

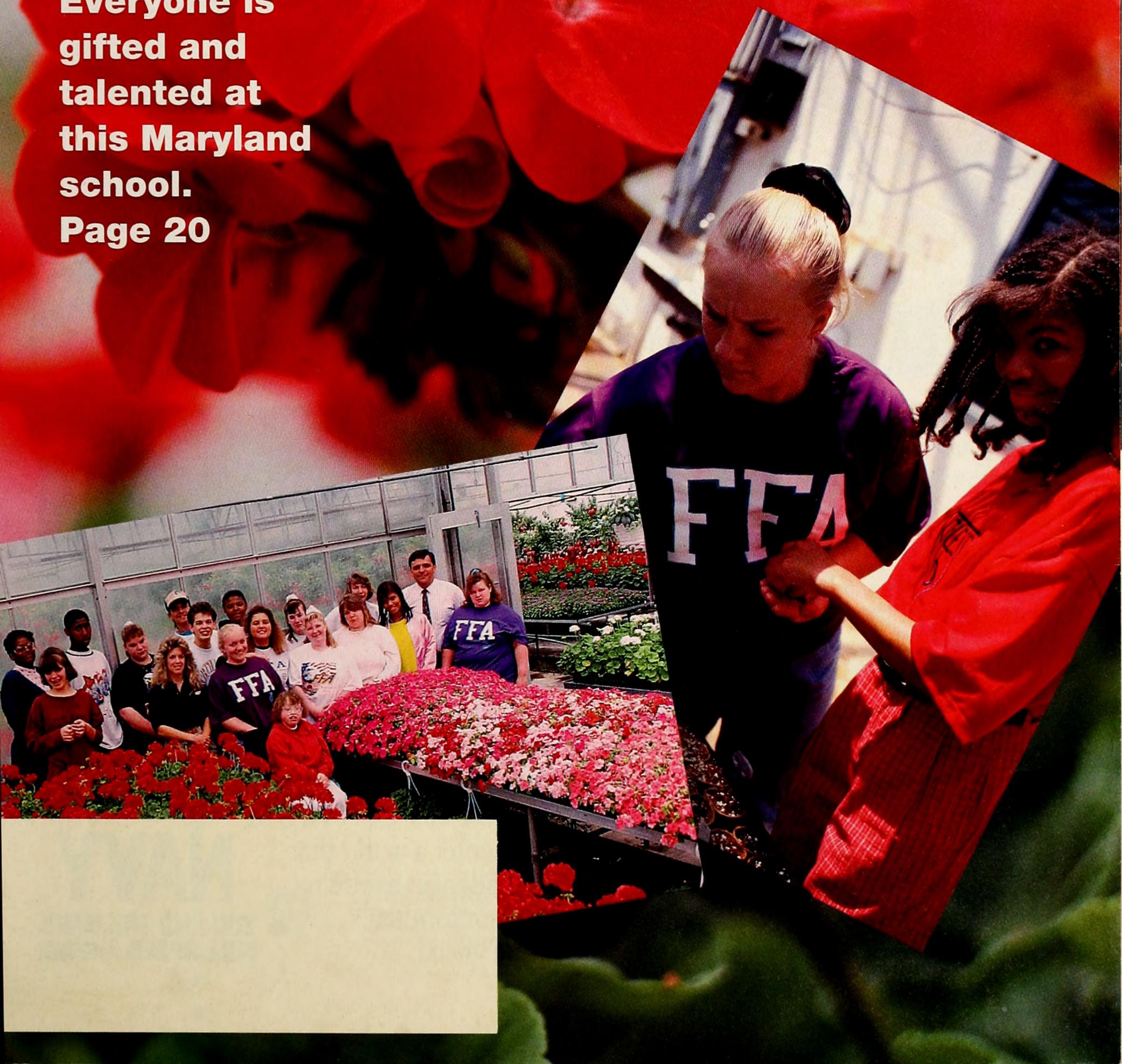
FFA

November-December, 1994

New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

**Everyone is
gifted and
talented at
this Maryland
school.
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GET YOUR HANDS ON THE MOST POWERFUL TECHNOLOGY KNOWN TO MAN. OR WOMAN.

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FULL SPEED AHEAD.**

FFA New Horizons

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November-December, 1994

Volume 43 Number 2



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Photo by Lawinna McGary

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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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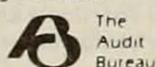
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NEWS IN BRIEF

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, 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 November 15 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.

Your Opinion Could Be Worth \$1,000 In The "Up With Agriculture" Writing Contest

For your chance to win prize money and to have your entry published in the magazine, write 100 words or less about this topic: How will FFA/agricultural education activities help make me a more valuable employee or business owner/operator?

First prize is \$1,000, the second place winner gets \$500, third place receives \$300 and the FFA member in fourth place earns \$200. State winners receive \$50.

Send your entry to *FFA New Horizons*, "Up With Agriculture" Writing Contest, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.

Entries must be postmarked by December 1, 1994. All FFA members are eligible.

This contest is sponsored by ICI Seeds as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



Be A PAL

A mentoring program called PALS is now open to all FFA chapters. For more information on how you can work with elementary children in your community phone 1-800-PALS-FFA.

You Can Help Provide Food For A Hungry Family

Christmas is coming. Time to hit the malls. Shop until you drop. Or...it could be a time to give back.

Through Heifer Project International you or your chapter can buy animals for impoverished farm families in rural communities in Africa, Asia, Latin America the United States, Canada.

You can pick cows, sheep, chickens, goats, pigs, trees, rabbits, honeybees, fish or even frogs for people in about 34 countries. Each family that receives a gift passes on the first female of its animal, as well as animal-care skills, to another needy family.

Phone 1-800-422-0474 for a gift catalog that explains how to get started.

Thirsty To Do Good Work?

If you would like to work on service projects meant to ensure clean water, contact Give Water A Hand at 1-800-WATER20.

Tree Ambassador Program



EarthPlan's tree-starter kit, which includes everything you need to sprout a tree except the water, provides a way for your chapter to make money while you help the environment.

Write to EarthPlan, P.O. Box 289, Ventura, CA 93002 or phone 1-800-LEAF-ECO to get your free sample kit. (Send \$2 for postage and handling.)

THE FRONT LINE



What is leadership? Ask 10 of your friends and you may get a dozen different opinions! It's hard to get people to agree on such an important topic.

Are people leaders just because they are elected to an office? Some people think a person's position makes them a leader, but aren't actions more important? Have you ever seen a chapter sentinel who was more involved and more effective than the chapter president?

Are some people "born" leaders? Can a shy person be a leader?

Much of the training people get in FFA is focused on individual skills such as public speaking, self-motivation and setting goals. These skills build a person's confidence, which is crucial in being a leader. But confidence is only a starting point.

When it's time to join a group and become a valued, contributing member, it takes a whole different set of skills — leadership skills.

Leadership is the process of harnessing the power of people to make things happen. And although some people seem to have the natural ability to motivate others, everyone (including you!) can learn the key skills necessary to lead, such as communicating vision, resolving conflict, establishing trust and finding creative solutions to problems. One of the most important skills for a leader is to understand the talents and skills of group members and to utilize those strengths for the greatest results possible.

And this is the best part; we can all lead in our own, unique way. You don't have to be a polished speaker to be a leader. If you have excellent organizational skills and enjoy seeing things planned well and run smoothly, then your contribution to the chapter, committee, company (whatever the case) is just as important a leadership role as the president, chairperson or CEO.

Leadership is necessary whenever a group comes together to get something done. That group may be as small as the chapter recreation committee or as large as General Motors, Cargill or the government of the United States. Companies in the U.S. are spending huge amounts of time and money teaching leadership skills because their employees aren't getting this training in high school or college.

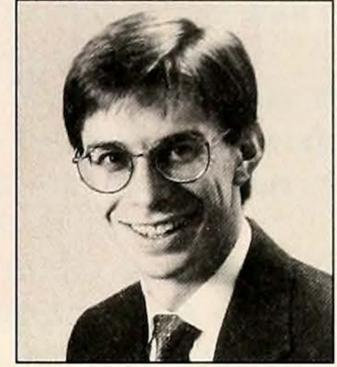
That's where you and FFA can make a real dent in this leadership-hungry world. Your FFA chapter should be a place to learn leadership skills and experiment with them. Think of your chapter as a safe laboratory where nothing will blow up if you make a mistake!

How do you get started? You can start right away by reading up on leadership and looking for opportunities to use your knowledge.

A major step will be to get the best leadership training

tools available in the hands of advisors as soon as possible so they can teach these skills to their students. Many advisors are exploring the areas mentioned, but they have to hunt and gather fresh materials which takes a lot of their time.

FFA and others are starting the process of connecting advisors with the best tools out there such as videos, workshops, reference books and industry leaders, but there is a lot to be done in this area.



We can all lead in our own, unique way. You don't have to be a polished speaker to be a leader.

At the National FFA Center, we are incorporating these new ideas into all national leadership training programs such as national, state and chapter officer training, Washington Leadership Conference and Made For Excellence. *FFA New Horizons* is making a commitment to carry easy-to-read, easy-to-use articles on leadership.

Why go to all this bother? Imagine 428,000 FFA mem-

bers armed with cutting-edge leadership skills shaping the future of our country! You can be a strong, well-trained leader serving your community in groups like the school board, FFA Alumni, Farm Bureau, city council and commodity organizations like the Corn Growers and Pork Producers.

These groups are the threads that make up the fabric of this country. They need people who can really make a difference. Will you be ready when it's your time to lead? The future of American agriculture and the country depend on it.

On a personal note, this is my last editorial for *FFA New Horizons*. After nine years of having the honor of working for this great organization and this magazine, I'm headed to *Prairie Farmer* magazine in Illinois to cover the amazing, changing world of agriculture.

I'm grateful to have been a part of this wonderful youth organization as a member and as part of the national staff. One big "thanks" to all of the devoted people who make FFA a special place where amazing things happen for young people every day.

Andy Markwart

FIRE & ICE

Photos by Linda Salazar

**Flame
fighter
Kevin Hart
stays
cool—
even
when the
heat is
intense**

By Bob Bruce



Fire drill! Kevin spends much of his time practicing for the real thing. Since there are no fire hydrants in the forest, Kevin must know how to pull water from lakes and other natural water sources.

In the summertime, when the hot sun and dry air bake the Arizona prairies to a dusty brown, all it takes to build a nightmare is a careless campfire or a bolt of lightning from an electrical storm. In an instant, the parched vegetation springs to life—with fire! The grass burns hot and fast, coming on with a roaring buzz like a demon freight train full of locusts.

Kevin Hart has met the demon and survived. He's swooped down from the sky as part of a helicopter drop crew and he's held the line against the advancing flames. And, as the youngest member of a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) summer fire crew, Hart has earned the respect of those around him with his initiative and willingness to learn.

"When you get a hot wind blowing and there's a lot of dead brush," says Hart, who lives in Safford, Arizona, "you can't stop it really. You can only monitor it." For safety's sake if nothing else, standard policy is to make a stand at structures and possessions, but otherwise let nature take its course.

It is not, he admits, your typical summer high school job. "There was one time," he says, "where the fire was up in the hills above us and we were below, on the main road. Suddenly the flames started to roll over us..."

He stops and looks away, remembering the look and feel of the flames as they arched overhead. What if they touched down below the road? They could then easily start up the



When a fire is reported a dispatcher must pinpoint its location on Bureau of Land Management maps and guide a crew to the site.

other side of the valley and burn their way back up to the fire crew. "We got out of there quick," he says. "Fortunately it burned itself out without jumping the highway."

And to think it all started, he says, with a chance encounter at his school's annual career day. One of the booths had a display from the BLM. "I saw the pictures of the firefighters and all these major fires," he remembers, "so I started talking to the people there and I told them I was interested in seeing how they did their stuff."

To his surprise, the BLM representative invited him out to one of their caches, or staging areas, to see the operation in person. A couple of days later, Hart was in the field checking out the action and asking a lot of questions.

"After my tour," he says, "they asked me if I would like to volunteer to do maps and stuff. I said 'Yeah,' and then I just kept volunteering." He volunteered for two summers, each year gaining more great experience and training.

By his third summer he was 18 and old enough to be hired. Even though there are very few openings in the fire fighter ranks, says Hart, he was offered a spot. "I don't know if I ever could have gotten in if I hadn't started out with the volunteering," he says.

The reason, he explains, is that most of the firefighters each year are re-hires from the previous summer. Unless somebody leaves, it's almost impossible to get in, and then you have to be fully qualified.

Knocking down range fires is not easy, says

Hart, but it is rewarding. Aside from the feeling of a job well done, there is also the personal growth that comes from developing new skills and learning how to deal with other professionals in a very challenging environment.

"I really enjoy it," says Hart. "Part of what I like about the job is being part of a team of firefighters, all working as hard as you can to stop this thing. And another part of the job is just being face to face with the fire."

Hart says others could easily follow his example. "All you have to do is show some interest and ask questions."

