

new horizons

The magazine of the National FFA Organization

August 1999



WHERE TO
STOP ON
YOUR WAY TO
LOUISVILLE **inside**
kentucky
out

WHAT FFA MEMBERS ARE WEARING

cover

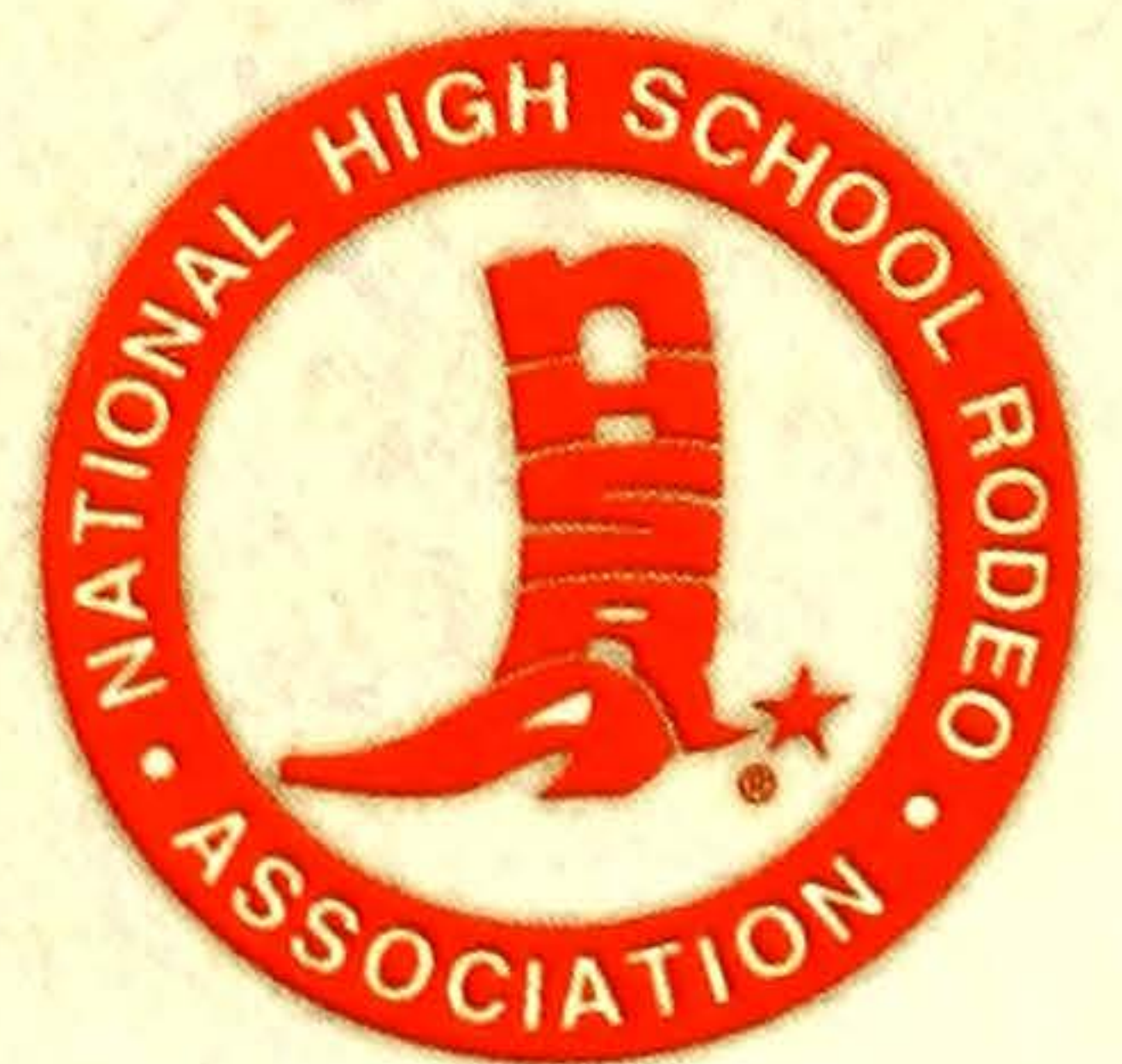
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OF FEMALES
IN THE FFA

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August 1999

contents

coverstory

8 Under Cover

Wondering what FFA members will be wearing on the first day of school? We recently visited FFA members in Des Moines, New Mexico (pop. 168), and Des Moines, Iowa (pop. 427,436), to get a fix on the latest trends. (Pictured here is Scott Shoop from Iowa.)

features

14 Austin's Powers

She comes from a land down under, but Sherrié Austin sings like she's from the Appalachians. *FFA New Horizons* recently caught up with Austin to talk about her new record and her upcoming performance at the National FFA Convention.

16 The FFA Highway: Kentucky

In October, the National FFA Convention rolls into Louisville, Kentucky, for the first time. Our cross-country road trip scouts out the coolest Kentucky sites to visit.

19 Meant to Be

It's been 30 years since females were officially admitted into the FFA. Since then, they have steadily climbed their way to the top in competitions, elected offices, awards and enthusiasm.

departments

- 3 ffa in action
- 4 national officer q&a
- 6 ffa stars
- 22 what's hot/what's not
- 24 last laff



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Under the cover: Des Moines, New Mexico, FFA Chapter member Rori Morrow just before being elected state FFA vice president. Photo by John MacLean.

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ffa in action

CALIFORNIA

Future FFA members?

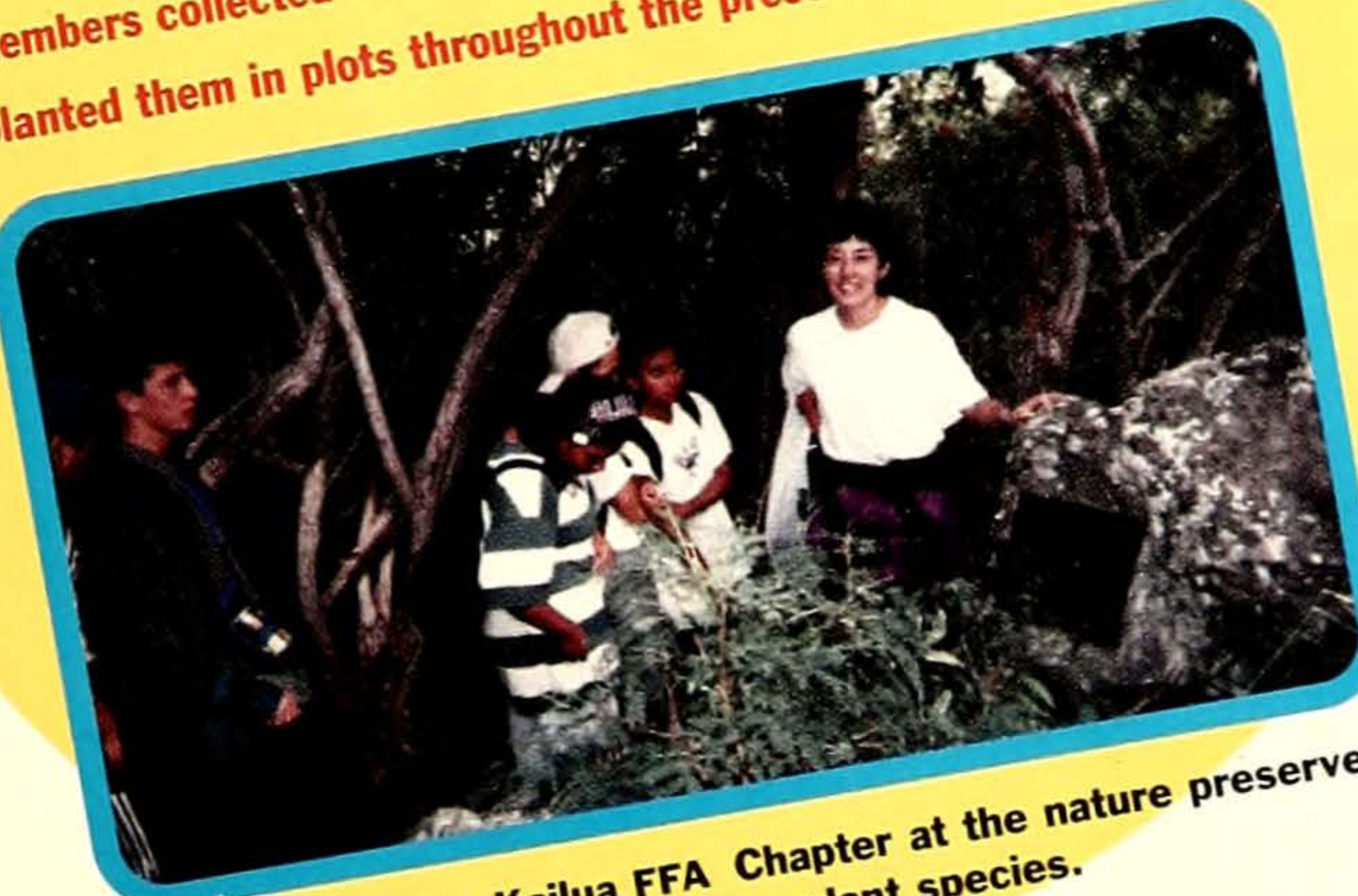
Last September, the Elk Grove FFA Chapter introduced 1,145 Sacramento County third graders to the world of agriculture. The Elk Grove FFA members set up stations covering such topics as dairy farming, beef production, swine production, sheep production, horses, rabbits, poultry, fruit and vegetable crops, modern farm machinery and modern meat cutting. The third graders spent six minutes at each of the informative stations.

Elk Grove FFA member Heather McKibben explains vegetable production to third graders.

HAWAII

When nature calls

When the Nature Conservancy of Hawaii asked the Kailua FFA Chapter to help carry out a new pilot program, they jumped at the opportunity. The aim of the program was to promote biodiversity and native plant growth at a nearby nature preserve. The Kailua members collected native Hawaiian seeds and cuttings and later planted them in plots throughout the preserve.



Members of the Kailua FFA Chapter at the nature preserve where they helped plant native plant species.

TENNESSEE

Floating away

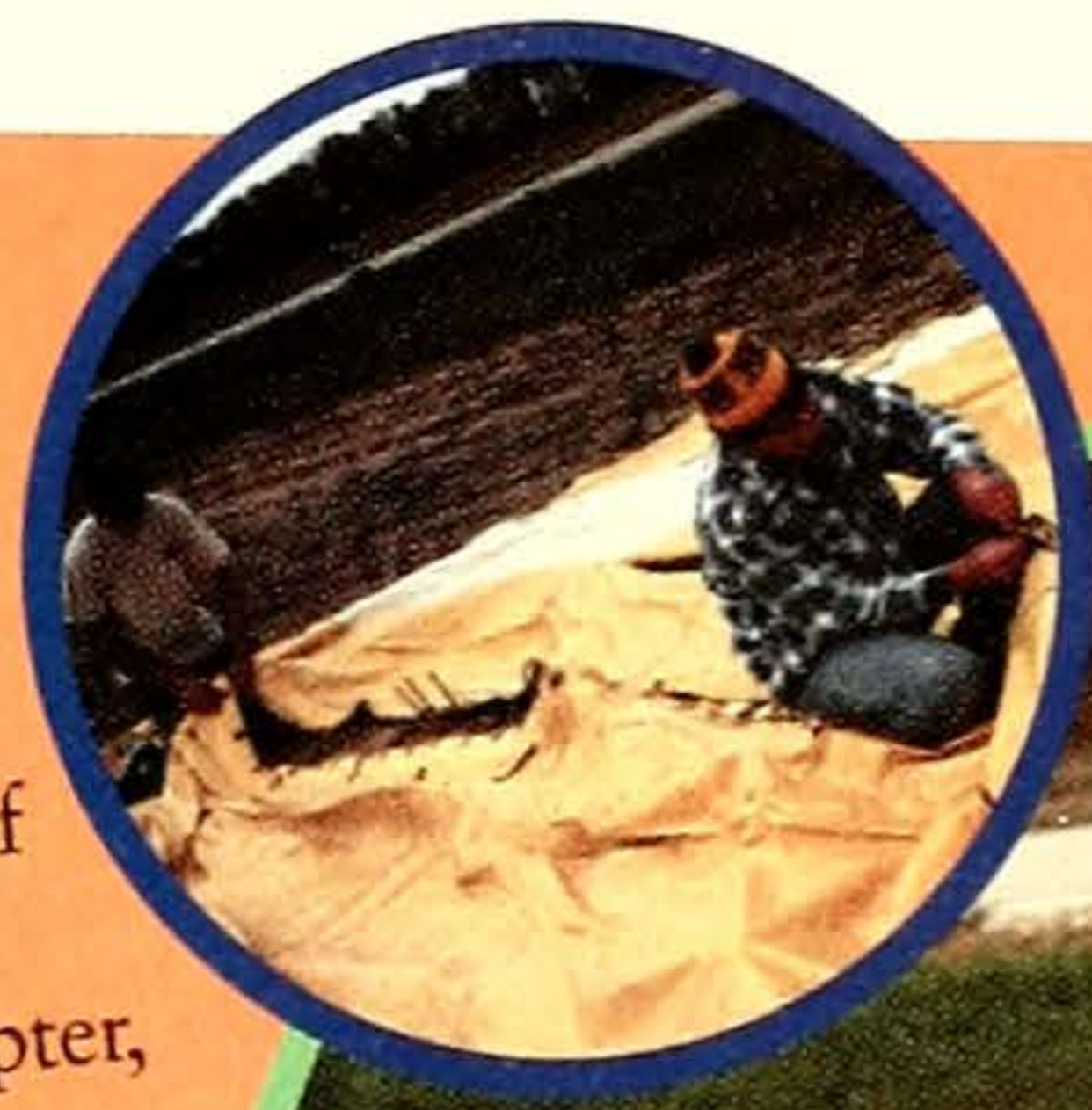
For the annual Dickson Christmas parade, the Dickson County FFA Chapter decided to pay tribute to farmers. So they built a float, themed "Farmers feed the world." Chapter officers Don Miller, Zach Spicer, Tiffany Dawson, Jamie Goddard and Matthew Curtis (left to right) are shown here with their float, which won first place in the parade.



