

FFA

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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION



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FFA New Horizons

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June-July 1992

Volume 40 Number 5



FFA

8

Around The World

Agriculture economist Mary Keough shows how travel can make you more marketable.

9

It's A Free-For-All!

Russian students are living on United States farms to learn about capitalism.

12

Putting Plants On The Moon

National agriscience winner Cybil Fisher takes a lunar look at growing plants.

16

Fresh Air In The Bronx

These New York state FFA members give city students a taste of country life.

COVER STORY

6

From Shambles To Success

James Radford is one of many Longview, Texas, FFA members who worked to revitalize their chapter. Here he works in the renovated greenhouse.

Photo by Andrew Markwart

PEOPLE

10

Down Home With The Kentucky HeadHunters

These award-winning musicians and former FFA members are proud of their agricultural and FFA heritage.

14

101 Ways To Spice Up Your Summer

Free fun, family fun, fun outdoors, inside fun and fun on your own awaits you with this article.



DEPARTMENTS

4 Front Line

23 FFA In Action

7 Mailbag

25 Get To Know

18 Chapter Scoop

26 Joke Page

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T H E F R O N T L I N E

The Color Blue

A black man is severely beaten by four white policemen in Los Angeles. A ghostly videotape of the scene is played time and again on television and people are angry.

A year later, the policemen are found innocent by a jury. This time, most of America, especially blacks, are outraged. Live news footage showed people being beaten, businesses being looted and burned. It looked like a revolution from some third-world country. This is not supposed to happen in a nation where all people supposedly have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

After the great leaps in the 1960s to improve the civil rights in our country, time has eroded away that sense of urgency. Lulled into thinking that everything was going along just fine, America got a rude awakening in the streets of L.A. at the end of April.

Equality is at the heart of this issue. Equal treatment by police. Equal treatment by a jury. Equal treatment by each other, everyday.

Easy to say, hard to do.

Most readers of this magazine are white, middle-class high school students. Why should you be concerned with these big, complex social issues? Because it starts with individuals. It starts with you.

It stops by not going along with the crowd and laughing at that racist joke. It means not agreeing with a blanket statement of a race of people like, "all Mexicans are lazy." I've known some white people who are plenty lazy. It is easy to say to yourself, "sure, it's the right thing to do" but can you stand by your convictions when it's your friends or family members who make such statements?

The key is to remember that every individual is different, regardless of their color. In the movie "Wayne's World," Wayne quotes the philosopher Nietzsche, saying, "If you label me, you negate me."

What he was saying was that if you lump him into the faceless group labeled "long-haired, metal-head, smart-alecks" you haven't made an attempt to know him as the unique person that he is. Teens suffer the most from this kind of unfair treatment.

What about the "hayseed, dumb-farmer" label that FFA members get just because they have an interest in agriculture? Are you dumb? No. This stereotype continues because of a lack of understanding. If you have ever felt that treatment, you have gotten a taste of prejudice. How does it feel?



We fear things we don't understand. That's okay. What isn't okay is to go through life not making the effort to understand. It may never be comfortable or easy, but someday, sit down and have an honest conversation with a person of another color.

Those of us who work for the National FFA Organization are working to make this an organization that opens its arms to all young people, regardless of the color of their skin, who they say their prayers to or how much money they have. This is an organization that should promote opportunity, not limit it.

Maybe one of the ways to start improving the race problem in our country is in organizations like FFA. If groups like ours can be places where everyone is welcome, where everyone is treated fairly, where everyone can feel like they belong and feel better about themselves, maybe then we will be getting somewhere. You and I have the power to make that difference.

Andy Markwart

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From Shambles To Success

How these FFA members revitalized their chapter



Longview, Texas, FFA president Joseph Faughtenberry adjusts the irrigation on grapes. Chapter members also grow peaches, plums, blueberries, shrubs and vegetables. "It's just enough to keep everybody busy," says advisor Brian Kasper.

By Lawinna McGary

Are you scared to work? Are you scared to get filthy?" You can't say "yes" to these questions and still get into agriculture class or FFA in Longview, Texas. But it wasn't always that way. Advisor Brian Kasper, says his first year there were 106 students on the roster, and many of them were afraid to get their hands dirty. "I discovered there weren't really 106 agriculture students. There were just 106 students with no place to go. So I had a heart to heart talk with them and said, if you're not interested in this class, I'll help you change your schedule." Forty students weren't interested.

"Nobody wanted to do anything," says Kasper. My first year, we didn't even have enough students truly interested in agriculture to hold chapter officer elections. Only eight people showed up for our first FFA meeting. The agriculture program was almost dead.

Facilities were in shambles. "The

greenhouse was just a shell. There was no door, no benches or plants—except bermudagrass and johnsongrass. We literally had to mow the inside of the greenhouse. It was that bad," says Kasper.

He adds that when the chapter tried to raise funds, "the community didn't know we existed."

Kasper knew FFA would thrive if he could just get local support. "We had to get our students in the public eye," he says. To let the city leaders know about FFA, students called the extension office, chamber of commerce, and the city parks and leisure service.

Soon, the county extension agent called them for help. There was a major drought in other parts of the state. Cattle were starving. But Longview had plenty of rain. The extension agent asked chapter members to help load local hay, bound for the drought area, onto railroad cars. After school and on weekends, students loaded 700 tons of cattle feed. Newspapers and even the

Cable News Network (CNN) ran the story.

Since this first project, the chapter has helped plan and build an outdoor classroom and leisure area for participants at the Gregg County Association For Retarded Citizens. Before FFA helped them out, says Kasper, "The students there had basically been ignored."

Next, members planted about 2,700 trees at public parks and schools. They landscaped the chamber of commerce grounds, and received a grant to reforest a local park.

Work Pays Off

Chapter president, Joe Faughtenberry estimates he's spent more than 3,000 week-end and after school hours working on these projects since he was a freshman. But, he says, "We made it fun. If we worked on a Saturday, we knew we were going to get fed." A game of softball and time to "kick back and relax" was usually included.

Still, Faughtenberry did make some sacrifices. He says he gave up running for office above the chapter level so Longview FFA could grow strong and be known in the community. "Maybe [in the future] other people won't have to work so much on our chapter, but can work at the district, area or even state level."

He says all of the work was worthwhile. "It made me want to help others later on. And it opens up job opportunities. When I graduate, business people will know I'm a good worker, because they've noticed me working throughout the community."

Thanks to students like Faughtenberry, in just three years, the chapter has gone from not being able to get a local newspaper article published, to having the media call them for story ideas.

"It's motivating to see we're making progress," says Kasper. "We have awards that other schools around here don't have." The recognition has brought a new respect to FFA. "My sophomore year when I walked down the hall people would look at me and laugh about my being in FFA," says BonDurant. "It was embarrassing. Now people say, 'Hey, he's in FFA—excellent!'"

MAILBAG

Project Pals

I am in the FFA and was reading the story on Project Pals. I was touched by this story and would like to help...I would like to become a part of this!

*Bryon Branch
Morgantown, North Carolina*

I read the article, "PROJECT PALS For Those Who Care," (April-May, 1992, page 12) and thoroughly enjoyed it. As Cabell County Public Schools' Supervisor of vocational education programs and their youth organizations, I am very much interested in finding out all I can about this program.

*Linda Naymick-Harrison
Huntington, West Virginia*

Up With Agriculture Writing Contest

I would like to thank you and your staff and the FFA for sponsoring the "Up With Agriculture" essay contest. It was a great honor for me to see my picture in the national magazine that I've read for years. This is a great opportunity for all FFA members.

*Angie Stump
Blue Rapids, Kansas*

Interview Survival Tips

Thank you for your article on interview survival tips (April-May, 1992, page 20).

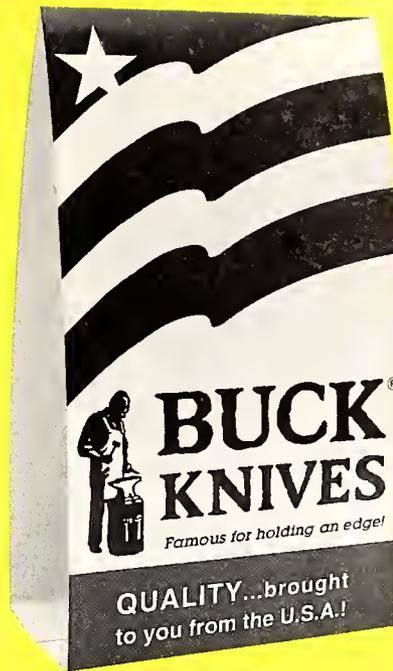
I am planning to incorporate this article into a unit of "getting and keeping a job" when I teach my Greenhouse Management class.

It is great to read articles directed for FFA members and for others in agriculture education courses.

*Timothy A. Micke
Schofield, Wisconsin*

In the photo on page 12 of the April-May, 1992 issue of FFA New Horizons, Chuck Hollis and Paul Jenkins were incorrectly identified as being from Shirley, Arkansas. They are actually from Hamburg, Arkansas.—Ed.

