

new horizons

The magazine of the National FFA Organization

January/February 1996



risky business
AN ENTREPRENEURIAL EXAM

following a leader
CAN YOU KEEP UP WITH A CONGRESSMAN?

masterpiece

GO BACKSTAGE AT THE NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

meet Seth Derner
YOUR NEW NATIONAL FFA PRESIDENT





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More than 37,000 attendees descended upon Kansas City, Missouri, for the 68th national FFA convention. Here's your behind-the-scenes recap of the sights and sounds of this record-breaking event. Plus, take your first look at the 1995-96 national officer team!

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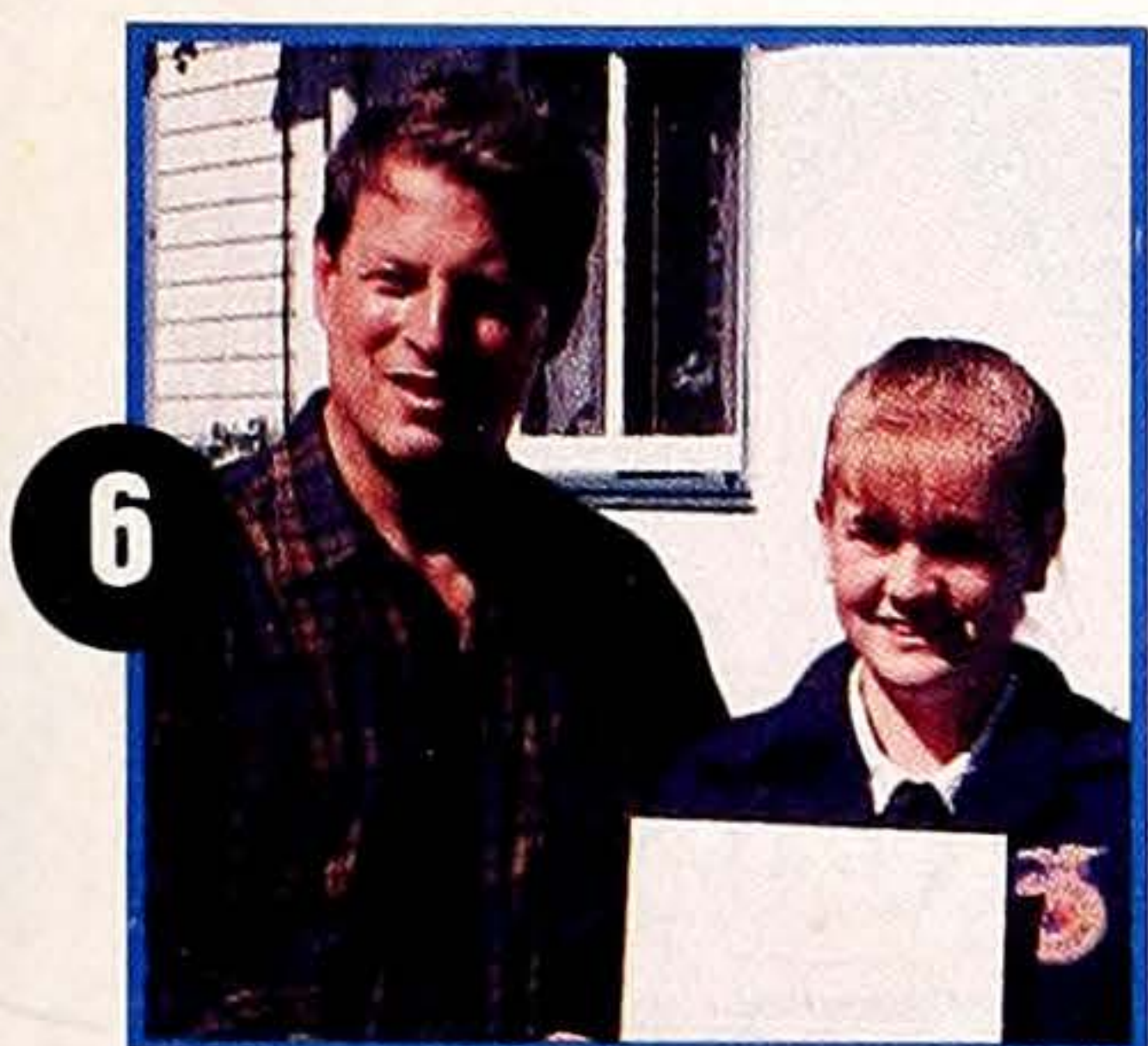
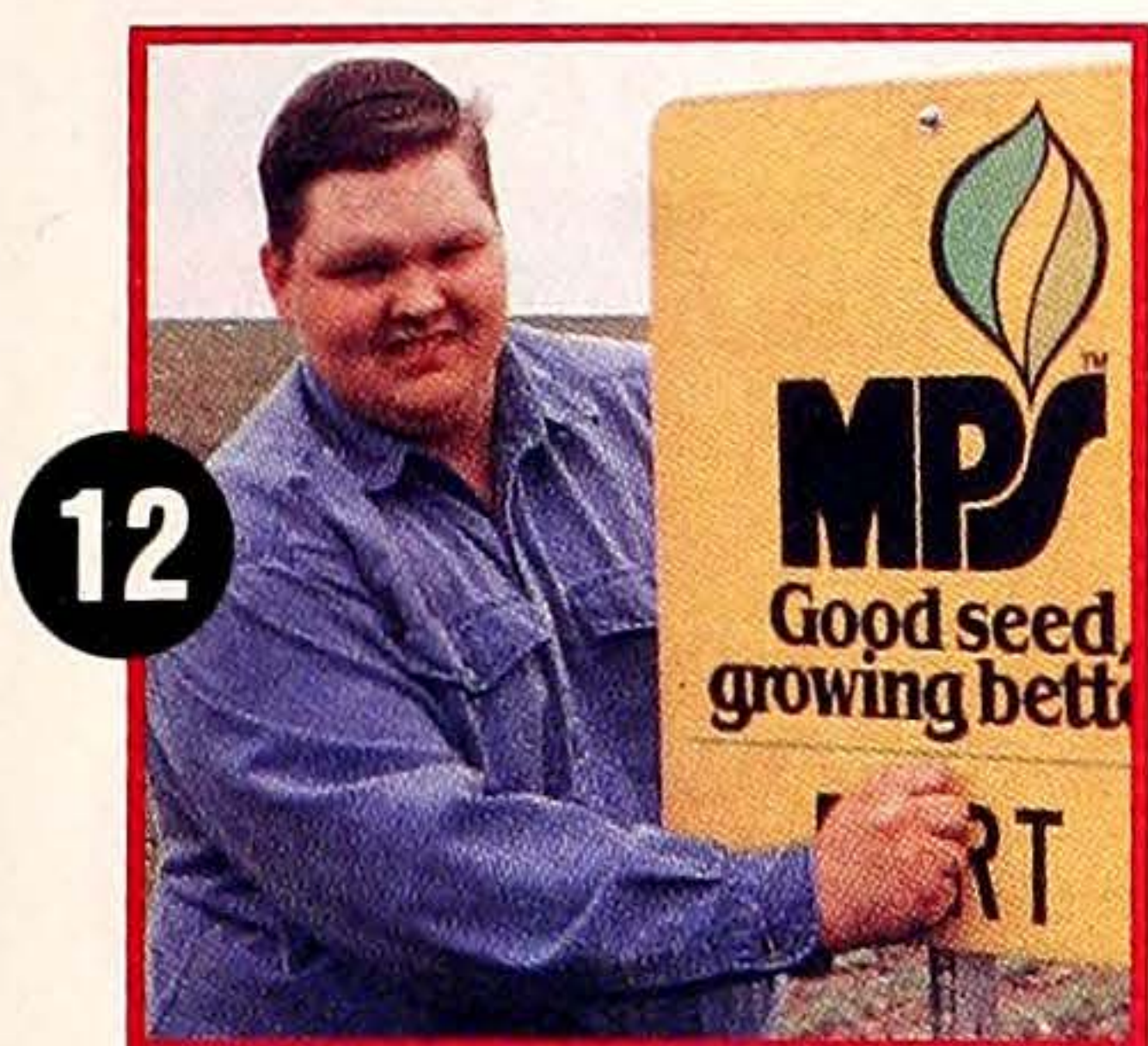
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FFA Mission Statement

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



18

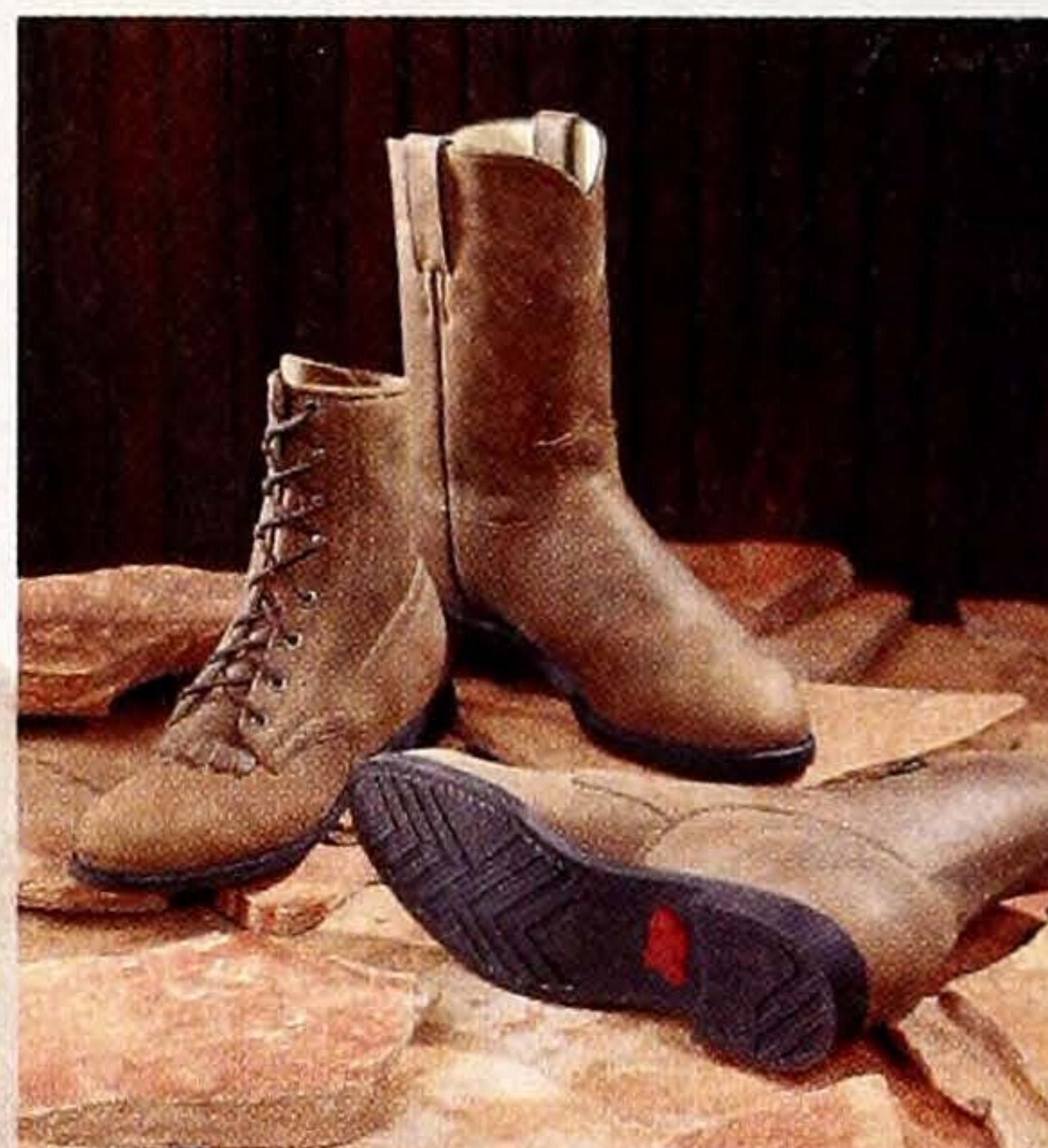
Miss America Shawntel Smith receives a plaque of recognition at the national convention from retiring national FFA president Corey Flournoy.