WISCONSIN

Corn Community

Last October, months of hard work paid off for the Mishicot FFA Chapter, as its corn test plot was harvested with over 250 visitors on hand to witness the big event. With the help of a local co-op and a host farmer, the chapter's test plot featured 13 different brands and 35 varieties of corn. The Mishicot FFA members helped plant, put up variety signs and publicize the event through local media outlets. When the big day came around, members showed up at 8 a.m. to set up a safety demonstration, a cookout grill, huge circus tents and a station to test moisture, weight and other corn data.



Mishicot FFA members prepare for the corn test plot day, which attracted over 250 guests interested in seeing how different varieties of corn performed.

one on one with James Garner

What is your hometown of Hanford like?

It's a town of about 40,000 people. Most of the people who are born there tend to stay there and have families. You know a lot of people growing up, and we really have a lot of pride in our school and in our FFA chapter. I'm a fifth generation Hanford resident, so I want to stay there. I'll be at college for the next few years, but eventually I want to come home to teach.

How did you decide you wanted to teach?

I've wanted to teach ever since I was young. When I was really young, I loved to play school—and I loved to be the teacher because I just liked to teach. When I got older, my eighth grade teacher made a big impact on me because she took a special interest in me. My ag teachers also played an instrumental role. I want to do the same thing for students.

How have the national FFA officers grown as a team in the last six months?

The amount of growth is incredible. When you get elected, you're just trying to get to know the other officers. Then, after a couple months, you really get to know and care about these people. I wish we

were able to spend more time together, but we don't. When we do come together as a group, we come together to work. But we do manage to squeeze some fun time in there, whether it's just hanging out, going to a movie, or going bowling.

What's the coolest thing you've done this year?

The trip to Japan was way cool. Being there, living it, and being immersed in the culture—it really blows your mind.

What is your favorite hobby?

I love to play guitar—that's my favorite. Whenever I find a guitar, I love to just pick it up and play. I can play for hours by myself and completely lose track of time. I started when I got elected to state office. I started playing on my own. I learned a lot from my college roommate and from our state executive secretary, Dr. Dodson—he's a great guitar picker.

Have you had a chance to keep your golf game together?

None. Zero. I haven't had a chance to play since I was elected. ★

VITALS

Hometown:

Hanford, California

Age: 21

Chapter: Hanford FFA

Advisor: Leonard DeRuiter

SAE: Market Sheep

Education: California

Polytechnic, San Luis

Obispo

Major: Agricultural education

Last good book: Cash

(autobiography of Johnny Cash)

Last movie: The Phantom Menace

Favorite food: Bleu cheese

Car: '85 Mercury Cougar

TIMELINE

Age

- 14** • joined FFA
- lost freshman class presidential election
- 15** • attended state FFA camp
- lost regional FFA officer election
- elected sectional FFA secretary
- 16** • elected FFA chapter president
- 17** • elected regional FFA president
- attended Washington Leadership Conference
- 19** • elected state FFA president
- 21** • elected national FFA officer



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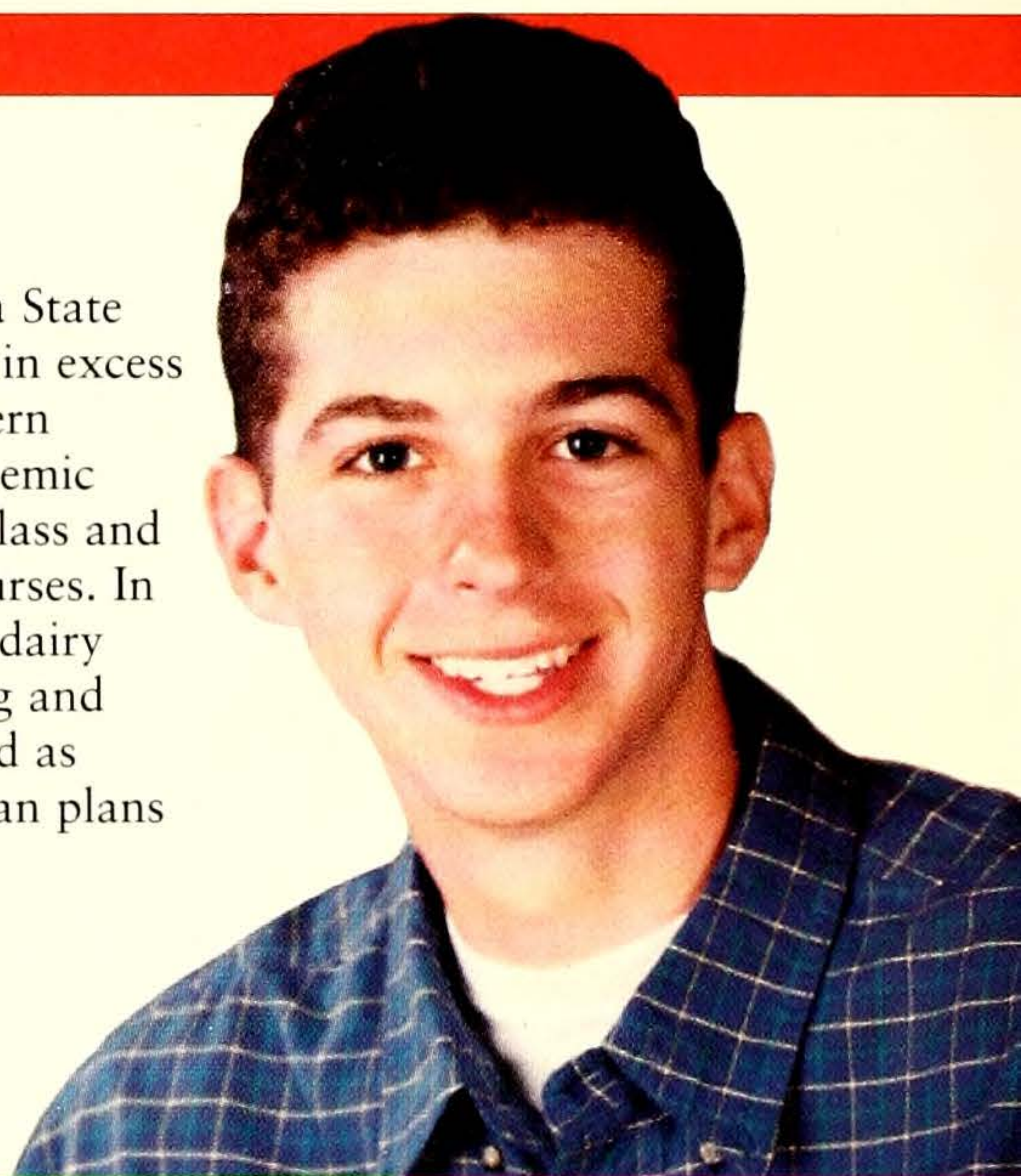
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NORTH CAROLINA

Christian Wilson

When Christian starts classes at North Carolina State University this fall, he will have already earned in excess of 40 college credit hours as a student at Southern Guilford High School in Greensboro. This academic all-star finished number one in his graduating class and took many honors and advanced placement courses. In FFA, Christian participated in such activities as dairy judging, parliamentary procedure, horse judging and extemporaneous public speaking. He also served as chapter president and district president. Christian plans to be an agricultural lawyer. ★