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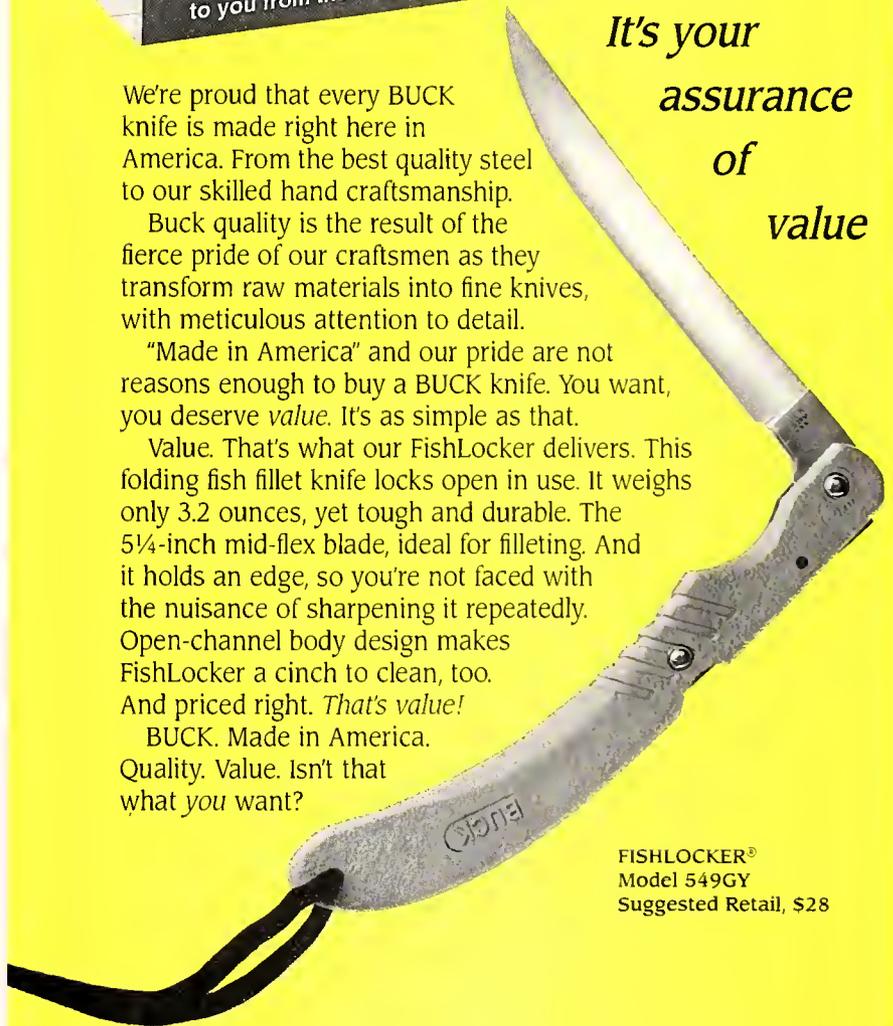
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AROUND THE WORLD

For a Well-Rounded Education

**Agriculture economist
Mary Keough tells how travel can
make you more marketable**

Career  Watch

By Lawinna McGary

West Germany and Japan may seem like a long way from home for a Monticello, Wisconsin, native. But although Mary Keough, manager of dairy economics at Kraft Foods, has lived in other countries, she's never strayed far from her dairy and sheep farming roots. "I've stuck with what comes naturally to me," she says. "Even in college I picked agricultural thesis topics whenever I could. I always knew I would work in some form of agriculture."

Communications was another area she was always interested in. When she was nine, Keough entered public speaking contests in 4-H. As a junior in high school she won third in the Central Region FFA public speaking contest. The next year she won the state FFA extemporaneous public speaking contest.

The associate dean at Texas A & M saw her compete at the national convention and was impressed. He offered her a scholarship. Though she didn't take it right away, after a year at the University of Wisconsin, Platteville, she headed south. It was there, Keough says, that the opportunities really started rolling in.

"I'd always wanted to travel internationally, but, I just didn't afford it. Through an FFA Work Experience Abroad (WEA) grant to Germany, I got the chance."

Living and working on a German dairy farm helped Keough get a Fulbright Schol-

arship [prestigious award funded by the U.S. government] to Germany. "There are not many Fulbrights given for studying agriculture," she says. "The key for me getting it was that I had already been in Germany through FFA."

"Everything was linked to contacts I made through FFA. It shows you can't always plan your career, you've got to take the opportunities that are presented to you. Be flexible."

Keough, who has a bachelors degree in agriculture journalism and a masters in agricultural economics, believes a diverse educational background helps when you're working toward a career. "People used to tell me, 'You'll never have a problem finding a job because you have such good communication skills.' Some-



Keough lived and worked on a Japanese dairy. Here, her host brother, Masanobo, just can't seem to make that dairy cow move.

times I find those skills are overrated. When I went out looking for a job, I found people want real substance behind you. Combine agricultural journalism with something else. If you're going to major in communications, make sure you mix it with something. Everyone wants somebody who can put a subject and verb together orally and written. We all need those fundamentals. But sometimes we get sidetracked into thinking those are the only important things."

Keough says understanding algebra, calculus, and other math principles is a must with her job. Many hours are spent analyzing market conditions and putting the numbers into a format that non-dairy economists can understand. •••

Tips For Success In Agricultural Economics

- Look for internships in the field. "I was an intern for the Federal Milk Marketing office, near Chicago, Illinois, where I worked with regulation of milk. I deal with that daily now."

- Make sure your college grade point average is up to par. "When I was in school, people told me not to worry about my grade point. I've not interviewed for a job yet without being asked about it," says Keough.

- Never let college get in the way of an

education. "There is just so much out there. When an opportunity arises be prepared to take it. Don't be afraid to take more than four years to get your bachelors degree."

- "Don't be afraid to take a low paying job at first to get experience," says Keough. Some of the best experience you can get are with government jobs that usually pay less than industry." She adds that a typical beginning salary in the agricultural economics field is \$18,500 to \$28,500.

It's A Free-For-All!

Russians learn about capitalism. Is it the beast they imagined or the blessing they hoped for?

By Michael Flaherty

During communism these are the rules. You have no choice. You work on a Soviet-owned collective farm. No free enterprise allowed. There is no way to profit beyond what the government gives you. In return, the state takes care of you and all of your basic needs.

After communism there are *no* rules. You're on your own—free to market your goods however you want. For the first time, you're also free to fail, to go without medical care, to go without food.

Thirty farmers, students and businessmen—most of them from Russia—are in the United States studying in classrooms and working side by side with Americans in agriculture. They're learning about marketing their products, and how to survive with a free market system.

"We already know how to produce pigs," says Koba Goulikachvill, a Georgian who is studying agricultural economics at Moscow University. "We're here to learn marketing and capitalism. We need to learn to think differently about agriculture, our economy and about work."

FFA found farm families for the students and enrolled the group in an intensive six-week "short course" at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. There the Russians studied grain and cattle marketing, feed-grain programs for livestock, and even the Western techniques of registering and protecting private property.

Once their farm chores end in June, the students will return home to farm, teach or run their own businesses. In fact, some have already returned to take advantage of President Yeltsin's program of giving away private land.

Although the students are excited about the opportunities in their homeland, they're also anxious about all of the

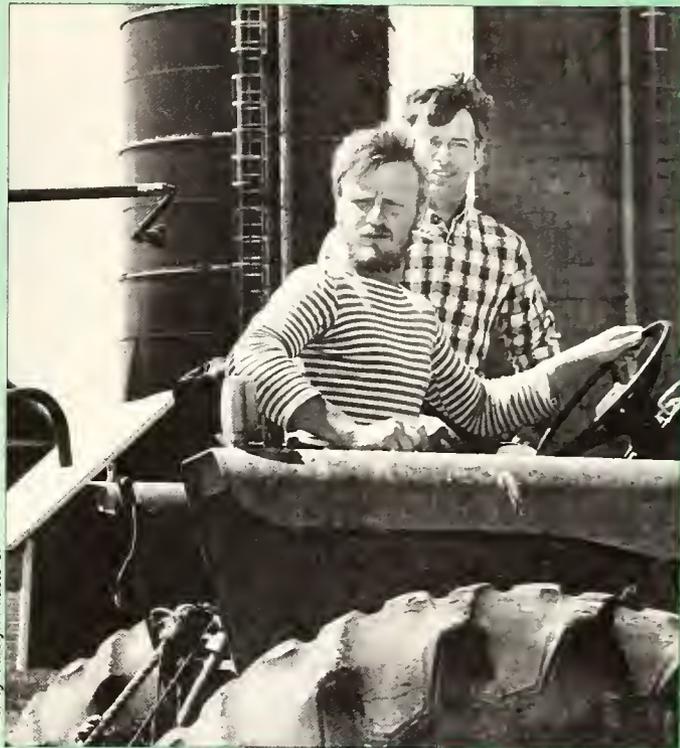


Photo by Carolyn Pflasterer

Harvesting hay the U.S. way. Jim Albers guides Russian student Vladimir Turkine.

changes. It is difficult, they say, to understand the role of risk—and the possibility of failure—in a market economy. "The main thing is I see what capitalism gives to a person," says Sanal Selvine, a Russian staying on a small Minnesota hog farm. But there is a downside, he adds. "I went through two years of the farm's balance sheets. It is doing very badly."

The Russians are worried they will have a tough time succeeding when they return to farming with poor transportation, few fertilizers and pesticides, and inefficient storage and distribution methods. Two years ago, the Soviet Union produced a near-record wheat crop—only to see half of it rot in the field.

Plus, since the people have been told what to do by their government for centuries, they're not used to individual initiative. These people, says Russian Valerie Voronin, are suspicious of anyone who makes money.

