

FFA

FEBRUARY-MARCH, 1992

New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION



FFA Hits The Slopes

Is Winning *Really* Everything?

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FFA New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

February-March, 1992

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THE FRONT LINE

There is a commercial on TV these days that says something like, "For every generation, there is a Gap." Of course, the Gap is hawking their line of casual clothes for all ages, so the catchy slogan works pretty smooth for their purposes. But it stuck in my mind for a different reason.

Anyone who has ever gone to the movies or shopped with their mom or dad can testify that what one generation might think is "excellent," the other probably thinks is a "waste of hard-earned money." A lot of arguments with parents center around the generation gap. So what causes it?

Age is probably the biggest reason. Having been through a lot themselves, parents and other adults often think they know what's best.

But there is another, more special reason. It has to do with the events that unfold in your generation.

This year, sitting in front of your TV sets, you've seen a violent, high-tech war fought in a desert half-way around the world. You saw the mostly peaceful fall of the Soviet empire, easily the most feared nation since World War II. (See "What a Year!" on page 10.) You witnessed a nation begin to change its views about AIDS because of a Magical sports star everybody likes.

On the other hand, your parents experienced Viet Nam, the early days of rock n' roll and the space race. A different time, different people, different ideas.

The historic events, mixed together with the music, films, fashion and other cultural markers of the time make it different than any other in history. What you get is a definition of your generation. The 90's is already amazing historians and we're just getting started. Stay tuned.

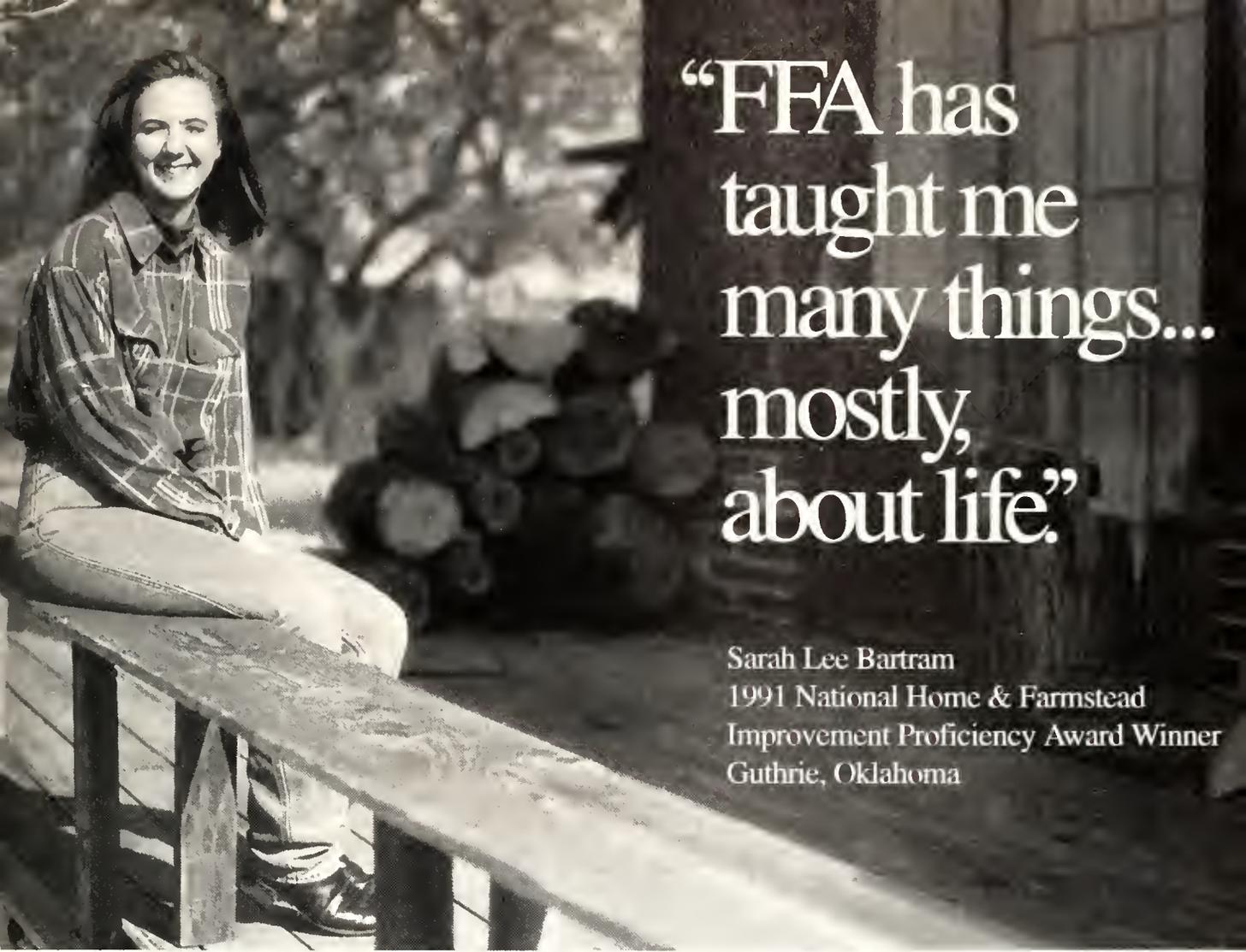
Good Work if You Can Get It

If you could have any job you wanted, what would it be? Lawyer, music star, astronaut, farmer, teacher—there are so many directions to go, how do you choose? For starters, check out the article "Who Are You?" on page 22. It is a quick worksheet that will help steer you through the sometimes murky waters of sorting out what kinds of jobs will challenge and satisfy you.

For whatever reasons, some of us are drawn to the communications field, magazine publishing, specifically. The most recent person to join the ranks is Lawinna McGary, the new associate editor of this magazine. After a few years in the corporate communications world, she joined our staff last December. This is her first issue of *FFA New Horizons*. If you saw something in this issue that you really liked, or didn't like, please drop her a note.

Her job is to sort through all of the different ideas that come to us for articles and select the best ones. Then she travels all over the United States photographing and interviewing FFA members who are doing interesting and exciting things. Next it's just a matter of putting the pictures and stories on paper and sending it to you. It's not all as simple as that, but it's good work if you can get it.





“FFA has
taught me
many things...
mostly,
about life.”

Sarah Lee Bartram
1991 National Home & Farmstead
Improvement Proficiency Award Winner
Guthrie, Oklahoma

Self-confidence, life-long skills and new friends. They're all benefits of FFA that will stay with Sarah Lee Bartram long after she sheds her blue and gold jacket.

Sarah, from Guthrie, Oklahoma, is the 1991 National FFA Home & Farmstead Improvement Proficiency Award winner. As part of her projects, she planned and incorporated a soil conservation program for her family's farm, built an addition onto the family home and restored an abandoned 1800's farmhouse. That's more than 4000 hours of work. And even though the jobs weren't easy, seeing the results made every one of those hours worthwhile to her.

“Actually, I was surprised at how simple some of the projects were, once I got started,” she says. “I learned skills, solved problems and achieved goals that I never even imagined before I joined FFA.”

The Upjohn Company salutes Sarah Lee Bartram and all the other industrious young people that make FFA what it is today. As a 16-year sponsor of the Home & Farmstead Improvement Proficiency Award, we realize that the future of agriculture depends on today's young leaders, like Sarah. We think it's in good hands.

Upjohn

Animal Health Division
The Upjohn Company
Kalamazoo, Michigan

New Horizons

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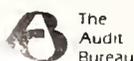
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"The Leadership Edge"

A state vice president of the New Hampshire Association was the first subscriber to a new audio magazine from FFA, "The Leadership Edge."

Alice Moore received a subscription as a gift from her mother and FFA advisor, Jean Eichorn.



Alice Moore

"It's a great investment," says Alice. "Some of us listened to the tape on the way to a basketball game. It keeps you motivated."

"The Leadership Edge" has been distributed to all FFA chapters. Further production of the leadership-oriented audio cassette series depends on whether a minimum number of them are ordered. One-year subscriptions are \$29.95. You can order by phoning the toll free hotline, 1-800-582-5323.

National FFA Contest Scholarships Set

Gaining skills isn't the only reason to set your sights on competing in national contests. You might also earn money. Scholarships will be awarded in 1992 to those listed below.

Each member of First Place Teams - \$1,000

1st High Individual - \$900

2nd Highest Individual - \$750

3rd High Individual - \$600

In some contests 4th thru 10th High Individuals - \$500

New this year are \$1,000 scholarships for the 1st place team and the 1st—3rd high individuals in the meats evaluation and technology contest.

For more details see the latest *Contests Bulletin*.

FFA Official Jacket Designer Dies

Mr. Walter M. Tolan, 94, of Van Wert, Ohio, died recently. He was instrumental in the design of the first FFA jacket. It all began when J.H. Litner, FFA advisor from Fredericktown, Ohio, asked him to design a jacket for his band. The Fredericktown FFA band appeared in the jackets in 1933 at the national convention.

Delegates to the '33 convention voted to adopt the jacket as the official one for FFA. The design is still used today, and, until two years ago, was manufactured in Van Wert.

In 1979, Tolan was given an honorary degree by the FFA and had attended 40 consecutive National FFA Conventions.

Get Ready To Tune Up Your Sprayers

During Sprayer Tune-Up Week, Feb. 17-21, FFA chapters and industry leaders will promote safety checks and sprayer calibration before the application season begins.



**Sprayer Tune-Up Week
 February 17-21**

The Sprayer Tune-Up Week message is simple. Complete calibration takes only about an hour. It can improve returns on investments in crop protection products, save valuable time during the planting season and protect the environment. Accurate chemical application due to proper calibration can save approximately \$1.25 per acre for each chemical applied, according to a University of Nebraska study.

"It's cheap insurance to be sure you get the right amount of chemical down when you need it," says University of Illinois agricultural engineer Loren Bode.

M A I L B A G

To Drink or Not to Drink

With regards to the articles in the December-January 1991-92 issue, "The Lessons of Losing" and "To Drink or Not to Drink"...a big THANK YOU!

I appreciate the courage it took to address such issues in a truthful manner. *Thank you for not riding the fence.*

*Rex Zenger
Morrowville, Kansas*

I thought the articles on losing and alcohol in the December-January, 1991-92 FFA *New Horizons* were excellent.

As an FFA sponsor in North Dakota, I'm always impressed with FFA's "wholesome, gung-ho image." But if your image cannot withstand a confrontation with negative, troubling issues, it doesn't have much of a foundation. I am glad to see you dealing with these issues in a positive way, with practical suggestions and lessons from real life experience.

*Gayle Highness
Fargo, North Dakota*

Great Adventure

My greatest adventure this past month was the FFA convention in Kansas City. It was somewhat unbelievable...I mean the concern with which Americans handle and manage agricultural education. I was able to learn a lot about Americans and about the USA. I think that East European nations should have formed a similar organization. It's not too late yet!