NEW

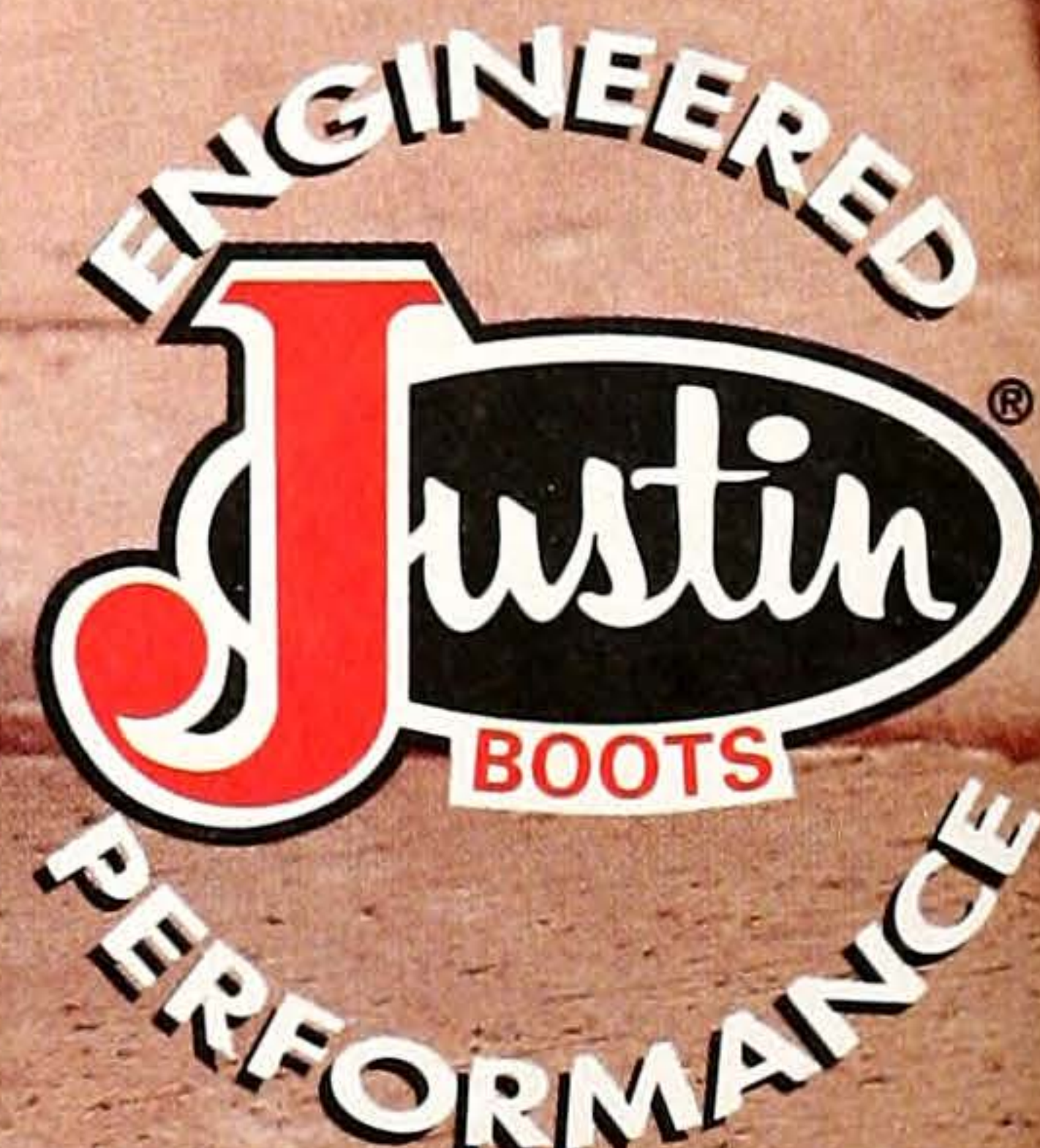
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BUZZ

One lucky FFA member leaves KC with dream tractor

While many national FFA convention attendees left Kansas City with sweatshirts and buttons, only Andrea Padgett of Marland, Oklahoma, took home a classic 4020 John Deere Tractor! Fifteen-year-old Andrea was at the convention with the Frontier FFA Chapter and advisors Randy Cook and Mike Hodges when she won the fully restored tractor in a drawing sponsored by John Deere Credit Services Inc. More than 100,000 entries were submitted to Deere Credit both before the convention and at their exhibit in the career show. "Providing the tractor is a terrific way for John Deere Credit to get young people excited about FFA and their future role in agriculture," said career show manager Jack Pitzer. The green and gold 4020 was presented to Andrea by James Heseman, senior vice president-Agriculture Finance Division of John Deere Credit during one of the convention's evening ceremonies. Congratulations, Andrea!



FFA MAILBAG

Where are they now?

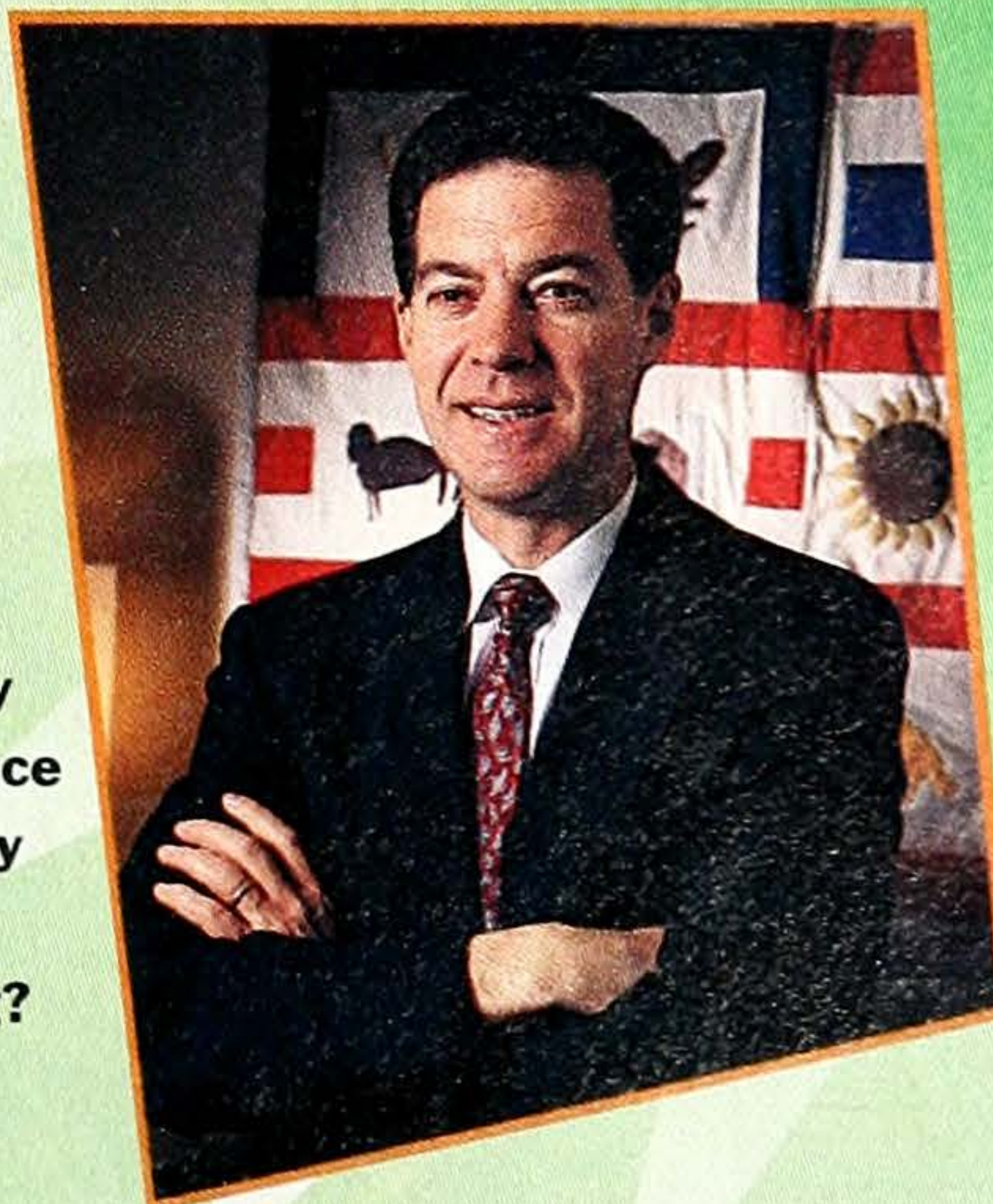
For the past six years, I have been an FFA parent, as my older son is now the state president for New Jersey. During these years, I have met many of the national officers and have heard about many others. I have enjoyed following their year in *FFA New Horizons* with all their travel updates. Also, your articles about who they are and where they are from make them more personal to all of us who read your magazine, but don't get a chance to actually meet them.

My suggestion to you is to have some articles about the past national officers. What have they done with their lives since they left office? Did they finish their education? Where are they working? Are they married? Do they have children? I

would really enjoy reading about their success after the FFA.

After holding such a high office in the FFA and with their leadership abilities, I'm sure they've done well for themselves. The FFA is such a positive, well-rounded and goal-oriented organization, today's members are sure to succeed.

Marcia E. Taylor
Bridgeton, New Jersey



Hey! What happened to FFA New Horizons?

By now you've noticed that *FFA New Horizons* has a whole new look. From the cover to Last Laff, the magazine is bolder. More colorful. And chock full of surprises! Never fear... *FFA New Horizons* will still bring you all the FFA news and views you look forward to every other month. But we've restyled it with new graphics and new articles to better serve readers like you. From what we've already heard about the new design, it's a hit! And we're sure you'll like it too. As always, we welcome your comments, questions or suggestions for future issues.



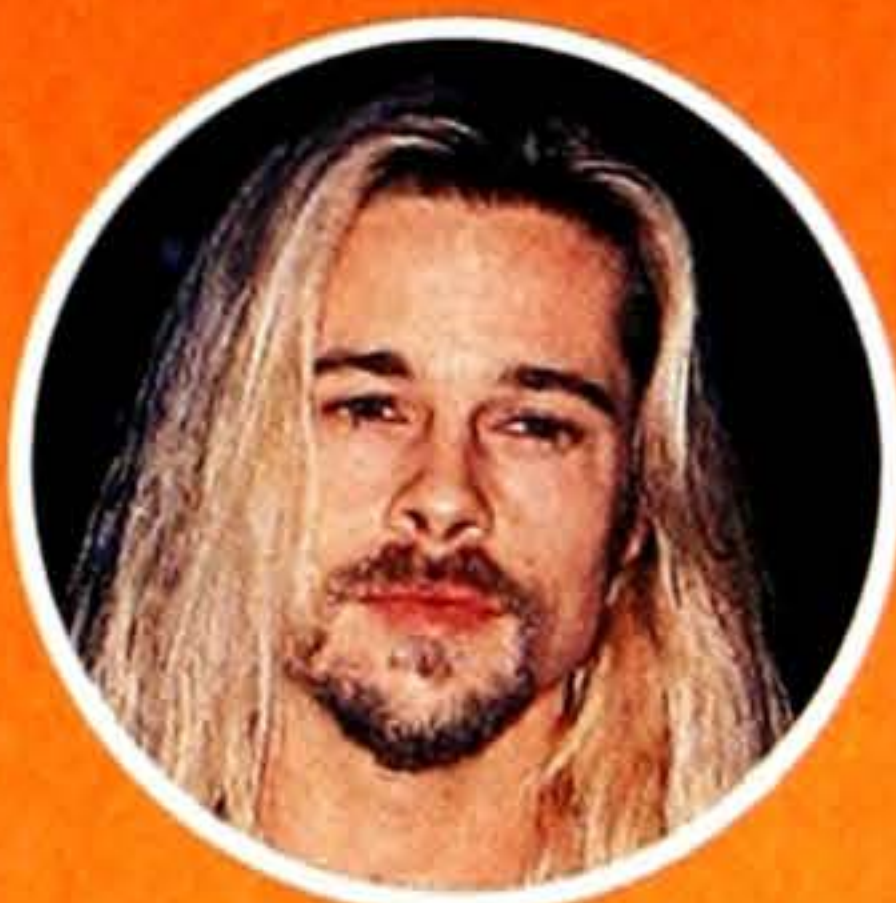
Editor's note: Thanks for the letter! In this issue, you'll find a colorful profile of one national FFA officer who's made good—Congressman Sam Brownback. Brownback served on the national officer team in 1976-77 and today serves the state of Kansas in the U.S. House of Representatives. Look for more articles on national FFA officer alumni in upcoming issues.

If you were at the national FFA convention, you had the chance to tell *FFA New Horizons* everything from your favorite movie to your least likely career choice. And here's what you had to say.