To help overcome these problems, Vladimir Turkine the son of a peasant farmer in northern Russia says, "We need to study your experience." He hopes to return and farm his own parcel of land.

"With my wages (earned working on two Wisconsin dairy farms), I plan to buy a

Terms To Know

Capitalism - an economic system that has private or corporation ownership of goods. Investments are determined by private decision, not by state control. Prices, production, and the distribution of goods are determined mainly by supply and demand.

Free enterprise - a freedom of private business to organize and operate for profit in a competitive system without interference by government (except to protect public interest and keep the national economy in balance).

Free-For-All - a competition open to all, usually with no rules.

tractor and a hay baler."

But more than technology, he says, "(his country's) farmers need to learn your management, marketing—and your willingness to adapt new ideas." ...

Down Home With



Band members left to right: Doug Phelps, Fred Young, Ricky Phelps, Greg Martin and Richard Young.

THE KENTUCKY HEADHUNTERS

These award-winning musicians are proud of their FFA and agricultural heritage

By Kellie Tomita

We have the opportunity to stand for something, and we choose to stand for rural America and farming. Our country is losing more and more farmers every day and farming is becoming less attractive to young people. It's sad.

Q: Why did you join the FFA?

Richard: Around here, if you have an interest in your land and the heritage of your family and that sort of thing, joining the FFA provides the background and training you need. I knew if the music didn't work, there would always be the farm. And, when I'm too old to gallivant around the world, then I'll have 150 black Angus cows and I'll go back farming.

Q: What activities did your FFA Chapter offer?

Fred: I wasn't on the star judging team, but I liked what FFA represented and stood behind it. I learned a lot of everyday type lessons from our advisors. We were both chapter farmers.

Doug: My sophomore year, I was secretary/treasurer and my senior year I was president. We had a plot given to us by the school. All of us would help grow corn or beans and use the money for our annual banquet and trip to the Mid-South Fair in Memphis, Tennessee.

Q: Why did you wear FFA advisor jackets on the Country Music Awards Stage?

Richard: The HeadHunters were begged, had our arms twisted, and offered money to wear tuxedos to award shows. Until we knew the President of the United States was attending the awards, we were going to dress the way we always do. We thought, this is our opportunity to say something for the farmers. We went out and got us a tie and FFA advisor jackets to make a statement that maybe we should have been farmers. Since we loved the farm so much, one of our highest priorities was to make a statement for farmers. We also thought we were doing our part to entice young people to see that it is really cool to be a farmer.

Fred: We wanted to make our FFA advisors proud of us because we were never star farmers, but we stood behind FFA.

Doug: When we wore our FFA advisor jackets at the awards,

Folks in rural south central Kentucky don't spend all their hot summer nights listening to chirping crickets and croaking frogs. Instead, these neighbors pull out their lawn chairs and listen to the electric country-blues of the Kentucky HeadHunters rehearsing in the "practice house."

Comprised of two sets of brothers, Richard and Fred Young and Ricky and Doug Phelps, and the Young's cousin Greg Martin, this band of family members shares strong beliefs in the value of family, home and agriculture. Another tie that binds the group is that each proudly says he was a member of the National FFA Organization.

All the members grew up in rural areas and either farmed on their parents' farms or hired themselves out to area farmers.

From an interview, primarily with Richard (while Fred was out plowing the garden, and the others were with their families) here's what the band members had to say about growing up in rural areas and why they want to promote agriculture today.

Q: Why do you promote FFA?

Richard: We didn't become successful just to get rich and go home. We're supposed to do something more with our music.

it showed our unity and promoted FFA in a positive way. On the way out, the President caught my eye and gave me the thumb's up. He knew what was going on with the advisor jackets and the great way it promoted FFA, farmers, communities and friends back home.

Q: You seem to feel strongly about your advisor's jacket. Why is that?

Richard: Wearing the jacket while I'm away from the farm gives me a chance to stand for where I came from and what I belong to—this earth. I never owned an FFA jacket and that's why I'm very proud of the one I have now.

Q: What kind of work did you grow up doing?

Doug: My mom babysat me at the age of five by giving me a small cotton sack and taking me to pick cotton until the cotton pickers arrived. Then around age 10, I weeded beans and did other jobs. When I turned 15, I thought I had really made it because I got to drive the tractor. We also pitched watermelons, hauled hay and chopped cotton.

Q: What did you like most and least about working on the farm?

Richard: Every farm kid has an "I-don't-want-to-do-job." Mine was pulling tobacco and I'll hate it until the day I die. Fred always got to sit on the tobacco setter because he never missed a plant. I guess I was always dreaming about a guitar so I'd miss one every now and then. I think I liked hauling hay the best because it was like being on a team.

Q: How did you learn about the farm and how to do your jobs?

Fred: Mostly, we hung around with the tenant farmers who couldn't keep me off the tractor.

Doug: My grandfather was a farmer for many years as a hired hand and dad was too for a while. Just being surrounded by a farming community made learning about agriculture seem natural.

Q: How do you feel about being judged by your appearance?

Doug: How you look is not as important as who you are. I've always believed that and I always will. If someone is judging me on how I look, they need to come over and talk to me about it. Then they're going to walk away thinking, well, what a nice guy. Our image is nothing planned or formulated. That's just how and who we are.

Q: How do the HeadHunters feel about drugs?

Richard: Yes, we have ragged clothes. Yes, we have long hair. And yes, we do get our hands dirty in the field. And no, we don't do drugs.

Q: What advice do you offer to young people today?

Doug: Maintain personal integrity by finding out what's right for you. Hopefully, we were raised right and we know the difference between right and wrong.

Richard: Any type of work is honorable. I don't care if it's digging ditches or being president of the country. Don't narrow yourself in agriculture to just one thing. Go to college if you can

and broaden your abilities. Be the person who runs the Southern States Cooperative store, or the county agent. If you have a love for agriculture and don't see that you could own a farm, don't be discouraged. Become a member of FFA. You don't have to dig the ground. You can attend law school and become a great lawyer or lobbyist for farmers.

Q: What's important to you?

Richard: My family comes first, followed by the farm and then music. I could do away with the music if I had to, but I don't think I could do away without living on Beaver Creek. The thing that made me make the music is the farm.

Q: Would you perform at the National FFA Convention?

Richard: We would love to play at the convention when we have the opportunity in our schedule.

Q: How did you get your name?

Greg: I discovered that the famous 30s and 40s blues artist, Muddy Waters, had a band people referred to as headchoppers. His band would go into a club and ask to sit in with the band. Then, they would try to outdo that band, often getting a job offer from the manager. The band became nicknamed the headhunters. We liked the sound of the name and its roots and added Kentucky to give us a regional sound.

Q: How did you get involved in music?

Doug: When I was five years old, a man dropped off a guitar for my daddy to tune. I asked if I could tune it. When daddy came

Future Farmers of America



Can you find the two FFA members, and future Kentucky HeadHunters, in this 1972 yearbook photo? For answer, see page 26.

home, he was surprised that it was only off a little bit. So he started showing me hand positions, but I had to adjust them to fit my small hands. By the time I was seven, I had three regular gigs at church every week.'

Neighbors will continue to hear the band rehearse from the old practice house just like they've done for the past 20 years. The HeadHunters will keep dressing in ragged clothes. And they'll keep promoting FFA and the farmer because, as Richard says, "There ain't nothin' uncool about feedin' the world." ...

Putting Plants On The

This agriscience winner takes a lunar look at growing plants.

By Lynn Hamilton

Some day, the man on the moon might be able to have a garden, thanks to Cybil Fisher's agriscience project.

Fisher, 19, spent her senior year researching how plant life might grow in a lunar environment. Though she didn't get a seat on the NASA space shuttle, her project did earn her a trip to Kansas City, where she was named the national winner in the Agriscience Student Recognition Program.

Fisher, a member of the Green Bay East FFA Chapter in Wisconsin, is out to disprove the nerdy scientist stereotype. "You don't have to be a mechanical, science-minded genius," says Fisher, who maintained a B-average in high school. "It's not about being an 'A' student, it's about putting the knowledge you have to work."

She was turned on to agriscience at the national convention her junior year. Afterwards, she and her advisor started working on ideas for a project. At the same time, the Lunar Agricultural Experiment Corporation (LUNAX) was looking for students who were interested in doing original research on lunar agriculture.

"When they first explained the project, I was really overwhelmed," Fisher says. But after she understood the basic terms and concepts, she decided to work with two factors crucial to plant growth—light and soil nutrients.

The type of plants used was also a key factor in the experiments. LUNAX suggested working with Wisconsin Fast Plants, a relatively new type of plant that has a life cycle of 49 days, as opposed to several months for a traditional plant like corn or soybeans. The fast plants are a relative of the wild mustard plant, and their shorter life span enabled Fisher to run repeated experiments during the school year.

In the fall of 1990, Fisher put on her lab

coat and went to work. Her first experiment was to determine the minimum amount of light that the fast plants would grow in, since on the moon, plants would have to survive lunar nightspans during which it never gets light.

She used two "incubators" to control temperature and light. One simulated Earth conditions, with 12 hours light and 12 hours darkness per day, the other was a lunar chamber that she set for 15 minutes of light per day. Unfortunately, that wasn't enough simulated sun to keep her lunar plants alive. With more testing she found that plants could live with one hour of light per day—until they reached their reproductive phase—when they needed eight hours per day.

