

The FFA logo is a red square with the letters "FFA" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1994

New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION



**Taking Care of Calves
at LaMuneca
p. 6**

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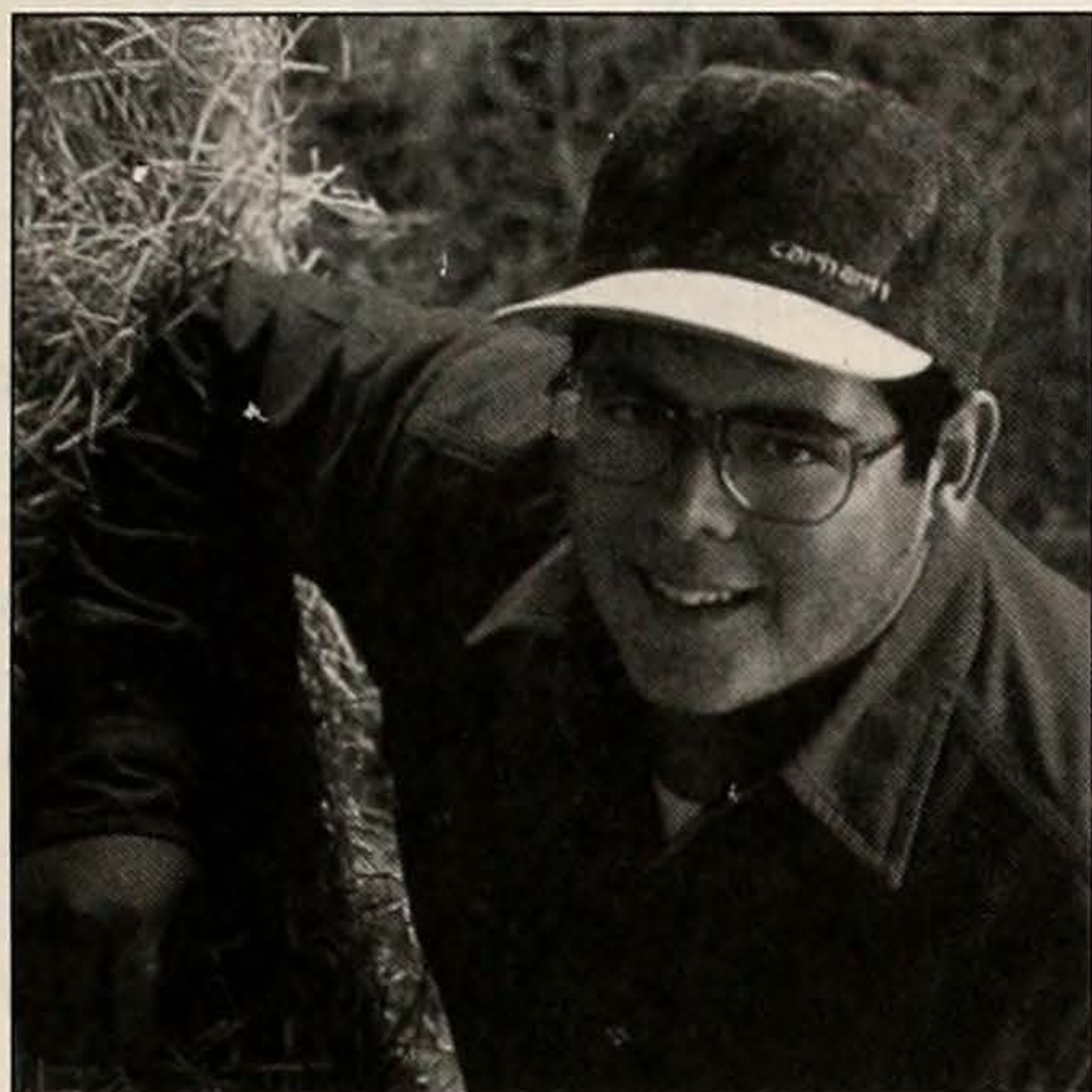
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FFA New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

September-October, 1994

Volume 43 Number 1



FFA

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Here's your chance to develop problem-solving skills while you meet with professionals in the business.

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Photo by Lawinna McGary

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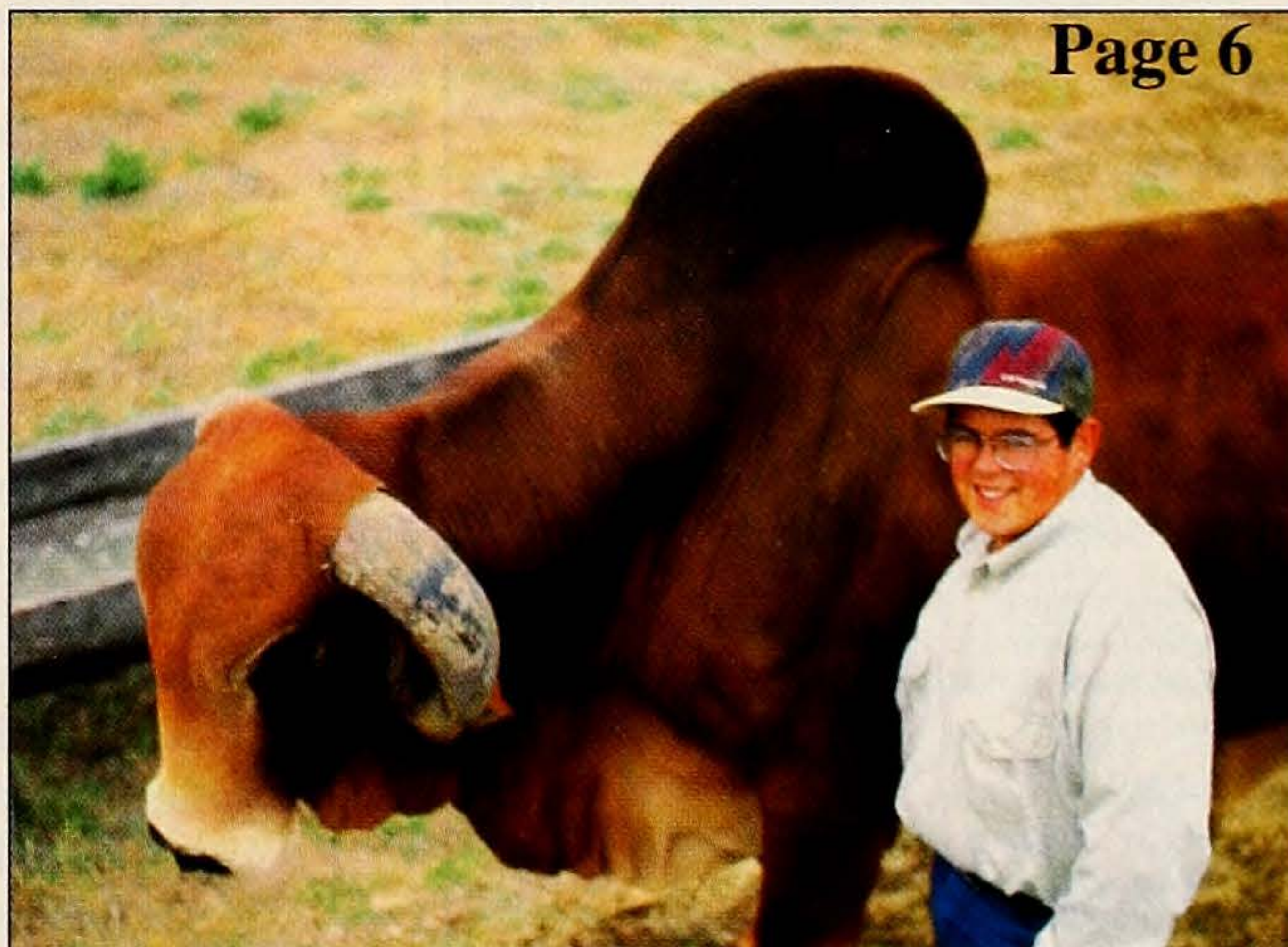
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The FFA Mission

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



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THE FRONT LINE



I believe that this Nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to Earth."

President John F. Kennedy spoke those words to Congress in 1961. Send a man to the moon.

At the time, it was nearly unthinkable. As a country we were just beginning to crawl in the new space program. Now the president had gone and blurted out this staggering challenge. Experts working inside the space program wondered if it was even possible, and the president was saying they had a deadline of getting it done in nine years!

And yet this past July, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin setting foot on the powdery surface of the moon and coming home safely.

The unthinkable had been accomplished. It took the teamwork of large corporations, small companies and government agencies to make it happen. Thousands of people applied their unique talents to get the job done. That's what can happen when people share a vision.

It was Kennedy's vision that launched the huge Apollo effort and kept it on course, even through extremely difficult times, including losing three astronauts to a fire. The power of his challenge — his goal — inspired those working on the Apollo program for six years after Kennedy's assassination.

Not every goal is as dramatic as putting a man on the moon, but every person can harness some of the power of setting goals.

Personal goals are energizing, exciting and powerful. Before school starts this fall, take a few minutes to dream about who you want to be, what you want to do, where you want to go. Dream it, say it out loud (nobody has to hear), then write it down (nobody has to see) and then check on your progress during the year.

After all, if we can make one giant leap and put a man on the moon, we should be able to take one small step for ourselves.

*If we can make
one giant leap and
put a man on the
moon, we should
be able to take
one small step for
ourselves.*

Andy Markwart

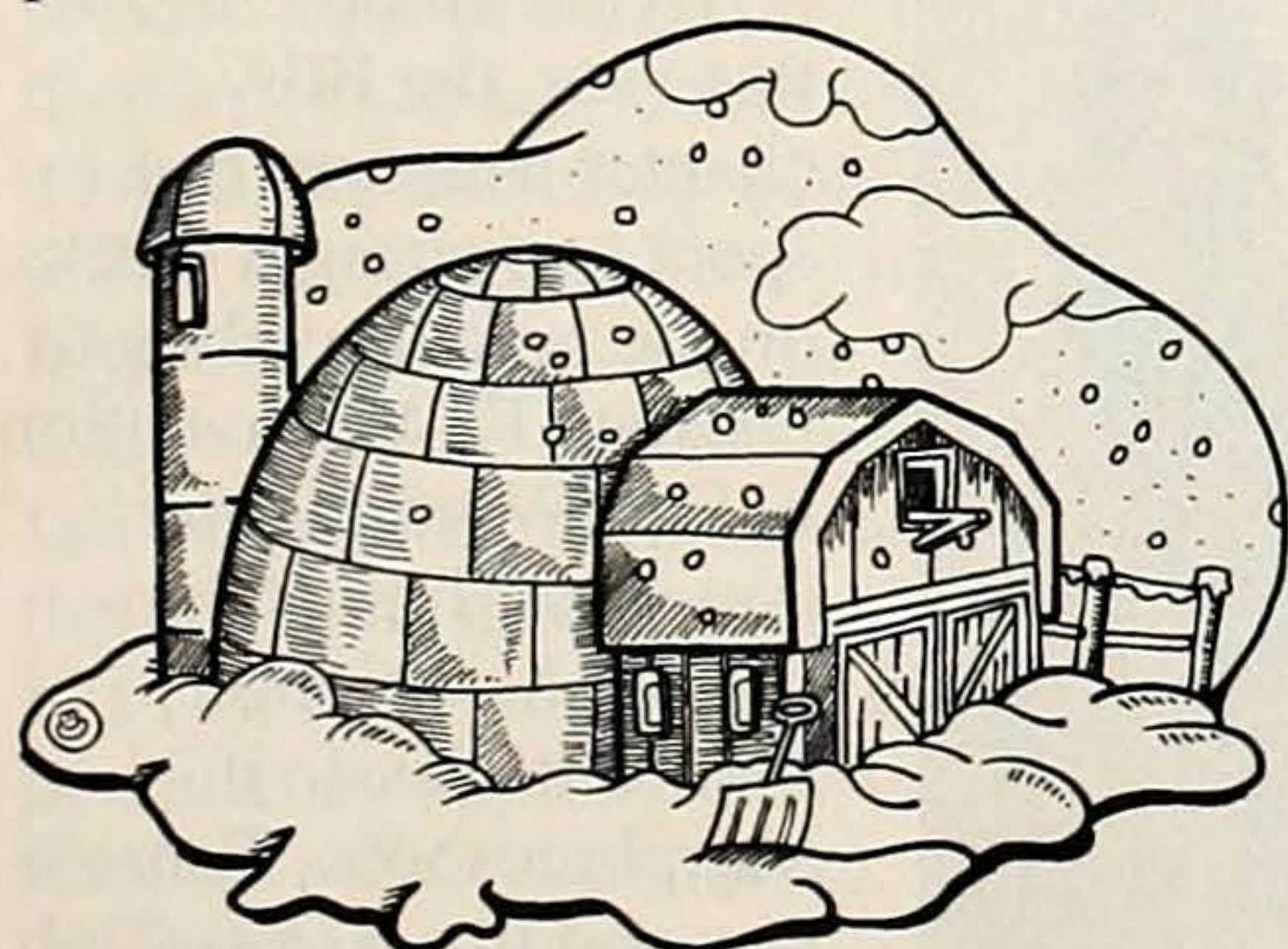
NEWS IN BRIEF

What Have You Done For Your Advisor Lately?

What does your FFA advisor mean to you? Here's your chance to let the whole FFA world know, in 300 words or less, some of the positive things your advisor has done for you, other chapter members or your community. If you would like to recognize your advisor in the magazine, type a letter on plain white paper stating what your advisor means to you and why. Include your name, home address, home telephone number (including area code), school telephone number, names and telephone numbers of other people who co-wrote the letter with you, FFA chapter name and address and FFA advisor's name with the letter. Send your entry, postmarked by **September 30, 1994** to *FFA New Horizons*, Advisor Tribute, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160. We'll publish the top entries in the January-February issue.

We Know Where You Live!

Ever wondered how many FFA members live on farms or in rural areas? FFA advisors were asked to provide this information on the 1993-1994 roster. More than ninety percent of Rhode Island's FFA members and almost 80 percent of Alaska's members live in a



rural area, but not on a farm. Nebraska and Iowa, have the highest number of members, 60 out of every 100, living on full- or part-time farms; while on the other end of the spectrum, California, Connecticut and Massachusetts, have more than 60 percent of their FFA members living in towns or cities.

FFA Theme Quest '94

Here's your chance to tell the world about FFA.

What's the most important thing non-



FFA members need to know about the organization and agricultural education? Get chapter members together and write the answer to this question, with just a few compelling, catchy words, and your chapter

could win \$100 worth of FFA resource materials. All entries have a chance to win from a random drawing.

Who knows? Your entry may end up as the new FFA Theme. Snyder, Texas, members wrote the 1993 theme, "FFA—The Leadership Advantage."

Here's how to enter:

1. Get chapter members together and brainstorm one catchy phrase for each of the following areas: leadership, success, "making a difference," teamwork, pride, agriculture and quality.

2. Next, vote for your favorite theme in each area.

3. Have one or two members write a short description (of about 25 words) for each theme you send into FFA.

4. Type each entry and its description as well as your chapter name, mailing address, advisor name, advisor home phone number (including area code), school phone number and theme category as listed under #1 on a separate piece of paper. (All entries must be typewritten.)

5. Chapters may have only one entry in each category.

6. Send your FFA Theme Suggestions to Gary Staszak, National FFA Organization, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309.

7. All entries must be postmarked by **November 30, 1994**, to be eligible for the random drawing and to be considered as a possible FFA theme for 1995-96.

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A New Brand of

No horses please. This FFA member is satisfied with Red Brahmans and purebred Simbrahs.

By Lawinna McGary



La Muñeca Cattle Company and La Muñequita still use the brand Arcadio Guerra registered in the late 1800's. It is shaped like a doll, or in Spanish, la muñeca.

He's got cattle. He lives on a ranch. He *must* be a cowboy. Right? Not in this lifetime. FFA member Carlitos Guerra doesn't own a horse and doesn't particularly like them.

He doesn't rope, wear a cowboy hat or wrangle horses while sitting in a saddle.

When he wants to round up his cattle he jumps in his pickup truck, beeps his horn and feeds the critters range cubes. They come running.

Carlitos and his dad, Carlos, figure by the time the average cowboy gets his horse saddled, they've already gathered their cattle.

Their methods may not be traditional, but their family's ranching history is at home on the range.

"All I've done all my life is work with cows. And I like it. So that's what I hope to do," says Carlitos.

More than 100 years ago his great grandfather, Arcadio, had the same idea. The 14-year-old orphan traveled from Mexico to Texas in 1873. He worked for his cousin and saved enough money to buy a general store. When ranchers couldn't pay money for supplies, Arcadio would accept land and cattle instead.

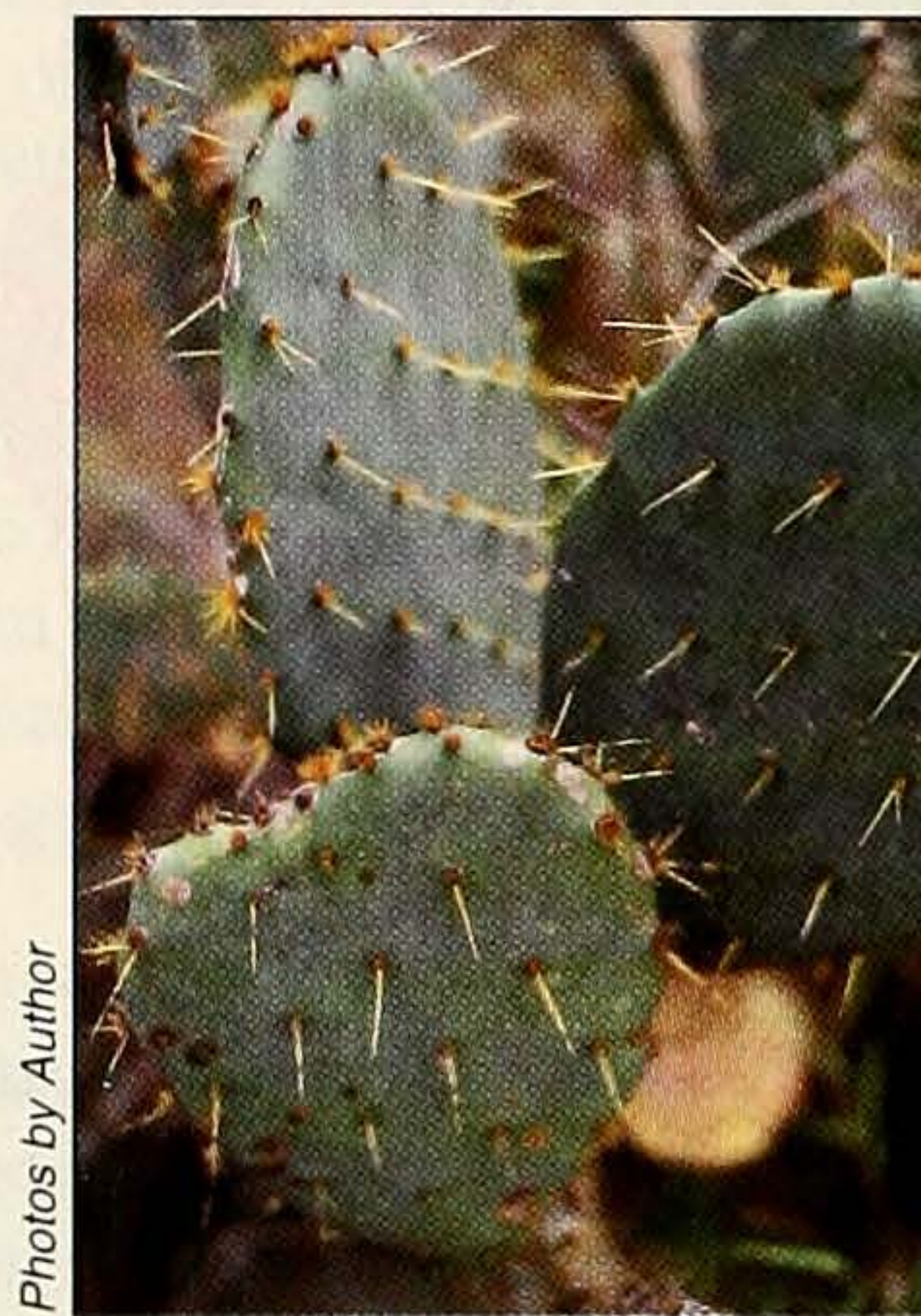
"The early 1900s is when he really started putting things together," says Carlos. But just when Arcadio was in the middle of closing a land deal that would triple or quadruple his holdings, he was injured so severely, he could not work.

"My father and his brother were very young boys when granddad passed away," says Carlos. Yet, they kept the ranch together.

Now, the Guerra's own 20,000 acres. Carlitos' family raises 400 cattle on the 6,000 acres they lease. Two of his uncles and an aunt raise feeder cattle on the rest.

Carlitos, his two sisters, Laura and Cristina, and a brother, Victor, own about 100 purebred Simbrah cattle.

Since Carlitos was around the family's cattle so much when he was little, he



Photos by Author

quickly became a pro at sizing up bulls. "There were some Australians and they were indecisive about which bull to buy. And before I could say anything," says Carlos, "[4-year-old] Carlitos was tuggin' on the man's pants and he said, 'Mister, that's one hell of a bull.'"

The man bought the bull. "He thought the kid was cute but accurate," says Carlos.

Carlitos competed in his first show the same year. "I had the only red animal in there and the only bull in there and I didn't do too good. But it kind of got the butterflies out of me. I was kind of scared before I did it." But afterwards, he says, "I thought, 'Hey, it's not too bad. I can do this.'"

No doubt. The Linn, Texas, native figures he's competed in at least 150 shows since that first one in Baton Rouge, Louisiana twelve years ago. He's had more than 75 champion-

ships with his Red Brahman and Simbrah champion bulls and heifers.

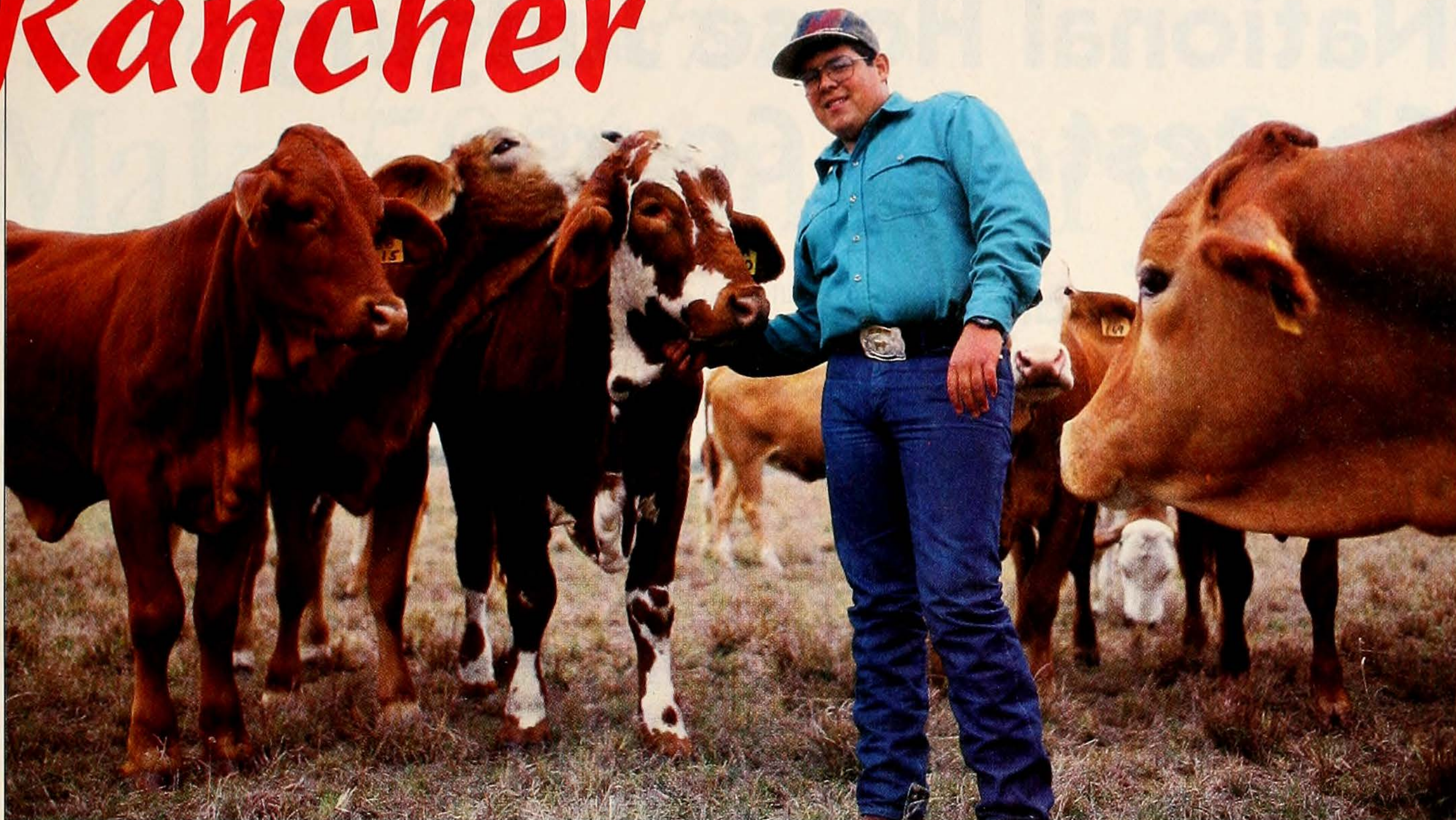
By the middle of July this year, the FFA chapter treasurer had spent two straight weeks on the road: traveling to his state FFA convention in Fort Worth; to the American Junior Simmental Association Summer Classic in Murfreesboro, Tennessee; and to a Texas Club Calf Association (TCCA) show in Victoria, Texas.