One group of folks who wish they'd been more like Hart are some of his old high school buds. "While I was volunteering two summers in a row," he says, "they were bagging groceries and earning money. They just kind of laughed and giggled at me and said I wasn't going to get anywhere. But now I'm making over \$8 an hour on this great job and they're still bagging groceries."

"A lot of people think that volunteering isn't worth it," he continues, "but I say any chance you get to volunteer you should go for it. It looks good on your resume and it might pay off. It sure did for me." ●●●



Flames wait for no one. Firefighters have got to know how to get in gear quickly.

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Sleepless Over Scholarships?

By Bob Bruce

I don't really worry too much about being able to handle college once I'm there," says high school senior Alan McAllister. "I figure I will be able to adapt. What keeps me up at night is worrying first about just getting in, and then about how I'm ever going to pay for it."

Guess what? Alan is not alone. With state college fees ringing in at ten grand or more a year, and with private colleges breaking the bank at two or even three times as much, losing sleep over college financial planning is becoming a national pastime.

But there is hope. According to the College Board, college students in the 1992-93 academic year received \$34.6 billion in financial assistance. Most of that was in the form of federal grants and loans, but \$7 billion worth of higher education moolah was handed out as schol-

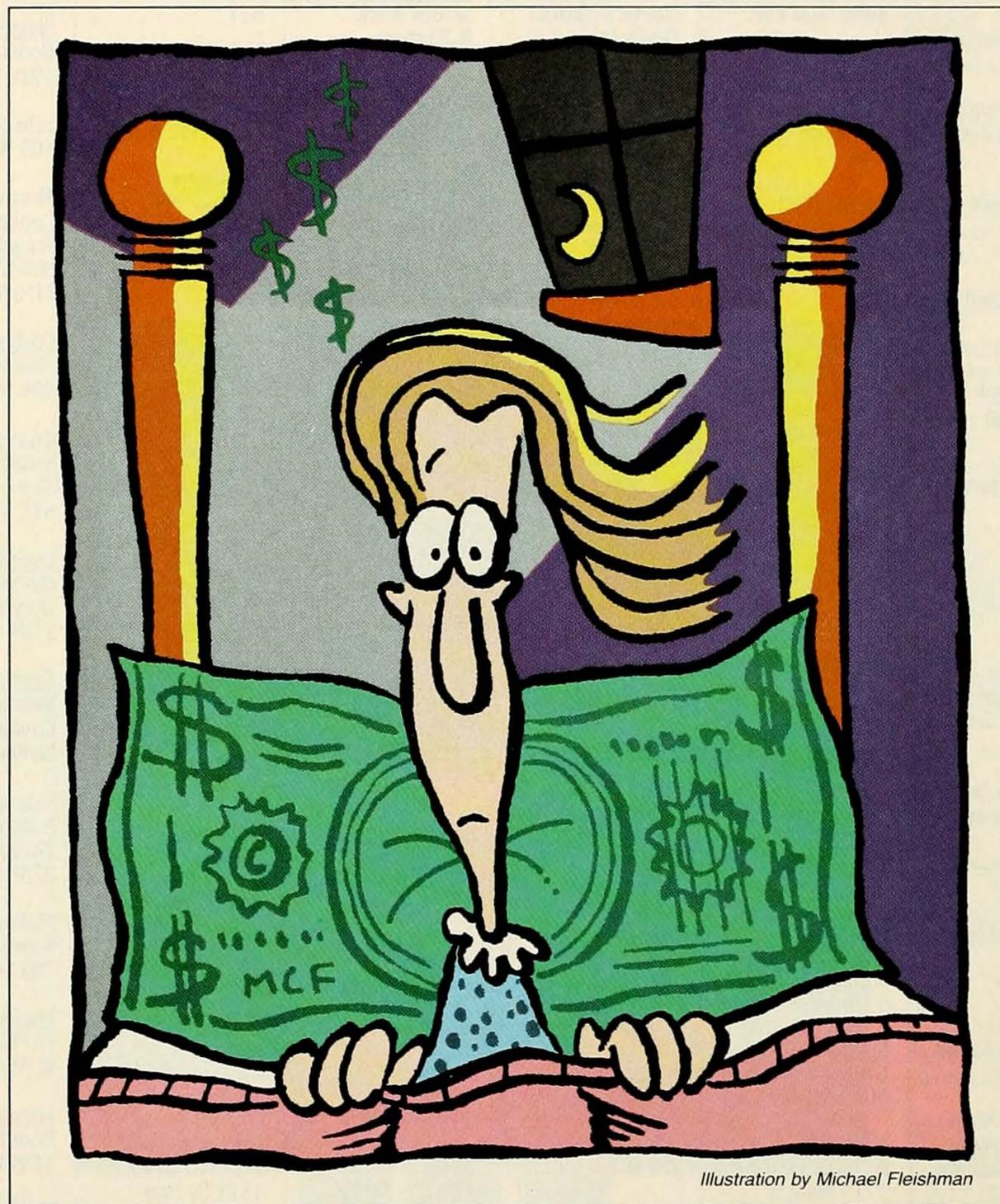


Illustration by Michael Fleishman

Tossing and turning over how to pay for that college education? Here's some practical advice

arships by the colleges themselves.

And there's more! A fair amount of scholarship money—some reports put it in the millions of dollars—goes unclaimed each year. Part of the reason for that is because much of the money is in small chunks spread around in all kinds of hard-to-find places. Another part of the reason is because many private sources of money are for very specialized audiences, such as students with very specific interests or accomplishments.

For example, your local Kiwanis may have a \$500 scholarship fund, or maybe a local business has set aside some money for students who study in the company's field of interest.

There are all kinds of grants and scholarships for all kinds of reasons. They are both needs-based and merit-based, which means

that you don't necessarily have to be below a certain income level to qualify. In fact, say experts, the old bit about how if your parents earn over \$100,000 you'll never be able to get a scholarship is a bunch of hooey.

You may not qualify for financial aid at the local community college with that sort of income, but you could be eligible for all sorts of financial help if you get into Harvard.

One or more of the smaller, less competitive scholarships might be all you need to get you through college. The trick, however, is that you will have to find these opportunities on your own, since the college financial offices generally only deal with the larger funding sources (i.e., the government). The best place to begin your search is at your local library, although there are a number of other sources both free and for a fee that you can turn to.

In many cases, you may be able to do without the help of a professional scholarship search service. They often do no more than what you could do on your own, with a little effort. There are some services that can give you suggestions on how to present yourself to a scholarship committee, how to plan your finances, etc., but getting the scholarship really depends on you and you alone.

Texas A&M agricultural engineering major Willis Taubert, who pulled in about \$16,000 in scholarship money, says his strategy was simple. "I filled out as many applications as I could," he says. "I just kept at it."

The Rio Hondo, Texas, FFA member says grades are important but not the only thing to be concerned about. "The biggest thing that helped me," he says, "was getting involved in FFA and doing everything I could, learning all the leadership skills I could."

He also recommends that you work to pull up your SAT scores even if it means taking the test a couple of times. Put it all together, he says, and the chances are good you will be successful. "It was tough finding the money, but it's out there. You just have to go after it."

(Continued on Page 26)

Completing The Package

College financial counselors speak in terms of packages, and you should learn to think along those same lines. Instead of pinning all your hopes on a single scholarship, or trying to meet your college expenses through loans only, you need to pull from a variety of money sources to reach your goal.

The five funding sources that are most often used to make up a complete college finance package are: federal/state/college aid, scholarships, work/study, loans, and military financing.

Federal/state/college aid: The most money available by far comes from the federal and state government-funded programs. These include Pell Grants, funded by the federal government and providing between \$200 to \$2,400 per year (not to exceed 60% of the total cost of attending college); Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOGs), for between \$100 and \$4,000 per year; and New York State TAP grants, which provide between \$350 and \$4,125 per year. Individual colleges also have grant money available, some of it based on need and some based on other criteria.

Scholarships: Scholarships are gifts. They do not have to be repaid. Often they are in small sums, but they can be substantial. There are both need-based and merit-based scholarships. Good character, school and community involvement, and decent grades are always helpful, but some scholarships are available simply because of who you are or what you are interested in or where you live. **FFA offers more than 800 scholarships. Check out their ad next to the joke page.**

Work/study: Don't freak. Working yourself through college can actually be a very rewarding experience. The money is typically minimum wage, but if you approach it properly you can arrange to get a job that relates to your major area of study. At the very least, the money is tax-free. College Work Study (CWS) is funded by the Federal government, with awards ranging from \$400 to \$2,100 per academic year. Jobs are typically with non-profit organizations. Another form of work/study (sort of) is President Clinton's National Service program—known also as AmeriCorps. While it is only a shadow of its originally proposed grandeur, it does currently provide up to \$4,725 per year of volunteer service in education benefits, limited to two years per person.

Loans: Federally subsidized loans are available in a couple of flavors depending on your situation. A federally subsidized (or guaranteed) loan is not like a federal crop subsidy—you have to pay these back. Because the government backs the loan, they are generally easier to get than a standard bank loan, the interest rates are better than regular loans and you are allowed up to ten years to repay.

Perkins Loans are low interest loans made direct to students; no co-signer is required. Perkins Loan amounts vary depending on where you are in college—\$4,500 if you are in your first two years of a 4-year program, \$9,000 if you are in your third year and \$18,000 for graduate and professional study. Repayment begins six months after graduation, and can take up to 10 years.

Stafford Loans are made by private banks, backed by the Federal government. They provide up to \$2,625 for the first two years of undergraduate study, up to \$4,000 per year from year three onward, and up to \$7,500 per year for graduate study. Total undergraduate debt is limited to \$17,250 and total graduate debt is limited to \$54,750.

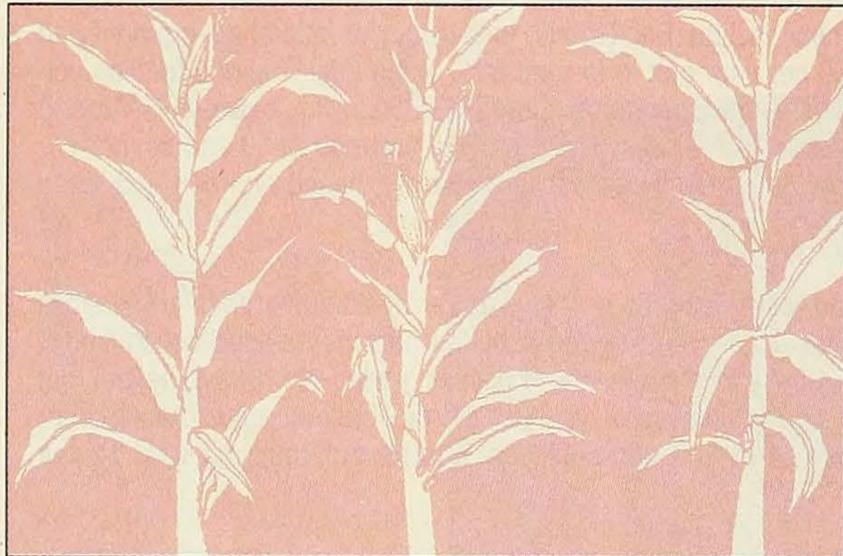
PLUS loans are made to parents, while Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS) loans are made to students. Both types of loans are made through regular commercial lending institutions and offer a limit of \$4,000 per academic year, up to a maximum of \$20,000.

Every student who wants to apply for one or more of the federal student aid programs must first complete an approved student aid application. Examples of these applications include:

- AFSA—Application for Federal Student Aid; U.S. Department of Education form
- PHEAA—Application for Pennsylvania State Grant and Federal Student Aid; Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency form
- AFSSA—Application for Federal and State Student Aid; CSX's form
- USAF—Singlefile form; United Student Aid Fund's form
- FFA—Family Financial Statement; The American College Testing (ACT) Program form
- FAF—Financial Aid Form; The College Scholarship Service's (CSS's) Form

LOOKING AHEAD

Strengthening Markets for Corn



An EPA ruling scheduled to take effect January 1, 1995 should open up a new, steady, and potentially huge market for United States corn growers. Called the ROR Rule, or Renewable Oxygen Requirement, it is a key feature of the EPA's plan to reduce pollution caused by internal combustion engines. The primary feature of ROR is the use of corn as a fermentation stock to produce ethanol.

Ten-second science lesson: burn an ounce of standard gasoline and you get what? Answer: wads of released energy (which is good) along with a fair amount of unburned hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide (which isn't so good). Add a little oxygen-rich component to the gasoline and what happens? The fuel burns both cooler and cleaner for longer engine life and fewer nasty emissions (way good).

In the past, methanol has been the oxygen-rich product added to gasoline to reduce emissions. Big problem—methanol is refined from natural gas or coal, so while it may help the atmosphere, it's not doing any favors for dwindling natural resources. And then there's ethanol—it reduces emissions just like methanol, is non-toxic (methanol, or wood alcohol, is both toxic and corrosive), and it is easily distilled from corn. And corn is not only a totally renewable resource, it has historically been something we Americans produce in great surplus.

Mike Bryan, spokesperson for the National Corn Growers Association in Washington, DC, believes the ROR Rule is being pretty heavily opposed by the folks at the American Petroleum

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Photo courtesy of National Corn Growers Association.