"With the light experiments, I expected them to die," Fisher says. She found that the lunar plants were comparable in quality to those grown in Earth conditions, and actually had a higher germination rate.

The next experiment with lunar soil proved to be a true test of Fisher's research skills. She took the seeds she had grown in the light experiment, and tested their growth rates in different types of "soil" found on the moon, which is similar to sands. She put seeds in two samples of plain lunar soil, then tested six other samples which contained various types of fertilizer.

Fisher's hypothesis, or scientific guess, was that the seeds in the fertilized "soil" would grow better. To her surprise and frustration, only the seeds in the



Above and right. Learning about research itself was an important result of Cybil Fisher's agriscience project. "People think it's glamorous, but it's a lot of hard work," says Fisher, including waking up at 3 a.m. to go check her plants, as well as going to the lab on Christmas and Easter.

unfertilized "soil" grew, while the seeds in the fertilized cells died. It took three more tries with various adjustments to coax all eight plants to grow.

"That's when I wanted to scream," she says. "I thought, 'Why is it growing in the moon soil? What's wrong with my hypothesis?'" Even though the results were different than she expected, she learned some interesting things.

"You really develop an appreciation for what researchers go through," she says.

Fisher is now a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, majoring in pre-vet studies, and has passed her project on to the FFA chapter's young members. She believes strongly in the need for research projects such as hers. "I see this type of agriscience becoming a large portion of the FFA organization. After all, we are tomorrow's leaders in all areas of agriculture." ●●

Moon

Astronomical Opportunities

If you think fast food is expensive here on earth, try ordering a burger, fries and Coke on the moon.

It would set you back about \$50,000.

That's why Dave Dunlop, of the LUNAX Corp., thinks it is important to get people interested in how to grow food on the moon. His company, which stands for Lunar National Agricultural Experiments Corporation, is trying to meet the challenges of people living long-term on the moon.

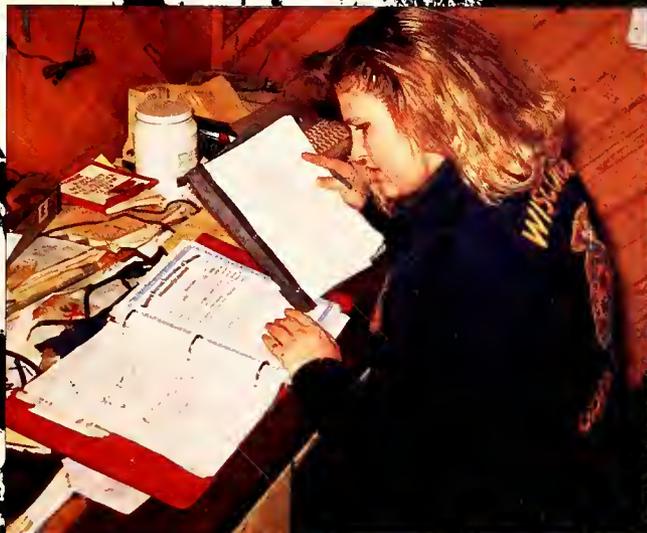
"To go to the moon and stay, and for the moon to be a place to work, we couldn't afford the ongoing expense of shipping food there," he says, noting it costs about \$25,000 per pound to send food or other materials to the moon. The company publishes experiment guides for students and teachers who want to learn more about growing food in lunar conditions.

"We need to have students and teachers interested in this area to feed the scientific pipeline," Dunlop says. LUNAX is looking for approximately 50 pilot schools to work with several inexpensive experiments in lunar agriculture.

If your agricultural education department is interested in finding out more about lunar agriculture, or you would like to conduct an agriscience experiment in this area, contact David Dunlop at LUNAX, P.O. Box 275, Green Bay, WI 54305.

For more information about the Agriscience Student Recognition Program, write: Jody Pollok, National FFA Center, Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309 or phone 703-360-3600, extension 264.

The National Agriscience Student Recognition program is sponsored by Monsanto Agricultural Company as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



101 Ways To Spice Up Your

By Linda May

School is out, and you've got plans: getting a "serious" suntan, driving on the open road with the wind in your hair, sleeping 'til noon and watching your favorite shows on television.

But a week later your skin is a beautiful tomato red...the car is sputtering out of gas...you're fully rested...and the truth is, Gilligan will never get off the island no matter how many reruns you watch. Face it...you're bored!

What are you going to do with the rest of your vacation? We have an idea—in fact 101 of them—to add zest to your summer.

Free Fun

1. Throw a TV party with popcorn.
2. Visit a pet store and play with your favorite furry or scaly creatures.
3. Make a collage of pictures and words to represent you.
4. Test drive new cars.
5. Look through the listing of free entertainment available to you in the community or at a nearby college.
6. Take in the exotic, historical or intriguing displays at a museum.
7. Sweat your way to health...start an exercise program.
8. Do a good deed for someone each day and keep it a secret. Some ideas are: take a pet (dog, cat, rabbit) to a retirement home for residents to enjoy.
9. Learn to juggle.
10. Adopt a grandparent, little brother or sister to visit once a week.
11. Study human behavior. Go to the park or store to "people watch."
12. Try reading a book from each section of the library.
13. Start a summer sports club and meet weekly for volleyball, chess, bicycling, etc.
14. Record yourself on a tape or video. Recite, act or sing.
15. Act opposite your usual personality for one day. (If you're usually shy, be assertive; if you love to talk all of the time, try being quiet.)

Family Fun

16. Volunteer at a humane center to pet the animals.
17. Analyze your dreams or keep a dream journal.
18. Attempt to make a new friend today.
19. Relieve stress. Take a problem in your life and make a plan to overcome it.
20. Learn to recite your favorite poem, speech or quote.

21. Play board games, charades, cards, darts.
22. Make up your own board game to play.
23. Take a trip down memory lane. Look at family photos and tell stories.
24. Clean the attic or storage space, then have a garage or yard sale.
25. Read advice column letters aloud, but not the answer. Take turns to see whose answer was the closest to the actual advice in the newspaper. Discuss how the family's answers differed.
26. Set up a weekly family night. Each member takes turns cooking and deciding on an evening activity.
27. Read a chapter of a book aloud to each other every day.
28. Interview family members for stories on your heritage. Either tape-record or write a book about the stories and give finished cassettes or book as gifts.
29. Plan a weekend vacation. Come up with two or three options. Decide as a group on one and enjoy.
30. Organize a family reunion. Ask people to bring old and new family photos and make a display, or have everyone bring baby photos and guess who that family member is.
31. Take turns coming up with the quote of the day. Post it on the refrigerator for all to see.
32. Demonstrate to your family a new skill

33. Give out gift certificates to family members that are good for things like: help with homework, breakfast in bed, help with household chores, etc.
34. Bury a family time capsule. Meet five to 10 years later to dig it up and hold a family reunion.
35. Have a gala celebration...an awards banquet for the family. Come up with both humorous and serious awards.
36. Give your parents a "Pamper Day." Serve their favorite meal, play the music they like best, etc.
37. Be a reporter. Start a newsletter for friends and family that includes articles, an advice column, cartoons, sports and awards.
38. Participate in a bragging session. Each family member says three sincere compliments to the person sitting in the brag chair.
39. Declare a non-talking day. You can only communicate non-verbally.
40. Have a contest for who can wear the most pieces of clothing. Count who has the most shirts, socks, pants, etc.
41. Have a weekly problem-solving night. Each person states a problem and the family brainstorms solutions. Be careful not to criticize. Let each person make their own final decision.
42. Break bad habits. Each person chooses a habit they want to stop. Each time a family member catches you in the habit, you pay 25 cents to the fund. Celebrate the new you with a family dinner paid for from the fund.
43. Ask questions for discussion during TV commercials. How do you think the show will end? What character would you not want to be and why?
44. Put notes all over the house for your family, thanking them for all of the things they do for you.



Summer

Outdoor Fun

45. Have a car wash and wax party.
46. Stargaze and try to identify constellations.
47. Go to the best fishing spot and reel in the evening dinner.
48. Watch nature's best show: a sunrise or sunset.
49. Organize a scavenger hunt in the woods or neighborhood.
50. Fill a friend's car with balloons.
51. Walk in the rain and go puddle-stomping.
52. For one day set up a stand to sell vegetables from your garden.
53. Set up a volleyball net or reserve a local softball field and invite local business people and high school friends over. Have a tournament and charge an entry fee.
54. Go on a walk and record sounds of nature, then play them back later for relaxation.
55. Start a recycling club.
56. Press wildflowers to use as bookmarks.
57. Visit national or state parks in your area.
58. Climb trees and eat lunch on the limbs.
59. Set up camping gear in the backyard and sleep outdoors.
60. Sponsor a kite flying contest. If the kite string breaks, see who can find the kite first.
61. Fill a friend's car with balloons.
62. Set up an obstacle course and hold a mini olympics contest.
63. Offer to have an FFA meeting/picnic at your house.
64. Instead of driving, ride your bike to a friend's house.

Inside Fun

65. Form a book club. Meet twice a month to discuss a new book.
66. Rearrange the furniture or redecorate a room in your home.
67. Look at babies in the maternity ward.
68. Have a dance party and teach the latest steps.
69. Dress up formally or in a costume and



interest: shop work, cooking, crafts, public speaking, etc.