ACTRESS
Meg Ryan



ACTOR
Brad Pitt



TV SHOW
Friends



MUSICIAN OR BAND
George Strait



MOVIE
Legends of the Fall



CAREER CHOICE
Ag Education

THING TO DO
Road trips

BOOK
Reba: My Story

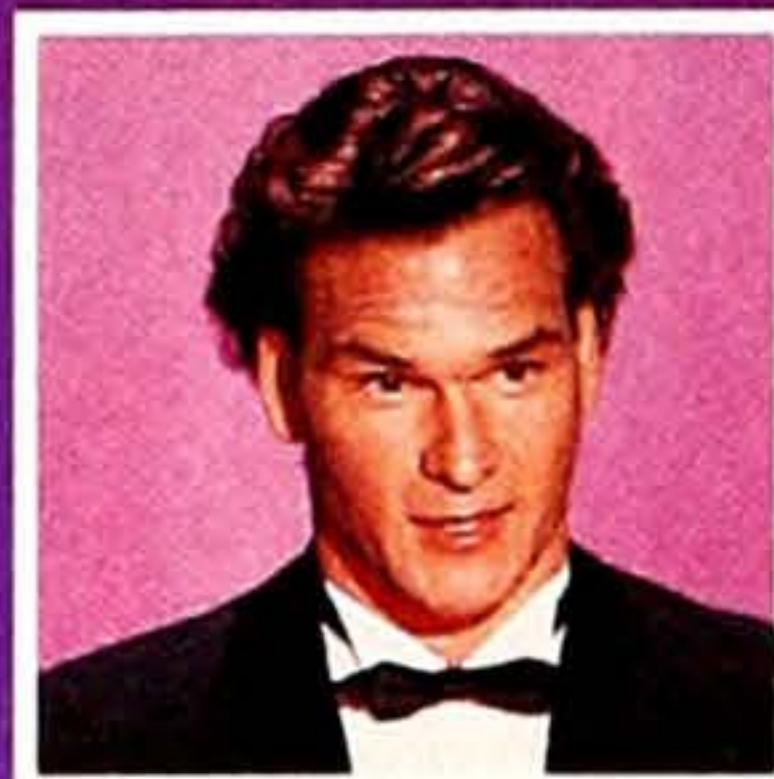
SPORT
Volleyball

CLOTHES
Clunky heels

PLACE TO GO
Branson



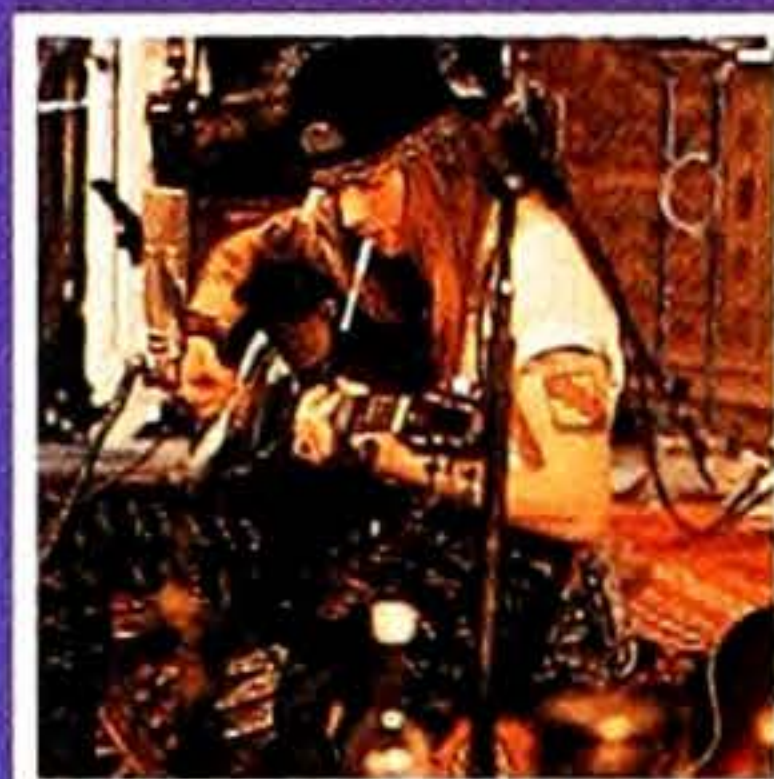
ACTRESS
Madonna



ACTOR
Patrick Swayze



TV SHOW
Beverly Hills 90210



MUSICIAN OR BAND
Guns N' Roses



MOVIE
Powder

CAREER CHOICE
Mortician
THING TO DO
Take out the garbage

BOOK
Tale of Two Cities

SPORT
Dog shows

CLOTHES
Baggy jeans

PLACE TO GO
Nashville

new horizons

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The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff as an equal opportunity employer.

"If everyone could just find out what they care about and go for it"

After what seems like the hundredth bear hug from the overjoyed home state delegates swarming over him on the main stage at Bartle Convention Center in Kansas City, Nebraska Seth Derner, the newly elected 1995-96 FFA national president, is out of breath and practically speechless. "If I could describe how I feel right now, I'd be a journalist."

A few moments later, away from the crushing crowd of well-wishers, 20-year-old Derner, a junior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is able to catch his breath and begin reflecting on

as national president. And he's learned a lot about how to conduct his life from those who've guided him along the way.

One of the biggest influences in Seth's life is Nebraska State Education

enthusiasm to the FFA members he meets during his yearlong journey as national president.

"If everyone could just find out what they care about and go for it, no matter if it's FFA, or if it's school or your family. You have to be proud of it, care about it and really push yourself."

Derner understands the sacrifices the coming year entails—taking a year off school, logging thousands of miles traveling around the country and spending little time at home in the small, close-knit community of Bartlett, Nebraska.

At least one aspect of the coming year will not be all that new to Seth. He's already earned his share of frequent flyer miles traveling internationally on behalf of FFA and his church. Two years ago, Seth was one

of 13 young FFA leaders who traveled to Russia as part of the FFA Russian Leadership Exchange and in the spring of 1995, he traveled to Kenya to do missionary work.

"The trip to Russia really piqued my interest in international travel. I want to really see from different perspectives how the world works," Seth says. "So when I got the chance this spring to do some missionary work in Kenya, I thought here is a chance to learn about myself through a purpose that I really believed in—and to see the world." ★

"I want to really see from different perspectives how the world works."

what the year ahead will mean to him, his family and the FFA.

"We are only four years away from the turn of the century. Now more than ever it's time for us to re-evaluate what the FFA and agricultural education are all about," he says. "We need to create a vision of what this organization is going to be and what it is going to do for students."

Seth brings an understanding of the importance of role models to his new position. He's been a role model himself, first as a Nebraska state FFA officer and now

Director Rich Katt, who so impressed Seth when he worked in Katt's office that Seth switched majors from pre-med to agricultural education.

"It was his enthusiasm, desire to teach students and excitement about life that really influenced me," Seth says. "He showed me how valuable a life you can lead when you achieve your career goals."

Seth hopes to pass along some of Katt's

Hammertime! When not calling FFA meetings to order, national president Seth Derner is pursuing a career as a high school ag teacher.



SOUTH DAKOTA

The VP salutes safety in SD

Everyone knows how important farm safety education is. But really study it and you could end up shaking hands with one of our country's top leaders! At least that's what happened to a handful of safety-smart folks in Hartford, South Dakota who recently got to meet the Vice President of the United States—in person. And in blue jeans!

Seven South Dakotans were recognized by Vice President Al Gore and U.S.

Representative Tim Johnson of South Dakota for Outstanding Achievement in Farm Safety Education. And you bet FFA was there! Included in this select group of safety-conscious leaders were FFA member Kelly Grace, president of the West Central High School FFA Chapter in Hartford, and her West Central FFA advisor Linda Rist.

Melissa Ranschau, Reporter



Vice President Al Gore and South Dakota Congressman Tim Johnson present FFA member Kelly Grace with her farm safety education award.

OHIO

Camp Clay

New friends, new knowledge and a few new mosquito bites rewarded Oregon-Clay FFA Chapter members and advisors who attended a weekend campout for first-year members. Throughout the trip, new FFA members learned about their chapter, agricultural sciences and the FFA organization. They also had the chance to meet Ohio state officers and national FFA secretary Travis Hagen, who offered several inspirational talks around the campfire. "I learned how important teamwork, a good attitude and a positive outlook are," said FFA member Bill Hoeflin about his wilderness experience. The FFA campers intend to hit the trails once again when next summer rolls around.

Jamie Twardzik & Laura Culbertson, Reporters

TEXAS

Barnstorming in El Paso

It was party time for the Ysleta FFA Chapter in El Paso, Texas. After many weeks of hard work by over 150 ag students, teachers and maintenance personnel, the school's new agriscience barn was completed and open for business! The Ysleta FFA

officer team joined high school administrators in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate the new facility and guests were treated to a feast of famous "road-kill" chili, delicious cake and live music by the school's marimba band. The new 5,000 sq. ft. agri-

science barn is used for equipment and hay storage, and as a working/learning facility for area students. Ysleta FFA advisor Steve Forsythe praised chapter members who "gave up their Easter vacation to build this all-purpose facility. It really

took a lot of teamwork and elbow grease to do the job."

The chapter plans to install a walk-in freezer and bathroom facilities in the new barn. "Who knows?" says Forsythe. "We may even hold senior prom in here!"

Ysleta FFA members prepare for the big moment—when the ribbon is cut and the barn is officially opened.



OREGON

Meal on wheels

Hungry cyclists were recently served a hearty breakfast by the Elgin FFA Chapter as they rode through the small town during the Cycle Oregon bicycle event. Chapter members rolled out of bed at 3:00 a.m. to serve food and coffee to the grateful cyclists who had camped overnight in Elgin's football field. Members also set up a beef jerky stand and raffled off a hand-made quilt (donated by the chapter reporter's grandmother) to raise money for their national FFA convention fund.

Amy Howell, Reporter



"You want hash browns with that?" Elgin FFA Chapter members kept crowds moving and stomachs full at the big bicycle breakfast.



Elgin's local football field became a tent city for 2,000 Cycle Oregon participants. Needless to say, football was not played that day!

Cutting classes in Maryland

School fields in Frederick, Maryland were recently turned into test tracks for a group of FFA horticulture students learning the do's and don'ts of driving lawn tractors. In a

three-day program covering safety, trouble-shooting and equipment operation, Frederick FFA members put the pedal to the metal on lawn tractors donated by a local dealership. The program included a written exam, and was highlighted with awards and even a driving contest. Watch out Dale Earnhardt... safety-conscious dare-

devils Devon Talbott and Sandy Newbold took the checkered flag in this event!

Kristy Geisbert, Secretary

Left: Frederick FFA members and advisors traded terrariums for tractors during a three-day driving and safety course.



OHIO

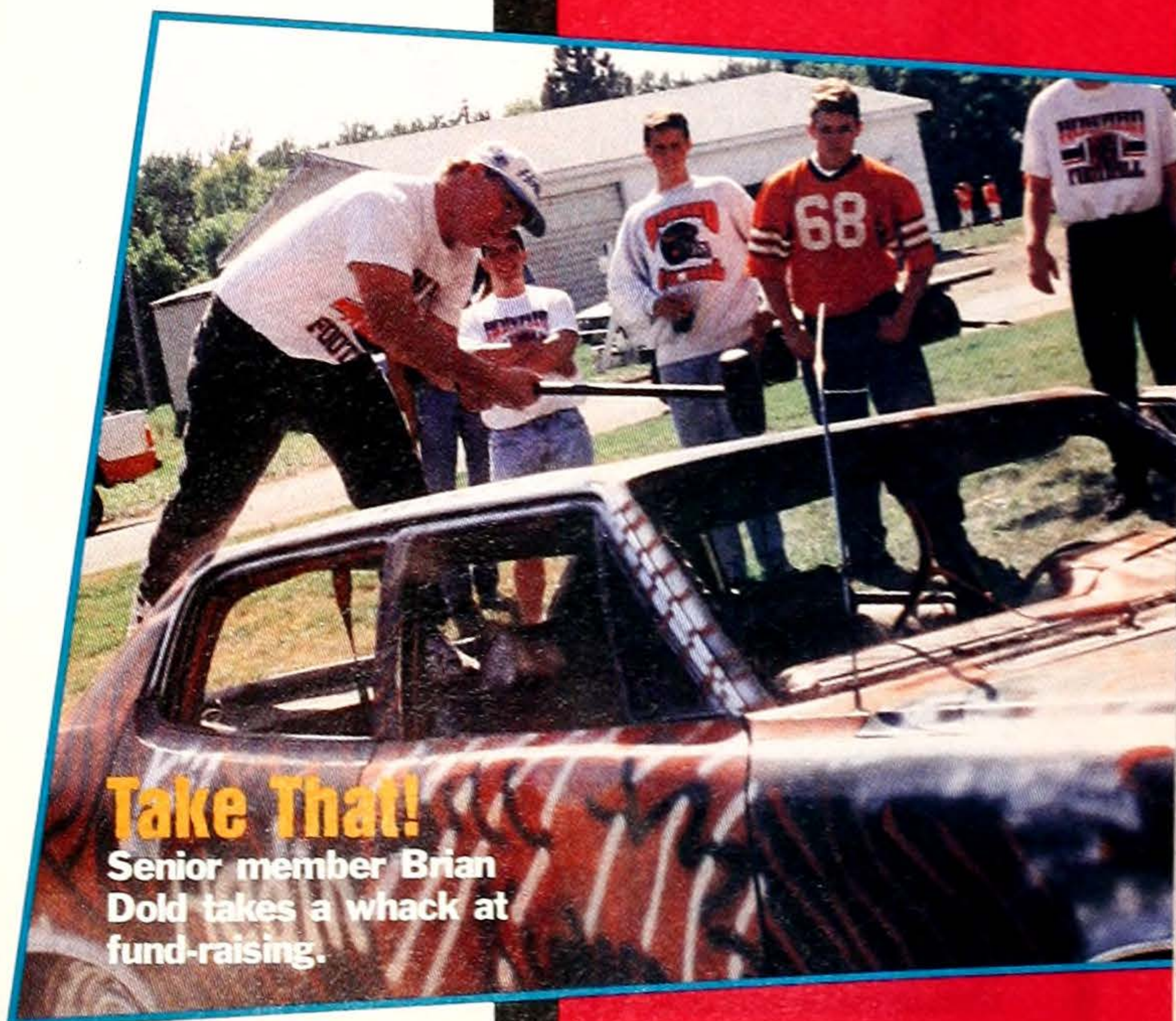
Not your ordinary music stand

Believe it or not, the sound of music sometimes begins with the hum of electric drills and the pounding of hammers! Just ask members of the Evergreen FFA Chapter in Metamora, Ohio. The chapter recently completed its 95-96 BOAC (Building Our American Community) project—building a sparkling new Music Boosters stand at the Fulton County Fairgrounds.

