News of the 38th National Junior Achievers Conference

Monday, August 10, 1981

Nothing stops Achievers from NAJAC

Nothing can stop an Achiever on his way to NAJAC -- not an air controllers strike nor a broken bus, not even a very long trip. Those Achievers arriving by plane found their travel a little confused, but far easier than anticipated. Of course, the 20 Alaska delegates were surprised to find that the only way from Alaska to Indianapolis was via Dallas. And several Ft. Worth delegates found that no room on a standby flight can be fun -- especially when you're still at home with a complimentary steak dinner, a replacement ticket and more than enough spending money.

Bus travel proved to be much more of a challenge this year, especially for the Tucson, Arizona delegation. They spent 24 hours traveling to Bloomington.

On the other hand, Baltimore would have preferred traveling to waiting. After the scheduled bus arrived at the Baltimore JA Center and loaded luggage and passengers successfully, it wouldn't start. Three hours and one more bus later, Baltimore was finally heading for Indiana.

Waiting also proved to be the worst part of a long journey for the Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska delegations. Somehow the chartered bus never arrived. After four hours and several phone calls, a bus finally arrived at the JA Center. The only people more worried than the forgotten Nebraskans were the Iowa delegates waiting along the route for a ride.

Passing time was no problem for most bus riders. Chicago developed their own soap opera, "All My Delegates," complete with marriages, divorces and affairs.

Other travel excitement was provided by two buses of Southwest Texas delegates, who competed against each other for the greatest number of delegates in a bus washroom. The contest was abandoned when 23 delegates in one washroom knocked out the bus window.

Some Tulsa delegates found themselves a little bit richer after a penny-anti poker game, and they all found themselves more relaxed. NAJAC-News, a dance marathon and a talent show were just a few more of the clever ways Achievers passed the time.

But time was the least concern to most delegates. Arriving was the objective, whether by bus, plane, car, cab or van, they all arrived ready for NAJAC.

A NAJAC delegate prepares to remove luggage, as over 3000 Achievers arrive for the start of NAJAC 1981 and the "Best Week of Their Lives."

Many areas provide delegate warm-ups

You've just learned that you'll be an NAJAC delegate. After the excitement wears off, you begin to wonder: What do I have to do in the weeks remaining before the Conference? In many JA cities, a comprehensive schedule of studying, interviews, testing and preparation is ahead for each NAJAC delegate. In many cases, the weeks of preparation pay off, in the form of awards on the national level. How do the successful areas do so well in national competition?

The answers are as varied as the JA areas, but some common themes and practices do emerge. In Orlando, Florida, for example, each contestant and candidate for validations is assisted by several "coaches", all of whom are former delegates and possibly national winners. Each week prior to the Conference, all delegates meet for extensive testing and mock interviews.

Knowing about the responsibilities of the various JA company officers in the business world is important, too. Delegates in Orlando visited individually with local business executives, which enhances JA's community image.

Most NAJAC delegations meet weekly, with specific homework assignments completed by each delegate between sessions. In
Oregonians keep JA all in the family

Not many families can carry a JA logo into a family portrait session, but the family of Fred and Sue Tomlin of Vancouver, Washington can.

The Tomlin family boasts a combined total of 28 years’ involvement with Junior Achievement, beginning in 1953 and continuing to this day.

It all began when Jim Tomlin, Fred’s brother, went to work for JA of Portland in 1953. He was Program Director, then a part-time position. Promoted to Executive Director in June, 1953, he held that position until 1960. Portland’s long-time Executive Vice President, Ralph Scollari, was hired by Jim Tomlin in 1957 as Program Director. Ralph has been with JA since, receiving service awards and building the Portland area’s JA program into one of the organization’s finest. But that’s another story.

Jim Tomlin helped organize a JA program in San Rafael, California in 1968-69 while finishing studies at seminary. Now, instead of preaching free enterprise, he is preaching religion as the minister of Milwaukee United Church of Christ in a Portland suburb.

So the JA opportunity was known to Jim’s brother, Fred, and his wife, Sue, as their children reached high school age and heard JA recruiting presentations at school.

Elders Jeff, now 27 and an Air Force captain, was the first of four children to join JA. It was 1971.

“Each child got involved in JA because of Jeff,” says his father. “His enthusiasm was contagious. He had definite goals for his life all the way back in grade school. Jeff won a lot of trophies, and set the example for his younger brothers and sisters.”

Jeff’s involvement continued for three years, through 1973-74. It was capped by being named the Exchange Club of Portland’s “Youth of the Year” in 1974, an honor he shared with high school students in the area each year.

The next child to enroll in JA was daughter Cathi, now 24 and managing a流动 shop in Seaview, Washington. She didn’t wait for the JA recruiters to visit Columbia River High in Vancouver—she signed up as a freshman, a habit that other Tomlin children followed when they were eligible to join JA. Cathi attended NAJAC ’76 as one of only two funded delegates from the Columbia Empire JA program, which encompasses four counties in Oregon and one in Washington. The selection of Cathi to attend NAJAC was one of the most exciting events involving the Tomlin children, according to her parents.