*Miklos Thuranszky
Work Experience Abroad
Hungary*

New News

FFA was news to me when I entered my sophomore year in high school. I never thought I'd learn so much in so little time. Within one year I was on our chapter's dairy judging team; I was preparing an animal for our local fair; I became our chapter's reporter, and I went to our state FFA convention.

I am grateful to my ag teacher for helping me to understand this: "Learning to do, Doing to learn, Earning to live, Living to serve."

*Melissa Wikris
Wheatland, California*

No Promises

The "Lessons of Losing" article in the December-January, 1991-92 issue brought back memories; both happy and sad. The best experience the FFA gave me was the opportunity to run for a national FFA office. I lost; but, it was a turning point in my life. I gained as much from losing that day as I ever would have if I had won. I will always be thankful to the FFA for that.

Our simple, elegant pledge; Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve, never promises that you will ever win a contest or a ribbon. However, if you give the best of yourself, you will have the opportunity to enrich your life by learning how to win and to lose.

*Vince Verbeke
University Park, Pennsylvania*

Friends Forever!

Retiring as a state officer last May gave me the chance to see how many lives I'd touched and to see how the FFA has changed my life.

I rarely spent a day this last year without remembering and drawing from my experience at the Washington Conference Program. My WCP roommate and I have stayed in close contact for three years and she has even visited my home.

My challenge to everyone is to get out, get involved and meet people because they truly are the type of Friends that will last Forever and Always!

*Kristi Rightmire
Ferndale, Washington*

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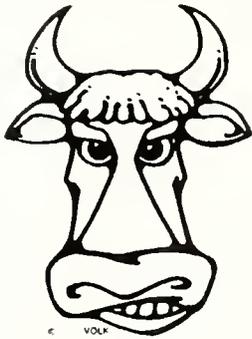
*Results of laboratory test using AC Fine Test Dust.

LOOKING AHEAD

U.S. Cattle Belch The Best

Agricultural sources are blamed for a large part of the methane emissions contributing to the "greenhouse effect," but just how much of that are cattle responsible for? Well, less than producers are often led to believe.

According to Dr. Kathleen Hogan, chief of methane programs for the Environmen-



tal Protection Agency, no single source releases the majority of methane. About 60 percent originates from human activities including coal mining, rice cultivation, landfills, biomass burning, oil and gas systems, livestock production and wastes and wastewater treatment. The other 40 percent is produced by hydrates, bodies of water, wetlands and, believe it or not, termites.

Cattle produce methane through their digestive process. Between 15 percent and 20 percent of annual emissions worldwide come from cattle and that number increases as cattle populations grow. Compared to other developed, beef producing countries, however, the United States produces the least methane per pound of beef.

What puts the United States ahead in general is efficient production. Cattle live shorter lives and produce more beef. Although feedlots are often targeted as the greatest cattle source of methane, the cow/calf segment actually produces more.

When productivity and efficiency improve, methane produced per product decreases. Interestingly enough, the EPA suggests improved reproduction, disease control, feed efficiency and waste handling techniques to decrease emissions—options in line with industry goals. EPA interest could mean government assistance to reach these goals.

(*Drovers Journal*, December 1991)

Wood Crops For Energy

Energy from wood crops may be an important fuel in the future. "Depending on which experts you listen to, woody biomass has the potential of providing roughly 20 to 30 percent of the energy consumed in the United States, instead of the current 4 percent. Half of this could come from woody, short-rotation crops," says, James R. Fazio, director of The National Arbor Day Institute.

Estimates from Department of Energy researchers show that approximately 75-100 million acres of cropland could be committed to fuelwood production without significantly cutting into production of agricultural commodities. These acres could more than double if all economically marginal or environmentally sensitive crop and pasture lands were included. Fazio says one study indicates that in many cases farmers could make more money by growing trees.

Test Tube Tomatoes

Cherry tomatoes that ripened in a U.S. Department of Agriculture laboratory hint at a possible new source of tomato paste, catsup, soup and salsa for the 21st century.

Without the usual steps of planting, growing and harvesting a crop, growers would skim tasty tomato cells from indoor vats for quick processing into foods, says biologist Betty K. Ishida of USDA's Agricultural Research Service. Only cells of the fruit—not the plant itself—would be grown in vats.

She says this type of indoor farming might be a future option, especially where land and water are at a premium. But for that to happen, "you have to know how to make the cells ripen as if they're part of the fruit," says Ishida.

That's what Ishida wants to learn from oddly ripening cherry tomatoes growing in test tubes in her lab. The tomatoes boast tiny "leaves" that weren't supposed to ripen like a tomato, but did, she said.

She is seeking the genetic mechanism that triggered the unexpected ripening of the calyx—a star-shaped, leaflike cluster that encircles the top of the tomato where it joins the stem.

"Calyxes on commercially grown cherry tomatoes are usually faded green,

dry and shriveled by the time they reach the supermarket," says Ishida. Her test-tube tomatoes, though, have ripened calyxes that are red and juicy.

If the ripening trigger can be found, she says, fruit and vegetable producers of tomorrow might be able to raise "just free-floating cells of the edible part of a plant, without having to grow unneeded leaves, branches, stems and roots. This plant-free approach to food production would require less land and fertilizers than traditional farming, and no pesticides."

On the other hand, being able to control ripening could have payoffs for outdoor growers. They could keep tomatoes or other fruits and vegetables on the vine or tree longer to enhance flavor, she says. Those growers may also avoid over-ripening, over-softening and costly spoilage of perishable produce.

Computer Guarded Grain

A new computer program being developed will estimate the amount of energy and chemicals needed to control stored grain pests, says James E. Thorne of USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

"What we're trying to do is improve the cost-effectiveness of stored grain pest control and reduce the amount of pesticides used in stored grains," says Thorne, a research entomologist. "This program predicts the best storage conditions for keeping the population of insects below the level requiring treatment."

Throne and fellow researchers have studied the living, breeding and eating habits of the five major enemies of stored grain for the past three years. Once all of the information is collected and added, the program will use mathematical calculations to determine under what conditions insects are likely to infest grain.

"We still need a couple more years of data before we can come up with a program that can be useful in predicting insect activity," Throne says. "If we can predict insect growth, we can lower the amount of pesticide needed to control these pests."

The program could be used by industry, grain elevator operators, and in the future by farmers to properly administer controls that deter insect growth.

A New Twist To FFA Week

By Sandra Campbell

New and improved! Special formula. Better than ever before! No matter what you buy, you see these words, or similar ones, on packages—from cereal to toothpaste. With these promises of extra ingredients or new benefits, those who sell products try to convince you to try their brand...or if you've tried their product before, to try *more* of it. And why do these manufacturers keep making their products just a little bit different? Because it works. It catches your attention. You can't help but be curious. And many times you do decide to try "it", whatever the product may be—at least once.

Just as peaking peoples' curiosity works for consumer goods, it can also work for National FFA Week, Feb. 15-22. Your key to keeping other students and the community involved is new, exciting ideas. This doesn't mean you have to plan a totally new event each year. If you already have a successful program, just make sure you keep adding new twists to your old plan, and that you let people know about these new activities.

How To Get Maximum Impact

-Don't assume your community already knows what you're up to. Prepare press releases and radio public service announcements, posters and signs, to help get and keep community members involved and informed.

-Find out what your community needs. Folks are more likely to support a project they know will help them directly. (Some chapters hold Resource Days in which FFA members make sure they save water, fuel or electricity.)

-Have activities for people of all ages and backgrounds. For farm and non-farm adults and teenagers you can have an agricultural forum with topics that affect your local community such as pesticide use, ensuring a safe food supply and water quality; or you could hold an agricultural "olympics". For younger kids you can organize petting zoos or education programs on recycling.

-Build to a crescendo. It may help get into the spirit and build excitement if your activities start small and get bigger. After a few days of FFA Week activities, you will be more comfortable talking about and promoting agriculture and FFA. ...

February-March, 1992

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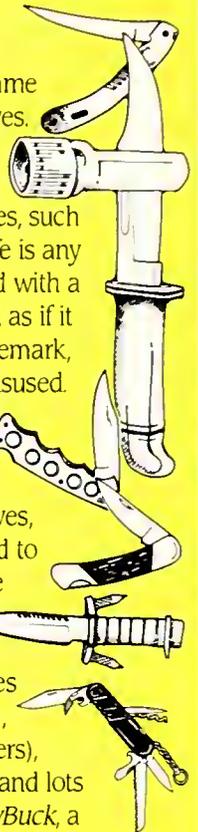
Some equate us to fixed-blade sheath knives, such as our 119 Special. Others think a *Buck* knife is any folding lockblade. We've even seen it spelled with a lower case "b" (buck knife) in some stories, as if it were a generic term. In fact, it's our registered trademark, and our attorneys don't like to see our name misused.

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What a Year!

Like every year before, and every year to come, the world and FFA changed in 1991

By Andrew Markwart

It was a year that started with the rockets red glare over Baghdad. The United States and other countries began chiseling away at Iraq's defense to free Kuwait and "draw the line in the sand" for Saddam Hussein. The Gulf war was over by February 28. Many past FFA members, including former national officer Marty Coates and a number of FFA advisors served their country in Operation Desert Storm.

In the Philippines, Mount Pinatubo erupted, blanketing the island with a thick layer of ash—enough to close Clark Air Force Base for good. A few hundred miles to the east, young people on the tropical Micronesian Islands started getting involved in FFA. The island of Guam received its FFA state charter in November.

Americans weren't spending as much money in 1991 as they did in past years, sending the economy into a recession. Even though U.S. corporations felt the pinch, they still contributed a record \$4.4 million for FFA and agricultural education programs through the National FFA Foundation.

It used to be when you said the word "superpower" two countries came to mind — the United States and the Soviet Union. As of December, there is no Soviet Union, only a group of very different republics held together loosely by a commonwealth. Thirty Soviet young farmers watched the historic events in their home republics from farms and agribusinesses here in the U.S. The young farmers were here on a

program arranged through FFA and the National Young Farmer Educational Association to learn about our agricultural technology and market system.

The Hubble telescope orbiting the Earth was finally brought into focus this past year. It now sends back astonishing images of the stars to researchers which will help them explore the heavens in more detail than has ever been possible. In September, the National FFA Center cast aside its old divisions and departments, and formed into teams that focused on students, teachers, and other customers in FFA. It isn't rocket science, but it's an exciting new way of doing business.

Although movie attendance was down overall in 1991, millions flocked to see *Terminator 2*, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. A record 27,000 members, advisors and guests attended the 64th National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, last November. The convention included a visit from President Bush and a phone call from Mr. Schwarzenegger.