Show life can be tough. Carlitos is usually up at four or five in the morning to "get everything washed and fitted and all." It could be 11 p.m. or midnight before



Carlitos says he gets about \$2,000 for most calves and "We also sell a lot of semen to foreign countries: to Mexico, to Australia, a couple of bulls to the Phillipines."

Rancher



"Dad has been really talking the business with me since I was eight," says Carlitos, who plans to attend Texas A & M University and major in agricultural business or animal science.

he hits the hay after showing and feeding the cattle, meeting new potential customers and tending to a little fun with friends.

"You might be a grouch when you wake up, but by the end of the day—hopefully—you're happy; especially if my Dad is around. He's like, 'Snap out of it.'"

Carlitos has to be alert for marketing the cattle—a big part of the show scene. At first, he was scared to be up front meeting buyers. "I used to always hang on to my [dad's] belt loop...

"Now I break away and people know who I am. I like going out and meeting new people and selling. In Houston, we like to have a lot of cattle on hand and have an eye-catching display to attract people. We spend a little extra money on advertising and always have brochures."

The show schedule is exciting, but erratic. You never know if you're going to win the contest or the customer.

Life at home is more predictable—most of the time. In the fall and winter, although he does attend shows and look after the cattle, he also spends a lot of time with FFA. "Once I got in FFA, I started keeping those record books." His beef proficiency application won the district level last year, when Carlitos was a sophomore. He plans to apply again.

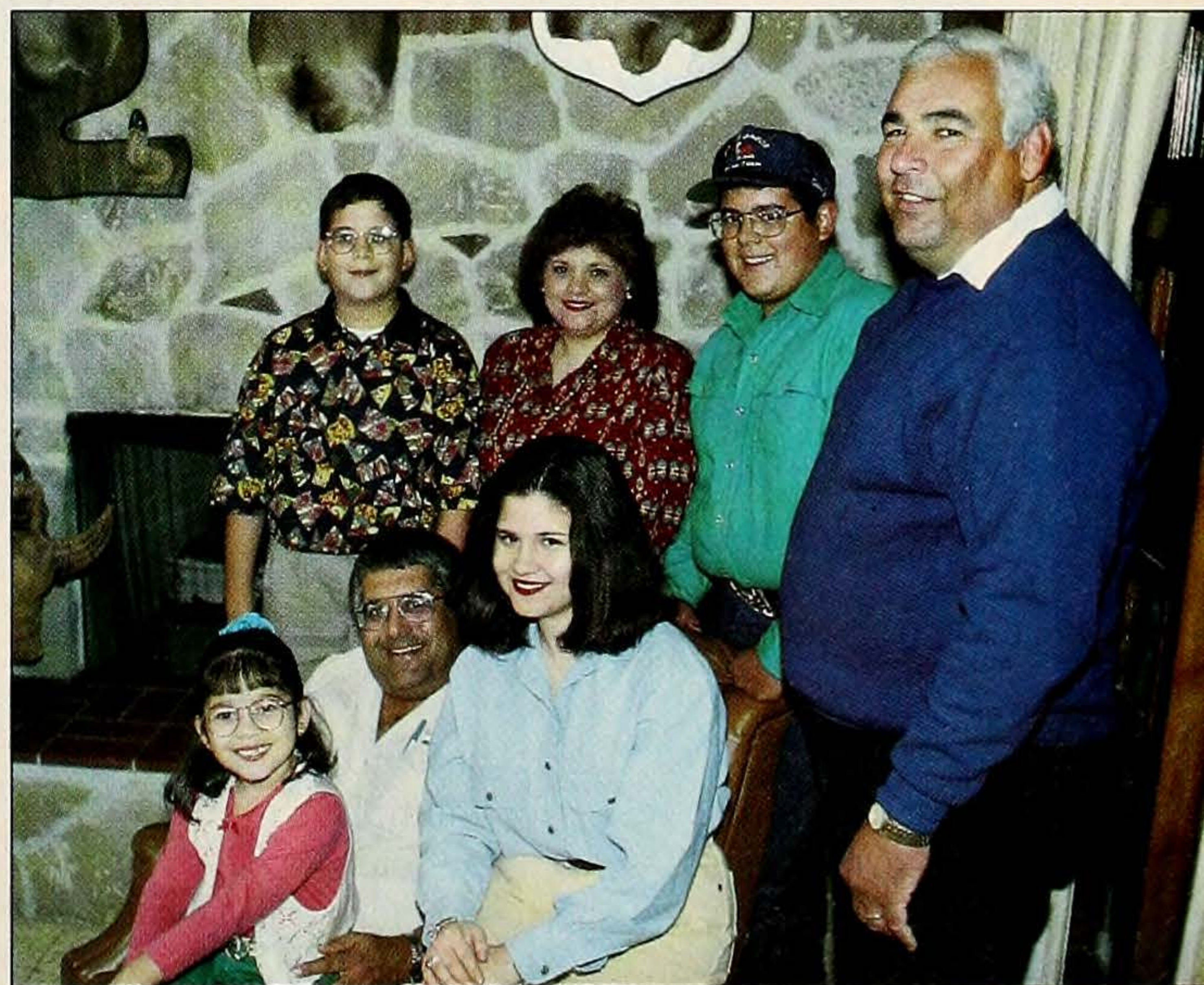
During spring calving season Carlitos checks the cows early in the morning, after lunch and late in the evening. "I just check them three times a day and hope nothing happens," he says.

Summer means, he's up at seven and out until dark.

With that kind of schedule, you would think he would get weary of keeping track of cattle. Uh uh.

He got back from the Victoria show at 10:30 p.m. And when the sun came up? "I went out to check the ranch with my dad."

...



"Our favorite saying around here is, the only time success comes before work is in the dictionary," says Carlitos' father Carlos. In the front row are Cristina, far left, Carlos and Laura. Back row, left to right are: Victor, Sister, Carlitos, and FFA advisor Rena Vela.

National Horse Judging Contest...Of Course

Meet professionals in the horse business while you sharpen public speaking and problem-solving skills

By Charlotte Anne Smith

Almost two-thirds of FFA families own horses.* Many states have had horse judging contests for years. So it doesn't take much horse sense to realize a national FFA horse judging contest might be a popular event.

The new contest will be held November 10 at the national FFA convention in Kansas City.

How Do I Get To Play?

To participate, a team must first win its state contest or be designated as the state's representative, says Joe Bob Cunningham, Oklahoma superintendent of the contest.

"We're hoping for about 20 entries. Last year we had a pilot contest at Carthage, Missouri, and had 15 to 18 [teams] enter."

The contest will include a ten-item problem-solving exercise with multiple choice answers relating to equine science selection, management and production.

The test** should help prepare students who don't plan to breed horses, but who will still evaluate horses for clients in their roles as veterinarians, farriers, trainers, riding instructors and extension agents, says Dr. Susan Camp, a member of the contest committee from New York.

Students "will be given a situation and up to eight or 10 possible choices, not just two or three. They have to work as a team to come up with the best answers."

Entrants will judge four performance classes which may include; western pleasure, western riding (pattern one), reining, English pleasure (saddle seat), hunter under saddle (hunt seat) and hunter hack.

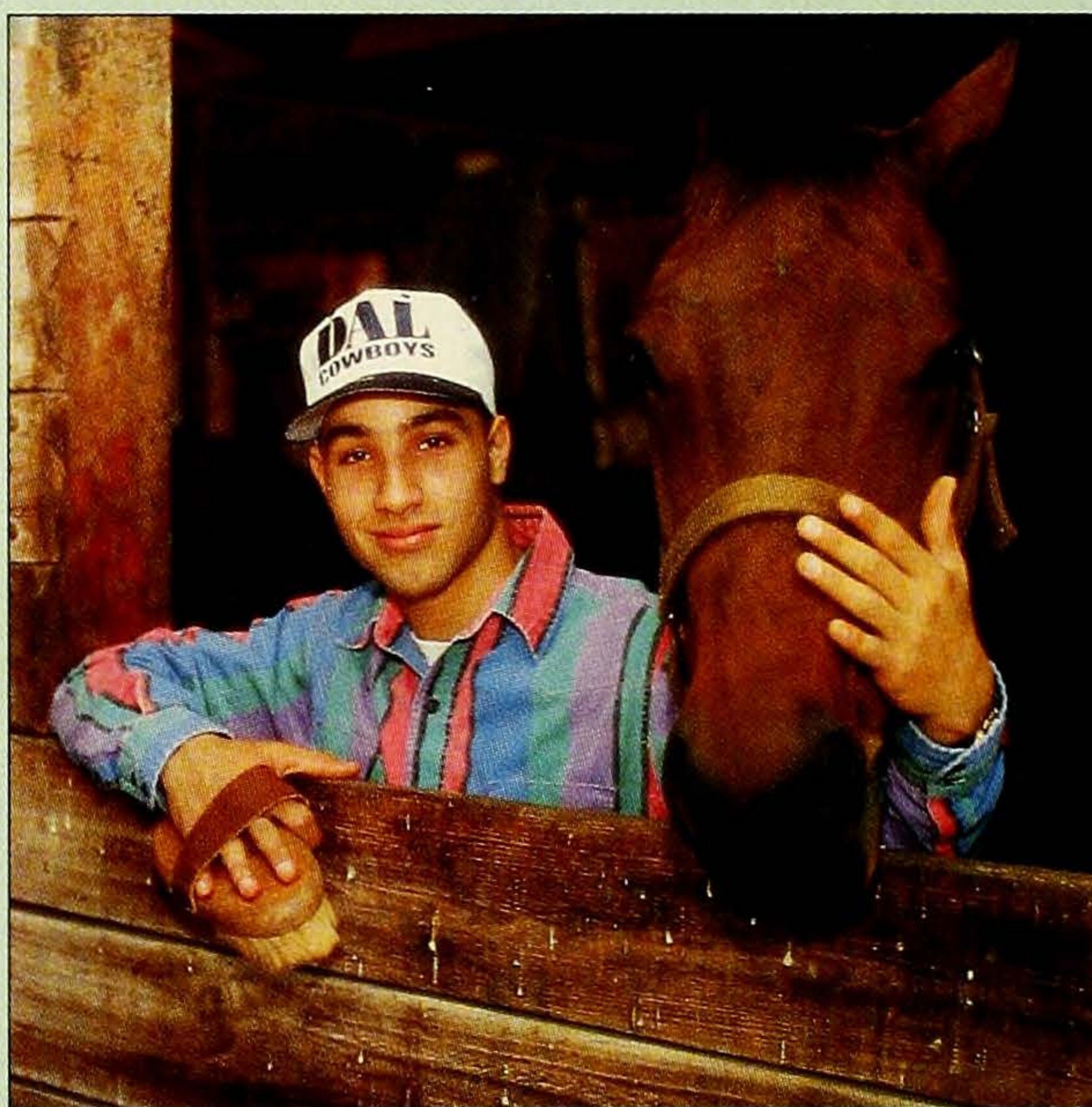
There will also be four halter classes

which may include the following breeds or types; Quarter Horse, conformation hunter, Appaloosa, Arabian, Paint and Morgan.

The four oral reason classes will include two from halter and two from performance judging.

Teams can earn 600 points by placing classes and giving oral reasons and 100 points for the written problem-solving test.

(Continued on Page 10)



Burt Sierra is one of the Weslaco FFA members who helps care for the 20 horses at the school's facilities.

Photos by Lawina McGary

You don't have to own a horse to be active in the Weslaco, Texas, horse program. Twenty-five FFA members train and care for other people's horses.

Although they have trained horses for a while, they're just beginning to compete in judging contests. The chapter's horse judging team just came in eleventh in a field of 35 and the greenhand team won first in the region.

"This was our first year to go to

state and I think we did real well," says advisor John Fulbright. "I think they [students] benefit a lot from giving oral reasons. It teaches them to rationalize their thoughts, to speak in public, develops their poise and self confidence and teaches them to be concerned with their appearance."

"I like the reason classes best because then you get to use all of the big words" says 15-year-old

member John Aguirr. "I think it [giving oral reasons] makes it easier to speak before people."

Aguirr says he's judged in competition three times, and that although he doesn't own any horses, he does show the chapter's.

"The reasoning classes are pretty good," says Izanna Lopez. "I usually do two; one halter and one performance. They help you decide what to say. How to phrase it right. You learn more. You have to have the right terminology."

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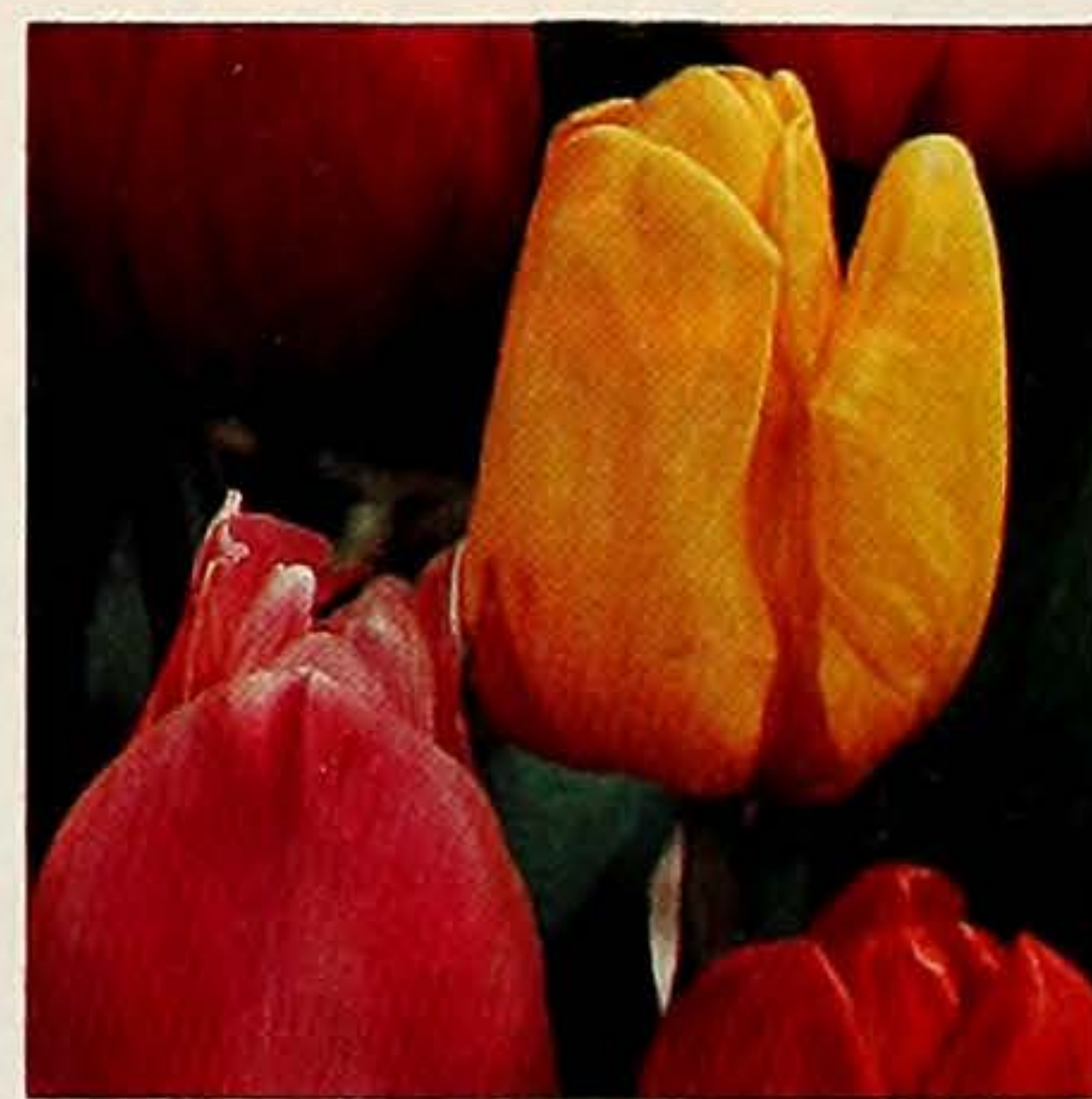
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Horse Judging

(Continued from Page 8)

For more details on this contest ask to take a look at your advisor's May issue of *FFA Advisors... Making A Difference*.

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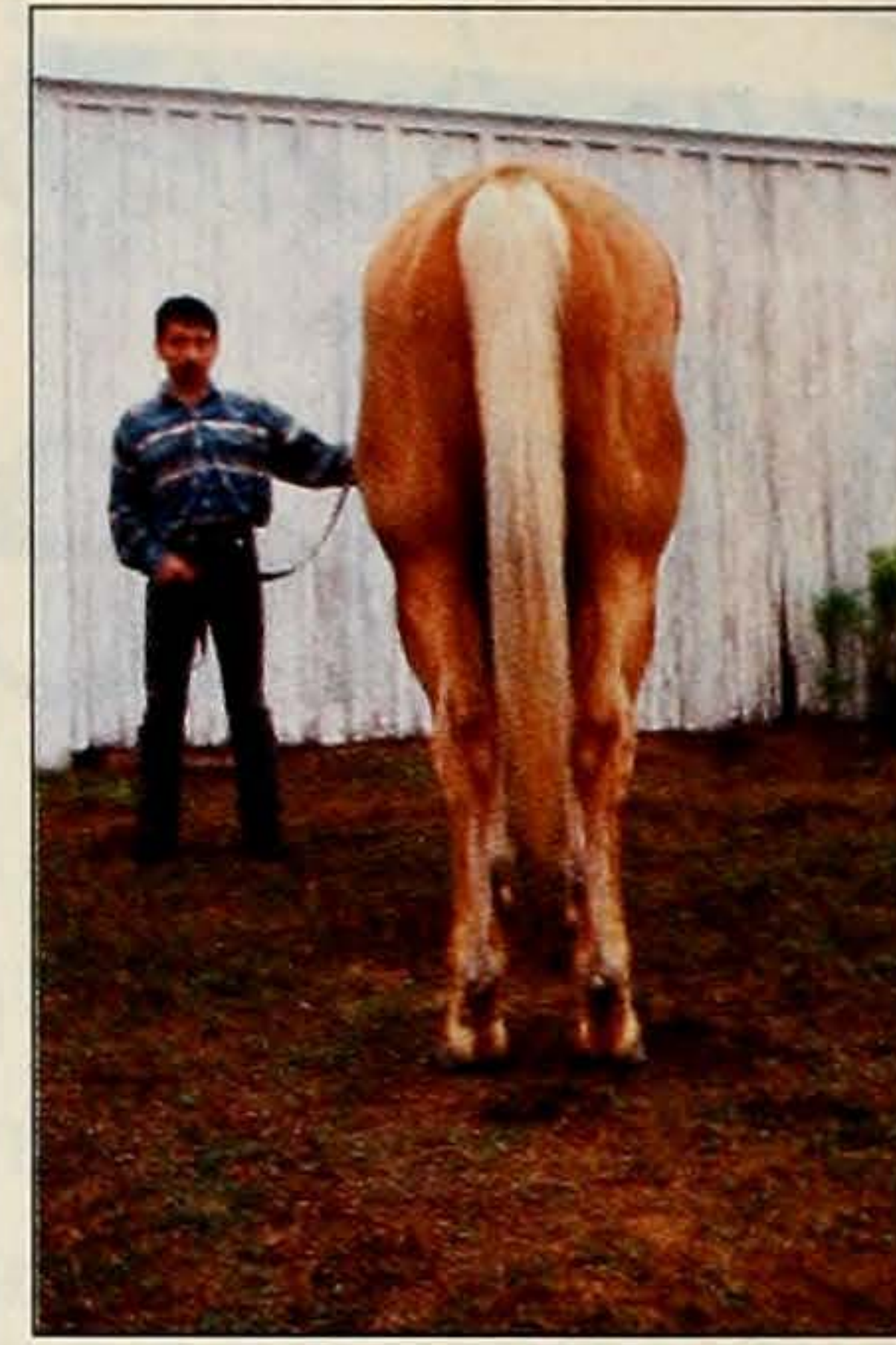
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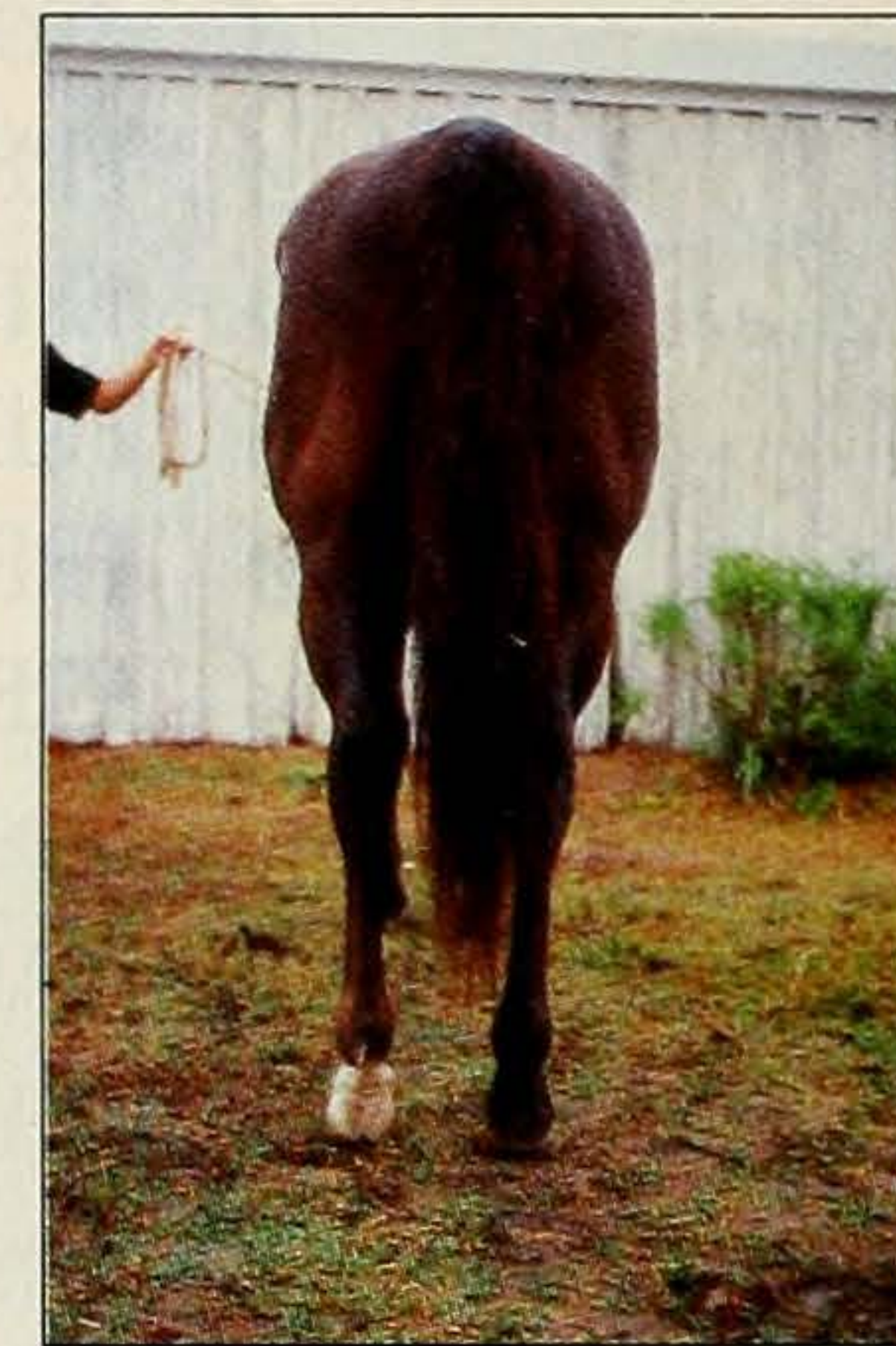
**These textbooks are references for the test. *THE HORSE*, second edition, by J. Warren Evans, Anthony Borton, Harold F. Hintz, and Dale L. Val Vleck, W. H. Freeman and Company, and *MODERN LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTION* by James Gillespie, Delmar Publishers, Inc.