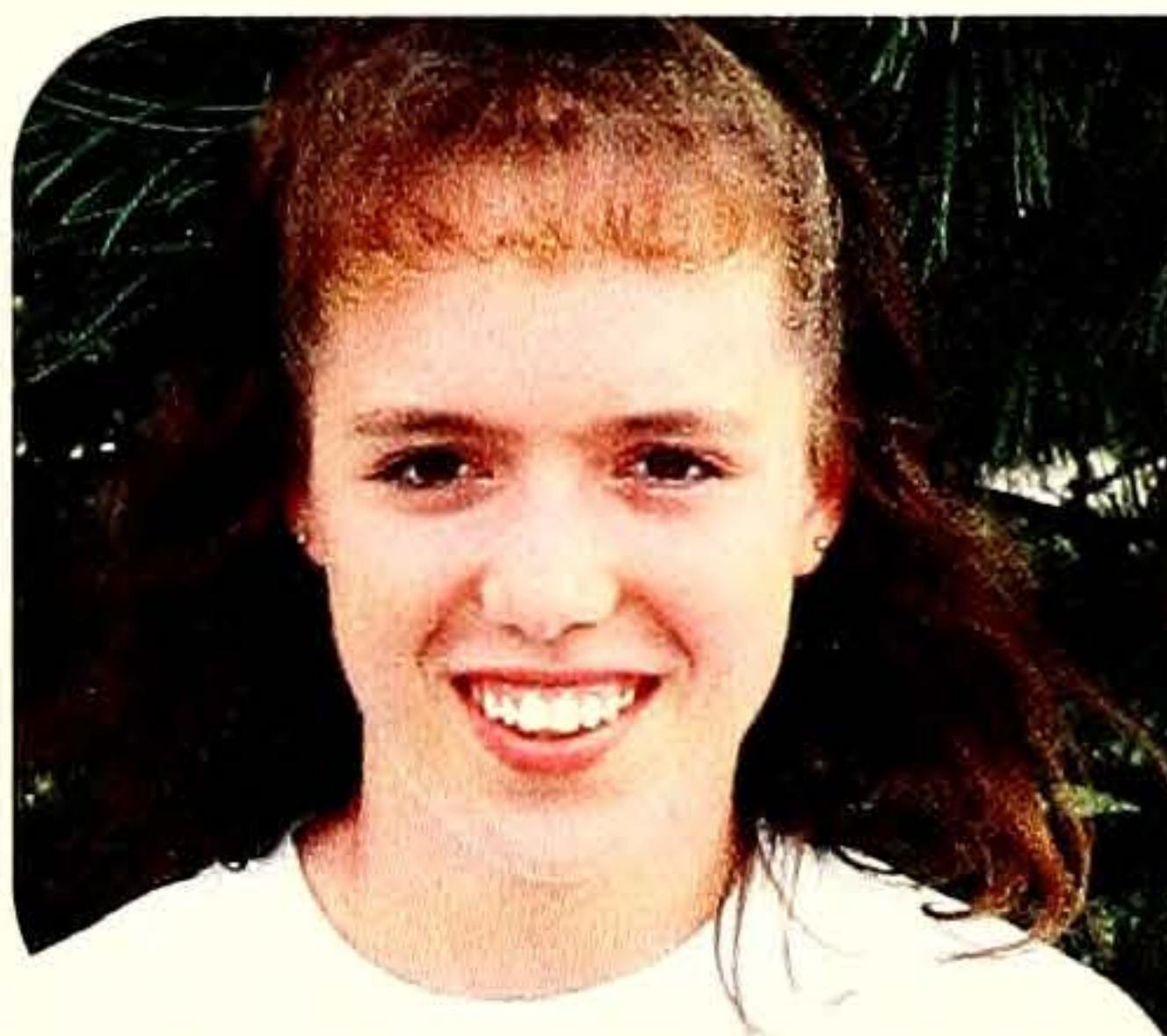


KANSAS

MICHIGAN

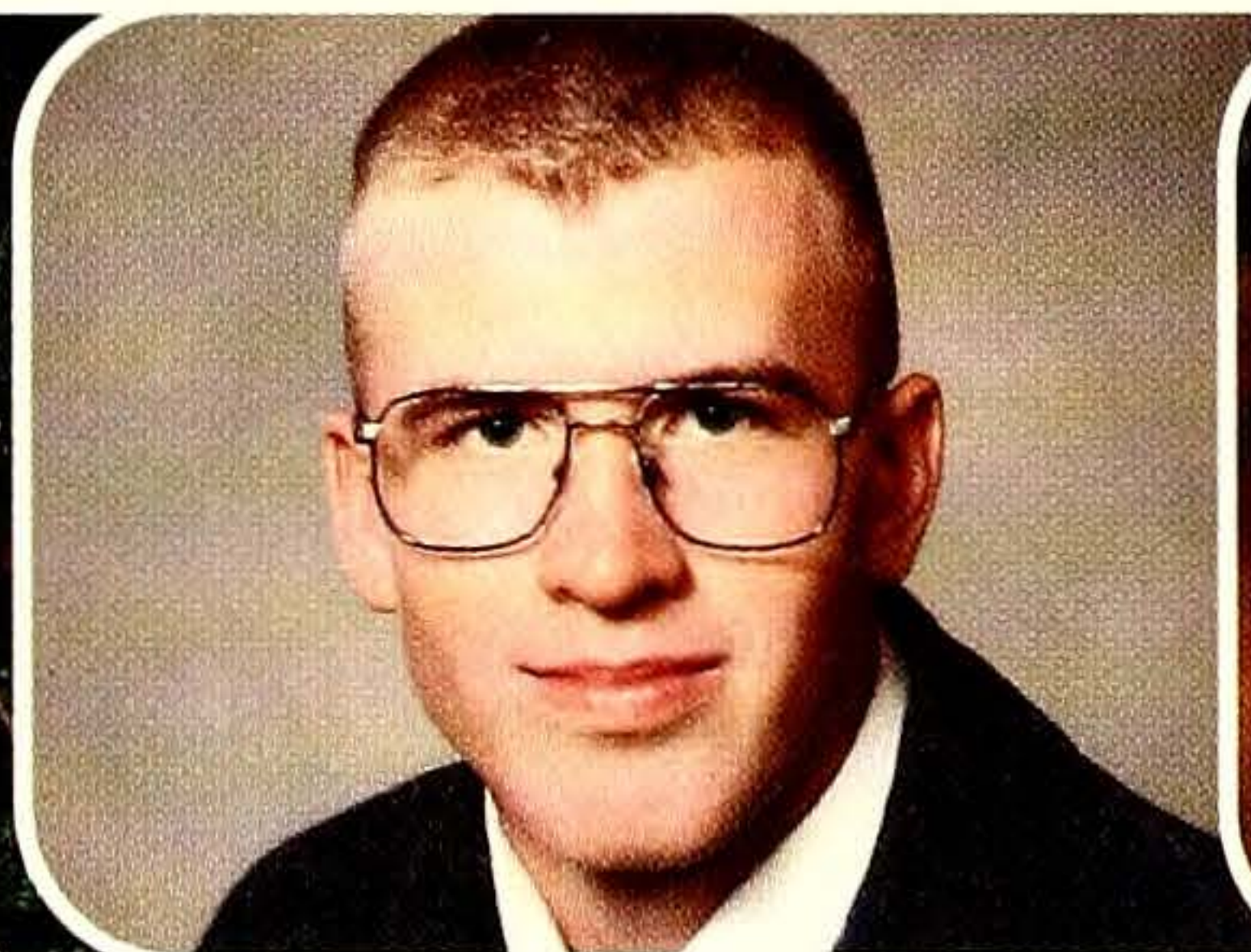
OKLAHOMA

WASHINGTON



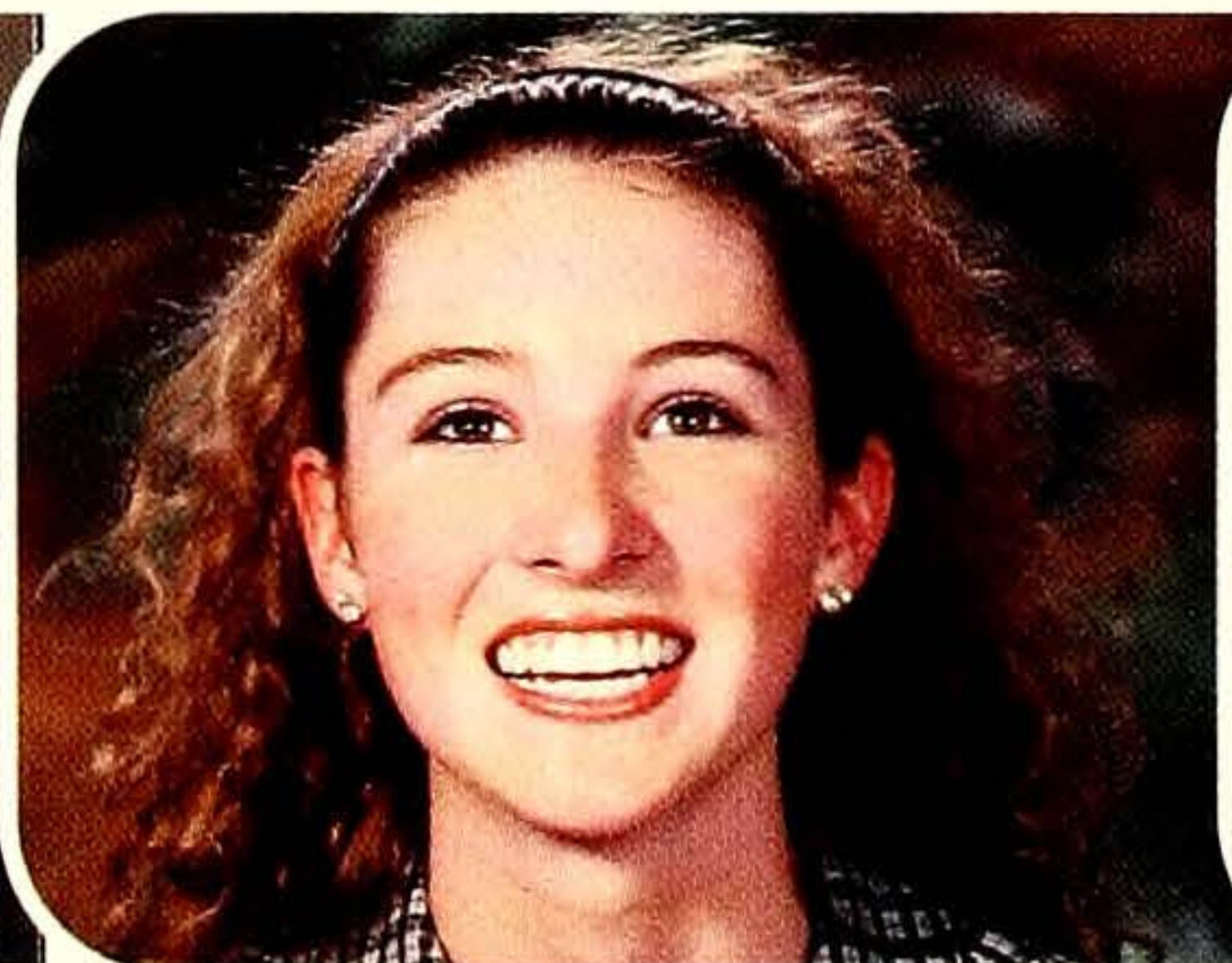
Crystal Reichart

As her advisor puts it, Crystal is not in the FFA to see what it can do for her, but to see what she can for the FFA. As Atchison County FFA Chapter vice president for the past two years, 18-year-old Crystal has a great work ethic, and she is always willing to lend a helping hand to other members. Besides working on her dairy SAE, she stays busy with 4-H, Leaders of Tomorrow, Atchison County Ambassadors, church, athletics, school clubs and babysitting. ★



Ryan Chapman

A member of the Lepeer County Vo-Tech FFA Chapter, Ryan, 19, restores antique tractors for fun. His technical abilities have earned him high honors in ag mechanics competitions. And this fall, he will attend Northwestern College in Ohio, where he will study ag/diesel mechanics. While he works hard on his SAE consisting of beef, sheep, hay and corn production, he still finds time to work for two local dairy farmers on the weekends. ★



Patricia Halbrooks

As sentinel of the McLoud FFA Chapter, and a member of the floriculture team, 17-year-old Patricia is enthusiastic about FFA. She leads the charge when it comes time to work on such chapter activities as fundraisers, auctions and dinners. And, with nearly ten years of experience in animal showmanship, Patricia shows crossbred lambs. She is looking forward to attending this year's National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. In her spare time, Patricia likes to hang out with her parents. ★



Morgan Irwin

Sixteen-year-old Enumclaw FFA Chapter member Morgan Irwin has become quite the speaker. In the last two years, he has successfully competed in FFA, National Junior Polled Hereford Council and Voice of Democracy speech competitions. He's chapter sentinel and is a member of the varsity cross-country, soccer and wrestling teams. Morgan spends the rest of his time working on the family farm south of Seattle, where he maintains show heifers and stockshow steer. ★

what is your dream job in agriculture?

As a FFA member in 1999, you'll be among the first to enter the workforce in the next millennium. Because no one else will be in those same shoes for, oh, a thousand or so years, we want to know what kinds of careers appeal to you.

We realize that many of you are probably still years away from deciding on a career—that's okay. We don't want you to decide on a career right now. We just want to know what kinds of agricultural careers you think you would most like to pursue. It could even be a career that doesn't yet exist.

Here's what we need: In 100 words or less, tell us your dream job in agriculture and why you chose it. You can write it down and mail it in, or you can type it up and e-mail it to us. Please be creative, and have fun with it!

We will reprint some of your letters and e-mails in our November/December issue, which focuses on the millennium and the future of agriculture.

When writing, please include your name, address, phone number and chapter name.

mail no later than September 15 to:
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more career ideas

If you want to get a better sense of what types of agricultural careers are out there, we highly recommend the Career Center at www.ffa.org. Here, you can take a self-assessment quiz which will help you match your interests with actual jobs. You will also find detailed info on careers in all segments of the agricultural industry. Plus get valuable tips on resumes, letters, interviewing and much more!

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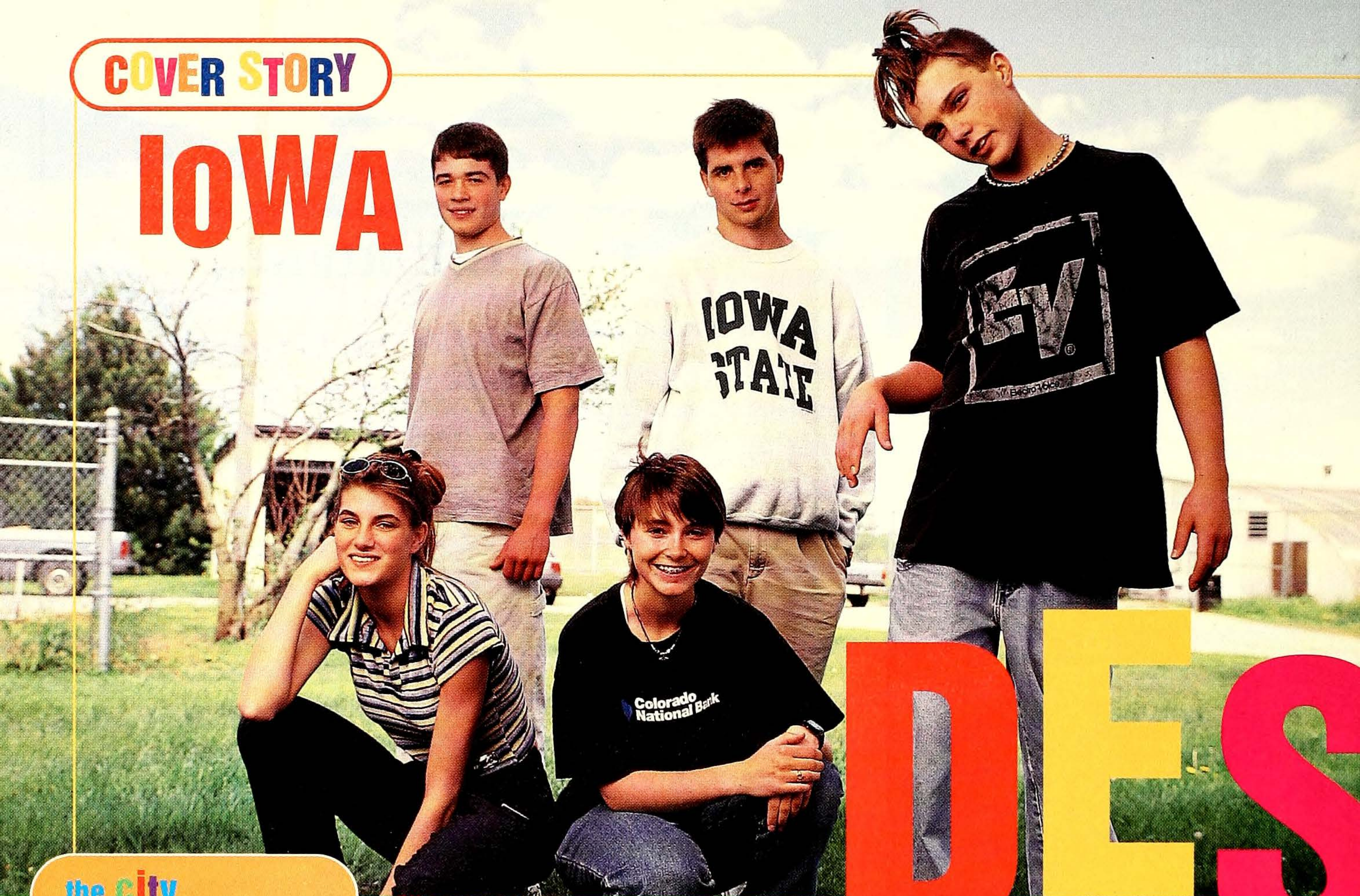


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IOWA



the city

Des Moines, Iowa

Population: 427,436

Location: Right in the middle of Iowa, Des Moines is three hours west of the Mississippi River, and two hours east of the Missouri River

the chapter

Name: Des Moines FFA

Year established: 1975

Number of members: 133

Favorite FFA activities: greenhouse, public speaking

the Clothes

Where they buy them:

American Eagle, Abercrombie and Fitch (in Iowa City), Youngers (a regional department store chain), local malls

What's in: Loose-fitting jeans, lightweight hiking shoes, khakis, sandals, crop-tops, Airwalk, Joe Boxer, Adidas, Tommy Hilfiger

BY ERICH GAUKEL

Wondering what FFA members will be wearing on the first day of school? We recently visited FFA members in Des Moines, New Mexico (population 168), and Des Moines, Iowa (population 427,436), to get a fix on the latest trends in everyday clothes

With its skyscrapers, expressways and suburbs, Des Moines is a big city in an ocean of Iowa corn and soybeans. If there's one place to go to find out what kids in Des Moines are wearing, it's here at the Des Moines FFA Chapter, which draws students from 12 area high schools.