By 1996 the domestic ethanol market could reach more than two billion gallons annually says Mike Bryan, National Corn Growers Association spokesperson.

Institute (surprised?) but that implementation of the rule is important.

“In 1993,” says Bryan, “for the first time ever, industrial use of corn exceeded the export market. Countries that used to be importing corn are now exporters, and in order to maintain a reasonable market price we have to continue to develop our industrial markets.”

By 1996, adds Bryan, the domestic ethanol market could reach over two billion gallons annually. It will require approximately 800 million bushels of corn to produce that much ethanol, a fact which Bryan says should both reduce our chronic corn surplus and also provide a modest price push for corn.

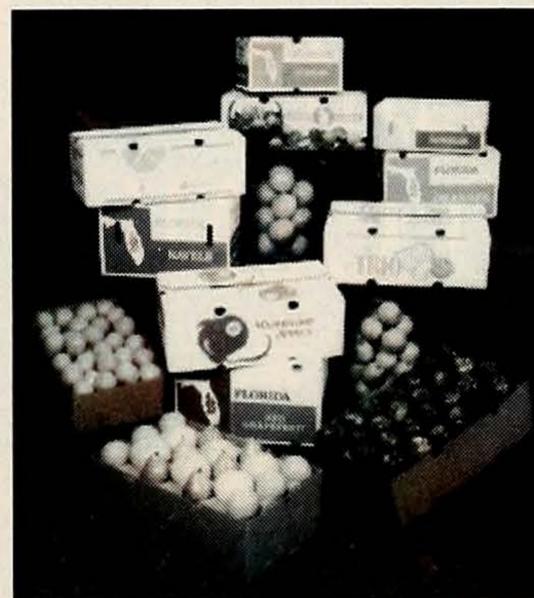
“We figure anywhere from three to five cents per bushel increase,” says Bryan. “And while that isn’t going to set the world on its ear (corn joke), when you look at 800 million or so bushels of corn, that’s a lot of money pumped into rural America.”



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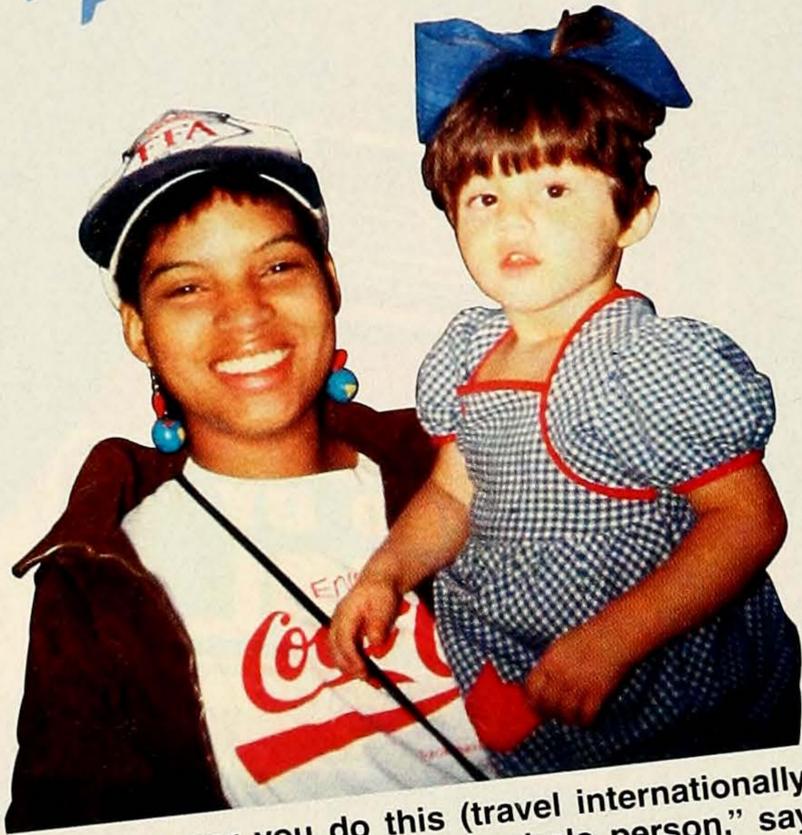
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A Time Honored Tradition For Over A Quarter Of A Century

The Incredible Shrinking

These FFA members lived and learned in a foreign country. Find out how you can do the same.

By Lynn Hamilton



"The younger you do this (travel internationally), the better it is for you as a whole person," says Patrice Carter, left, who is shown with one of the children she met at a facility for orphans.

Hop on a plane. Thirteen hours later land in Russia—a land a world apart from ours. Or is it?

"Regardless of where you are or what you are doing, there is someone else in the world possibly experiencing the same feelings, opportunities or experiences that you are," says Patrice Carter, one of the 62

FFA members who participated in the 1994 Russian-Moldovan Leadership Exchange Program. Carter, 18, is a member of the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences FFA Chapter. She stayed in Moldova, and was amazed at both the similarities and differences she encountered.

The rushed American lifestyle is completely foreign to the Moldovans Carter met while she visited schools, agricultural operations and villages, stayed with host families and did community service projects with a Moldovan youth organization.

Gaylen Smyer, FFA advisor of the

THERE'S
"MO"
TO COME



"MO"



"MO"



"MO"



"MO"



World

Burley, Idaho, chapter, was one of five advisors who also participated in the exchange program. He spent the month in Penza, Russia, and was first struck by the warmth and friendliness of the people. "All of a sudden, I had to rethink all I'd ever thought about the USSR," he says.

Leadership, a concept so familiar to Americans, is a new idea for Russians, Smyer found. A rural youth organization is already in place, and it was FFA's mission to help develop it further. It wasn't easy, though. "We talked about leadership and tried to explain delegation of responsibility and long-range planning, but the concepts were so foreign to them," he says. "Adult leaders are willing and capable, but until 1992, everything was dictated to them and now they have trouble making the adjustment to having a free reign."

Every interaction was a learning experi-



ence for the FFA group, and they returned full of enthusiasm for their newfound friends and countries they are from. Carter, who is a freshman studying pre-med at Oral Roberts University and wants to be a medical missionary, says Moldova really gave her insight into her career interests.

"This world is full of ideas, full of diversity, full of life, and it is increasingly growing smaller," she says. "I am happy I had this experience to see the other side of the world and to discover that it's not as different as I once thought it to be." ♦♦♦

Sixty-two FFA members made the trek to Russia and Moldova.

How to spice up your 1995 "What I did on my summer vacation" essay

What if you came to school next fall and could give a report on your travels to Russia instead of how many movies you saw, how many cattle shows you attended or how many lawns you mowed?

Depending on government funding about 100 FFA members and 10 advisors will be chosen to travel to Russia and Moldova. The program begins mid-June and runs through mid-July. FFA members from the ages of 14 to 17 and FFA advisors are eligible. Members and advisors selected for the program are responsible for round-trip domestic travel expenses to Washington, DC, plus a program fee of approximately \$500. Advisors have the additional responsibility of setting up host family stays in their area for Russian students who visit the United States in July and August. The application deadline is March 1.

For more information write or phone:
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Questions Answered Here

You Asked!



Q: *How do I prove to my fellow members that I would make a great leader? I was looking forward to being an officer, but it seems like the more popular upper class members always get it. Here's the situation. We have to fill out officer applications, but no one ever reads them. There was one office left and one of my classmates was chosen because the other officers like him. He didn't even want an office until they asked him. I'm upset. It should have been one of the people who filled out an application. I'm running for district officer but I feel that I can't enhance my application unless I get a chapter office. What should I do?*

*Signed,
Discouraged*

A: Dear Discouraged:
What a bummer! Someone changed the rules. So don't start labeling yourself "loser" or saying "I'm not worthy." What your chapter needs is a fair election process. Go ahead. Talk with your advisor. If you don't, it means you accept the situation.

I know what you're thinking. Come again! Me, discuss this with my advisor? What if it sounds like I'm a sore loser?

It's all in the approach. Don't complain about the problem...offer a solution. Tell your advisor you want to serve on a committee that comes up with a new election process.

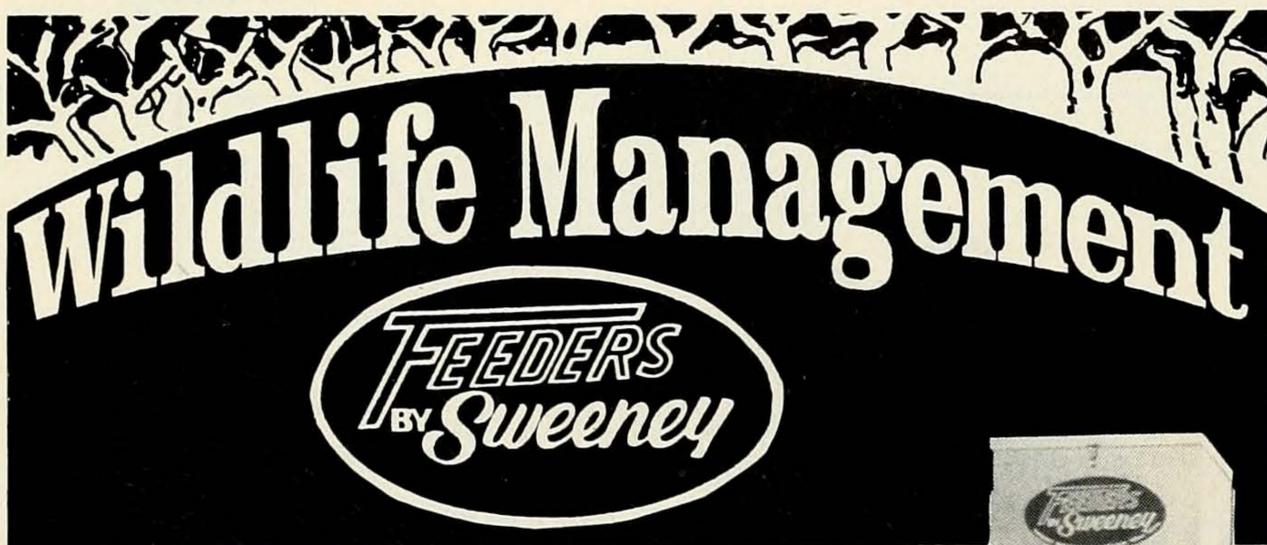
And be prepared. Have a list of advantages for changing to a new system. I know of a chapter in Rio Hondo, Texas,

where students not only fill out an application, but recite the opening ceremonies and write a two-page report on why they want to be an officer. Then they sign a contract making FFA their number one priority. Whew! Talk about commitment. A fair process like this weeds out students who are not interested. So there's a better chance more students will run for an office—not just the popular crowd.

What happens if your advisor gives you the big NO WAY?

At least you'll feel better for standing up for your beliefs.

Now, about your district officer goal...don't give up. To qualify for election, you need leadership skills, not a chapter office. Leaders are not defined by the position they hold, but by their actions. Compete in a public or extemporaneous speaking event to gain experience in front of an audience. Join a judging team to learn how to work with others. Practice humble service by volunteering for the PALS mentoring program. Plan special events by serving as a member of the FFA banquet committee. Look around. There are hundreds of FFA activities for you to learn leadership skills and to gain the respect of your peers. ...



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AIDS: Are You At Risk?

The facts about **WHO** has it,
WHO can get it and
HOW to play it safe

By Rich Dunn

You're young. You're healthy. It's hard to believe you could fall victim to a disease that would slowly rob you of all your health and vitality and bring on slow, painful death.

It's hard to imagine, but true. Teenagers are getting Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) faster than anyone else. Teenage girls are leading the pack, with the bulk of cases resulting from heterosexual contact, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Many people are reluctant to talk about it, but if you are sexually active, you are putting yourself at risk. If you have multiple partners, the risk increases. If you have unprotected sex, the risk increases even more.

Living in a small town or in the country doesn't offer as much help as you might think. CDC statistics show the regions with the largest increase in AIDS cases are in the South and Midwest.

You may think you don't know anybody with the HIV virus that causes AIDS, but don't be so sure. People infected with HIV often don't show AIDS symptoms for 10 years.

The CDC estimates that almost 90,000 teenage men ages 13-24 are HIV infected and almost 65,000 women ages 13-24 are HIV positive. The vast majority of these people don't know they're infected and may be passing the infection to others.

Think about this. If you have unprotected sex with someone who had unprotected sex with someone in a high risk category you have put yourself at risk for HIV infection.

Risky Business

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control define high-risk categories as follows:

- People who have sex with people with AIDS or HIV
- Homosexual, bisexual men with multiple partners
- Intravenous drug users sharing needles

Experts agree the best way to prevent HIV infection is to avoid sexual contact or needle sharing with infected people or with people whose sexual history you don't know. If you are sexually active, you should use a condom to reduce the chance for HIV infection.



