now



Mike Taylor, of the Creston, Iowa, FFA Chapter, lets out a cheer.

national FFA convention over the past 70 years, FFA members still come for the same reasons—to develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success—and have fun.

The attractions

There weren't just more people this year—there was more stuff to do. Over at the FFA shopping mall, lines formed at autograph sessions featuring such musicmakers as BlackHawk, Sherrie



These two Career Show attendees take a break on a tractor tire.

pitched their schools; Chevy Trucks challenged visitors to "The Wheel of Fortune"; and the Case Corporation displayed a 50-foot inflatable tractor.

At Wal-Mart's new CD store in the FFA shopping mall, I interrupted two CD shoppers from California—Carlos Borges and Conor Robertson of the Tracy FFA Chapter—to ask them why they made the long trip.

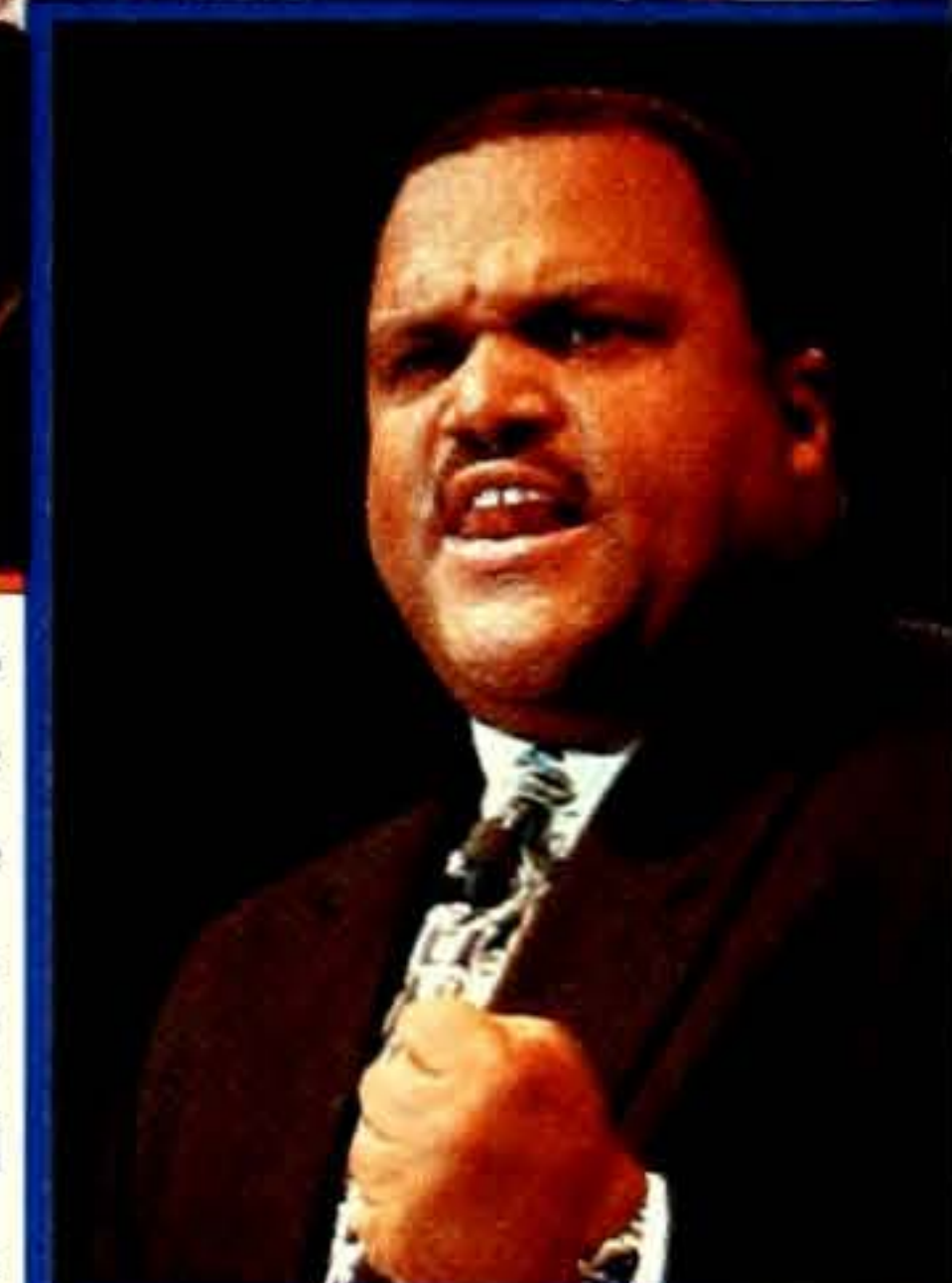
Carlos, chapter vice

too because of all the motivation I've gotten here." The national FFA officers' retiring addresses also impressed him. "I think it's really neat that they're just overflowing with enthusiasm in the way they say it. . . . They're so enthused it just makes us happy and gives us enthusiasm."

Conor had his sights set on the tour of the AGCO plant. "I just want-



Building friendships is part of the experience for these two girls (above). Ron Archer (right) delivers his powerful keynote address.



We're in good hands

National FFA Foundation raises \$7.1 million, an all-time record

Just like you do fundraisers to keep your chapter activities going, the National FFA Foundation raises money to support annual projects and programs for FFA and agricultural education. This year's total, announced by 1997 Sponsors' Board Chairman Wayne Beck, vice-president—Supply Management at Pioneer Hi-Bred, came in at a record-breaking \$7.1 million. "This record investment in the future of agriculture ensures that it will be bright," Beck said.

The foundation has also received additional pledges of \$2,972,500 for the new National FFA Center being built in Indianapolis (see page 16 for more on this).

1998 Sponsors' Board Chairman Charles Fischer, vice president—North America, DowElanco, is already working to make this year's efforts a great success. The 1998 Foundation theme is "Building the Future." ★

Hangin' with BlackHawk Randy Roseland cashes in on contest



Randy Roseland accepts a \$5,000 check with his advisor Dave Ollila (just to Randy's right) and members of BlackHawk.

Everyone in the Newell, South Dakota, FFA Chapter entered the BlackHawk "College, Convention and Concert Contest" announced in a recent issue of *FFA New Horizons*. So, Randy Roseland was shocked to find out he had won a \$5,000 college scholarship, a trip to the 70th National

FFA Convention and, of course, tickets and backstage passes to a BlackHawk concert. "Nothing ever happens to me. I'm from a small town," Randy admitted, minutes before he was ushered onto the convention arena stage with BlackHawk to receive the scholarship check. ★

Star status

Mike McIntyre and Mark Dudgeon share the spotlight

Want to meet two guys who take their business seriously? Meet Mike McIntyre, 21, of Winfred, South Dakota. He's the 1997 American Star Farmer. Then meet Mark Dudgeon, 20, of Mt. Vernon, Ohio. He's the 1997 American Star in Agribusiness.

Mike is a veterinary medicine student at Iowa State University. He's a fourth generation farmer with 15 years of agriculture experience under his belt. While maintaining 263 stock cows, 12 bulls and 231 feeder calves, Mike also supervises three full-time and two part-time workers while running his fence installation business.

"All aspects of my personal and business life are currently centered around agriculture," McIntyre said, "and with my future farming and veterinary enterprises, agriculture will continue to be the focus of my life."

Mark, who now runs a nursery operation, caught the entrepreneurial bug in fifth grade, when he built a

12 by 12 steel greenhouse in the back yard.

In high school, the business had progressed to the point where he was renting three and a half acres in North Carolina, where the climate allows two growing seasons instead of one. He drove down every other weekend and any time he had time off from school so could take care of his plants and trees.

He now lives in North Carolina, and his 1997 gross sales exceeded \$45,000. "Within the next couple of years," Mark says, "I plan to purchase land of my own. I want to build my operation into a nationally recognized nursery, enroll in college and get a degree in horticulture."

Mike and Mark each received \$1,000 from the National FFA Foundation, Inc. in addition to the \$1,000 they received as finalists. Each of the eight star finalists also will take an agricultural tour of Costa Rica or Europe in the summer of 1998. ★



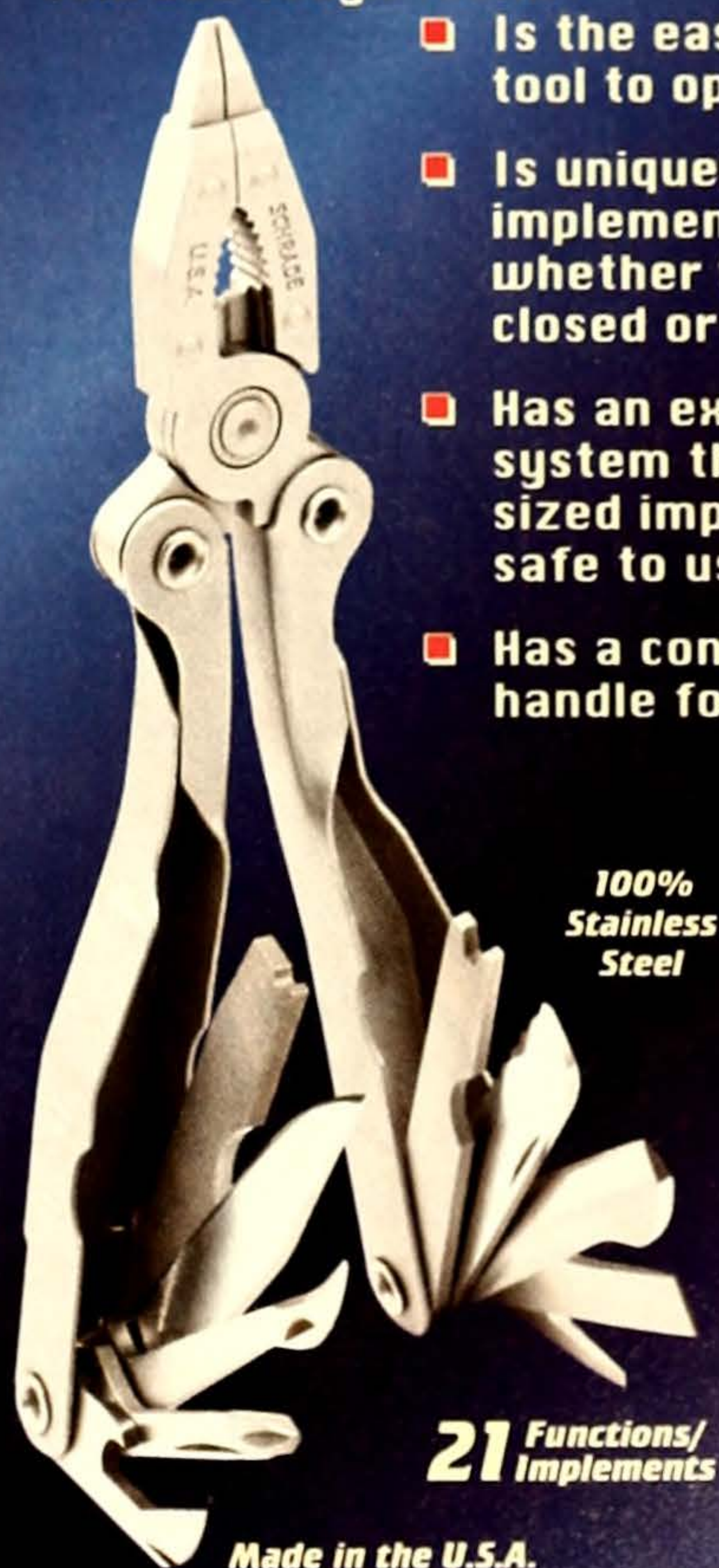
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ed to see how equipment was made."

Randi Nusser, a member of the Springfield, Colorado, FFA Chapter, says her chapter started just last year, "so we're kind of getting on our feet now and starting to do some new things and more things." So, she says, "I came to learn how to be a better reporter, learn how to expand our chapter, and just have fun."

Building the future

In his welcoming session remarks, National FFA Advisor Larry D. Case introduced the 1997 convention theme, "Building the Future." "I challenge you to become acquainted with as many people as you can," he said, "for there are FFA members here from the

entire country. They are your partners in building your future. Talk with them. Work with them. Share your dreams with them."

All over the city FFA members did just that, whether they were competing against each other, standing in line together or sitting next to each other at the general sessions at Municipal Auditorium.

"I'm impressed by the diversity—people from Alaska, Puerto Rico, California and Maine," said Susanna Bussan of the Black Hawk FFA Chapter in Wisconsin.

"I like seeing everybody," her chapter mate Wendy Herbst added. "It's like 'wow,' you just don't know how many people really come to this—and just seeing how

many people are in FFA like you."

Worth the trip

Speaking of Alaska, just how long of a trip is it from Anchorage to Kansas City?

According to Lem Wheelers and Matt Wilson, members of Alaska's Diamond FFA Chapter, it's only 3,500 miles—or 8 hours in the sky. Was it worth the trip?

"Lem came back after last year and said how much it changed his life and made a difference," Matt explained, "so I thought I'd come down and see what it can do for me, and after being here I just have a whole new way of life. It's just changed the way I think, the way I look at FFA, and I hope to go as far as I can in this." ★

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Meet your 1997-98 National FFA Officer Team

President

Hillary Smith

age: 20

hometown/chapter: Perry,
Georgia/Perry FFA Chapter
advisors: Argene Claxton
and Tim Lewis

education: sophomore at
the University of Georgia
major: agricultural
economics

SAE: swine and fern produc-
tion; placement in cotton
production

Secretary

Shannon Wilcox

age: 20

hometown/chapter: Kenton,
Ohio/Upper Scioto Valley
FFA Chapter

advisor: Lori Dyer

education: junior at The
Ohio State University

major: agricultural education

SAE: diversified crop and
beef production enterprise

Central Region

Vice President

Mark Wilburn

age: 20

hometown/chapter: Laddo-
nia, Missouri/Van-Far
FFA Chapter

advisor: Rex Moore

education: junior at Univer-
sity of Missouri

major: agricultural eco-
nomics

SAE: Beef and swine enter-
prises and placement in
production

Eastern Region

Vice President

Dana Fisher

age: 20

hometown/chapter: Maur-
ertown, Virginia/Central
FFA Chapter

advisors: Sherry Heishman
and George Bowers

education: sophomore at
Virginia Tech University

major: agricultural education

SAE: agribusiness, vegetable
production, market steer
production, forestry and
wildlife management

Southern Region

Vice President

Amber Miller

age: 19

hometown/chapter:
Louisville, Alabama/Louisville
FFA Chapter

advisor: Duane Baxley

education: sophomore at
Auburn University

major: agricultural education

SAE: swine production and
agricultural construction

Western Region

Vice President

Cody Nash

age: 19

hometown/chapter: Tolar,
Texas/Tolar FFA Chapter
advisor: Kim Sullins

education: freshman at
Tarleton State University

major: agricultural education

SAE: diversified livestock
consisting of Brahman
cattle, market swine,
market goats



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CHANNEL EARTH

by Erich Gaukel

On April 21, ground was broken for your new National FFA Center in Indianapolis. We'll be checking in for sneak peeks of the construction in every issue of *FFA New Horizons* until the center's official dedication, which is set for July 20.



The National FFA Center takes shape as the brickwork begins and the steel placement nears completion.



Meghan Hall and Stacey Acton, of the nearby Western Boone FFA Chapter, dropped by for a tour of the construction site.

When the new National FFA Center in Indianapolis opens its doors this summer, nobody's going to be exchanging high fives because the water runs freely from the faucets in the bathrooms. And it's highly unlikely that anyone will be inspired to say, "Hey, this automated climate control system really rocks."

That's okay with Brett Daily. He's the on-site steamfitter superintendent, and with the building's plumbing, heating and cooling on his to-do list, it's basically his job to make sure people don't notice his work. If they did, it would probably mean something was wrong.

I met Brett when I was in Indianapolis shooting some photos of the construction for *FFA New Horizons*. I had found a good vantage point on a

small pile of dirt just about a hundred yards from the construction, where workers were positioning a few remaining steel beams and beginning to lay bricks.

As I clicked the camera, I noticed a construction worker in the corner of my eye. He was headed my way, walking quickly with his head down.

"Who are you with?" he asked in a flat voice.

"The FFA," I answered, knowing I was about to get an earful about not wearing a hard hat or something—

"I was in the FFA," he said, unexpectedly.

Turns out he was a member of the nearby Morristown FFA Chapter in the

early '80s. Raised on a hog farm, Brett opted for a career as a steamfitter, and he's been at it now for 11 years. He's glad to be giving something back to the organization that he says was the most fun and informative part of high school. He'll be working on the site until April, when his part of the job is completed. We'll check in with Brett as the construction continues. In the meantime, check out these pictures we brought back. ★

Brett Daily, a former FFA member, is the steamfitter superintendent at the National FFA Center construction site.



Be Recognized At The New National FFA Center



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. To guarantee that your brick will be in place by the dedication, respond by January 31, 1998.

The dedication ceremony tentatively will be held on the morning of Monday, July 20. If your chapter is thinking about a field trip this summer, put

Indianapolis in your plans. Stop, see your brick, and realize that you helped build FFA's new home.

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. Over 900 chapters already "own" a part of the new center!

Join them as they pave the way.