With a grant from the Ohio FFA Association, the Evergreen Chapter set to work tearing down the old stand's framing, screens and three rows of cement blocks. Once the demo-

lition was complete, members re-built the stand. They put up new framing, screening, fans and siding. They painted the stand's walls, ceilings and tables. They even added a new storage area. Then, when all the construction work was done, FFA members donated new chairs as the finishing touch. Thanks to the teamwork and energy of the Evergreen FFA Chapter, the Music Boosters now have a comfortable new home!

Amanda Miller, Reporter



Take That! Senior member Brian Dold takes a whack at fund-raising.

A Smashing Good Time

There was a serious car wreck in Howard, South Dakota recently—and it was no accident! That's because Howard FFA Chapter members used "car-bashing" to raise funds during their high school's busy homecoming weekend.

Members drained the car's oil and water, painted it in the opposing school's colors and started the engine. Students then paid one dollar for three whacks on the auto body with a huge sledgehammer. The person predicting when the car would finally go belly up was awarded a free large pizza. For those preferring silverware to sledgehammers, the chapter also raffled off two \$50 meat bundles.

Emily Reisch, Reporter

SOUTH DAKOTA



OHIO

Meet a cheerleader leader

Talk about team spirit! Tara Setser is not only the secretary of her FFA chapter in Edgewood, Ohio, she's also a member of Edgewood High School's varsity cheerleading squad. What's more, Tara's energetic personality and the leadership skills she's gained through FFA earned her a spot marching with the United Cheerleaders of America (UCA) in last November's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City! This summer, Tara will put her FFA leadership skills to the test as an instructor at the UCA's national summer camp. ★

Nominated by Laura Dengler,
Edgewood FFA reporter

OKLAHOMA

Stingers in the saddle

Around their hometown, FFA members Billy Joe and Benny Barnes are known as the "Killer B's" for their killer instincts as reigning Oklahoma High School Rodeo Association Team Roping Champions. The Barnes brothers—19-year-old Billy Joe and 17-year-old Benny—outscored the second place team by 125 points to round up their first state championship. Their cowboy skills and old-fashioned teamwork earned them a pair of saddles and buckles, as well as the chance to rep-



Billy Joe (left) and Benny Barnes are awarded their winning saddles and buckles by father Lynn, OHSRA president.

resent Oklahoma at the National Finals. When not competing, Billy Joe served as FFA chapter reporter and received the State Farmer Degree.

Benny is also an active FFA member in the Duke Chapter. ★

Nominated by Brandi C.
Smith, president, Duke FFA

KENTUCKY



An MVP for all seasons

Misty Lemay Hager's trophy case runneth over. Already filled with awards and accolades won on softball diamonds across the state, this college freshman now has to decide where to put the Outstanding FFA Member and Outstanding Leadership awards presented to her last year by fellow Jessamine County FFA Chapter members. On the softball diamond, Misty's pure athletic ability is enough to win her plenty of awards. From a full softball scholarship to Campbellsville College to a fourth place finish in the Youth World Series to a state championship title, she's already collected more trophies than some professionals. She was even a contender for the "Miss Softball" title! But it's her leadership and ability to motivate off the field that make Misty a real FFA Star. According to Jessamine County FFA secretary Kathy Jo Humphrey, "Not only does (Misty) encourage you, but she is very dependable... and works hard to ensure that everyone knows there's room for them in all that we do. She always wants smiles on everyone's faces." ★

Nominated by Kathy Jo
Humphrey, secretary,
Jessamine County FFA



valentines

By Brenda Wilhelmson

Stuck in a card-flowers-candy rut?

Maybe it's time for a new way to **score** big-time points with your sweetie

Typically, guys give and girls receive on Valentine's Day. But gift giving hasn't always been so one-sided. Today, everyone should feel free to indulge their sweetie.

Valentine's Day has a rough and tumble history that includes everything from ancient pagan feasts to the beheading of a guy named Valentine.

According to some accounts, the holiday dates back to the ancient Romans, who threw a feast on February 15 called Lupercalia (Loo'per kay'lea) in honor of the pastoral god Lupercus, and as part of it, young people declared their love and partnered up for the next 12 months. When the Roman empire became Christian, worship of pagan gods stopped, but the young people didn't stop pairing up.

Anyone can go out and buy a card and a box of candy. To make someone feel special and adored, try the personal touch.

The annual ritual eventually became St. Valentine's Day in honor of a Roman priest who had been beaten with clubs and beheaded about 270 A.D. on February 14. (Some say Valentine was killed for marrying people after Claudius II outlawed this practice because he believed marriage weakened his soldiers.)

In England, the source of our modern observance of the day, two people who were "valentines" would exchange presents. Later, only the

guys gave gifts—and some of them just tossed pieces of fruit with anonymous valentines through mail slots and open windows, then ran away.

Today, the standard valentine's gifts are flowers and chocolates. But if you really want to win points, creativity and thoughtfulness count—big time!

If you want to go the jewelry route, it doesn't need to be expensive, just carefully considered. If you've already got a special bond with someone, try matching rings, bracelets or unusual pendants that, apart, are two halves to a whole.

Invite your sweetheart over for a dinner you will cook—and see if your parents will steer clear of the dining room for an hour or so.

Do you have access to a greenhouse? Plan to cultivate a rose bush or two for next year. Giving flowers you've nurtured is an excellent way to gain confidence, as well as the respect and affection of the one receiving the flowers you've grown. Who knows, maybe the experience of cultivating flowers will give you an idea for a career in horticulture. Check with area vocational schools, greenhouses and flower shops for opportunities to learn the business from the ground up.

And remember, there are lots of thoughtful ways to show someone they're special—and if you play it right, you'll reap what you sow! ♥

WHAT THEY MEAN

If you want to say it with flowers, you can say a lot. But if you want the receiver to get the right message, consider including a note.

- ♥ **AMBROSIA** - I love you too.
- ♥ **BOUQUET OF WITHERED FLOWERS** - Rejected love.
- ♥ **CARNATION (PINK)** - Longing for you.
- ♥ **CARNATION (RED)** - You're a flame in my heart.
- ♥ **CARNATION (PURPLE)** - Capriciousness
- ♥ **CARNATION (STRIPED)** - No, I can't be with you.
- ♥ **CARNATION (WHITE)** - Sweet and lovely, innocence, pure love.
- ♥ **CARNATION (YELLOW)** - You have disappointed me, rejection.
- ♥ **DAFFODIL** - Unrequited love, you're the only one.
- ♥ **DAISY** - Innocence, loyal love, I'll never tell.
- ♥ **GARDENIA** - You're lovely, secret love.
- ♥ **HEATHER (WHITE)** - Protection, wishes will come true.
- ♥ **JONQUIL** - Love me, return my affection.
- ♥ **MARIGOLD** - Cruelty, grief, jealousy.
- ♥ **ORCHID** - Love, beauty, refinement.
- ♥ **PRIMROSE** - I can't live without you.
- ♥ **ROSE (PINK)** - Perfect happiness, please believe me.
- ♥ **ROSE (RED)** - I love you.
- ♥ **ROSE (THORNLESS)** - Love at first sight.
- ♥ **ROSE (WHITE)** - Innocence and purity, I am worthy of you.
- ♥ **ROSE (WHITE-WITHERED)** - You made no impression.
- ♥ **ROSE (YELLOW)** - I love you less, jealousy, try to care.
- ♥ **TULIP (RED)** - Believe me, I love you.
- ♥ **VIOLET (BLUE)** - Watchfulness, faithfulness, I'll always be true.

Risky business

**Are you a self-starter? Enjoy a good challenge?
If so, you may be a born entrepreneur.**

Bill Gates, Mrs. Fields and Ben & Jerry all have something in common. They're all ordinary people who took an idea, added lots of hard work and ended up self-made zillionaires. Rather than climb the ladder at a big corporation or inherit the family farm, these risk-takers blazed their own trails in the business world and eventually changed the way we run computers, eat cookies and gobble up ice cream.

"Anyone can be a success as long as they are willing to work hard, to accept responsibility and

to sacrifice," says Chad Reinhart of the Normal Community High School FFA Chapter in Normal, Illinois. And he should know! A landscaping entrepreneur, Chad was an American Star in Agribusiness finalist at the 68th national FFA convention.

Do you have what it takes to be the next great American entrepreneur? According to Sarah Riehm in *The Teenage Entrepreneur's Guide*, there are a few questions which may help you decide for yourself.

quickquiz

do you have what it takes to be an entrepreneur?

1. Do you set long-term goals (longer than six months) and work hard to complete them?
☐ YES ☐ NO
2. Do you work well by yourself?
☐ YES ☐ NO
3. Are you good at earning and saving money?
☐ YES ☐ NO
4. Do you consider yourself a natural leader?
☐ YES ☐ NO
5. Do you keep your school and/or personal records well-organized?
☐ YES ☐ NO
6. Are you creative? Are you an idea-generator?
☐ YES ☐ NO
7. Are you competitive? Is winning important to you?
☐ YES ☐ NO
8. If you currently have a job, are you dissatisfied with the way things are run?
☐ YES ☐ NO
9. Do you possess a high degree of self-confidence?
☐ YES ☐ NO
10. Do you have a set of financial goals?
☐ YES ☐ NO

Taking the plunge

If you answered YES to seven or more questions, starting and running your own business might just be for you. Here's why:

1. Entrepreneurs may thrive on raw energy and enthusiasm, but it's discipline and dedication that are the true key to success. After all, if you can't follow through and complete a project, your customers won't be around for long.

2. Starting your own business means being your own boss and that means developing plans and making tough decisions without help from anybody else.

3. Understanding the basics of money management is essential for any entrepreneur. If saving and investing your own money is something you excel at, then managing the finances of a small business should be second-nature.

4. In addition to shrewd financial management skills, entrepreneurs must possess strong leadership abilities. Self-confidence, an influential personality and the ability to sell to and counsel others are key traits for the entrepreneur.

5. Tracking schedules, returning customer calls and calculating expenditures and profits is all in a day's work. That's why entrepreneurs must be detail-oriented and well-organized. And they must be able to wear a number of different hats.

6. Every successful business begins with a good idea. If you're the type of person who often asks "What if...?", you probably have the creativity needed to dream up money-making plans and make them work.

7. Today's entrepreneurs face stiff competition in the marketplace each and every day. You must be willing to tell your customers and prospects what separates you from other businesses in the same field.

8. Most entrepreneurs strike out on their own because they believe their ideas are simply better than what they see at their workplace. If you currently have a job where you're always asking your boss, "Why don't we try doing it this way?", you may be an entrepreneur in the making.

9. Running a business is a constant process of persuasion and negotiation. To be successful, you must believe in yourself and in your business goals.

10. Sure, you want to spend your money on movies or clothes. But if you can set your financial goals a bit higher—like financing a college education or building a million dollar business—you're on your way to becoming a successful entrepreneur.

As Alaskan entrepreneur Mark Overly noted of his \$4.2 million business, Kaladi Brothers Coffee Co., "People who focus on the quality of their businesses as opposed to just making money are the ones who survive." ■

Want to know more?

Here are a few resources to help put you in business:

- Riehm, Sarah, *The Teenage Entrepreneur's Guide* (Surrey Books, 1987)
- Kawasaki, Guy, *Selling The Dream* (Harper Business, 1991)
- Inc. magazine (800) 234-0999, 18 issues \$12.
- U.S. Small Business Administration Answer Desk: (800)-8-ASK-SBA
- On the World Wide Web: BIG DREAMS
<http://www.wimsey.com/~duncans>

It seems only fitting that, when asked how he learned the seed processing business, entrepreneur Wade Kallevig replies simply, "From the ground up..."

Today, at the ripe old age of 21, Wade's seed processing career is in full bloom. The Willmar, Minnesota-based businessman processes more than 5 million pounds of soybeans annually and he was recently named the American Star in Agribusiness at the 68th national FFA convention in Kansas City.

Wade's meteoric success stems from hard work, business savvy and boundless energy. And unlike many aspiring agriculturists, he did not step into an existing family business. Rather, Wade created his own. He

business, Wade has also managed to expand his original farming enterprise with 25 new acres, a new tractor and a solid investment in Minnesota Corn Processors, an ethanol and corn sweetener cooperative.

So how does Wade do all this? Simple. He never stops learning. Raising certified seed teaches him the growing end of the business. Planning his own expansions and operating his facilities gives him good industry exposure. Working with both individual customers and large corporations helps develop excellent sales skills. Accurate record keeping gives him a firm handle on where his business is going. And hiring and managing employees brings him a wealth of human resources experience.

by Michael Speck

full seed ahead

How one young entrepreneur turned a few acres of soybeans into big agribusiness

began growing soybeans on a 7.5 acre field when he was a freshman in high school. During his sophomore year, Wade increased to over 43 acres, bought a tractor and rented a retired neighbor's grain cleaner. Eventually, he purchased the cleaner and moved it to his own farm where he recently constructed a state-of-the-art processing plant and warehouse.

The young Minnesotan now counts ICI Seeds, a division of Zeneca, Inc.; Central Land O' Lakes Seeds; and Minnesota Public Seeds among his largest clients. In addition, Wade has entered a new venture with Access Marketing Inc. for production and processing of food-grade soybeans for export markets—particularly Japan. In the midst of his seed processing

Participation also plays a key role. Wade has always been a leader in his Willmar FFA Chapter and he encourages entrepreneurial FFA members across the country to do the same. "Stay active in your chapter and participate in all leadership activities, from judging contests to parliamentary procedure competitions," advises Wade. "Take advantage of the opportunities available through FFA!"