Daughter Sandi, now 25, was the only one of the Tomlin children not to join JA. “They each had their own choice,” says Fred. “For four of the five kids, JA was a special type of program—so special that it got them interested. Sandi went her own way and that wasn’t a problem for the others.”

When Cathi was finishing her JA experience in 1976-77, Fred, through his employer, Clark County Public Utility District, became an Adviser in the Vancouver JA program. He has remained involved to this day, since 1977-78 as the Center Manager for the ten-company JA program in Vancouver.

Son David, now 22, was involved in JA from 1975-79, recording perfect attendance all four years.

“JA may have meant more to David than the other children,” says Fred. “He had few goals reached high school age but he recognized the opportunity to be part of JA and took full advantage of his JA experience...nothing to look toward.”

Because of his experience as a JA company treasurer, David now hopes to build a career in accounting. He is now in the Navy, stationed at Point Magu, California.

The final Tomlin child to participate in JA was daughter Anne Marie, who graduated from St. Mary’s Academy in Portland this past June. Although Fred and Sue tried to discourage comparisons between the children and their JA records, such comparisons were hard to avoid for Anne, the youngest child.

Her father says a highlight of her four years in JA was receiving a full scholarship to the Dale Carnegie course, where she grew handomely in speaking ability and self-confidence. Anne Marie has spoken several times before service clubs in the area about JA, and won a Management Award in March at the division-wide Oregon JA Management Conference.

Four of five children in JA, and all four won scholarships, fifteen years as a JA company. What did that experience mean to Fred and Sue Tomlin in raising their children?

“JA gave them something to do with their free time,” Fred replied. “It was a definite help. All of them dealt with adult problems and gained a very positive attitude about business.

“They were learning something and having fun, too.

“It has helped us as parents. I’ve made a lot of friendships with kids as a Center Manager the past four years,” he continued. “In some cases I’ve been a confidant. By knowing what kids in general are thinking I am better able to handle my kids’ problems.

“I get their views of life—their attitudes about parents, authority, social trends and their peers. I don’t know how I would keep up with that otherwise. Applying that knowledge has been very helpful in raising our own family.”

Sue Tomlin has seen Achievers in a different perspective altogether. As a registered nurse, she has served as the Conference Nurse for two consecutive years as an Achiever conference, dealing with everything from sprained ankles to indigestion and homesickness.

“What have been the benefits for Fred, heading up a true JA family?

“I’ve really learned to deal with people. To see a shy, bashful sophomore girl turn into a self-confident young lady of 17 through JA is very rewarding. Watching kids grow and mature...dealing with them one-on-one.

“I’ve met a lot of people...and shared their frustrations, problems and accomplishments,” he concluded.

Although all of the Tomlin children have now graduated from high school, there will always be JA in the family. Fred will manage the Vancouver JA Center for the fifth year beginning this fall. Beyond that, JA will always be present in the household...in the form of some 30 to 40 JA products acquired through the years.

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1981 Workshop schedule

Each day The Achiever will publish a Workshop/Group Discussion schedule. The schedule is divided into morning and afternoon meetings (consult your Conference Agenda for specific times), and provides locations. The numbers to the right of the workshop titles are Group numbers.
NAJAC planning begins early each year

Editor’s Note: The following article was written by members of the National JA Staff, whose job it is to provide services for each NAJAC. Here is their story:

Life off Indianapolis rapidly falls away as the plane heads home. Good-bye Bloomington. Good-bye NAJAC. Each member of the NAJAC national staff thinks of his or her own private thoughts - but all along this theme - HOORRAY! We’ve made it through another one - no more delegates, no more problems, no more dough food or 96 percent humidity! We don’t have to utter one word related to NAJAC for at least... well, maybe a week-and-a-half?

So much for good intentions. It’s hard to believe, but we actually spent the entire plane ride home last year discussing changes and improvements for NAJAC 1983. Somehow it just seemed the right way to spend the time!

And that really is when the planning for this year’s conference began. Before the plane touched down, we had already agreed to meet once a week to discuss new ideas and changes in program and materials. While we were building your Homecoming floats, we (Buffie, John, Lou and Lisa) were already ordering 4,500 new souvenir binders and registration cards - blue, pink and white - and rewriting manuals and instructional materials, while you were working on occasional workshops.

Then, back at the campus, the staff is busy from dawn to dusk. The Souvenir Shop! Let’s see, frisbees? (None mentioned dorms? Really!) Yes, five people were now working in the box room, little room, surrounded by multitudes of multi-colored forms, stacks of manuals and notebooks, and cabinets full of cards, name tags, luggage labels - you name it. Meanwhile, at the dining hall, we had the largest bunch of those, and we work together all year long! But, eventually, the choices were made and we were in business again.