84. Write or call an old friend you haven't seen in years.

Fun On Your Own

70. Throw a "paint an old shirt" party.
71. Try one new recipe a week and share the dish with a friend.
72. Give a theme party (everyone wears a hat, tie or mask...or dresses as their favorite person).
73. Rummage through thrift stores, sales, auctions to find one-of-a-kind items.
74. Start a self-improvement group. Choose a topic for each gathering and make personal goals.
75. Visit a gallery or museum art exhibit, then try to make your own painting or sculpture or write a poem about the art you saw.
76. Rent a video with friends. Have each person dress up as one of the characters in the movie. Pause the video and act out the scene on your own.
77. Have your friends take turns doing a full make over for each other, then go out to show off the new look.
78. Have a "wear your clothes backwards" party.
79. Present your own talk show. Learn something new about your friends when they are interviewed.
80. Tune in to new radio stations for one week, or expand your musical knowledge by trying to listen to one new style each month: classical, new age, blues, jazz, country.
81. If you want to be more assertive, go to your local library and check out books and magazine articles on the subject.
82. Go to your local newspaper or library and look up what happened on your birthday 50 years ago.
83. Enroll in a summer course of your

do a photography shoot with friends.

85. Try watercolors, oils, charcoal sketching.
86. Start your own flower garden (make potpourri or bouquets for friends).
87. Refurbish old furniture and sell for a profit.
88. Adopt a pet or start an aquarium.
89. Spend a day with a professional in a career you're interested in. Find out education and skills needed in the job.
90. Write a letter to local, state or national government officials. Express your opinions.
91. Write a poem or lyrics to a song.
92. Start a collection of something you're interested in: rocks, old books, toy tractors, antique jewelry, caps, etc.
93. Start a journal on thoughts, events and ideas.
94. Re-read old journals and letters.
95. Begin now and learn how to make handmade Christmas gifts for friends and family.
96. Have a "self appreciation day" by writing a list of your strengths and goals for improvement.
97. Keep a food diary of when, what and how much you eat as well as how you feel when you're eating. Study nutrition to improve your health and eating habits.
98. Listen to language tapes.
99. Study a foreign country's food, music, dances, etc.
100. Videotape or tape-record news to a friend instead of writing.
101. Understand the difficulties of having a physical impairment. For a day, put cotton in your ears, wear a blindfold or go without the use of your arms or legs.

Fresh Air In The Bronx

New York FFA members give city friends a taste of life in the country



Photos by John Haeger

"I really love feeding the baby cow," says seventh grader Natisha Williams.

By John Zych

It didn't take long for Betty Wells and her junior high school student to realize they weren't in the Bronx anymore. All it took was one trip to a farm in rural Upstate New York.

Wells, an eighth grade teacher at a middle school in the Bronx says, "This is a first-time experience for most of us here. For some, they have no idea what a farm is like."

About 100 Bronx students visited with Madison Central FFA members to enjoy the sweet aromas of rural Central New York.

"We thought we were going on a sight-seeing vacation," says Sulay Rosado, a Bronx student, after staring into the eyes of a registered Holstein cow on the Taylor farm in Bouckville. "We didn't know where we were going. But...these cows are so big."

"I really love feeding the baby cow," says seventh grader Natisha Williams. "All we have back home are dogs and cats."

The program, according to Madison FFA advisor Glen Osterhout, was made

possible through the state Career Awareness Exchange Program.

Osterhout says getting the students together helps break down stereotypes. "I really enjoy watching the expressions on these kids' faces," he says. "I think we knocked down a few walls today."

While the Madison students acted as hosts for the day, the Bronx students toured area farms and businesses and drove the Madison school's tractor, with Osterhout's guidance.

Keith Baker, a junior at Madison and state FFA officer, and his classmates enjoyed interacting with the Bronx students.

"It's hard to teach these kids about agriculture because they come from another environment," Baker says. "But we are doing this because the FFA wants to get city kids involved with our work. The more people know about FFA, the more respect our organization would get."

For many of the students, the experience may not be repeated in their lifetimes. But, Williams hopes this is not true.

"I'm going to miss Madison when we leave," she says. "I want to come back some day." ...



Tractor driving 101: FFA advisor Glenn Osterhout explains the basics to Bronx junior high student George Bruno.

John Zych is Associate Editor and John Haeger is a photographer for the Oneida Daily Dispatch, Oneida, NY

Our Farm

By Paul Bolstad

Our farm lies on Stump Ridge, a few miles north of Towerville. The farm was first homesteaded by my great-grandfather, Elian Bostad, in the late 1890's. My grandfather received the farm from his father, and he farmed it until the early 1970's. The farm is the center of my family's history here in America. My grandfather, great uncles, my father, and my aunt all were born and raised on that farm. My sister and I are the first generation not to be raised there. Of the original 260 acres, my father now owns only 40, including the original house, barn, and several decrepit out-buildings. Though we no longer farm the property, we do rent the pasture land to a neighboring farmer.

I am not a farmer, have never been one, and, sadly, probably never will be. Dad often tells me his greatest regret is that I was not raised on the farm of our ancestry. I often feel this regret as well. My farming friends often scoff at my rather simplistic and nostalgic look at the farming life-style, and since I have never lived on a farm, they may be right to do so. Yet standing on the hillside of our farm, gazing out across the valley at sunset, I understand what drew my ancestors, long buried in the ground below my feet, to toil this rocky soil.

How can I describe the beauty of the small ridge-top world our farm occupies? How can I put on paper the sweet, earthy smell of the grass in our pasture, the feel of the clay soil between my fingers as I help Mom plant our garden? Seeing the farm, I think back to mowing thistles with an old McCormick horse mower, my father at the controls. I remember helping my dad fix one of half-a-dozen ancient garden tractors, all of which Dad assures us will run someday.

I feel a longing to return to a past that seems much simpler than today. Each time I visit the farm, I see the world as a new and beautiful place. My father still vows we will live there someday. Still, I like to think a small part of me has always dwelt there, waiting patiently to awaken each time I return.

"The land remembers," writes Ben Logan. "It says, 'I am here, you are part of me.'" It's a good feeling to know that no matter where I go in this world, no matter how far I may venture, our farm will still wait quietly for me, always beckoning me home. ...

Paul Bolstad is vice president of the North Crawford FFA Chapter in Gays Mills, Wisconsin.

June-July, 1992



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CHAPTER SCOOP

Supporters of the Goshen, **Alabama**, Chapter raffled a skillsaw at a potluck dinner membership night. It yielded cash and converts.

New sand volleyball courts at Tolleson, **Arizona**, were built by the FFA to use for recreation and class competitions. The new putting green, adjacent to the school animal science building in Hopkins, **Michigan**, was built by FFA.

FFA sponsored a fire extinguisher recharge clinic in the Hartsburg, **Illinois**, community.

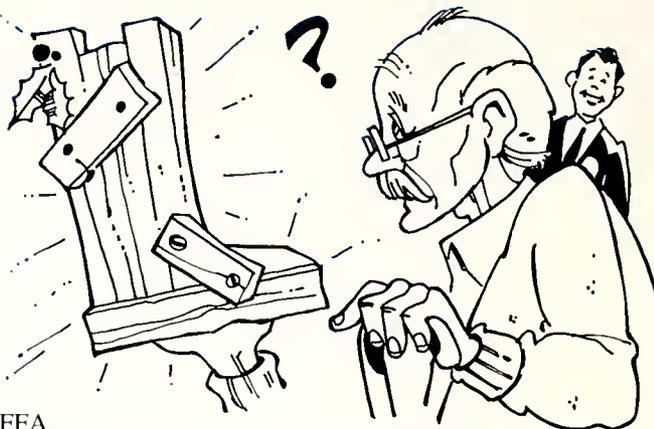
FFA Week in Vancouver, **Washington**, ended with a night sponsored by local merchants to help the chapter promote membership. Members and guests played basketball, volleyball, danced and ate lots of pizza.



The South Barber FFA in Kiowa, **Kansas**, FFA moved a 40x60-foot roof nine miles and set it up at the chapter's farm. Members had help from 17 adults and six businesses.

The Fullerton, **California**, FFA farm is the starting point for the community's annual garden tour. FFA members also have a fresh flower show, computer demonstrations and a petting zoo.

Ruby Mountain, **Nevada**, FFA won the best dressed chapter award at the state leadership conference.



The Genoa, **Ohio**, FFA Chapter constructed wooden Christmas stockings to distribute to each senior citizen at the chapter's sixth annual citizen luncheon. Guests were 62-102 years of age.

Catoctin, **Maryland**, FFA purchased 10 hogs and had them slaughtered. Then the carcasses were brought to the school and members cut them into marketable cuts — bacon, ham, shoulders, loins and pork chops. Advance orders had been taken by members so the entire project was a financial success.

Winners of the transplanting contest run by the Silver Lake, **Massachusetts**, chapter earned gifts from the FFA Supply catalog. The winners managed to transplant 100 packs of bedding plants in one hour.

The FFA crew from Hebron, **North Dakota**, captured ninth place in the chili cooking contest in their town.

After the Anna-Jonesboro, **Illinois**, FFA cleaned the fence row for a local farmer, they asked permission to use it as a location for their chapter FFA signs.

Superior, **Nebraska**, FFA presented an "agricultural awareness" program for the community Kiwanis Club during FFA Week. FFA members helped the Kiwanis members construct a corsage to wear the rest of the day.

The FFA and FHA at Mohawk High in Sycamore, **Ohio**, worked together to promote membership in the two youth organizations. They gave a recruitment program while the eighth graders ate ice cream sundaes.