With jets roaring overhead as they approach the nearby Des Moines Airport, FFA members here

say there is one common thread in what they all wear—it's comfort. "Cotton is the fabric of our lives," jokes one member. And while the days of extreme bagginess seem to be over, moderate bagginess, because of its comfort and look, has found a permanent home. Sophomore Jon Kaiser, a skateboarder, says it gives him more mobility. For Josh Brown, a senior, it's a reflection of his personality: "I'm just a baggy person."

For others, comfort is found in polo shirts, crop-tops, sweatshirts and loose-fitting (not quite baggy) jeans. And thanks to The Gap (there are Gap stores at all the major malls here), khakis are still kicking, in the form of pants and shorts. Brian Cary, a senior who plays tennis, wears

his khaki shorts with a polo shirt.

When it comes to brands, Tommy Hilfiger is popular with both sexes. Brandy Van Blair, a sophomore, wears a Tommy Hilfiger sweatshirt, blue shorts and white platform sneakers. She says the fashionable platform shoes serve a more utilitarian purpose—they make her 5'3" instead of 5'2". Heidi Austin, a junior, wears Fila sweat pants, which tie together her brown leather sandals (worn over white socks) and crop-top.

Other brands favored by the Des Moines FFA members include Adidas, Joe Boxer, Timberland, Nike, Champion and MTV (yes, even TV stations are starting their own clothing brands). ★

Clockwise from back left: Brian Cary, Brandon DeWitt, Jon Kaiser, Candace Miller and Heidi Austin

Rumor has it, in the ranching community of Union County, New Mexico, cattle outnumber people by more than fifty to one. That may or may not be true, but it certainly isn't hard to believe. The fact is, if you happen to attend the county's Des Moines High School, set just off the only major street in the blink-and-it's-gone town of Des Moines, you spend your class time exactly 37 miles away from the nearest stoplight, and the biggest attraction—aside from the cows, of course—is a nearby volcano. A bustling metropolis, this is not.

Union County is, however, home to 32 members of the Des Moines

FFA chapter. And when you take a look at them—students, champion basketball players, talented public speakers, ranchers—you quickly realize that despite their rural location, they haven't been left out in the woods when it comes to fashion. When this crew comes to school, the working duds—the Wranglers and the Rockies, the boots and the cowboy hats—are generally left back at the ranch. According to chapter president Jared Purvines, everybody pretty much dresses in their own style. "It kind of depends on the day," he says. "Every once in a while people dress up, but it's mostly just

lounge material." Comfort, therefore, is the name of the game. T-shirts, Levi's, and sneakers do the trick for most. Others wear cotton polo shirts or button-downs, Lucky or Anchor Blue jeans, and black Doc Marten shoes. Sandals are in. So are ball caps.

So where does everyone do their shopping? Like everything else (other than school and work), way out of town. And that's not likely to change anytime soon. For in these parts, the only thing more certain than a field full of cattle is that Union County will never have a fashion mall. And the truth is, Des Moines FFA members wouldn't want it any other way. ★

the City

Des Moines, New Mexico

Population: **168**

Location: Northeast corner of New Mexico, about three hours from the state capital, Santa Fe

the Chapter

Name: **Des Moines FFA**

Year established: **1930**

Number of members: **32**

Favorite FFA activities: livestock judging, career development events

the Clothes

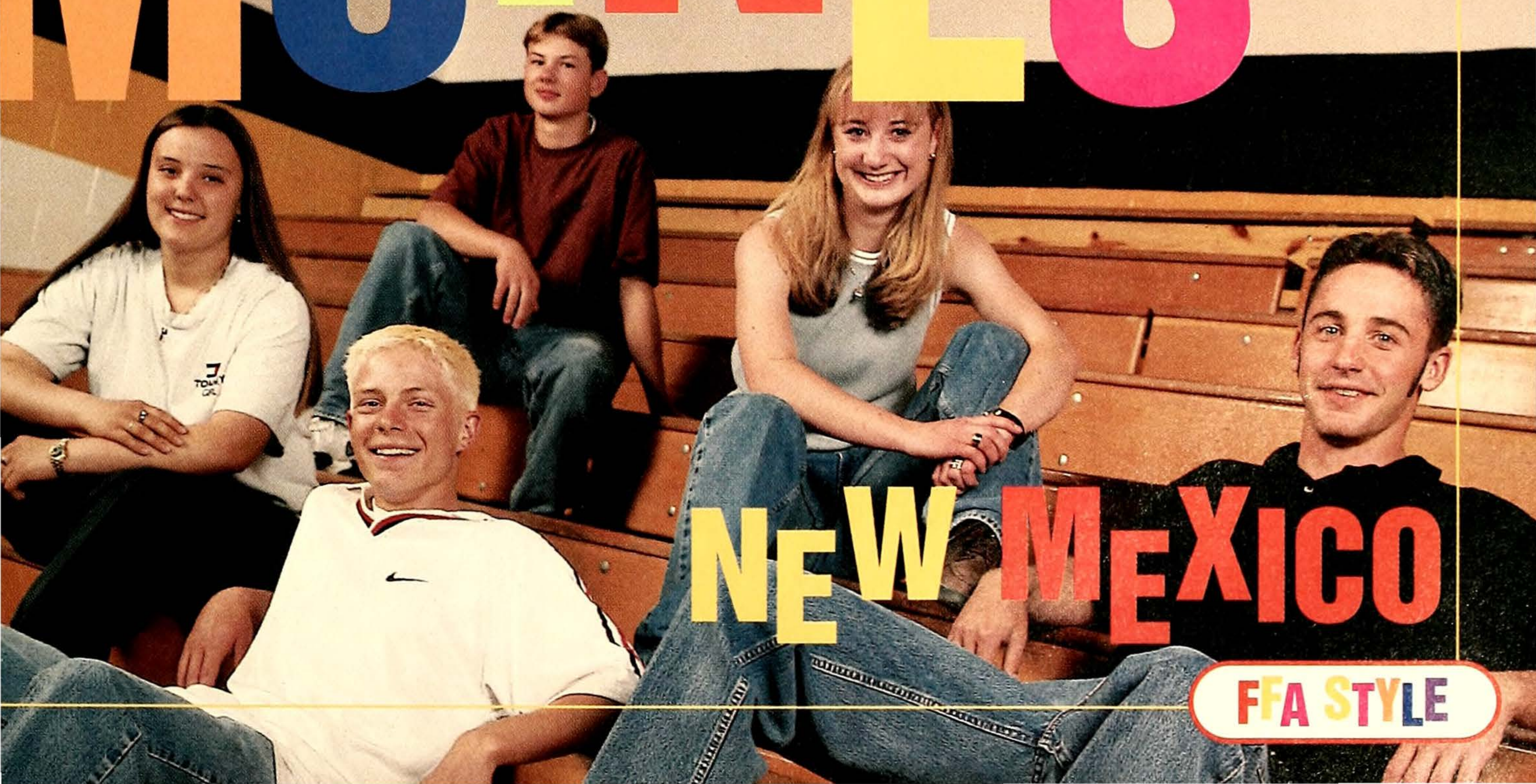
Where they buy them:

K-Mart in Raton (37 miles from Des Moines), and malls in Albuquerque (264 miles) and Santa Fe (210 miles)

What's in: Tommy Hilfiger, Gap, Calvin Klein, Wrangler, Rocky Mountain, Anchor Blue, Nike, Skechers, Doc Martens, sandals, T-shirts, tank-tops, ball caps

BY CHRIS HAYHURST

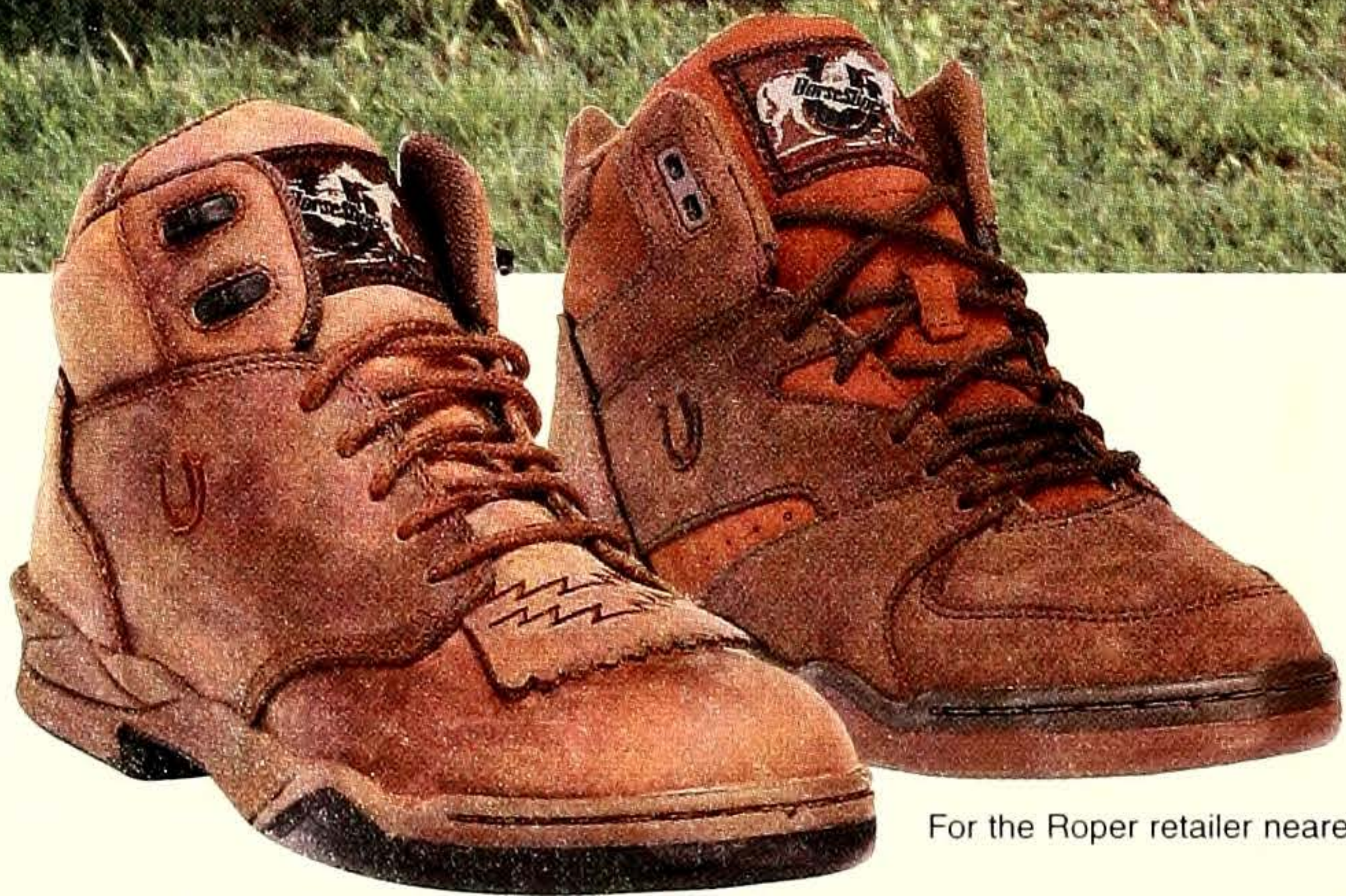
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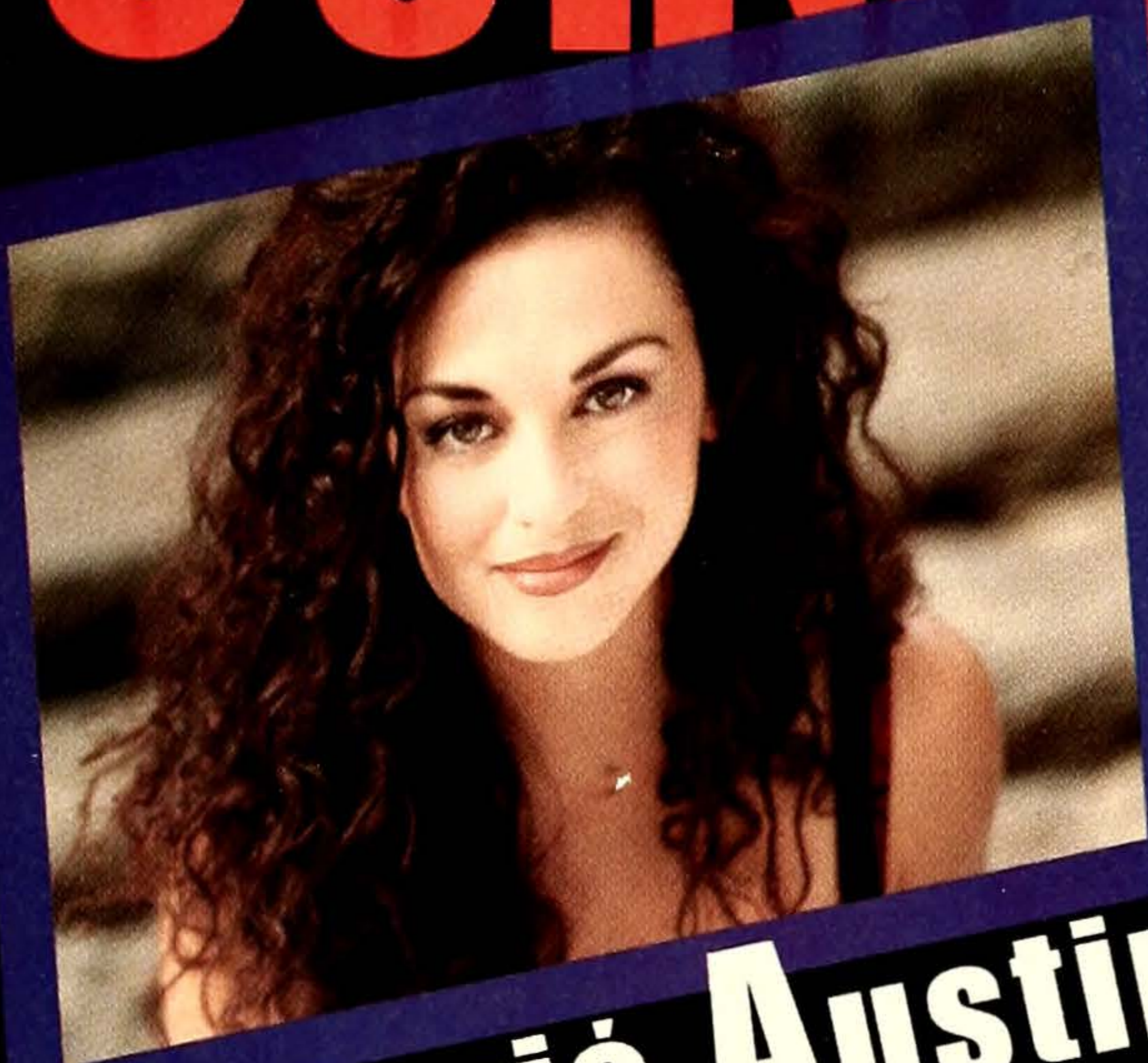
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Sherrié