In June, we were joined by Anne Osekirie and Gail Jacobs. Yes, five people were now working in this - one little room, that hot!), and several transfiles which transport the whole NAJAC office from Stanford to IU. They love us at the airport, needless to say - not a skip in sight! But we always manage to arrive at IU, still somewhat intact.

And now begins the transformation of books and university hallways into the northeast corner of the campus. Picture a ghost town. A few lonely souls occupy a couple of offices; a car or two is parked outside the dorms; quiet abounds. And things really start to pick up. The final stages of NAJAC are underway.

Warm-ups continued

(continued from page 1)

Meanwhile, registration continues -drop and adds, name tags, rooming - same work, different town. And the arrival of staff is like a camp reunion - good friends who only see each other once or maybe twice a year are reunited amid screams, laughter, hugs, and things really start to pick up. The final stages of NAJAC are underway.

workshop, can increase the information each delegate can bring back to the JA program in their local area. Delegates from San Diego met every day in the two weeks prior to NAJAC. Day-long sessions involved Advisers, Conference staff, business people and others. The evenings included dinner, pool parties, roller-skating and general comraderie, allowing delegates to feel like a part of the team.

Just as the fun was a part of developing a bond, so the daytime study sessions improved communications skills and developed confidence. Whatever an Achiever felt insecure about was stressed. If impromptu speeches were the toughest thing, that became a daily agenda item. ‘Unms’ and ‘Aahs’ went first.

Knowing that you have given your best effort in competition should be satisfaction enough for any delegate. If you are fortunate enough to be a national contest winner, the next hours of preparation for NAJAC paid off. If not, the study habits and effort spent in preparation certainly can be of benefit as you continue your education.

Put your best foot forward. It could pay off. R. Grimshaw
Sounding Board

The theme of this year's NAJAC is "JA Leading the Way." It signifies that JA leads the way in many directions which are special and unique to each participant. The theme is open to any interpretation about what the individual will find at this conference and throughout the JA year.

One of the major benefits that each participant receives at NAJAC is a better understanding of JA and the principles upon which it was organized.

The workshops and group discussions during the week introduce the delegates to different segments of the private enterprise system which forms the basis for JA. Group workshops and speeches by executives from major corporations in the US provide the delegates with in-depth views of the machinery of our economy.

New ideas for local JA operations are derived from planned activities and talks with delegates from different areas. These new ideas lead the way to larger profits and increased recognition.

Another of the rewards that the participants receive from the conference is new friendships with the delegates, staff, and speakers: over 3000 new faces, views, and personalities.

Twenty-three Metro Washington delegates are still tired after their 11 hour dance marathon on the bus ride to NAJAC.

"Our schedules were packed," exclaimed delegate Mary Kay Lauth of Washington, D.C. "The bus left at 6:30 p.m., began dancing at 9 and when we rolled into the parking lot about 9:30 a.m., we were still going." Lauth, who was the plan called for couples dancing for 30 minutes in each shift, delegate Ruth Myers said, "Everybody wanted to dance, so the plan didn't work."

Delegate Terri Brown and the travel leader are credited with the idea. Brown brought the music but the travel leader actually started the marathon.

At about 3:30 a.m. the loud rap music of the Sugar Hill Gang gave way to the mellow songs of Barbra Streisand, but according to Myers, "It was still impossible to sleep." As they neared Bloomington, the delegation began rocking the bus in what Lauth called "an attempt to tip the bus over." When they tired of that, bouncing the bus became their occupation. "Of course, it was all to the beat of the music," Lauth explained.

They concluded their trip with a series of "Chinese fire drills" in the NAJAC parking lot this morning.

The Metro Washington delegates call themselves "The Red IZOD people" because of their red alligator shirts. Myers said, "We try to be preppy but the other reason we have the shirts is that we get them cheap."

 Contestants beware

As of 8:00pm Sunday the following totals of registered contestants for the various officer and company contests were announced.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production</td>
<td>138</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>148</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>147</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>154</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Sales</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Speaking</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Company</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company of Year</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Achievers</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Beehive! NAJAC 1981 is plagued by a roving lunatic! "Danny" of the Columbia SC delegation had escaped from the Twilight Zone and is roaming loose at NAJAC. His connections with the CIA, FBI, SPCA and JA are all delusions. If you see him, please handcuff securely to the nearest post or tree and plug down a pink flag. Thank you, Signed Allison.

**ELECTIONS**

Candidates for elected office will keep a busy schedule today. In-depth validation procedures begin with general and officer exams and preliminary interviews. Tuesday entails final interviews, climaxing to formal nominations at the evening general assembly.

As of 7:30pm Sunday the Elections office announced the following statistics:

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conf. Secretary</td>
<td>38</td>
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<td>NAA Chairman</td>
<td>31</td>
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