How Do These Horses Rank?

Consider this a warm-up for the National FFA Horse Judging Contest to be held this November at the national FFA convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Rank the horses and check with your advisor to see how you did. Answers are on page 7 of the September *FFA Advisors ...Making a Difference* publication.



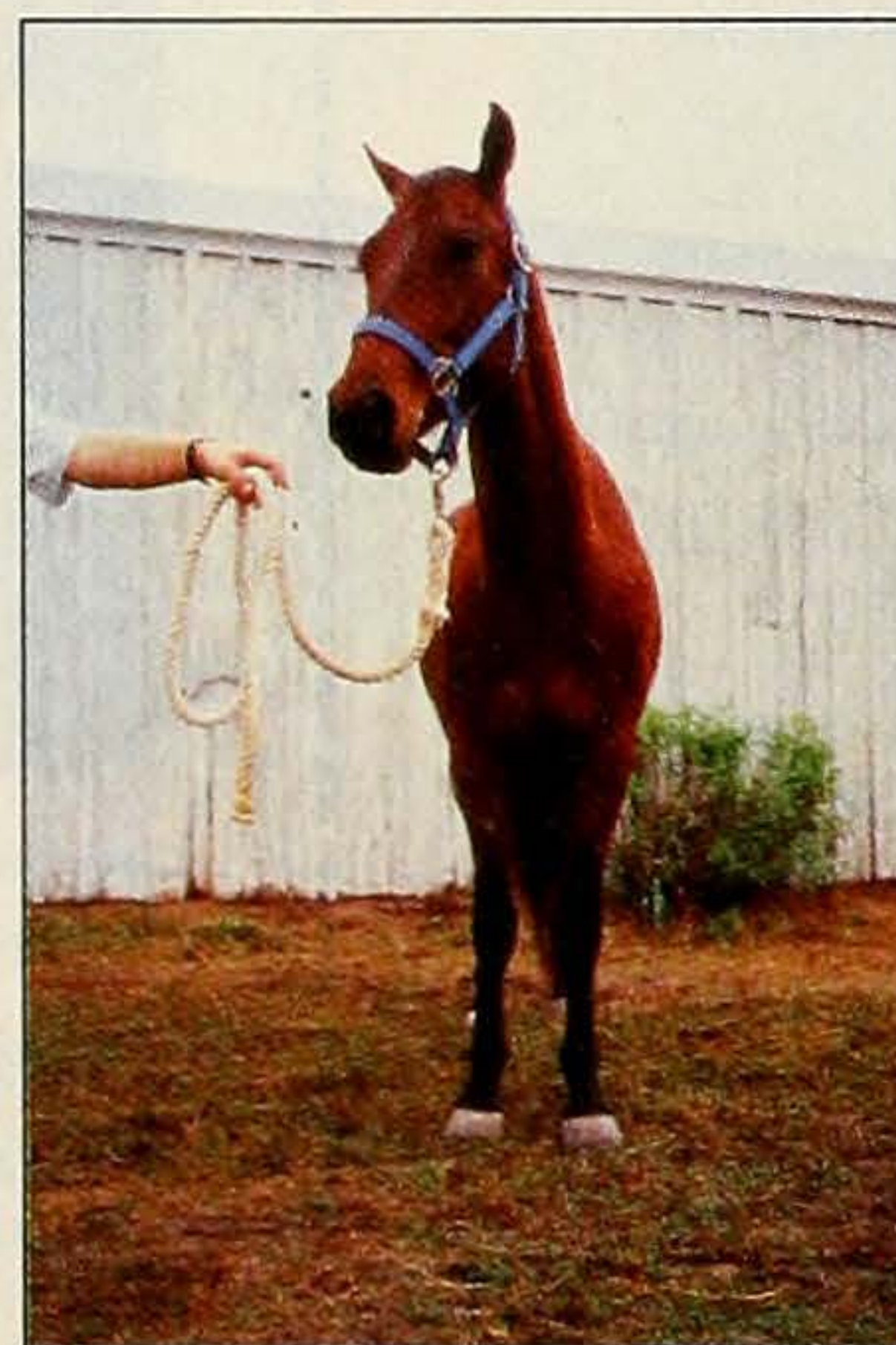
Horse Number 1



Horse Number 2

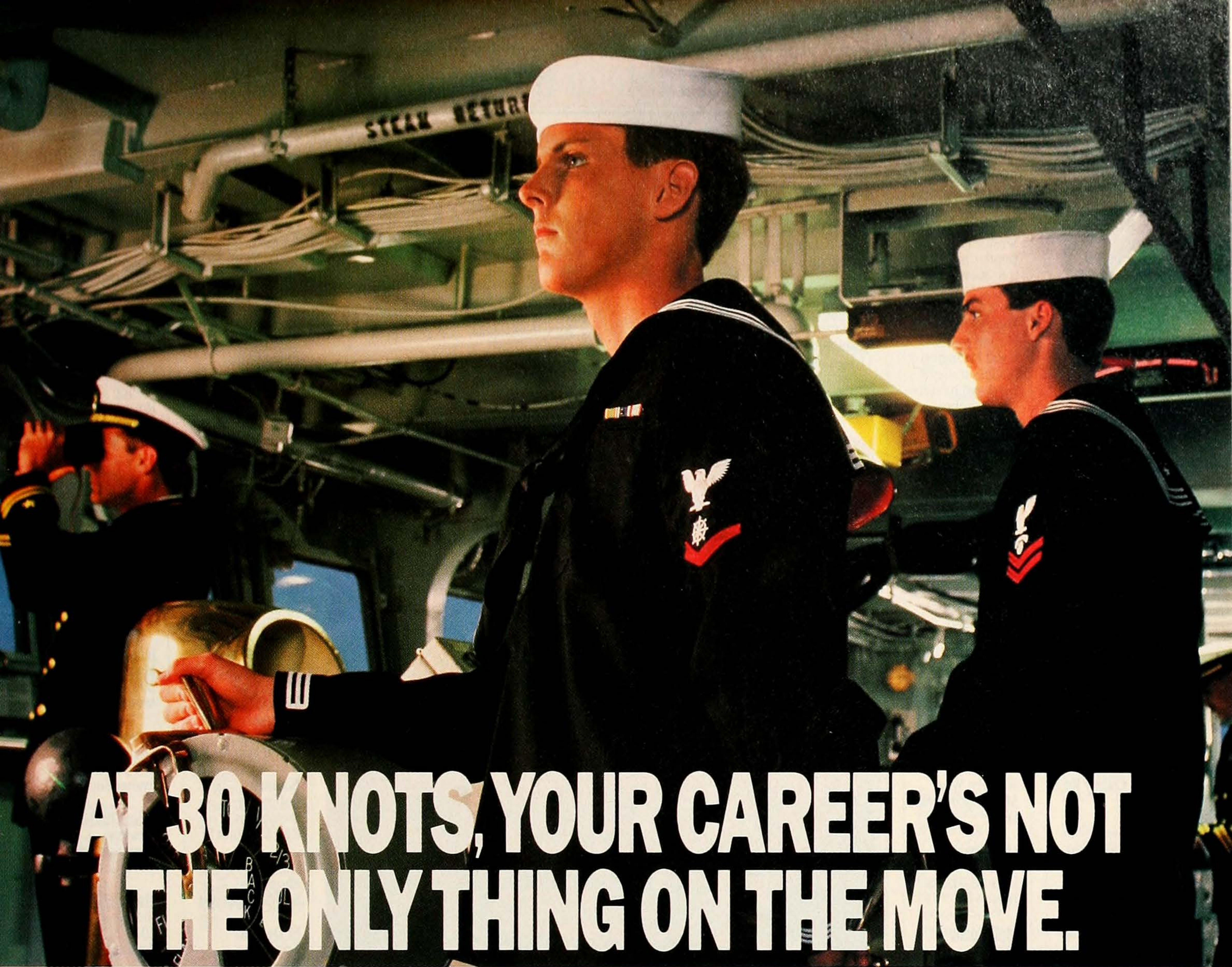


Horse Number 3



Horse Number 4



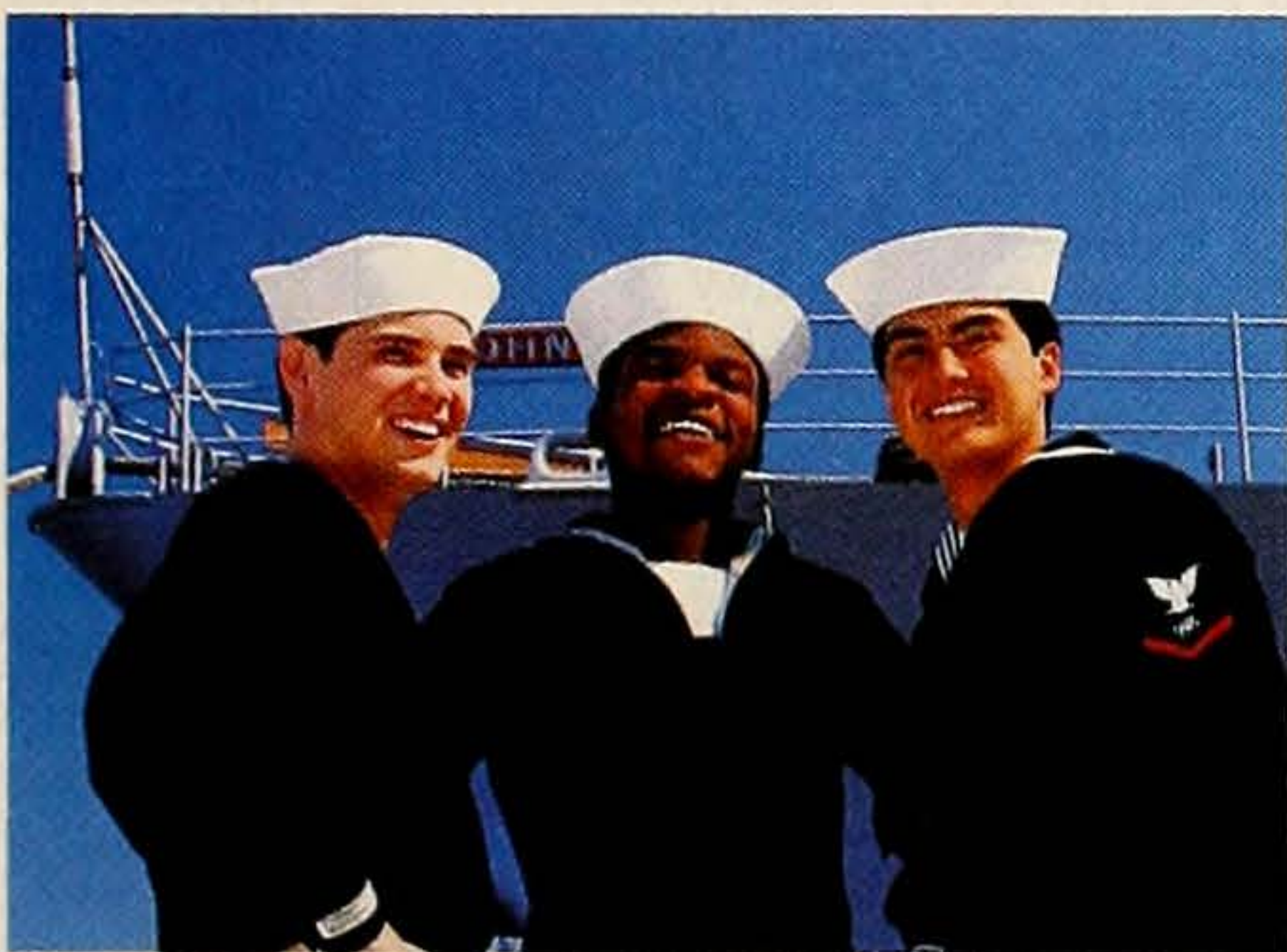


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 The Boot Ranch
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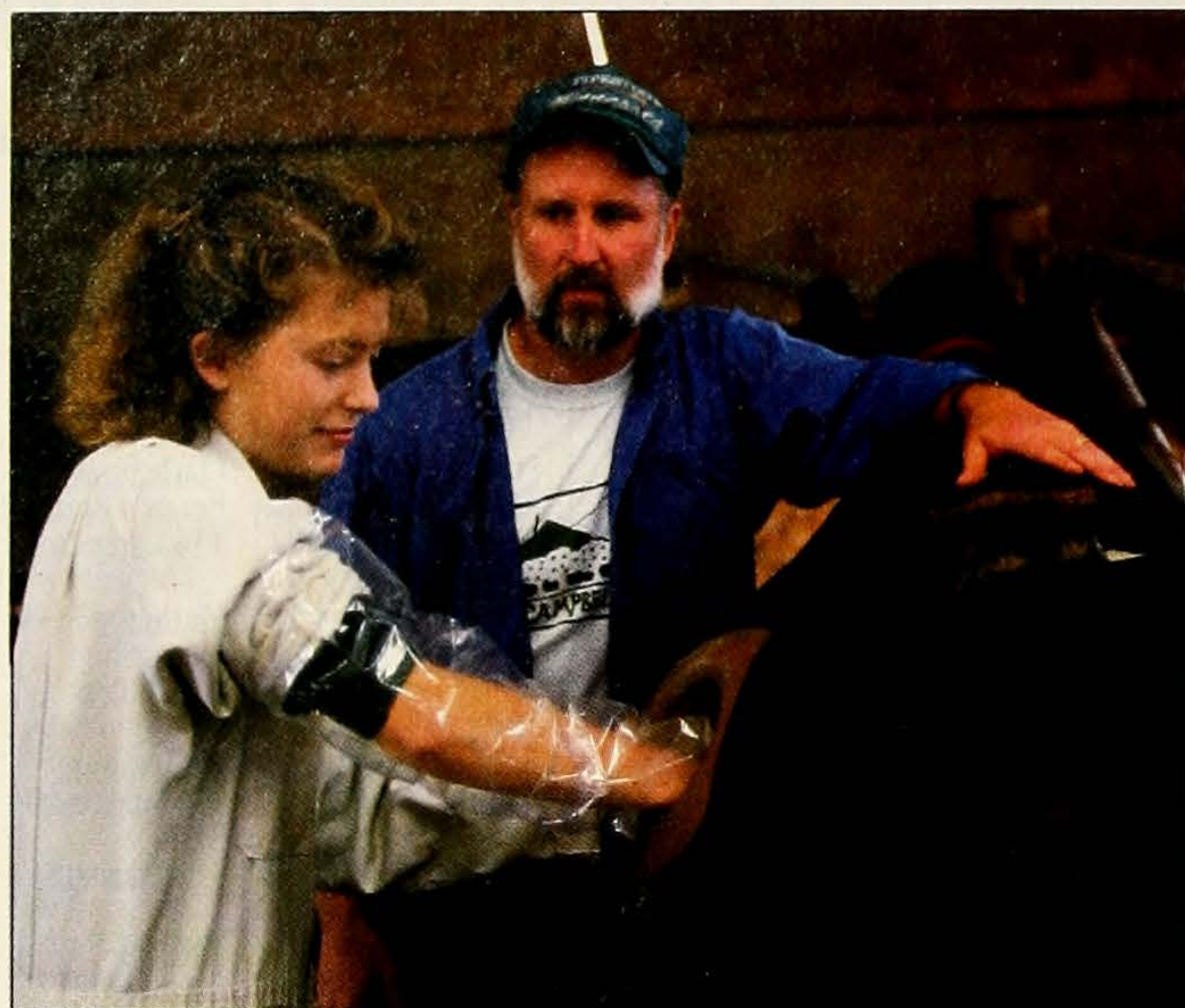
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What was for dinner? Mindy researched by-product feeds from the inside of the cows' stomachs.

A Rumen With A View

By Bob Bruce

Little did I know," says Mindy McCoy of Sumner, Washington, "that when the school year started I would be putting my arm into the stomach of a 1,200-pound... Holstein."

No fooling. The cow McCoy got to know, inside and out, was fistulated; which means it had a permanent porthole in its side.

During a simple class project about feeding dairy cattle, Mindy and her classmates met Washington State University Research Station staff members. But Mindy wanted to go beyond the class assignment and learn more.

"I had recently raised a slaughter steer," she says, "where every pound of grain makes a lot of difference in the size of the check you receive when you sell the animal. I was therefore interested in studying the effects of different feeds on animals."

Traditional cattle feed consists of hay, silage (fermented hay) and grain, says Mindy. Farmers have recently been including food processing by-products such as fish meal, soybean meal, corn gluten meal and distillers grain in their livestock's diets.

As long as these feed substitutes don't have any negative affects on the cattle, says Mindy, they could benefit all concerned. Being both plentiful and low cost they can save the farmer money.

But finding out what goes on inside a cow isn't easy. The bovine stomach is a mysterious thing, with four chambers and more microorganisms than most people would care to contemplate. Plus, most of the really exciting stuff happens in the first and not very easily accessible stomach chamber, the rumen.

"The rumen contains both bacteria and protozoa that use their cellulose-digesting enzymes to break down the cellulose in the feed into nutrients the cows can use."

Assuming that only happy, well-fed protozoa will be fruitful and multiply, Mindy fed two different by-product feed mixes to four cows, and then measured the number of protozoa swimming around in their rumens. She then compared those findings with published reports of protozoa numbers in the stomachs of cows given traditional feed.

The results? Cows do just fine on by-product feeds. "My hypothesis that by-product feeds would produce as many protozoa as commonly used grain and roughage proved to be correct," says Mindy.

The biggest challenge she faced, she says, wasn't having to get used to sticking her hand into a cow's stomach, or even looking through a microscope for hours on end while she counted protozoa. Instead, the real trick was learning effective time management techniques.

"I had to shift everything around in order to make deadlines," she says. "I'd take off during first period of school to go to the research station to take samples or use the lab equipment. Then I'd have to make sure I got everything accomplished before I got back to school. I didn't realize when I started how tedious lab work can be."

To survive she learned to ask fellow students for help, and found ways to involve them in her project that benefited both them and her.

The bovine stomach is a mysterious thing, with four chambers and more microorganisms than most people would care to contemplate.

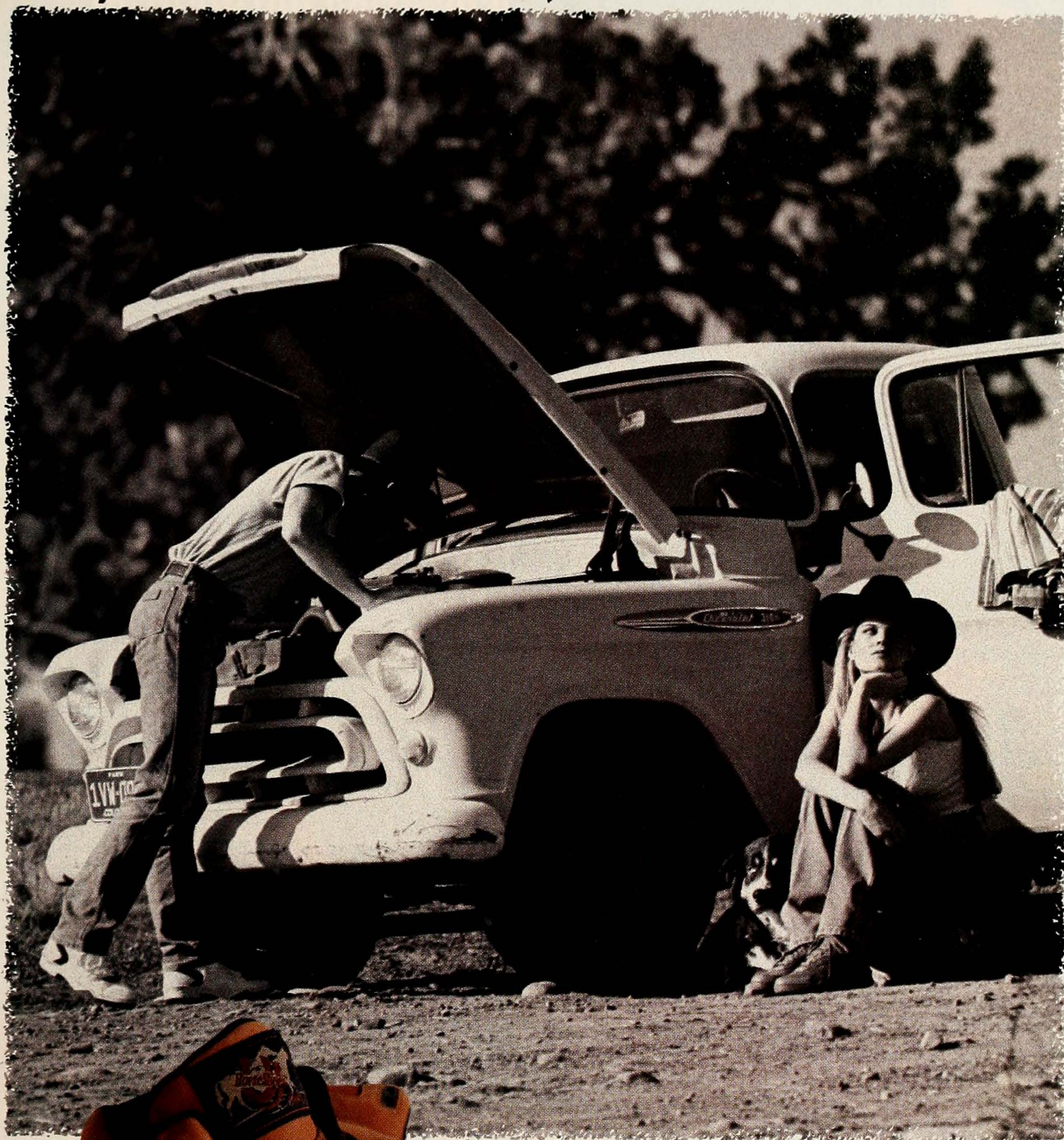
"I really enjoyed it when other students from the high school worked with me. Not being agriculture students, they brought an interesting perspective to what I was doing."

One of the keys to the success of her project was access to the fistulated cows. But, says Mindy, anybody else with a willingness to ask for help would be able to get the same kind of cooperation for their project.

"When I first got involved in the project," she says, "I thought 'Oh boy, this is a real research project, and I'm not a scientist, right?' But if it's something you're interested in, you find out you learn a lot and it's not as hard as it seems. I would do it again if they'd let me."

...

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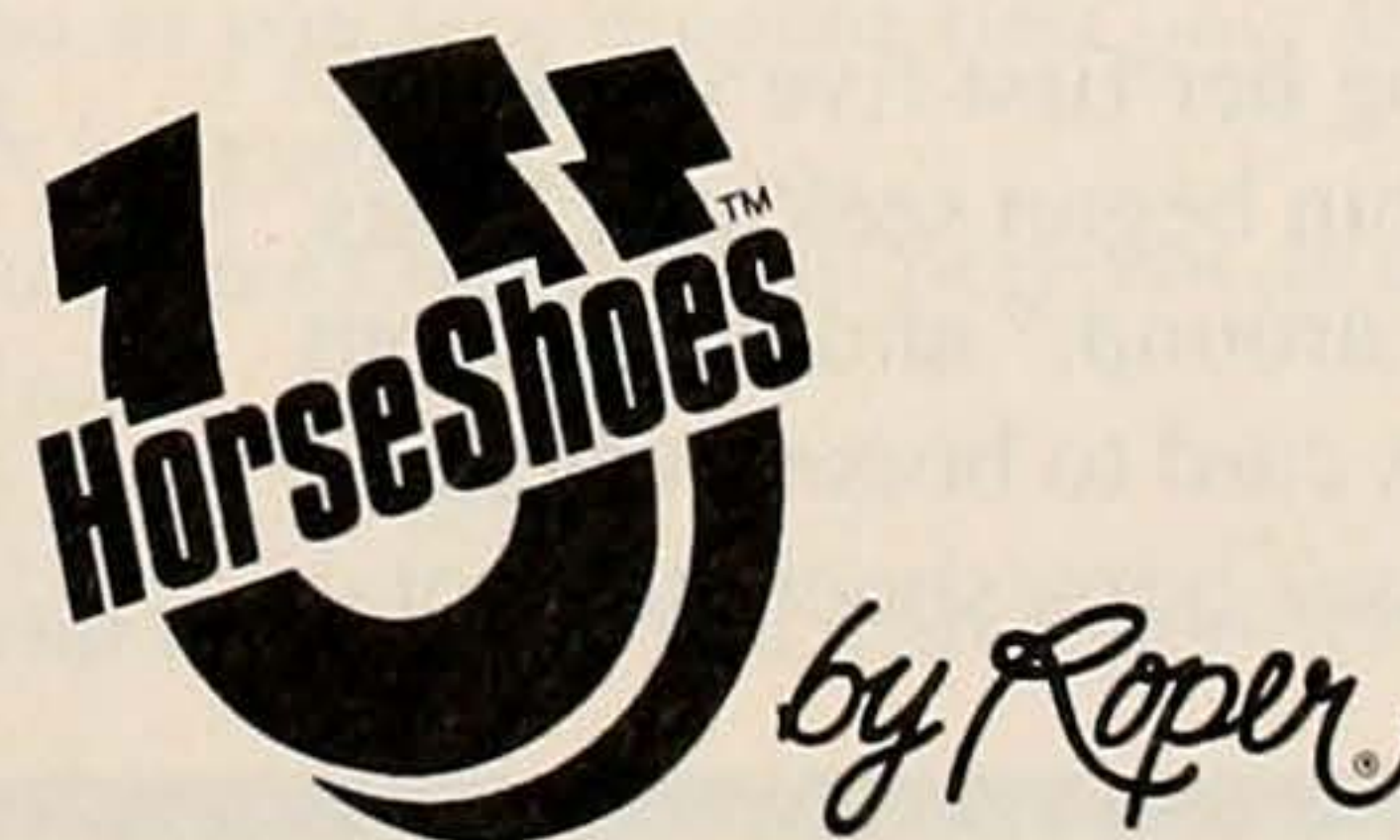




Photo by Connie Wilson

Robin Roth watches closely as fellow horseshoe school student, Wilford Campbell, from Jamacia, trims a hoof.