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 at: ☐ Chapter ☐ Team ☐ Memorial ☐ Individual ☐ Family

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Credit Card No. _____ Exp. date _____

Please make checks payable to: National FFA Foundation

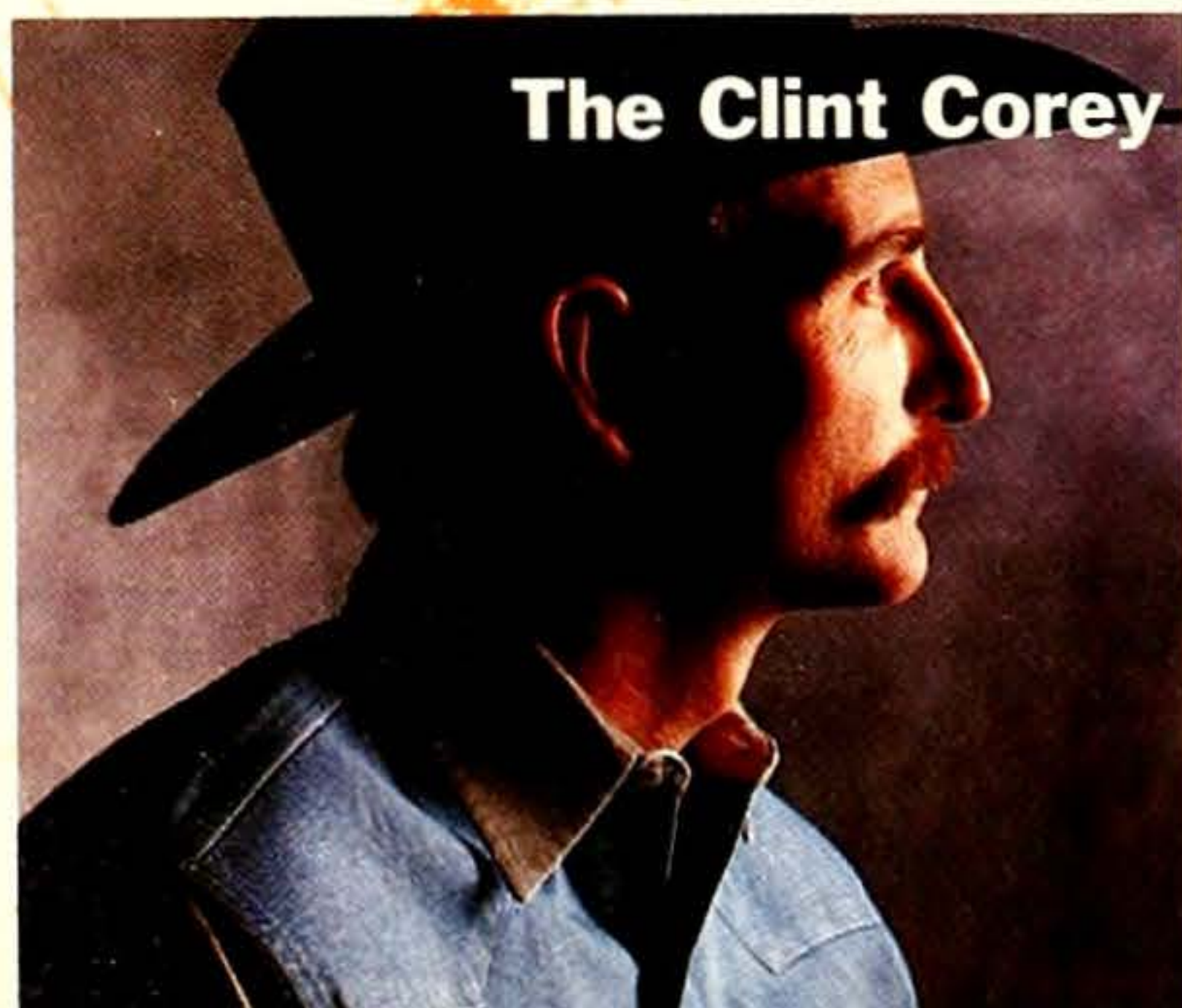
Return to the National FFA Foundation Office, P.O. Box 45205, Madison, WI 53744-5205. Direct questions to (608) 829-3105.

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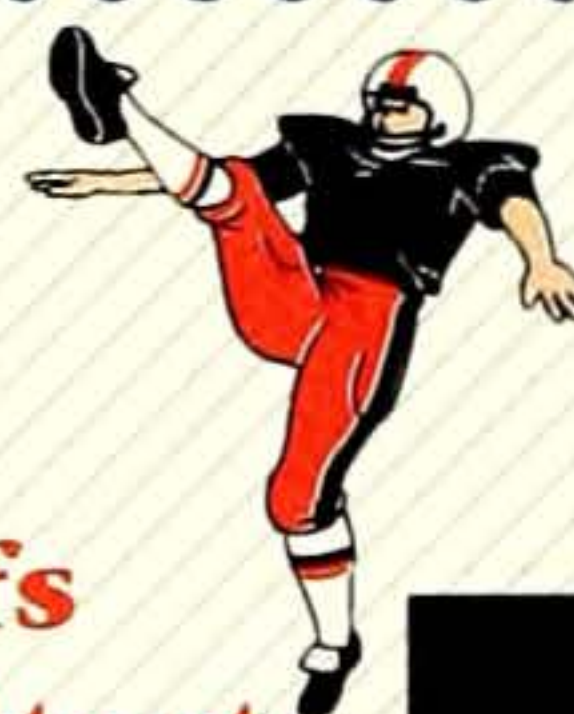
JANUARY—
FEBRUARY
1998

CREATING SUCCESS THROUGH DIVERSITY



**INSIDE... NATIONAL CONVENTION
HIGHLIGHTS**

FFA: EXPERIENCE THE RIDE

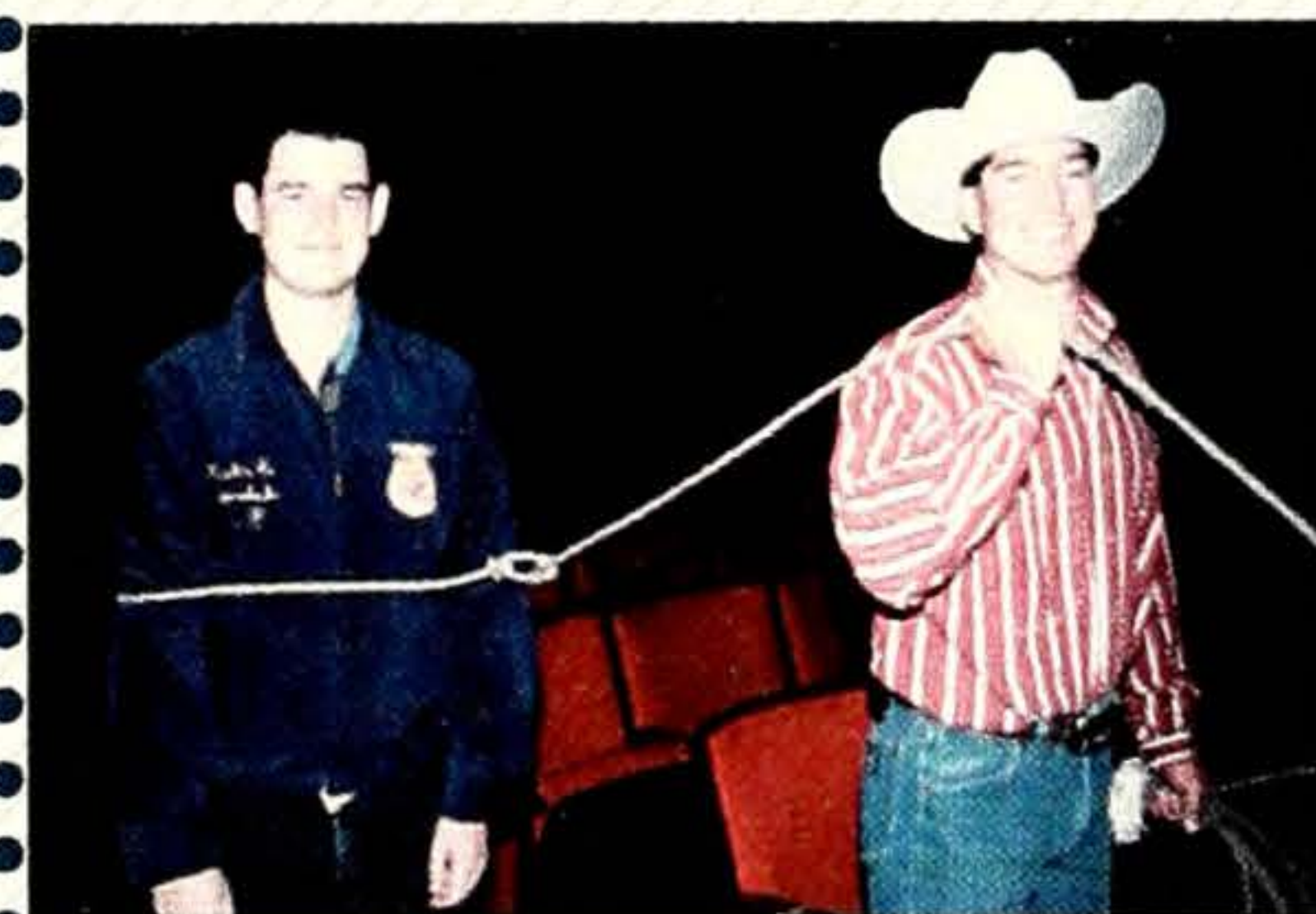


An Exciting Set of Kickoffs Gets the Year Off to a Great Start

By: Ryan West



Nathan "Side-kick" Sutherlin, Kyle "Batman" Bymaster, and "Super" Scott Priebe save the day at District IV Kickoff.



Being held hostage was FUN... this time.

The seven Indiana FFA State Officers recently toured the state, presenting twelve District Kickoffs and visiting many chapters along the way. The District Kickoffs provided the opportunity for members to Experience the Ride, FFA style, through fun, interactive skits and three breakout sessions. Members also got a little wild and crazy, as they dressed up like clowns and imitated bull riders.

The chapter visits provided members the chance to work closely with one another as the State Officers challenged them mentally and physically. The challenges helped to increase their teamwork, communication, leadership, and listening skills. In addition, students built their knowledge of FFA opportunities and participation in FFA activities on every level.



Toolbox Taulman and Racin' Ryan give chapter members a vision at the "Team Roping" session.



It looks like Jeff and Chad are teaching Joey a lesson at the District V Kickoff.

State Officer Team

President

Lesley Taulman
Tri County

Secretary

Lori Kohlhaugen
Rensselaer

Northern Region Vice President

Mike Caffee
South Adams

Southern Region Vice President

Ryan West
Shenandoah

Treasurer

Alyssa Webb
Tri High

Reporter

Doug Sherwood
Rushville

Sentinel

Chris McCutchan
Mt. Vernon

Rick Nagel

Indiana FFA Association Executive Director

Office of Career and Vocational Services
Two Market Square Center - 251 East Ohio Street
Mailing Address: Room 229, State House
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2798

e-mail: rnagel@dew.doe.state.in.us
phone (317) 232-9171

Indiana FFA State Officer House
P.O. Box 28 • Trafalgar, IN 46181

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DOWN AND DIRTY.....

Wawasee Wins State Soils Contest

By: Doug Sherwood

Fall is a competitive time of year. It is host to many great things; the leaves changing, football, the World Series, and the State Soils contest. Many of the state's top soils judges flocked to St. Mienrad, Indiana in Spencer County for this year's contest, which was sponsored by the Indiana Soybean Board. One hundred eighty-nine judges from forty-seven different teams competed to find out who was the best FFA soils evaluation team in the state.

The contestants evaluated the soil by determining characteristics including slope, textures of surface and subsoil, limiting layers, drainage, and land form. The contestants were then scored on the number of the properties that they correctly identified and if they were accurate on the soils rules that apply to those characteristics.

The competition was tough, but when the soil settled, five teams were on their way to Oklahoma for the National Soils Contest in May. Mr. Warren and the Wawasee FFA took the silver shovel by winning the soils event. The four young men on this team knew what hard work, determination, and teamwork are all about. They have been judging together for four years, and never quit until they reached their goal. Congratulations to all the teams who participated in the State Soils contest, and good luck to those heading to Oklahoma! **Sponsored by: Indiana Soybean Board**



Top Five FFA Teams

- 1st Wawasee, Advisor Randy Warren
- 2nd North Miami, Advisor Glen Jones
- 3rd Gibson Southern, Advisor Richard Ritter
- 4th Southwood, Advisor Curt Cambell
- 5th Fairfield, Advisor Darrell Allen

Top Five FFA Individuals

- 1st Kyle Wurtzel, Wawasee
- 2nd Matt Miller, Southwood
- 3rd Matt Michel, Gibson Southern
- 4th Troy Schipper, North Miami
- 5th T.J. Jochim, Gibson Southern

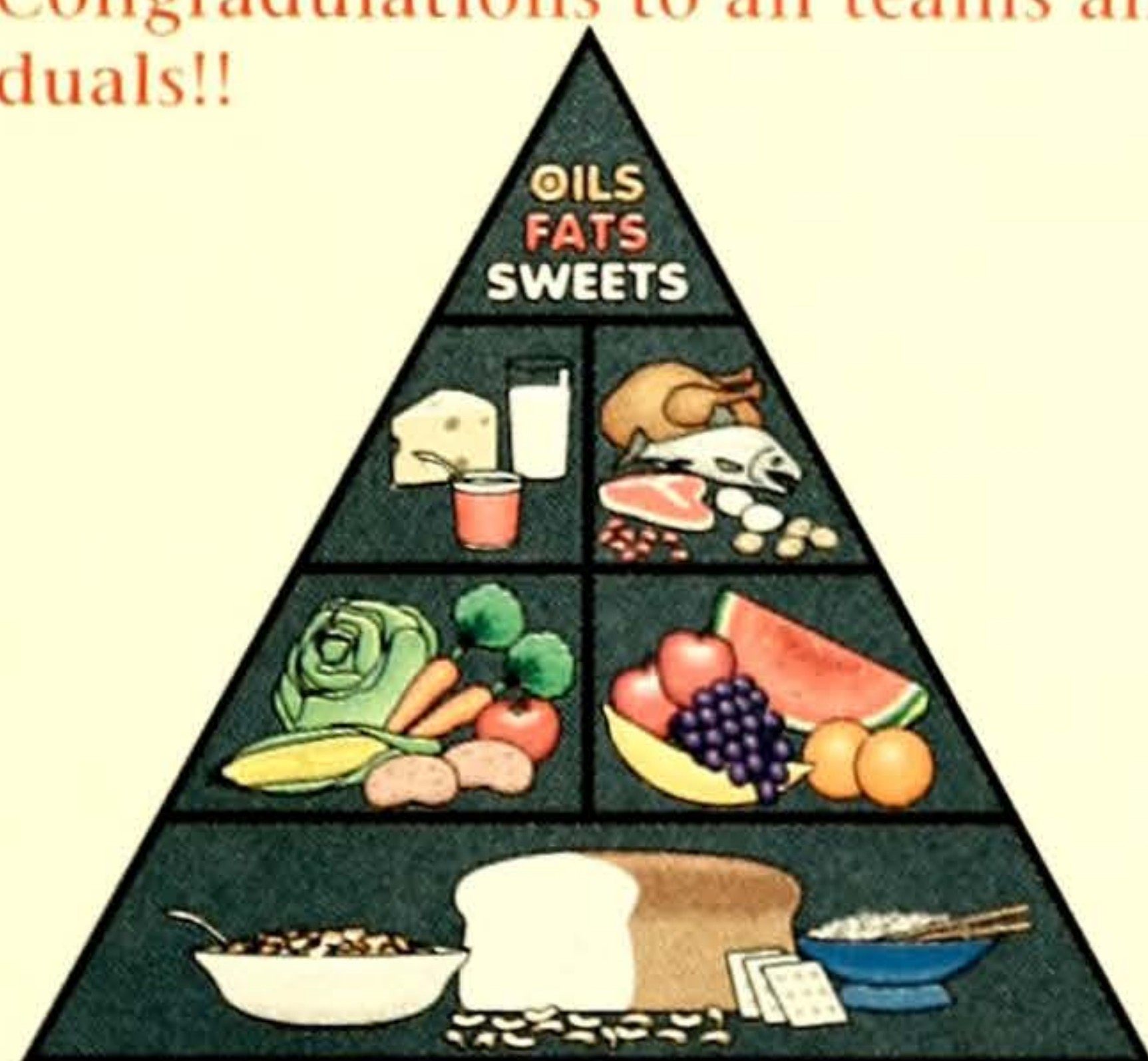


Getting Technical

Lakeland FFA wins the first ever
Food Science & Technology
Career Development Event

By: Ryan West

The new Food Science and Technology Career Development Event (CDE) recently gave members the opportunity to learn about and participate in activities and practices relating to current food science and technology in our food industry. Congratulations to all teams and individuals!!



Top Teams

- Lakeland FFA - 1st
- Westview FFA - 2nd
- Woodlan FFA - 3rd
- Woodlan FFA - 4th
- Woodlan FFA - 5th

Top Individuals

- Jamie Baird - 1st
- Krista Echterling - 2nd
- Nora Berndt - 3rd
- Dana Stickler - 4th
- Angelyn Begly - 5th

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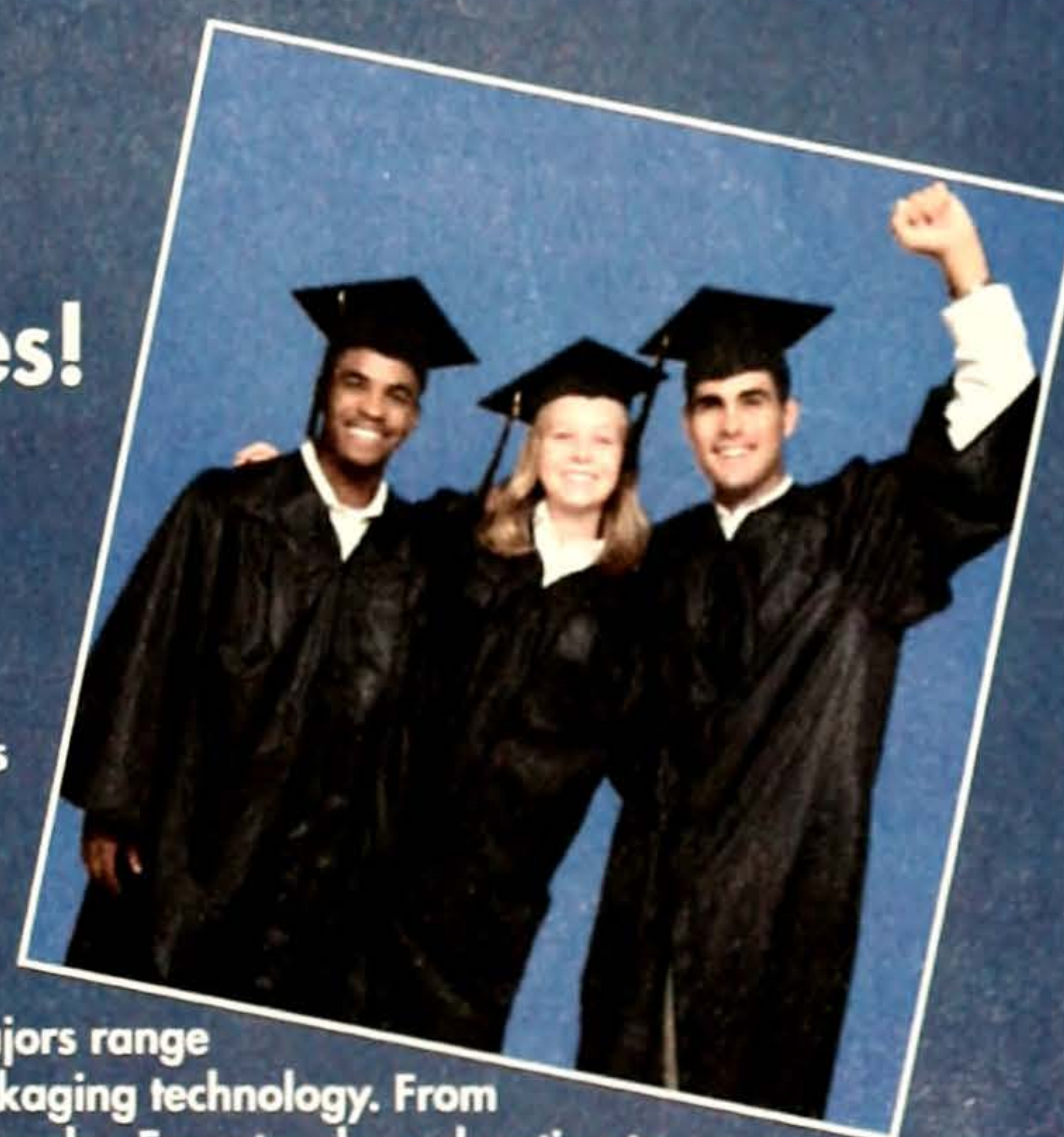
Access to computers is quick and easy—for all students. And our faculty is committed to teaching.