For More Information Contact
Your State AIDS Hotline

National AIDS Hotline — 800-342-2437

Spanish — 800-344-7432

Hearing Impaired — 800-243-7889

U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services Centers for Disease Control National
AIDS Clearing House — 800-458-5231

Mary Fisher's Family AIDS Network —
616-451-2361



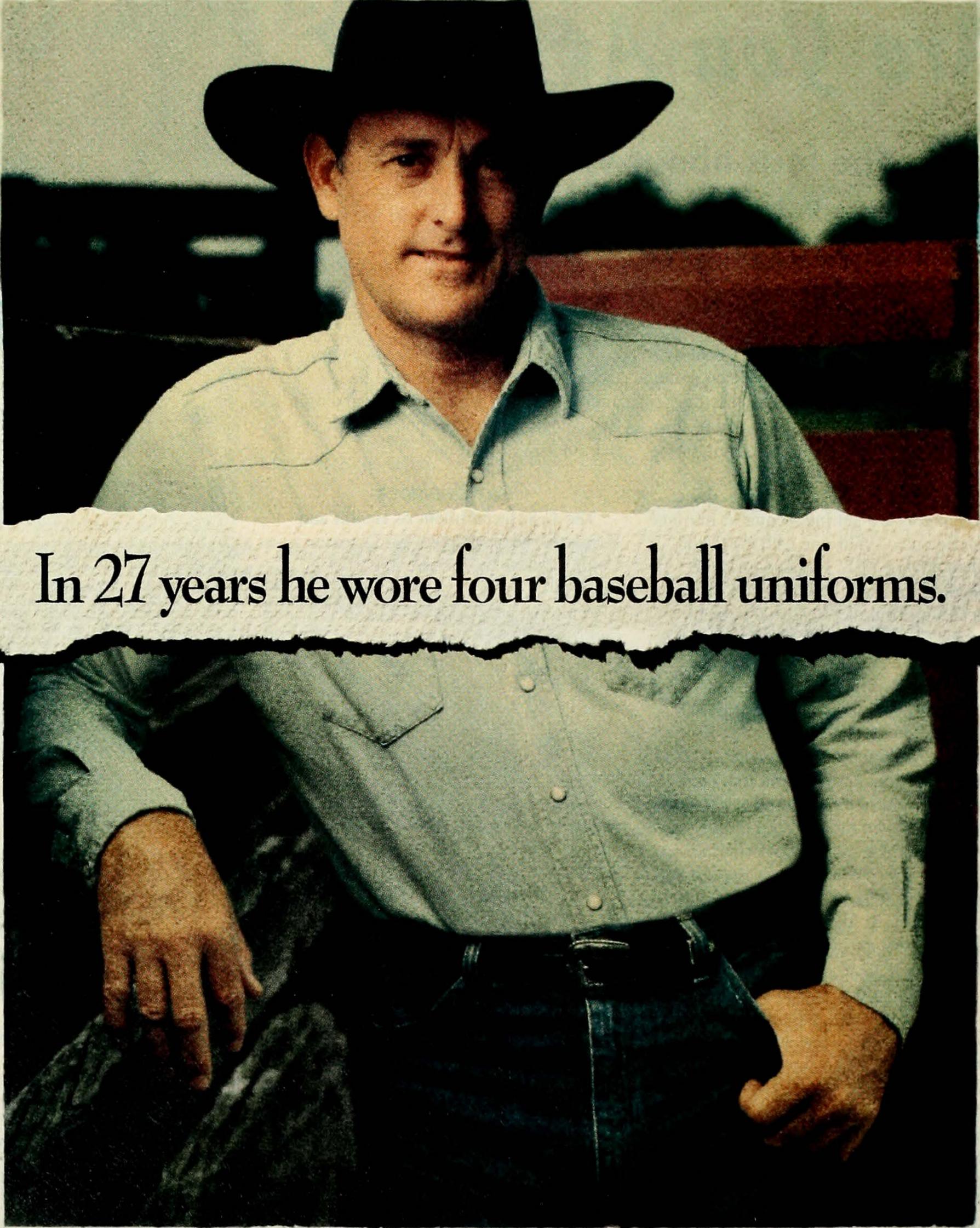
Don't Miss Mary Fisher at National Convention

Mary Fisher is a young mother of two sons. Zachary, the youngest, loves to play his Sega ("Sonic the Hedgehog"). She was raised in a prominent, well-to-do family in the Detroit area. This founder of the Family AIDS Network is also infected with the HIV virus that causes AIDS. She will most surely die long before her first grandchild is born.

Since learning of her HIV infection, Mary has dedicated her life to helping raise awareness of the AIDS epidemic and to increasing support for those suffering from this dreadful disease. She may best be known for her speech to the Republican National Convention in 1992 where she made an eloquent appeal to the nation for compassion and support for our brothers and sisters affected with AIDS.

Mary is founder of the Family AIDS Network and will bring her message of AIDS prevention, community service and compassion for AIDS victims to the National FFA Convention Thursday, November 10, at 1 p.m. Session 2, Arena Stage, Bartle Hall.

The Family AIDS Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing awareness, compassion and resources with which to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic in America. If you or your FFA chapter would like to volunteer or donate money to support the Family AIDS Network please contact them at: 678 Front Street, Suite 150, Grand Rapids, MI 49504, Tel: 616-451-2361, Fax: 616-451-9180.

A man wearing a black cowboy hat and a light blue, long-sleeved button-down shirt is sitting on a wooden chair. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a simple, light-colored wall. The entire image is framed by a torn paper border.

In 27 years he wore four baseball uniforms.

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Photos by Author

“My students have gained a lot of horticultural skills out of this program, but they have also gained an awareness of needs other people have,” says FFA advisor Joe Dymek. “It makes me feel good to become friends with other students,” says FFA member Heather Griffin, left, who is working with her planting partner Lori Landsman.

A Chance To Succeed

By Lawinna McGary

It's break time. Students huddle together laughing and talking about who's dating whom and weekend plans.

Twenty-two freshly-made flower arrangements sit on a nearby table, while a greenhouse bursting with

blooms waits for the students to take one last tour before their plant identification test.

Sounds like an average horticulture classroom. Looks like typical high school students hanging out.

But something special is going on here. FFA member Heather Griffin is asking wheelchair-bound Lori Landsman how she's doing today. Lori has arthritis that swells the joints in her hands and painfully freezes her fingers in place. She is physically and mentally handicapped.

Student Rebecca Queen is talking to

horticulture teacher and FFA advisor Joe Dymek. It's a nice change. When she first attended the class, she wouldn't talk to anyone. “We couldn't even get her to say hello,” says horticulture resource teacher and Work Enclave supervisor Amy Woodard.

If you listen to Dymek, Lori and Rebecca are typical Howard County School of Technology students. Although all of his Columbia, Maryland, students aren't physically, mentally or emotionally challenged, they all need what he calls special education—teachers who focus on what



“They do a good job. They don’t goof around,” says Jenifer Espinola of the exceptional students. Here Howard County School of Technology and Work Enclave students work together to get plant identification tags ready for the chapter’s plant sale.

students can accomplish instead of what they can’t—and all are gifted and talented in certain areas. Dymek believes it’s his job to find out how his students can excel and, “to set them up to succeed.”

In the past, teenagers like Lori, called exceptional students, were assigned to separate schools. There was little or no interaction with other high school students.

Now, through a six-year-old program called the Work Enclave, exceptional students from the Cedar Lane School and six other Howard County high schools attend horticulture classes with Howard County School of Technology students twice a week.

The Howard County FFA members guide the special students through tasks such as filling pots, transplanting and putting hooks on baskets.

In the beginning, few of the members wanted to work with the exceptional students.

“At first they were very apprehensive. They were almost afraid,” says Dymek. “Then one by one they would come to me and volunteer.”

“They (people with disabilities) just seemed different” says junior FFA member Shannon Bell of her initial apprehension. “I didn’t know how to act.”

“I thought they were going to hurt

me at first,” says FFA member Jennifer Espinola. “It was scary.”

After getting to know the students Bell found, “They’re just like us. They’re people and they shouldn’t be made fun of.” Unfortunately, Bell has heard a few comments directed toward her disabled classmates. “And it made me think that could be me. I wouldn’t want people making fun of me.”

Instead, Bell says she’s learned to like “dealing with people who are different from me.”

“They’re just like us. They’re people and they shouldn’t be made fun of.”

—Shannon Bell

Her self confidence bloomed as she helped the special students succeed in school. “I feel better about myself. I used to be shy at the beginning of the year. I didn’t want to talk to anybody.”

While she wouldn’t necessarily volunteer to make a speech in front of hundreds of people, Bell says she’s comfortable these days talking to people at the nursing home where she works.

And, “If I see somebody at my home school who has a disability, it makes me want to talk to them. I usually do.”

That’s what the Work Enclave is all about. Students with all kinds of talents and needs getting together, learning from each other and eventually laughing and talking about who’s dating who and weekend plans. It’s about including everyone because they are unique and have special talents to share instead of avoiding those who are different. ●●●



The students take one last tour of the greenhouse before their plant identification test.

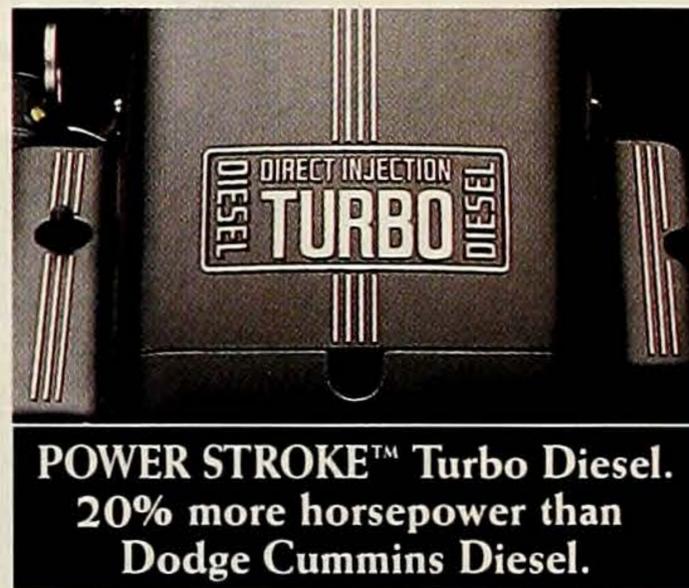
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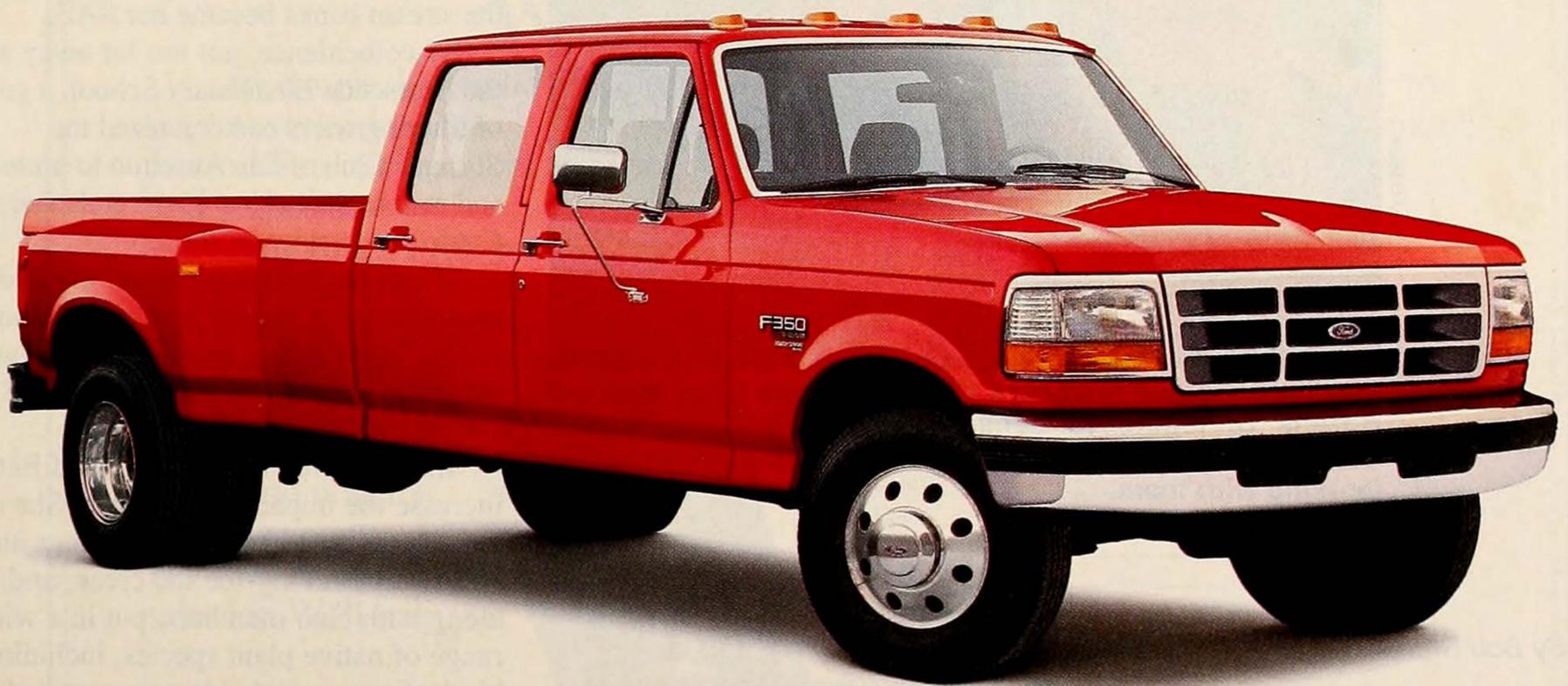
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F - S E R I E S W O R K F O R C E



BUILT FORD TOUGH



CRUSADERS

FFA member Betsy Martin and her troop of elementary students are saving shrimp habitat



Photos by Richard Gillette

The fourth grade members of the Shrimps Club sent out dozens of letters to conservation groups and won a \$32,500 grant by the time FFA member Betsy Martin began working with them.