The Minnesota Twins went from worst to first in 1991, winning the World Series against the Atlanta Braves in an action-packed competitive series. FFA introduced two new competitions at the national level in '91: the Sales Contest and the Parliamentary Procedure Contest.

...



Photo by Helena C. Siskel

Boris Yeltsin rose to fame and power last year as president of the Russian republic of the old Soviet Union. During the attempted coup against Mikhail Gorbachev in August, his leadership kept the Soviet Union from taking a major step back toward communism. Yeltsin sent a message to the National FFA Convention in November, praising the FFA and American agriculture.



The move toward democracy, a representation of the people in government, swept through many parts of the world last year, including the Soviet Union. For the first time this year, 475 delegates, nearly double the number of delegates from 1990, represented FFA members in making key decisions for the FFA at the national convention.



For those who care!



There were some fresh new faces on the scene in 1991, including Garth Brooks, whose album, *Ropin' the Wind*, sat at the top of the pop charts longer than any other country release. Project Pals, a program that brings FFA members together with at-risk elementary children, also made its debut in '91. Based on their performances last year, we expect to see more of these two in the future.



President George Bush was criticized for spending too much time overseas and not attending to matters at home. You couldn't tell by the number of times he met with the FFA. President Bush met with the 1990-91 national officer team, had his picture taken with the group attending State Presidents' Conference and spoke at the 1991 National FFA Convention, where he received the Outstanding American Award. Photo by Orlin Wagner

Career Watch



Von Holten's "Versalift" helps his physically disabled customers get in boats, tractors and combines by themselves.

There are more than 140,000 disabling farm injuries each year,* and about 560,000 American farmers and agricultural workers have physical disabilities that hinder their work.** These disabilities are due to anything from farm or auto accidents to aging.

Hubert Von Holten, owner of AmeriPower, Inc., helps make many of these folks lives just a little bit easier. The former Francesville, Indiana, FFA member designs and builds equipment that allows the physically disabled to be more independent.

The wheelchair-bound Von Holten knows how important this independence is. As a farmer, he found innovative ways to mount tractors, and to manage his business.

He says in many cases his two products—Freedom I, an all-terrain wheelchair, and Versalift, a device that mechanically lifts farmers onto tractors and combines, can mean the difference between a recently disabled farmer losing or keeping the farm. "One farmer couldn't get across a gravel driveway in his wheelchair," Von Holten says. "With our Freedom I, he could be just as active before...just doing things in a little different way. Without it, he would probably still have the hand wheelchair. He would have migrated into the house and the farm would be slipping away from him. You just



Von Holten with his Freedom I and Versalift.

can't run a farm unless you can get out there and look at it."

Von Holten says a typical day starts at 7 a.m. and ends at 8:30 to 9 p.m. He does anything from setting machinery up, solving management problems, servicing equipment and answering telephone calls.

"I've done blueprints, engineered, and been janitor," he says.

What It Takes

Being involved in FFA and 4-H, he says, helped him get the experience he needed to be successful. "It [Supervised Agricultural Experience] made me think and take responsibility. I kept records on my calf and hog, which is something a non-FFA member doesn't understand. It was like being in business for myself."

Other skills needed in his field, says Von Holten are: creativity...being able to make an existing piece of equipment better; paying attention...looking at things wherever you go; curiosity...constantly comparing your ideas with someone else's to check out different applications of equipment; and analytical skills. But most of all, he says, you must have, "determination, a goal and desire...If you don't have those, it really doesn't do much good to dream."

Rewards

Von Holten says he doesn't own his business strictly for the money. "It's so much fun to work with these people," he says. "I just sold a chair to parents of a little 5-year-old girl. She was in an auto accident—paralyzed from the waist down. To see the smile on her face when she finally could get in her sandbox, makes it all worth it."

*According to National Safety Council's publication, *Accident Facts 1989*. **Figure from Breaking New Ground Resource Center, Purdue University

Professional Profile

Name: Hubert Von Holten

Career: Designs and builds equipment for physically disabled people

Education: High School graduate, Francesville, Indiana

Career Outlook: Funding and interest in this field is growing. The 1990 farm bill provides for education and assistance for farmers with disabilities.

States providing assistance so far are: Vermont, Indiana, Wisconsin, Louisiana, New York, Illinois, Iowa, Montana, Wyoming and Idaho.

Types Of Jobs Available In Field:

- Occupational therapist. In many cases, this is an engineer who evaluates disabled farmer needs and finds equipment that will make things easier and more accessible.
- Entrepreneur—to design and/or build equipment.



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ARMY. BE ALL YOU CAN BE.

Winning...It's Hot Fudge



Back before there were zillions of ice cream flavors, there was vanilla. If you are a double chocolate chip crunch person, you may disagree... but on a hot summer day there is nothing finer than a perfect mountain of creamy white homemade vanilla. If you're honest you will admit that you don't really need anything else. Now, a giant glob of hot fudge is a wonderful addition, but it's purely an extra.

What does this have to do with winning? *Everything!*

Winning is the hot fudge on your sundae. You hear your name called, accept your plaque, shake hands and smile for the folks. In a complicated world, winning is something that keeps you motivated and gives you confidence. It's the reward that comes after the work.

But there's far more to the winning experience than a few seconds in a spotlight. To make the most of it, you need to know how winning affects you and the people around you.

Most FFA winners say being in first place wasn't the best part. It might be the most exciting, but someday when your jacket is hanging in a garment bag in the back corner of the closet, you will find that the real value was in the journey.

A School of Success—Not Violence

Luis Chavez wasn't nervous that Friday morning in November. Although he was a finalist for the BOAC Achievement in Volunteerism award at the 64th National FFA Convention in Kansas City, he kept cool—until another finalist told him where to be seated, that is. Chavez' stomach filled with butterflies. He grew more and more nervous as he waited to take his place on the huge stage in front of thousands of FFA members.

The announcement finally came. Chavez wasn't fourth. He wasn't third. He wasn't second. First place was his. "I felt a sudden chill run through my body," he says.

For Luis Chavez and his home chapter of Ysleta, Texas, this victory was more than a national award, it was a

message to the city of El Paso and to other students in the largely Hispanic school system: FFA gives purpose and unity, confidence and pride.

Only one week earlier, Chavez' campus had been the site of gang violence. One person was dead and another wounded. Chavez says his win helped boost the school's image, and adds, "it says we are not a school of violence. We are a school of success."

Advisor Steve Forsythe sees Chavez' win as the perfect opportunity to get the word out about FFA. "Luis has broken some new ground," he says. "I want students to see FFA as a place where they can belong, especially if home is an unpleasant place. I want kids to say, 'I can be like Luis.'"

New and Risky Business

Chad Luthro has an FFA resume like you've probably never seen before. He won the state creed speaking contest and two state proficiency awards in his native Iowa. He was second in the state agriscience student recognition competition. Plus, he took



home the national Computers in Agriculture award in 1988, was American star in agribusiness in 1990 and was elected national FFA vice president from the central region in November, 1991. Whew! His jacket must have been so heavy he couldn't walk.

On Your Ice Cream

But get this. Before the creed contest, he tried to be named alternate, because "I was afraid to fail." And once upon a time, Luthro didn't think his Supervised Agricultural Experience program was "worth a darn." As a computer consultant, he didn't think he could compete with traditional programs. When he won the national computers competition, he discovered a new confidence that had a dramatic effect on his business.

"It gave me credentials," says Luthro, "and it made me feel like I had the right to conduct business." The nod from national judges also pushed Luthro full-steam into the computer business. First, it was hardware sales, then opening a store. Next he started assembling his own brand of IBM compatible hardware and opened a second store. Not bad for someone who wondered if he could compete.

Did success go to his head? Luthro says that while he has gained enough self confidence through his FFA experiences to "power New York City for years," he tries to view himself through humble eyes. "Confidence doesn't mean you're better than others. It just gives a person the motivation to try new and risky things."

Chosen When a Friend is Not

Sarah Abel loves her job as treasurer of the Ruby Mountain, Nevada, chapter. While the announcement of her election at the chapter banquet was exciting, she did not enjoy one aspect of competition: going up against friends and classmates.

Abel, who has competed in horse shows since the age of four, says she has never gotten used to the idea of being chosen when a friend is not. It's really important to go out of your way to stay involved with those people, she says. "I know that some FFA members laugh when they beat someone. I've never been like that...I treat them the same as before. I don't

feel superior, but I don't pity them. That's how I like to be treated."

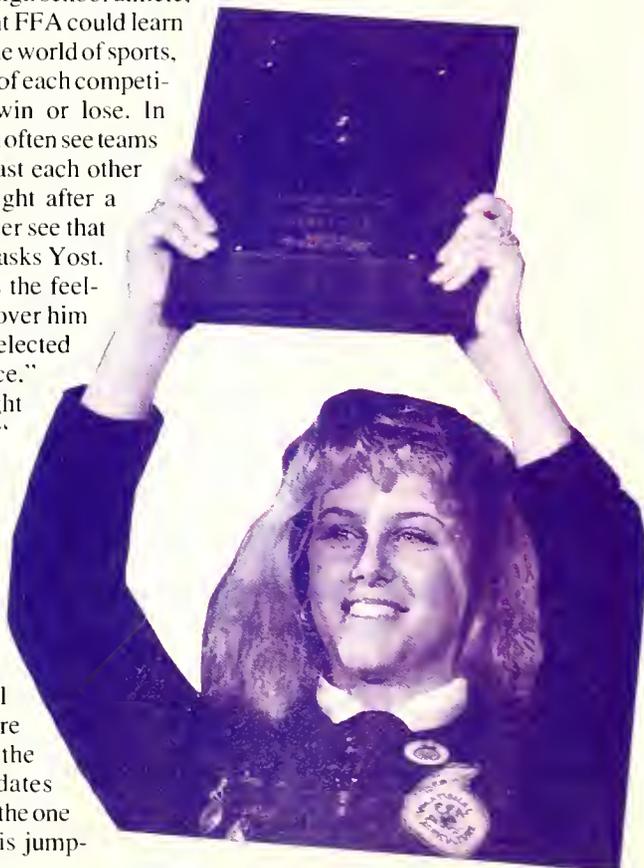
Hungry to Win More

"Winning makes you ready for more, hungry to win more," says Colette Markovich of North Newton, Indiana. "You like the feeling. The more you win, the more you believe that nothing is impossible. That's motivation. I'm excited now about going on to other things outside FFA, like going to college."

Good Sports

Before he was elected 1986-87 national FFA secretary, Kevin Yost took part in the freshman football program at the University of Nebraska. He was a high school athlete, too, and thinks that FFA could learn something from the world of sports, where the dignity of each competitor is precious, win or lose. In athletic games you often see teams line up and file past each other to shake hands right after a game. "Do you ever see that happen in FFA?" asks Yost.