To learn more about an education with major advantages, please call 1-800-GO-TO-ISU or visit ISU's Web site at <http://www-isu.indstate.edu>



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Rushing

for the

FFA

Members Experience the FFA Frenzy at Fall Camp

By: Lesley Taulman



FFA Member, Rachel Miller, Amy Truelson, Matt Mullenix, and Jason Long, rushed to become Top Leaders at the First Fall Orientation Camp.

"It was a fun, jam-packed learning experience."
- Nathan Landis,
Adams Central FFA

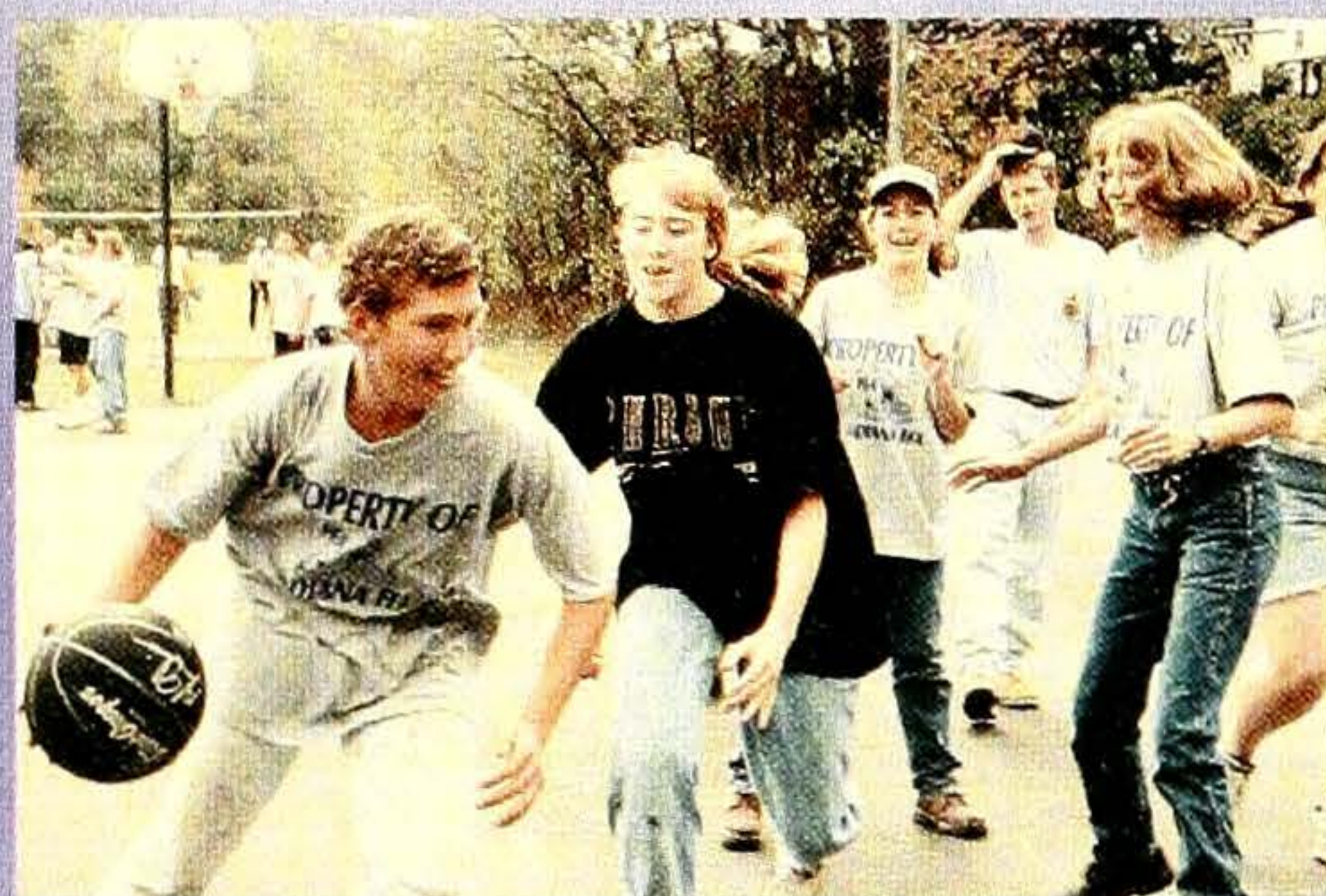
The stands were packed as FFA fans flocked to the Leadership Center in Trafalgar for the two Fall Orientation Camps. Over 300 campers experienced FFA, football style, with teammates from across the state. Recreation, including everything from hiking and canoeing, to basketball, line dancing, and of course, football, allowed everyone to get involved. Campers also learned more about FFA opportunities, Parliamentary Procedures, how to get a triple A image, and goal setting through hands on activities and sessions. The weekends both ended with awards presentations and motivational words from Liz Simon, Elisha Priebe, and the State Officers, encouraging everyone to

Rush for the FFA!!!

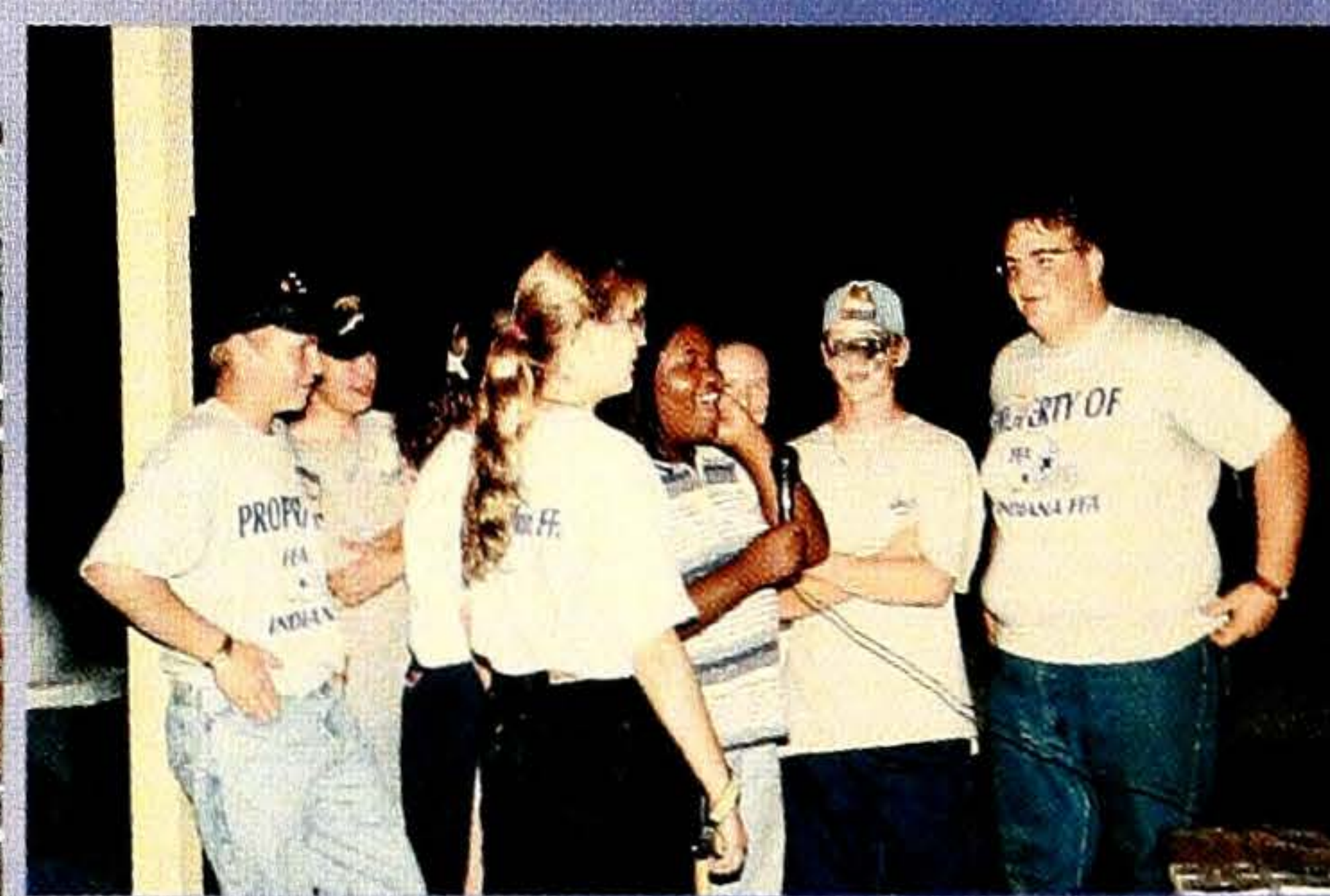


Most Valuable Players, Aaron Royer, Carly Smoker, Travis Ruark, and Erin McKnight, were named Top Leaders at the second Fall Orientation Camp.

"Why not come, it's lots of fun!"
- Sarah Richey, Scottsburg FFA



Recreational facilities provide campers with fun, teamwork activities.



Campers enjoy Karaoke at the evening social.

"Greenhand Camps are such a blast; I encourage every Greenhand to experience the fun."

—Angie Cunningham, Tri High FFA

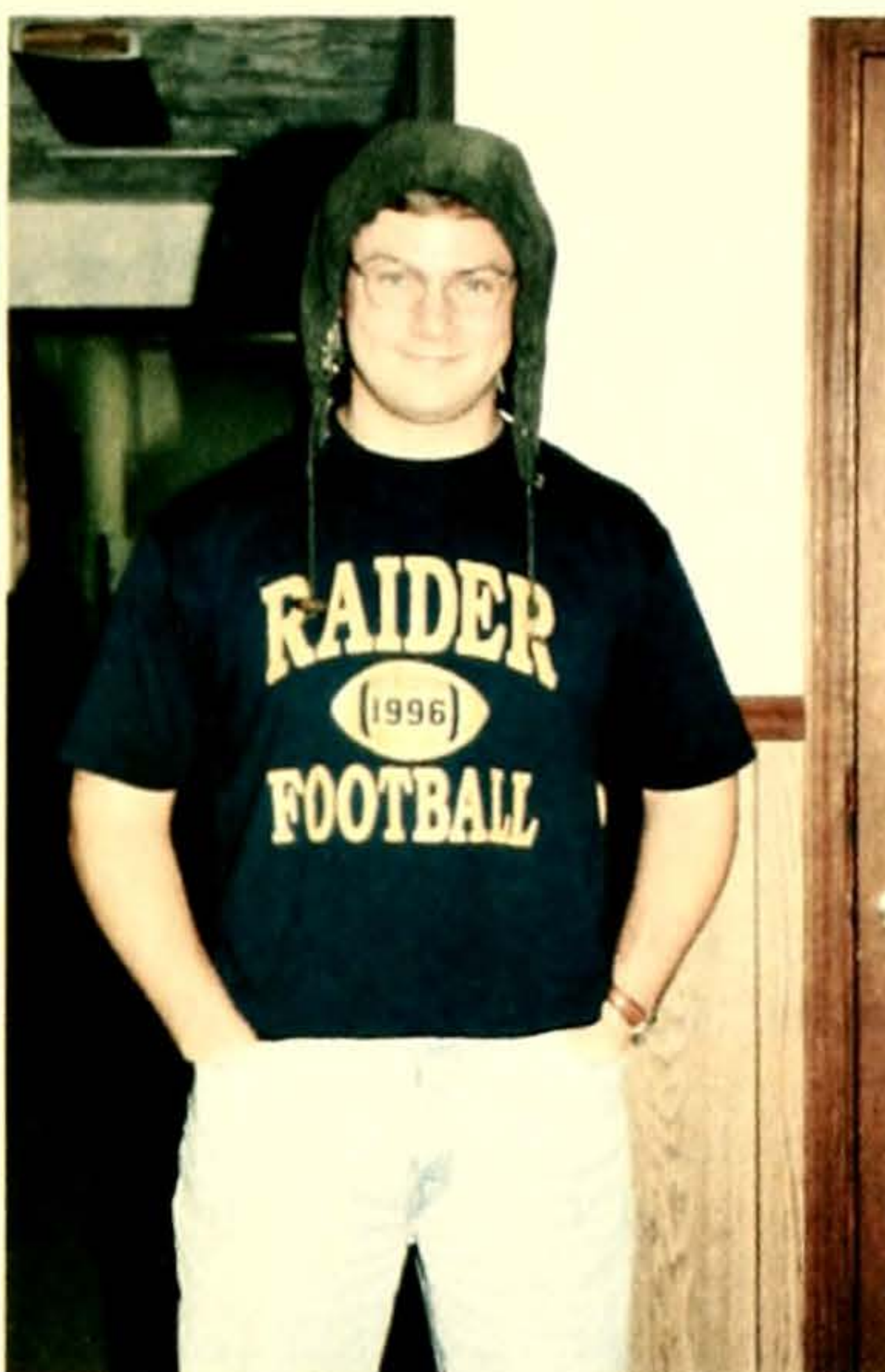
Ryan... The Fifth Beatle

Ryan West - State FFA Southern Region Vice President

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

In ten years I want to have a Master's Degree in Plant Science and working with a company such as Eli Lilly or Dow Elanco. I want to pursue a career in the research field working with crop protection development. I also would like to be happily married and a home owner. Eventually, I want to be involved in government and to serve on Capital Hill. I want to be like Senator Lugar and represent the voice of agriculture in our country.

What role did your family play in your life?



My family and friends have played a tremendous role in my life. My mother has been a mentor and friend. She has taught me the morals and values that are still a part of my life today. Travis and Caleb (my two younger brothers), my Grandma and Grandpa Parmley, Jennessa, and many others have been very supportive in all the activities that I have participated in, just like all of my family and friends have been. I would not be where I am today if it were not for the priceless help and support of many people along the way. I would like to say THANKS to all of them.

What has been your favorite activity as a State Officer?

My favorite activity as a State Officer is definitely camps. I can't think of any better time where members can be taught, and in turn, teach us. Member interaction is great! Talking, recreating, teaching, and eating with members gives me the opportunity to learn about Indiana FFA members. The whole camping experience is a unique and exciting time that allows members to learn about FFA and each other.

What advice would you give to FFA members?

The advice that I would give to FFA members is be active. FFA is an outstanding organization that has something to offer everyone. The knowledge and skills you learn through FFA will last you a lifetime. I would also say, try something new. Step out of your comfort zone and experience all aspects of FFA!!



FAST FACTS!

FFA Chapter: Shenandoah

Hometown: Middletown

Parents: Brenda Shaffer & Kelley West

Advisors: Steve Hickey & Melody Warner

Favorite College Team: Indiana Hoosiers

Favorite Movie: Happy Gilmore

Favorite Music Group: The Beatles

"My attitude has always been... if it's worth playing, it's worth paying the price to win." - Paul "Bear" Bryant

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- The value of participating in campus organizations and activities
- And being responsible for yourself.

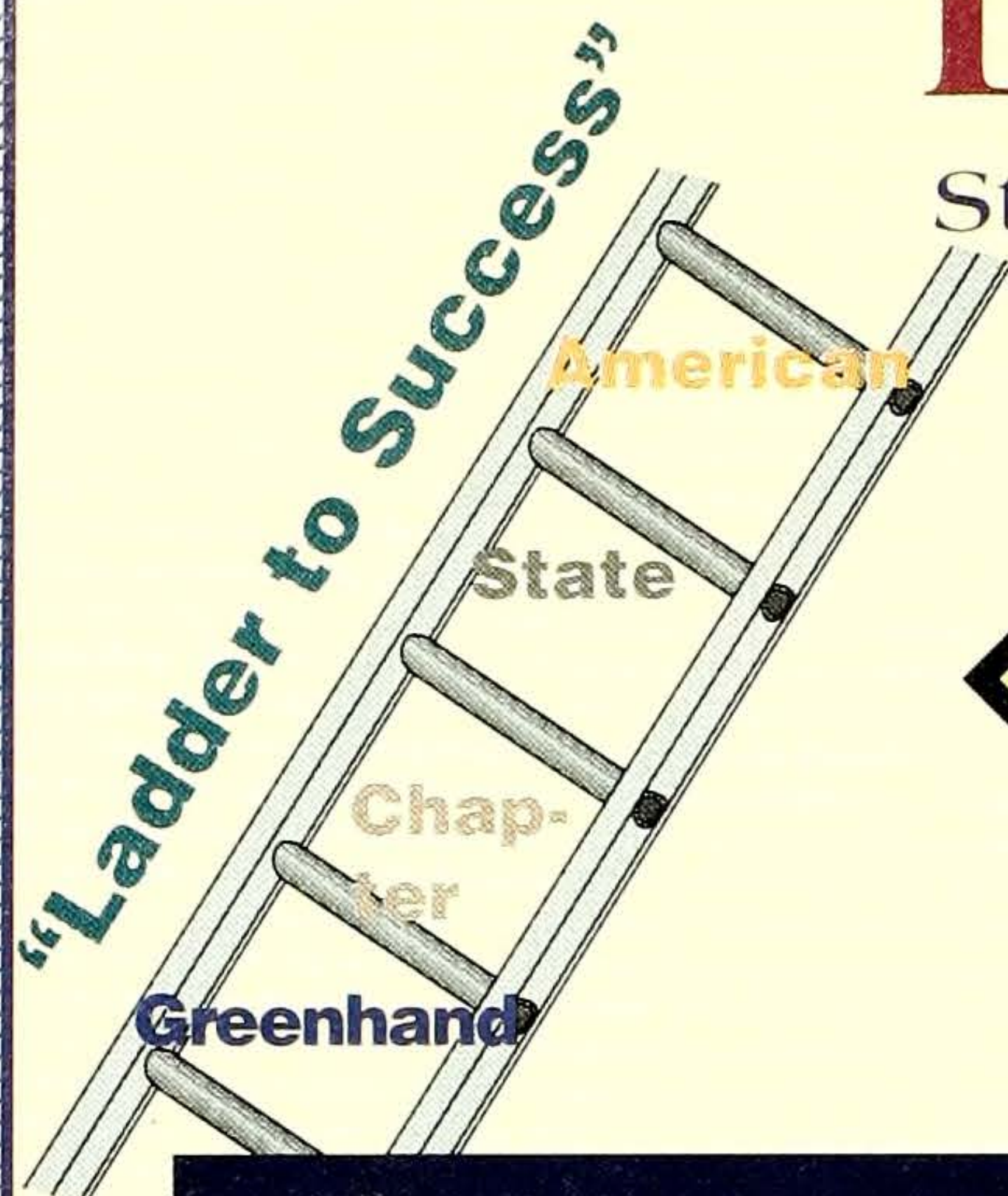
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Don't Miss It!