You could become the next American Star in Agribusiness. Or at least build your own business empire trying. ■



Wade's Minnesota Public Seed signs show potential customers that he grows only certified seed.



These 50 pound seed bags are just one size Wade processes. He also delivers bulk shipments in 2,000 and 2,400 pound bags.



Maintaining high seed quality is one way Wade assures the future growth of his business.



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There are plenty of reasons why you need to step up to Oster. From shearing sheep to fitting cattle, the industry's most powerful line of professional shearing and clipping products does it all. Each of our five proven performers is quality-built, heavy-duty and American-made. And each is available in a tough, new tool box case with a removable storage tray. And it's attractively packaged for extra merchandising power and profitability. All from Oster, the world leader in professional animal clippers.

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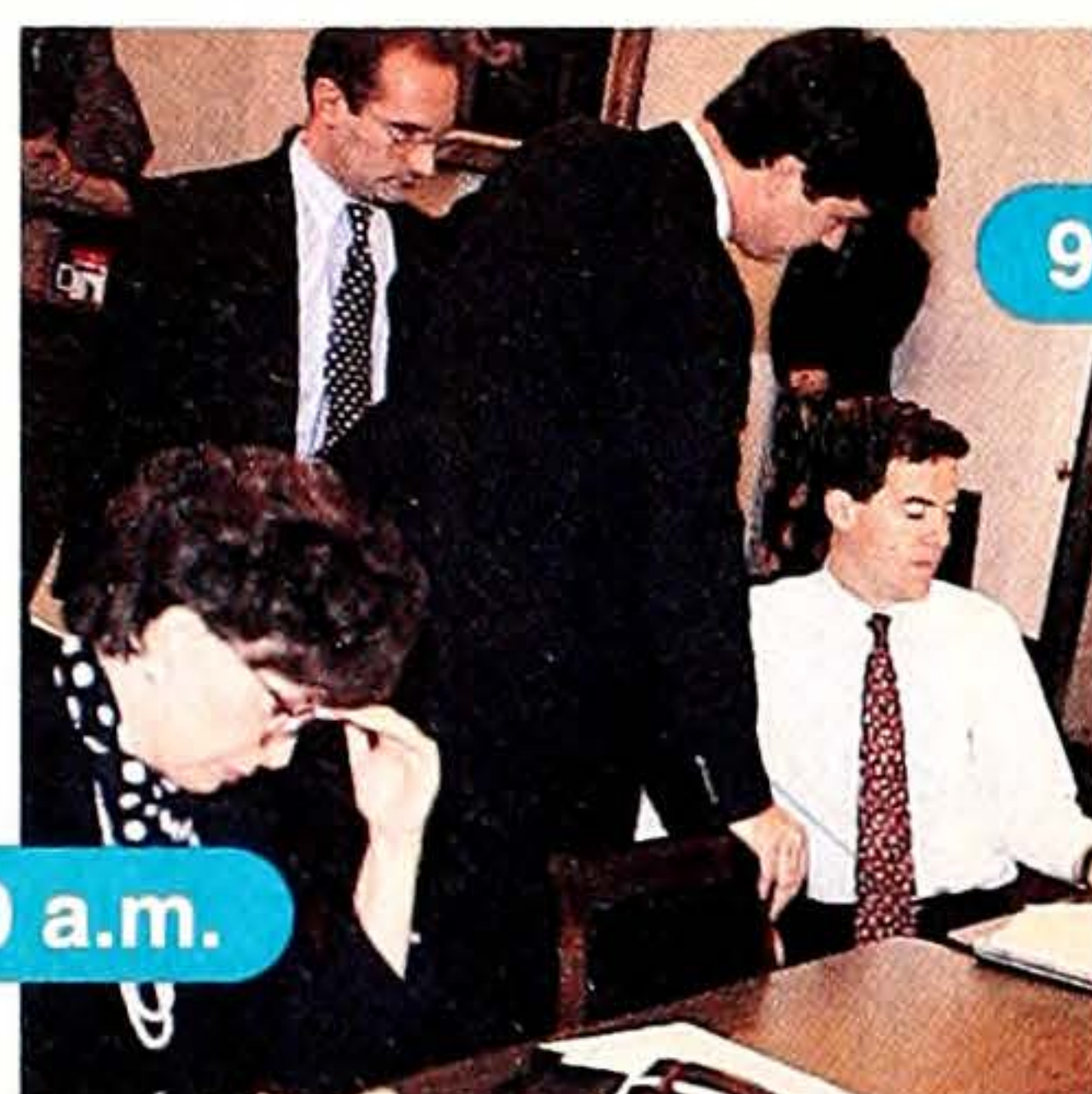
by Carlotta Mast

U.S. Rep. Sam Brownback
is using the skills and
lessons he learned from
his years in FFA to make
his mark on Congress as
well as the country

He's *only* a freshman. He still gets lost in the halls, looks younger than most of his peers and sometimes even loses track of his schedule. Yet despite his "rookie" status, U.S. Rep. Sam Brownback is proving himself a leader among leaders on Capitol Hill.

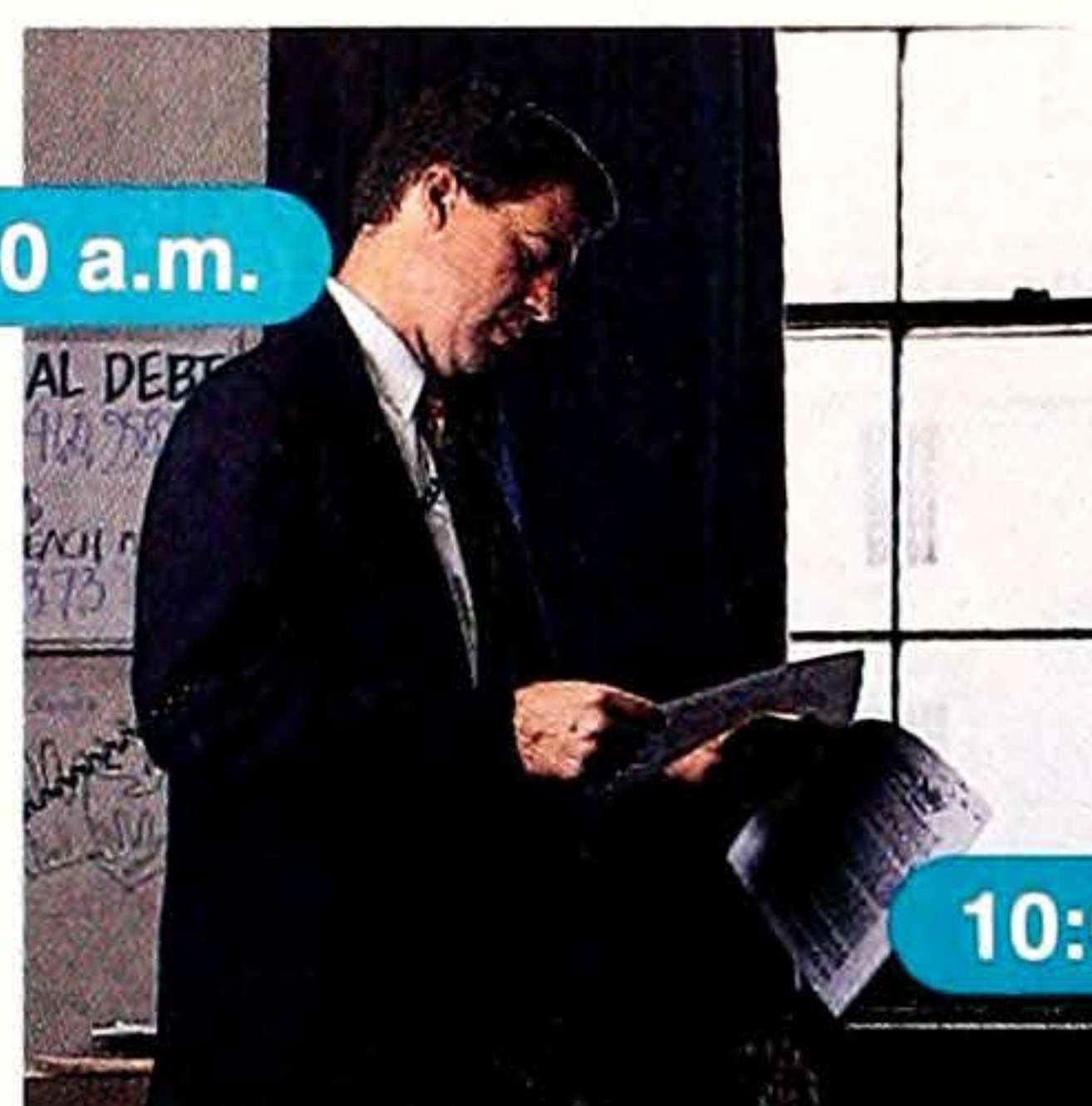
A 1976-1977 national FFA officer, Brownback credits much of his political as well as personal success to the organization. His involvement in the Prairie View FFA Chapter in Kansas showed him the formal structure of acquiring leadership and public speaking skills, taught him the importance of setting and achieving goals, and demonstrated the value of hard work, honesty, trustworthiness and "simple everyday kindness to your neighbor," says the 39-year-old Republican.

(continued)



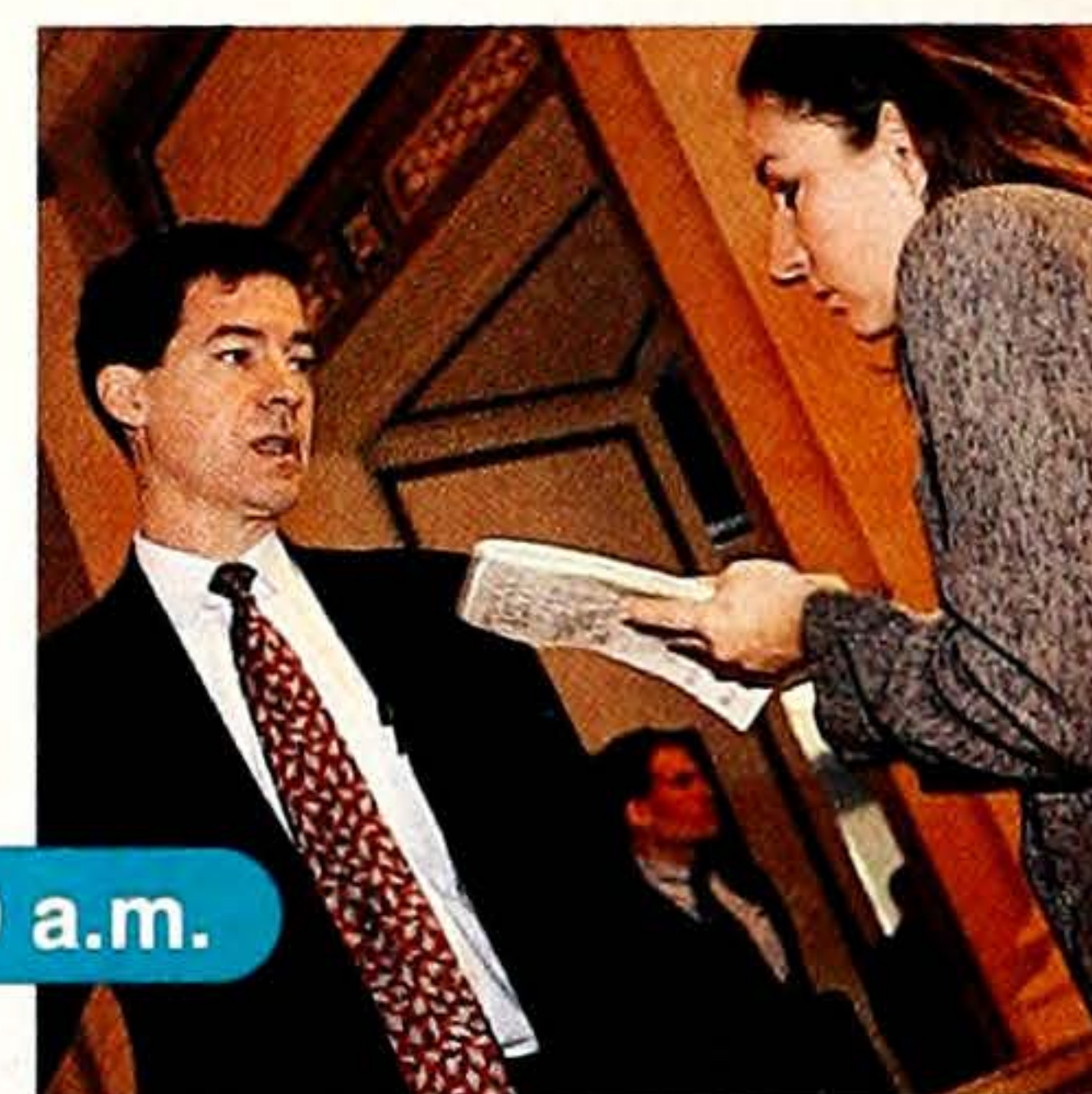
8:30 a.m.

Brownback talks with other Congress members about the temporary debt ceiling prior to calling his New Federalist meeting into session.



9:30 a.m.

Working to cut the size of government, Brownback calls a senator to discuss the benefits of eliminating the Department of Commerce.



10:00 a.m.

A Boston Globe reporter steals a moment of Brownback's time to ask him a few questions about his position on the budget bill.