An interview with country music's star from Down Under Austin

What drew you to country music?

My mom's a big country fan, so I grew up listening to Dolly Parton and Peter Davis and Johnny Cash. I started out writing poetry, and then I taught myself an instrument. I have always been drawn to country because it tells a story and it's about people. It's kind of like a universal language. I enjoy writing songs that can reach out and touch people because it's about every day situations—life and love and pain and recovery.

You opened for Johnny Cash in your homeland of Australia at age 14.

What was that like?

Well, Johnny is the coolest man in the room no matter who else is there. To this day, of all the things I've done, saying that I've shared a stage with Johnny Cash is the most impressive thing to other people.

What were you like as a teenager?

At 15, as well as singing and playing at all the country music festivals, I was just being a normal tomboy and hanging out down by the river catching frogs and fighting with the boys. I was also trying new hairstyles and new lipsticks, so I was kind of tomboy/girly-girl. I always read a lot of books. Living in Australia, we were on the water, so we sailed a lot and played on the beach.

Tell us about your new record.

It's called "Love in the Real World." I named it that because my first album ("Words," 1997) dealt with the shattering of the fairy tale associated with first love. On this album, I'm a little older and little wiser. I thought "Love in the Real World" was a more realistic look at love at this point in my life. It covers a couple of other topics as well. There are 12 songs and I wrote 11 of them. Production wise, it is much more acoustic—there's a lot of mandolin—and, in some ways, it is a little more country.

How does the songwriting process work for you?

It depends on inspiration. Some days it comes easily and other days it feels like you're forcing it, so you just don't write that day. Sometimes it's a title, sometimes it's a

melody I get first. It's always different—there are no rules I follow. Songwriting is just as much discipline as it is craft because you just have to keep doing it.

Which musical influences have made an impact on you?

Dolly Parton is one of my absolute favorites. She's such a great singer and songwriter. I've been writing a lot of stuff with that Appalachian sound—I'm very influenced by that.

Is country music popular in Australia?

The same music you have here, we have in Australia. You can buy it stores—you can even hear it on the radio now.

What's in your CD player right now?

On the road I've been listening to recordings by Mary Chapin Carpenter and Roseanne Cash. But in my workout bag right now is Tom Petty.

How do you maintain a normal life living on a tour bus?

I read a lot of books. I'm very close to my band—we hang out together, we're good friends, we have fun. I think that's the key. We just keep a sense of humor. That's the way to stay normal in any part of this business.

What would you be doing if you hadn't pursued a career in music?

I'd be a journalist. I've always liked the idea of writing for a newspaper or a TV show like 20/20. Anything as long as I'm writing—anything to do with words.

Interview by Erich Gaukel

Sherrié Austin's "Love in the Real World" CD hits the record stores this month

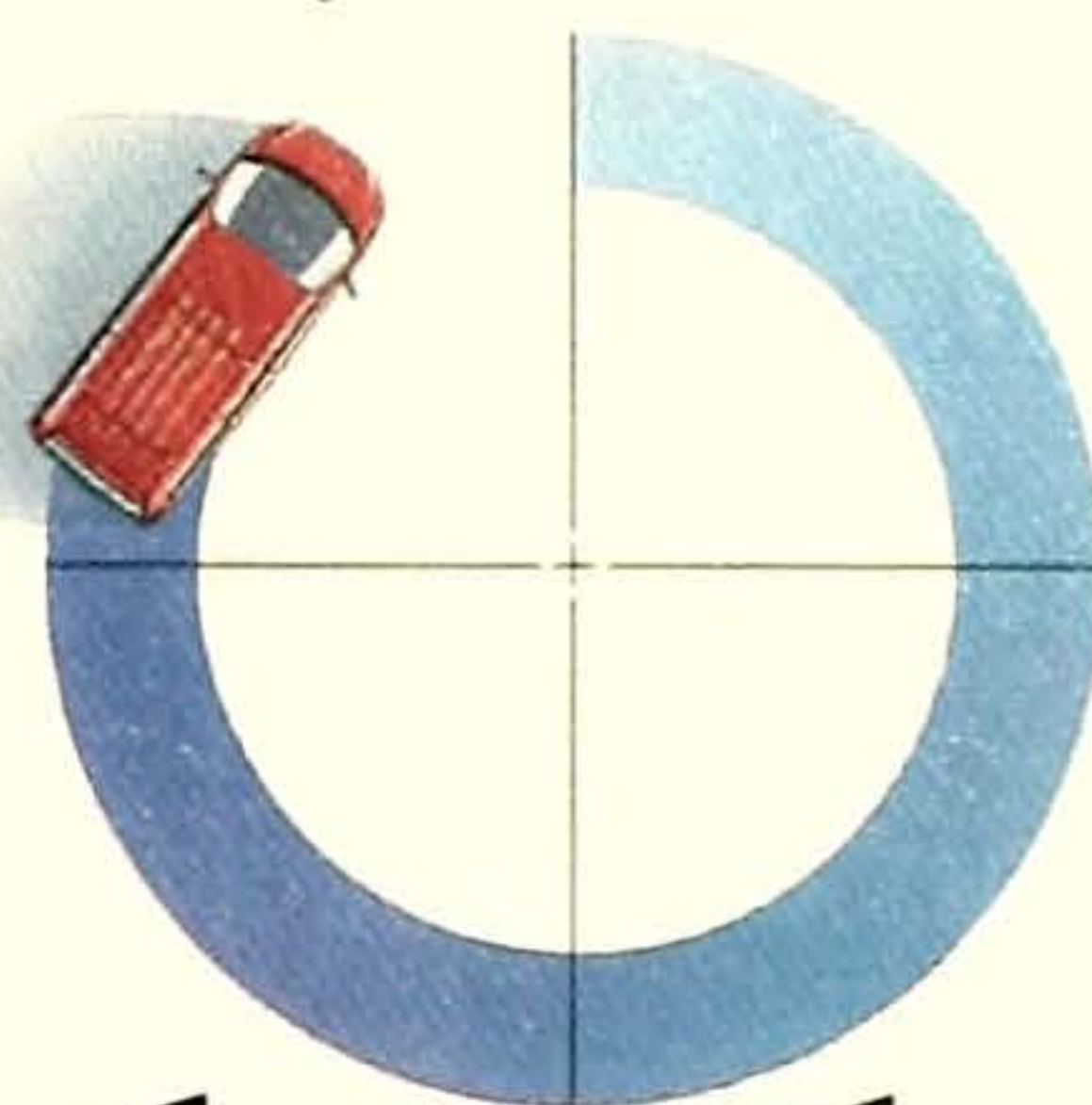
You can hear Sherrié Austin live October 28 at the national FFA convention in Louisville



By design, we've given everyone a great view of the skyline. And provided protection from the heat of the sun.

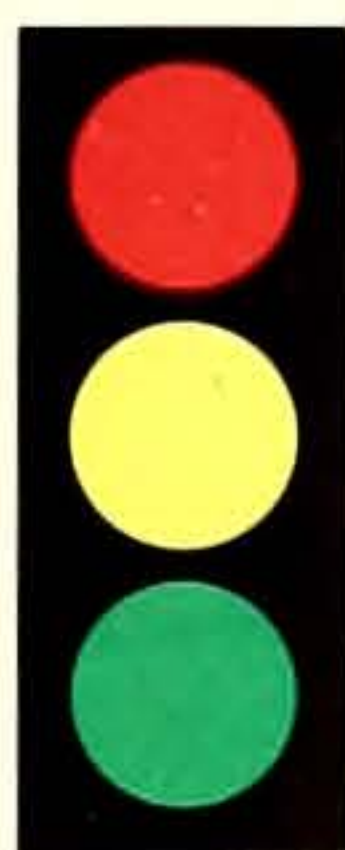


We're proud of Caravan's tight turning radius. You'll be a believer by the next turn.

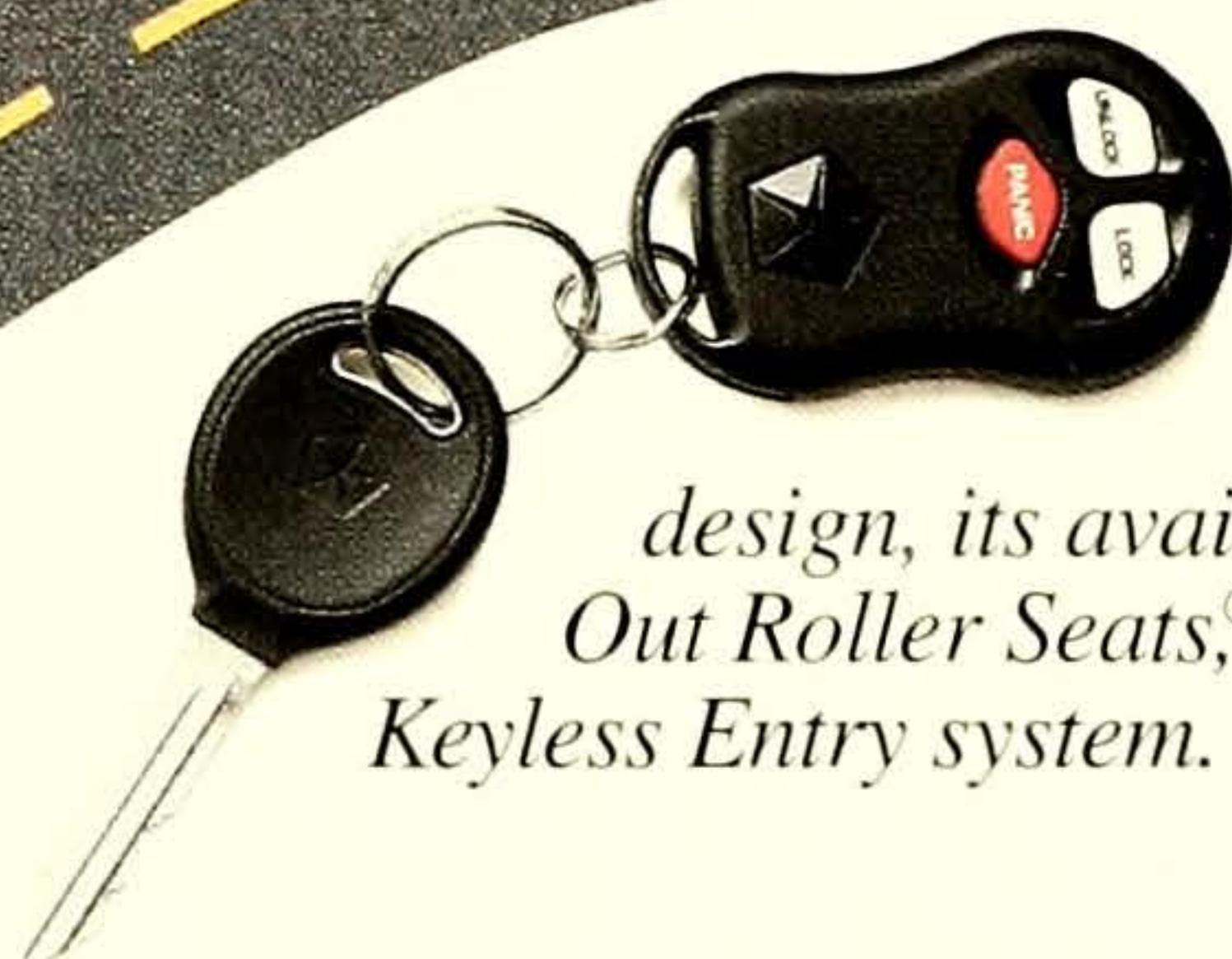


Two hot options: Dual zone temperature controls. And our newly available heated front seats. Very cool.