State Degrees and Proficiencies

By: Lori Kohlhagen

After obtaining the Chapter Degree you have the opportunity to achieve the next level on FFA's degree ladder... THE HOOSIER DEGREE!

DON'T FORGET—
State Degrees and
Proficiencies are
due on February
1st!

You could be among that elite, approximately 2% of Indiana FFA members to receive the Hoosier Degree!

The Final 4

If you have won first place at the District level for your Proficiency, then you have earned the opportunity to submit your application to the state level. Based on participation, growth of program, financial net worth, skills learned, leadership activities, and major achievements, you could advance to eventually become a national winner in your Proficiency area!

Premier Celebration !!!

Indiana FFA Chapters Prepare to Celebrate National FFA Week

By: Chris McCutchan

FFA WEEK: February 21-28 is rapidly approaching. Chapters across the nation will be celebrating their pride in the FFA and hosting a number of activities to help further promote the organization. FFA Week is a tremendous opportunity to develop and improve partnerships throughout the community.

Preparation is the key to a successful FFA Week. For many Chapters an FFA Week committee is a good start to initialize planning. The committee can then report their recommendations to the chapter and involve the rest of the members.

Listed below are some creative ideas for new FFA Week Activities.

- Radio and Television Interviews
- Newspaper Articles and Releases
- FFA Member Chapter Exchange
- FFA Billboards Around the Community
- FFA Placemats in Restaurants
- Decorate Windows of Local Business
- FFA Fact of the Day on Announcements
- FFA Week Newspaper Inserts
- Kiss the Pig Contest
- Promote and Implement Project : IMPACT
- Host an Agri-Science Fair
- Take Elementary Students on a Farm Tour
- Tour Local Agribusiness
- Faculty and Administration Breakfast
- Host School Convocation
- Have a College Representative speak on Careers in Agriculture
- Host an FFA Basketball Tournament
- Secret Pal/ FFA Members
- School-wide Agricultural Trivia Quiz
- Send FFA Coffee Mugs to local TV/ Radio Broadcasters
- School Official Dress Days
- FFA Community Service Day
- Truck Decorating Contest
- Hog Roast and Dance
- Ice-cream Social
- Card Tournament
- FFA Member Luncheon
- Ag Olympics
- Progressive Supper
- Scavenger Hunt
- Faculty Career Development Events
- Gifts for Administration and Faculty
- School Board Presentation
- Consignment Auction
- Food For America



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Financing Your Future



\$1.2 million, 970 scholarships, over 50 Indiana recipients, 1 form

By Chris McCutchan

Have you ever played the association game where there are four objects, but one just doesn't seem to belong? As you look above all the numbers seem extraordinarily high except one. Just like the numbers, if you haven't taken notice of the National FFA Scholarship Program, you should.

The National FFA Organization offers over 1.2 million dollars through 970 scholarships all compiled into one booklet. If it sounds simple, that's because it is. Applicants need only to read the scholarship descriptions, circle those that apply, type the four page application, and mail it by the February 16th deadline.

Last year over 50 students from Indiana were awarded scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$10,000. A committee selects winners based on FFA, school, and community activities, academic achievement and Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs. Applications are available through your FFA Advisor or Guidance Counselor. Scholarships are available for high school students as well as college students. Don't miss this opportunity!

"How many people would spend 2 hours to earn at least 500 dollars? You do the math. The National FFA Scholarship Program is an opportunity you can't afford to miss."

-Josh Merrill, Western Boone

"The simplicity of the application makes it an easy incentive for members to fill out."

- Alan Goings, McCutcheon



"The application form is not only easy to fill out because it uses information you already have, but it also allows members to apply for several scholarships with the same form."

- Kristen Federer, Tri-County

"The great thing about the national application is that most of the information can be taken directly from your proficiency application."

- Natalie Gray, Switzerland County

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e-mail: kelsay@purdue.edu & mtrhoads@aol.com

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70th National FFA Convention INDIANA AREA

3 Honorary Degree Recipients



Ray Starling's retiring address -
"Some of life's greatest blessings
come when you're out of worms."



Corey Rosenbusch
races through the crowd



Three Indiana agricultural leaders,
Ted McKinney, Terry Henderson,
and Don Hecht, earn the presti-
gious Honorary American Degree
at the National FFA Convention.



First Miss America to be hearing
impaired inspires 12,000 FFA
members to overcome obstacles.



Kimberly Yocum
Equine Science
Whiteland

4 National Proficiency



Gunther Kreps
Home and/or Community Development
Wawasee

FFA Convention

CHIEVES...

**AGRI-ENTREPRENEUR
WINNER**

His Own Boss

JASON MOREHOUSE NAMED NATIONAL AGRI-ENTREPRENEUR WINNER

By: Alyssa Webb

Fairfield FFA member Jason Morehouse was honored at the 70th National FFA Convention as a National Agri-Entrepreneur Winner for starting his own custom detasseling service. Jason was recognized on stage at the Convention and received \$1000 to reinvest into his enterprise. He also had an exhibit in the 400-booth FFA Career Show where students asked him questions about his enterprise and how to start their own business. He received this award for starting his own custom detasseling service. Jason purchased a corn detasseling machine and detasseled 400 acres of seed corn for Pioneer Hi-Bred and local farmers, and looks to expand to 700-1000 acres next summer and eventually another detasseling machine. Jason says that the management and bookkeeping skills, as well as machinery knowledge, have been the most beneficial.

However, the most enjoyable part of winning the National Agri-Entrepreneur Award for Jason Morehouse has been the personal interaction, from local customers to his exhibit in the FFA Career Show. He has enjoyed tremendous support from his family and his FFA Advisor, Mr. Darrell Allen. Jason also credits Dennis Polk Equipment as instrumental in the birth of his enterprise. As a neighbor, friend, and fellow entrepreneur, Mr. Polk believed in Jason and gave him the initial \$50.00 he needed to begin his business.



Indiana Delegates had the opportunity to get to know Corey Rosenbusch and the other National Officers.



Over 44,000 FFA members from across the country build their futures at the National FFA Convention.

ty Winners



Larry Kees
Wildlife Management
Woodlan



Michelle Hershberger
Small Animal Care
Wawasee



"I would definitely encourage anyone to get involved [in the Agri-Entrepreneur program]. It makes you realize your potential and what you can really do by starting your own business." —Jason Morehouse, National Agri-Entrepreneur Winner





Creating Success Through Diversity

Bruce Bye is Awarded the National H.O. Sargent Award for Incorporating Diversity into Agricultural Education.



By: Mike Caffee

Mr. Bruce Bye of Elanco Animal Health has plenty to be proud of. He serves on the Cattle Marketing Team at Elanco Animal Health where he travels domestically and internationally, conducting market research for the increased productivity of farmers and ranchers across the world. He helped create one of the diverse FFA Chapters in the nation and has led the charge to research other similar programs across the nation. Mr. Bye has a lot to be proud of, but with each accomplishment he achieves, he becomes more humble.

At the National FFA Convention, Bruce Bye was awarded for the work he has put into the FFA with the National H.O. Sargent Award. Only three adults in the entire nation receive this award for incorporating diversity in Agricultural Education. The award is named after Dr. H.O. Sargent who was the founder of New Farmers of America, the organization for African American agriculture students, which merged with the FFA in 1965.

In 1992, Mr. Bye and Dr. Jerry Peters of Purdue University had a dream to create an urban agriculture magnet program in Indiana. Mr. Bye said, "Let's build more than a program, let's build young people and they will build communities as productive citizens!" It was this vision and a lot of hard work that put together the dream and created the STAR Academy in Indianapolis. The STAR (Science and Technology of Agriculture and its Resources) Academy was a reality in 1994, when thirty-three students formed the first STAR class.

Mr. Bye still works closely with the STAR Academy to continue the equal opportunities for African American and Female Agriculture students. The long hours and positive vision that Mr. Bye put into the STAR Academy, and the work he continues to invest in today's youth are the reasons that Mr. Bye was awarded the National H.O. Sargent Award.

"Congratulations to all Indiana FFA Members who were in any national contests in Kansas City. I was honored to receive the H.O. Sargent Award at our Indiana FFA Convention in June and was also honored to be one of the nonmembers to receive this award at the National Convention. I am happy to have played a role in helping start and develop the STAR Academy Program. There are now nearly 200 students in Indianapolis that now have available to them the opportunities of agriculture and the benefits of being an FFA member. That is the real award of being involved in this program." - Bruce Bye, National H.O. Sargent Award Winner



Mr. Bruce Bye is awarded the National H.O. Sargent Award at the 70th National FFA Convention by National Vice President, Ray Starling.

Indiana's Star Studded Chapters

By: Leslie Taulman



Six National Models of Innovation



What exactly is a "Model of Innovation?" If you ask one of six Indiana Chapters, you will receive a first hand account. Six of Indiana's Three Star Chapters were chosen from all of the National Chapter Awards applicants as Models of Innovation due to their commitment to excellence in either Chapter Development or Community Development. These Chapters were then recognized as Models of Innovation at the National FFA Convention. They truly represent Chapter and Community Development through their cutting edge programs. Indiana is proud of it's Three Star Chapters and Models of Innovation!!!



Head of the Class

53 FFA Members Receive the Nations Highest FFA Degree

Indiana Salutes our American FFA Degree recipients. These members have achieved the highest degree the National FFA Organization can bestow upon a member. This award recognizes the best of the National FFA Organization. So What does it take to earn an American Degree?

- Outstanding FFA Achievement.
- FFA Membership for the past 36 months.
- 540 Hours of school instruction in Agricultural Education.
- An outstanding Supervised Agricultural Experience Program that has \$7,500 in earnings or investments, or at least \$1,500 in earnings and investments and 2,500 hours worked.
- A record of outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement, a high school scholastic record of "C" or better.



Congratulations to Indiana's 53 American Degree Recipients!

Ryan J. Allbaugh, Carroll
 Brett Beckner, Carroll
 Brian W. Buchanan, Evansville Reitz
 Samantha Cain, Tri-County
 Amy Carroll, Huntington North
 Stacey E Dimerly, Tri-County
 Dave Duttlinger, Kankakee Valley
 Kelly Goedde, North Posey
 Natalie Gray, Switzerland County
 Anita K. Heiber, Woodlan
 Joseph J. Kern, Heritage Hills
 Robert C. Martin, Farifield
 Philip J. McCutchan, Mt. Vernon
 Evan Melloncamp, Brownstown
 Adam Monhaut, Bremen
 Timothy R. Newcomb, Gibson Southern
 Kimberly R. Rothenberger, Rossville
 Archie W. Sauerheber, Norht Harrison
 Brad Schutte, South Decatur
 Jamie A. Scott, Whitko
 Brian Schutz, Prarie Heights
 Christopher Snyder, Seymore
 Eric Steiner, South Adams
 Paul Voight, Southmont
 James Wolheter, Prairie Heights

Clint B. Arnholt, Columbus East
 Randall Bee II, Greencastle
 Angela Buckland, Huntington North
 Matthew B. Cain, Hagerstown
 Justin T. Crover, Whiteland
 Abby Dougherty, Whiteland
 Ben Duttlinger, Kankakee Valley
 Trenton A. Fredenburg, Shenandoah
 Matt Gilbert, Huntington North
 Alan W. Goings, McCutcheon
 Joshua M. Grubaugh, Woodlan
 Alicia J. Hill, Brownstown
 Aaron Mc Millan, Southern Wells
 Jerod Metzger, Rossville
 Kimberly R. Morlock, Mt. Vernon
 Brad E. Rasche, Forest Park
 Michelle Rupley, East Noble
 Amy F. Schipper, North Miami
 Pamela K. Scott, Delta
 Bennii L. Shore, Clinton Central
 Lisa Simon, Huntington North
 Nathan Stauffer, Southern Wells
 Valerie A. Taulman, Tri-County
 Scott Walters, East Noble

Indiana is proud of it's members and the high levels of achievement and professionalism they represent!

CDE POWER

Indiana FFA members compete in national career development events at National Convention

GOLD

Agriculture Issues
 Southmont, 4th

Poultry

North Miami, 4th

Horse

Rensselaer, 8th

Floriculture

Southmont, 10th

Nursery/Landscape

Heritage, 10th

Livestock

Whitko, 8th



SILVER

Agriculture Sales
 Woodland

Dairy Evaluation

Carroll @ Fort Wayne

Dairy Foods

Lakeland

Agricultural Mechanics

Columbia City

Farm Business Management

DeKalb

Forestry

Riverton Park



BRONZE

Meats Evaluation and Tech.
 Benton Central





FFA Alumni Extra



Challenge is Extended to Alumni and FFA Members Alike!!

By: Chris McCutchan

In review of the past year in the Indiana Alumni, it is evident that the organization has made a strong commitment to developing strong partnership throughout Indiana. Alumni President Ina Anstett made the following statement on the new plan of action for the Alumni. "We need to look ahead during 1998 and to the goals we want to accomplish for the FFA Alumni. The main goal for 1998 is to double our Alumni membership by September, 1998. **I challenge each FFA member and FFA Alumni Member to reach out to your family and friends and encourage them to join the FFA Alumni**".

The FFA Alumni membership is available to any individual that would like to make an impact on tomorrow's lead-



National Alumni Spokesperson
Ty England performs at the 70th
National Convention

ers. Past FFA membership is not a requirement and all individuals from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to join. Make a difference in the lives of students and become an active member today.

Quick News

- The Indiana FFA Alumni Convention will be held February 28th at the Indiana FFA Leadership Center @ Trafalgar

For More Information

Contact:
Ina Anstett,
Indiana FFA Alumni President;
Work (765) 385-2213
Home (765) 884-1567

See Important FFA Scholarship Information on page 7 of this issue!!


Can you find this 
at the Indiana FFA Homepage?

www.s715.ips.k12.in.us/state/ffa.html

Online. Every Day.

Indiana FFA



If you are the first person to e-mail rnagel@dew4.doe.state.in.us with the correct page number of  then you will receive a mystery prize!!



FarmHouse Fraternity

Where will you live at Purdue?

FarmHouse is a fraternity dedicated to the building of men. It's a college home in which a man can be creative, succeed in academics, share responsibilities, make lasting friendships, and make a positive impact on the lives of his brothers.

High School Rush for the Fall of '98 will be held in March and April.

For more information, contact the Rush Chairman at:

FarmHouse Fraternity
1028 State Street
West Lafayette, IN 47906
765-743-4681
www.farmhouse.west-lafayette.in.us



Don't Miss Out!!!



on Premiere Leadership Development

By: Chris McCutchan



Do you want to improve your leadership abilities? Can your chapter expand its potential for success? Do you want to have a good time with extraordinary people?

If you answered "yes" to the above questions you need to attend LDW!

The Indiana FFA Association is presenting Leadership Development Workshop (LDW) on January 23-25. LDW is a comprehensive workshop that focuses on development of communication, leadership and cooperative abilities on the personal and chapter level. Come experience dynamic sessions presented by both 1996-97 and 1997-98 state officer teams, expand your agricultural awareness with a panel of agriculture industry leaders.

*** Witness the unveiling of the new Indiana FFA State Theme!

*** For Registration forms, contact your local FFA Advisor.



Monsanto

Proudly Supports FFA





Partner Power

By: Ryan West

Pendleton Heights FFA... Keeping Traditions and Moving into the Future.



The pumpkin exhibit is visible in the foreground as Lions Club and FFA members participate in the keynote address.



The Lions Club and FFA Grain and Horticulture Show is a long standing tradition at Pendleton Heights High School. The partnership between the Pendleton Lions Club and the Pendleton Heights FFA has been traced back to at least the early 1940's. At the show, members not only exhibit samples of corn, wheat, dried flower arrangements, and carved pumpkins, but also eat a smorgasbord of food that is provided by the Lions Club. Even though Pendleton Heights values traditions, Mr. Wood and the FFA chapter are still moving towards the future. Plans include a new classroom and shop, where new MIG and TIG welders will be installed. There are also plans for a 26'x 26' aquaculture facility that will include wildlife, natural resource, and lab stations. The renovation plans also include a more effective use of two greenhouses, as members learn plant identification, asexual propagation, floral arrangements, and laboratory work. The improvements that the Pendleton FFA is making are credited to members' efforts, Mr. Wood's desire to offer a complete agriculture program, and the strong support of the community and FFA partners.