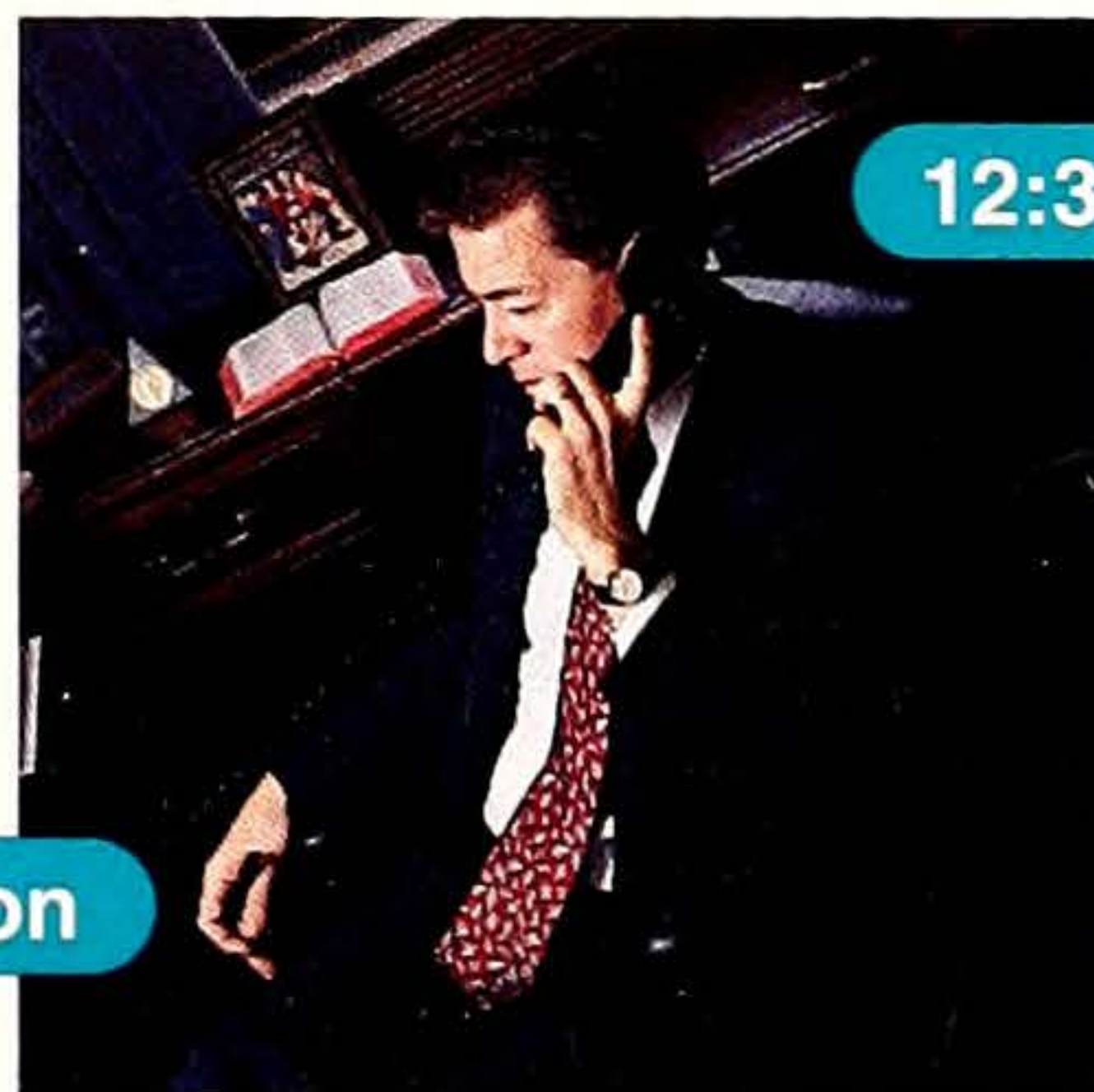
photos by Adam Auel



11:30 a.m.



noon



12:30 p.m.



1:30 p.m.



Finally able to sit down, Brownback listens to testimony on U.S. export policies during an economic trade hearing on the Hill.

Brownback takes a quick break from the whirlwind of politics to make his daily call to his wife, Mary, in Topeka, Kansas.

The Congressman describes what life is like on Capitol Hill to a family from Hiawatha, Kansas, on vacation in Washington, D.C.

Brownback's press secretary Jackie McClaskey updates the Congressman on the voting results for a critical bill before Congress.

“There’s a **proverb** that tells you to state your position and then stay there, even if it hurts. You **must** be willing to stand by what you are committed to doing.”

“I would not be in Congress if it wasn’t for the FFA. It developed my interest in politics, gave me a better understanding of government procedures and an enthusiasm for service.

“The leadership skills I developed and the values that were enhanced during my FFA years have provided concrete results in my life.”

One day with the freshman from Topeka, Kansas, reveals that Brownback is certainly using his leadership skills as well as the lessons he learned in FFA to get results in Congress. Founder and leader of the New Federalists, a group of 30-plus conservative freshman and sophomores who are working to whittle down the size of the federal government, Brownback is already considered a congressional powerhouse in the fight to get the national budget balanced in seven years.

“I came here to do a job,” he says.

“If I can’t get it done, the voters ought to send me home.”

One **Busy** Guy

Working to get that job done makes for one busy Congressman, as anyone who spends much time with Brownback will attest to. Much of Brownback’s day, which usually begins at 7 a.m. and ends sometime in the evening, is spent jetting from one meeting or hearing to the next or making calls to muster support for bills he is trying to push through Congress. Talking with the press and meeting with his staff members are crammed into his schedule, too.

Often, Brownback will have two or three congressional hearings scheduled at one time. For him to attend them all, he will have to spend a few minutes in one, wait to make comments or ask a couple questions, and then rush off to make the next one. Brownback has so many meetings and events going throughout the day, he must rely on a hand-size itinerary to navigate him through his jam-packed agenda.

The one thing not laid out in Brownback’s schedule is voting. When the voting bell rings throughout the Hill, Brownback and the other Congress members have 15 minutes to

drop what they are doing to cast their votes. Because so many bills pass before Congress at one time, Brownback must be knowledgeable of the details of each to know how to vote. So whenever Brownback’s staff members can grasp a spare moment of their boss’ time, they chase him down in the halls or pile into his small private office to fill him in on the details of current issues or on the status of bills he’s trying to get before the president.

Amazingly, despite this whirlwind of congressional chaos, Brownback still finds time to celebrate one year in office with his staff, meet with constituents visiting from Kansas who want to meet their U.S. representative and call his wife, Mary, and three children at home.

A **Clear** Mission

While it may seem like Brownback’s biggest challenge as a representative is simply making it through his hectic schedule alive, he says his most difficult task as a Congressman is living by the values he believes are important to the country.

“It’s one thing to talk about values and another to live by them,” he says. “FFA gave me a strong sense of the spiritual side of things. This is critical in dealing with issues that involve a lot of people.”

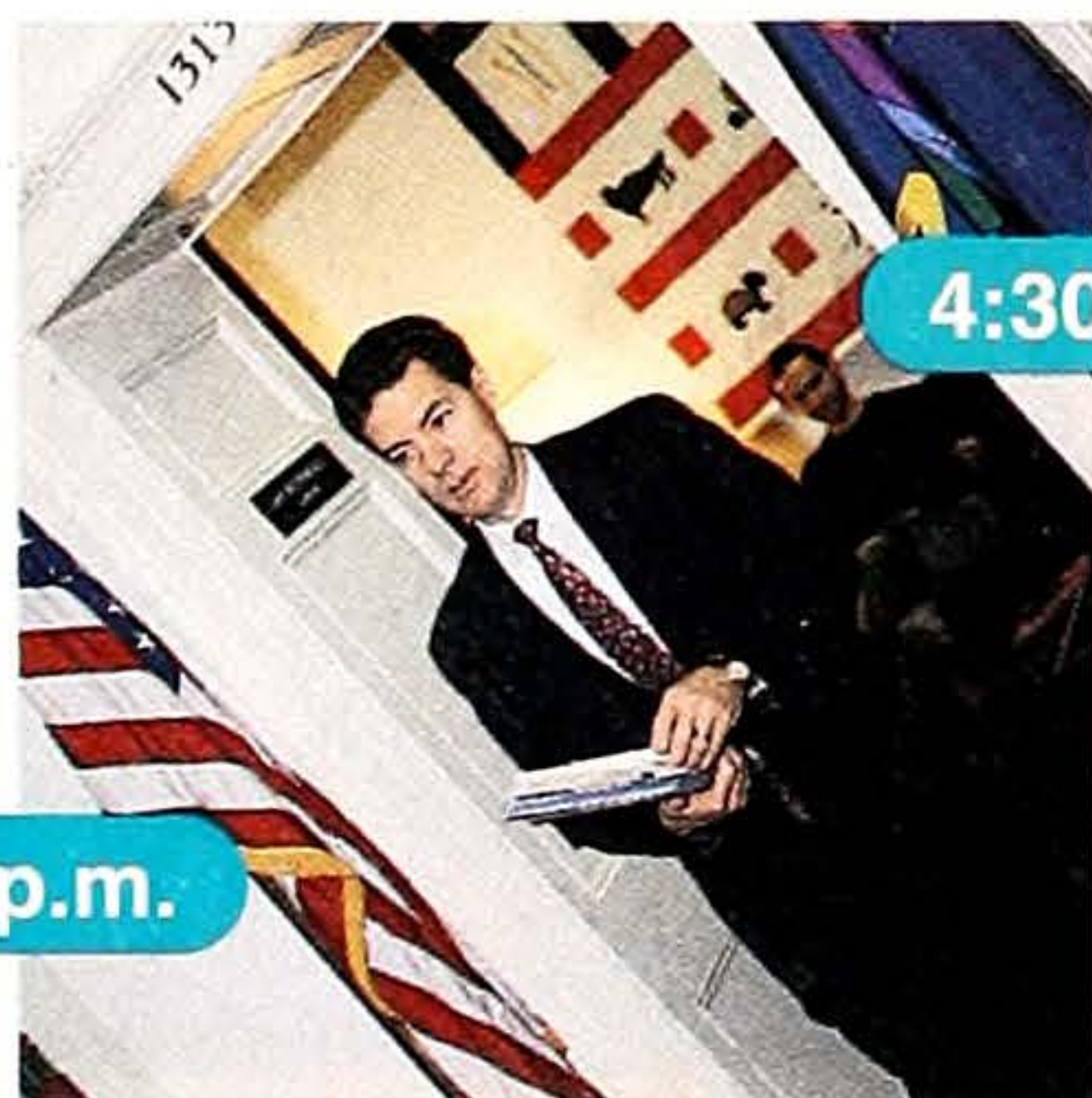
To demonstrate that he is serious about reducing the size of the federal government, Brownback has returned 10 percent of his congressional salary and slashed the size of his office staff.

“You have to be willing to take a stand,” he says. “There’s a proverb that tells you to state your position and then stay there, even if it hurts. You must be willing to stand by what you are committed to doing.” ■

2:30 p.m.



3:30 p.m.



4:30 p.m.

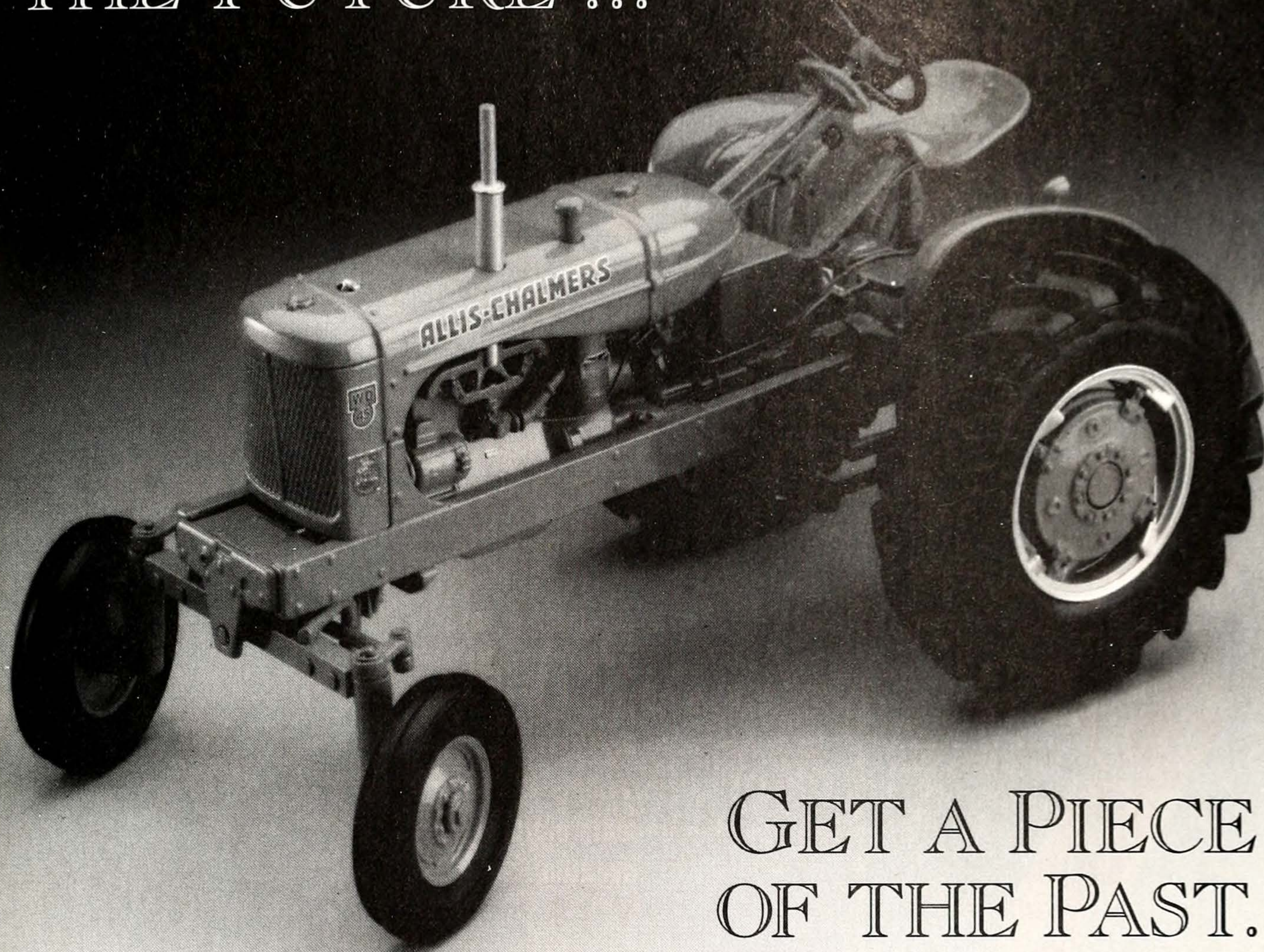


Brownback offers his opinion on the effects of railroad consolidation on American farmers during a small business hearing.