By Bob Bruce

Standing in Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey's office in Washington, DC, joined by a group of California freshwater Shrimps Club fourth graders, and discussing her efforts to restore a fragile ecosystem, Betsy Martin was amazed at how far

she had come with her Supervised Agricultural Experience Program (SAE).

"It all started because the bridge that crosses the creek down by our driveway had been badly undercut by runoff," says Betsy. "We were afraid that if it went through one more severe winter it would probably wash out."

The banks were messed up because Betsy's parents ran a herd of dairy cattle. Like most dairies in Sonoma County, they had always let the cattle have free access to the creek. After 25 years, most of the creek-side vegetation had been trampled and the banks had been mostly flattened.

"So my dad decided it was time to fence off that portion of the creek," Betsy continues. Along the worst sections of the creek, the plan was to dump rip rap (large rocks and chunks of broken concrete) to stabilize the soil. The part of the project that involved replanting the stream banks became her SAE.

By coincidence, not too far away at the Brookside Elementary School, a group of fourth graders had organized the Shrimps Club of San Anselmo to protect and restore the habitat of the endangered California freshwater shrimp.

"Their teacher heard about my dad's plan to restrict animal access to Stemple Creek," says Betsy. From there, it was a simple matter of getting Betsy and the school kids together.

Shrimps Club members helped Betsy increase the impact of her work. She had already planted blackberry cuttings and willow trees alongside the creek, and along with club members, put in a wide range of native plant species, including big leaf maple, red alder, western red-bud, coastal live oak and California bay.

(Continued on Page 26)



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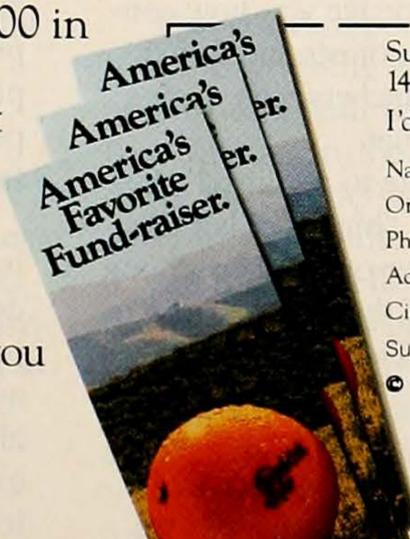
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There are also a number of printed references, scholarship search services online computer databases, and CD-ROM format references. Not all are geared toward individual use, but you may be able to gain access through your school guidance center.

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Environmental Crusaders (Continued from Page 24)



"You can't just stick a tree in the ground and watch it grow," says Betsy. "There's a whole management process that goes with it."

The experiment, says Betsy, was a success. The California freshwater shrimp is a fragile creature. About one and a half inches long and transparent, the shrimp is a weak swimmer. It is also very sensitive to the pollution caused by livestock waste products and

soil erosion. Within a year though not only had all the plants taken root but there were reports of the shrimp being found both upstream and downstream from her location.

For Betsy, one of the most important lessons she learned from the experience was how conservationists and farmers (or ranchers) can work together.

"I hate to admit it," she says, "but there isn't a farmer or rancher around

who really cares if there are shrimp in his stream or not. There's got to be some incentive."

Fortunately, those incentives are either available or in the process of being developed. One of the reasons the Shrimps Club members and Betsy

went back to Washington, DC, was to talk to their representatives as well as to EPA and fish and game officials to seek funding for more projects.

Back home, Betsy says they continue to improve and restore Stemple Creek. "We've set up a Stemple Creek Watershed Enhancement program in our town," she says, "and I'm going to serve as the high school student on the advisory committee." Betsy says she's also turned her SAE into an agriscience project by graduating from simple planting work to measuring water temperature, turbidity and water quality factors in Stemple Creek.

"Probably the thing that stands out in my mind most is not what we've done or what we are going to do, but just working with the kids. We sat out at the creek for an hour and talked about BST (bovine somatotropin), for example. That was really important to me." ●●●

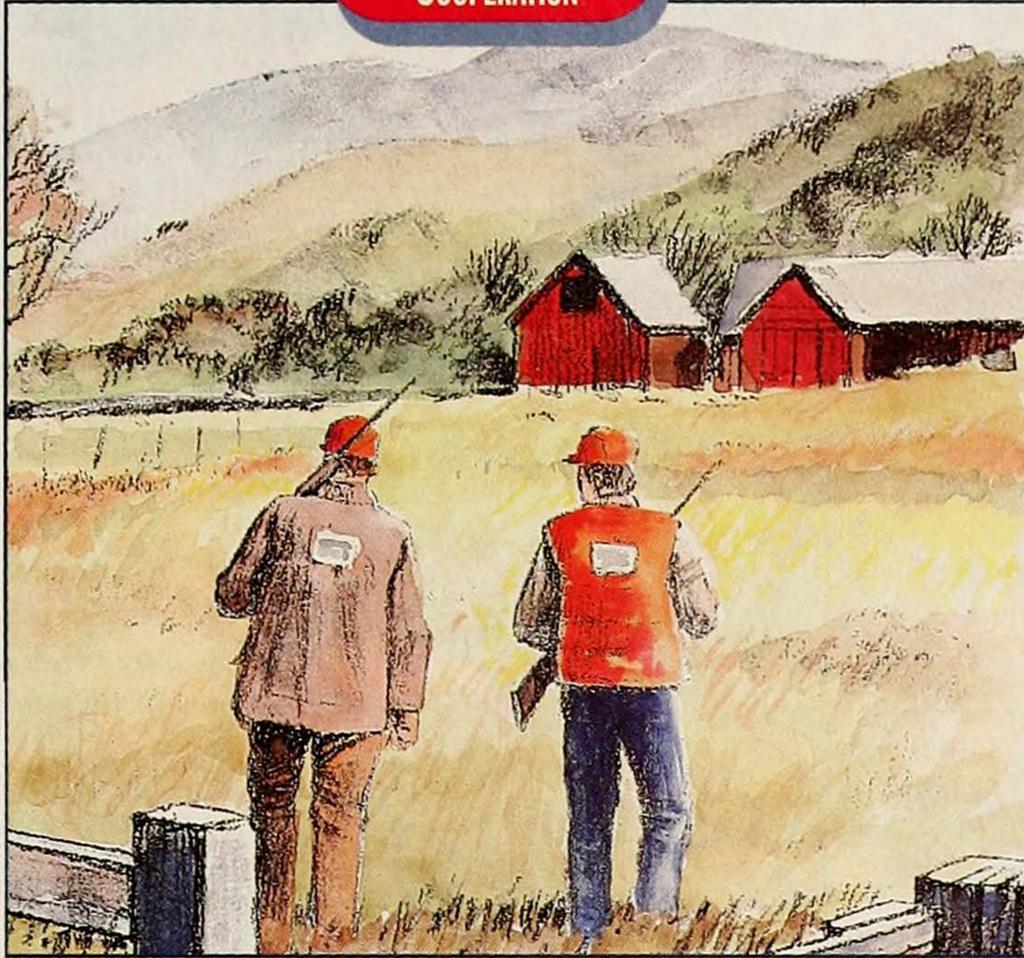
A TRADITION OF

SPORTSMAN



LANDOWNER

COOPERATION



ILLUSTRATIONS BY GEORGE DECROSTA

GETTING ALONG WITH HUNTERS ON YOUR LAND

BY BOB DELFAY

President, National Shooting Sports Foundation

As hunters and farmers adapt to the changes of modern society, it's important for both to pause and reflect upon their common interests.

From the farmlands of Colonial New England to the cattle ranches of the Old West, America's culture and traditions have been shaped by the ties of its people to the land and to each other. You can see it in rural communities across the country and across our history—whether at the barn-raising of years past or at next week's Cooperative Extension meeting.

This spirit of cooperation is likely to be very visible in your community and around your farm, but one aspect that's sometimes overlooked concerns the ties between the hunting and farming traditions in America. You and your fellow FFA members are an important part of this cooperative effort in your community.

As with any successful relationship, each party must contribute

something and make an effort to recognize the other's motivations and point of view. Communication is crucial to understanding on both sides. Ethical hunters recognize the landowner's position and willingly follow all of his or her rules and instructions, whether to close a gate, avoid areas used by livestock or watch for new plantings.

In return for the landowner's



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(Advertisement)

generosity, most hunters are happy to share in the fruits of their success. In addition to a portion of the game bag, many are prepared to offer assistance with a variety of chores around the farm. And as seasoned outdoorsmen, hunters can also provide landowners with valuable advice on many topics of mutual interest. This relationship often develops into a rewarding friendship between like-minded neighbors.

Regrettably, the presence of a very small number of unethical, unlawful individuals in our forests—who do not deserve to be called hunters—can sometimes distort farmers' views of the legitimate hunting fraternity. The result is a reluctant decision by some landowners to post "No Hunting" signs around many of America's prime hunting grounds—a classic case of the bad apple spoiling the barrel.

It's important for landowners to recognize that the individuals who occasionally create problems are by no means typical of the vast majority of those who choose to pursue the hunting tradition safely and quietly—leaving no sign by which others can judge them.

"Some kids I know don't like hunters," said a 17-year-old who lives on a family farm in Connecticut. "But I've been surprised by how polite most of the hunters are who use our land."

Those who have had the closest contact with hunters can also vouch for their good behavior. For example, among the nation's game wardens—whose job it is to monitor hunters' behavior in the field—a full 9 out of 10 said they believed that hunters respect the rights of others. When the nation's landowners were surveyed for their opinion of whether hunters respect the rights of others, over 70% agreed hunters are respectful.

Safety is another important issue that the responsible landowner considers when deciding whether to

“A survey found that 90% of game wardens said hunters respect others’ rights. Over 70% of the landowners surveyed agreed.”



grant access to hunters. Reasonable safety considerations—for both the humans and animals around the farm—may require that some areas be posted off-limit to hunters. But most farms will still have substantial surrounding acreage that can be responsibly and productively used by hunters—areas that would otherwise be completely unproductive. Replacing "No Hunting" signs around these places with ones that ask neighbors to obtain permission before hunting will open up new avenues for cooperation, as well as set the stage for valuable and rewarding relationships with other members of the community.

Hunting and farming share more than just their strong ties to the traditions and values of rural America. Both center around a firm commitment to sustainable, renewable resources, since each was born from the need for reliable sources of food and other natural commodities. Perhaps more so than any two groups, hunters and farmers understand the need for balance, restraint and careful planning to achieve their goals. This is amply demonstrated by the remarkable success of both agricultural science and wildlife management during the past century.

The partnership between hunters and farmers has been a long and mutually beneficial one that predates the start of civilization. As the custodians of both traditions strive to adapt to our fast-paced and rapidly-changing society, it's important for the members of each group to pause and reflect upon the values and interests they share in common.

And as hunters continue their efforts to present a favorable public image for themselves and for their sport, so should landowners consider that it may be time to take down some of those "No Hunting" signs and replace them with ones that read: "Hunting Allowed With Permission." You'll both be glad you did.