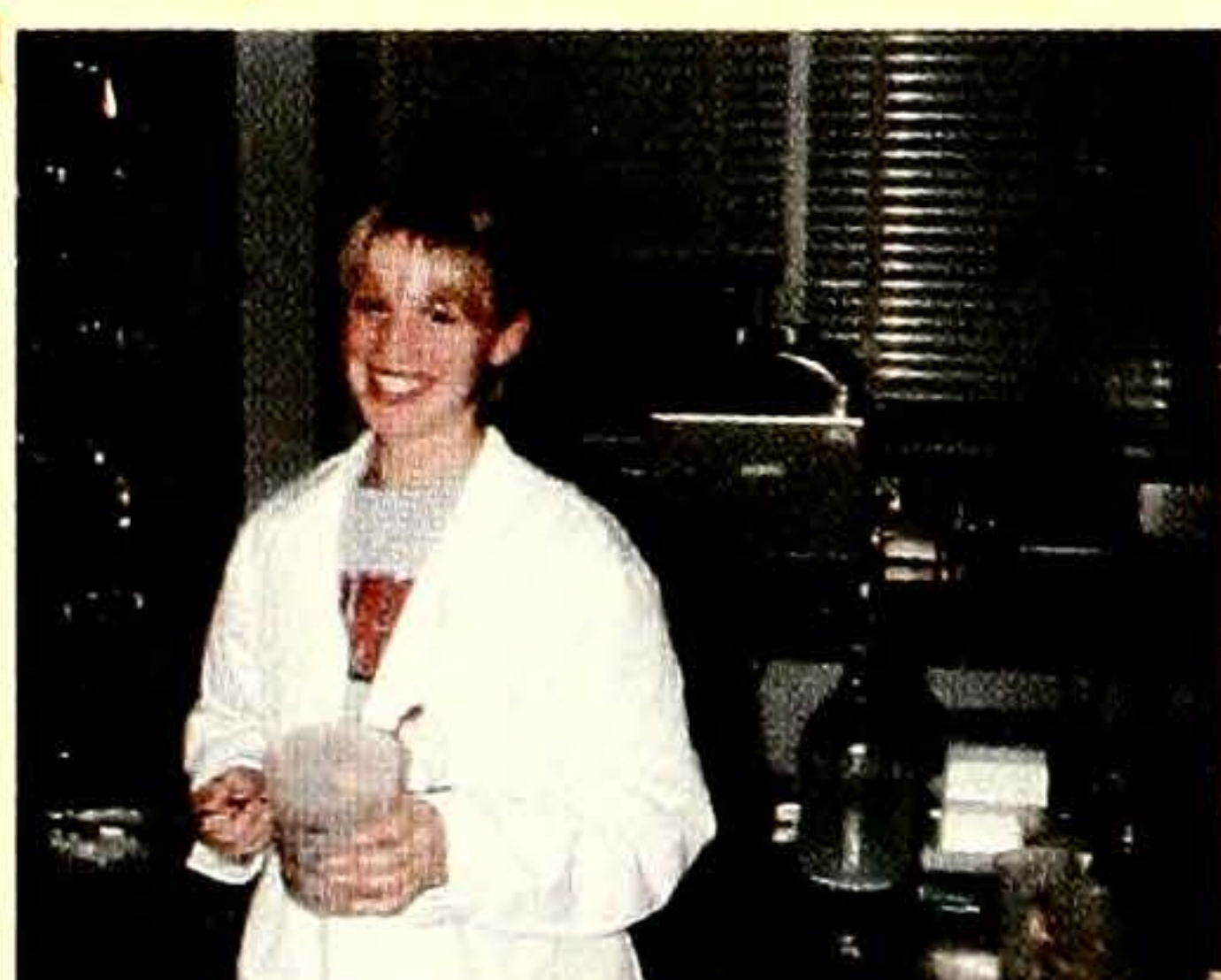
Red Golden Opportunity

Bellmont Member Experiences AgriScience

By: Lesley Taulman

Abbey Jones, a junior in the Belmont FFA Chapter, has a cutting edge Supervised Agricultural Experience program (SAE). She experiences hands-on AgriScience through cross breeding tomatoes. The program began when Abbey's father came to her with a challenge. His tomato processing company was looking for a new type of tomato, one that would be small and easier to peel and can. Due to her interest in Science, Abbey welcomed the opportunity. Since then, Abbey has worked with her FFA advisor, Robert Caley, and geneticist, Dr. Francis of Ohio State University, to cross pollinate tomato plants. Abbey says that the process is slow, but definitely worth it. She is now preparing to plant her second generation of tomatoes and will soon see the results of the first year of cross pollinating.

Abbey has already experienced the benefits of a successful SAE. Contact with experts in the field of crop genetics has made her more confident about working with adults. She has also learned the value of patience and gained valuable career insight. Abbey's future plans include continuing her tomato research. She also plans to study the effects of chemicals and pesticides on people through research with tadpoles. Eventually, Abbey would like to attend Purdue University and become a geneticist.



Abbey pouring HCL into the seeds



A group of us listening to Dr. Francis talk.



The group of us looking at the male tomato plants.

For more information on how you can develop an AgriScience supervised Agricultural Experience Program, contact Mr. Caley at Belmont High School at (219) 724-7121.

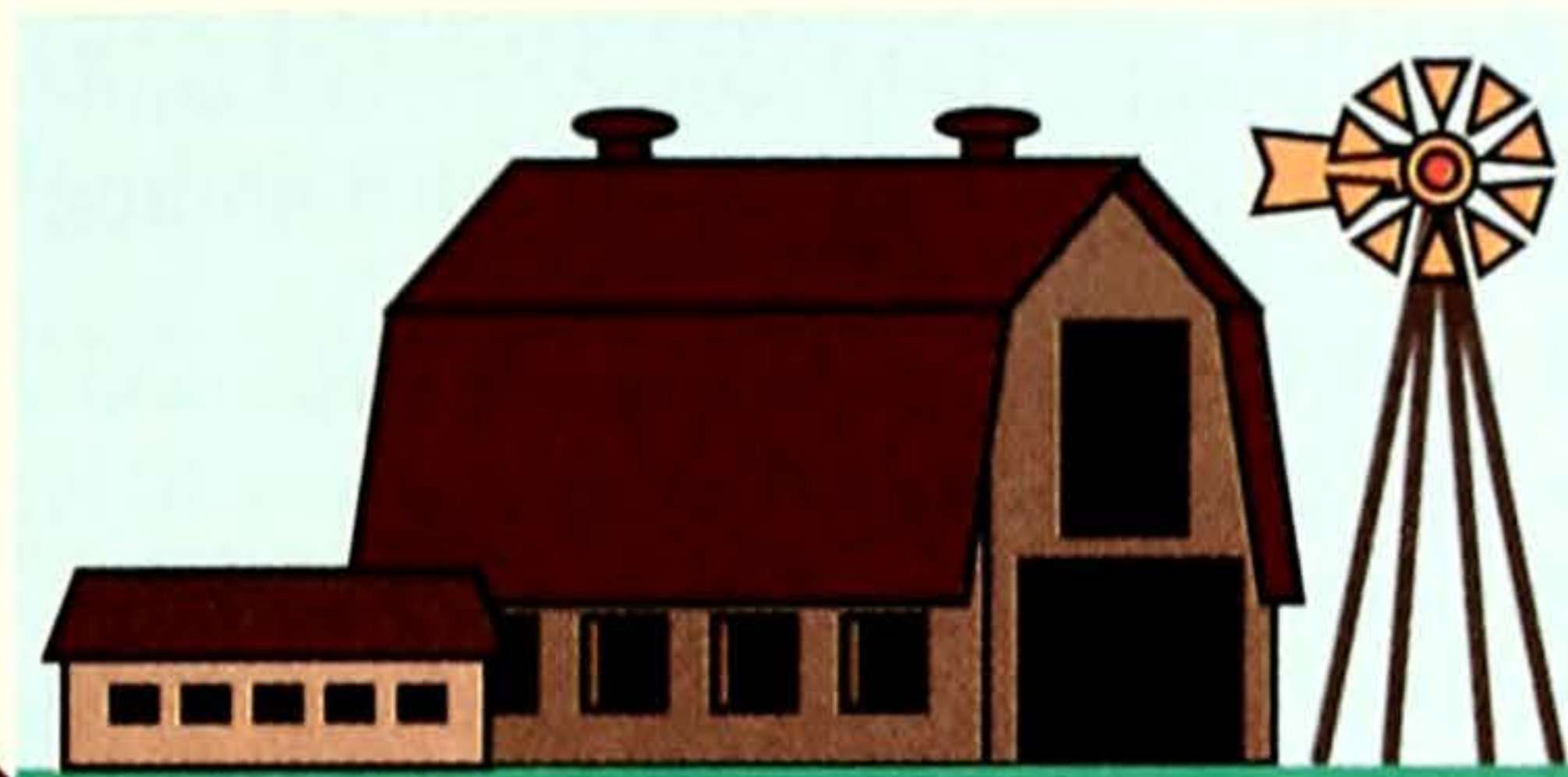


SHARING SUCCESS STORIES

CARROLL @ FT. WAYNE FFA MEMBERS TRAVEL TO WISCONSIN

By: Alyssa Webb

From Holstein cows to dairy goats and a bird sanctuary, the Chilton, Wisconsin FFA members and students from Carroll High School had a 4-day experience they will not soon forget. FFA Advisor, Mrs. Cindy Raker, her son, and 9 of her students stayed with host families, went to school with FFA members, and participated in Chilton FFA chapter activities. Students toured huge two-and-three-milking parlor dairy cattle farms, dairy goat farms, a feed company, and a bird sanctuary. Indiana students also attended the World Dairy Expo in Madison. On their last night, Carroll and Chilton chapter members shared FFA ideas and fun around a bonfire. The Chilton, Wisconsin chapter plans a visit to Indiana this summer to experience the Carroll chapter, as well as the Ft. Wayne area.



THE CARROLL @ FT. WAYNE FFA CHAPTER HIGHLY RECOMMENDS THAT OTHER INDIANA FFA CHAPTERS GET INVOLVED IN INTERSTATE EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES. IT CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE!

Prairie Heights Shares 25 Years of Heritage

By: Lori Kohlhagen

What do caramel apples, antique tractors, homemade crafts, pioneers, and fresh apple cider have in common? To the Prairie Heights FFA Chapter they mean another opportunity to host the community open house on their school farm, demonstrating American Heritage. This year was yet another success with 7,000 people joining the celebration. FFA members led tours continuously throughout the day and explained the attractions on their school farm. The attractions included everything from the weather station, wildlife study area, and timber management, to irrigation and a swine management facility. Other sights around the grounds consisted of an antique tractor show, horse tillage practices, crafts, and plenty of pioneer food. There was so much happening around the school farm, the festival had something for everyone.



As the Prairie Heights FFA Chapter celebrates American Heritage, you can also reflect upon the customs and traditions that makes America what it is today.

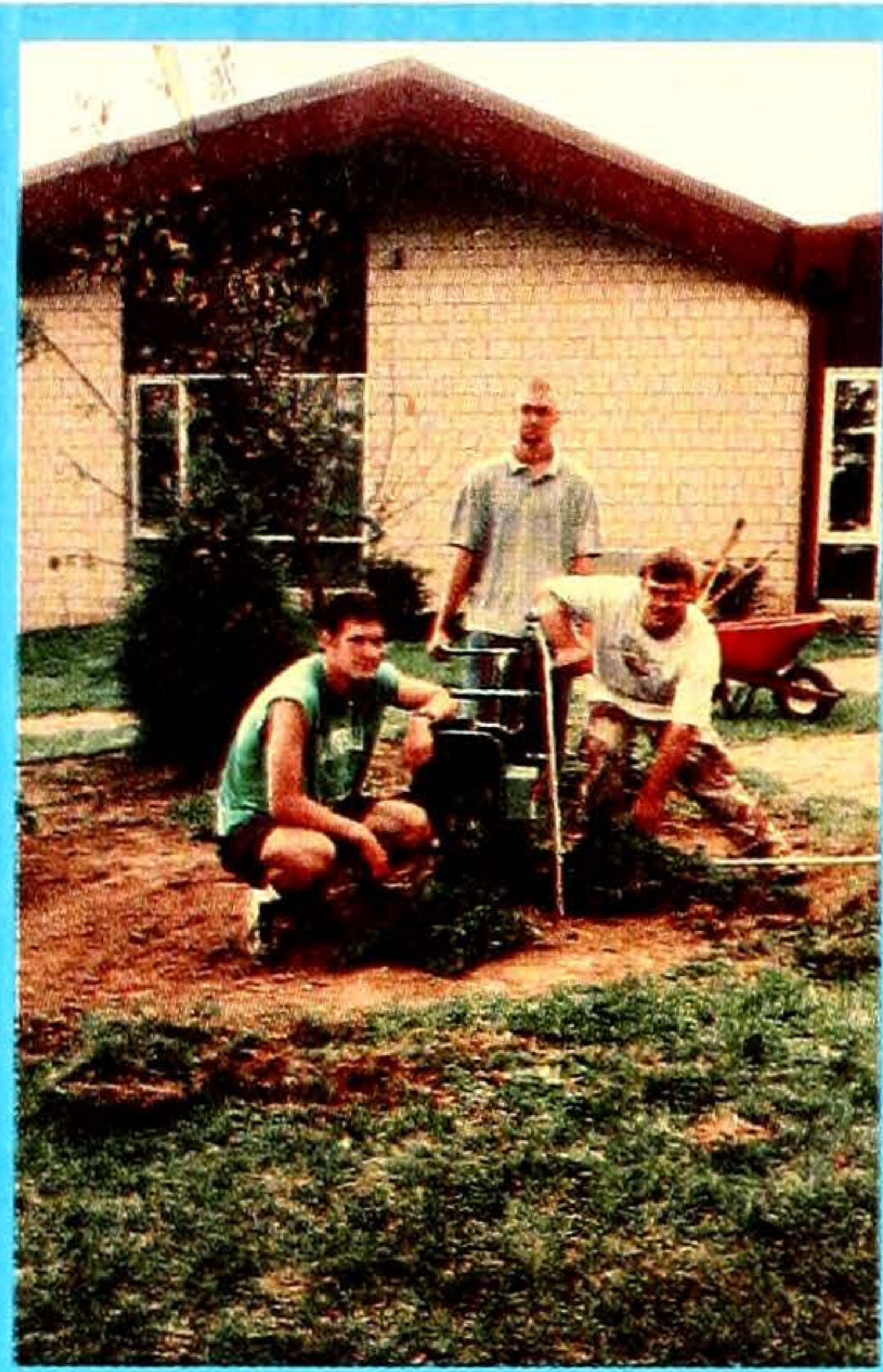
Upcoming Events

TBA	State Meats Evaluation CDE, Purdue University State Dairy Foods CDE, Purdue University	January 15	State Meats Evaluation CDE, Purdue University State Dairy Foods CDE, Purdue University
January 15	International Agricultural Education Internship Applications Due	January 23-25	International Agricultural Education Internship Applications Due
January 23-25	Leadership Development Workshop	February 1	Leadership Development Workshop
February 1	State Degrees & Proficiencies Due Postmarked to State FFA Office	February 13	State Degrees & Proficiencies Due Postmarked to State FFA Office
February 13	State Degree & Proficiency Scoring Workshop	February 14	State Degree & Proficiency Scoring Workshop
February 14	State FFA Executive Committee Meeting @ Leadership Center	February 16	State FFA Executive Committee Meeting @ Leadership Center
February 16	National FFA Scholarship Application Due Postmarked to National	February 21-28	National FFA Scholarship Application Due Postmarked to National
February 21-28	State & National FFA Week	February 28	State & National FFA Week
February 28	Indiana FFA Alumni State Convention @ Leadership Center		Indiana FFA Alumni State Convention @ Leadership Center

Ready to Roll!

The Area 30 Vocational Landscaping and Warrick County FFA Chapters Start the Ball Rolling Toward premier Leadership

By: Mike Caffee



Three members of the Area 30 Vocational Landscaping Chapter work on another quality Landscaping Project.

There is a new chapter in the Indiana FFA Association. The Area 30 Vocational Landscaping program in Putnam County is in its 2nd year and is ready to show the rest of the state its true colors. The Area 30 Landscaping class gives students from 5 different schools a unique opportunity to come together and form one chapter.

The Area 30 Vocational Landscaping Chapter focuses on community service. They created biking and hiking trails in Putnam County during "Making a Difference Week" and they have started an annual program to help senior citizens landscape their homes. They also grow and sell poinsettias to the surrounding communities.

Last June, Shawn Routh, Josh Janeway, and Matt Owens became the first members in Area 30 history to attend the State FFA Convention. This year Area 30 is planning on taking three members to National Convention. Other activities that they have been involved in are the Forestry Career Development Event, Leadership Contests, and State Fair Landscaping. Advisor Lora Wood is very excited to be a part of the FFA. She said, "I am happy to have the opportunity to be an advisor and to interact with students outside of school time. It is a very positive experience."



What's new in Warrick County? An FFA chapter composed of three schools, and as Advisor Christy Herr would say, "39 very enthusiastic members!" Boonville, Castle, and Tecumseh High Schools have joined together to develop an agriculture program and have taken on the challenge to form an FFA Chapter.

The Warrick County FFA Chapter has jumped right into things. They have already competed in the Soils Career Development Event and sent eight members to FFA Fall Orientation Camp. The chapter also plans to send members to the FFA Winter Leadership Camp and compete in the Forestry, Crops, and Entomology Career Development Events. Newly elected chapter president, Chad King, and the rest of the Warrick County officer team are planning a retreat at Camp Ondessonk, in Illinois, to work on officer training and chapter planning for the upcoming year.



Warrick County FFA members Jamie Lynn Bruce, Kristen Powell, Thomas Sprague, Christa Rentchler, Joe Queen, Advisor Christy Herr, Cory King, Michael Bryan, and Erin Lawson attended FFA Fall Orientation Camp.



The Indiana FFA Association would like to extend a warm welcome to our new FFA chapters and wish them luck with all their future endeavors!



Trace Adkins

This former Louisiana FFA member has the deepest voice in Nashville and an even deeper understanding of hard work

Tell us about your FFA experience.

My fondest high school memories are of football and FFA. That was it for me. The rest of the stuff was just stuff that you had to do. FFA was *the* organization to belong to for students in our school. Agriculture class was the one class that we liked, that we looked forward to every day. We always enjoyed it. We had a nice shop at our school and got to go out and do everything. We had farmers and folks who lived around the school and were always willing to help out the FFA and help us with our judging and all that kind of stuff.

When did you get your first break in the music business?

It's hard to say. It's been such a long road over the last seventeen years. Things started happening—so that I could make a living playing music—when I was in Nashville in 1995. [Record producer] Scott Hendricks came out to hear me sing one night and just walked up and told me he'd give me record deal. That's when things started.

What goes through your head when you hear one of your songs on the radio?