He remembers the feelings that washed over him right after he was elected to a national office. "The lights are bright up on that stage," he says, "but not so bright that I couldn't see the candidates who were left." The elation was bittersweet for Yost because he had run for national office once before and knew how the unchosen candidates were feeling. "On the one hand, your heart is jump-



Continued on Page 16...

WINNING

(Continued from Page 15)

ing up and down and on the other, it's torn out," he says.

When the Trophy is Rusted

Adults who work with FFA and who love their students seem to have one concern in common: that their kids understand the true value of competition is not in placing first.

"We all appreciate the moment," says Advisor Tom Williams of Lake Butler, Florida, "but the moment is going to pass."

The value, he says, is in the things students carry with them when the trophy is rusted and the ribbon is faded... "...commitment to each other...dedication to a common goal...doing your part, these things stay with you whether you win or lose."

And what about cheating? Could an unfair advantage over another FFA member ever be worth it?

Rich Katt, Nebraska's executive secretary says no.

"After the lights go down, when you're back home and no one cares anymore, will that plaque still have the same meaning?" he asks. Cheating catches up to a person in the long run, he warns, and the cheater has a damaged reputation.

The End Of The Line

The really sad cases are the people who spend the rest of their lives reliving the glory of high school. For them, the taste of winning was so sweet they can't move on. Life never gets any better. A bittersweet ending to what once had a winning flavor. ...



FFA's Wild World of Winning

•One former FFA member says you can't appreciate winning unless you've lost. He remembers "Bud the Steer." Blue ribbons were foreign to Bud. And, unlike his young showman, Bud didn't seem to care. He was overweight and lazy and liked it that way. To help Bud shed those extra pounds the member tied him behind the tractor for fitness walking. Bud was unappreciative. He soon stepped aboard the mower that was hooked to the tractor and took the scenic, leisurely tour. Seems like Bud just didn't want to work to win. Fortunately, the member found an alternate way to success. He sold Bud, bought a new steer, and began winning.

•Some people find satisfaction in winning a spot in *The Guinness Book Of World Records*. ("The world's most comprehensive collection of awesome authenticated facts and figures from around the globe.") But why would anyone want to bake the world's largest omelet? (In case you're wondering, Sunrise Jaycees of Las Vegas hold the record for cracking and cooking 53,763 eggs). Are you into pastries? Ed Sanderson of Crystal River, Florida is—BIG TIME! For his moment in glory, he made a 2,099-lb. lemon-filled doughnut.*

*According to the 1991 edition.

•When asked about his famous quote, "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing," Vince Lombardi, Green Bay Packers Coach, says he was misunderstood. "I meant the effort...I meant having a goal...I sure didn't mean for people to crush human values and morality."

•When asked how he felt about being part of a Super Bowl championship team Dallas Cowboy Linebacker Thomas Henderson said, "I feel like a rat in a cheese factory with the cat on vacation."

•Jim Tunney, NFL referee, says the typical fan may be out of focus when it comes to complaining about his calls. "He'll scream from the 60th row of the bleachers that you missed a marginal call in the center of the interior line and then won't be able to find his car in the parking lot."

•Magic Johnson, on winning his fight for life. "Maybe one day I'll be able to help us get this thing (AIDS) under control, and then I can become an example to young people in a different way. Not as Magic Johnson dealing assists on the fast break, but as Earvin Johnson dealing with life—dealing with AIDS."

•Did you ever catch "Bill Swerski Superfans" on Saturday Night Live? These single-minded, well-fed Chicago Bears Fans spend their lives making sure everybody knows *nobody* can beat the bears.

Their definition of "da bears": "a certain undefeated team which, come January, will be hoisting a certain Superbowl trophy over its collective head," has become the centerpiece of their lives. Coach Mike Ditka and "da bears" are so good, according to the superfans, that they could win even if they were 14-inch "mini-bears."

When asked to pick a score for a game between "da bears" and the Buffalo Bills, one of the guys chose "Bears, 31 to -7." Then when asked who would win if Ditka played a hurricane, all agreed: "Dit—ka!"

Collegiate FFA Hits the Slopes

FFA Continues For These Students After High School

Knees slightly bent. Weight evenly distributed. Remember...lean forward. O.K. You're ready to snowplow down that hill. Plant your poles. Push off. And—plop! Down you go.

What happened? The pros make it look so simple—weaving their way down the hill—splashing snow left and right.

Learning to ski can be tough, as Connie Jorgensen, (in photo at right), secretary of the Utah State University FFA chapter found out. But she says learning the ways of the slopes was a great way to celebrate the end of the school quarter—and finals.

"We try and have activities quarterly for students to let loose and have fun," says Jorgensen. Chapter members even sponsor a recreational activity, such as ice skating or bowling, each quarter for other campus clubs.

One of the chapter's biggest goals though, says Jorgensen, is to help high school FFA chapters.

Some ways they support FFA are:

- Helping to prepare state FFA officer candidates by holding two workshops.
- Looking over state farmer recordbooks and state proficiency awards.
- Assisting students competing in any type of leadership situation at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. "We help them [competitors] practice speaking, such as with extemporaneous speaking and public speaking, and with interviews for proficiency award winners and national officer and Ameri-



Uh oh...Which way do I go? Connie Jorgensen, chapter secretary, learns to ski.

Photo by Kristen Shultz

can Royal ambassador candidates" says Jorgensen.

•Every other year, the chapter helps their college with hosting state FFA contests and the state convention where leadership contests are held.

•Adopt one or two state FFA judging contests every spring. Collegiate members judge and score the high school members.

Anyone Can Be A Member

Although Jorgensen was a high school FFA member, chapter advisor, Gary Straquadine says being a former member is not a requirement. He says, "not all of our members were in FFA. Some weren't,

but they want to be teachers or just want to be involved in agriculture." He adds, "It's a good way for those who were in FFA to keep building on their leadership skills to feel involved and appreciated."

Chapter vice president Mike Gowans agrees. "It's nice to know that FFA doesn't have to stop when you get to college. You can continue learning the same types of things that you learned in high school."

For Jorgensen "it [collegiate FFA] has been fantastic. Our leadership activities have strengthened me. It's a lot easier for me to talk to people I don't know now. And organizing big groups for our activities has really helped me develop some of the skills I'll be using in teaching."

"Getting to know others who have similar backgrounds is also an important benefit," says Straquadine.

How Their Collegiate Chapter Works

"We do have regular meetings that are pretty much like normal high school FFA, with less emphasis on the parliamentary procedure," says Jorgensen. "We try and meet at least once a month and discuss activities," she adds.

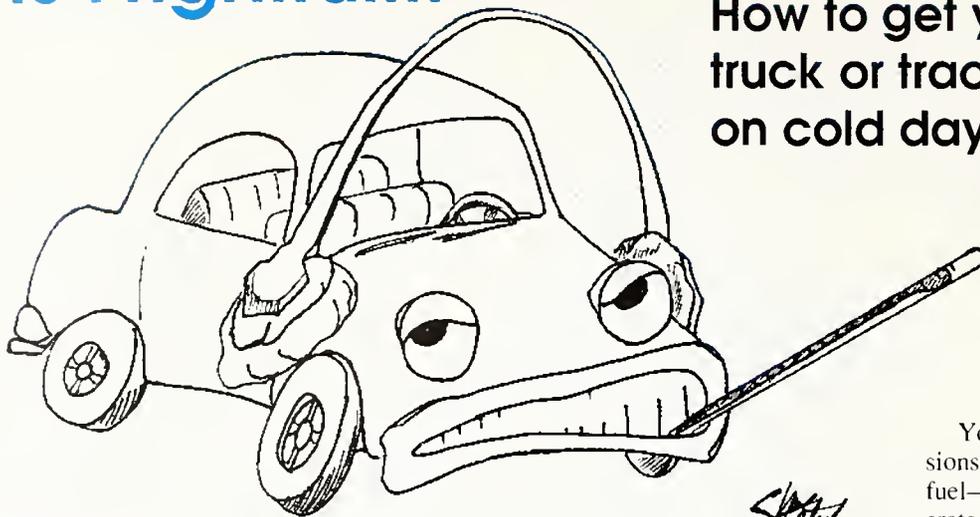
Fringe Benefits

"The leadership I've learned in high school and collegiate FFA has helped me in some of my classes...When I go to a class, I don't like to just sit back and listen to others. I like to present my views," says Gowans. ...

When the Weather Outside Is Frightful...

How to get your car, truck or tractor started on cold days

By Melvin E. Long



Shane Black

Brr! In the wintertime, when you're toasty warm under the covers, you might feel like you need a jumpstart to get going in the morning. Funny thing is, your car, truck or tractor may seem to agree with you.

No matter how powerful the engine of your tractor, truck or car may be, when the weather gets below zero, it may be hard to start.

Here are some tips for starting all types of equipment and ways you can help ensure dependable cold weather starting.

Remember, your engine should always be in top-notch condition. These aids aren't a substitute for good maintenance. They're a supplement to it for unusually cold starting situations.

There are three basic types of starting aids: easily vaporized fuel (such as ether), heat from an outside source and extra cranking capacity. Usually, just one of these methods will do the trick.

Easily Vaporized Fuel

You can introduce ether into the engine by various methods. Vaporized ether works best. During very cold starts, some engines will die during warm-up unless you continue the ether injection for several minutes, then gradually reduce the amount you inject.

The simplest way to work with ether is to spray it directly into the air-cleaner intake. On some tractors, the distance between the starting controls and air in-

take may make this a two-person job.

With aerosol spray ether, apply enough to prevent stalling. Too much ether sprayed into your engine raises cylinder pressures, and can cause damage to rings and pistons.

If you prefer, you can use a mounting bracket for the ether can, and then use a tube to carry the ether to the intake manifold.

A less convenient form of vaporized fuel is liquid ether that you pour into the air cleaner or intake manifold from a can or gelatin capsule. With this form, the ether isn't broken up into small particles, so it's tough to control the amount you use. Plus, it can be a fire hazard when handled carelessly.

Auxiliary Heat

These devices supply heat to the engine either through the crankcase oil or through the cooling system.

The higher capacity heaters just take an hour or two to warm your engine.

Lower capacity heaters help keep the engine temperature from dropping to that of the surrounding air. Connect these units at the end of the day while the engine is still warm.

You can install low capacity heaters by removing and replacing the oil dipstick, the freeze plug in the block, or one of the head bolts.

The high-capacity external tank heater is basically a water heater hooked into the cooling system of the engine. You'll get a thermostatic control with this type of heater to prevent overheating.

You can get either 110-volt ac-versions, or units that use regular engine fuel—gasoline, diesel or LP-gas—to operate. The heaters that use engine fuel can also maintain your engines cooling-system temperature while it's running.