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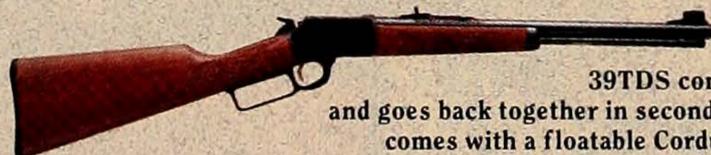
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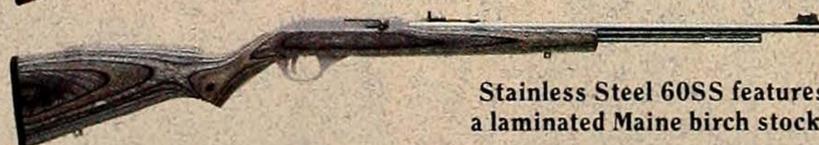
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THESE ARE THE GOOD OLD DAYS

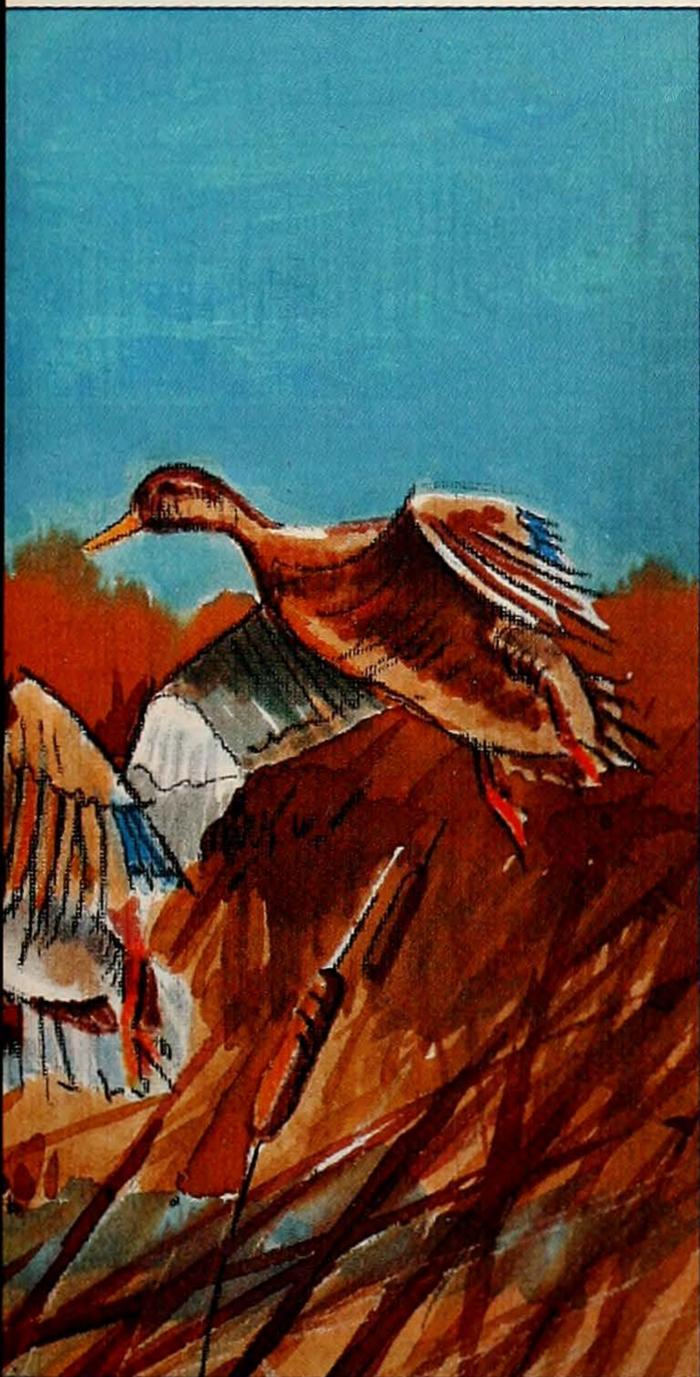
*How the science of wildlife
management has returned many species
to healthy, abundant populations*

BY GARY KOLESAR
National Hunting & Fishing Day Coordinator



If you were able to travel back in time to witness the arrival of the first Europeans in North America, you'd also get a chance to see the "good old days" of wildlife: flocks of geese and ducks blocking the sun, turkey calling in the spring fields, elk moving in sufficient numbers to create their own roads, and in every forest and marsh, deer. Regrettably, two centuries of "progress" by the new settlers would change all that, driving many species to the brink of extinction—and beyond.

But the "good old days" of wildlife are back again—thanks to 50 years of successful efforts by our state wildlife agencies. Here's how these conservation programs, utilizing the science of wildlife management, have returned many animals to the abundance they once enjoyed:



Around the year 1900, after noting drastic declines in wildlife due to the loss of adequate habitat and pressure from poaching and profit hunting, many respected conservationists suggested that any effective solution would require the establishment of organized conservation programs in each state—and that such programs could succeed only if based on a more detailed understanding of each species, its habitat and the relationships between them.

Sport hunters, including the newly-elected President, Teddy Roosevelt, whole-heartedly agreed, but also recognized that these new management concepts would require substantial funding to become operational in each state. They responded by proposing a series of laws designed to curb the market hunting industry, bring an end to poaching and establish and fund conservation agencies in each state (*see insert*). These laws were followed by others to create wildlife refuges and establish a system of national forests—all passed with the enthusiastic support of sportsmen. In time, this legislation produced the most effective system of wildlife management in the world.

WILD TURKEY:

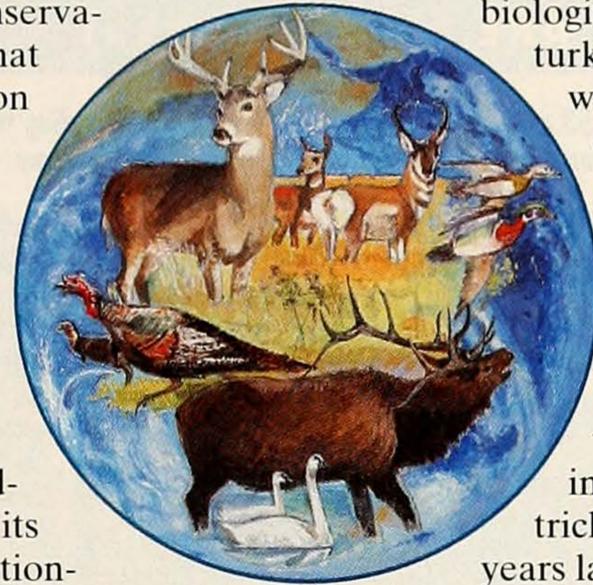
The wild turkey once ranged throughout North America. But, because its survival depended on the hardwood forests of the East and Midwest, the turkey rapidly declined as these areas were cleared. Following a path of westward expansion, the turkey disappeared in one state after another. By 1930, only scattered populations totaling under 100,000 birds remained.

Unfortunately, the first efforts by newly-formed state agencies to save the turkey failed because many of the birds they relocated carried genes from domesticated turkey, which left

them without the wariness they needed to escape predators and survive in the wild. As the science of wildlife

management progressed, however, biologists soon realized that turkey relocation could work, but only with the descendants of the few remaining "true wild" birds. Traps to capture whole flocks were developed, and when used in combination with renewed restocking programs, did the trick for the turkey. Sixty years later, the wild turkey is

a classic conservation success story, with healthy numbers in 41 states and a total population of more than 4,500,000 birds.



PRONGHORN ANTELOPE:

The vast grassland regions of the American West once supported some 30 to 40 million pronghorn. Like many prairie animals, pronghorn populations declined under pressure from homesteading, competition with livestock and heavy market hunting. By the early 1920s, the pronghorn population had been reduced to fewer than 13,000 animals and the species was in serious danger of extinction.

Wildlife biologists soon learned they could easily relocate pronghorn with simple corral-like traps. They developed special fences that reduced conflict between pronghorn and livestock by permitting only pronghorn to pass. Their efforts produced another impressive success story for wildlife management: today, over 1 million pronghorn can be counted in the western grasslands.

WHITE-TAILED DEER:

Perhaps the most familiar species of large game to most Americans, the whitetail is also today the most numerous, with thriving populations ranging from the deep woods of the north country, to the southern swamps, to the scrub thickets of the

AMERICA'S FIRST ENVIRONMENTALISTS ARE STILL THE BEST

Sportsmen pay \$3 million each day for conservation, providing the majority of funding for state wildlife management programs

Over a century ago, when many species of wildlife had reached a state of drastic decline, the nation's hunters took concerted action. Led by President Theodore Roosevelt, they proposed and supported passage of the first laws designed to protect wildlife and its habitat from exploitation.

In 1937, with the enthusiastic support of hunters, the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act was passed, providing for an excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition to fund state conservation programs. Today this 11 percent tax generates over **\$180 million** each year for wildlife management and hunter education programs.

Pittman-Robertson funds have also been used to obtain a

total of **over four million acres of wildlife habitat** for refuges, wintering ranges, wetlands and public hunting grounds. This land is available for the recreational enjoyment of all Americans, and it provides a home to hundreds of non-game and endangered species.

But the sportsman's contribution doesn't stop there. Another **\$900 million** is generated by the sale of state hunting and fishing licenses.

Another **\$285 million** comes from the sale of duck stamps, payment of even more special taxes, interest and income tax check-offs.

All told, sportsmen provide some \$1.4 billion each year to wildlife conservation—**that's over nine dollars for each single dollar provided by state taxpayers!**



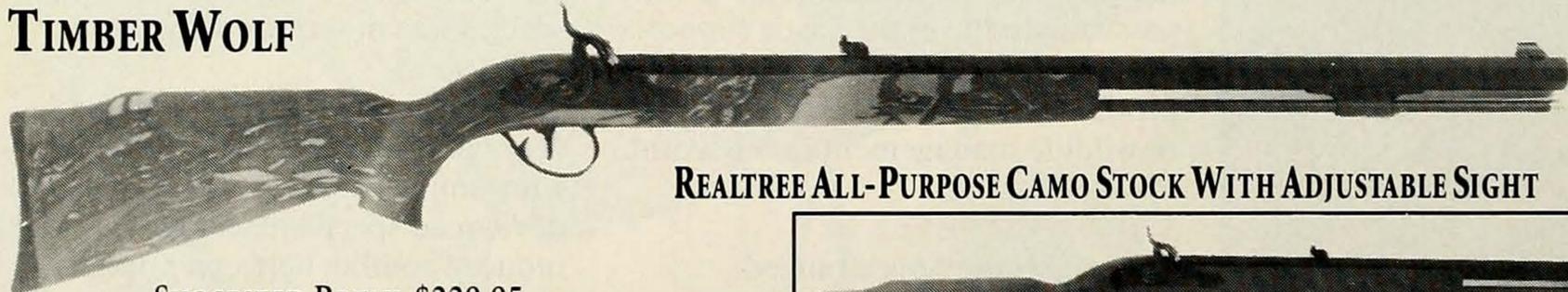
southwest. The familiar story of expansion and development that brought with it farming, grazing and logging operations also negatively impacted the white-tailed deer. By 1900, less than 500,000 were left in the nation. By 1940, state conservation agencies had established a series of ambitious programs to restock deer to vacant habitat such as abandoned eastern farms and newly-restored forest and brushland areas.

Today, these programs have resulted in one of the most dramatic wildlife management success stories to date. More than 17 million white-tailed deer now roam the nation's forests—more than 30 times the number that existed in 1900!

Many other species have also benefited from wildlife management: The majestic Rocky Mountain elk, largest and most widely-distributed member of

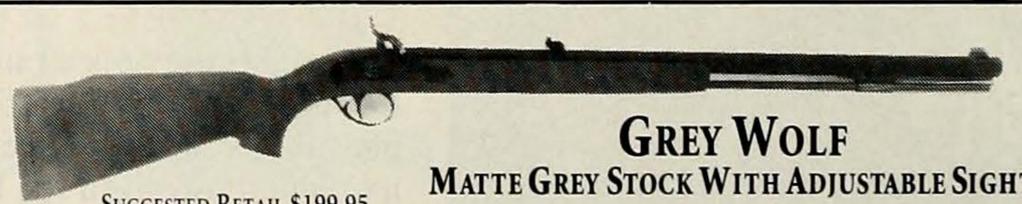
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the deer family in North America, has been returned from a low of 41,000 to about 800,000 today. Transplant and habitat improvement programs have established healthy elk populations in 10 western states, from Colorado and New Mexico north to Montana and Idaho. The wood duck, whose future was once clouded by the widespread destruction of its wetland habitat, is now the most abundant breeding waterfowl in the East. This recovery was made possible by the many thousands of nesting boxes built by sportsmen and wildlife agencies. The Canada goose has been returned from a low of 1.2 million birds to over 3.7 million today. And hundreds of other non-game and endangered species, such as the graceful Trumpeter Swan, red cockaded woodpecker and American bison, have also benefited from the efforts of sportsmen and state wildlife agencies, guided by the sci-



ence of wildlife management.

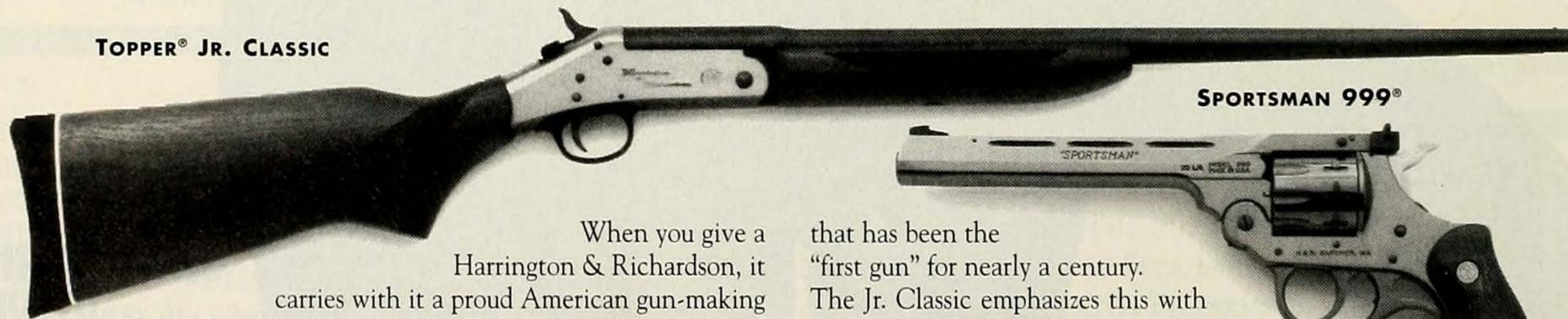
In a time when many are concerned about the future of wildlife in America, it's encouraging to see that well-coordinated management efforts can succeed. But it's also important

for landowners to recognize that the continuing success of wildlife conservation will require broad public support—for both the programs themselves and for the hunting sport that pays for them.