Hoofin' It!

By Bonnie Speer

You can always make money horseshoeing," says FFA member Robin Roth. She should know. The Washington, Oklahoma, high school junior earns as much as \$40 an hour making sure horses' feet are properly fitted with shoes.

She says other FFA members can do the same with just a little time and education and a lot of determination.

Roth enrolled in her family's horseshoeing school when she was fourteen. Today, she is a part-time instructor there. There are a handful of schools scattered across the nation. Your agricultural teacher should be able to help you find one.

Following her first five weeks of classes, Robin began seeking clients. She "called around," and handed out her business card to horse owners.

She advises horseshoers to contact

all the big barn owners in their area and "try to get the full account; every horse in the barn." She says this way the farrier doesn't have to drive so far, which saves time and gas.

"As you progress," says Roth, "you should try to do more and more barns and less and less backyard horses."

Sometimes, she says she will notify her customers where she's horseshoeing and ask that the horse owners meet her there.

Roth shods most horses every six weeks while she replaces race horses shoes about every four weeks. She usually just trims farm horses hooves, although she may use corrective shoeing for problems such as toeing in and toeing out.

After high school, says Roth, "I'll be working with horses. I know that I'll be shoeing them at least part time." ...

How horseshoeing paves this FFA member's way to the future

What To Do, What To Read

- Roth recommends reading the "bible" of the trade, Doug Butler's Principles of Horseshoeing, Volume II.
- Find out how to be a certified farrier by contacting the American Farriers Association, 489 Iron Works Pike, Lexington, KY 40511, (606) 233-7411.
- Feel free to write to the Oklahoma Horseshoeing School, Inc., 3000 N. I-35, Oklahoma City, OK 73111, to find out about their tuition rates.

Which Course Is For You?

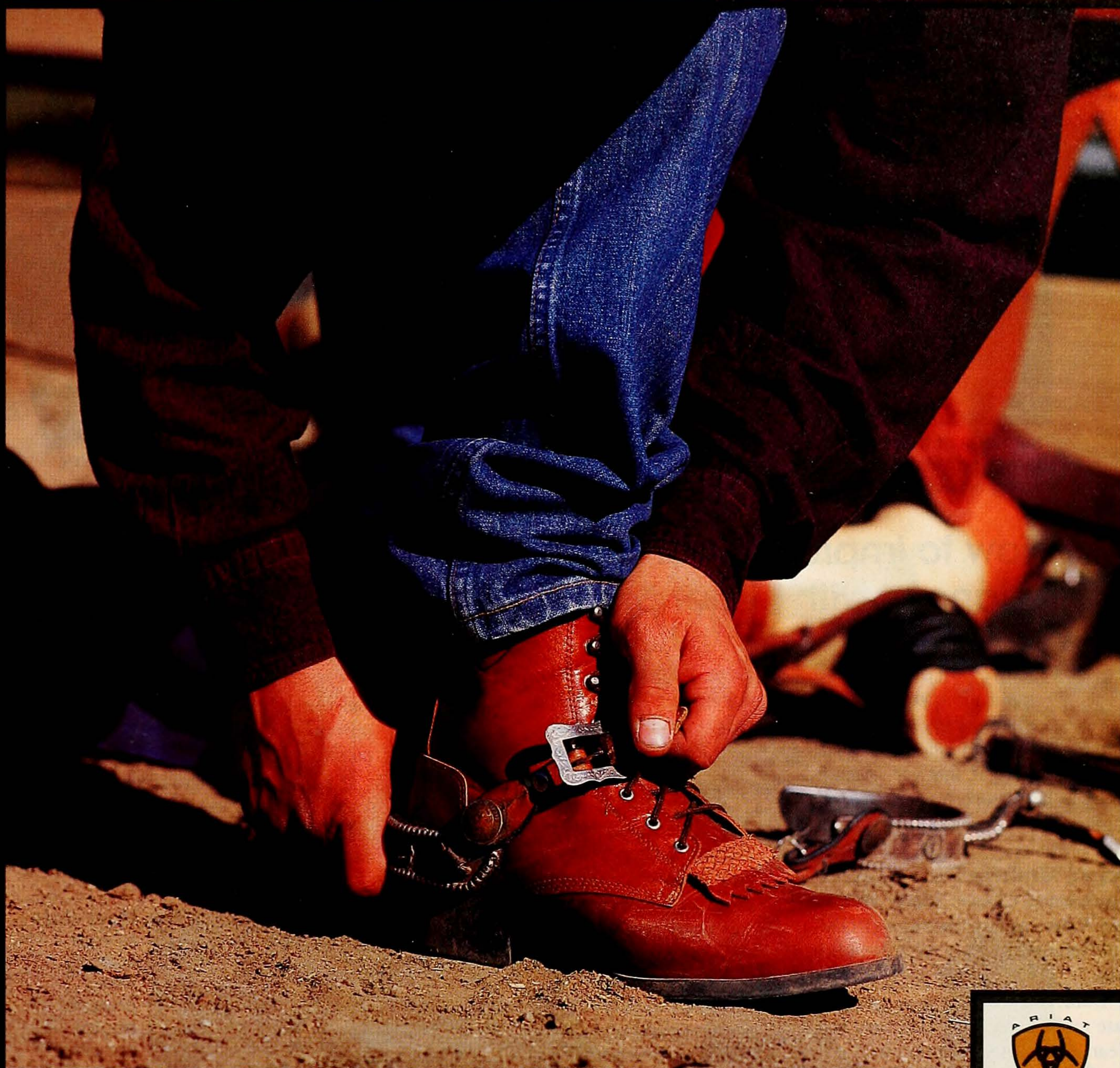
Roth says her family's two-week course should provide a part-time farrier with basic skills.

The eight-week course provides entry level experience into full-time professional horseshoeing. This is for the person who wants to be competent in all facets of the trade.

With a twelve-week course, you can be certified at the journeyman level, or you can obtain a race track license.

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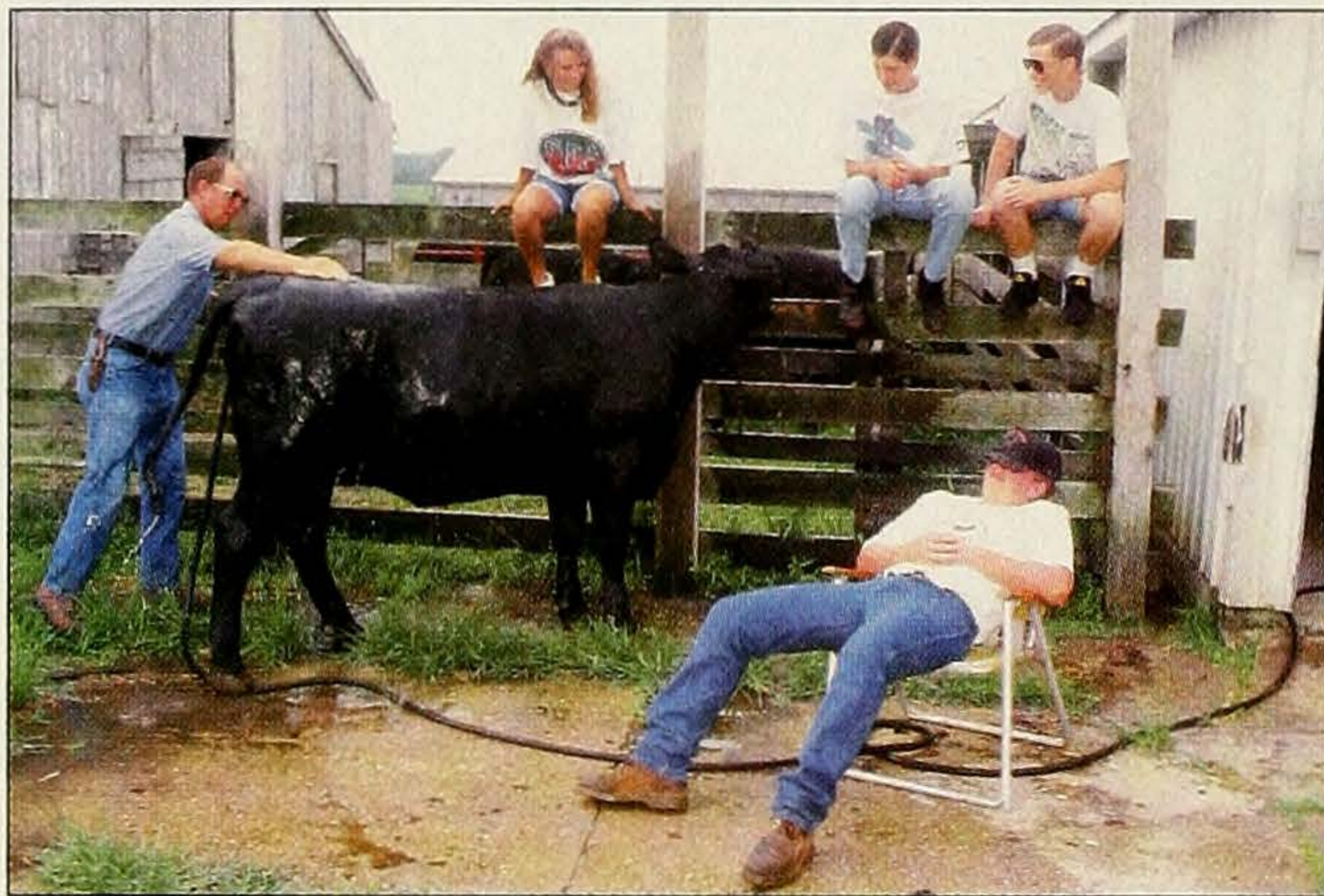
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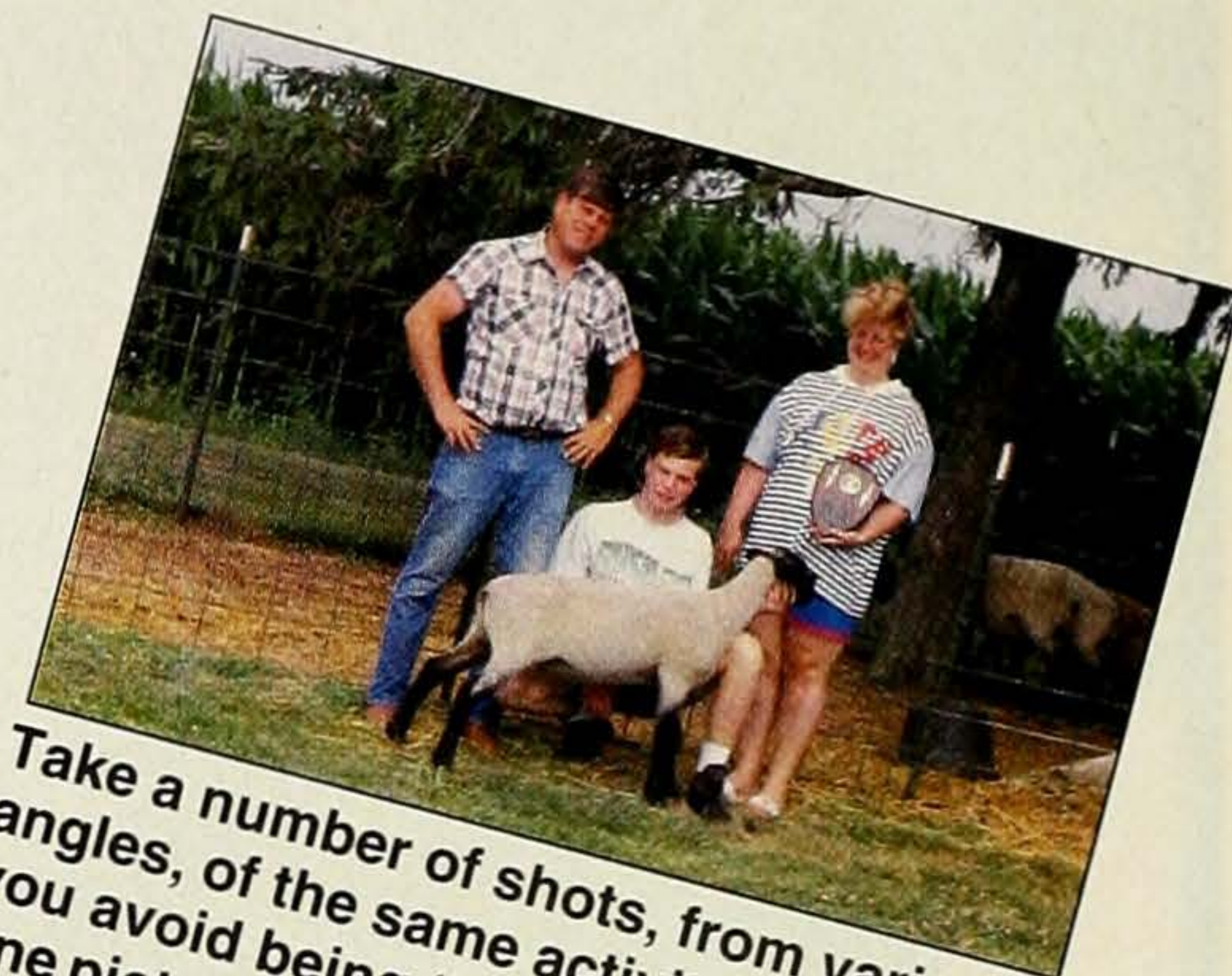
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What's Wrong With This Picture?



The moral of this photo? Some photos do more damage than good. Make sure yours are supporting instead of damaging evidence.



Take a number of shots, from various angles, of the same activity. That way you avoid being "stranded" with only one picture of a crucial scene—only to find out your subject has his or her eyes closed.

How to improve your award chances with better photos

When you fill out an award application, you're entering a court of FFA law. You must convince the expert judges that your program is special; that yes, you are guilty of hard work. Your photos and captions are "supporting evidence" on FFA proficiency, American FFA Degree, Marketing Plan Project, Agriscience, Chapter Safety, Building Our American Communities (BOAC), and National Chapter Award applications.

Dark, fuzzy photos won't do your case much good. The facts must be clear...easy to see. Quality, well-planned photos give you a head-start in building your case. They set your application apart from the competition.

"I like pictures that show the students' programs," says Don Prather, a veteran agricultural instructor at Clinton, Illinois. "I also like to see the student in the picture. I like to see them doing something if possible, like harvesting, planting, or working with the livestock." Attention all hopeful

award winners: you, standing in front of a grain bin or fish tank, is *not* what the judges have in mind.

Planning Ahead

It takes real planning to take photos that tell the complete story of your chapter project or Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program because:

- many projects and SAE programs last from three to four years;
- you can only capture many important project events on film when they happen, which won't necessarily be the week before the application is due.

Taking the Pictures

Even if you own an auto-everything camera, taking good pictures still requires a thorough knowledge of film, equipment, and technique. Consider these tips:

- The best all-around film choice is 200 ASA. It's flexible enough to do well in bright and moderately dim light.

- Hold your camera steady and gently squeeze the shutter release. Camera movement can cause fuzzy, out-of-focus pictures.

- Keep your camera lens clean. Lint on a lens can cause misty looking pictures.

- For dramatic photos, choose your camera angle carefully. Move around



Move close to your subject when possible for photos that are more dramatic than distant shots.

your subject. You may find the subject looks better at either a high or low viewing angle.

- Watch out for cluttered backgrounds as well as trees or telephone poles

(Continued on Page 20)

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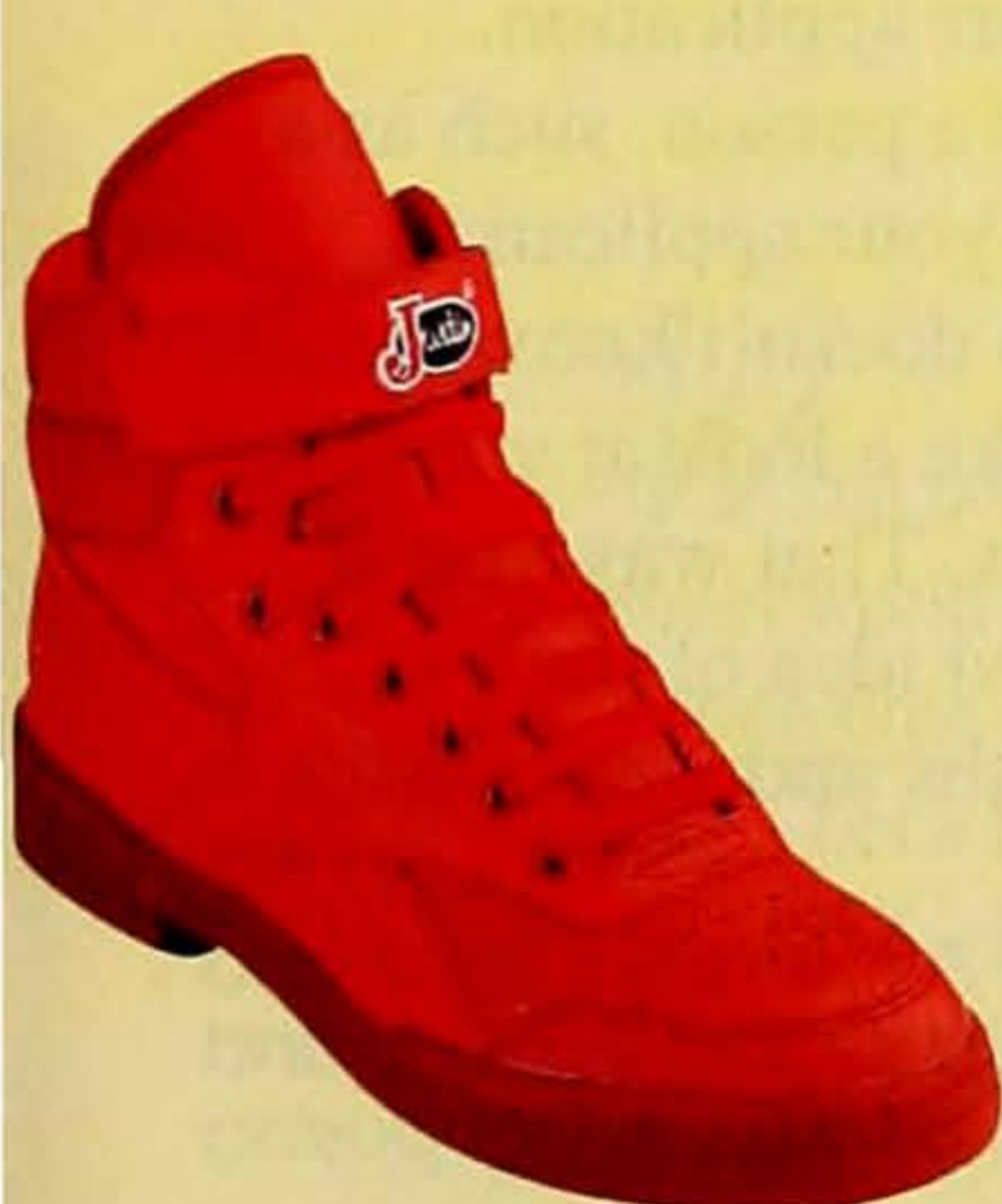
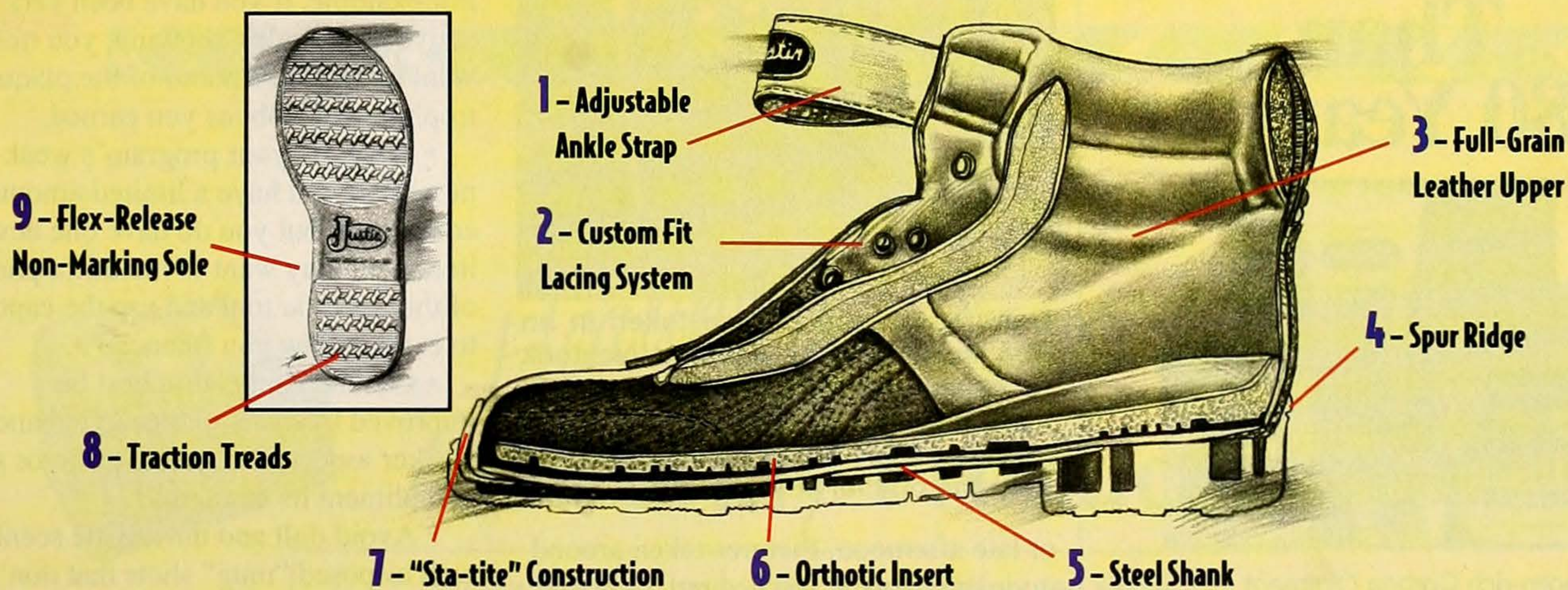
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What's Wrong With This Picture (Continued from Page 18)

"growing" out of your subject's head! Each picture should have only one center of interest. You can eliminate all distracting elements by moving in close to your subject or by keeping the foreground and background simple.

- Move close to your subject when possible for photos that are more dramatic than distant shots.

- Always focus on the eyes or face of your subject.

- Take a number of shots, from various angles, of the same activity. That way you avoid being "stranded" with only one picture of a crucial scene—only to find out your subject has his or her eyes closed. Also, take photos at various light settings, especially if you are shooting slide film. A film processor can "correct" an under or overexposed color print, but not a slide.

- Try to shoot during early morning



Don't have your picture taken in an FFA jacket if you're washing livestock or cleaning a greasy engine. If you need photos showing yourself working, use an FFA cap or T-shirt rather than the official FFA jacket.

or late afternoon. Pictures taken around noon may appear washed out.

- Make sure your light source is behind you and not your subject.

- If your subject is wearing a hat with a brim, you may need to use a flash to avoid a shadow across the face. If needed, ask your subject to either ditch the hat or tilt it back a bit.

- Have your subject dress in reasonably clean clothing. Avoid wild hats and shirts with questionable words or images.

- Don't have your picture taken in an FFA jacket if you're washing livestock or cleaning a greasy engine. If you need photos showing yourself working, use an FFA cap or T-shirt rather than the official FFA jacket.



Avoid dull and unrealistic scenes as well as posed "mug" shots that don't add anything to your application.

Selecting the "Best" Photos

Did you know you can only include six pictures with your proficiency application? It's important to make each picture count.