Additional Cranking Capacity

At zero degrees Fahrenheit, a battery has only about 40 percent of its normal cranking capacity. This reduced capacity—plus the extra drag of the cold oil—is the main cause of many starting difficulties.

You can use an inexpensive trickle charger to help keep battery capacity up. This device charges the battery at a very slow rate. But during a 10 to 12-hour period—overnight—it can restore a quite a bit of the cranking power of a battery.

Since battery capacity depends on its temperature, another way to increase capacity is with an electric heating plate. Install it between the battery and battery holder. This 110-volt heater simply warms the battery to help maintain its capacity.

If one battery won't start your engine, you can use a second or booster battery. Use jumper cables for the hookup. For best results, keep the second battery well charged and in a warm room.

Ideally, the booster battery voltage should be the same as the engine voltage. But, if you have both 6-volt and 12-volt engines, it can be inconvenient to work with two booster batteries. So you might want to go ahead and use a 12-volt booster battery.

If the engine doesn't start after a few seconds of cranking. Stop. Prolonged grinding will burn out the starter. ...

Illustration by FFA Southern Region Vice President Shane Black.

Room To Bloom

How this alumni affiliate gave their local FFA \$300,000

By Doug Welch

In 1980 one room was enough for the 40 Milton, Wisconsin FFA members. Fast forward to 1991. Membership's quadrupled, and 220 kids are too much for the facilities. Advisor Bob Johnson needs help.

When an \$8 million school expansion referendum (with plans for a technical education facility and greenhouse) was proposed, Johnson felt relief might be on the way. Wrong! The referendum was soundly defeated by voters.

Milton Alumni To The Rescue

It was time to regroup, and the FFA Alumni stepped in to take the lead. They formed a foundation for taxing purposes to solicit and secure private donations for the project. And they enlisted community support.

"They [the Alumni] wanted to build this because they believe technical education is learning by doing," says Johnson. "They wanted to promote some type of facility that allows students to become active and involved rather than simply learning from a textbook," he adds.

Realizing The Need

Johnson says this wasn't the first time the alumni realized their school needed to provide quality, hands-on technical education. Three years earlier the group planned to build a small greenhouse. He explains, "they made these plans to meet the needs of FFA and non-farm students who were part of the program."

Pulling In Donations

This time, "a number of people came forward and donated money to the project because they believe in education, and in agriculture in our community," says Johnson.

As a matter of fact, so many people contributed, the original \$20,000 project turned into a \$300,000 one.

And money wasn't the only way Alumni members showed their support. The 400 member group also donated more than 2,000 hours of labor.



Photo by Bob Johnson

Alumni and chapter members worked together to build the facilities.

Ground was broken last summer, and the results are impressive. The new facility includes a roomy class room that can be divided in two (this space is twice as big as the old classroom); an 1,800-square-foot fully automated greenhouse, (the largest in the state, according to Johnson); an ag shop; and an agriscience lab.

All of this means the curriculum can be expanded. Greenhouse and nursery management courses are being proposed to the school board.

Also, the second floor is home for a weight room and a wrestling room. Johnson is also the wrestling coach. And he says having his team train upstairs helps the FFA too. "It exposes them to agriculture. Wrestling team members can't help but see what's going on with our chapter, and are more likely to get involved," he says.

Milton Superintendent of Schools, Jon Platts, feels the facility will help all high school students because every science class will be able to use the greenhouse. He also says the new construction relieves space stress in many different ways. The room that used to be taken by ag classes is now used for drafting classes. And a computer lab is in the works.

Says Johnson, "This type of facility offers space in which students can participate and learn ideas by doing. I think our community has realized ag education is a big area that can teach kids skills in communication, leadership and responsibility."

Obviously, Johnson is proud of his community, the Alumni and their new additions to the ag department. "To my knowledge, no one else has built a project this size and then given it back to the district," he says. "It's just outstanding."

School Superintendent Platts agrees.



Photo by Doug Welch

Classroom, ag shop and agriscience labs are on the left, next to the 1,800 square foot, fully automated greenhouse.

The effort, he says, is an extension of the FFA philosophy of education...of going beyond the school classroom and providing hands-on experience and activities beyond the school year and day. "The whole concept of how this was put together has generated a lot of positive publicity for the community and promotes a good feeling about schools and education." He adds, "The way FFA works—its whole project orientation—is very positive." ...

For their efforts the Milton FFA Alumni was presented the FFA Alumni Outstanding Affiliate Award.



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THE BEST-BUILT, BEST-SELLING AMERICAN TRUCKS
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Buckle up— together we can save lives.



Who Are You?

By Lawinna McGary

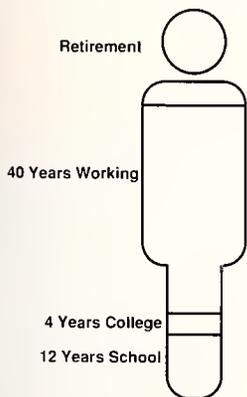
A Fun Guide For Finding Your Favorite Skills

Quick! What's your favorite food? Do you like Coke or Pepsi better? Is the Reebok pump really the ultimate tennis shoe? Chances are, you know what you like when it comes to food, clothes, colors and all sorts of things. You probably don't even have to think about it. Certain things just feel or taste right. And all of these favorite things are part of what makes you unique.

You also stand out as an individual because of the skills you have. These skills may come just as naturally to you as favorite foods do. They fit you. And although you may not spend much time thinking about them, they can determine what type of job will fit your personality.

What are your favorite classes in school? What do you like to do in your spare time? What can you do, and what skills do these actions require?

Nancy Perry, American School Counselor Association president says these are important questions to think about, especially since you'll probably spend 40 years of your life working, and your talents will help determine what type of job you'll get.



Compared to the 2,160 days (give or take a few) that you'll spend in school by the end of your senior year, your working life will take a significant chunk of your time. To make sure these after-school-years are spent in a job, or jobs you enjoy, take a few minutes now to inventory your skills and lifestyle interests with our Voy-

age Into The Working World.

Voyage Into The Working World

Imagine if you will, a land in which you're 25 years old. You're working ...and getting paid for it. Yes...you have a career. What will your days be like in this world of work?

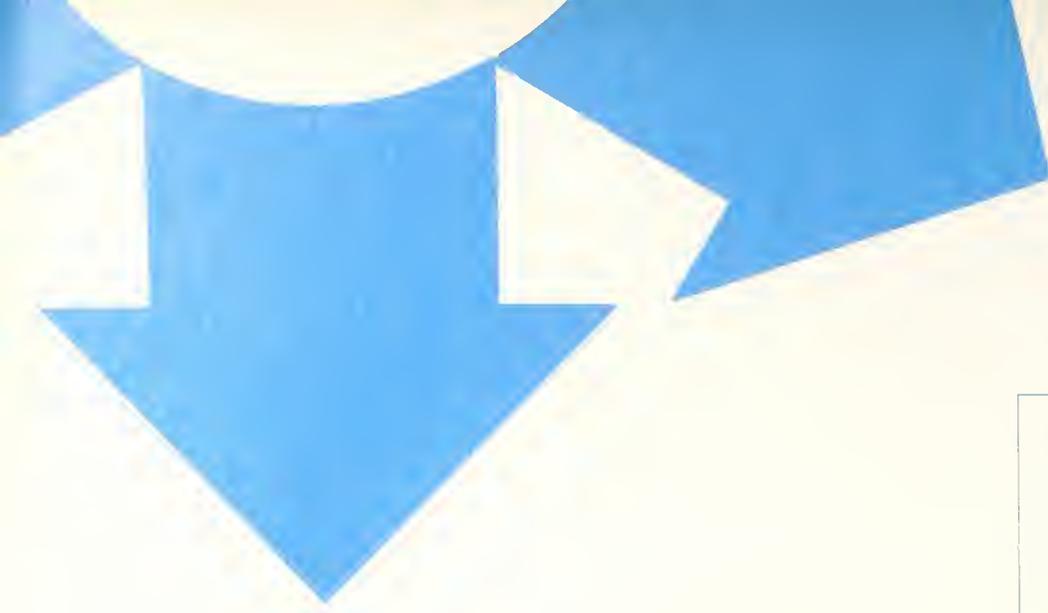
What kind of job do you have? Are you married yet? Is life hectic or laid back? Did you stay in your hometown, or are you miles, or even continents away?



(Circle one answer for each category.)

- 1** What Time Will I Wake Up?
Early morning
Afternoon
Evening
- 2** What Is My Work Environment?
Indoor
Outdoor
- 3** Will I Work:
In Office
At Home
- 4** What Type Of Clothes Will I Wear To Work?
Dress Clothes
Casual
Uniform
- 5** Am I married?
Yes
No
- 6** Answer only if you circled yes to number 5.
I have been married for:
3 Or Less Years
More Than Three Years
- 7** Number of children I have
One
Two
Three
More Than Three
- 8** I will retire when I am:
54 years old or younger
55 to 64 years old
65 years old or more
Never
- 9** How much education will I have?
High School
2-year technical school
4-year college
Masters Degree
Doctorate
Other _____
- 10** Does keeping up with technical trends interest me?
Yes
No
- 11** Where do I live?
Hometown
Home state, but not hometown
Inside the U.S., but not home state
Outside U.S.
- 12** Am I working with:
Government
Education
Independently
In a big company (more than 200 employees)
In a small company (200 employees or less)
- 13** What salary do I have? I am:
Wealthy
Comfortable
Struggling financially
- 14** How much vacation do I have?
Less Than 1 Week
1 to 2 weeks
3 weeks or more
- 15** What's most important in my life?
Family
Money
Status
Vacation time
Where I live
- 16** Am I working to:
Produce information
Invent produce or sell a product
Serve people

(Continued on Page 24)



Back To The Present

Now that you have a vision of 2002, it's time to chart your 1992 skills that will help you get there. To do this, imagine that you have 24 hours to fill however you want. The only rules are that you must enjoy everything you plan to do and your activities must take some sort of skills to accomplish.

After you've scheduled your day, make a list of skills that each activity requires. Be as specific as possible. For example, if you're idea of a good day is to wake up in a Colorado ski lodge, and rush down the toughest mountain course at the crack of dawn, your skill list could be:

- physical coordination
- physical fitness: large lung capacity, good leg and upper body strength
- capacity to wake up (and get going early)
- ability to perform physically under pressure
- ability to work outdoors

Is overhauling an engine more your style? Your skills might include the list below.

- analytical thinking
- detail/precision work
- concentrating/focusing well
- understanding processes
- being able to figure out how things fit together

If you prefer writing about overhauling an engine rather than actually doing it, you're

probably very talented with these items.