Once around the block will convince you.



Standard 17" wheels and tires on Caravan ES signal great performance.

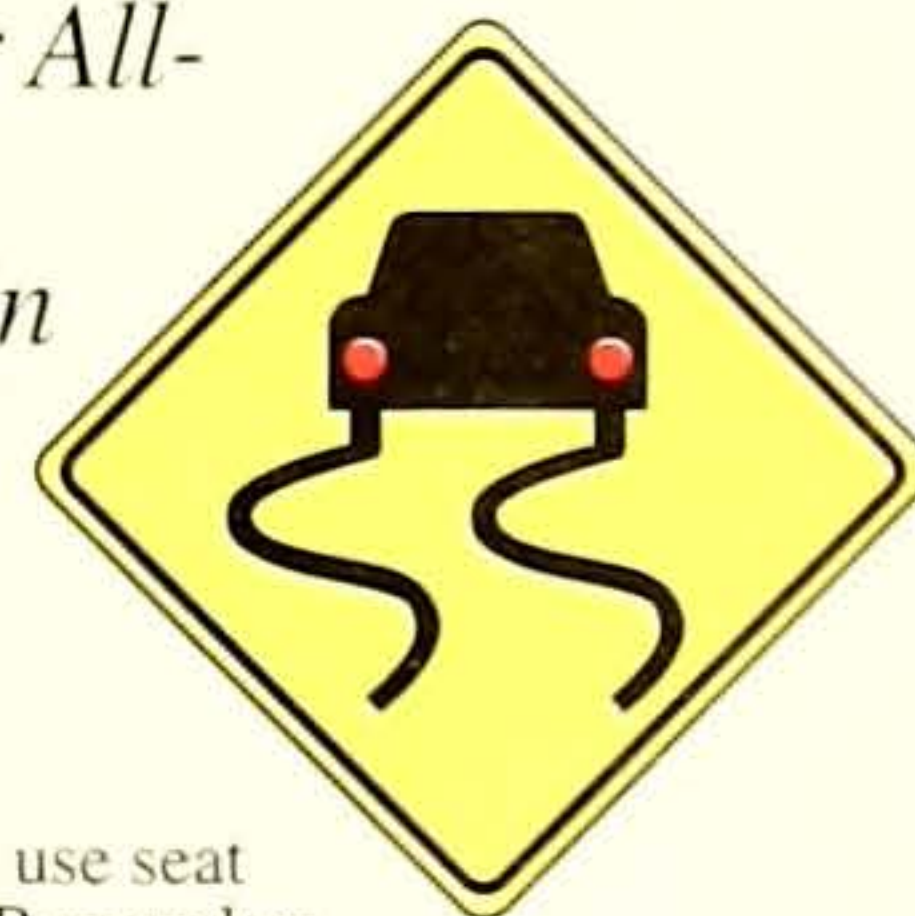


The key to a Caravan is its thoughtful features, its intelligent design, its available second sliding door, its Easy Out Roller Seats®, and, of course, its optional Remote Keyless Entry system.

When once around the block becomes all over the state, you'll love Caravan's abundant compartments, cubbyholes, and cupholders.



Options like anti-lock brakes, traction control, or All-Wheel Drive help improve handling in inclement weather.



Dodge Caravan is the only minivan to have been named a Consumers Digest "Best Buy" ten years in a row.*



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IN OCTOBER,
THE **NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION**
ROLLS INTO LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY,
FOR THE FIRST TIME

So, we dedicated a few days
of our cross-country road trip
to scouting out the coolest
Kentucky sites for you to visit
on your way to Louisville

See page 18 for detailed information
on these attractions



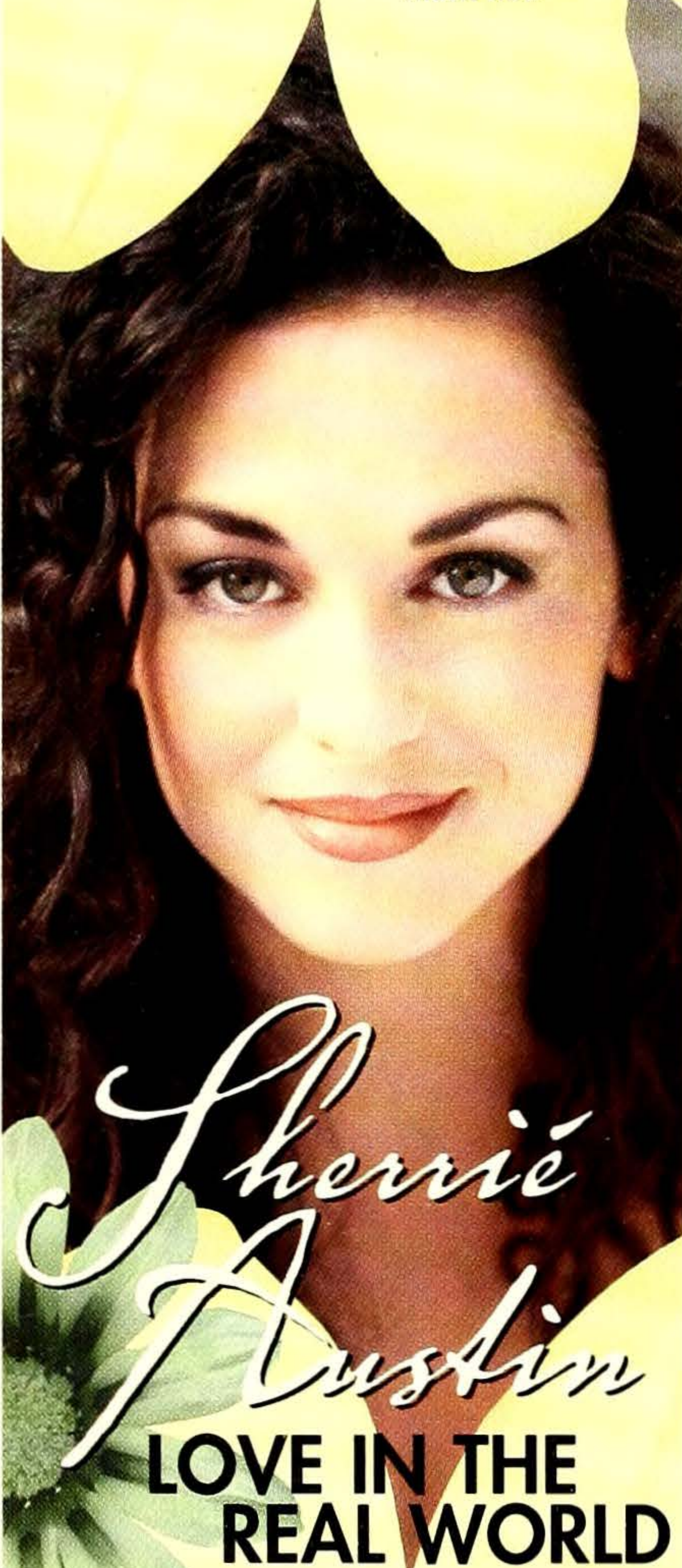
Part Six: Kentucky

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—Robert K. Oermann,
Music Row



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Abraham Lincoln Birthplace (Hogdenville)

On February 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln was born here at Sinking Spring, a 348-acre farm his father purchased for \$200. Though his family moved away from here in 1811, the site remains an important piece of American history.

Admission: free

Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. daily

More info: (502) 358-3137 or

www.nps.gov/abli

Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site (Perryville)

On October 8, 1862, Confederate and Union troops clashed here in what turned out to be one the South's last serious attempts to gain control of Kentucky. Though the Confederate troops claimed victory here, they had to make a hasty retreat when they realized 40,000 Union troops were headed their way.

Admission: Battlefield & park, free; museum, \$2

Museum hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

More info: (606) 332-8631 or

e-mail: kholman@searnet.com

Fort Knox / Patton Museum of Calvary and Armor (Radcliff)

This military base is the famous home of the U.S. gold depository, which would be a nice place to visit, but visitors aren't allowed. You can, however, view it from U.S. 31W or Bullion Blvd. It's worth driving by on your way to the Patton Museum up the street, which is one of the largest museums in the U.S. Army system.

Admission: Free

Hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays;

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekends

More info: (502) 624-3812

More places to see...

Daniel Boone Gravesite (Frankfort)

Visit the final resting place of the famous Eighteenth Century American pioneer. The views of Frankfort and the state capitol building are spectacular.
(502) 227-2403

Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home (Hogdenville)

Lincoln's family relocated here after leaving Sinking Spring Farm. Just 10 miles northeast, Knob Creek Farm was Lincoln's boyhood home, where his earliest memories came from. (502) 549-3741

Breaks Interstate Park (at the Kentucky-Virginia border)

See 1,600-foot canyon walls created 250 million years ago. (540) 865-4413

Cumberland Gap National Historic Park (near Middlesboro)

See a natural 800-foot break in the Cumberland Mountains, through which Daniel Boone and other settlers reached Kentucky. (606) 248-2817

Kentucky's Country Music Highway (from Ashland to Letcher county on Hwy 23)

Road signs on this section of Highway 23 honor the dozen country and bluegrass artists who came from this region, including Billy Ray Cyrus, The Judds and Patty Loveless.

Harland Sanders Café and Museum (Corbin)

See Colonel Sanders' museum and hometown. While you're there, check out the first KFC.
(606) 528-2163

National Corvette Museum & Assembly Plant (Bowling Green)

There's only one place in the world where Chevrolet's Corvette is made, and it's right here in Bowling Green. You can tour the plant to see how the Corvettes are put together, then head over the National Corvette Museum, where you can see vintage Corvettes and memorabilia. Call ahead for plant tours at 502-745-8419.

Museum admission: Ages 17 and up, \$8;
Ages 6-16, \$4
Hours: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily
More info: (502) 781-7973



The Kentucky Horse Park / The International Museum of the Horse / American Saddle Horse Museum (Lexington)

The Kentucky Horse Park is a working horse farm and educational theme park dedicated to man's relationship with the horse. Located on 1,032 acres in the heart of Bluegrass, the park features more than forty different breeds of horses, The International Museum of the Horse, The American Saddle Horse Museum, twin theaters and horse shows.

Admission for park, including museums:
Age 12 and up, \$12.20; Ages 7-12, \$6.20
Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily
More info: (800) 678-8813

National Underground Railroad Museum (Maysville)

Here in Maysville, which is just across the Ohio River from Ohio, you can visit this fascinating museum, which retells the story of the Underground Railroad, which helped thousands of escaped slaves reach freedom in northern states. The museum features photographs, documents and other items of interest. Maysville, where slaves crossed the Ohio River, was a key stop on the railroad.

Admission: small admission fee
Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday
More info: (606) 564-9411

Mammoth Cave National Park (near Cave City)

Explore some of the 350 miles of caves once used by nomadic bands of archaic Native Americans.
(800) 967-2283

Schmidt's Museum of Coca-Cola Memorabilia (Elizabethtown)

See the history of a soft drink that started as a mouthwash. (502) 737-4000

Big Bone Lick State Park (near Union)

Check out this final resting place for many prehistoric creatures—huge ground sloths, musk oxen and giant bison—whose bones have been found here. (606) 384-3522

Kentucky Railway Museum (New Haven)

Ride an old train through the Kentucky countryside. (800) 272-0152

While our information is deemed reliable, we highly recommend that you call ahead for directions and to confirm hours and admission fees.

In the next issue of **FFA New Horizons**, we will preview the 1999 National FFA Convention, and The FFA Highway will scout out the best things to see and do in Louisville.



Kimberly Green

meant to be

By
Erich Gaukel

**Thirty years after
gaining admittance
into the FFA, females
have blazed their
own trail to success**

Of all FFA activities, among those where you see the least number of females is agricultural mechanics. Chalk it up to the way our culture has developed—males have historically been the ones who rip apart motors, grease bearings, weld trailers back together, and walk around with grease-stained hands.

In 1997, the Petaluma FFA Chapter, as it had done so many times, sent a team to the state agricultural mechanics CDE. With 12 state championship trophies back at the school already, the chapter has always been an ag mechanics powerhouse. This time, however, Petaluma was sending its first all-female team.

Against the odds

Throughout the course of the year, as they competed in local and regional competitions, the Petaluma team—Krissy Van Bebber, Heather Bellmer and Tina Saitone—remained focused despite some male competitors who, among other things, shot them funny looks and mistakenly told them they were in the wrong place for the horse judging. “We even had guys offer to do parts of the competition for us, and we had to say, ‘No, really, it’s all right,’” Heather said, amused. “They actually gave us more incentive to prove them wrong”.

Heather’s team quieted critics by placing among the top seven teams at each of their competitions, and capping the year off with a fourth place finish at state.

Taking a leading role

Twenty-five years ago, this would have been a likely scenario for any female individual or team competing in any FFA competition. After all, females had been admitted to the FFA only five years earlier when delegates to the 1969 National FFA Convention ended years of debate

is an even split of males and females. The same went for the 1997-98 team—three males, three females.