It's still kind of weird for me. It's like a Twilight Zone episode sometimes. It's hard to believe—like I'll get up sometimes in the morning and I'll get a cup of coffee and be

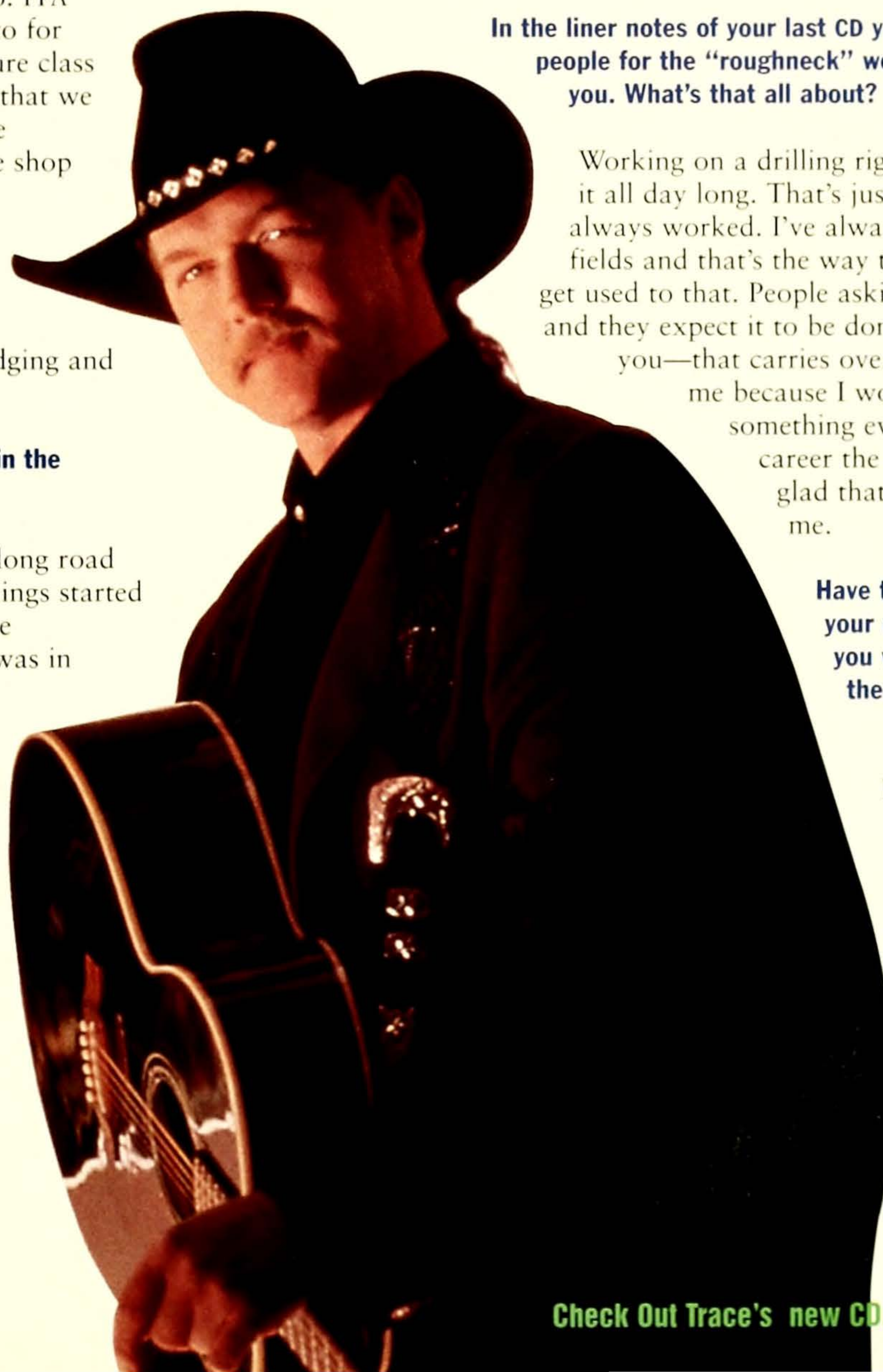
sitting there thumbing through the channels and I'll go by CMT (Country Music Television) and it's me on the television. I'm not awake real good, so it kind of sits me back a little bit. It's strange.

In the liner notes of your last CD you thanked some people for the "roughneck" work ethic they gave you. What's that all about?

Working on a drilling rig, it's reach-and-get-it all day long. That's just the way that I've always worked. I've always worked in the oil fields and that's the way things operate. You get used to that. People asking you to do a job and they expect it to be done before they asked you—that carries over into the music for me because I work hard at it. I do something every day to make my career the best it can be. I'm glad that that was instilled in me.

Have there been times in your music career when you wanted to throw in the towel?

Oh yeah. In 1989, I'd been playing on the road in Texas for about four or five years. That was the one other time in my life when I was making a living playing music. I just got real frustrated and burned out because I thought things should have been



Check Out Trace's new CD, "Big Time"

happening faster than they were. So, from 1989 to 1992, I didn't sing at all. I just went back to work in the oil field and figured it was about over. Then a guy I used to work with in Texas called me on the phone one day and asked me if I was singing anymore. I told him I wasn't. He said one day I was going to have to look in the mirror and ask myself what would have happened if—if I had really applied myself and moved to Nashville, where they make country music singers. The thought of that scared me, so I loaded up and took off.

“I do something every day to make my career the best it can be.”

What do you do when you've got free time?

I don't have very much anymore. I stay pretty busy. When I do have free time, I like to take care of my yard—the planting, trimming, cutting and landscaping. It's therapeutic for me. I've got to get out and get nasty and sweaty every now and then. It does something for me.

Who are your musical influences?

My musical influences, I'm afraid, are pretty much boring. They're like the ones everyone

else usually cites, but it just happens to be true. Merle Haggard, Waylon Jennings, Tom Jones, Buck Owens, Ed Bruce, Don Williams—I could go on. I think the first time I heard Ed Bruce sing on the Grand Ole Opry, I realized that a guy with a bass voice, like I have, doesn't have to sing bass all the time. You can be a lead singer. That was a big thing for me.

What gives you more satisfaction, playing on the road or playing in the recording studio?

Playing in front of people—always. That's what it's all about for me. In the studio you can do something you think is cool, but it may not be that way because the people are always going to be your barometer. They're going to be the ones that let you know. In the studio, you don't always know.

Any advice for FFA members?

In this day and time, it's a rough road for farmers, but just stick to the first line in the FFA creed and just believe that it's true. Farming is always going to be here and we're always going to have to have it. The farmer is always going to be one of the most important people on this earth. Farming keeps us all alive and a lot of people take it for granted.

Do you still have your blue FFA jacket?

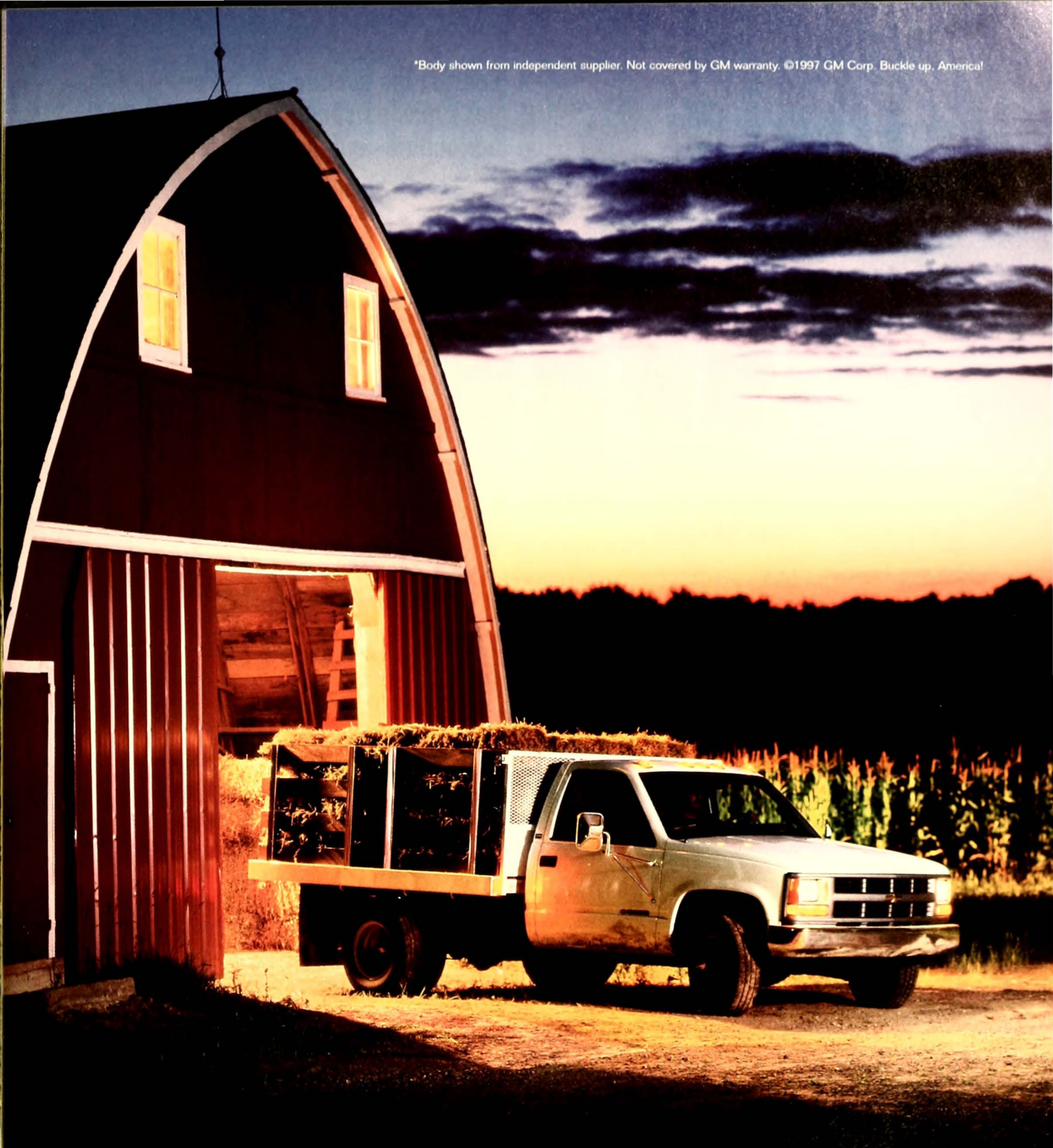
I think it's at my mamma's house (laughs). She's got it. ★

what's HOT what's NOT

Don't forget to fill out the What's Hot / What's Not Survey on page 34.

Movie	
Scream	Mars Attack
Actor	
Tom Cruise	Jim Carrey
Actress	
Demi Moore	Pamela Anderson Lee
Musician	
George Strait	Marilyn Manson
Place to go	
Rodeo	The mall
Weekend fun	
Hanging out with friends	Staying home
Sport	
Football	Golf
FFA event	
National FFA convention	Creed contest
TV show	
Home Improvement	Ellen
Career	
Veterinarian	Lawyer

*Body shown from independent supplier. Not covered by GM warranty. ©1997 GM Corp. Buckle up, America!



NOW YOU KNOW WHAT WAKES THE ROOSTER EVERY MORNING.

You can count on your Chevy™ C3500 Chassis-Cab* to get up early and come home late – day after day. No matter how rough the chores get, this truck is ready to tackle whatever the day might hold. Its powerful 250-hp Vortec™ 5700 V8 never sleeps. And since it's a dependable, long-lasting Chevy Truck, you can get up and do it all over again tomorrow. Better get a good night's rest. 1-800-950-2438 or visit www.chevrolet.com

Chevy Trucks



LIKE A ROCK

Leaving the country to
get a new perspective on
agriculture—and the world

world view

by Erich Gaukel

It's 7 o'clock on a Monday morning. Lee Schroeder gazes out the window of a city bus as he heads downtown. He gets off at his usual stop, walks over to a stately stone building across the square from the Parliament building, and opens one of the heavy front doors. Inside the foyer, he stands facing a United States Marine, who sits behind a thick, impenetrable window. As he looks back at Lee with recognition, the marine buzzes him in through another set of doors.

Lee makes a right turn and is now walking to his office. He's inside the United States Embassy in Canada's capital city, Ottawa, and he's in his final week of a summer-long internship that he landed through the new FFA International Intern Program. He's among the first to participate in this ambitious program, which matches collegiate FFA members with Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) offices located in U.S. Embassies throughout the globe.

For Lee, a former national FFA officer and a junior at Ohio State University, it's a once-in-a-lifetime chance to expand his horizons by learning about agricultural markets, developing agribusiness skills, polishing his resume—and, of course, seeing another part of the world.





Complete the Puzzle, Win a Trip!

In this case, the puzzle is the National FFA Organization's new **Risk**

Management Writing

Contest for FFA members and the prize is an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., for you and your FFA advisor. The ten national winners will

receive their awards during a special recognition ceremony in April at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In addition, the winners' names will be published in spring editions of *FFA New Horizons* and *FFA Advisors Making a Difference*.

To enter, write a 500-word essay on "Risk Management Strategies for Your SAE" and send it in by February 15, 1998! For a resource guide and the contest rules, ask your advisor or call the National FFA Organization at 703-360-3600, ext. 251. For more information, check out National FFA Online at www.ffa.org.

This 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, Inc.

F.A.S. FACTS

Stuff you should know about the Foreign Agricultural Service

- **Established in 1953 as an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture**
- **Half of its job is to promote and develop markets for U.S. farm exports**
- **The other half of its job is to collect, analyze and disseminate information about global supply and demand, trade trends and emerging market opportunities.**
- **The FAS Employs 900 people worldwide**
- **Get the rest of the story by jumping on the FAS website: www.fas.usda.gov**

Probably the best agriculture internship in the world

The Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) is part of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and operates in 70 U.S. Embassies. It has two primary reasons for existence.

First, it opens the doors for the marketing of U.S. agricultural products abroad. Second, it collects, analyzes and disseminates information on world trade patterns, supply and demand and emerging market opportunities. It's basically the eyes and ears of American agriculture in the world marketplace.

"Every day I'm

pretty awestruck when I open the front doors to the U.S. Embassy," Lee says. "It's surprising and scary, and exciting and challenging. For me, it draws out the best qualities I have because I challenge myself to do my best. I realize what an important responsibility I have and what a tremendous opportunity this is. It's probably the best agriculture internship in the world."

Knows his stuff

It helps that Lee knows his stuff when it comes to agriculture. He grew up on a farm near Leipsic, Ohio. While he doesn't plan to farm after college (he wants to pursue a career in agricultural law), the hands-in-the-dirt background helped him tremendously.

"I could not imagine doing this job without having an agricultural background," Lee explains. "I think it's the biggest advantage that I have, in that nobody has to sit down and explain to me what a bovine is, or what an oil seed is, or what a grain is. I know the differences and I know how it all works."

Lyle Sebranek, Minister-Counselor for Agricultural Affairs, was Lee's boss for the summer. He grew up on a farm in southern Wisconsin and

was also an FFA member. His background in agriculture provided the vehicle to get him where he is today. After using his agricultural skills in the Peace Corps in the '60s, his long term career goals became clear.

"I always enjoyed learning about other cultures, working overseas, and speaking other languages," Sebranek explains, "and I found that I wanted to do that, and agriculture, fortunately, provided me a natural way of doing that."

Sebranek says farm exports account for thirty percent of the total gross receipts for U.S. farmers. Therefore, he says, there's a lot of promise for FFA members interested in international agricultural careers. "Any sector that's going to be dynamic has to have people who learn the business when they're young, and, clearly, young people should head where there's an exciting future and where there's a lot of potential."

On the job

Even with the Lee's agricultural background, the work was tough. Because a large part of what the office does is produce reports—on such things as markets and trade issues, Lee spent much of his time researching, writing and editing reports. Just knowing where to look, or whom to call for information turned out to be one of the most difficult, and educational aspects of his job.

Lee had to field some tough phone calls from American companies exporting their products to Canada. If he

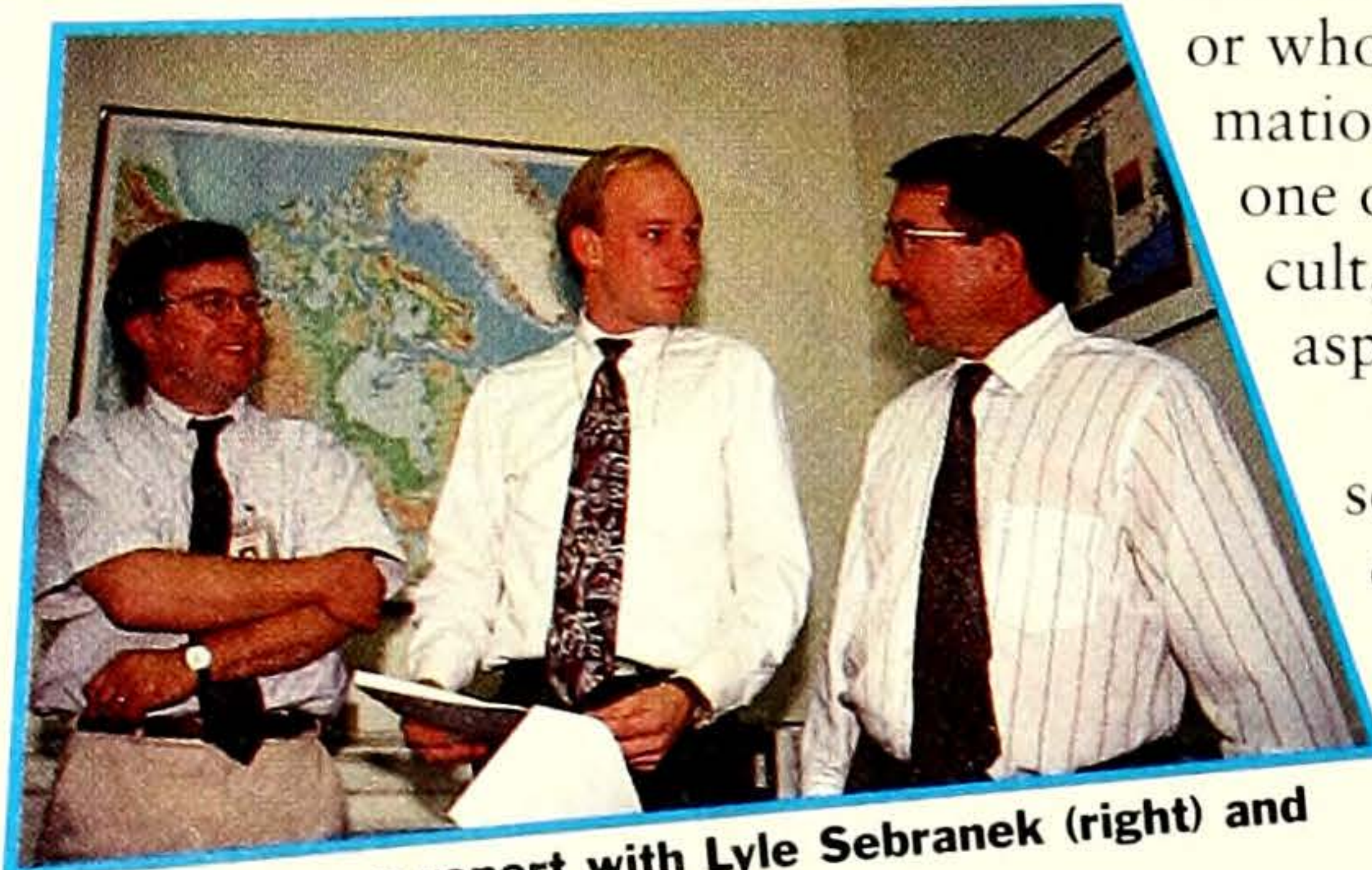
couldn't provide the trade information they needed right away, he would research the answer and get back to the caller.