- analyzing logical order of events
- language skills
- simplifying complicated events and issues
- creativity

Make sure you don't limit yourself to just one activity or possible job path. For example, if you're into music you *might* be able to make it as a singer/songwriter. But just in case that doesn't pan out, prepare for other careers in music too. Teaching music, working at a recording studio or record store, selling musical instruments, or being a radio announcer are ways you can use your musical talents and knowledge and stay in a field you like.

No matter what your favorite activities are, you may have hidden talents. For example, are you good at convincing your advisor to take a field trip? Lawyers and sales representatives get paid for being persuasive.

When you finish planning your day and examining your skills, compare your 2002 wish list with the 1992 skills. Are you prepared for the future? Do you need training? With your teachers help, make a list of the jobs that would use your most enjoyable skills and interests. If you need further education or training to get that type of job, make a plan for how to get there. •••

Where to go

for more information about careers, and types of skills needed for particular jobs...

The books below are available from:

Superintendent of Documents
Government Printing Office
Washington, DC 20402

- *Dictionary of 20,000 Occupational Titles*
- *Matching Yourself with the Workload*
- *Guide For Occupational Exploration*
- *Skills Needed For Specific Jobs*
- *Vocational Job Preparation and Opportunities*

Also available are reprints of certain sections of the **Occupational Outlook Handbook**.

- *The Handbook Of Agricultural Occupations*

The Interstate Printers And Publishers, Inc.
P.O. Box 50
Danville, IL 61832-0050



Be sure to show the "A Day In Your Life..." results to your FFA advisor or guidance counselor. They can help you plan your "Voyage Into the Working World."

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The Ukraine Connection

FFA Members and Ukraine Friends Share Common Ground

Many people just couldn't believe six members of the Housatonic Valley FFA from Falls Village, Connecticut, wanted to go to the Ukraine.

"You're gonna starve." "They're mean," 'they' said. Some even asked, "Will they feed you?" But the students were confident.

After all, they'd already met five young Ukrainian farm workers and the director of the Balin (bah-lin) State Farm and Agricultural School who were guests of local farm families.

"During their two-week stay in August of 1990, they [the Ukraine visitors] saw many aspects of American life and north-east agriculture," says Advisor Robert Gambino. "They visited dairy, poultry, fruit and vegetable farms. We took them to farm machinery dealerships. They traveled to Empire Farm Days in New York state and they shopped at our stores and malls. They lived with us in our homes...They became our friends."



Photos by Kathy & Daniel Gambino

Ukrainian elementary students in traditional dress.

By Lawinna McGary



The mayor of Balin, Nina Kolesnik, third from left, and the town council greeted the FFA delegation.

So, says Gambino, "Visiting the Ukraine was an opportunity FFA members could not let pass by. Here was a chance for our chapter members to see first hand, agriculture Soviet style. A chance to live on a collective farm, to meet the people and discuss our ways of life, perceptions of each other and concerns for the future."

Soon, the Connecticut FFA members—Tina Bascetta, Carolyn Hyland, Jerry Ovit, Michael Wilbur, Paul Duntz and Amy Jasmine; as well as Elio Perotti, a retired state milk inspector and John Perotti, vice president of Salisbury Bank and Trust Company; Gambino, his wife Kathy, and son Dan; were in flight from New York, direct to Kiev (key-ev). Final destination—a farm collective in Balin, a part of the Khmelnitsky (cul-mits-ski) region.

Royal Reception

The overwhelming friendliness and curiosity of Ukrainians took the group by surprise. "The whole town knew Americans were there. We were famous. They all flocked to us," says Jasmine. "They were eager to learn from us," adds Bascetta. "They wanted to hear what we had to say."

The FFA members wanted to know

Keeping In Touch

Many of the letters the Ukraine teens send are written in their language. The list below gives a few of the more common words and phrases.

My name is...

(men-yah) (zah-voot)

МЕНЯ ЗОВУТ

How are things—

How are you?

(Kahk) (dee-lah)

Как дела?

Please—

you're welcome

(pah-zhahl-oos-tah)

пожалуйста

Thank-you

(spah-see-bah)

спасибо



Balin residents with the first wheat of harvest.

about Ukraine life too. They found that although television and cars are considered luxuries, and there weren't any movie theatres in sight, Ukraine youth like many of the same things American kids do. Says Jasmine, "the kids do have to work a lot, but in their free time the 15- to 20-year-olds are very 'into' music and dancing."

Traditions are a very important part of Ukraine life too. Says Jasmine, "their traditions are really big. They went all out for us at the two festivals we went to."

Wilbur agrees, "They were all making a special effort for us. It was special to be a part of it."

Ukraine Agriculture

Wilbur helped farm on the collective. "We got to drive some of the tractors," he says. "They looked and handled like some of our tractors from the early 1950's and '60's. It was like going back in time. But their combines were like ours that we use in the U.S."

Jasmine adds, "I thought they were going to be in the stone ages. But they're not. Even though they're not as advanced as we are, they know how to do well for themselves. They have certain procedures that are very efficient."

For example, she says, "I live on a dairy farm where we're breeding and calv-

ing all of the time. On the collective, they breed all of their cows at the same time so they calve all at once too. That gives them three months when they don't have to milk, so they can focus on harvesting."

Although their farms are very self-sufficient, Gambino says they're working for higher quality and higher yields. "The collective's 500 cow herd produced an average of 7,000 to 10,000 pounds of milk per year. That's about half of the U.S. average," he adds. "The desire to produce more food of higher quality is a priority and became a topic of conversation whenever we spoke to directors and their deputies."

To help reach their new production goals, the state farm is training three young specialists in American dairy farm production and embryo transfer technology. They're also looking at increasing potato production through using and eventually manufacturing biological insecticides to control Colorado Potato Beetle.

Lasting Impressions

Housatonic Valley members and local farm families continue to host Ukraine visitors, to share personal and technological information, and to stay in touch. Says, Bascetti, "We keep writing back and forth...keep communicating." ...

Cash In On Your Mechanical Skills

How To Profit From Repair Work In A Recession

By Lawinna McGary



Barefoot reconditions cotton picker spindles much cheaper than farmers can buy new ones.

Money's tight. Many farmers aren't buying new machinery. Instead, they're trying to keep old equipment running. Their problem could be your opportunity. If you have an interest in fixing farm equipment, in making money, and in gaining skills for future jobs, this might be the perfect time to start your own repair business.

Two FFA members who profit from repair work are Jeff Koontz, Bremen, Indiana, and Wesley Barefoot, Dunn, North Carolina.

Koontz, this year's national agricultural mechanics proficiency winner, found a good market in tractor repair. "There are a lot of small farmers in my area who own older tractors. These tractors have had a lot of wear, and they tend to break down a lot," says Koontz. He adds, "Since many of these tractors only cost \$400-\$500 originally, they (small farmers) don't want to pay more than the tractor is worth to repair it."

Koontz began charging \$7.50 an hour for his labor. That's compared to \$25—\$43 an hour that most shops charged. Now his fee is \$15 per hour...still a big savings for farmers.

Barefoot, 1992 national FFA vice-president, came at repair work from a different angle. While growing up on a cotton farm, and then working with his dad's custom cotton picking business, Barefoot saw a demand for cotton picker repair work. "With thousands of moving parts in a cotton picker, there's a potential for many of these parts to wear down. From my work in cotton, I knew that cotton pickers need to be serviced every year," says Barefoot.

He bought repair equipment and jumped right in. "It was a big risk. And it was scary," he says. Especially since the equipment he bought can only be used to repair cotton pickers. But, he says the risk has paid off. "I originally invested about \$5,000. And I've made that back three or four times already."

Another specialized industry in Barefoot's area is tobacco production. It's a labor intensive crop that keeps growers busy, from setting tobacco plants in the spring to harvesting in the fall. "A lot of



Koontz worked at an equipment dealership for more experience.

tobacco farmers just don't have time to fix their machinery," he says. "So it's been a good market for my repair work."

Finding Your Market

For both of these entrepreneurs, finding a local need was key in their success. To find your most profitable market, ask around. What services do family and friends need that either isn't available, or is available—but at a high price.

Beginning The Business

You don't have to be an expert before you begin your business. If you don't have much experience, repair simpler engines and equipment first. Then as you gain expertise, move on to more complicated jobs.

In the beginning, you may want to find out how much other repair shops are charging and charge less.

Look around to see if any shops in the area need mechanics. Koontz assembled equipment for a farm equipment dealership. He says learning how pieces of machinery fit together helped him be more efficient in his repair work.

He also says, "Don't be afraid to jump right in and help fix things when you're at friends or neighbors houses." Word gets around. People will notice that you're willing to work. Pretty soon, you just might have people calling you for help with lawn mowers, tractors or other equipment.

In every job you do, try to get mechanical experience. For example: Koontz worked on a dairy farm which doesn't sound mechanical, but he also repaired all of the equipment on the farm.

Find ways you can work with machinery around your house. Offer to maintain and repair the lawnmower, family cars or household appliances.

Get The Word Out

Once you've found you're market and you're on your way to gaining experience—let people know what you do. Bare-foot printed business cards, and makes sure he always has some on hand. •••

Skills For Success

Repairing equipment can be complicated. Koontz credits much of his success to his versatility. If you're serious about fixing machinery he suggests you learn as much as you can about each of these areas.

- welding
- arc
- MIG
- oxyacetylene
- fusion welding
- with gas
- wiring and electricity
- plumbing
- carpentry
- engineering
- machine work

For more information about agriculture mechanics check out these publications:

Agricultural Power and Machinery
McGraw-Hill Book Company
1221 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020

Mechanics in Agriculture
Interstate Printers and Publishers
P.O. Box 50
Danville, IL 61832-0050

FMO Safety
John Deere Service Training
John Deere Road
Dept. 150
Moline, IL 61265-8098

WHAT'S NEW

in Trucks

These are some of the latest truck models—fresh from the factory. Major manufacturers are represented. But, in our next issue, we want to feature you and your truck.

FFA New Horizons Custom Truck Contest

If you have a customized truck you're proud of, send us a photo (of you with your truck), your name, age, complete address, phone number and the name of your FFA chapter. Make sure you have all of this information in our hands at: *FFA New Horizons Custom Truck Contest*, 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, Virginia 22309, by February 10, 1992.



C.



D.



E.



A.



B.

A. This year the Toyota 4-Runner has a new grille and front bumper, restyled steel wheels, aero-type headlamps, a front console storage compartment and a leather seat and door trim option. 4-Runner comes with standard 5-speed manual transmission or an optional 4-speed Electronically Controlled automatic Transmission (ECT). At the touch of a button, the driver can choose either a normal setting for fuel economy or a performance setting for enhanced acceleration.

B. GMC Truck's Jimmy is available with both 2-door and 4-door models. Some of this year's new features include: four-wheel anti-lock brakes as standard equipment on all models, all new-bucket seats, and an optional high-performance 4.3 liter horsepower V-6 engine.