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By Raquel Lacey,
National Central Region Vice President

Rush hour. Tokyo, Japan. A small Japanese man goes out of his way to bump into national FFA president Curtis Childers. How rude! Well, not really, he just wanted to say "Excuse me," and practice his English on an American.

Before I went to Japan, I thought Tokyo meant hustle and bustle with houses stacked on top of each other and people crammed into every corner. I believed most Japanese were workaholics and pushy.

WRONG! Our officer team witnessed nothing but kind hospitality during our tour to Japan.

"People are people, no matter where you go," says Liam Brody, eastern region vice president.

Of course we were extremely excited but somewhat apprehensive of the whole trip. Liam and southern region vice president Steven Mitchell's biggest concern was the food and whether they would be eating the sushi (raw seafood) or the sushi eating them.

On the other hand, national secretary Andrew McCrea was more concerned with slipping his size 13 feet in and out of those little slippers before entering Japanese shrines and homes.

As we traveled the main island of Japan, Honshu, we were amazed to find a climate similar to the United States. The northern part of the country is about the same latitude as the chilly state of Maine, and the southern part of the island lines up with hot, humid Georgia.

Seventy-five percent of the land is covered by trees, with the rest for living space, raising livestock and cultivating crops such as rice, fruits and vegetables.

The people were extremely giving and friendly. Each family supplied us with loads of native food—from sushi, Japanese pizzas and horse meat to pickled radishes and tofu.

My family laughed at the fact that my first experience with Illinois soybean cuisine—tofu, soy sauce, raw soybeans in a pod and fermented soybeans—took place in Japan.

The tour was a wonderful opportunity to get a taste of a new culture and to learn about Japanese agriculture and education.

In case you were wondering, the team members weight fluctuated very little during the two-week tour. Steven Mitchell and western region vice president Tyler Grandil's sense of smell successfully led the gang to the world of Dunkin' Doughnuts and McDonald's on a few occasions in between the typical Japanese food and attempting to master the use of chopsticks while Liam and Curtis acquired a special taste for the Japanese specialty—sushi. ...



Raquel, top left, enjoys rice cakes during her host father's birthday celebration. Above, the national officers visited a Japanese garden where, says Raquel, "It was peaceful with Japanese folk music playing in the background."

Japan Tour '94



Busting Stereotypes in the Land of Sushi

The National Officer International Experience Program is sponsored by Mitsui & Co., Ltd. as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Farmland & FFA. Working together for tomorrow's leaders.

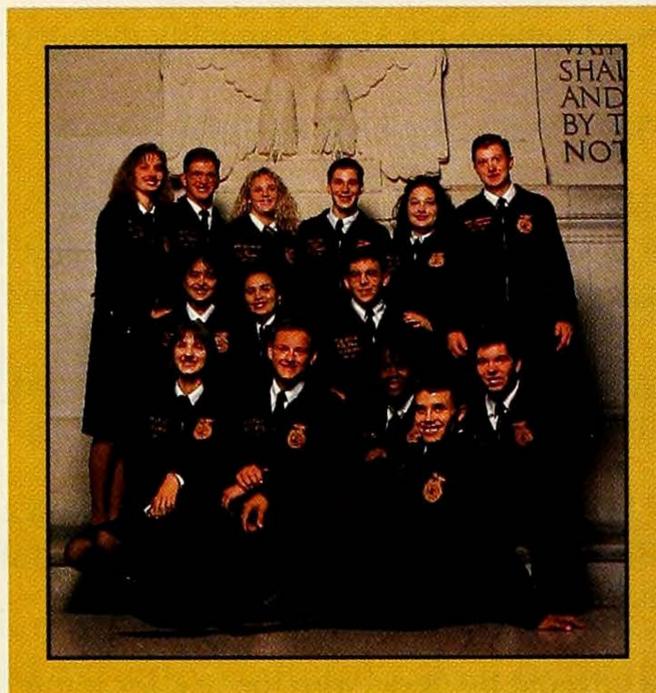
During the Twenties, FFA and the Farmland Cooperative System were born in Kansas City and began growing up together.

Over these many years strong ties have bound us together, such as...

Our belief in American Agribusiness as a force for world peace, freedom and prosperity.

Our resolution to create and exert the leadership to continually improve our industry.

In fact, many FFA members have applied these ideals as Farmland System employees. Our President, Harry Cleberg, is this year's



FFA Foundation Chairman. His involvement, along with many other Farmland employees, reflects our commitment to a brighter future for FFA and its members.

In that spirit, please accept this open invitation to visit with Farmland (Booths 139 & 141) at the FFA National Agricultural Career Show.

While you're there, ask about the Farmland Youth Leadership Conference.

It's a great annual opportunity for students 16 to 18 to work with other leaders, learning and practicing teamwork, public speaking, career development, interpersonal communication and management.

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FFA Funnies

And the Winner Is...



"Duh...I knew I should have had my brakes fixed."

Evelyn Carrie Meschefske
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

"I've fallen in and I can't giddyout!"

Michelle Hansen
Williamsburg, Iowa

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.

(Action continued on Page 38)

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FFA IN ACTION

Oklahoma

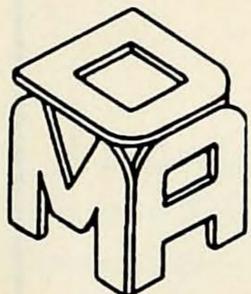
"Hey Mom, Look What I Made at School!"

Ty Smith and T.J. Rothenbach needed a tractor to haul home their school projects. Both Burlington FFA members, with the help of their classmates, constructed sheds. Ty's 10 foot by 16 foot structure is for his steer, and T.J.'s six foot by 10 foot shed houses his pigs. All students learned valuable skills while constructing the sheds, and a few even learned the fine art of loading sheds onto trailers.

(Kim Kisling) ...



Burlington FFA members load a shed, constructed in class for FFA member Ty Smith, onto a trailer.



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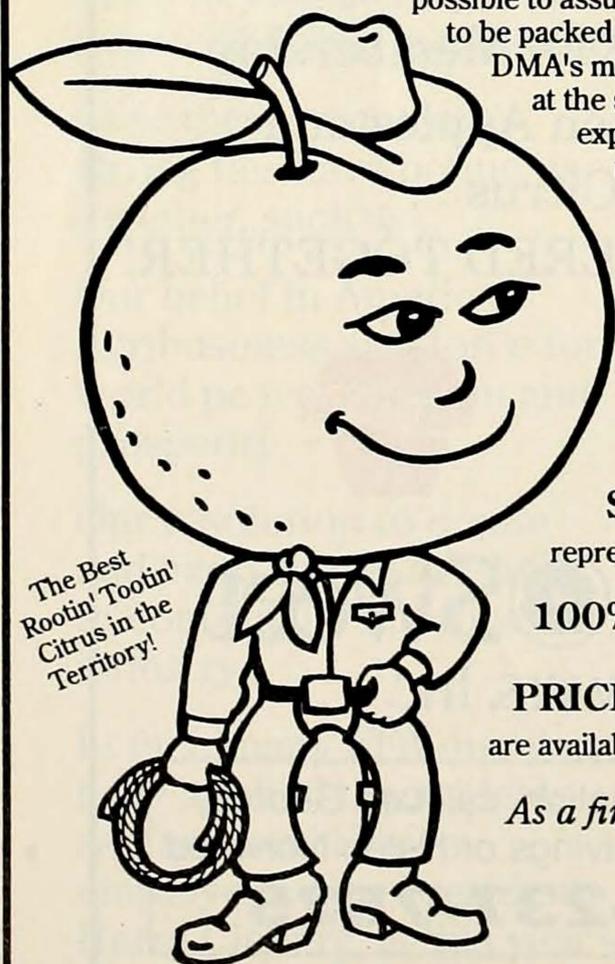
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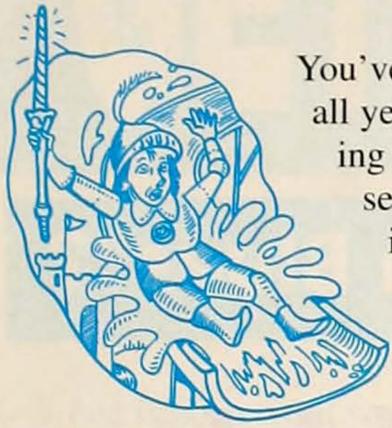
As a final note...DMA will do its utmost to fulfill every promise to its customers!

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cessful FFA projects. And what thanks do you get? How about a trip to Camelot? The top 27 point-earners at Williams FFA were rewarded for their hard work with a day full of water-slides, miniature golf, racing and more during an outing to a local amusement park, Camelot, in Modesto. Williams FFA assigns points for participation and achievement to motivate members and to encourage hard work. (Monica Lopez, Reporter)...

(Action continued on Page 40)



Looking for the Perfect Project?

The American Quarter Horse offers many rewarding experiences for FFA members. Whether you're interested in show competition, breeding, judging or just enjoying an equine project, the American Quarter Horse fits the bill.

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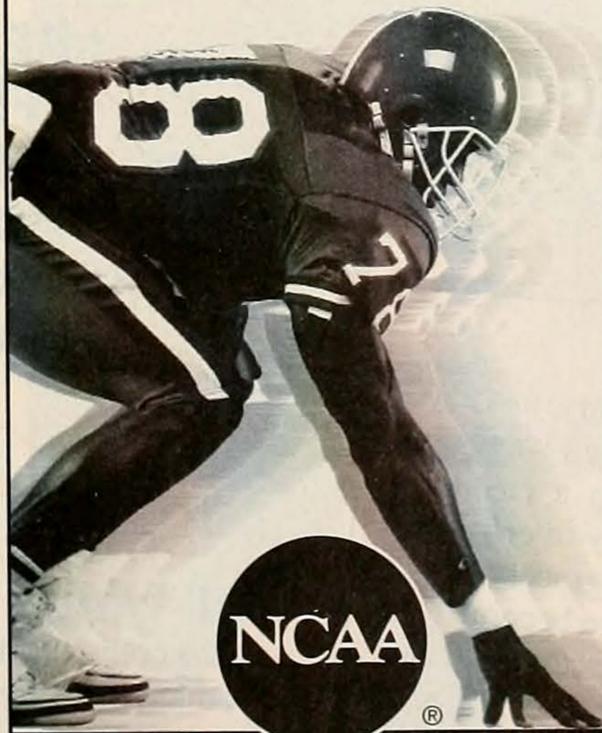


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Goin' to Kansas City

The NCAA Visitors Center invites you to celebrate America's salute to college athletics.

FFA members receive \$1 admission fee

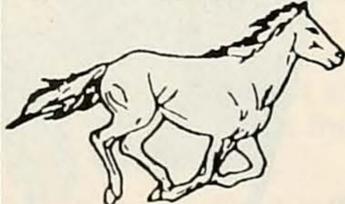


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FFA

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FFA IN ACTION



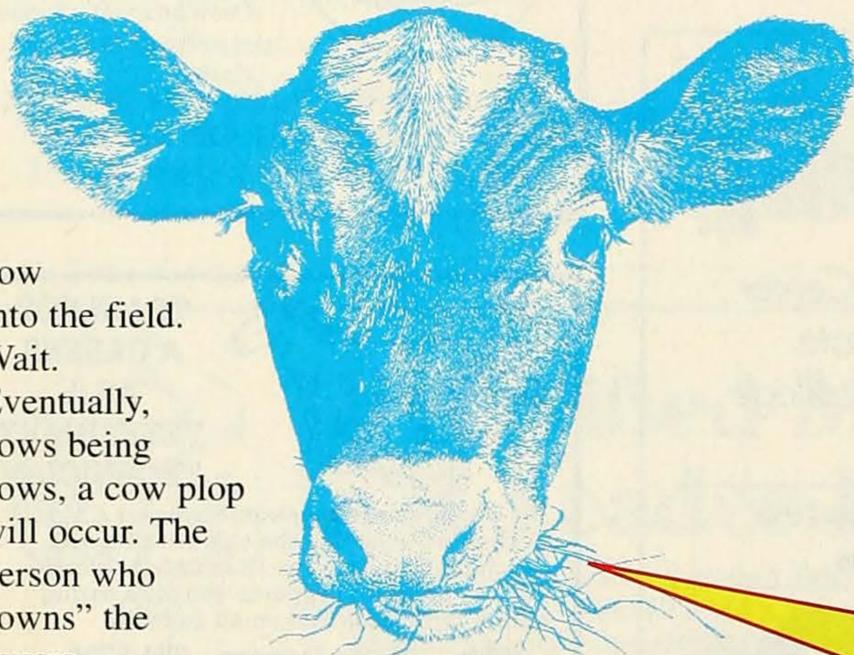
Got Them "Working At The Car Wash Blues"?