"My biggest challenge," Lee admits, "has been to adapt and to understand the people I work with. We talk about that a lot in FFA, and it really is important in real life, because you work with people you don't know. You have to immediately try to get along and understand their feelings and ideas and respect them, but also add to the mix with your own ideas."

A cultural experience

Even in Canada, which shares thousands of miles of border with the United States, Lee did have to overcome some cultural differences. Converting to Canadian dollars and Celsius degrees, and picking up on the different English accent were just part of the challenge. "It took a couple weeks before the tourist feeling wore off," Lee says, "before I realized that I was here, and I started to assimilate into the culture and feel a part of it."

And it's not just Canadian culture Lee experienced. Ottawa is a capital city, and with all the diplomats living there, it possesses an international flavor that only added to the experience. "You may run into an Indian, a Pakistani, or a Russian just going to the grocery store. It's not only Canadians you meet, but international people from all over the world who are here in the same situation I'm in." ★



Lee goes over a report with Lyle Sebranek (right) and Agricultural Specialist George Myles.

Get those passports ready

Here's the complete guide to FFA International programs

INTERNATIONAL INTERN PROGRAM

Who's eligible: FFA members working toward a degree in agriculture with two years of college completed

What: Internship at Foreign Agriculture Service office in U.S. Embassy

When: Fall, spring or summer

Program length: 8 to 12 weeks

Where: Assignments made in nearly 70 countries

WORLD EXPERIENCE IN AGRICULTURE (WEA)

Who's eligible: Collegiate FFA members, ages 18 to 24

What: Live and work with host family

When: Ongoing

Program length: 3, 6 or 12 months

Where: Europe or Australia

Apply by: March 1

AGRICULTURE AMBASSADORS TO THE U.K.

Who's eligible: Collegiate FFA members

What: Four ambassadors will be selected to live with several host families in the U.K. and become involved with the National Federation of Young Farmers Club

When: Ongoing

Program length: 3 weeks

Where: United Kingdom

Apply by: March 1

STATE OFFICER GREENWEEK SEMINAR

Who's eligible: State FFA officers

What: Premier leadership experience for state officers, who, among other things, attend the Green-Week Expo in Berlin and spend several days with host families of the Bavarian Young Farmers Club

When: January 1999

Where: Germany, Czechoslovakia

Apply by: October 1

SUMMER HOMESTAY TO ENGLAND OR AUSTRALIA

Who's eligible: FFA members, ages 16-24

What: Learn the culture of

another English-speaking country by living with a farming family

Program length: Three weeks

When: Ongoing

Where: England, Australia

Apply by: March 1

INTRODUCTION TO EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE SEMINAR

Who's eligible: All FFA members

What: Visit Europe and learn about agriculture, focusing on horticulture, crop production, livestock and dairy operations.

When: July 9-23

Where: Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Germany

Apply by: April 1

NATIONAL 4-H / FFA DAIRY AND LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAMS TRAVEL SEMINAR

Who's eligible: 4-H, FFA dairy and livestock judging teams who have won national competitions

What: Represent your organization and chapter at the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh, Scotland, and tour England, France, Belgium and Denmark

When: June

Program length: 3 weeks

Apply by: March 1

FFA EXPLORER PROGRAM

Who's eligible: FFA members, ages 15-24

What: "Learn by doing" in the country of your choice. Learn the language and culture of another country and experience new youth projects while living with a host family

Program length: 6 weeks, 3 months or 6 months

Where: Your choice of over 25 countries

Apply by: February 1

HOSTING

Who's eligible: Families involved in FFA

What: Host one of 100 German high school students who will attend public high schools and become FFA members

When: German students arrive in mid to late August, and will stay for one year

2 WAYS TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION

1. Call 703-360-3600 and ask for International Programs
2. Visit the FFA website: www.ffa.org

COST

All programs include round-trip airfare, lodging, ground transportation, insurance and most meals. Check with the FFA for estimated costs and available scholarships and stipends.



LANGDON BARBER GROVES

"Fruit With A Peel"

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water and soil—it's time to start looking ahead to the future of agriculture. Who's going to be running America's farms when the baby boomers retire? And how can we best utilize new technologies to feed an exploding world population?

These are some tough questions, and tomorrow's farmers aren't going to find the answers in a textbook, and they're not going to find them by doing things exactly the same way their parents and grandparents did them.

Times change, and with them technology, markets,

the workforce, the land and the climate.

Meeting **of** minds

Last July, these issues came to light at a corn and soybean farm near Lexington, Illinois. Here, the DuPont Corporation and the National FFA Organization kicked off the New Century Farmer program. Thirty-eight collegiate agriculture students, all between the ages of 18 and 24, were selected from a pool of applicants to participate in the program. They came from all types of farming operations from all corners of the country—places like Chico, California; Rolette, North Dakota; Ft. Plains, New York; and Altha, Florida.

For four days a panel of 15 agricultural industry professionals led workshops, demonstrations and discussions.

Jaime Meenach and Brian Steward, participants in the New Century Farmer Program, utilize computer technology in the classroom and on the farm.

PHOTO BY ED LALLO



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The students learned about such issues as precision farming, value added practices, the right way to approach a lender for a loan, and making the family work together as a unit on a farm.

Getting it together

After the first day of sessions, the group got together at their hotel in Bloomington, Ill., to unwind by playing cards, watching "Seinfeld," and discussing the day's sessions. Bradley Stoecker, a 19-year-old who came down from his family's farm in nearby Litchfield, was glad he made the trip: "I think it's been better than what I expected, as far as learning different financing options. Everybody says that's a major problem with young farmers trying to get started. They're telling us how we can do that."

Rob Warren, a 19-year-old FFA member from Lamesa, Texas, saw the program as a great launching pad for his career. His family runs a 5,000 acre cotton, peanut and milo farm. He has big plans for the farm in the future. So, after a few workshops, he realized he had a lot of work cut out for him. He's decided to develop a long term marketing plan, take more

agronomy classes, and start writing down his goals.

As one of five female students participating in the program, Jaime Meenach, of Valleyford, Washington, learned a lot about the financial side of farming, something she never devoted much thought to while working and growing up on a farm. "Even though I've been raised on a farm," she says, "for me, sometimes the financial issues facing farmers fall into the 'if you're not taking care of it yourself, you're not thinking about it' trap. A lot of those issues were brought up and gave us something to think about besides how to care for your animals and how to know when to plant your crops."

New friends, new ideas

Just as valuable as the workshops, Rob found, were the other students he was meeting. "My dad and I have been talking about growing sweet potatoes," Rob says, "and I'd like to make some connections with other people who grow different crops, so we can get more diversified, grow different things and experiment with different things. And if something works out, then we could maybe get a little bigger."

Chris Helsinger, 19, of new Lebanon, Ohio, sees it the same way. "I think it's all about meeting new friends. That's what I think is the best part of this program—their ideas and their operations. It's different raising corn

in Ohio and raising corn in Nebraska. You're doing the same thing, but they're two different types of operations. We do it one way. They do it another."

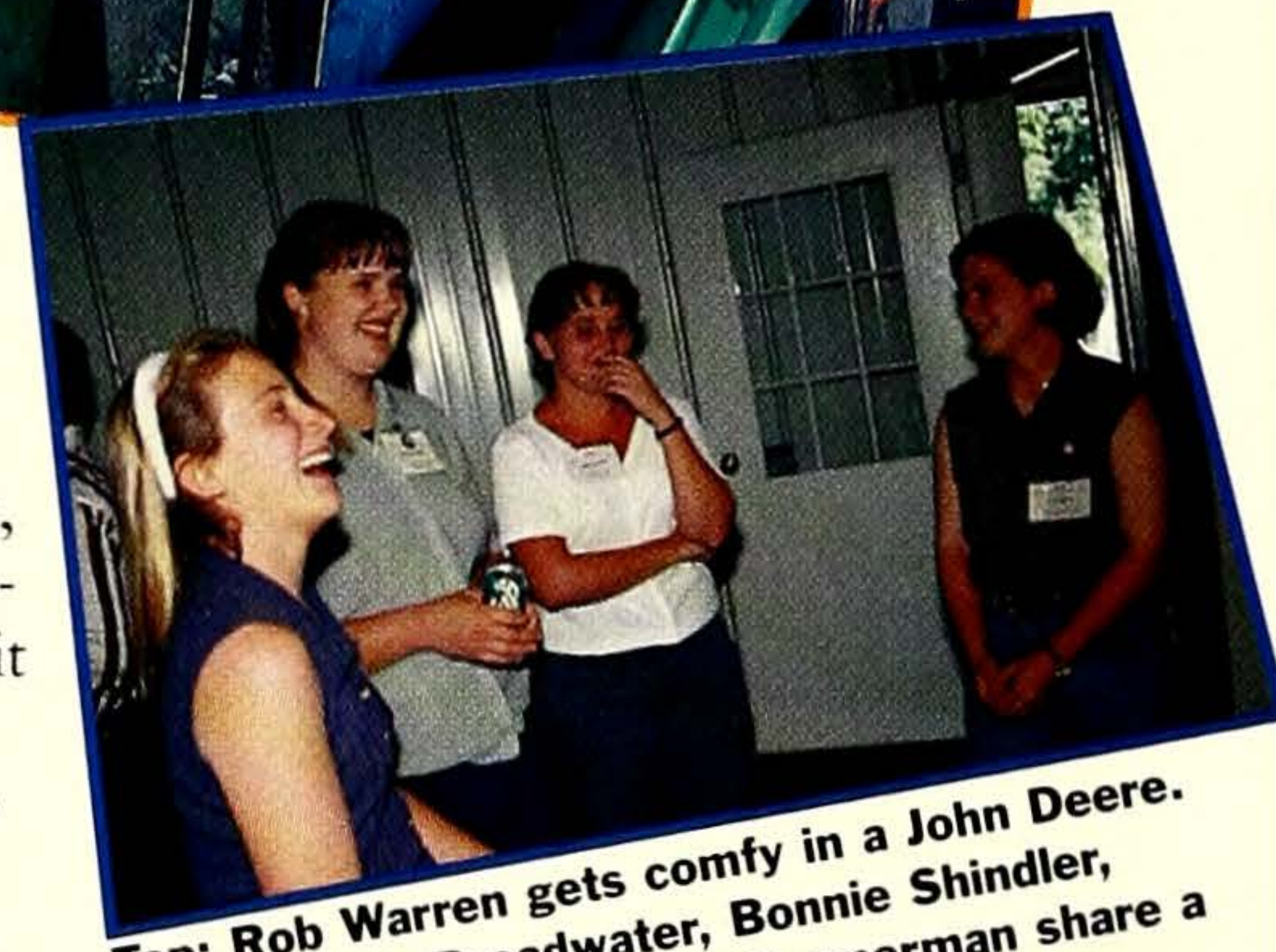
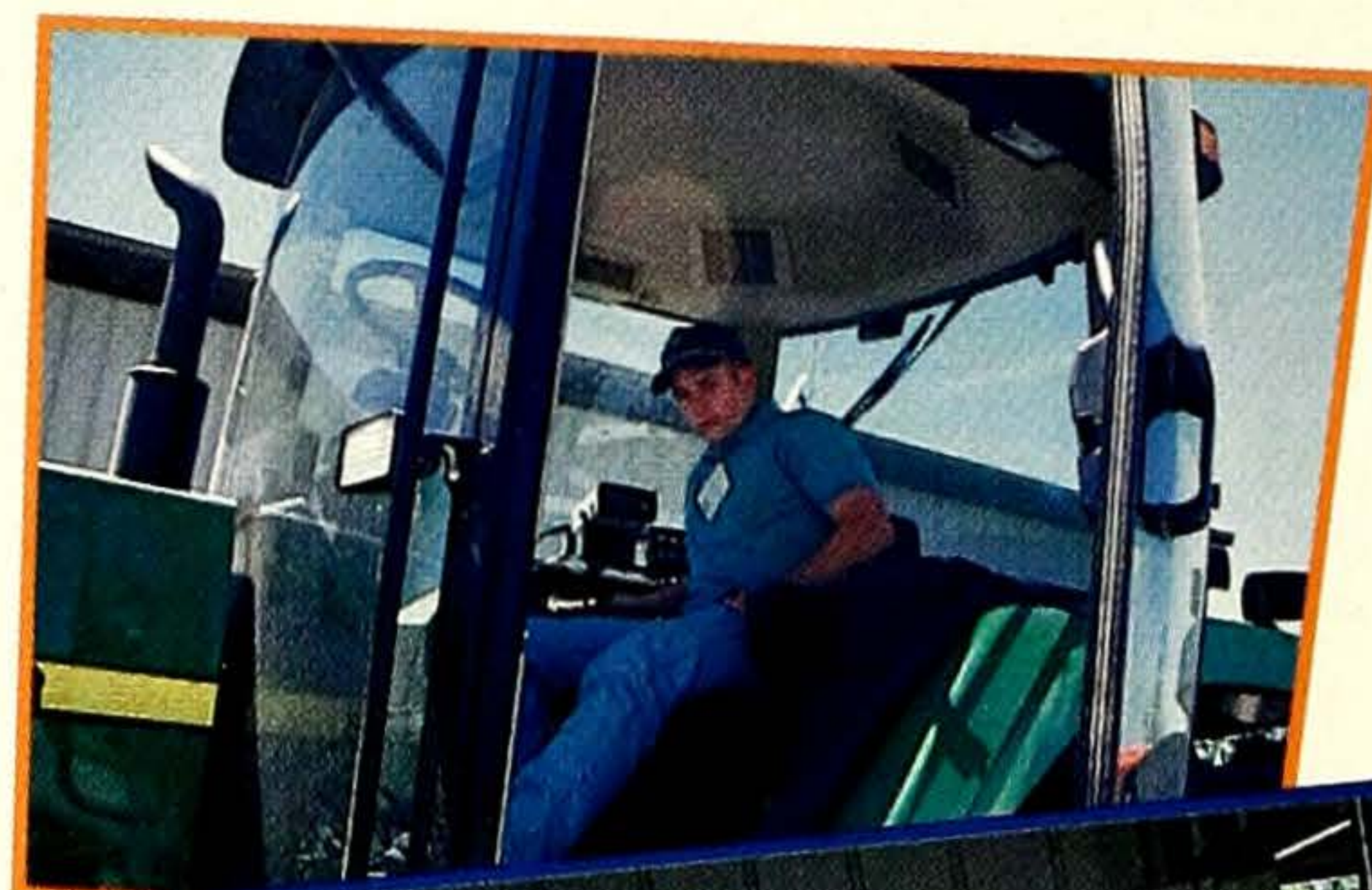
The differences can lead to thought-provoking, or even heated, discussions. Rob put it this way: "It always helps to be around people that have the same desires you do. Some things you agree with and some things you don't." But no matter what Rob hears, he says, "it always triggers something in your mind that gives you more ideas to start thinking about."

Eye on tomorrow

Jaime, who's now studying animal science at Washington State University, learned a lot here. She thinks tomorrow's farmers have some new challenges.

"I think more than ever before it's going to be really important for us not to be just farmers, but to really be up on the economic and environmental issues of it," she says. "There are so many more issues because there are people who are not farmers who are playing active roles in agriculture, so we have to be able to deal with those issues and those people, as well as just knowing when to seed and when to wean the calves."

Bradley, who's working on a swine management degree at John Wood



Top: Rob Warren gets comfy in a John Deere. Above: Leah Broadwater, Bonnie Shindler, Jolene Quaring and Cindy Zimmermann share a laugh during a break from class

Community College, sums up the New Century Farmer experience in a sentence. "Here I'm learning to develop my own future." ★

Want to be a New Century Farmer?

Time is running out, so apply now for the 1998 New Century Farmers Program.

Here's how it works:

Applications for the DuPont New Century Farmers Program must be postmarked no later than February 15, so call 1-888-6DUPONT (1-888-638-7668) today for an application. This year's all expenses paid program will again be held in mid-summer (exact dates to be announced) in the Bloomington, Illinois, area. If you're selected to participate, you will be notified by May 15.

To be eligible, you must be:

- between the ages of 18 and 22
- an FFA member in high school, two-year or four-year college
- committed to a career in farming



Rob Warren, David Yoder and Chris Helsinger learned about each other's farming operations.



Luke Ryan, Monclova, OH

Are you a New Century Farmer?

DuPont Agricultural Products, in cooperation with the National FFA Organization, wants to help pave the way for young prospective farmers like you to be successful in the 21st century. We invite you to apply to be a part of our fantastic education and networking program, and challenge yourself in a four-day, power-packed series of educational sessions, interactive workshops, mind-stretching exercises, agricultural field tours and lots of fun.

The first step to becoming a DuPont New Century Farmer is to contact us today at 1-888-6DUPONT (1-888-638-7668) to request an application.

Or you can access our website at www.dupont.com/ag/us. The deadline for applications is February 15, 1998, so contact us today!



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your money

Get a head start on your keeping your credit history clean

Your other report card

Report cards tell a lot. They tell you, your parents and prospective colleges or vocational schools how you stack up in school.

Credit reports do much the same thing, but they tell you, potential lenders, landlords and employers how you manage your finances.

If you've ever taken out a bank loan, or if you have a credit card or two in your wallet, there's probably a report out there with your name on it.

What is a credit report?