Racing against the clock, Brownback rushes out of his Longworth office to cast his vote after the voting bell rings throughout the halls.

Still trying to muster congressional backing for the temporary debt ceiling, the Congressman is once again on the telephone.

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The future of agriculture is in your hands. The past can be too. For a donation of \$150.00 or more to the National FFA Foundation, you can ensure a bright future for tomorrow's agricultural leaders and own a replica of a tractor that was a leader in its time.

To honor 50 years of AGCO support for the FFA, we're offering a limited edition, 1/16 scale, die-cast replica of the Allis-Chalmers WD-45.

You won't believe the detail – from the distributor cap and oil filter to the clutch pedal and steerable, mounted front axle. And it proudly displays the commemorative inscription and decal to set it apart from general production models.

Invest in the future and get a piece of the past. But hurry – this is a one-time offer, limited to 1,500 tractors.

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

ORDER FORM FOR FFA LIMITED EDITION ALLIS-CHALMERS WD-45

(Must be street address, not P.O. Box; Sent UPS unless absolutely unavoidable.)

ORDERED BY:

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____

SHIP TO:

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send check payable to: The National FFA Foundation
P.O. Box 45205, Madison, WI 53744. Payment processed upon receipt.



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

Production will be limited to 1500 tractors. Fax (608) 829-3195

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

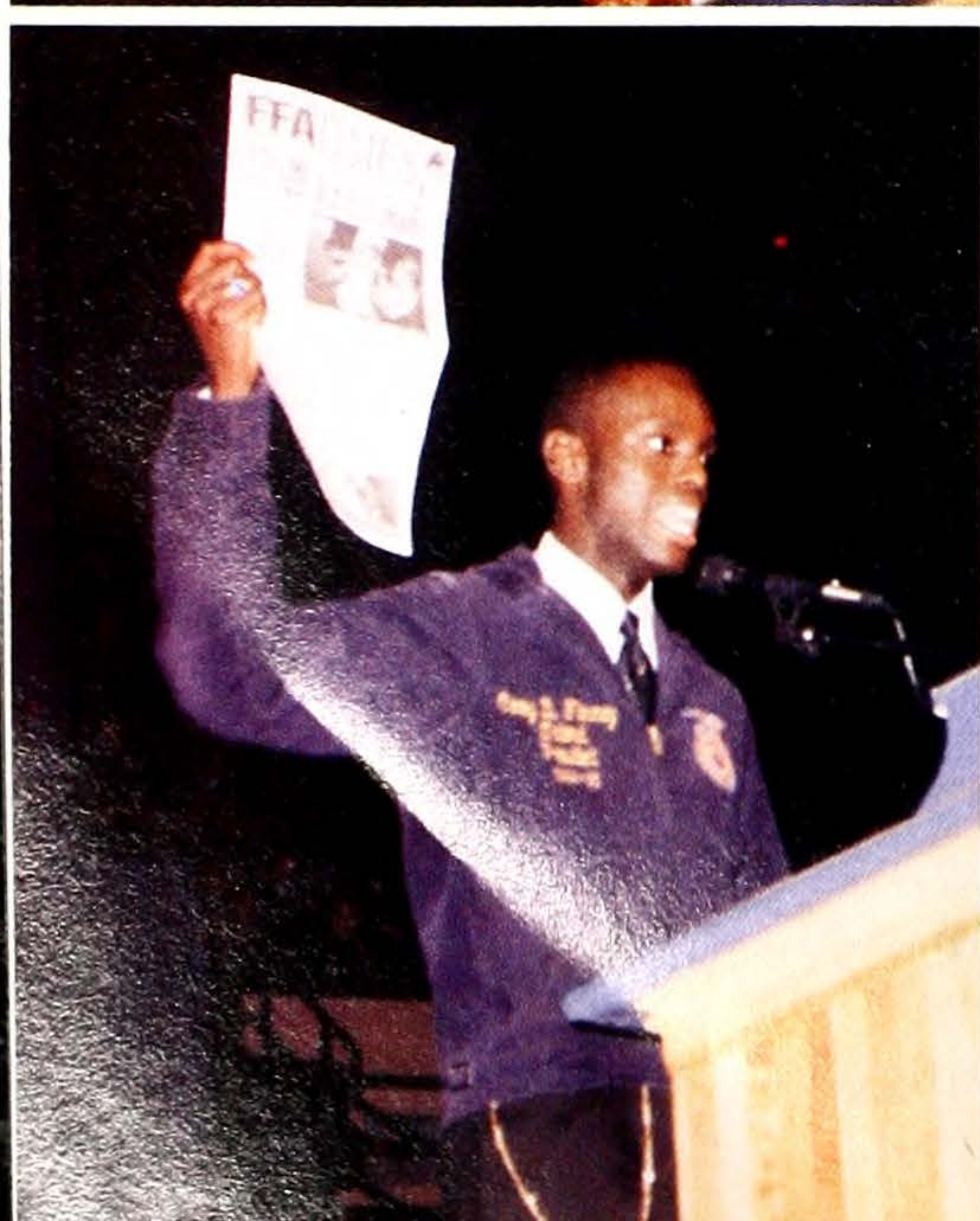


David Toma



Secretary of Agriculture Glickman

For four days in November, Kansas City's Bartle Hall was a blue and gold canvas of laser lights, power claps and inspiration. Where record-breaking attendance and world-class speakers converged in the organization's premier event—the 68th national FFA convention.



**Goooooooooooood
Mooooooooooooorning
FFA!"**

As national FFA president Corey Flournoy's daily greeting echoed throughout the Bartle auditorium, there was little doubt that the 68th national FFA convention would shatter everyone's wildest expectations. Laser lights pierced the darkened auditorium and blanketed the capacity crowd with colorful bursts. Thunderous power claps echoed

MASTERPIECE

from the main floor and reverberated back from the balconies. A dizzying barrage of video images flickered from a giant cinema screen. And the stage was set for another high-energy session of "Leadership for a Lifetime."

"When you see those laser shows come on, and everyone starts screaming, it makes you start screaming too!"

exclaimed April Rozell, an FFA member from the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences.

by Michael Speck

Walking on the moon

"Believe in yourselves, take positive risks and dream high," was how Corey and his fellow national officers explained the convention's theme to 37,006 attendees who streamed into Kansas City's convention center from across the country. But the national officer team did more than simply explain "Leadership for a Lifetime", they put it into action in the show's Reflections. In a high-tech skit complete with life-size landing module and anti-gravity suits, national officers Travis Hagen, Jennafer Neufeld and Lee Schroeder enacted a harrowing adventure on the moon's surface demonstrating the importance of teamwork and self-confidence. "The Reflections was really cool. It was definitely worth flying in early for!" said Nash Roberts of Utah's Emery FFA Chapter.

A roll call of role models

Once the moon dust was cleaned up, the main stage was turned over to a

handful of today's most respected speakers. From political figures like Senator Richard Lugar and Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman, to profiles in courage like Olympic gold medalist Diana Golden and former New York City cop David Toma, FFA members were given an up-close look at today's real-life leaders.

Miss America Shawntel Smith was one of the speakers who reflected the convention's ideals. When asked what she thought about the FFA audience, Miss America replied, "This is an enthusiastic and motivated group of young people that are truly going to make their career goals become reality because of the dedication and leadership skills they have learned through FFA." Miss America spoke at length about the national School to Work program designed to apply academics to an increasingly technological workplace. Since 80 percent of FFA members go beyond a high school education, she was clearly speaking to the right audience!

Other speakers included Fred McClure, former national FFA officer and Bush Administration official; humorist Jeanne Robertson; and motivational speaker John Alston.

Food for thought

Outside the glow of auditorium spotlights, the national FFA convention offered opportunities around every corner. In the Music Hall, finalists competed in national career development events like parliamentary procedure, extemporaneous public speaking and agriscience student recognition. A busy food court and shopping mall kept FFA stomachs and souvenir bags equally full. In fact, the shopping mall was expected to sell over \$640,000 worth of FFA-related merchandise in just three days! In addition, the convention's expanded career show gave FFA members a chance to check out some of the agricultural industry's hottest products as well as explore a host of top technical schools and universities throughout the country. Nearly 300 exhibitors participated in this event. According to Louisiana State University's Shannon Martin, "Visitors to our booth want to know how we stack up against other ag schools, but they're also interested in extracurricular activities like our livestock judging teams."

FFA Delegate Albert Cassell of Pennsylvania was one of the students interested in exploring the career show's many opportunities. "I've

HUNTING DRAGONS IN BARTLE HALL

Student Leadership Workshops challenge members to excel

From winning presentations to knock 'em dead job interviews, the Student Leadership Workshops were the ideal setting to sharpen communications skills and learn how to persuade and motivate others. Conducted by past national officers, the workshops allowed the presenters to get up close and personal with their audience as they exchanged valuable leadership ideas and practical career advice. "I liked the workshops because they helped me learn how to be a better speaker," said Danielle Notah of New Mexico's

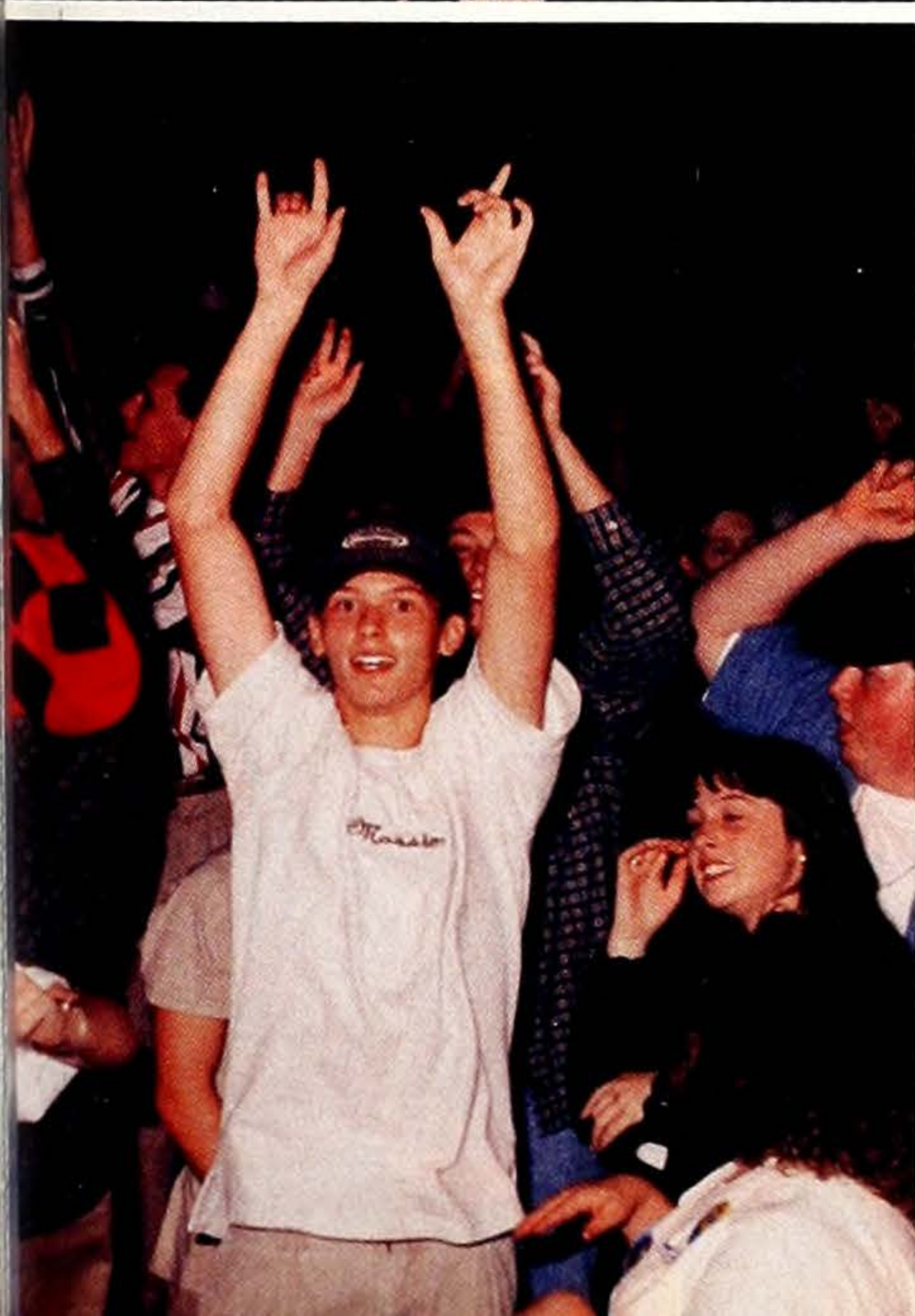
Tohatchi FFA Chapter. "And I have to give a speech at our upcoming state convention." But even if participants didn't have a looming speaking engagement, each session had something for everyone. In one, entitled "Could it be Camelot?", past national officer Liam Brody encouraged knightly participants to wave swords, hold up signs and cheer wildly as they learned about teamwork, decision making and even dragon-hunting. Everyone involved agreed it was a great way to test their limits. Except, perhaps, the dragon.