Project Warm-up operated by Mt. Whitney, **California**, collected 487 pieces of warm clothing. FFA had the items cleaned and gave them to local relief agencies.

Each day during FFA Week at Northumberland FFA in **Virginia**, clues were given for an FFA emblem hunt. Students who found the emblem won cash prizes.

We Want Your Recruitment Ideas

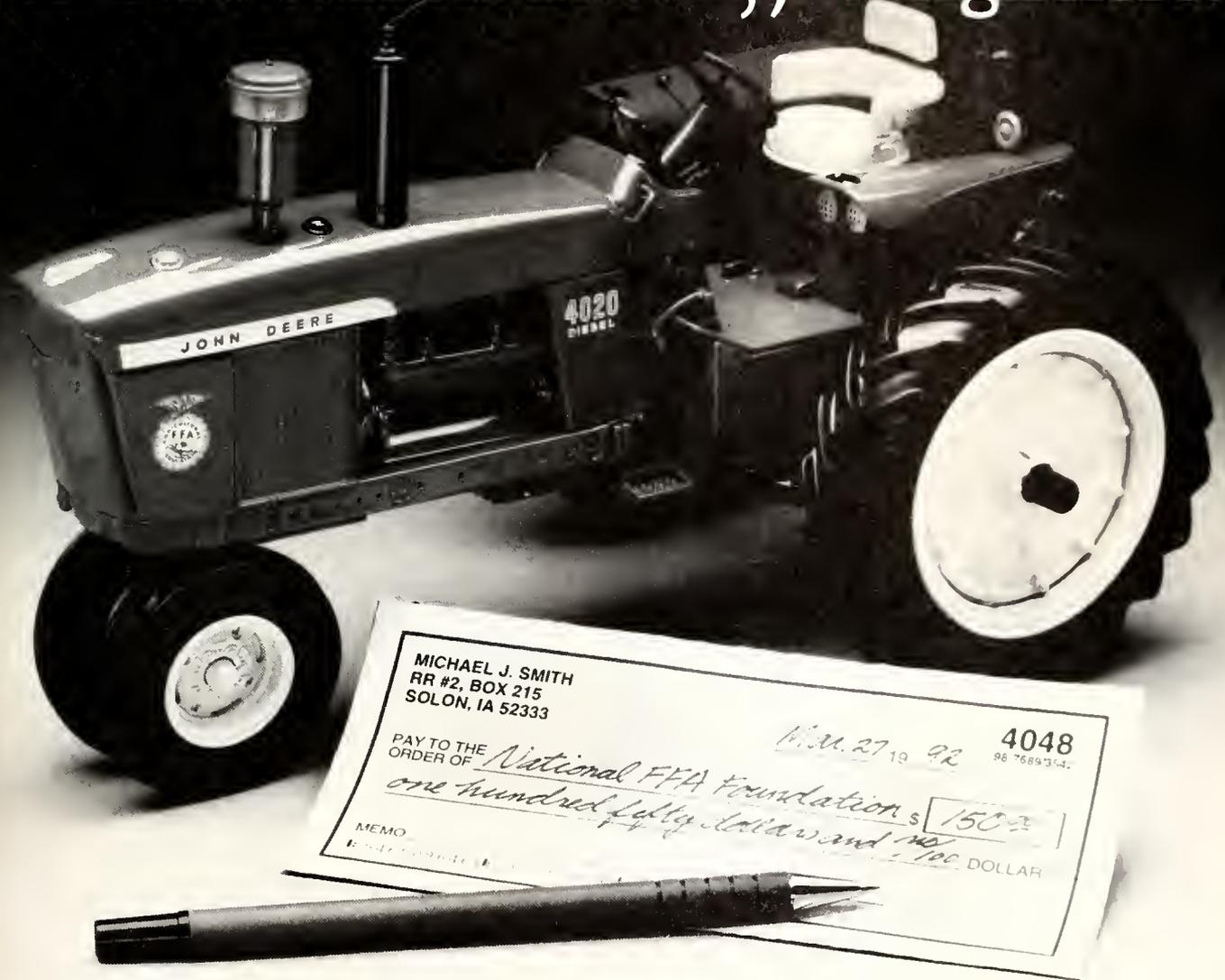
National FFA President Lee Thurber, Roca, **Nebraska**, once faced the same challenge of recruiting new members that you deal with today. Here are some ways he and other members of his Norris High School FFA chapter recruited students.



- Talked about FFA activities to eighth grade students. (Lee says they always made sure to show prospective members recently-won plaques and trophies.)
- Invited all eighth graders to a summer meeting.

In the future, we'll focus on how chapters across the nation are gaining new members. Let us know what works for your chapter, by June 15, 1992, and you might get published. Send unique recruitment ideas to this address: FFA New Horizons, Chapter Scoop Recruitment, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.

To own this classic, limited edition tractor, just sign here.



For a donation of just \$150* to the National FFA Foundation, you can help the future of agriculture, and own an important part of its past. To commemorate 50 years of John Deere support to the FFA, we're offering a limited edition, 1/16 scale toy replica of one of the most classic tractors ever: the John Deere 4020.

This is a highly-detailed Precision Classic Tractor, made by Ertl. It will carry a commemorative inscription to distinguish this limited edition from general production models. All contributors of \$150 will receive this collector's classic as a gift, as long as the supply lasts.

*Separate from any continuing contribution program. \$75 of each \$150 contribution is tax deductible.

Order Form for FFA Limited Edition 4020 Precision Classic Collector's Tractor.

(Must be street address, Not PO Box; Sent UPS unless absolutely unavoidable.)

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Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____

SHIP TO: (if different)

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send check payable to the National FFA Foundation to: National FFA Foundation, PO Box 45205, Madison, WI 53744. Payment processed upon receipt, first 1,000 tractors shipped in early July. Delivery by Christmas only for orders placed by July 31.



Quantity (limit 12) _____ Total Contribution (@ \$150 per tractor) _____

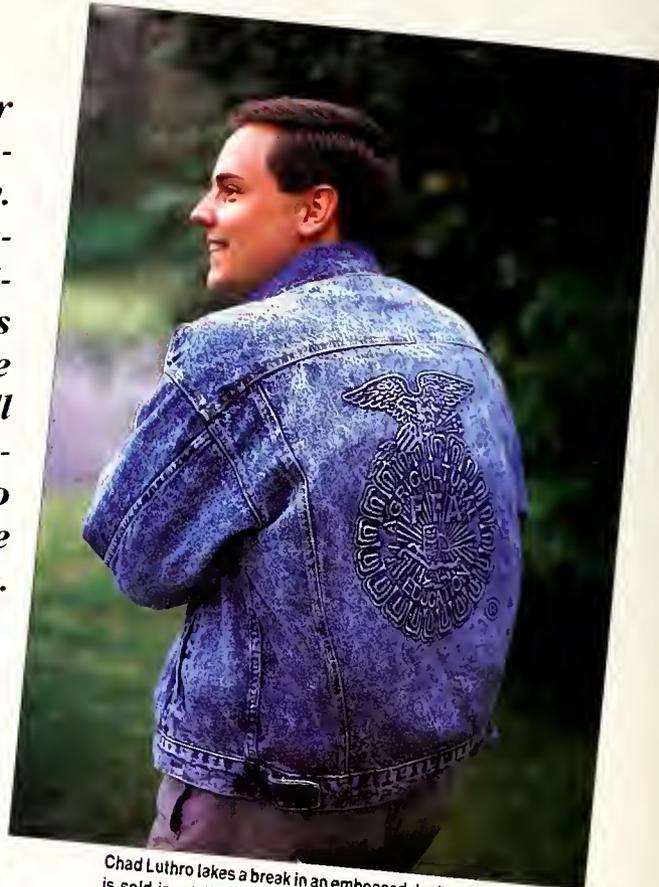
Production will be limited to orders placed on or before November 20, 1992.

To order by credit card, call (608)-829-3105.

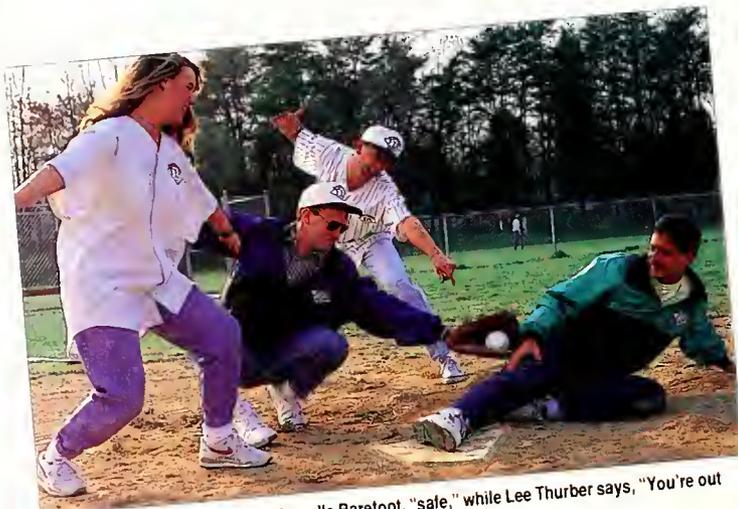
This ad sponsored in part by the Ertl Company

WHAT'S NEW

A day in the life of a national officer is likely to include speeches, conventions, travel and lots of blue corduroy. Every once in a while though, the officers take a break. Here national president Lee Thurber, and vice presidents Shane Black, Wesley Barefoot and Louie Brown play basketball and softball while vice president Chad Luthro (injured from playing football) relaxes. To order the clothes in these photos, use the coupon on the next page.