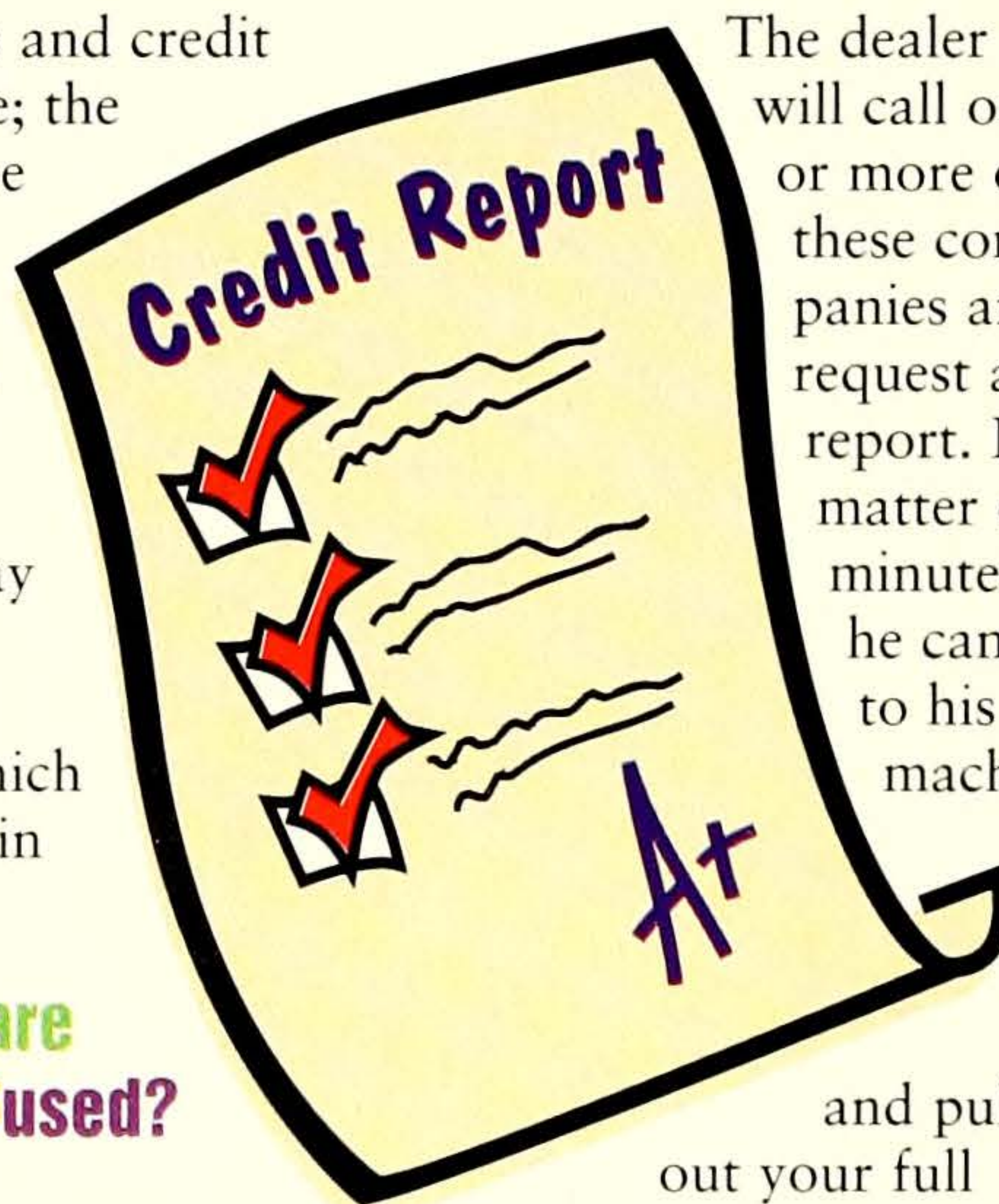
Credit reports are detailed transcripts of your credit dealings. They can tell potential lenders, renters and employers, among other things, what credit

accounts (loans and credit cards) you have; the amount of those loans and the balances; the credit limits on all your credit card accounts; whether you pay your bills on time; and all addresses at which you have lived in past five years.

How and why are credit reports used?

Three major companies—Experian, Trans Union and Equifax—are in the business of keeping tabs on how you manage your wallet.

For example, you're buying a new pickup and you decide to take a loan straight from the dealer.



The dealer will call one or more of these companies and request a report. In a matter of minutes, he can go to his fax machine

and pull out your full credit history—the good, the bad, and the ugly. He will use this information to help determine whether he should take the risk of giving you a loan.

He might turn you down if he sees a series of late payments on that Visa

card you got last year (he will take this to mean you're not a reliable bill-payer), or he might be scared off when he sees that your credit limit on your credit cards is only \$200 (to him, this might signal that you have a level of income that can't support car payments).

You'll find that landlords use credit reports too. Since they're generally looking for long-term tenants, they'll look at how often you change your address. If you move every six months, they might pass you over for someone else.

Potential employers are now looking at credit reports too. A shining resume and positive interview might be obscured by pitfalls on your credit report. ★

Tips for keeping a clean report

1. Pay all bills on time. This is the best way to keep your report clean. If you're having trouble remembering to pay them on time, set aside some time each week for bill paying.

2. Don't apply for unnecessary credit cards. If you have five or six credit cards crowding

your wallet, spread them out on a table. Get out the scissors and cut up the ones you don't need. Don't use credit cards for major purchases. If you want to buy an \$800 guitar on your credit card because you don't have the money now, and you want to spread the payments out over several months, don't do it. You can probably get a much cheaper loan from the store or your local bank.

3. Check credit reports once a year. Request a report from each of the big three credit reporting agencies each year. This way you will avoid any surprises when you go to apply for a loan. A report will cost \$8 or less. The costs vary depending on the state in which you live. Here are their addresses and toll-free phone numbers. Call first for exact instructions and then mail in your written request.

Equifax
Consumer Affairs
P.O. Box 105873
Atlanta, GA 30348
(800) 685-1111

Trans Union Corporation
P.O. Box 390
Springfield, PA 19064-0390
(800) 888-4213

Experian
P.O. Box 2104
Allen, TX 75013-2104
(800) 682-7654

Gregg Metzger got a great souvenir at the National FFA Convention



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 Sport to play _____
 College basketball team _____
 Beverage _____
 Type of music _____

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Class/subject in school _____
 Person in history _____
 School lunch food item _____
 Road trip destination _____
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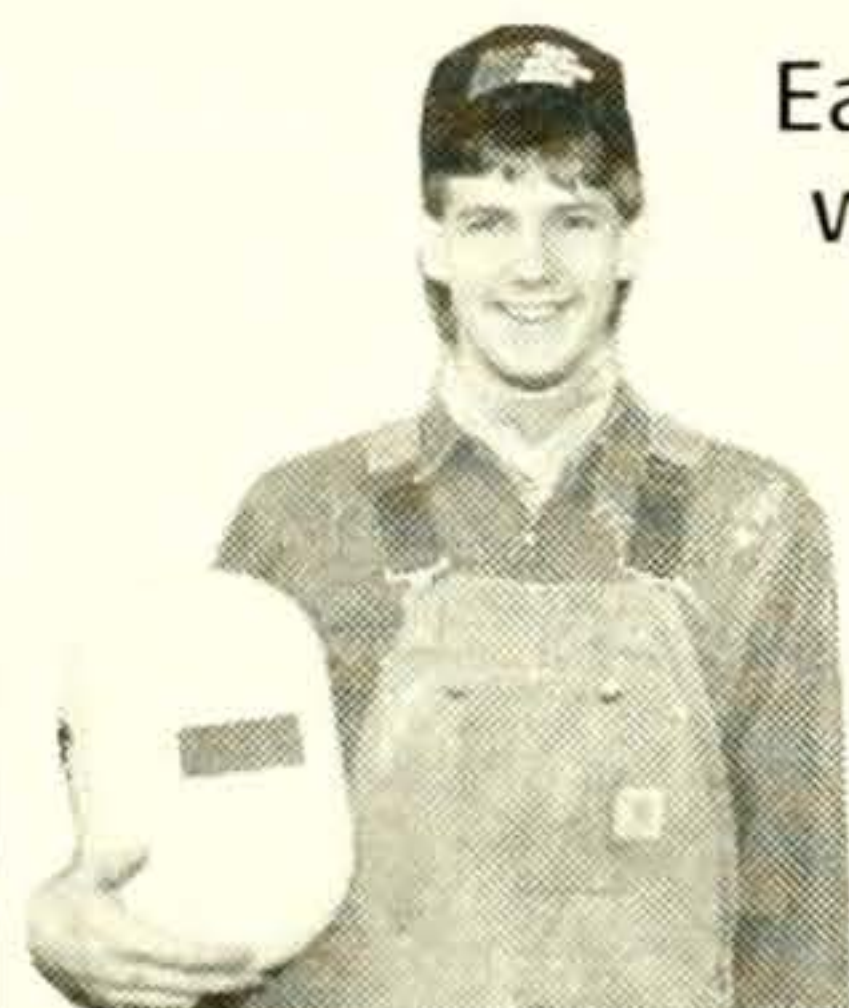
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James Scott, Publisher

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Last Laff

Q. Where can you always find success, health, wealth and happiness?

A. In the dictionary.

Mamie Henderson
Zumbrota, Minnesota

Q. What did one flea say to the other flea?

A. Should we walk or take a dog?

Kristin Covall
Freedom, Oklahoma

Q. Why did the orange stop rolling down the hill?

A. It ran out of juice.

Nathan Istre
Welsh, Louisiana

Q. Why did they give that guy a scholarship to baking school?

A. He kneaded the dough.

Joette Sarver
Millerstown, Pennsylvania

Q. Why did the turkey cross the road?

A. The chicken was on strike.

Kia Johnson
Richlands, North Carolina

Q. How did the starving man eat a hot dog?

A. With relish.

Chris Sullivan
Readyville, Tennessee

Q. Why does the ocean stay real mad?

A. Because it has been crossed so many times.

Luci Teague
Greenwood, South Carolina

Q. What do you get if you cross a kangaroo with a saint?

A. An animal that has a pocketful of miracles.

Steven Bonilla
Camuy, Puerto Rico

Q. Why is the Astrodome so cold?

A. Because of all the fans.

Tommy Gately
Spring, Texas

Q. What did the bull say to the cow?

A. I will love you for heifer.

Christine Fahlsing
Seffner, Florida

Q. What's the best way to catch a mouse?

A. Have someone throw it to you.

Brandon Selzer
Everly, Iowa

Q. How are baseball and pancakes alike?

A. They both depend on the batter.

Christian Fornerod
Fallbrook, California

Q. Why can't a bike stand up by itself?

A. It's two tired.

James Collier
Brundidge, Alabama

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).

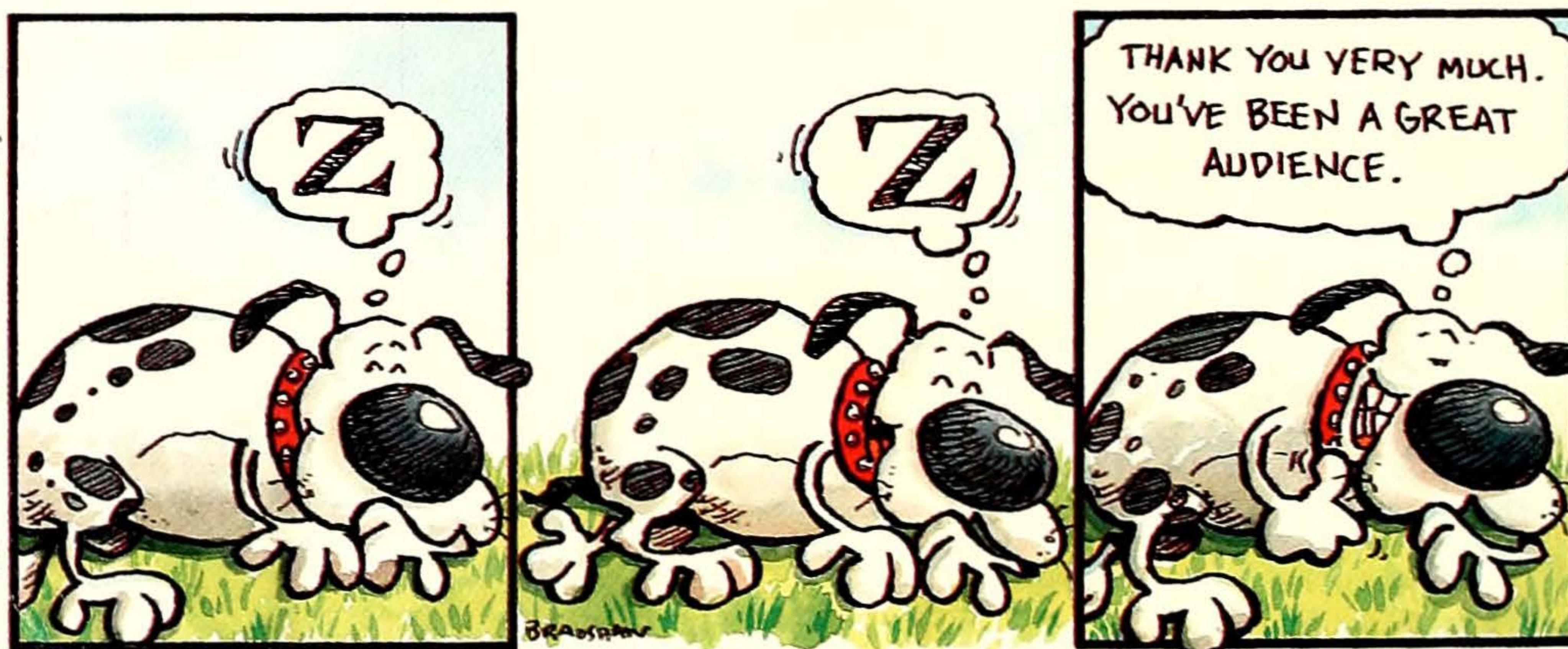
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Alexandria, VA 22309-0160

Contributions cannot be acknowledged or returned.

Agri-nuts by Jim Bradshaw and Michael Bettendorf

Due to their exhaustion following the nonstop excitement of the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Charlie, Darryl and Anita won't be able to appear in this issue's Agri-nuts. In their place, Clyde will provide the entertainment.



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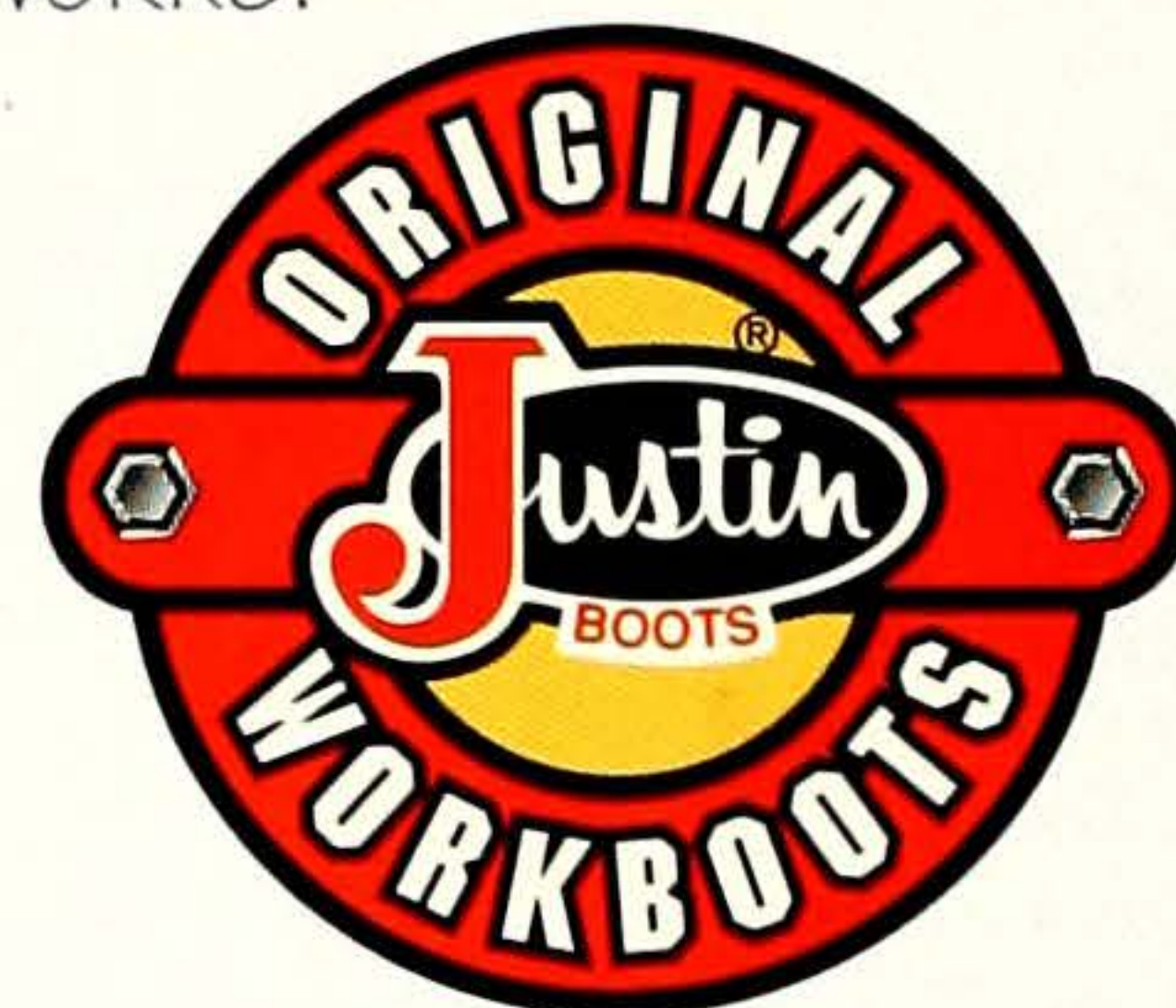
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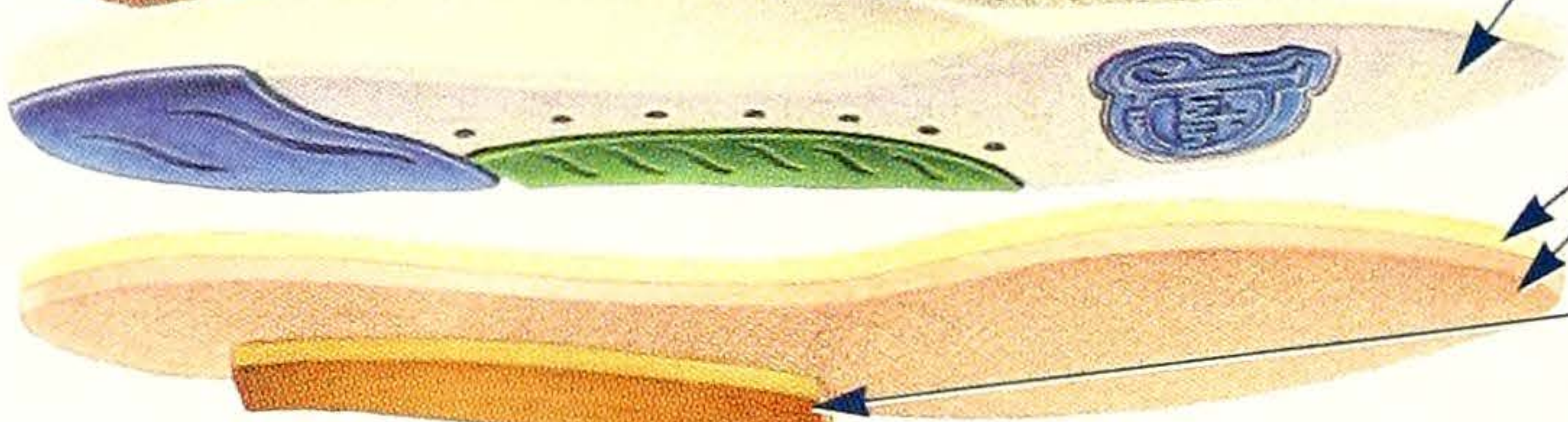
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