Try These Fundraising Ideas

By Bob Bruce

The Corcoran Cow Plop

A brutally simple project that appeals to people of all ages. Go figure. All you need is a cow and an open field. Rope off the field and mark it into a 50x50 grid. "Sell" each grid space for \$5 apiece. Then, turn loose a well-fed



cow into the field. Wait. Eventually, cows being cows, a cow plop will occur. The person who "owns" the square on which the cow plop plops wins \$500. The chapter keeps the rest. Wildly successful, according to Rena Morisoli, Corcoran, California.

Sell Collectible Toys

Larry Konsterlie says his chapter borrowed the idea from some other chapters in another state. But who cares, as long as it works? Each year for three years now, the Willmar, Minnesota FFA has been coming out with a special collector's version of the Minnesota FFA toy tractor. The tractors are manufactured by a major toy company and the chapter designs



the collector's box and specifies what words are to be embossed onto the sides of each tractor. "The first year we ordered 500 of the tractors," says Larry, "and we sold them all at about \$30 each."

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE FUND-RAISERS?

Send your ideas to FFA New Horizons, Fund-Raisers, P.O. Box 15160, 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy., Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.

Fresh Corn Sales

Even if your school isn't out in the country, just about everybody can find enough space to set up a small corn field. Start off with donated seed and in a couple of months you'll have fresh sweet corn ready to eat. Make arrangements with one or more local grocery stores (depending on how big a crop you plant) to become their wholesale corn supplier for the summer. Dawn Dietz' chapter in Sycamore, Illinois, did that with 3 1/2 acres and according to chapter advisor Will Duchaj it worked out so well that they have received interest from other stores in the area and they're thinking about trying to expand their crop next year.

Sell Winter Fruit

It's cold outside, the trees are bare and along comes the local FFA chapter selling fresh fruit. Who can resist? According to Aimee Lee of West Lyon, Iowa, the answer is nobody. "We sell apples and oranges," she says. "We go out and get the orders beginning in the end of October, and then we deliver the orders in December." Aimee says that folks in and around West Lyon look forward to the FFA fruit sale the way some people look forward to the first robin of spring.

GET TO KNOW



Raquel Lacey
Central Region Vice President

Raquel Lacey

Loud is not a word you would think of to describe national central region vice president Raquel Lacey. (Rocky to her friends.)

Quiet focus is more her style. Look around a room full of FFA members and she's the one asking questions... making people feel special. "I consider myself a listener, not a talker," she says.

Even her favorite Supervised Agricultural Experience Program (SAE) of sheep, depicts her gentle spirit. "I liked the lambing best," she says. "They were quiet and warm and cuddly."

Although she's low-key by nature, it was not always by choice.

"I wasn't the most popular person in high school because I was considered somewhat of a nerd. It really bothered me at the time."

The year after graduation started on a high note. Rocky was elected as an Illinois state officer. She took a year off school and began touring the state delivering leadership speeches.

Self-doubt soon began eroding her confidence. "I was convinced my style was wrong. I began to not be the real me. I felt like I had to be a high-strung person.

"It made me feel uncomfortable. I shared so much about believing in yourself, but I don't know that I actually believed in me."

At the end of that year, even though she was down on herself, Rocky still notified her state staff she wanted to run for national office. "Then I withdrew a week later.

"My mom especially wanted me to run for national office. She encouraged me to picture myself on that stage."

Rocky couldn't see it... didn't believe it was possible. She went to college instead. "I surrounded myself with positive people who didn't put me down.

"My faith strengthened a lot that

year. I really had the time to think about who I was and what I really believed in. It built myself confidence."

The Real Rocky

Round two. Armed with a new positive self-image, the Nokomis, Illinois, native applied for a national officer slot. She decided, "If they don't like my particular leadership style, then I'm not going to be right for national office. I didn't want to make myself something that I wasn't."

Besides, it wouldn't be the end of the world if she wasn't elected. "I had two avenues, going to school and being a national officer, and I would be satisfied with both."

The trick, she believes, is to set goals based on who you are, where you

want to be, how to get there. Then work toward those goals.

For example, Rocky wanted to be Illinois director of agriculture. So, "I wrote Mike Espy (former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture) and every time I meet a state ag director I pick their brain."

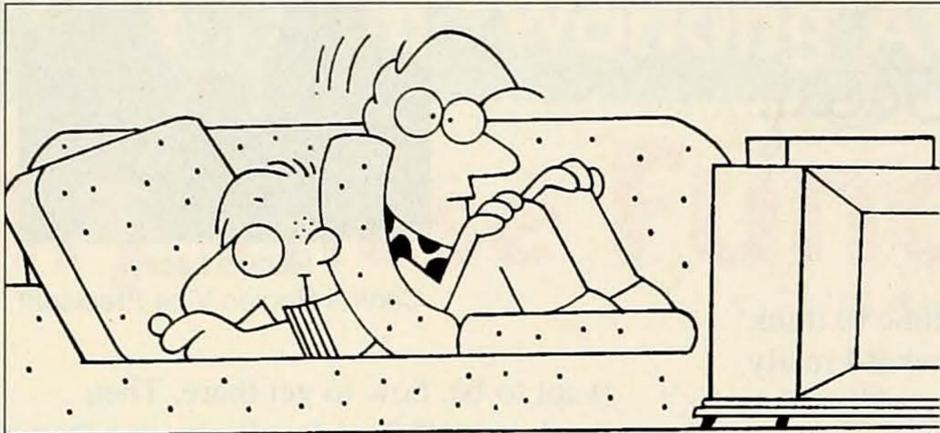
Then she listens. Learns. Plots her course. And moves a little bit closer to her goals. ●●●

- Rocky doesn't leave home without her blue and gold bear she won as a door prize at an FFA banquet. Chapter members who wanted her to run for state office asked that she carry the stuffed animal on FFA travels if she won. More than 100,000 miles later, the bear's still by her side.



"When I was little I wanted to be a horse jockey," says Rocky. Now her ultimate goal is to be director of agriculture in Illinois.

J O K E P A G E



GLASBERGEN

How To Get Money For College.

Idea Number 318: Beginning on your 12th birthday, check under the sofa cushions every half hour for six years.

Q: Why was the pony so quiet?
A: He was a little hoarse.

*Michael Batcherlor
Andalusia, AL*

Ned: Your Honor, it was an accident! I had to run into the fence to keep from hitting the cow!
Judge: Was it a Jersey cow?
Ned: I don't know—I didn't see her license plate!

*Joe Ordoin
Washington, LA*

Q: What do pigs use for sore muscles?
A: Oinkment.

*Ingrid Stevens
Riceboro, GA*

Sam: What are you doing on the roof?
Mary: I heard today's lunch was on the house.

*Jennifer Parrott
Throckmorton, TX*

City Worker: Is your water supply healthy?
Farmer: Yes, we only have well water.

*Elias Maurer
Mifflinburg, PA*

Laughing stock—cattle with a sense of humor!

*Pat Juenemann
Clements, MN*

Q: Why couldn't the sailors play cards?

A: Because the captain was standing on the deck.

*Benjamin Aceds
Lomita, CA*

Chris: Why didn't the skeleton dance at the party?

Troy: I don't know.

Chris: He had no body to dance with!

*Toby Timmons
Opelousas LA*

Q: What has more lives than a cat?

A: A frog, because it croaks every night.

*Ben Currasquillo
Jacksonville, AL*

Mother Banana: Dear, why don't you want to go to school?

Little Banana: Because I don't peel good.

*Michael Dolbeare
Barry, IL*

Q: How do they grade chickens?

A: They give them eggs-ams.

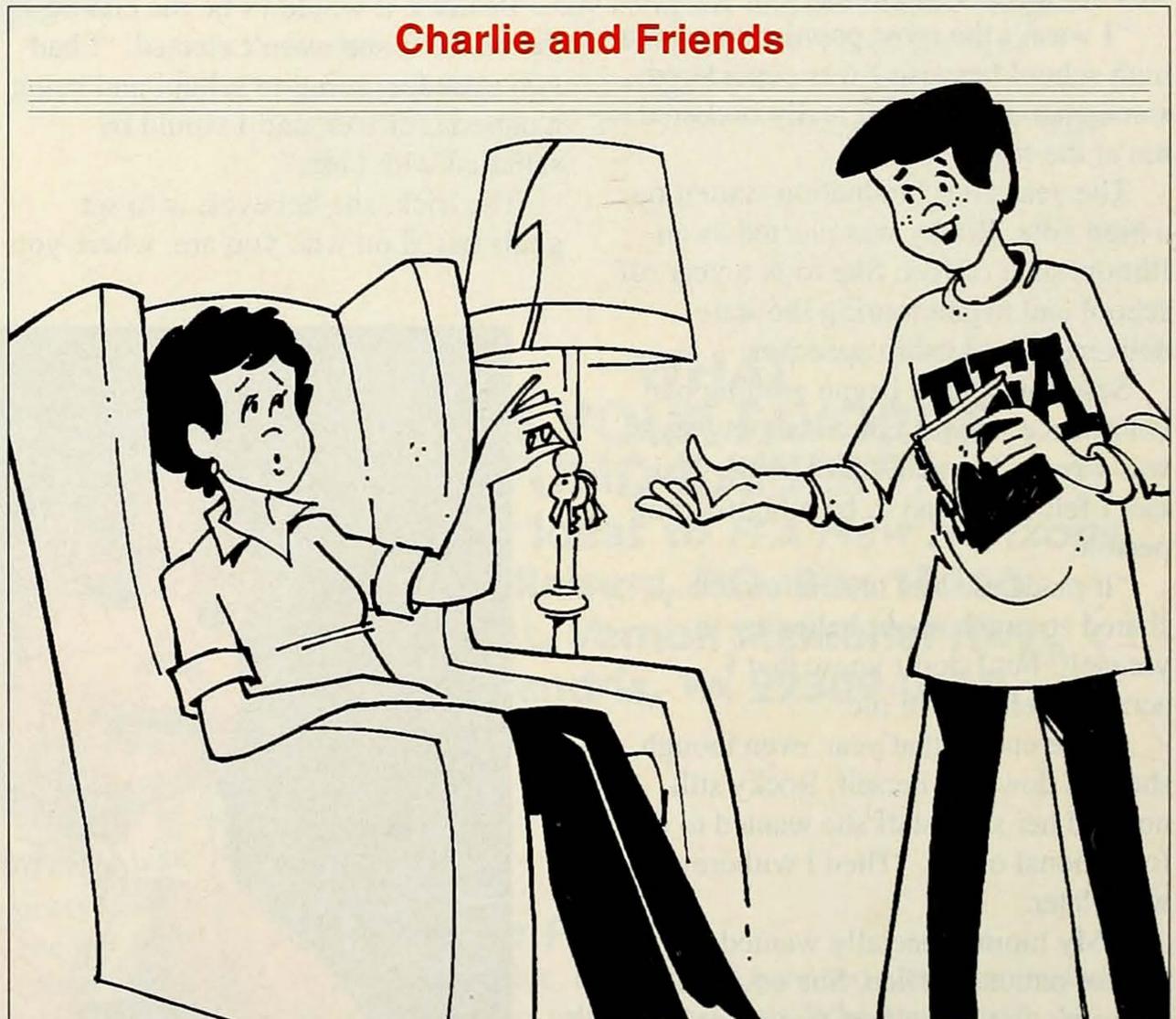
*Michael Southerland
Morristown, TN*

Q: Why aren't trees good parents?

A: Because they raise knotty boards.

*Jason Johnson
Henderson, NE*

Charlie and Friends



"I don't want to go anywhere. I just want to use the car phone for a couple of hours."

NOTICE:

FFA NEW HORIZONS will pay \$5.00 for each joke selected for this page. Jokes must be addressed to FFA NEW HORIZONS, 5632 Mt. Vernon Mem. Hwy., P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160, or via Stargram on the Ag Ed Network to FF100A. In case of duplication, payment will be for the first one received. Contributions cannot be acknowledged or returned.

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Selection is based on your FFA leadership activities, academic record, supervised agricultural experience program and community involvement.

Early application is encouraged. Pick up a scholarship application from your chapter FFA advisor or guidance counselor. You may also contact the FFA Scholarship Office to obtain a copy of the application form.

**Scholarship Office
National FFA Organization
P.O. Box 15160
5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy.
Alexandria, VA 22309-0160
703-360-3600 ext 255**

**IMPORTANT NOTE
The application deadline is
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**Applications postmarked later
than February 15 will
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The soldier on the right has it.

So does the soldier on the left. In fact, all the soldiers in this picture have the

**Can you find the \$30,000
in this picture?**

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