C. You can get the new Chevrolet four-door Crew Cab with 2-wheel-drive or 4-wheel-drive capabilities. Compared to the 1991 model based on the R/V pickup, the new Crew Cab has a wheel base that's four-inches longer, nearly seven inches more rear-seat leg room and additional front leg and shoulder room. Towing capacity is still as much as 13,500 pounds.

D. Dodge's small pickup — the Ram 50 — comes with a short bed or a long bed wheelbase. Standard power for all Ram 50's is a 2.4-liter multi-point fuel-injected 4-cylinder engine that's coupled to a 5-speed manual transmission. A 4-speed with overdrive that can be locked out for heavy loads is optional.

E. Aerodynamic features of the Ford's new Force 5 manage the air flow around the vehicle. From its nose, air is directed over a tilt-forward hood that is two-inches lower than production models. It flows over the cab roof that doubles as an air spoiler.

CHAPTER SCOOP

John Marshall FFA in Oklahoma City, **Oklahoma**, sponsors a dance for students at the Foundation for the Disabled. The event is held at the chapter farm where guests can see animals and dance to a live country band.



can see animals and dance to a live country band.

FFA members in Flowing Wells, **Arizona**, tutored elementary students in garden safety.

At the DeWitt Central Chapter Greenhand initiation in **Iowa**, the FFA Creed will be recited by the last freshman to learn it!

Fresno-Central, **California** Chapter picked 36 lugs of table grapes and delivered them to a homeless shelter.



In order for some chapters in **Texas** to get to their state convention in El Paso, they had to go through New Mexico. Eight bus loads from Anson, Aspermont, Colorado City, Haskell, Highland, Jayton, Knox City and Stamford combined for the trip. Check a map and you'll see that the shortest route to the convention was through another state!

Clarkston, **Washington**, FFA hatched 300 salmon eggs to release later this winter.

Advisor Lenderman hosted a hotdog roast after the Brookland, **Arkansas**. Chapter's hay ride.



The Wilson, **Kansas**, Chapter president and vice president escorted their principal around at the national convention.

Danville, **Pennsylvania**, FFA passes out a trivia quiz during FFA Week to the faculty. Questions are about agriculture and the FFA such as who is chapter vice president, how many members are in the chapter. On Wednesday they grade the papers. The highest score gets a plaque and their car washed on Friday of the same week. The male and female contestants with the lowest scores get a small bag of sterilized organic fertilizer.

Norco, **California**, raised \$1,300 at a special national convention travel fund-raiser dinner.

Instead of always renting a roaster for fixing chow for the banquet, the Pine Island, **Minnesota**, FFA bought one and now they rent it out to other groups—a new money maker for the chapter.

Green Bay Preble FFA in **Wisconsin** took the kids from the special needs school on a fishing trip.

The recreation committee of the Tornillo, **Texas**, Chapter organized early and had games planned for the first chapter meeting of the year.

Here's a different idea for the petting zoo project. John Glenn FFA in **Ohio** hosts the event for elementary students on the grounds of a nursing center. Of course the youngsters love seeing the animals and the senior citizens love seeing the happy children and the animals.

A representative from Oregon State University stopped to visit members of the Douglas, **Oregon**. Chapter and told them how they should be organizing their high school career if they wanted to go to OSU.

When the officers of South Jefferson, **New York**, Chapter met with school principals about conducting Food For America events in the schools, the principals were given a hands on demonstration of making butter.

Fort Supply, **Oklahoma**, FFA received a grant to wire the school farm and greenhouse and add water lines.

Yuma, **Arizona**, FFA decided to take advantage of the Wix Filter fund-raising program.

Send your news for Scoop to *FFA New Horizons*, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309.

Memorial Fund For FFA Members

On December 7, 1991, tragedy struck. Four young girls were brutally murdered in a robbery in Austin, Texas. All were FFA members.

Two of them, Jennifer and Sarah Harbison, were sisters. The other two, Eliza Thomas and Amy Ayers, were their best friends.

Eliza and Amy raised pigs as their supervised agricultural experience programs. Jennifer and Sarah raised lambs.

Below are excerpts of a letter Mark Harbison, a relative of Jennifer and Sarah, sent to the National FFA Organization. He tells about the girls' commitment to FFA and agriculture, and about his brothers efforts in organizing a scholarship fund in their memory.

"My nieces were heavily involved in the FFA. Sarah was a member of the Lanier Chapter, FFA and had recently competed at the National FFA Convention. Her older sister Jennifer, was the Lanier chapter president and the district vice president. She also had recently competed and placed in national FFA competition. Both of them had planned careers in agriculture.

"My brother Michael is a school teacher in New Boston, Texas. He has established a memorial scholarship fund to assist New Boston High School seniors going on to major in agriculture. We are desperately trying to build this fund to establish a lasting memorial to these wonderful children, and also to assist a deserving student who might not otherwise get such assistance."

If you or your chapter would like to give to scholarships or other projects in memory of the slain students, send contributions to the addresses below:

The Jennifer and Sarah Harbison
Memorial Scholarship Fund
c/o First National Bank
New Boston, Texas 75570

The Lanier FFA Chapter Memorial
Fund
P.O. Box 181198
Austin, Texas 78718

The Amy Ayers Memorial Fund
Burnet Middle School
8401 Hathaway Drive
Austin, Texas 78758

Sports Champions

By Chris Feaver

He wears his pants too long. He is a professional golfing wanna-be. He's a bald guy with skinny legs and a tongue that seems to have a mind of its own, constantly flopping out of his mouth. His face is on a cereal box at your local super market. He's Michael Jordan. Maybe you've heard of him. He's also a basketball player. Pretty good too.

A person would have had to have been in a hole in the ground for the past decade to not at least have heard of Michael Jordan. Just 28 years old, Jordan has managed to become one of the most recognizable sports figures in the world. In an era where there is a scarcity of heroes, Jordan has become the most beloved and respected of personalities. Both parents and children want to be just like him...and not just because of his jumping ability.

Jordan first drew the nation's attention because of his basketball skills, which are extraordinary. But he became the folk-hero that he is because of his personality. He is easy-going, likeable and generous, especially to charities and to children. Advertisers also love him. When Nike introduced the Air Jordan shoe in the mid-1980's, they made more than \$130 million in shoe sales the first year. In all, Jordan will make more than \$21 million in advertising deals in 1992, while settling for a piddly \$3.8 million in his day job.

Such attention has its drawbacks. Jordan can not travel anywhere without being mobbed by an adoring public. And recently, his reputation as an all-around good guy has been questioned by some who say he has at times been downright contemptible to his Chicago Bulls teammates, while seeking out star status for himself. Others maintain that Jordan's desire for winning has sometimes caused him to be hard on his teammates, but that his pushing has improved the play of the team so that they are now considered the best team in the National Basketball Association, not just Jordan's supporting cast.

In fact, the Bulls won their first NBA title last season and are working on a second this year. Personally, Jordan has accomplished about everything imaginable in the NBA. His career scoring average of 32.6 points-per-game is the highest in NBA history. He has won five straight scoring titles. He has been voted to start in



Michael Jordan

the NBA All-Star games each of his seven years in the league. He is considered by many to be the finest defensive guard in the game. In college, as an 18-year-old freshman, he hit a 17-foot jump shot that won the only NCAA title ever for the University of North Carolina. In high school, he was cut from the varsity team his sophomore season. Nobody's perfect.

Jordan grew up in Wilmington, North Carolina, the fourth child of Deloris and James Jordan. He has a wife, Juanita, and two children, Jeffrey and Marcus. He returns to North Carolina in the off-season to shoot hoops or play golf with his high-school and college buddies.

Jordan hopes to play basketball a few more years and then make a run at the professional golfing tour. While his golfing isn't as good as his jump shot, few doubt he has the character to pull off such a feat. Meanwhile, basketball fans everywhere will get to see Jordan stick out his tongue a few thousand more times as he goes up for a slam dunk, and grocery shopping fans everywhere will see his smiling face in the cereal section of their local super market. ...

FFA IN ACTION

California

Oak Ridge Boys Do Chapter Show

On Veterans Day, November 11, 1991, the walls of the Redding, California, Civic Center were quaking as the Oak Ridge Boys and the Marcy Brothers performed a benefit concert for the Anderson High School FFA. This is the second year the Anderson FFA has held a benefit concert.

The Oak Ridge Boys are

well known entertainers and love to perform on stage in front of a large audience. They do all of the set-up, lighting and even drive for themselves when they're on the road.

The Marcy Brothers began their musical career in a pizza parlor and now are one of the top bands in country music. The concerts are great because mem-

bers get to meet famous and exciting people. Shane Crosby, a Greenhand, said, "The Oak Ridge Boys were fun to talk with." The Oak Ridge Boys said they were excited about doing the concert to benefit an organization like the FFA. They performed several of their latest releases along with some of their classics like "Elvira" and "Bobby Sue."

The concert was sold out for both the 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. shows. Chapter advisor George Wold said, "This was one of the easiest and most fun money-makers we have ever done." During the concert, members were ushers, security and stage crew.

The chapter members sold ads for the concert program and sold tickets to the concert. They earned about \$5,000. (Brian McFarlane, Reporter) ...



The concert was a fun and easy money-maker. Plus, FFA brought great entertainment to the community.



FFA members enjoyed a photo opportunity with the Oak Ridge Boys on stage for the chapter fundraising concert.

West Virginia

FFA Pitches In

Recently, Lou Schmidt from the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources and Peter Schumaker from the Ritchie County Solid Waste Authority talked to the Ritchie County FFA Chapter about P-Pod (Pollution Prevention and Open Dump Program) or Adopt a Dump Program. The video "For your kids and their kids...." was shown.

The FFA members volunteered to help clean up the old Harrisville dump. Those members who help will receive a t-shirt for their volunteer time. The students also received a free meal. The cleanup crew was shown on Channel 5, WDTV, weekend edition. Now that the clean up work is complete, the chapter will maintain the sight. (Lisa Layfield, FFA Chapter Secretary) ...

Indiana

Home Video For Hunting Safety

The Connersville, Indiana, FFA Chapter sparked big interest in their school by producing a hunting and gun safety film.

John Lucas, the local conservation officer, spoke in the production about hunting laws and safety practices such as handling a gun around fences, houses and people.

They had a mock scene in which a hunter was stopped by the conservation officer, checked and given a citation for not wearing hunter orange. (Bill Rauthe, Safety Committee Member) ...

(Continued on Page 34)

FFA IN ACTION

(Continued from Page 33)

Ohio

Lulu Laid Down In the Shop

Members of the Elmwood, Ohio, FFA took on an ambitious project of raising and caring for a bred sow.