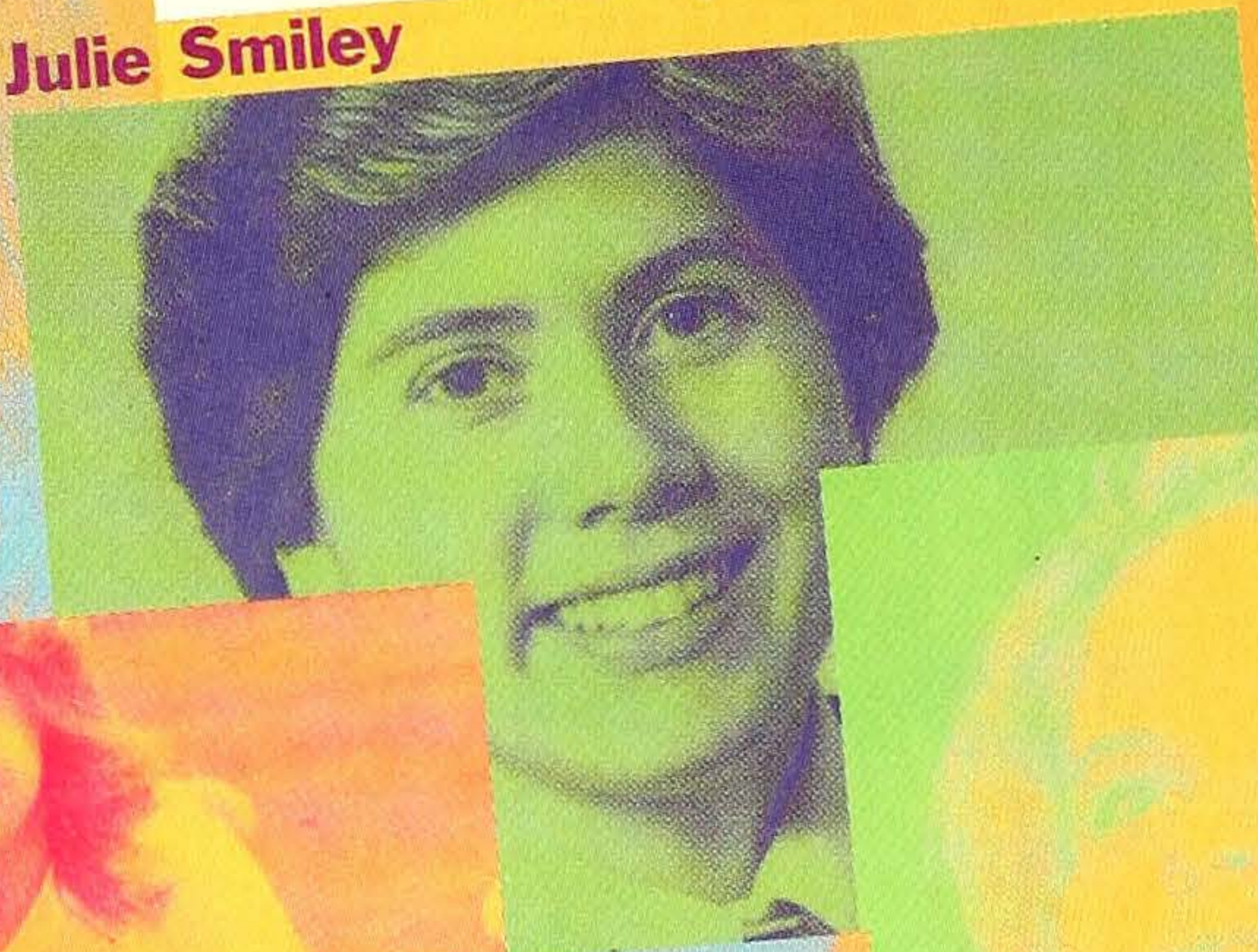
More impressive is the fact that current National FFA President Lisa Ahrens succeeded another female, Hillary Smith. This marks the first time in FFA history that females have served as national presidents in consecutive years.

served as national FFA officers to this date.

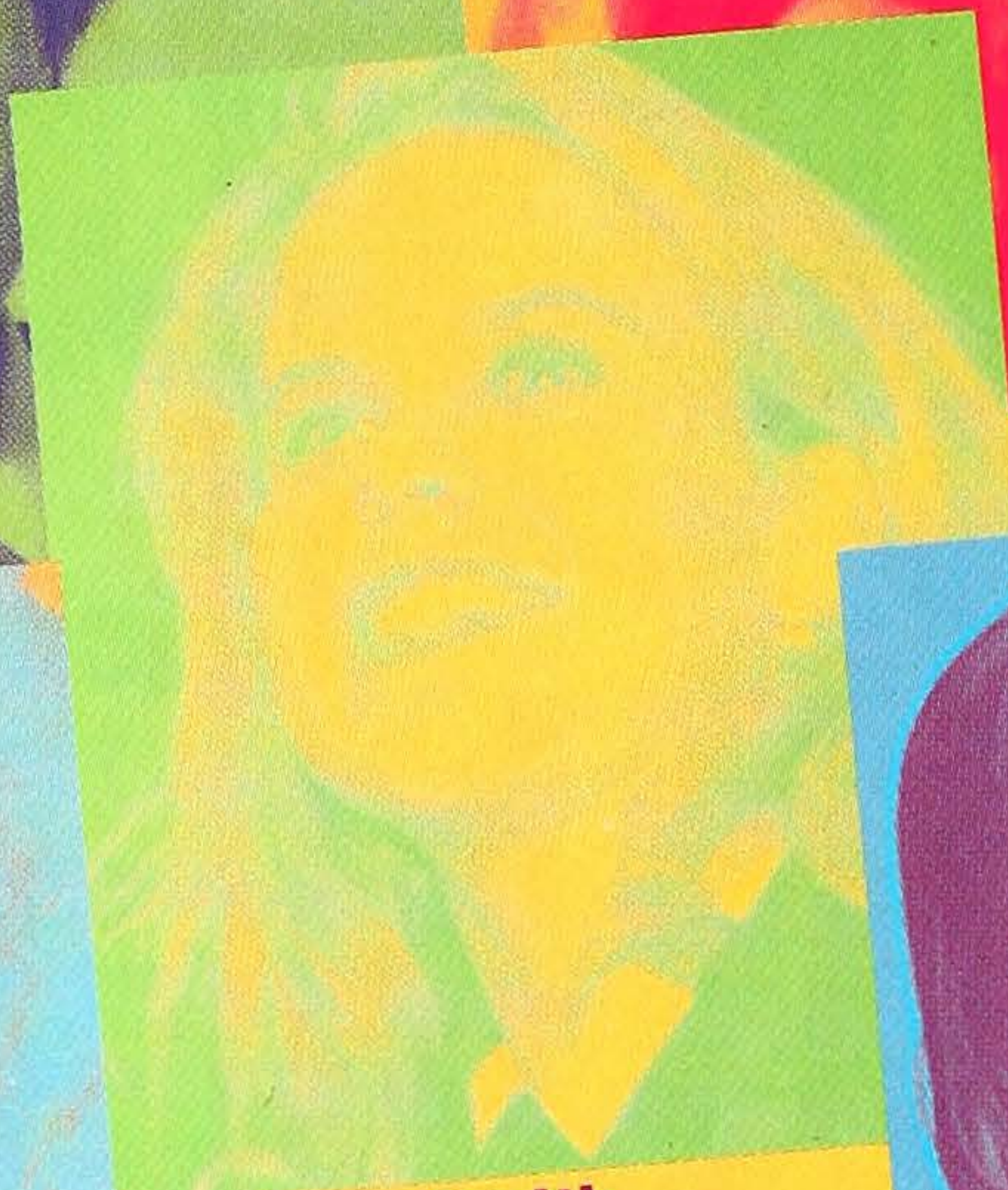
Connecticut wrote a page of FFA history by electing all-female state officer teams for the last two years. And, in 1997, Kimberly Green wrote another page of FFA history, as she became the first African-American female to hold the office

impressive because it shows that females' success is closely linked to the number of female FFA members. The 26 percent figure is also a huge jump from previous years. In 1995, for instance, only 14 percent of the winners were female; in 1985, only 11 percent of the winners

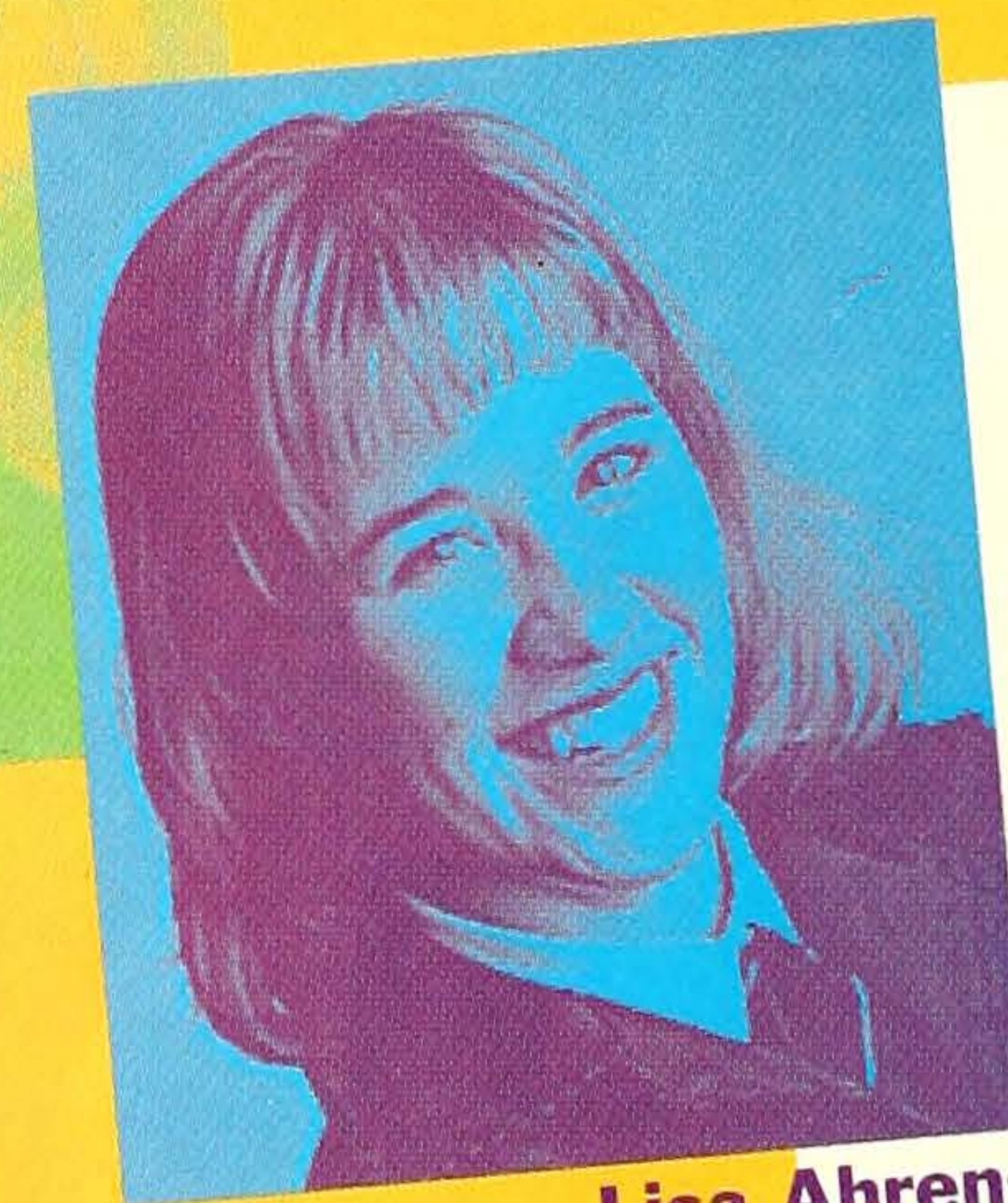
Julie Smiley



Hillary Smith



Lisa Ahrens



by voting in favor of female inclusion.

While the Petaluma ag mechanics team's experience might lead one to believe that females are still struggling to catch up with males in the FFA, nothing could be farther from the truth. In fact, even though males still outnumber females (at last count 35 percent of FFA members were female), the 1998-99 National FFA Officer team

Julie Smiley of Mount Vernon, Washington, got the momentum moving in the females' direction in 1976, when she became the first female to break into the national officer ranks. Her election as vice president captured the dreams of thousands of female FFA members and opened the doors for the 27 females who have

of South Carolina FFA president.

Balanced competition

Kevin Keith, who manages award programs for the National FFA Organization, says that last year's national proficiency awards achieved the best gender balance in FFA history.

Twenty-six percent of last year's proficiency award winners were females. That number is

were female; and in 1975, just eight percent of the winners were female.

As female membership continues to grow, so too will the number of female competitors and female winners. They will continue to achieve and to lead—and, like the Petaluma ag mechanics team, they will find success in areas that have traditionally been known as male strongholds. ★

Success is rarely achieved overnight. It takes a tremendous amount of dedication and support. Which is why Ford has been a proud supporter of the FFA for over 50

years. For 1999, the Ford Truck Scholarship Fund will award an unprecedented \$255,000 to FFA members who plan to enroll in any full-time course of study next fall.