Before you pick photos, ask yourself the following questions:

- What are my program's strengths? For example, if you have been very active in livestock showing, you may want to include a photo of the plaques, trophies and ribbons you earned.

- What are your program's weaknesses? If you have a limited amount of equipment, but you do have one new item, you may want to include a photo of this specific tool and use the caption to explain how you financed it.

- Can the application best be improved by using photos to enhance its weaker aspects, or by using photos to compliment its strengths?

- Avoid dull and unrealistic scenes as well as posed "mug" shots that don't add anything to your application.

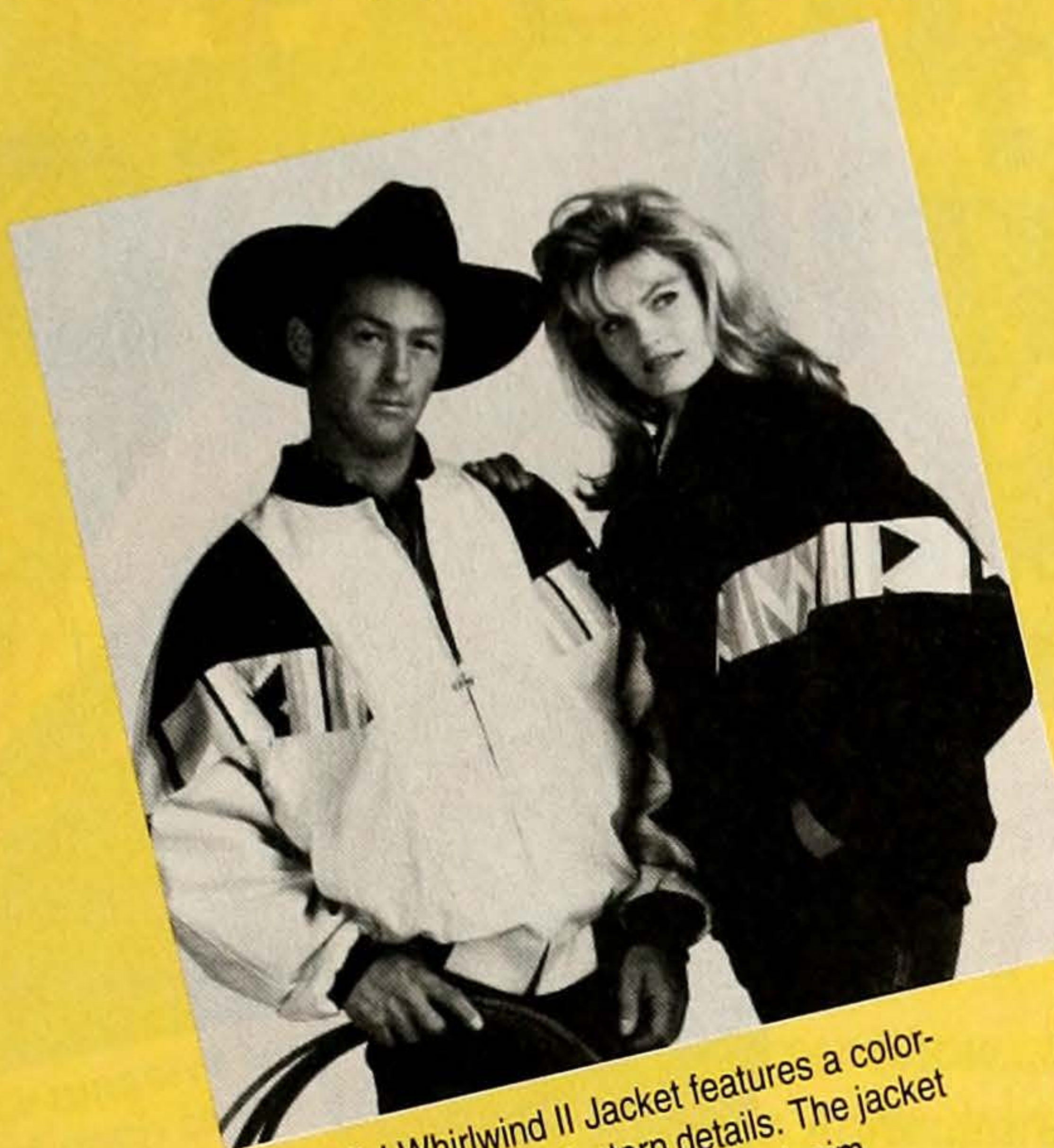
To find out how a person, such as a judge, would view your application, have someone who doesn't know details of your program take a look at your photos and captions. That way you'll get a good, unbiased idea of the applications strengths and weaknesses.

We'd like to thank FFA members Ryan and Daryn Black, Sherry and Sam Arnold, and advisor Don Prather, Clinton, Ill., for posing in these pictures.

"Okay, so I've got the photo, what next?" We'll show you how to write captions in a future issue of *FFA New Horizons*.

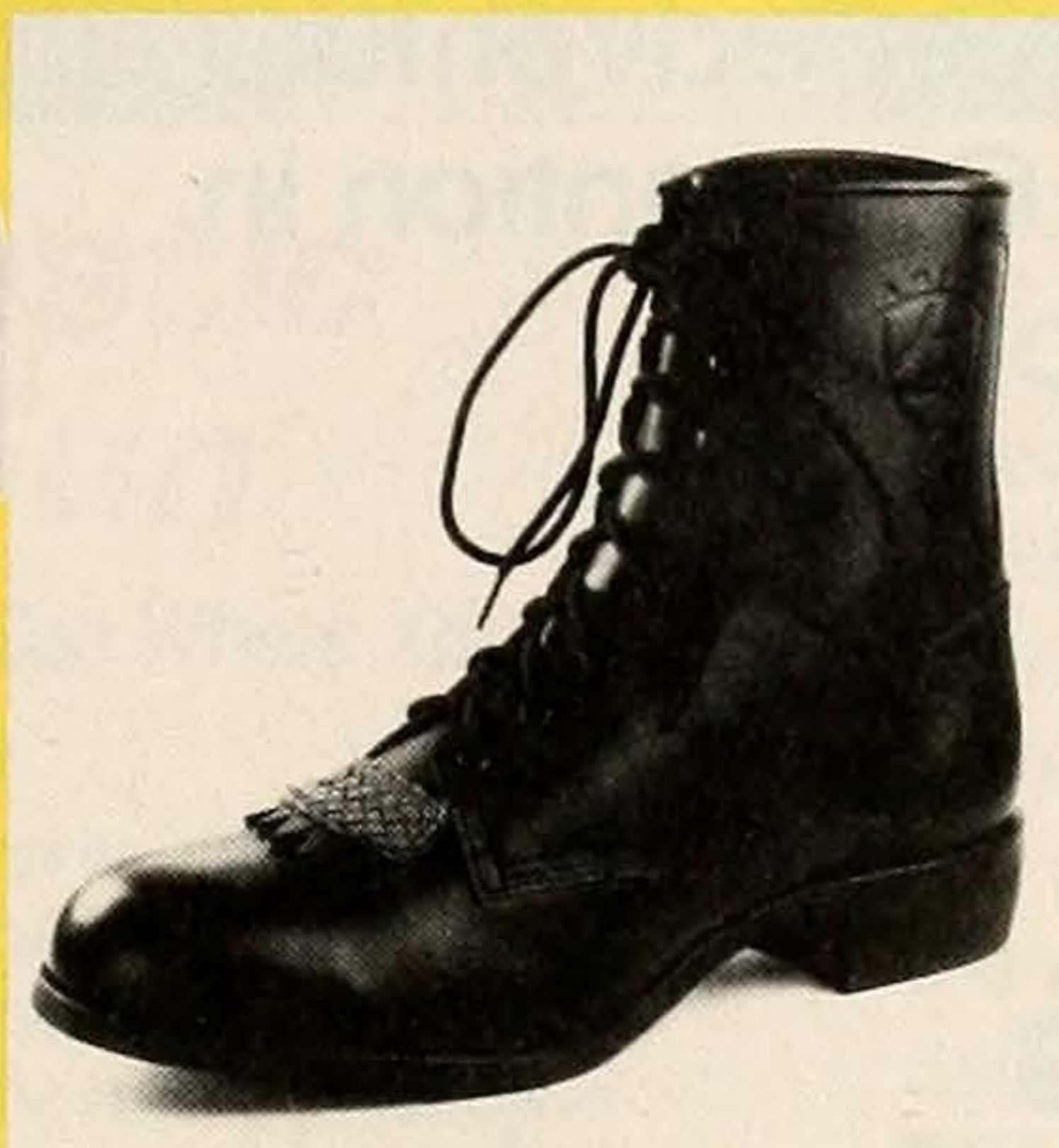
WHAT'S NEW

Western Wear '94



The Walls' Whirlwind II Jacket features a color-blocked design with Western details. The jacket is available in 100 percent duck or denim.

Ariat International's Competitor(TM), a lace up roper for men and women, is featured here. These boots feature full-grain leather uppers and moisture-wicking interior lining. The women's boots are available in black, tan, green, honey, wine, distressed brown and nubuck blonde. The men's version comes in black, honey and distressed brown.



Lexol Exotic Boot Care, which is formulated to clean, condition and protect all kinds of exotic leather, comes in four ounce containers.



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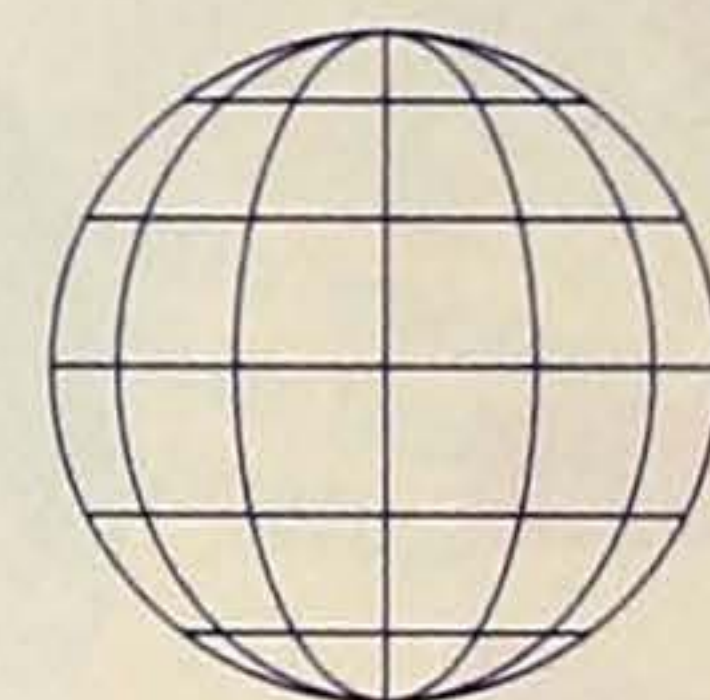
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You'll get—

Monstrous Motivation

Put down that remote control. Open your mind. And MOOOOVE with Flo Jo!

Olympic gold-medalist Florence Griffith Joyner (Flo Jo) is just one of many speakers who will get you movin' on the right track toward your goals.

She earned the title "World's Fastest Woman," with her world record times in the 100- and 200-meter events, and has elevated women's track to a new level with her three Gold and one Silver medal-winning performances in the 1988 Summer Olympics. Flo Jo will share her story of independence, individualism and determination at two reflection sessions on Wednesday.

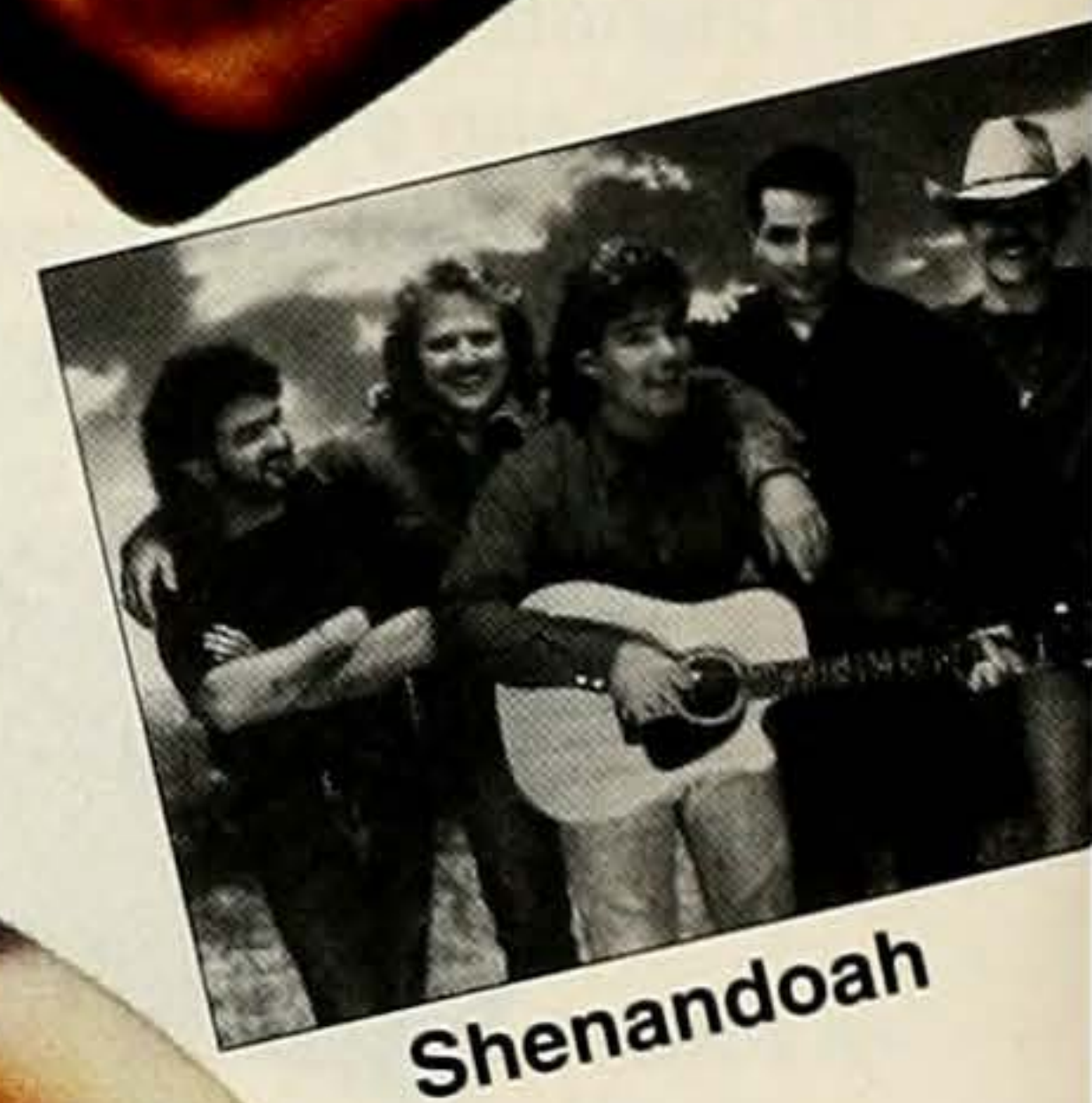
Guy Kawasaki, formerly with Apple Computer, Inc., will show you how to find a cause, make it grow and then harvest the results. The author of *Selling The Dream* played a key role in one of the great success stories of American business: the Macintosh personal computer.

The Leadership Advantage

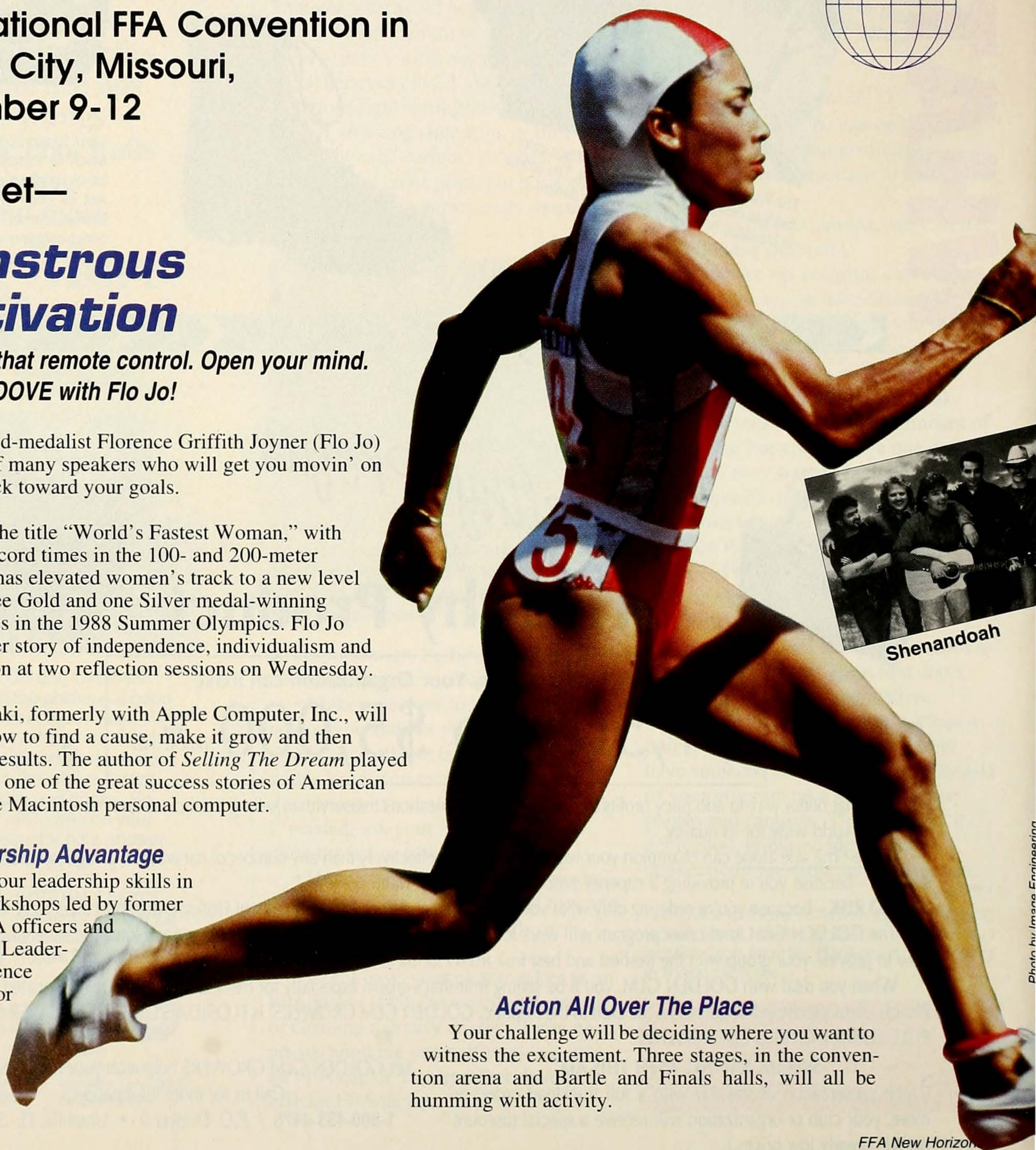
Jump start your leadership skills in exciting workshops led by former national FFA officers and Washington Leadership Conference and Made For Excellence counselors.

Action All Over The Place

Your challenge will be deciding where you want to witness the excitement. Three stages, in the convention arena and Bartle and Finals halls, will all be humming with activity.



Shenandoah



Convention

Watch out for massive amounts of laser lights at each of the ten convention arena sessions.

Awesome City Sights

American Royal Delights Rodeo

Watch current world champions, like Ty Murray, Tuff Hedeman, and The Etbauer Brothers, tear up the rodeo ring in bull riding, bare back bronc and saddle bronc, women's barrel racing, calf roping and steer wrestling events.

Entertainers

"She's Got A Mind of Her Own," by John Berry is just one of the songs and country music performers you can hear at American Royal shows Wednesday through Saturday of the convention. Also appearing are The Tractors, Shenandoah and Diamond Rio.

Tour The Next Generation Of Technology

Watch TWA airplanes being repaired, vehicles being put together with robotic equipment and self-propelled combines, grain and corn heads being assembled. You're sure to find high-tech processes and cultural and historical treasure troves on Kansas City's tours.

Fantastic FFA Fun

Career Show...See Where You Fit Into Agriculture

More than 700 representatives from agribusinesses, truck and tractor companies, universities, fund raising businesses, and the military set up at the Career Show to recruit and showcase careers. "It really shows you opportunities for the future. You get to learn about the business world," says 17-year-old FFA member Dale Griffith, Uniontown, Kansas. And, "It's the place to go if you want to meet someone from every state." More than 30,000 members will rub corduroy-covered elbows in the show that covers 10 football fields worth of space.

Boot Scootin' Boogie

You'll meet new friends from all over the world at the FFA dances, Thursday and Friday nights.

The Inside Scoop On Cool FFA Stuff

You'll be the first to see new FFA items such as Convention '94 T-shirts, caps and sweatshirts and other fun FFA fashions. Many of the more than 500 items will be on sale.

Get Your Food—Fast

In between your day of feasting on Kansas City sights and leadership events, you can catch a quick bite to eat at the Food Court. Nine of your favorite restaurants will be serving burgers, chicken, pizza, Mexican food and desserts.

Convention Info

Check with your advisor to find out about all of the other speakers, motivational seminars, tours, contests and awards, entertainers and events at the convention. He or she will have details from the September issue of the publication, *FFA Advisors...Making A Difference*.



Kansas City Area FFA Convention Coalition

The FFA would like to recognize and thank the following businesses and associations providing undesigned support for the 1994 National FFA Convention. The **Kansas City Area FFA Convention Coalition** includes:

American Royal Association, Inc.
Boatmen's First National Bank of Kansas City
City of Kansas City
Farmland Industries, Inc.
Fermenta Animal Health Company
The H&R Block Foundation
Hallmark Corporate Foundation
Kansas City Power & Light Company
The Kansas City Star Company
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Additional Kansas City area sponsors providing specific project support to the National FFA Convention include:

Commerce Bank of Kansas City
Kansas City Life Insurance Company
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IN KANSAS CITY:

Butler Manufacturing Company
Miles Inc., Agriculture Division
Universal Dairy Equipment, Inc.
Western Retail Implement and Hardware Assn.

Questions Answered Here

You Asked!



Q: What do I do when competing against a friend?

A: Through thick and thin you share *EVERYTHING*... with your friend until...dum dee dum dum...FFA contest season hits. Because you have so many interests in common, it's natural for you to want to excel in similar areas as your best buds.

Are the possible benefits of competing against a friend bigger than the possible pitfalls?

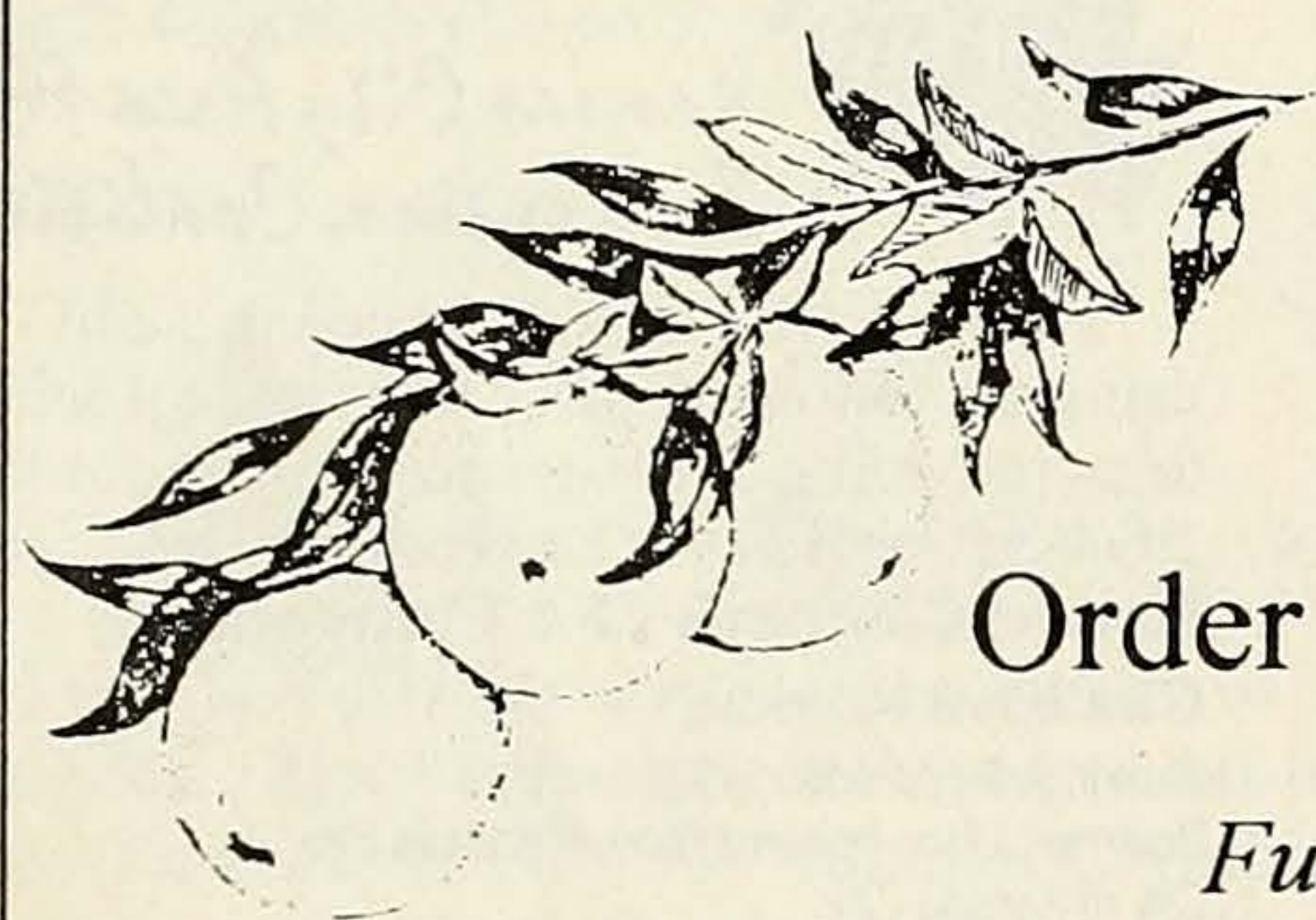
Let's see. On the plus side: you may learn important life skills, earn recognition and rewards, meet interesting new

people, have so much fun you can hardly stand it and gain confidence in your abilities. Then there's the down side. What if you *WIN* and your friend resents you for it? What if you *LOSE*? Will your friend rub it in? Will you develop a bad attitude toward your former ally? What if one of you gets jealous of the other?