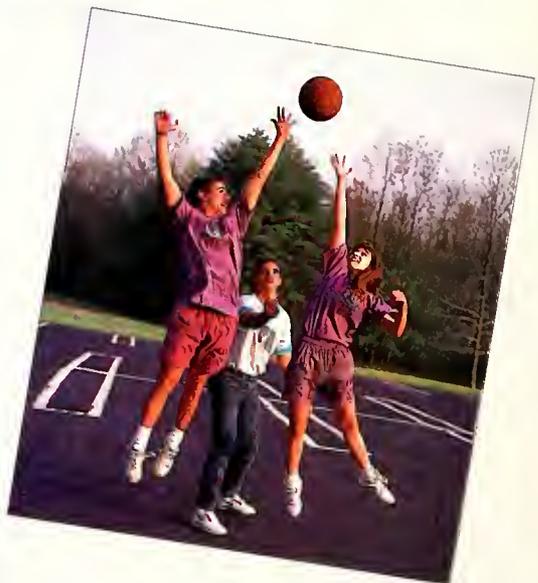


Chad Luthro takes a break in an embossed denim jacket. The jacket is sold in retail stores for up to \$120. Sizes s, m, l, xl (xxl & xxxl available for \$9.00 extra). Made in the U.S.A. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. #DJ - \$64.95 (xxl & xxxl - \$73.95)



Judi Todd, of Woodbridge, Virginia, calls Barefoot, "safe," while Lee Thurber says, "You're out of there." Shane Black is making the tag.

- Ash Baseball Jersey - 100% heavyweight cotton with 6-button front and "Y" neck. Sizes: m, l, xl. #301-A - \$22.95
- Pulse Jacket - Featuring the new FFA sports emblem. Made of DuPont Antron® with a zip-through tunnel collar and half-body storm flap, knit cuffs and waistband, raglan sleeves and reversed brushed polyester lining, machine washable. Made in the U.S.A. Colors Black/Jade and Black/Royal Blue. Sizes: s, m, l, xl, xxl #PJ-JD (Jade), PJ-RY (Royal) - \$44.95
- Canvas Baseball Cap - Natural color canvas crown and contrasting black bill. Made in the U.S.A. #CAP-6, \$7.95
- Pinstripe Baseball Jersey - 100% heavyweight cotton with 6-button front and "Y" neck. White with navy pinstripes. Sizes: m, l, xl. 301-ST - \$24.95
- Pinstripe Baseball Cap - White 50/50 cotton/poly crown pinstriped in navy with navy bill. #CAP-4 - \$7.95



Jump ball! Louie Brown and Nadia Schoonmaker, FFA member from Sycamore, Illinois, are wearing Comfort Collection T-Shirt and Shorts - 100% preshrunk cotton, pigment dyed, t-shirt and shorts (with drawstring, elastic waist, 2 pockets). Colors Cranberry, Plum & Blueberry. Sizes: m, l, xl. (T-Shirt) #CCT-CR (Cranberry), CCT-PL (Plum), CCT-BL (Blueberry), (Shorts) #CCS-CR (Cranberry), CCS-PL (Plum), CCS-BL (Blueberry), Shirt-\$11.25 Matching Shorts-\$13.25
Referee Wesley Barefoot, sports Soft Neon Roll-Up T-Shirts. The 50/50 ash t-shirt has contrasting collar and roll-up sleeves. Sizes: m, l, xl. #SN-JD (Jade), SN-PP (Purple), SN-RB (Raspberry) - \$13.95

Sports Champions

By Chris Feaver

May 29, 1982. As important dates go it seems fairly harmless. It is no December 7, 1941 (the day the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor); or November 22, 1963 (the day John F. Kennedy was shot); or even July 27, 1978 (the day this reporter first received his driver's license).

But students of baseball history know May 29, 1982 as the last time that Baltimore Oriole baseball ironman Cal Ripken Jr. sat out a game. Since that date, more than a decade and 1,600 baseball games ago, Ripken has played every game and is still going strong.

Ripken has the second-longest consecutive-game streak in baseball history. He is more than 1,200 games ahead of any other active player.

But there is more to Ripken, 31, than just his streak. Over the years, he has developed into the ultimate role model. On the field he plays the game hard and well. Off the field, he is generous with his time and money.

His list of on-field accomplishments is almost as long as his streak. In 1982, he won the American League's Rookie of the Year award. In 1983, he won his first Most Valuable Player award while leading the Orioles to a World Series title. He won his second MVP in 1991. In his first 10 seasons in the majors, he has hit at least 20 home runs, only the eighth player in history to ever do so.

Defensively, Ripken won his first Gold Glove as the best shortstop in the American League last season. The 6-foot-4, 220-pound Ripken won despite being the largest shortstop in the history of the game while playing a position where quickness and agility are a necessity.

Ripken's love and dedication to baseball are not surprising considering that his family has been around the game since before he was born. When Ripken was called up as a rookie in 1981, his dad, Cal Ripken, Sr., was the Orioles third-base coach. Cal's little brother Bill joined the majors a few years later and became the regular Orioles second baseman.

In 1989 and 1990, as Ripken's streak lengthened, his offensive production fell off. This prompted fans and media to speculate whether he was getting too tired to play every game. In 1991,

Ripken answered those questions with his best season ever. He hit .323 with a career-high 34 home runs and 114 runs batted in, becoming the first American League player on a losing team to win the MVP award.

But even Ripken himself sometimes questions whether or not the streak is worth it. He has said that at times he feels like a "prisoner" to the streak, knowing that the streak has lasted too long for him to be removed from a game on anything less than a dramatic injury.

Regardless, Ripken's accomplishments with or without the streak are amazing. •••



Cal Ripken, Jr.

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How Do You Like Your French Fries?

The FFA Stars Over America find differences in European culture and agricultural trade



By Dr. Dewey Stewart

T rue or false.
 1. Mayonnaise is wonderful on french fries.
 2. You should eat salad *after* your meal, not before.
 3. Always drive on the left hand side of the road, not the right.

The correct answers are: 1. false 2. false 3. false...if you're from the United States. But is it wrong to like mayonnaise on french fries? (It's the sauce of choice in Europe.) Would it really matter if everyone drove on the left side of the road? Probably not, as long as everybody on the road played by the same rules. Will your body protest if the meat and potatoes comes before all of that green stuff? Not likely.

With six time zones, and about 3,000 miles separating even the closest Europeans and Americans, you would expect differences. Still, people's basic needs are the same. Everybody eats. Everybody needs to make a living.

American Star In Agribusiness, Adam Schumacher, Heron Lake, Minnesota, traveled to Germany, Belgium and France in February with the other FFA stars. He says that although Europeans have different cultural and agricultural practices, their reasons for doing them are just as "right" as U.S. reasons for doing things.

Take the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT), for example. It's a plan designed to help trade flow between countries. For no reason many European governments buy all of the grain their farmers produce at a set price. Then they have an overwhelming surplus of grain to get rid of. They sell this grain



Photo by Dr. Jamie Cano

On the German holiday called Fasching the stars watched a parade. Second from left is Adam Schumacher, Heron Lake, Minnesota. To his right is Lola Lang, Mount Vernon, Washington; and Shane Theriault, Caribou Maine. Stars not pictured are: Robert Tonn, Elton, Louisiana; Kent Erickson, Ferndale, Washington and Blake Johnson, Holdrege, Nebraska. Indiana Agriculture Extension Specialist Dr. Dewey Stewart, Mrs. Brenda Stewart, Assistant Professor at Ohio State University, Dr. Jamie Cano and FFA Human and Fiscal Resources Team Leader Lennie Gamage also attended.

on the world market at a lower price than U.S. farmers can afford to sell theirs. This makes it tough for U.S. farmers, to compete. As a result, "The United States wants to see a dramatic cutback in European price support programs," says Johnson. But, he says, European farmers don't want to see their price supports go.

Lola Lang, Star In Agribusiness national finalist, of Mount Vernon, Washington, says, "We have a long way to go before we'll ever achieve GATT agreement. They [Europeans] feel as though we are trying to control the world market in our own best interests, because we're asking them to eliminate agriculture subsidies. They're saying 'we can't change overnight.'" The key, she says, is knowing both sides have good points. "Everybody's going to have to compromise."

After seeing European agriculture first-hand these stars say they are more willing to compromise. Schumacher says, "You start to open your mind when you travel. It's easier to see their point of view."

Be Wise To The World

American Star Farmer Blake Johnson, grows corn and raises cattle in Holdrege, Nebraska. He sells his agricultural products in the United States. But he says world events affect his operation.

"When I started my own farming operation as a freshman in high school," says Johnson, "I look back and consider myself pretty naive. I took world history and geography classes, but I wasn't interested in the least. I didn't think it would affect me. I was wrong in a big way. As producers in a world market, we've got to be aware of what's happening in the world."

Many times, Johnson says, decisions made in other countries affect him in the United States. The perfect example of this, he says, is when the U.S. provided loans to Russia. Suddenly, they had money to buy our corn. Since the demand was up, "The price for corn went up 15 to 20 cents a bushel higher." He says events such as this won't affect his production decisions, but they will affect his marketing plan: when and how much to sell.

The tour was sponsored by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation as a special project of National FFA Foundation, Inc.