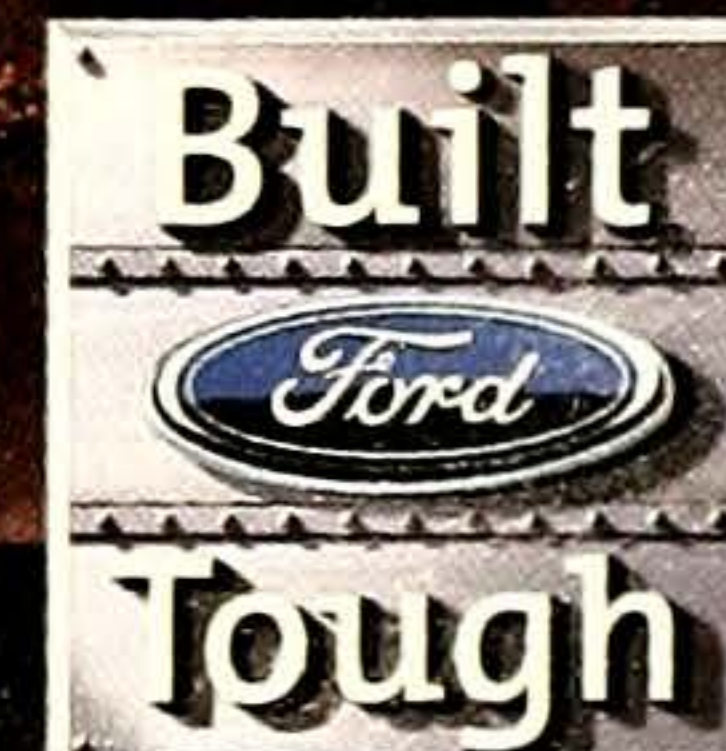
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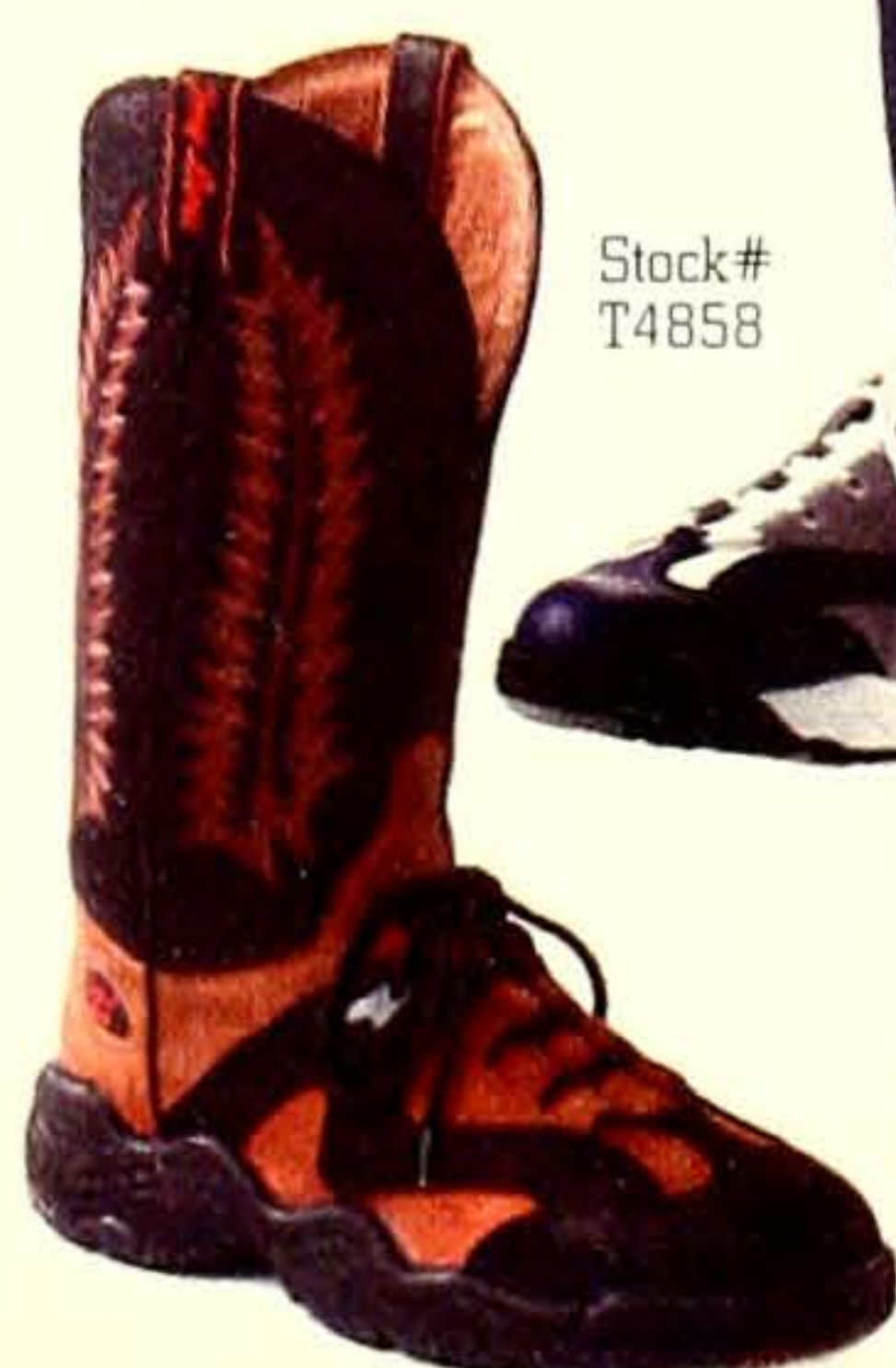
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planet

Pluto

not

hot **Leonardo da Vinci**

artist

Michelangelo

not

hot **Pizza**

food

Sushi

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hot **New York Yankees**

baseball team in '99

Chicago Cubs

not

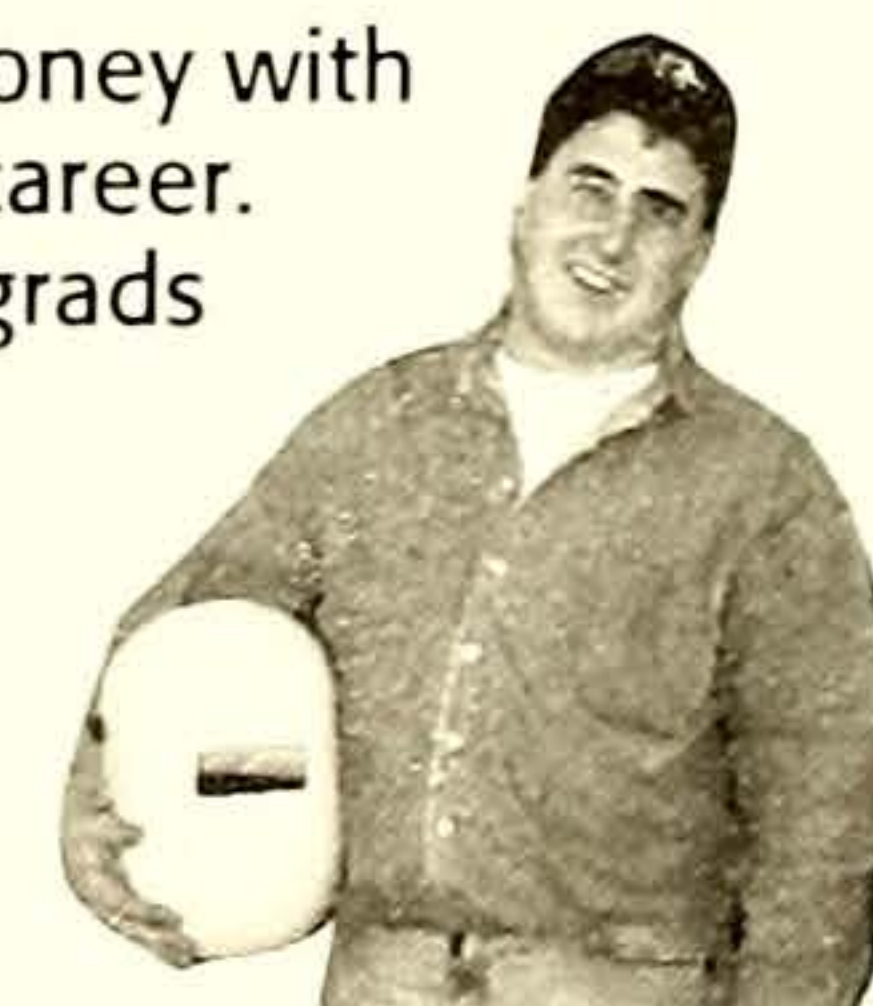
Here are the latest "What's Hot/What's Not" picks made by FFA members from across this great continent.

Veterinarian continues its domination as the career of choice among FFA members. Be sure to check out our "Animal E.R." feature in our next issue for more information on careers in veterinary medicine.

Thanks to the Tomales FFA Chapter in California—they sent us the most "What's Hot/What's Not" surveys.

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Last Laff

Q: Why was night baseball invented?

A: Bats like to sleep during the day.

Paige Poynor
Hickman, Kentucky

Q: What kind of lights did Noah use on his ark?

A: Flood lights.

Tara Woolridge
Concord, Virginia

Q: What is the duck's favorite play?

A: The Nutquacker.

Joe Angelini
White Cloud, Michigan

Q: What is a pig's favorite water activity?

A: Snortkling.

Elizabeth Luna
El Paso, Texas

Q: What has a heart in its head?

A: Cabbage.

Lyman Mason
Lakeview, Oregon

Q: What did the piece of corn want to be when he got into the army?

A: A colonel.

Josh Gabert
Millerstown, Pennsylvania

Q: What do you get when you cross a police officer and a skunk?

A: Law and odor.

Nathan Moore II
Dixon Mills, Alabama

Q: What happens to illegally parked frogs?

A: They get toad away.

Natrina Logue
Yukon, Oklahoma

Q: Why did the football coach send in his second string?

A: To tie things up.

Robert Byrd
Epes, Alabama

Q: What was the first bus to reach America?

A: Columbus.

Blake Crochet
Iota, Louisiana

Q: Why was Cinderella thrown off the baseball team?

A: She ran away from the ball.

Kenneth Edwards
Sparta, North Carolina

Q: What do cats eat for breakfast?

A: Mice Krispies.

Melissa Svendsen
Monticello, Wisconsin

Q: Why did the bear take a ruler to bed with him?

A: He wanted to check how long he slept.

Mario Alicea
Camuy, Puerto Rico

Q: What is an astronaut's favorite meal?

A: Launch.

Kelly White
Smithson Valley, Texas

FFA New Horizons will pay \$5 for each joke selected for Last Laff. In case we receive more than one of the same joke, payment will be for the first one received. Contributions cannot be acknowledged or returned.

Address your jokes to:

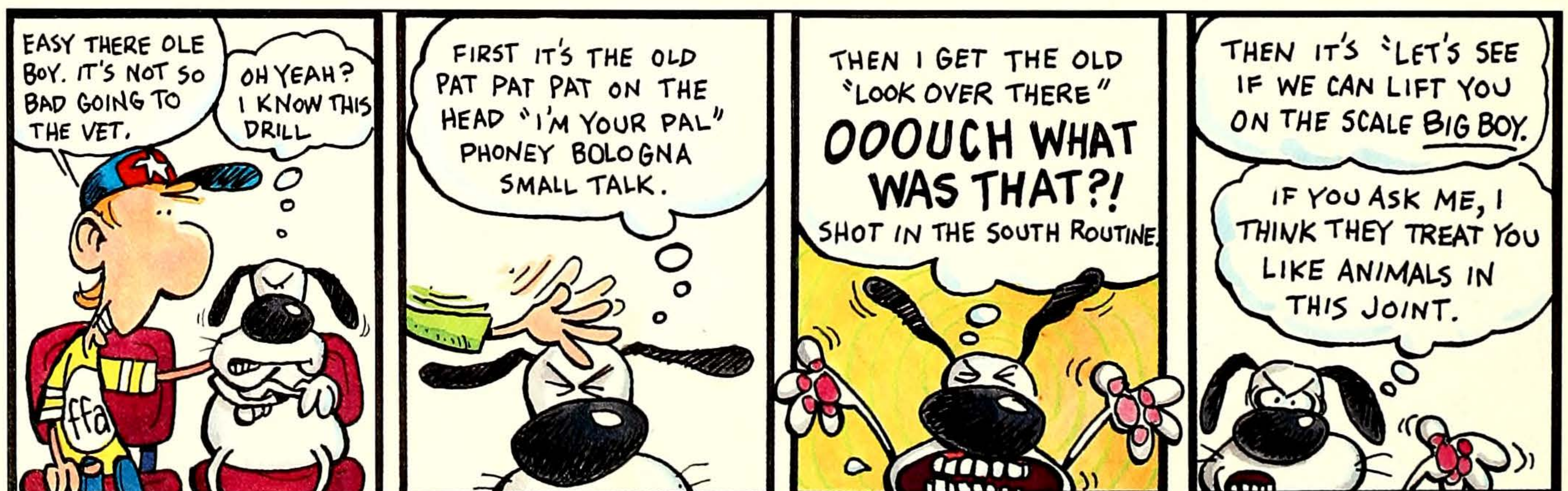
Last Laff
FFA New Horizons
P.O. Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960

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.

The next issue of FFA New Horizons hits the streets in late September.

Agrinuts by Jim Bradshaw



Ever wonder how traditions become traditions?



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