You could "what if" yourself to death. So, before you even get into this viscous cycle of speculation, examine your motives for wanting to compete. Is this something you *really* want, or do you plan to participate only to show that you can compete with and beat your friend? Is winning the most important thing, or is learning and

growing all you can along the way your priority?

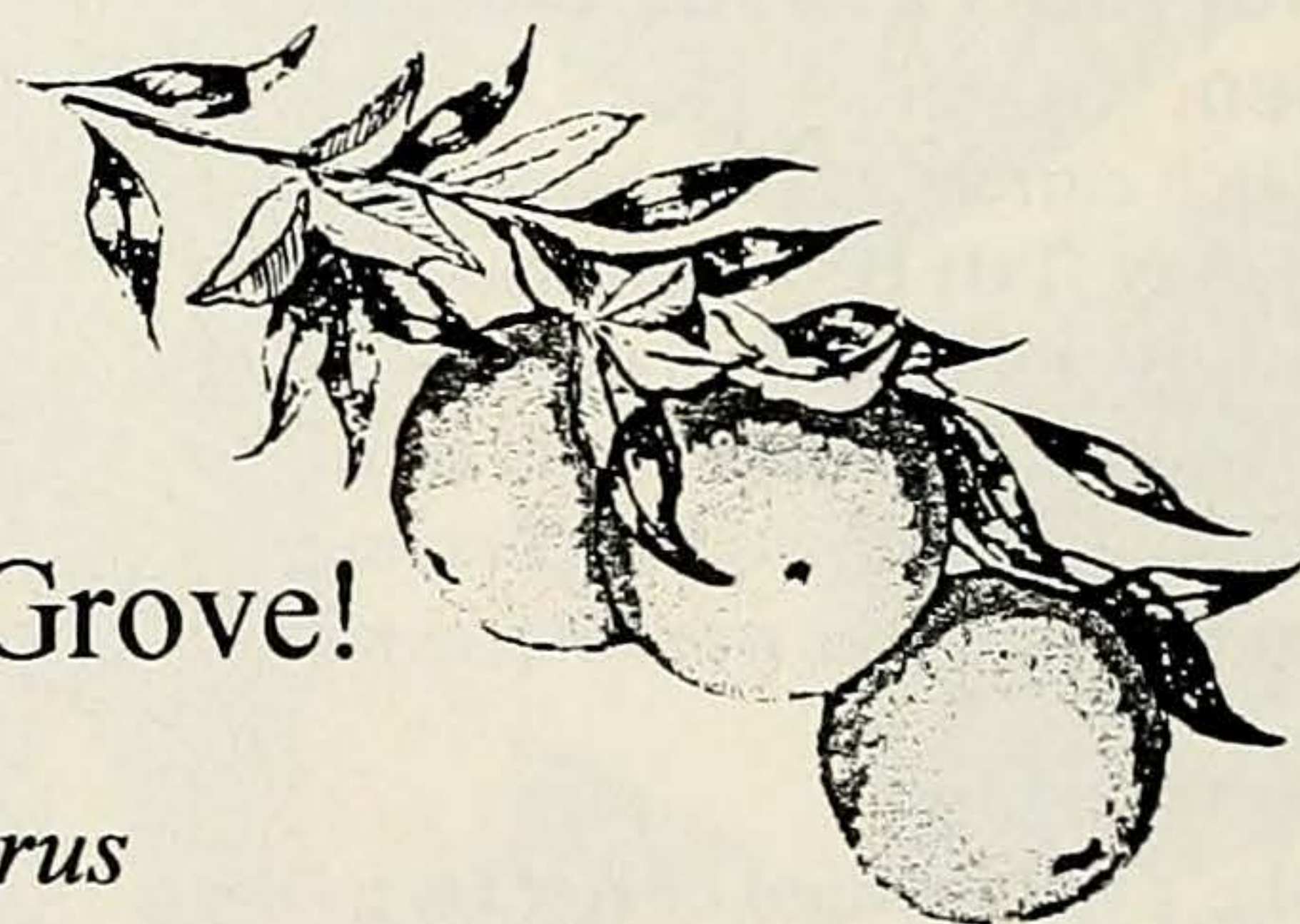
If you decide you are sincerely interested in the contest, office, or whatever the event is, go for it; right after you talk to your friend about your fears. Offer to practice together. (CAUTION: This will not work for everyone.) Make sure you work hard, do your best and agree to stay friends no matter who wins. If you do win, don't gloat! Wait for your friend's initial sting of defeat to wear off. Then be supportive and sympathetic. If you lose, don't be determined to make your friend miserable with the "guilties." After all, if you're true friends, you'll be happy about each other's successes. ...



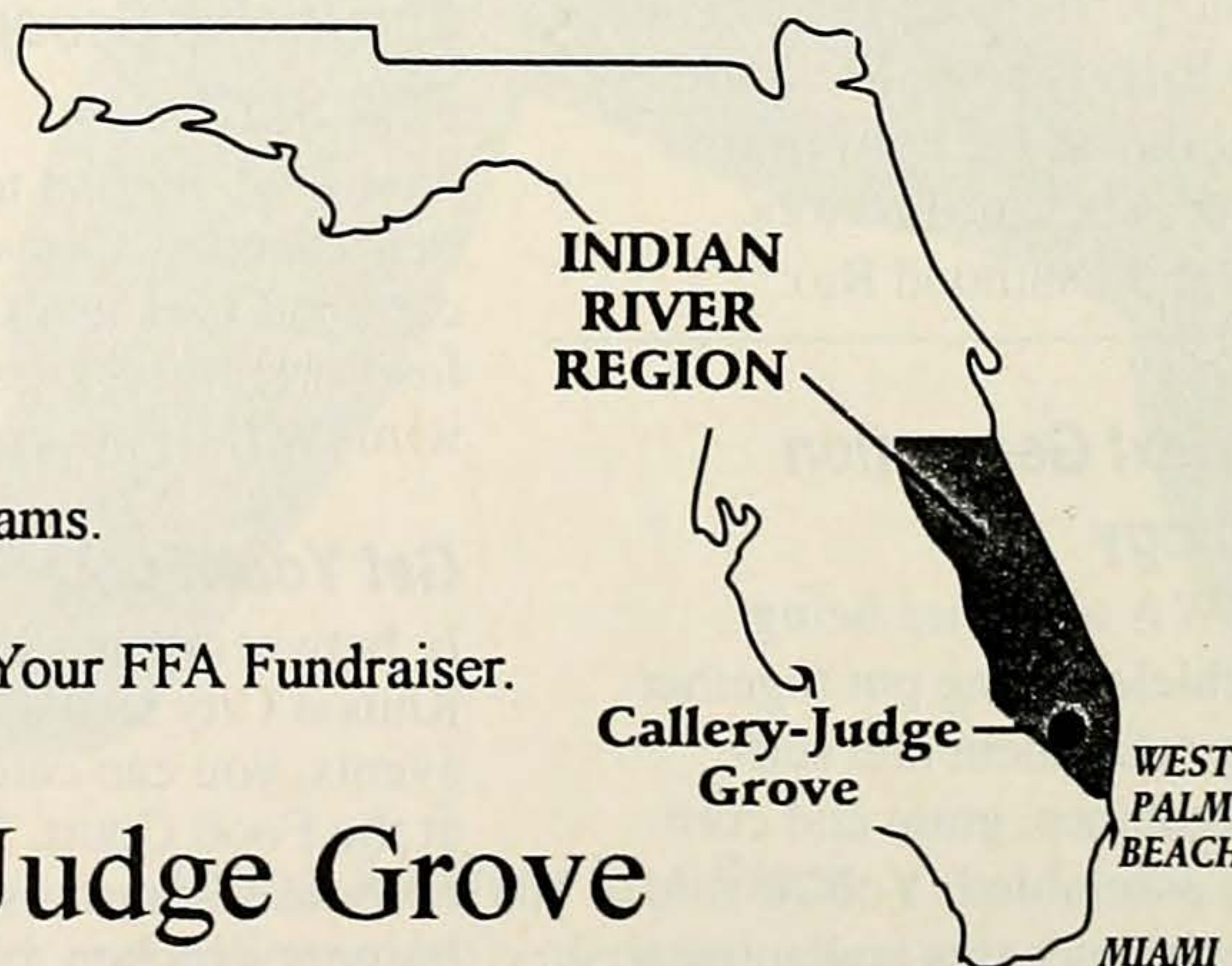
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and remember "*Money Does Grow on Trees*"

Letters From Belgium

FFA member finds friends in a foreign land

Eric Warner is more than 4,000 miles away from his Clear Lake, Wisconsin, home this summer. Through an FFA international program, the 17-year-old is living and working at a tree nursery in Waregem, Belgium.

The horticulture operation was perfect for Eric, who already managed his FFA chapter's 2,000 square foot greenhouse.

Below are parts of letters Eric has sent back to FFA staff to let them know how he's faring in a foreign land.

June 22, 1994

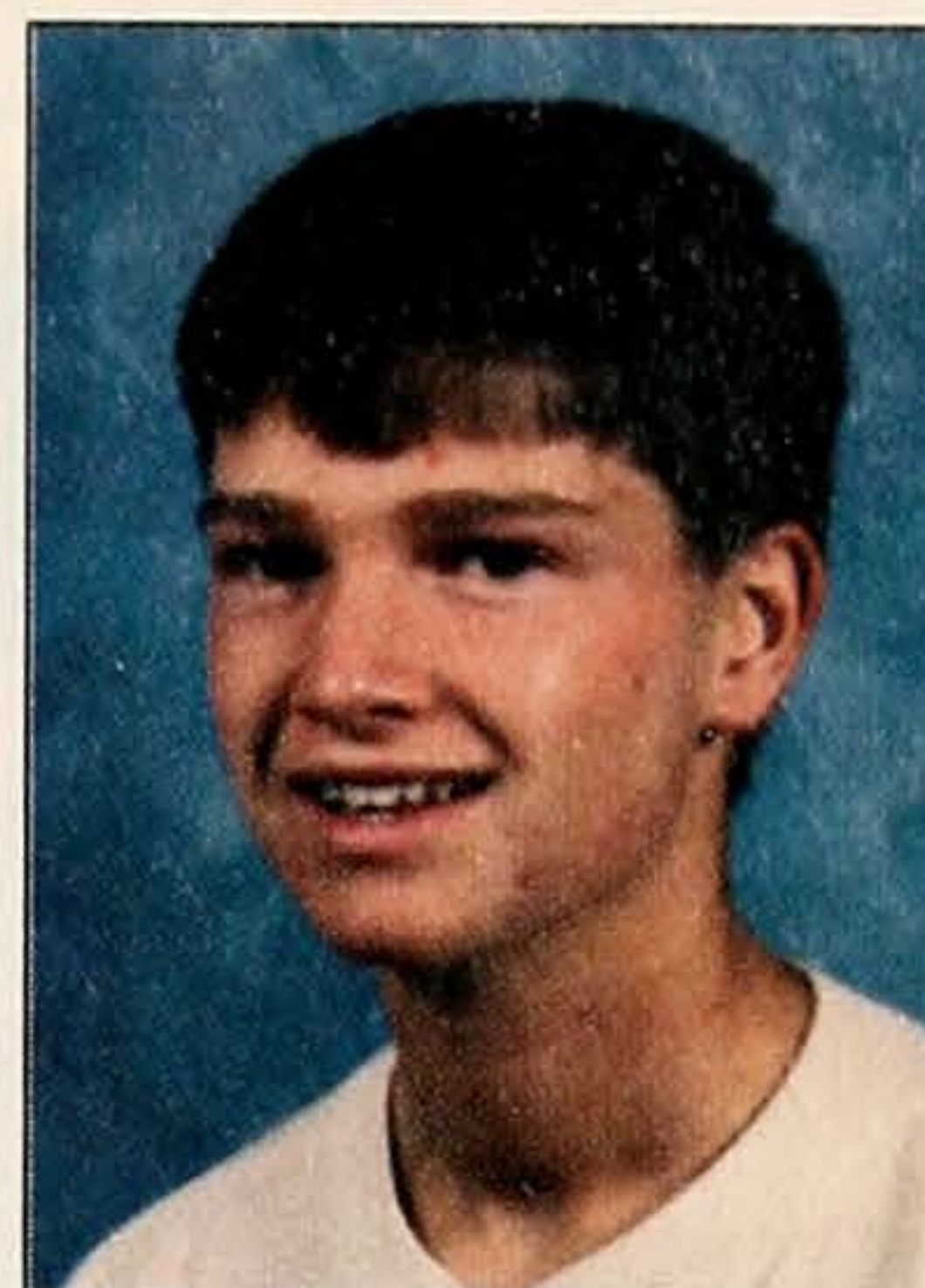
(The Adventure Begins)

Well, I made it to Belgium. The flight was six and a half hours long.

My host family is nice. They speak English well. I work about eight to 10 hours a day and get paid 100 Belgian francs per hour (about \$3.00).

I live by myself, upstairs from the office. I don't see my family that much, but I don't mind being independent.

I went out with a person from Belgium who knew a bunch of foreign students. We ate Chinese food with chopsticks.



"Belgium has great chocolate and fries," says FFA International Work Experience Abroad (WEA) participant Eric Warner, Clear Lake, Wisconsin.

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week. The work is sometimes repetitious, but I get to talk with the employees who are more than friendly to me. I have not been one bit homesick, and don't really expect to be. I'm already thinking about having to come home, which is going to be a real drag.

I am not picking up Deutsch (German language), but almost everyone speaks English, so that's not much of a problem.

I already feel changed. I feel that I have learned about "real life," independence and mostly about me. My journal is just filled with lifetime memories.

I hope I can learn some more about Belgium and the culture so I can share a lot with the people in Wisconsin. Well,

that is my month at a glance. Everything is going great. I'll write back in a month. Take care!

Eric John Warner

If you're interested in WEA, write to WEA, 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309, or phone Bruce Kane, 703-360-3600, ext. 319 or 238.



July, 10, 1994

I'm having the best time of my life here in Belgium. I have met so many nice people and have just been doing wonderfully. I only spend an average of one hour with the family, and most of that is eating time. However, I am not bothered by this one bit. I am more independent and have been able to travel to many cities in Belgium. I plan on going to the Netherlands and France in a week or two.

I have been working 40 to 55 hours a



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Bring On The Big, Beautiful Beasts

Clydesdales have
clout on this FFA
member's farm

By Rich Dunn



Photo by Author

In the future, says Mark, "I think about a carriage service with some brood mares to raise colts for sale. They're so gentle and nice to have around. They're just beautiful horses."

Sixteen-year-old FFA member Mark Farrell's family is the fifth generation to raise draft horses at a farm near Lovington, Illinois. His grandfather, Berry, even managed Anheuser Busch Brewing's Clydesdale facility for 25

years, while his dad, Phil, was assistant manager for six years.

Mark continues the Clydesdale tradition. "I sold my first pony to August Busch (owner of Anheuser Busch Brewing) and bought a Clydesdale mare in 1985," he says. "I picked

THERE'S
"MO"
TO COME



"MO"



"MO"



"MO"



"MO"

her out myself. I like a good head with personality and character and a good bright eye. It's hard to explain, but when you see it you know."

Mark got his first Clydesdale mare when he was seven and now owns and keeps records on five of the family's 67 Clydesdales for his Mt. Zion FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project.

Raising colts is Mark's favorite part of the operation. "It's rewarding to feel like you helped the breed by raising a particularly good foal," he says.

Mark helps his dad care for and train horses for sale as well as buy and sell used carriages, wagons, trailers, harness and other equipment.

Organic farmers who want to run their operations with old-fashioned horse power, buy many of their

animals, while other breeders and big hitch operations such as Anheuser Busch buy many of the first-class purebred Clydesdales the Farrell's breed and train. When the Farrell's aren't training and selling horses, they teach hobbyists how to work with the animals.

The family also organizes annual Draft Horse and Mule Association of

America (DHMAA) tours to draft horse operations in different parts of the country. Mark has helped make arrangements for and guided the last three tours: one to the Pacific Northwest, another to the Midwest and

the latest to New England. The groups include from 30 to 100 people.

He also helps with carriage service for weddings, parades and special events.

"Everybody likes the horses," he says. "They think it's neat."

Even some famous people are fascinated by the Clydesdales. Mark's dad has sold horses to former boxer George Foreman and to singer Michael Jackson.

Unfortunately, Mark didn't get to meet the celebrities. "Somebody had to stay home to feed the horses," he says. ...

Mark's dad has sold horses to former boxer George Foreman and to singer Michael Jackson.

**Watch Out!
You Might Get Drafted**

Mark's family is very active in the Draft Horse and Mule Association of America (DHMAA). His father, Phil, is secretary and organizes clinics for newcomers to the draft horse business. Mark helps with the horses and hands-on coaching of first-time drivers during the clinics. If you would like more information about the association, contact Phil Farrell, Executive Secretary, Route 1, Box 98, Lovington, Illinois 61937. Phone number: 217-864-5450.



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Signs of Success

Staying "green" brings in the bucks for Adrian, Oregon, FFA members

By Molly Wilson

It's not always easy being "green." To keep their businesses environmentally safe (and green), farmers nationwide will soon have to post signs so workers know which fields are freshly sprayed with restricted-use chemicals.

Here's where the Adrian, Oregon, FFA members enter the scene. They are

making and marketing signs that help farmers comply with the new safety standards. And, surprise, the members' environmentally friendly efforts are bringing them bunches of that green stuff called money, while teaching them how to run a business.

In less than three months the chapter pulled in \$20,000. They're shooting for \$250,000 of profits in two years. Can you say "hello" to tons of FFA scholarships and trips for chapter members?

"I didn't think our chapter could be that financially secure, but when I heard the plan, I got excited," says Megan Price, 17. "A lot of kids realized that this is their chapter meal ticket to do amazing things. Our chapter participation is up. But we're not just doing this

for money. It's increased pride in our chapter and in the FFA organization."

Right Now!

Members market the signs to local farmers as well as selling them to



The multi-purpose signs fold down to reveal the No Trespassing message when the safety warning isn't needed. They have a handle and foot peg for easy installation.

members from other chapters who sell them to farmers in their areas. Local manufacturers provide red and black ultraviolet-resistant plastic. Next, the signs go through a special painting process.

All Adrian FFA members have to do is assemble the signs so they're ready to be posted in the fields.

Learning by Doing

"These FFA members are learning firsthand what it's like to run a business," says advisor Paul Anderes. "They take the orders, process them, and work on the accounting and marketing."

Before they could start their business, members had to secure approval from

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A Division of Mid-American Dairymen, Inc., committed to the success of our young farmers.

In less than three months the chapter pulled in \$20,000. Members are shooting for \$250,000 of profits in two years.

the school board, their agricultural advisory board, and finally, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Blue and Gold signs employed four FFA members last summer. Angela Castro, a 16-year-old, helped issue invoices, write press releases, and create direct mail materials. "I've learned what it takes to get a job done, and how important it is to do it right the first time. And I've learned to work under pressure. It's a lot of fun," she says.

"We sold about 200 the first day," says Price. "We have a very small community and we made a lot of contacts. It was great for sales experience."

Pete Stacy, 17, says he's learned not only sales and marketing skills, but also the value of producing quality products for their customers. "We've learned how necessary it is to make the sign as perfectly as we can, because farmers want quality. When the farmers are happy, we'll get repeat business."

Keys to Success

Members discovered that each person's unique talents were important to the success of their business. "I can't weld, but I helped make the flyers," says Price.

Another key factor: a helpful local community.

"I think our community realized the importance of FFA, and farmers understand that they are supporting a quality organization," says Price. "This is fun to have such a great community backing us up."

It would have been impossible to get started without financing from one local company, says Anderes.

At first, says member Angela Castro, "We thought this would be a community project, but our business now markets nationwide. That's really neat when you stop and think that we started from zero."



Photo by Cory Eason, Eason Photography

From zero to nationwide. These members, from left, Megan Price, Angie Castro, Pete Stacy, advisor Paul Anderes and Madelyne Burnham assembled the EPA-approved signs to sell to farmers.

"Every FFA member will be able to take the things we've learned and apply them to different things we do, long after we're not in business anymore,"

says Anderes. "And that's what the FFA is all about, teaching real skills. The skills these members have learned will last them the rest of their lives." ...

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Fund-raising...What's In It For You?

Members tell their stories

By Bob Bruce

That's It! One more car wash, fruit sale, candy sale, bake sale or magazine subscription drive and you're going over the edge. You've knocked on so many doors you're knuckles are raw. You're feet are sore. You're tired of searching for another way to make a buck for your FFA chapter.

It's time to think about what happens after you put down your order form. What will you do with all of that money? How will you benefit from your work?

"Everyone gets something out of a fundraiser," says Dawn Dietz, chapter president of Sycamore, Illinois, High School. The most obvious result of fundraisers is—well—more funds, and that in itself is nothing to sneeze at. "The more money the chapter has," she points out, "the more opportunities the students have to do things."

For example, thanks to the money raised by various chapter projects, she and her fellow members have been able to attend state leadership camps and go on a number of field trips in the area. "We also use the money for new equipment for the FFA program and for new materials in the classroom."

"Through our fundraisers [such as the pancake breakfast and a seed auction] we get involved with the community," says Rena Morisoli, chapter president, Corcoran, California. "That's really good, because... for many years we didn't have much luck getting the community to support us." Now, since local residents know what her chapter is up to, it's easier to pull in more dollars.



The Chowchilla HS chapter (Chowchilla, California) has been putting on a Barn Dance and a Christmas Ball for so many years that they've become regular parts of the school's social calendar. Building on that same idea, they recently held their first ever Dinner Dance, which according to Jalyne Fanning was equally successful. The key, says Jalyne, is that the events are things that everybody can participate in and enjoy. The Christmas Ball and the Barn Dance are for everybody in the high school, and the Dinner Dance is open to the entire community.

The chapter also gets positive publicity. "It's like an advertisement for the kids and for the FFA," says Rena.

And, working with so many people outside of your school walls, "gives you all the skills they talk about at the leadership conferences—to be able to talk to different people, to relate to others, and to work together as a team."

West Lyon, Iowa, members bring a little bit of summer sunshine to their community by selling fresh fruit each December. Chapter president Aimee Lee says that while the product they are selling has a great amount of built-in appeal, the students still have to learn proper communications and public relations skills to do an effective sales job. And that, she says, is a benefit that lasts far beyond getting a free trip to a conference.

"Knowing how to talk to people is something you will use all your life," says Aimee. "I was in the ag sales contest last year, for example, and this year I'm on the ag sales team, and the experience with the fruit sale has

helped me a lot. It helps you learn how to talk to the customer and find out what they need. You can't just go up and say 'Do you want to buy some fruit or not?' and walk away."

Something else that students learn from a fund-raising experience, says Aimee, is personal responsibility and follow-through. When you become part of a team, trying to accomplish a common goal, people begin to depend on you; just as you depend on them. The whole effort only works when everybody helps.

Larry Konsterlie, past president of the Willmer, Minnesota, chapter, says the teamwork and the bonds of friendship working together creates may be the biggest benefit of getting involved in a group fund-raising effort.