FFA IN ACTION

Virginia Country Star Helps FFA



Country singer Alan Jackson met with Virginia state officers and members of the South Hill Chapter to pose for promotional photographs and to record public service announcements used during National FFA Week. The "photo shoot" was arranged by Bobby Connor, a local supporter of FFA.

Ohio USDA Secretary Gives Report



FFA members from Liberty-Benton, Ohio, FFA attended a county Chamber of Commerce agribusiness banquet where USDA Secretary Edward Madigan, spoke about alternative uses for agricultural products, new directions for the USDA and the importance of agricultural education in high schools. About 500 attended the event along with U.S. Congressman Michael Oxley. After the banquet, Secretary Madigan, left, met with members Mitch Welty, Paula Blanchard and Congressman Oxley.

Michigan Syrupy Interview

During March, the Mason, Michigan, Chapter was visited by television crews from Agri Country, which features agricultural coverage for Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. The crew spent about three hours taping a story about the chapter's maple syrup operation.

FFA has 1,500 taps on hun-

dreds of trees behind their high school. The project was started 29 years ago.

The filmcrew and show host, Ed Johnson, interviewed chapter president Mike Prelesnik about the annual harvest and syrup making process. ...

Ohio Top of the Class



Class leaders, left to right, Brad Forry, Troy McGowan and Matt Crowe had outstanding scholastic, leadership, FFA and school activity records. They ended up as the top three students in their class.

FFA leaders in the Ridgedale, Ohio, Chapter were also academic achievers in their graduating class of 1991. Matt Crowe was named valedictorian after a high school career culminating with a term as chapter vice president, senior class president and student body president. He plans to attend The Ohio State University.

Brad Forry, salutatorian, was chapter president and chairman of the state winning

parliamentary procedure team. He earned the State FFA Degree, and also plans to attend Ohio State.

Third in the class was Troy McGowan who was very involved in cross country as well as FFA. His supervised agricultural experience program of specialty animal work and aquaculture lab management led him to his collegiate work at Hocking College where he will major in fish and wildlife management. ...

FFA IN ACTION

New Hampshire

The Familiar Photo



President Bush visited Bittersweet Farm with state president, Bruce Scamman, and his family during the New Hampshire primary campaign.

Many FFA members and supporters may have noticed the FFA sweat shirt during the evening news coverage of President Bush's campaign trip in New Hampshire in January. The behind-the-scenes story comes from Bruce Scamman, state president and owner of the sweat shirt.

The Scammans, who knew the President might stop for a quick handshake visit, say Bruce's Brown Swiss cow

even got into the official photo session.

Bruce thanked President Bush for his appearance in Kansas City at the national convention and for meeting with the FFA officers during state presidents' conference. When Mr. Bush pulled away and the family waved goodbye, the President gave Bruce a thumbs up sign and said "Go FFA." ...

Tennessee

Eagles Fly in the School

The W. Morgan County, Tennessee, Chapter sponsored a birds of prey program for the 700 students and faculty. A Red Tail Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Horned Owl and the American

Bald Eagle were in the show. Some of the money raised from the program was donated to help the conservation and preservation of predatory birds. (Jason Hodges) ...

Oklahoma

Acting Out the Story

Grandfield, Oklahoma, members used the stage as a way to promote agricultural education to community leaders as well as to elementary students. The skit was presented by chapter officers.

Characters in the act represented: George Washington who spoke about the risk early farmers took to expand our new country; a traditional farmer who related the days of hard work in comparison to the technology used today; an agricul-

tural instructor who expressed the need for education in agriculture and the advantages of FFA for students; a politician who spoke as a product of a strong FFA program; a biotechnician who explained the importance of new developments in crop and animal science; and a motivated FFA member who related how a chapter can influence a community. (Jana Josefy, Reporter) ...

Colorado

Straight from the Heart



Chapter reporter, Trevor Forbes, foreground, donated and helped with registration for the day.

The Moffat County FFA of Craig, Colorado, organized a blood drive on Valentines Day at the school for students and members of the community.

The chapter asked for help from other school groups to promote the event and received assistance from DECA, Key Club and the Student Council.

To get participation, the clubs made presentations to homerooms, businesses and city hall.

The drive was so successful some donors were deferred to another date and the school principal asked FFA to plan the drive as an annual event. (Paula Lux, BOAC chairman)

GET TO KNOW



Louie Brown, Jr.

Hey Louie stand up! "That's probably the numero uno, most popular "short" joke of all," says Louie Brown, western region national vice president of Hanford, California. He should know. Louie went through his freshman year of high school at just 4 feet 6 inches tall.

Short jokes were just a small part of what Louie had to put up with. "I even got pulled over by a policeman the first day I drove with my license. He didn't believe I was old enough to be behind the wheel. I remember my friends laughing for weeks.

"For the most part though, I didn't let stuff like that bother me. I would just go on with what I was doing," says Louie.

"I don't get stressed out too often about things. I take events one at a time and do what I can with them." Louie says he gets this attitude from his dad. "I've always looked up to him because of the way he takes things in stride."

Louie seems to have a knack for turning what could be negatives into positives. His parents divorced when he was in eighth grade, and even though his dad still lived just 30 minutes away, Louie says it helped him become more independent. "I was still very close to my father, but he wasn't there all of the time at night. This helped me do more things on my own."

All through high school, he capitalized on his stature. Louie played sports where height didn't matter: soccer, water polo and swimming were some of his favorites.

He was elected ski club vice president his freshman year—mainly, he says—because of his size. "There was a snobby senior girl running for vice president. Club members wanted to run 'the little freshman' against her. That was me. I ended up beating her.

"I let my size work for me," he says. "As the smallest person on my high school campus, I stood out. If people didn't remember Louie Brown, they'd always remember the little guy from Hanford."

His FFA advisors noticed this "little guy" too and saw plenty of potential.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louie Brown, Jr." in a cursive style.



Not short on ability, Louie, second from left, placed as high individual in California's cotton judging contest.

While he was still a freshman, they encouraged Louie to be vice president in the opening and closing ceremony contest. "It was good strategy to get me up there. I was so small and I had such a loud voice, it was easy for people to remember me. Plus, I was very outspoken, so the advisors tried to put that to use as much as possible." The strategy paid off. He was named Outstanding Vice President in the contest.

The opening and closing contest is not what originally drew Louie to FFA though. He says he first got involved in agricultural classes to show and raise sheep. His sophomore year Louie raised four Suffolk sheep, by the time he was a senior he had 20.

Although Louie didn't live on a farm, he didn't let that limit his leadership or agricultural experiences. He got jobs at a United States Department of Agriculture dairy lab, a dairy and at a fruit sorting company in Modesto, California. As an electronic serviceman he made sure the electronic tomato harvesters that sorted tomatoes by color were working well. He

also visited farmers every day to make sure they were happy with the equipment and service.

He became chapter vice president, chapter president, state vice president and national vice president.

During his year as a state officer, Louie says, "I went through more personal growth than any other time in my life. Our state officer team lived together, so we really got to know the individuals we worked with. I learned to be a little more open and personal."

He also grew six inches that year. He's now 5' 6" inches and every inch stands tall. •••

•After graduating from California Polytechnic State University with a degree in agricultural business policy, Louie plans to go to law school and eventually be an agricultural lobbyist.

•Louie's mom, Pat, is a general merchandise manager for a grocery store chain. His dad, also named Louie, has been a feed salesman and is now working in real estate development. Louie's 19-year-old sister, Michelle, is attending college.

J O K E P A G E

Robbie: "How did Moses part the Red Sea?"

Jared: "I'm not sure."

Robbie: "With a sea saw."

Joshua Ringstaff
Paducah, Kentucky



"There's a wild T-shirt. Nothing printed on it."

One cloudless day out on a prairie, two buffalo grazed peacefully. Suddenly, a man ran out among them and started shouting.

"Hey!" he shouted, "you buffalo are big and ugly. Just look at the size of your heads!" and "Pew, you guys smell awful!"

Then, just as suddenly, as the man appeared, he disappeared.

The buffalo looked at each other. "Well," said one, "guess you could say that counts as our seldom heard discouraging word."

Carlos Lopez
Selma, California

Q: Why did the algae go out with the mushroom?

A: Because he was a fungi (fun guy)!

Burbank FFA
Sacramento, California

ANSWER to question on page 11. On the fourth row left to right, are Greg Martin and Richard Young.

The mother and father were getting ready for a party and the young son and daughter were watching from the doorway.

First mom fastened dad's cuffs, then dad zipped up mom's dress; mom tied his tie and he fastened her pearls.

The young girl turned to her brother and said, "I wonder why they expect us to dress ourselves?"

Jason Johnsen
Zumbrota, Minnesota

Q: Why did the Greenhand basketball player carry gardening tools to the basketball games?

A: Because the coach told him to plant his feet before taking his shot.

Calvin Sellers
Caryville, Florida

Farmer: "Did you know how picking tomatoes is like a stoplight?"

City guy: "How is that?"

Farmer: "Green tomatoes to leave them; yellow is caution; red means stop and pick me."

Elmer Waldrop
Oblong, Illinois

Diner: "Do you serve chickens here?"

Waiter: "Sit down, sir. We serve anyone."

Jason Miller
Tazewell, Virginia

Sam: "When your son gets out of college, what will he be?"

Tom: "About 38."

Carolyn Stewart
Collinsville, Oklahoma

Charlie, the Greenhand



"That's my father's chair."

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