The class purchased the 630

est from students, teachers, administration and parents. Several teachers used Lulu to aid in teaching some portion of their class. For example, biol-



Troy Bankey, Matt Meyer and Chris Abke, left to right, are three members of the class with Lulu in her farrowing crate.

pound sow they named "Lulu." Lulu was brought into the ag shop on September 19th and placed in a farrowing crate in the welding booth area. Although she wasn't due to give birth until after the 27th, the students wanted to get her acclimated.

When the idea was first considered of raising a sow in the shop, several people were hesitant. Many, including high school principal Harold Bower, were concerned with the potential problem of the odor.

Fortunately, daily cleaning of the pen and an exhaust fan prevented any odor problems.

On October 1, Lulu decided to deliver. She had a litter of 17. The students assisted in the birth process by cleaning the pigs and helping them to get started nursing.

Lulu attracted much inter-

est from students, teachers, administration and parents. Several teachers used Lulu to aid in teaching some portion of their class. For example, biology teacher Chris Moor dissected three pigs that were born dead and performed autopsies on them. Science instructor Dave Coburn used Lulu to reinforce some principles of embryology that he was teaching to his classes.

Although Lulu ended up with 14 pigs still remaining, one of the 14 happened to be a "runt" pig the students named "Wilbur." Due to Wilbur's limited size, he had trouble getting some milk from Lulu. Even though students bottle fed him, they were unable to save him.

There were still enough pigs left for each student who wanted to claim a pig as their own and be responsible for raising that pig until it reached approximately 40 pounds. (Brenda Young, Reporter) ...

Georgia, Florida, Alabama

Southern Exposure Attracts FFA Groups

FFA members from all over the south came to the Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition in Moultrie, Georgia, in October.

This was the chance to see farm machinery, new inventions, latest science and cropping ideas from agribusinesses and universities, hear some great music and see people you know or whose names you recognize from reading about them in *Progressive Farmer*.

The state officers from Georgia were present at a display about agricultural education. Several Georgia Chapters operated food concessions on the grounds.

Many chapter groups were there for the day from Georgia, Florida and Alabama. Julie Classen, then national vice president, was there to help make presentations to the governor; and an FFA quartet from Arab, Alabama, sang several shows in their state's tent.

The Expo also featured crop demonstrations for cotton, peanuts, hay, soybeans, corn and vegetables.

Members were also happy to see the many new cars and trucks on display by major companies who were part of the auto show. ...

Wyoming

Firewood Sale Meets a Need

Each year the Hulett, Wyoming, FFA receives a trailer load of logs from the local sawmill.

Then members take time to limb, cut, split and stack the wood to dry. After the wood is dried naturally, members make

posters to advertise the chapter has wood for sale in the fall.

At the first sight of snow the chapter begins to get calls. Members make deliveries after school and on weekends. (From the National Chapter Award application) ...



Members and their advisor deliver a load of dried pine to an elderly ranch couple.

MARKETPLACE

Nevada

FFA Built a Mountain of School Spirit



The Ruby Mountain FFA Chapter in Elko, Nevada, built their school's homecoming bonfire for Homecoming 1991. (Scottie Vega, Reporter)

Florida

Display Your Results



The Ponce de Leon Chapter in Florida fills a bulletin board with clippings and photographs of coverage they receive during the year. The board is on display for other high school students to get a feel for the kinds of things the chapter has accomplished in the year. (From the National Chapter Award application)

(Continued on Page 36)



"NEW" Yorkshire Swine Judging Video

The video features three classes - Yorkshire boars, gilts and market hogs. Production figures are used and reasons are given after each class. This 35 minute video is excellent for classroom work or judging practice. To order yours send a check for \$20 to:

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FFA IN ACTION

(Continued from Page 35)

Texas Even "Roadkill" Sells



FFA members Charlie Gomez, left, and Eleazar Viscaino, right, gave the famous concoction the taste test before putting the chili on sale.

As part of the homecoming festivities at Ysleta High School in Texas, the FFA prepared their advisor's famous "roadkill

chili" as a part of the festival.

Actually, members butchered a lamb from the school farm and prepared the special

recipe for sale at the assembly. There were no leftovers and proceeds went for ongoing BOAC projects. ...

Nebraska

Traveling Down the River

Cruising down the Platte River is an annual recreational event for the Schuyler, Nebraska, Chapter.

The event is organized for current and prospective members to enjoy the long journey and experience one of the few rivers

in Nebraska. The trip, which is about 20 miles and includes lots of sandbars, gives members time to get better acquainted



Safety gear is mandatory for the canoe crews before they head out.

and to have fun.

After the trip, the canoe crews and other members are joined by the FFA Alumni for

a summer picnic. (From the National Chapter Award application) ...

Kentucky

Banana Splits Increase Membership



The two-person officer teams worked fast and "gooey" to make 20 banana splits in less than three minutes.

The Garrard County Chapter in Lancaster, Kentucky, had a unique meeting to promote joining the FFA. In September, they held a banana split contest.

The chapter supplied the ice cream, whipped cream and bowls and all members brought their favorite topping. The chapter officers had to see who could make the most banana splits the quickest.

The officer team was divided into four 2-person teams. Each was given 20 bowls and all the fixin's to make their banana splits. The winning team completed their 20 splits in 2.21 minutes.

It was a fun event and the banana splits were refreshing since it was hot! The event also helped get 100 percent membership for the first time in several years! (Charlie Edgington, Reporter) ...

Get To Know Shane Black



Shane Black



1990 National FFA Convention—Shane's still sitting.



1991 National Convention—Victory!

Eat. Sleep. Prepare to be a national officer... Eat. Sleep. Prepare to be a national officer... From January to November, 1990—Shane Black made time for little else. Only basic necessities allowed. He was on a mission.

Friends would have to wait. How about studying for college classes? Nope. No time.

Eat. Sleep. Prepare to be a national officer. "I put every spare moment into preparing for those interviews in November," he says.

The cycle continued until November 16, 1990. Six other names were called. Shane's was not. At that moment, says Shane, "I felt like I was in a vacuum. I thought, where do I go from here? It was a moment of despair."

It was also a time of disbelief. "It wasn't until those new national officers left the stage that I realized they weren't calling any more names," he says. And even on the way home, he still felt like there must have been some kind of mistake.

Shattered Dreams

After all, why wouldn't he get an office? "All my life I'd heard if you just give 110 percent to your goals, you will succeed. That's what I lived by. Like gospel," he says. "Well, I found out first-hand that that's not always true."

And he spent a couple of weeks after convention searching for answers. Reevaluating...trying to decide what to do next. "I had to go through several reality checks," says Shane. "I didn't want to go back to school. It took me a while to start accepting it." With his friends and families help though, he did accept the convention results. And he set new goals.

One of these goals was to run again for national office. But this time with balance. "I don't regret the preparation or the long hours I put into running the first time," he says. "I just wish I hadn't had such a narrow focus. This year, when I decided to run I also made sure I was

involved in a variety of things." And, he adds, "I made sure I had time for fun with friends and family."

Shane's persistence paid off. As this year's southern region vice president, his name was finally called in Kansas City.

He says a key for attaining goals is to not give up. "You don't necessarily have to try to reach the same goal again, but figure out what you do want and go after that."

Plan B

Shane also advises to always have an alternate route, just in case your primary goal doesn't work out. "In 1990, I 'lived and breathed' running for national office. All of my expectations and plans for the future involved running for and becoming a national officer. It sounds like an obsession. And that's because it was." As a result, he says, "All of my eggs were in one basket. When that basket fell, my eggs shattered. I didn't know where to turn."

This year though, since Shane set other goals that weren't tied to being a national officer, he knew his world wouldn't end if he didn't receive an office. "The trick," he says, "is knowing that if you do not reach a goal, you haven't failed. You just change your course to an alternate route, and keep moving right along."

You're A Winner If You Run

Whether he had received an office or not, Shane says the experience was invaluable. "There's so much preparation and discipline required [in running] you

learn to be organized and to handle stress that you normally don't have in everyday life. I think the Kansas City interviews are a wonderful way of testing speaking skills, your agricultural knowledge and self awareness." He adds, "Last year, running for a national office taught me about life. You don't always succeed. And you have to deal with that in a constructive way. In my book, a winner is someone who struggles for something...and sacrifices. But whether he wins or not, he learns something in the process." ...

- After his term as a national officer, Shane plans to pursue a career in agricultural law. Before being elected, he was a junior studying pre-law at Birmingham-Southern College

- Shane's family includes a brother, (and fellow FFA member), Josh; his mom Gayle, an elementary physical education teacher; and his dad Edward, a cotton farmer.

- College friends are keeping in touch. They try to make sure Shane keeps that balance in his life.

- Shane's home chapter is Clements FFA in Athens, Alabama

J O K E P A G E

Why does a chicken coop only have two doors?

Because if it had four doors it would be a chicken sedan.

*Tim Finegan
Gilman, Illinois*



"I'm sorry Diary, but you're being replaced by a new computer."

"Joe, in English class they keep talking about a 'Grecian urn.' What's a Grecian urn?" a teenager inquired.

"I don't know," replied Joe.

"I suppose it depends on what he does for a living."

*Pat Juenemann
Clemets, Minnesota*

Jill: What would you do if you were surrounded by horses, lions, elephants, and tigers?

Will: I'd stop the merry-go-round and get off.

*Derrick Lyons
Castleberry, Alabama*

Q: How many country singers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Three. One to change the light bulb and the other two to sing about how much they miss the old light bulb.

*Trudy Roberts
Plano, Texas*

Bob: Herb, what are you doing at the mall? I thought you were going to a play tonight.

Herb: Yeah, but there was an intermission.

Bob: But the theater's on the other side of town. How will you get back in time?

Herb: No problem, the program says: Act two, five weeks later.

*Matt Cooper
Circleville, West Virginia*

A couple of friends were sitting on a street corner fishing into a bucket and looking very forlorn. A kind hearted woman came over and gave them a quarter.

"How many have you caught today?" she asked.

"You're the seventh!" they told her.

*Joe Barnet
Colbert, Oklahoma*

A lady walked into a grocery store and asked a clerk for half of a cabbage. When the employee said that only whole heads of cabbage were available, the lady demanded to see the manager.

"Boss," the clerk said as he entered the back room, "some silly old woman wants to buy just half a cabbage." The clerk looked back toward where he had entered and there stood the woman. He quickly added, "and this delightful lady wishes to buy the other half!"

*Ryan Mallory
Montpelier, Virginia*

A Greenhand came in thirty minutes late for class. When the teacher asked him why he was late he replied, "I had to eat fourteen bowls of Raisin-Bran 'cause I ran out of Total."

*Jody Trammell
Aztec, New Mexico*

Charlie, the Greenhand



"You're always leaving these weights around for me to pick up."

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