"You get to work with your chapter members a lot," he says. "You get to be really good friends with them. And the people in the community realize what you're doing and they support you and give you encouragement. It's a great way to build a network."



HELP STUDENTS GET MORE



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FFA Superstars Rack Up State Fair Awards!

Chapter Officer Team Elected!



Agricultural Mechanics Team Wins National Competition!

Parliamentary Procedure Team Wins Regional Contest!

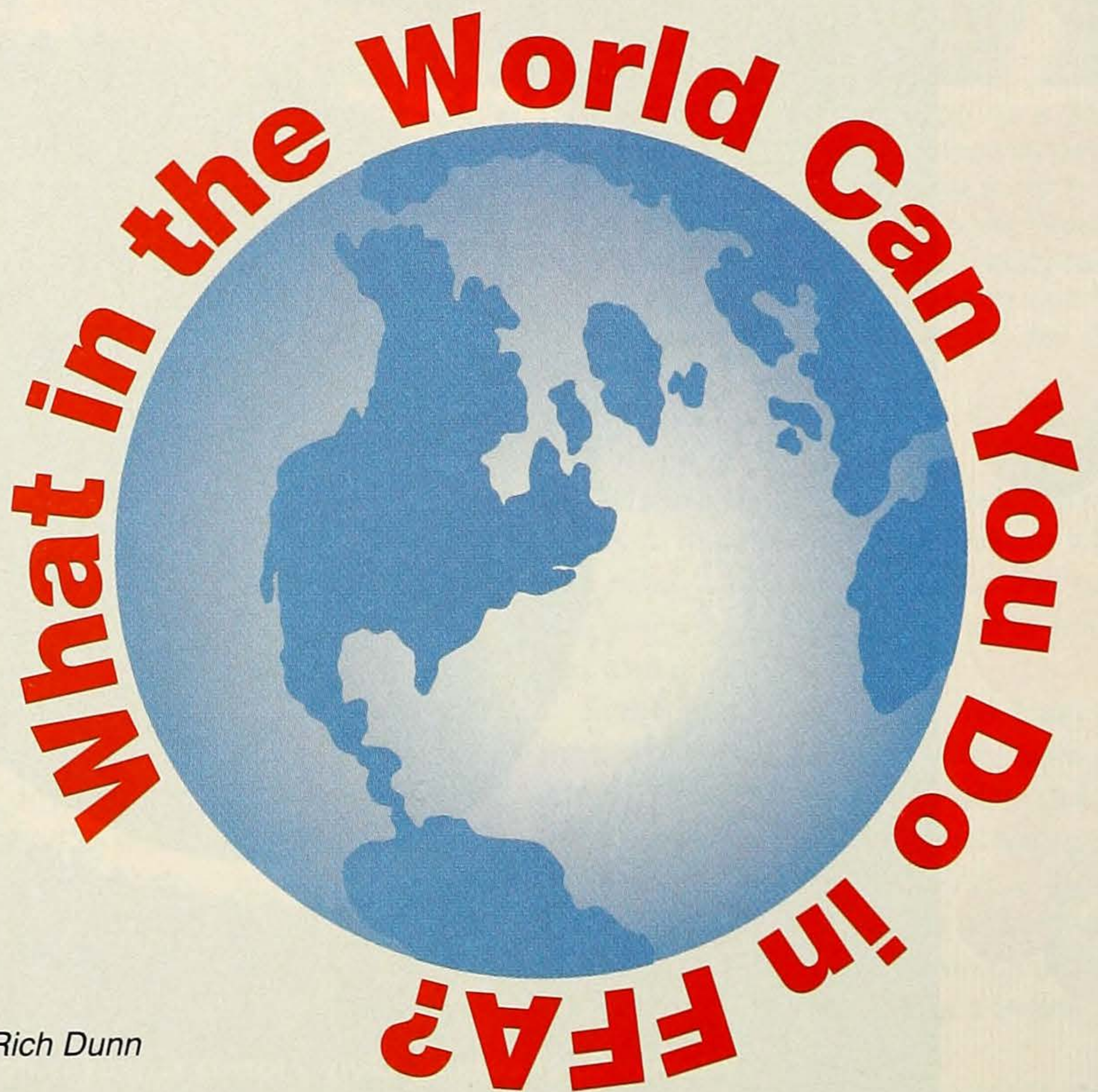
Yeah, yeah. It seems like you're always reading about other FFA members in the local or school paper or FFA magazine who are winning awards and gaining recognition. Now it's your turn.

Name just about any agricultural field and chances are FFA has an exciting event that relates to it. Travel to Thailand. Research a bug feasting on what was your garden. Think of a product to sell. Do market research. Practice your public speaking. Build bird houses and repopulate your neighborhood or farm community with songbirds. See how your agricultural mechanics skills stack up against other FFA members.

Just a few of the individual contests, awards and programs FFA offers are: international experience, agriscience, livestock production, outdoor recreation and leadership. You can even earn money and/or career experience with a Supervised Agricultural Experience program (SAE).



Mulching is a must at the Garden Gang's plot.



By Rich Dunn

If being on a team is more your style, you might want to consider marketing, the horticulture contest, parliamentary procedure, livestock judging or a community service project.

These are just a few of the FFA programs you can excel in. Ask your advisor for more information. And, for now, take a look at this first part of a series that will showcase members

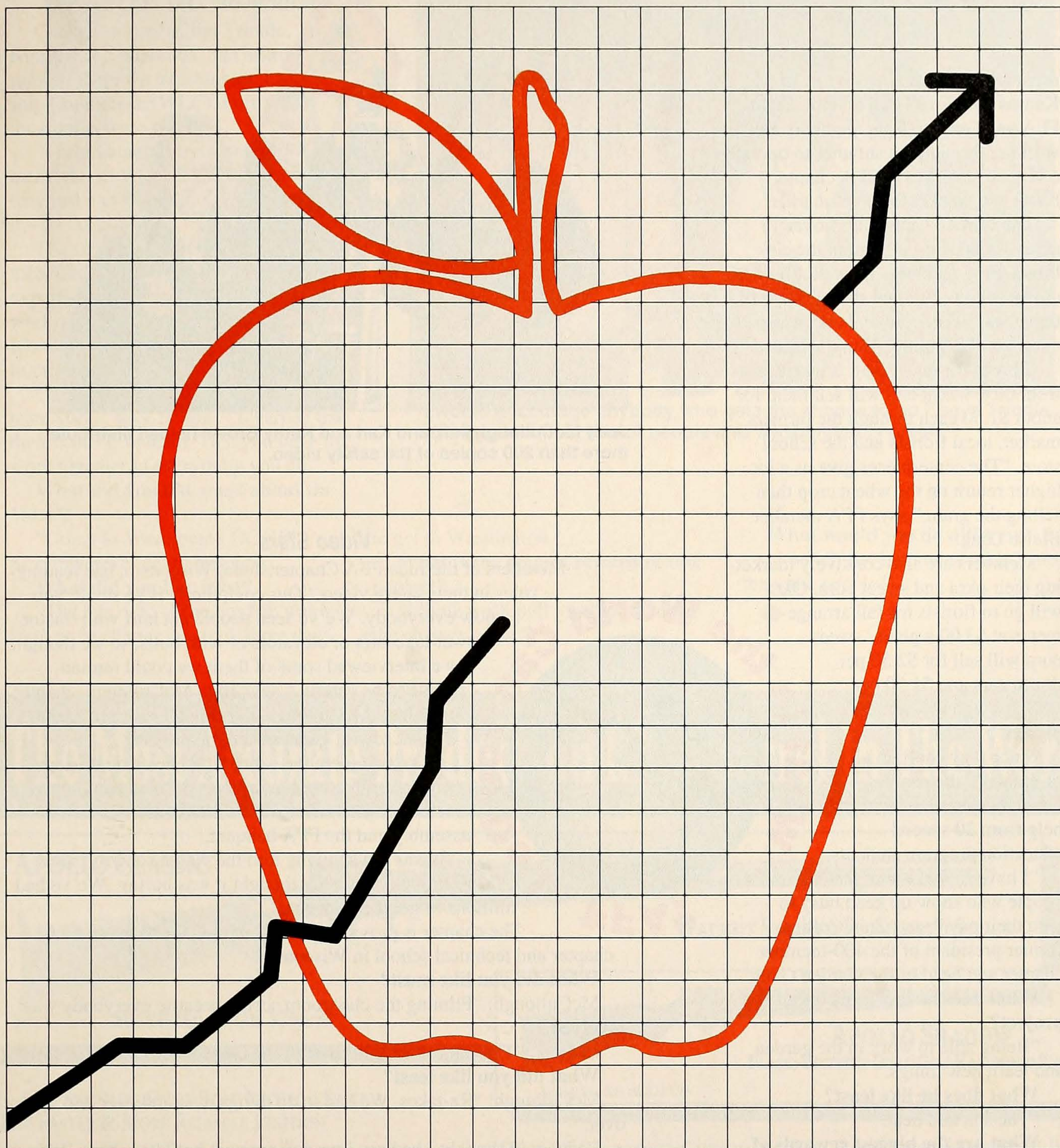
involved in the huge world of FFA opportunities.

New Gang Hits Kansas City East High School

It's not the Crips, the Bloods or the Vice Lords taking over this urban school, but the Garden Gang, a new

(Continued on Page 36)

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THEY'RE AS GOOD AS YOU'VE HEARD.

What in the World

(Continued from Page 34)

organic-gardening cooperative at Kansas City East High School. Eight FFA and Garden Gang members are working through the summer to operate a vegetable store and FFA chapter booth at a weekly farmers' market.

The Garden Gang plots cover 15 acres at two sites, all within the city limits. FFA members grow all kinds of crops, from traditional summer fare like tomatoes, sweet corn and cucumbers, to okra, gourds, pumpkins and wheat.

They make decorative centerpieces from their wheat and will sell them for about \$1.50 each through the farmers' market, local florists and the school store. "The centerpieces give us a lot higher return on the wheat crop than selling the grain," says FFA member Blaise Long.

Members are also creatively marketing their okra and sweet corn. Okra will go to florists for fall arrangements at \$3.00 a plant, sweet corn will sell for \$2.50 per dozen ears and \$1.50 per stalk through the farmers' market.

Since they can't do all of the work themselves, Garden Gang members get help from 20 special education program students.

"I have to make sure that people who show up keep busy to earn their pay," says Zain Collins, former president of the 400-member chapter and head of the Garden Gang.

What does he like most about the project?

"Being able to work in the garden and learn new things."

What does he like least?

"The sun and heat."

What are the biggest rewards of this project?

"Learning about plants and being able to help other students."



Jody McCullough, left, and Kari and Kathy Brown helped distribute more than 200 copies of the safety video.

Video Stars

Members of the Juda FFA Chapter, Juda, Wisconsin, had leading roles in their safety video. "Our community is so small, you know everybody. We've seen people get hurt with tractor power take-offs or elevators or with bulls, so we thought if we interviewed some of them we could remind people to be careful," says Jody McCullough, chapter president. McCullough and chapter vice president, Heidi Ladwig, spearheaded the project.

The two members were video hosts on the tape which also featured interviews of three community members. The video was first unveiled at a school assembly and the FFA banquet.

"It was fun showing it to the whole school," says McCullough. "Nobody thought it was boring. We've had millions of good comments."

The chapter is providing a copy of the tape to every FFA chapter and technical school in Wisconsin.

What did you like most?

McCullough: "Filming the classroom scene, because everybody was involved."

Ladwig: "The fun of being in front of the camera."

What did you like least?

McCullough: "Re-takes. We had to do things over and over and over."

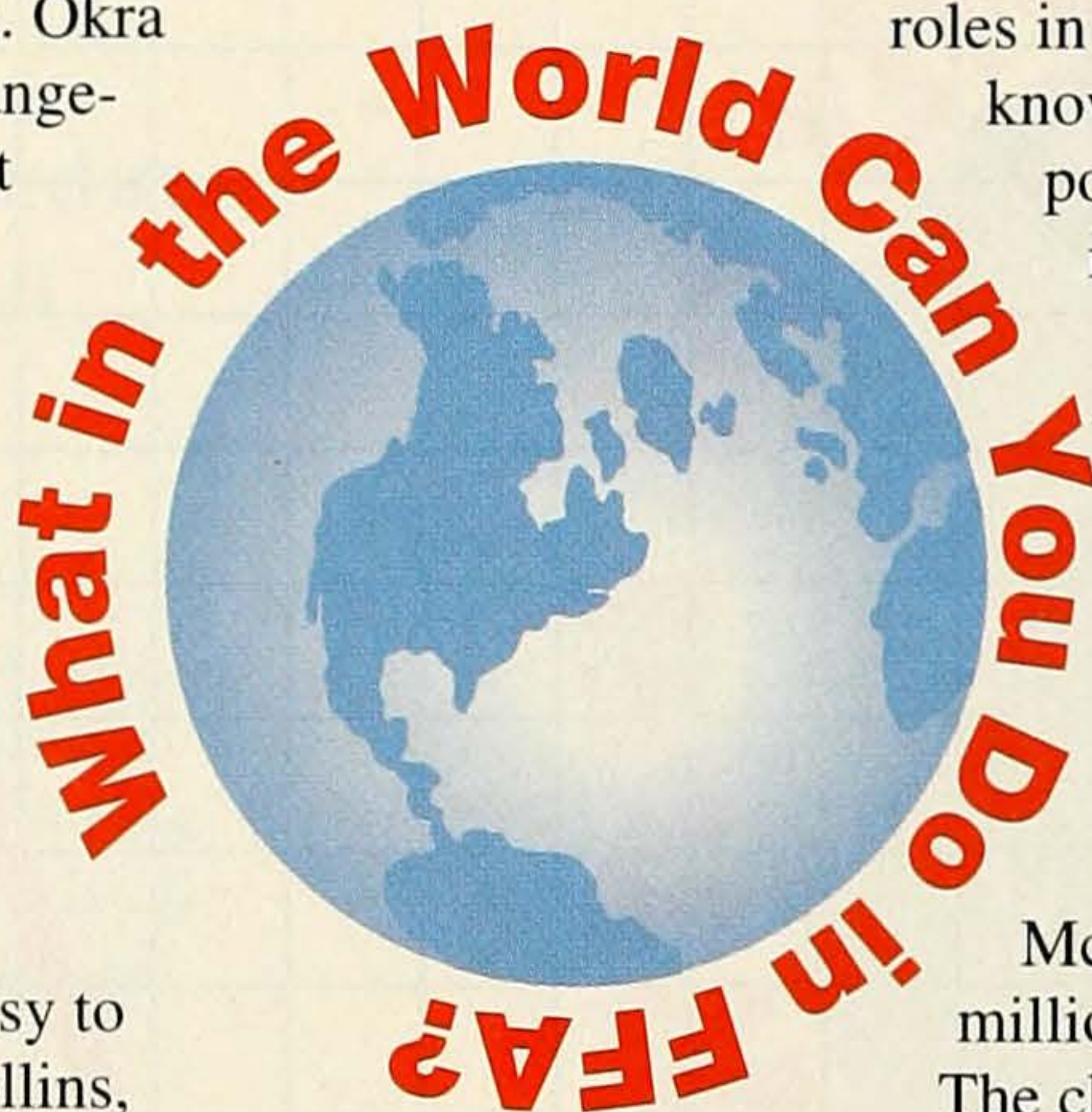
Ladwig: "I thought I had my lines memorized, but after about 10 or 12 times of not being able to get it right, it was frustrating."

What are the biggest rewards of this project?

McCullough: "One is that the public and school thought so much of it. The other is that this is the first time Juda got a National Safety award."

Ladwig: "Seeing people's faces, knowing that they thought we did a good job."

The farm safety video is available for \$10 from: Juda FFA Chapter, Juda High School, North 2385 Spring Street, Juda, Wisconsin, 53550.



Washington D.C. Adventure

Chapter sentinel Clint Trindle, Kingfisher, Oklahoma, had heard rumors about the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC). Fortunately, the rumors were all true.

"I heard about it from older FFA members, they told me about the fun they had and all the things I'd get out of it," he says.

The conference provided a chance to meet members from across the country, to participate in leadership development workshops and tour the nation's capitol. It's the sort of experience that leaves an impression.

"It changed my way of looking at teamwork," says Trindle. "I learned that there's no 'I' in team. That you have to work together in everything you do."

What did you like most about the WLC?

"Going to Washington DC, I'll probably never get to go again."

What did you like least?

"The bus ride." [The bus trip was a state-wide charter that took three days

to get to Washington.]

What is the biggest reward of this project?

"I think we'll pull together to make the chapter better."



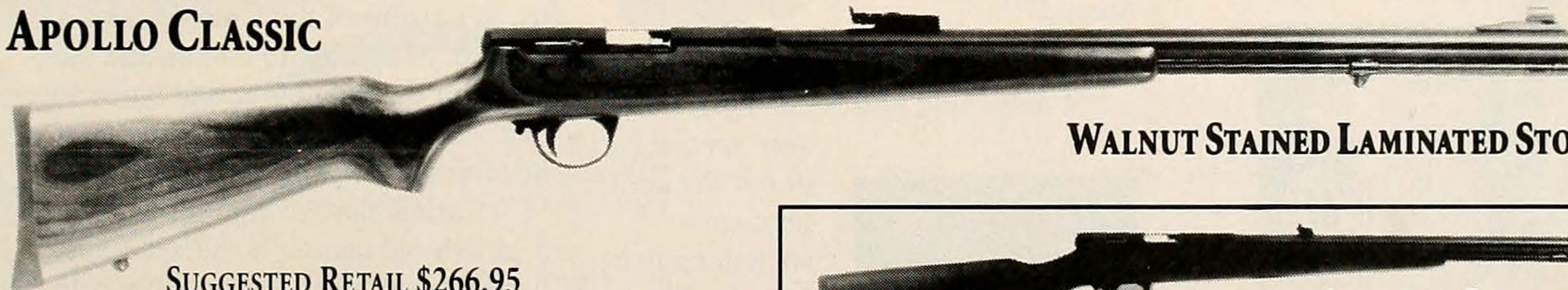
"I would encourage anybody who gets the chance to go," says Trindle. "You'll get to meet lots of people and Washington is great."

What would you do differently?

"I would fly, but you wouldn't meet the same people." ...

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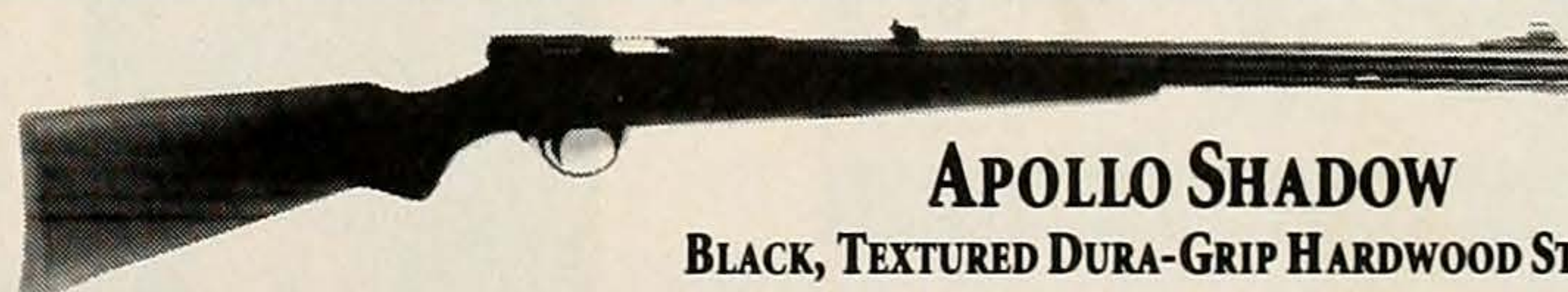
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FFA IN ACTION

Kansas

Video Kids



Book 'em! Marysville FFA members help police fingerprint students. The elementary students also recited their height, weight and other vital statistics on tape.

Elementary students at the Marysville Elementary School have already had their fingerprints taken and their mug shots captured on videotape by police and FFA members. This isn't a result of some out-of-control youth

crime wave but instead is a way for police to get records of the students in case any of them are ever missing. Marysville FFA members plan to involve area schools in the event. (Bill Nelson)

Arizona

No Horsing Around!

"I think wild horses and burros are a very special part of our Western heritage—something to be preserved," says Amphitheater FFA member Carina Brush,



Carina Brush, Wild Horse Essay Contest Winner.

first place winner in *Young Equestrian* magazine's essay contest. In her essay Brush wrote, "...we must know both sides of the story and have faith in the compassion and intelligence of mankind to look for humane solutions. These creatures belong to all of us, and all of

us, as citizens of the United States have an obligation to understand the plight of the wild horse and burro so that we can participate in finding a healing for the pain."

Carina plans to care for her 5-month-old quarter horse, continue her FFA activities, and possibly help spearhead a national youth volunteer program for the preservation of wild horses and burros.

You Could Win \$1,000

Remember the FFA New Horizons "Up With Agriculture" Writing Contest entries must be postmarked by December 1, 1994. Check in the last issue or this issue of your agricultural teacher's publication *FFA Advisors... Making A Difference* for details on how you can win up to \$1,000.

(Continued on Page 40)

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FFA IN ACTION

Missouri

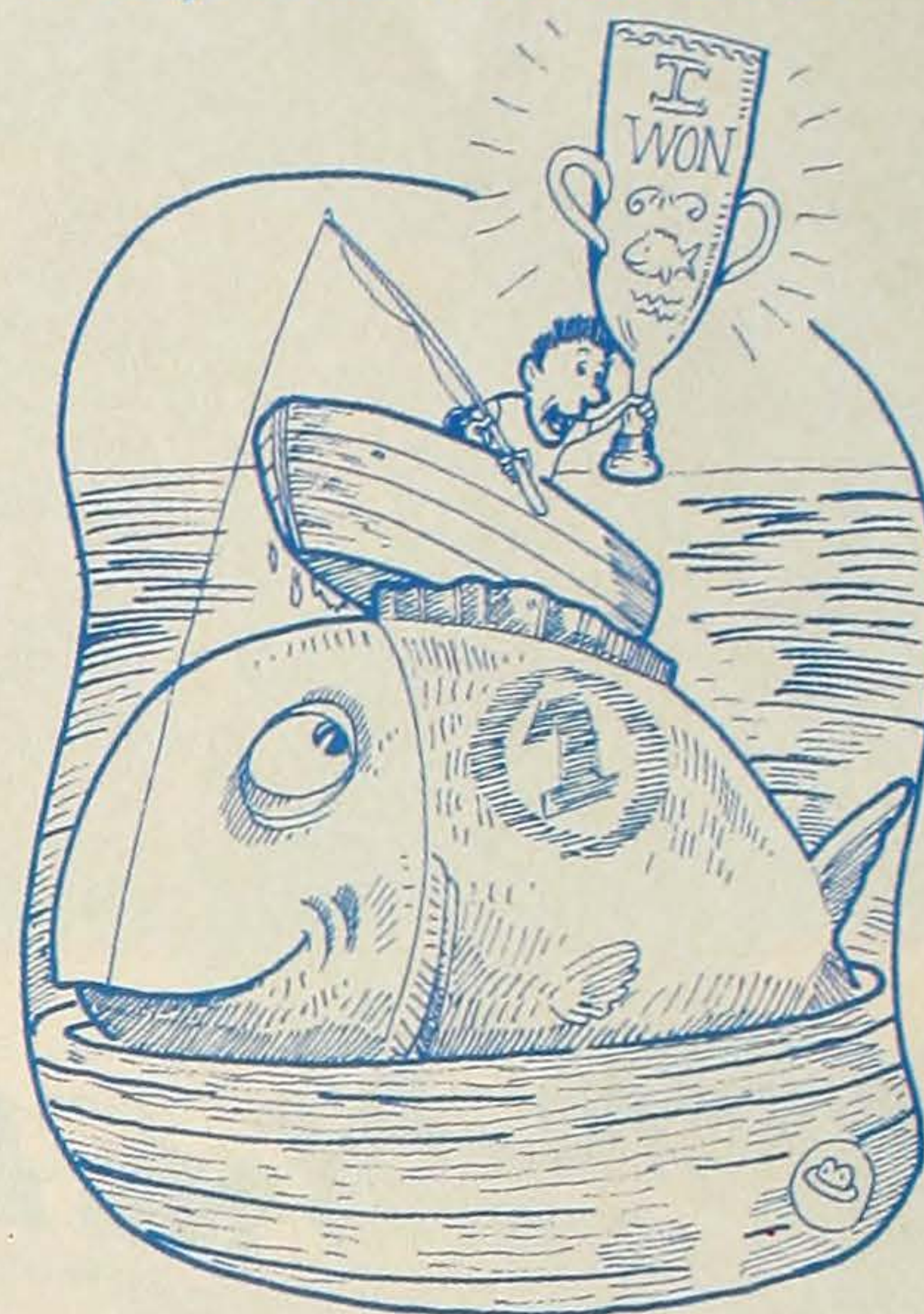
Halfway Goes All the Way

We want your blood! Halfway High School FFA members helped with the community's record-breaking blood drive for the American Red Cross'

Greater Ozarks Region. Members sponsored five bloodmobiles during the 1993-94 fiscal year and collected 174 pints of blood—that's a pint of blood for every person in the town. ...

California

Deep Sea Adventures



Ten Caruthers FFA members braved the waves and seasickness on their deep sea fishing trip. The adventure is a reward for students who have participated in many FFA events. (Tiffany Faria, Reporter) ...

Nebraska

Alumni Encourage Summer Safety

Broken Bow FFA Alumni and FFA members taught eight- to 14- year olds about lawnmower, electrical, chemical, tractor, animal and grain safety with their "Safety Just for Kids" event. (Mickie Birney) ...

Delaware

FFA/Earth Team

Human-i-tees, Stream Watch and DuPont were a few of the organizations with exhibits at McKean, Delaware, FFA chapter's environmental conference. One hundred and twenty students from 15 schools attended the FFA/Earth Team event. ...

(Continued on Page 42)



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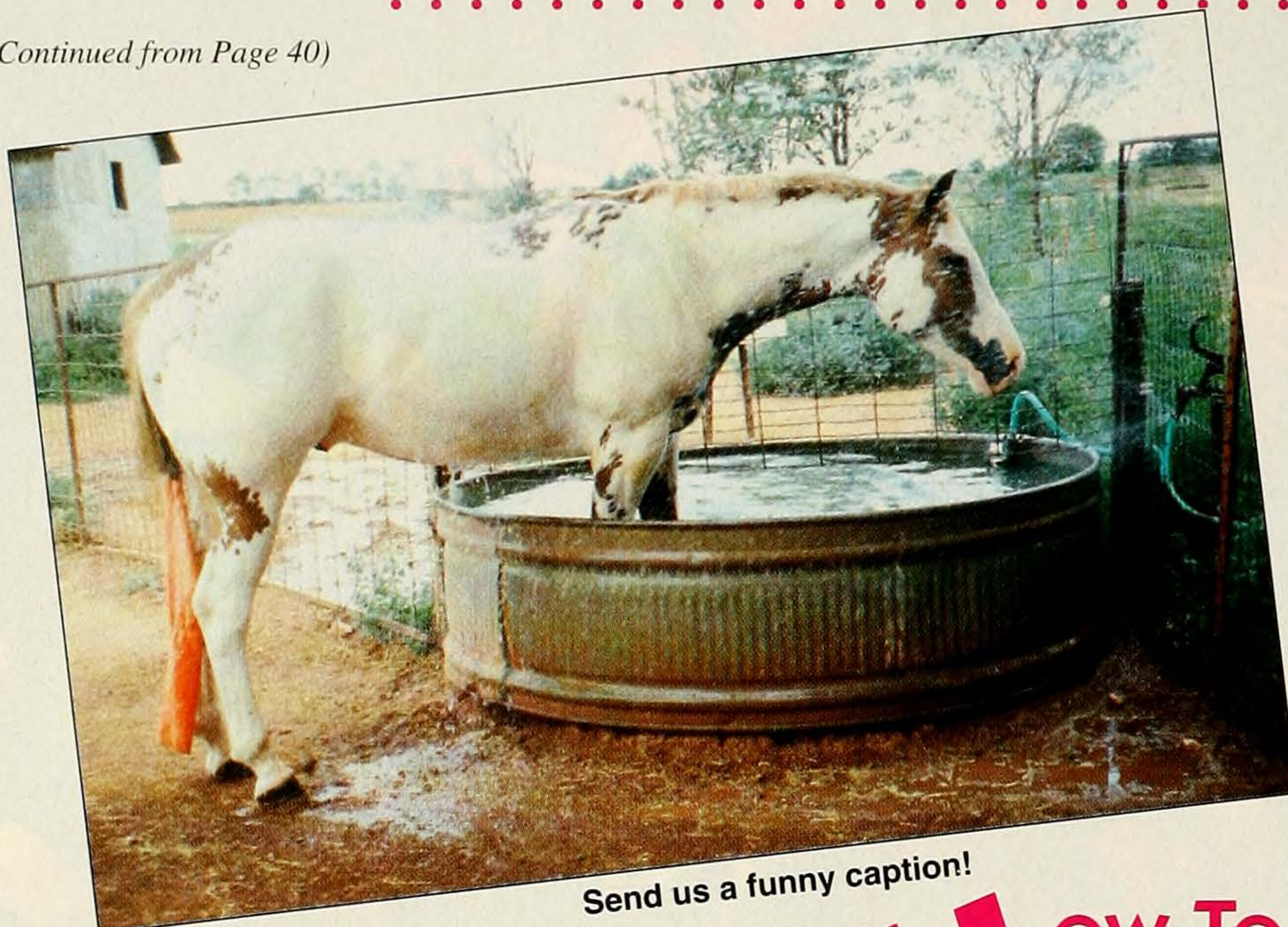
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FFA IN ACTION

(Continued from Page 40)



Send us a funny caption!

FFA Funnies

Deanna Knopp, Okeene, Oklahoma, has caught her horse Hanks Denero in the water tank several times. Let us know what Hanks is thinking in our next photo caption contest. **To be eligible, your entry must be postmarked by September 30, 1994.**

How To Get Your Funnies Published

Send all captions, funny photos and entries for Most Embarrassing FFA Moments to: FFA New Horizons, FFA Funnies, 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160. Please include your name, FFA chapter, school and home phone number, school name and address. Photos will be returned only if you include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Scavenging The Magazine For T-shirts

Winners of the May-June 1994 *FFA New Horizons* Scavenger Hunt are: Lacey Swainston, Richfield, Idaho; Charley Ann Bullock, Williamston, North Carolina; Michael McCain, Versailles, Indiana; Cassandra McDowell, Odessa, Texas; Michelle Shurmantine, Wellington, Missouri; and Lori Winters, Randlett, Oklahoma. Each FFA member will receive a free T-shirt from FFA Ventures Marketing Group.



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Matthew Terra, 1992-1993 California state FFA secretary, proclaims his loyalty to agriculture every time he hits the road.

(Action Continued on Page 45)

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GET TO KNOW



Curtis C. Childers
President

From the moment you see Curtis he has... a warm smile that kind of draws you in and makes you interested in him before he even says anything," says former fellow Texas FFA officer Michael Schertz. Once he does break out of his grin and into words, you'll find the man is smooth. He's comfortable around corporate presidents, FFA members and teachers, no matter if he's at a fancy banquet or a school cafeteria.

Watching him work is soothing; sort of like gazing at tropical fish in a tank. No worries here. Life is effortless ...uneventful.

Don't be deceived. "He's one who has always known when to cut up, when to let loose and let us all get our rowdiness out," says Schertz. "Basically, I'm a conservative person who has a need to be wild," says Childers.

As a freshman, "he was a little long-haired, very outspoken, non-ag... type person," says FFA advisor Gary Rosenbusch. "Curtis was... very witty...very sharp...always outgoing."

He was also definitely *not* into agriculture.

"He wanted to be in the choir. I tried all I could, all summer long, to recruit him," says Rosenbusch. But in the end, Childers only joined agriculture because choir wouldn't fit into his schedule.

"I told him (Mr. Rosenbusch) I signed up for ag for this year, but I'll take what I want next year," says Childers. "Between my sophomore and junior year I started realizing that not only was I going to gain skills and contacts through FFA, but also potential for scholarships."

Get Busy

Childers was elected chapter reporter his freshman year. And his greenhand parliamentary procedure team won second in the state. "It was just an awesome feeling when the seven of us

would work together. I don't think anything feels better than accomplishing something as a group."

He was on student council, played baseball for two years, was a football cheerleader... "If there was something to do, I always wanted to be involved; maybe that's because I was looking for something. I wanted to know I was okay."

For a while, Childers says he "ran with the wrong crowd. The first years in high school...I didn't care who you were, I wanted you to like me, and that's why I did so many silly things."

"I think in high school we put up walls. We classify people right away as

school valedictorian.

Several years and many world travel miles later, the national officer says he has gained new perspective. "I still have that same basic desire to do well, but I think now I can be satisfied that I've done my best and not have to make the A's. Maybe I don't take myself so seriously. When you realize how big the world is and how many people there are, your concerns seem to be smaller."

- **Favorite Toy:** guitar he bought from a pawn shop
- **Favorite Pro Sport Team:** Texas Rangers, of course



Curtis is still best friends with Jeremy White and Coy Moore, middle and right, members of their state winning greenhand parliamentary procedure contest team.

being in a particular group. We stereotype them. Afterwards, it's easier to see they're real people. You realize you can just be yourself, and you don't have to work to please others."

But you do have to please yourself. And, underneath Childers' calm, carefree smile, is a stubborn perfectionist. "It just used to stress me out. I would be upset if I thought I was gonna' get a B, or if I thought I wasn't going to get the highest grades," says the Glen Rose, Texas, high

• **Not So Favorite Car:** '77 Nova, alias "the blue bomb, but its been called all kinds of things," says Childers. "The super Nova. The unstoppable super Nova..." Although, he adds, "I missed a plane once because it broke down."

• **Favorite Movie:** *It's A Wonderful Life!*

• **Pet Peeve:** "When you're having a conversation, and it's just between a few of the people in the group...I hate that! I think it's so inconsiderate."

ACTION

(Continued from Page 42)

Ohio

Mudfest '94



Shawnee FFA members are rolling in the dough since they discovered the recipe for making money while having some not-so-clean fun. Mix lots of dirt (most any kind will do as long as it's not too rocky) with lots of water. Set up games in the goopy stuff (Mud Volleyball, the 50-yard Mud Run, the Mud Dunk, a "Mud" Pie Eating Contest and a Mud Treasure Hunt). Sell tickets at \$60 per eight-member team.

Sit back and relax. Mudfest '94 organizers donated most of their profits to the Children's Hospital and FFA scholarships.



It's no secret how Aiken, South Carolina, FFA advisor Joe Wilson feels about FFA.

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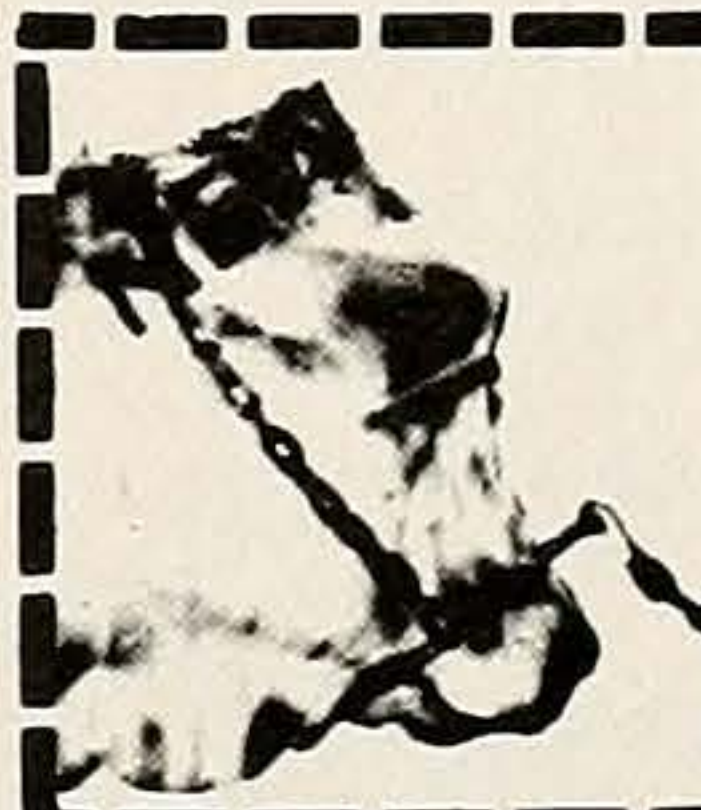
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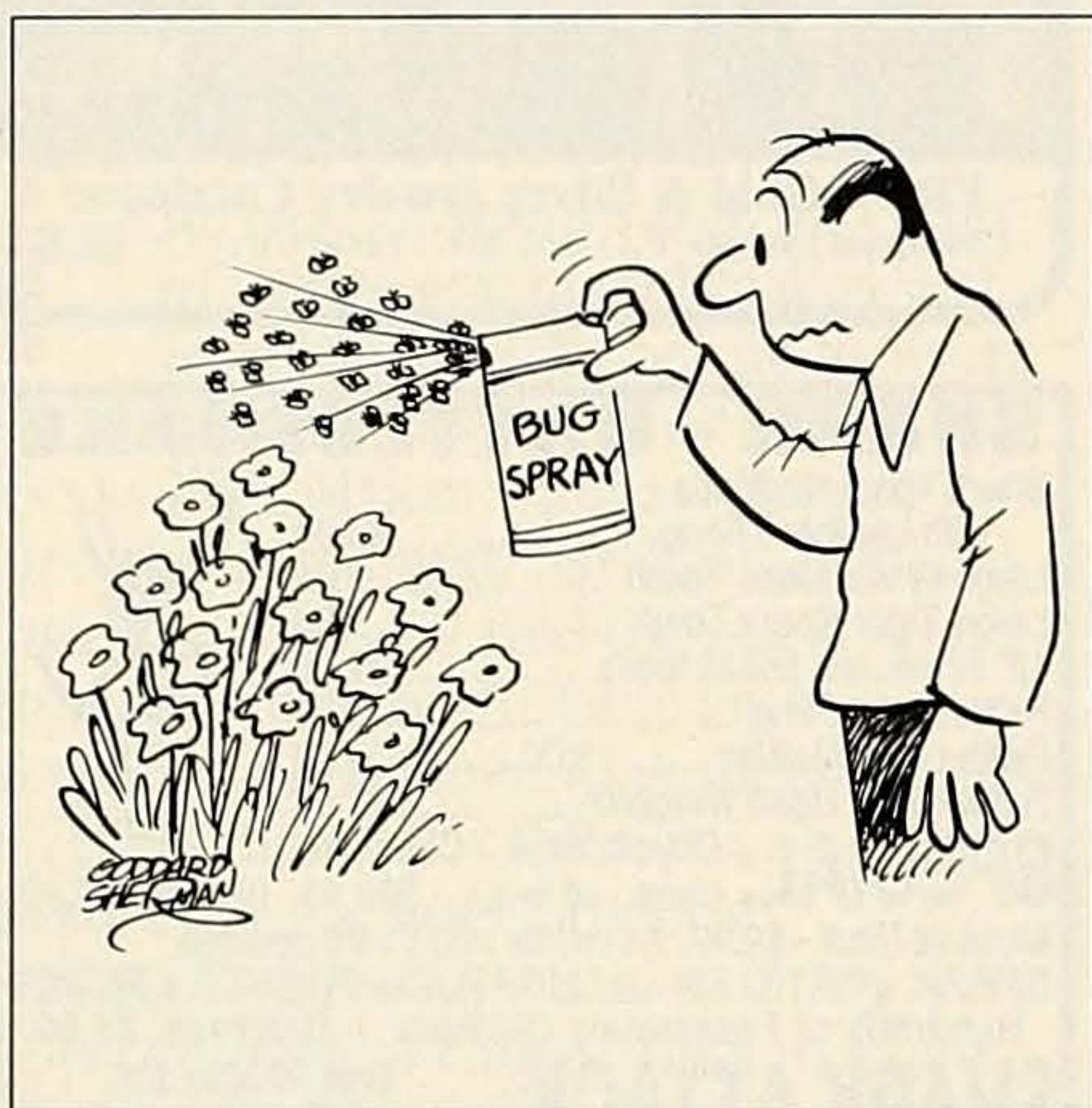
J O K E P A G E

.....

Q: What do you do when an elephant breaks his toe?

A: Call a toe truck.

*Jimmy Rogers
Sebring, FL*



Q: Why did the farmer put suntan lotion on his turkey?

A: He liked dark meat.

*Tim Bennett
Napoleon, OH*

Q: Why are chefs hard to like?

A: Because they beat eggs, whip cream and mash potatoes.

*Aimee Powers
Millers Creek, NC*

Q: What did one penny say to another penny?

A: Let's get together and make some sense!

*Billy Todd
Prescott, AR*

Policeman: Tell me, why did you park your car here?

Motorist: Well, there is the sign that says "Fine for Parking."

*Danny H. Reyes
Mesilla, NM*

Have you ever seen...

...a board walk?	...an ocean wave?
...a cow hide?	...a door catch?
...a fish bowl?	...a fire escape?
...a horse fly?	...a snow bank?
...a barn dance?	...a train trip?
...a fish fry?	...a store sign?
...a corn stalk?	

*Casey Lea Yates
Jacksonville, AL*

Q: How do you stop a bull from charging?

A: Take away his credit card.

*Casey Lea Yates
Jacksonville, AL*

Q: What did the bald man say when someone gave him a comb?

A: Thanks! I'll never part with it!

*Elonda Baker
Leonard, TX*

Q: Why shouldn't you iron a four leaf clover?

A: You don't want to press your luck!

*Michelle Greff
Mott, ND*

Q: Where do you buy the least expensive cattle?

A: From the cattle-logs.

*Raudel Hernandez
Riverside, CA*

Q: Why can't a bicycle stand up by itself?

A: Because it's two tired.

*Benjamin Aceds
Lomita, CA*

Charlie and Friends



"What happened to my agriscience project?"

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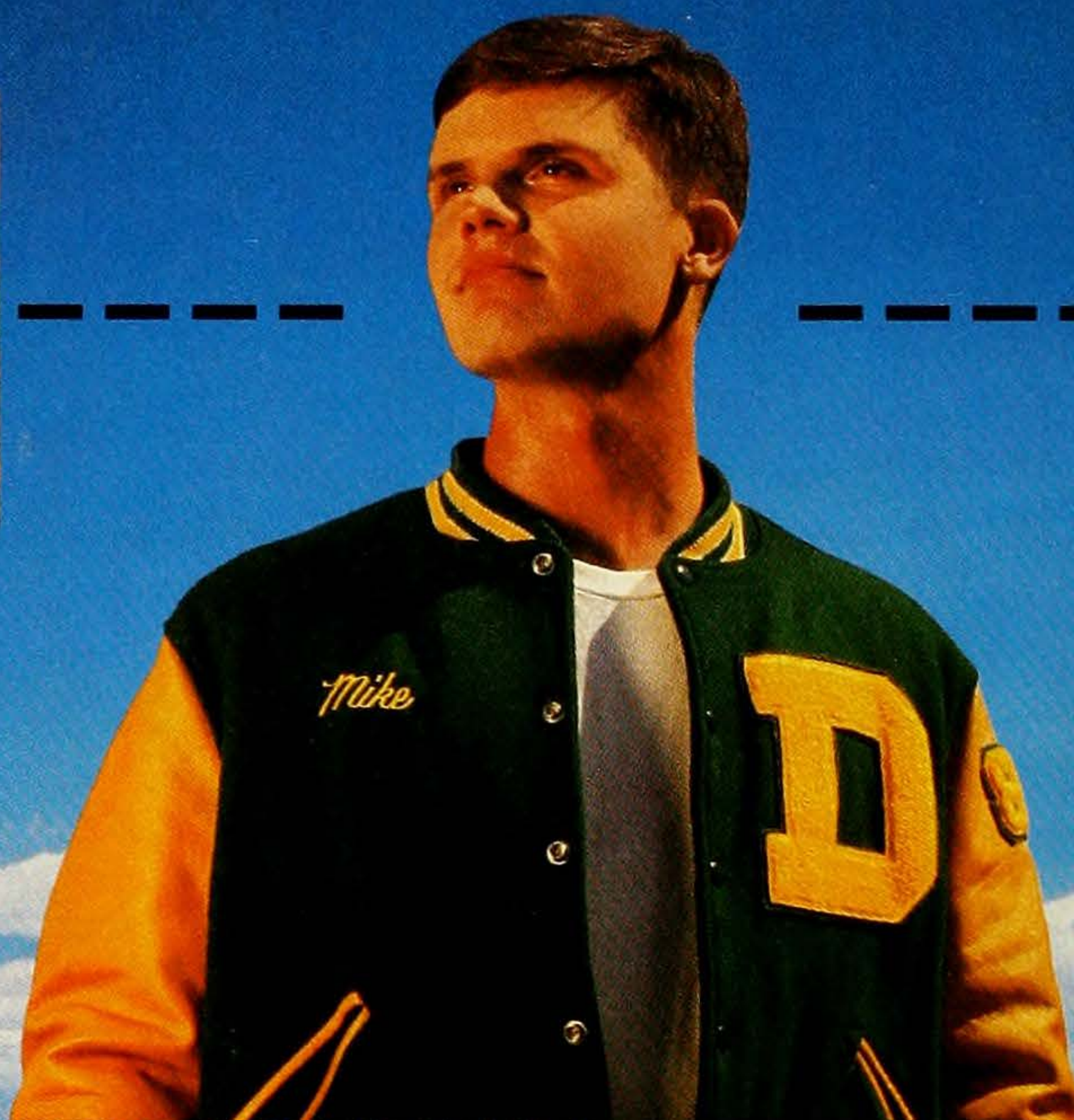
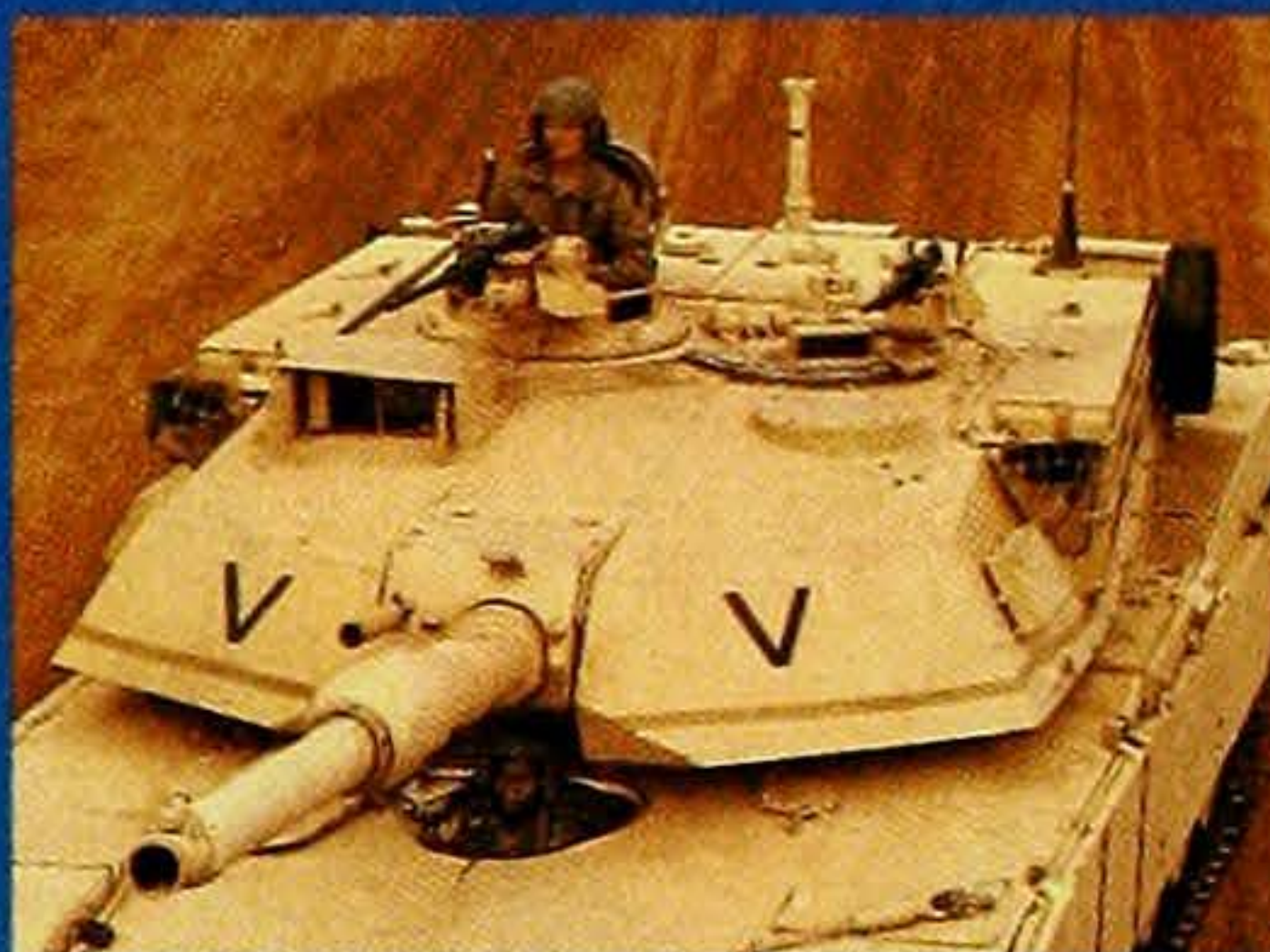
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