**"Fear is the only thing that stands
between you and your dreams."**

Diana Golden
U.S. Olympic Gold Medal Skier



STARS OVER AMERICA



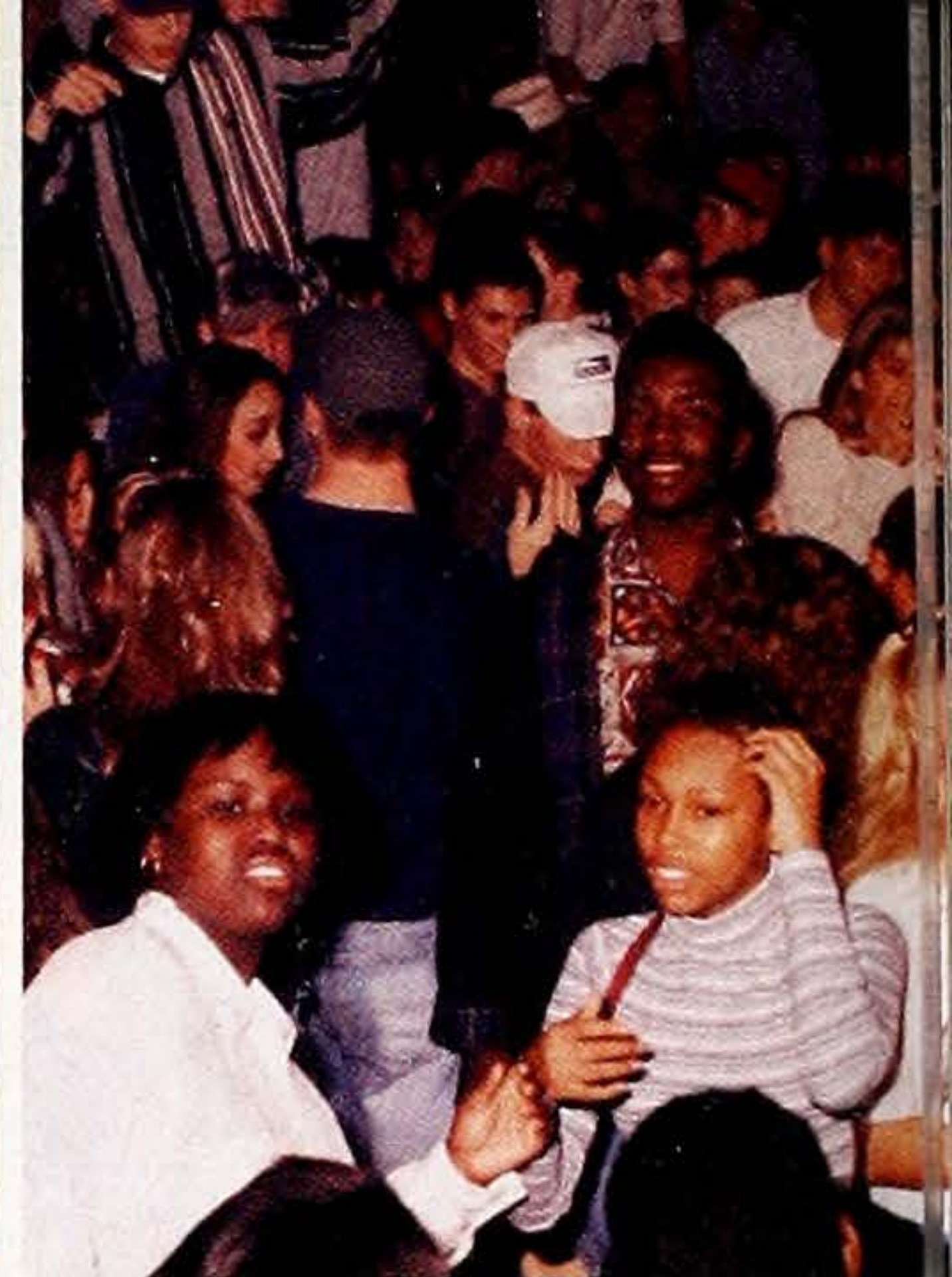
Randy Petroskus, American Star Farmer (left)
and Wade Kallevig, American Star in Agribusiness





**"We have to run 60 laps
for missing P.E. class
when we get back. But it's
worth it to be here!"**

**Piper Roesener
& Sandi Ninemire
Hardesty, OK**



**"I didn't know
what to expect,
but the sheer size
of this convention
is incredible!"**

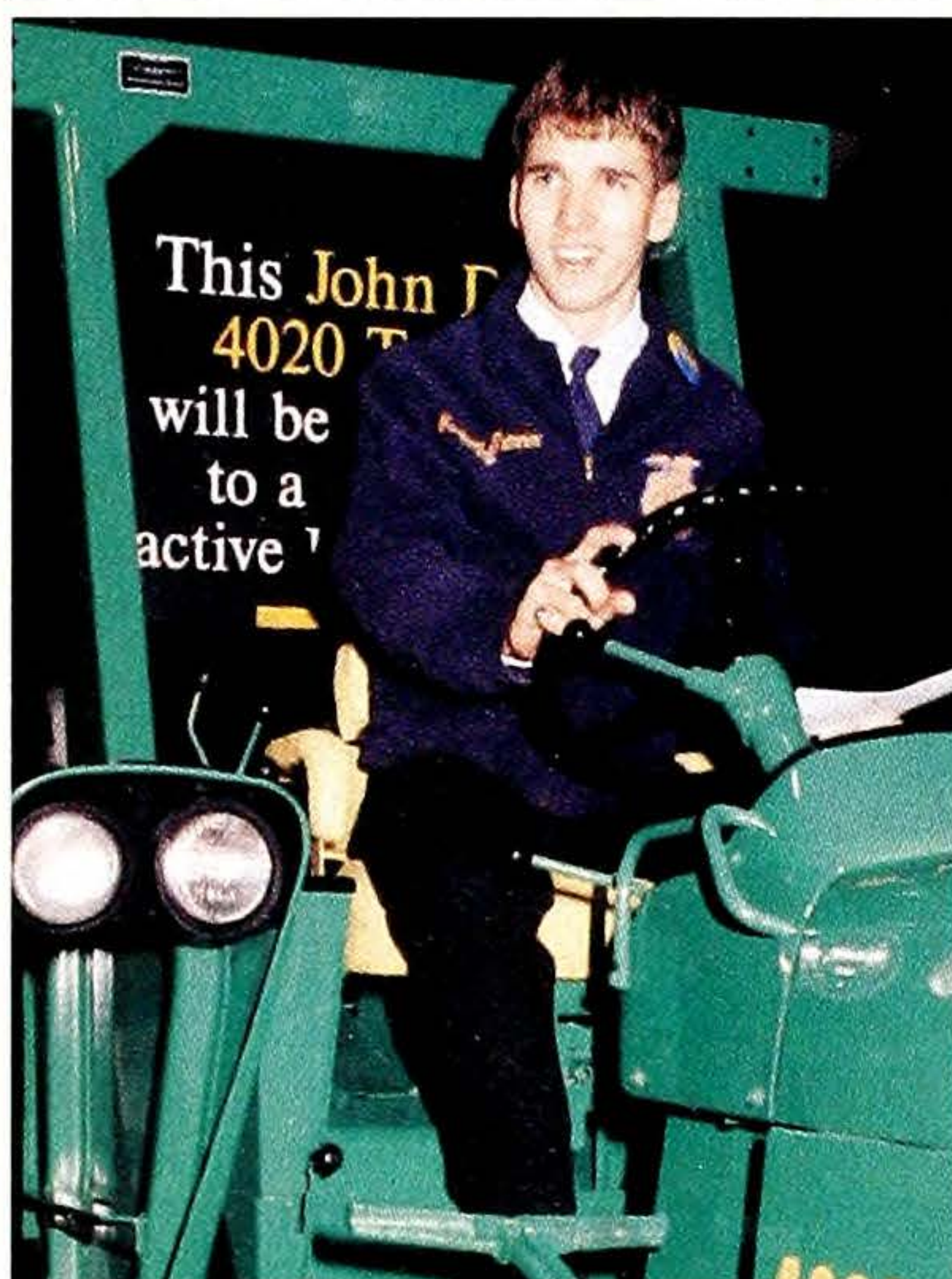
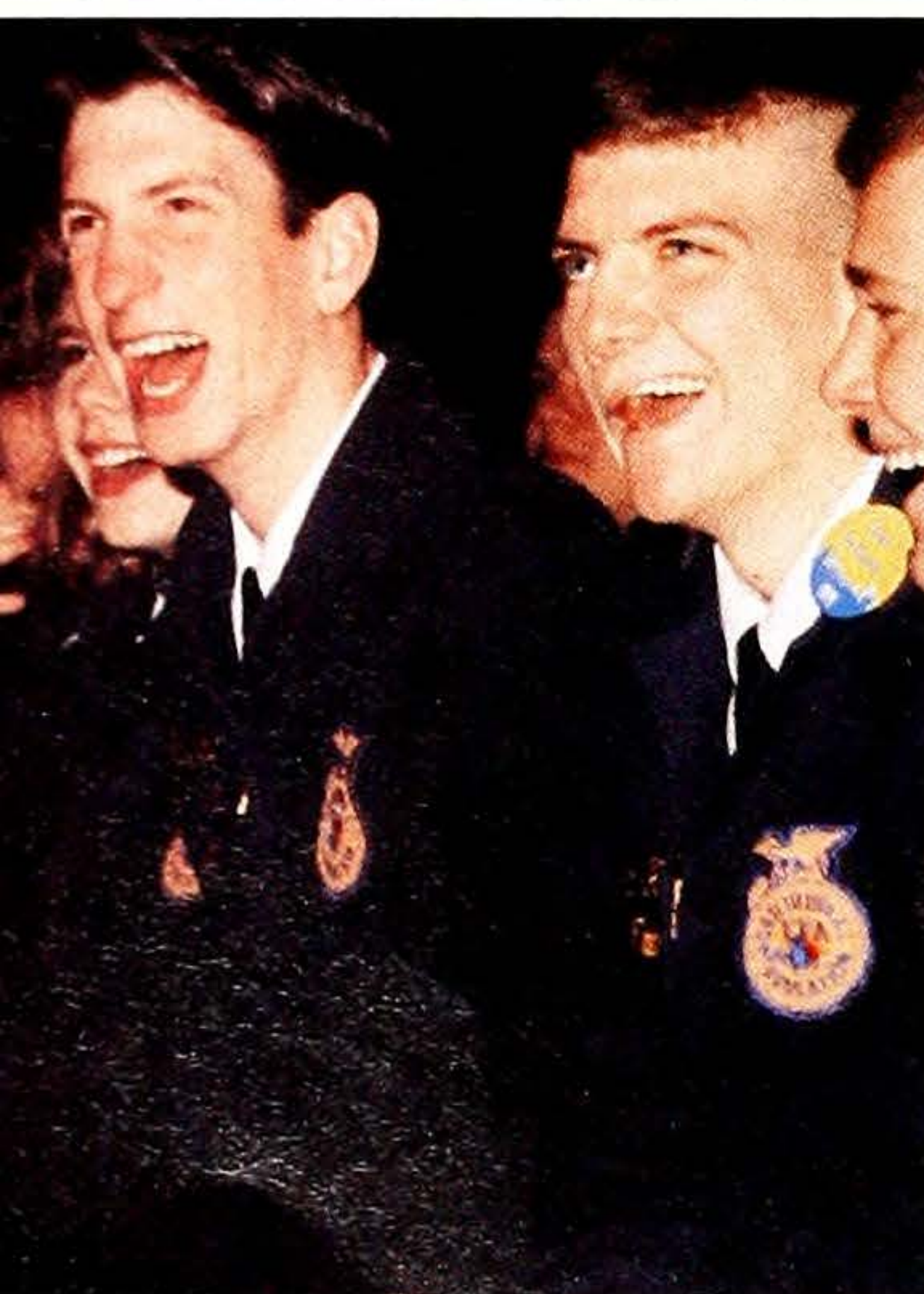
**Tim Moore
Fort Gibson, OK**



**National FFA Advisor
Dr. Larry Case**

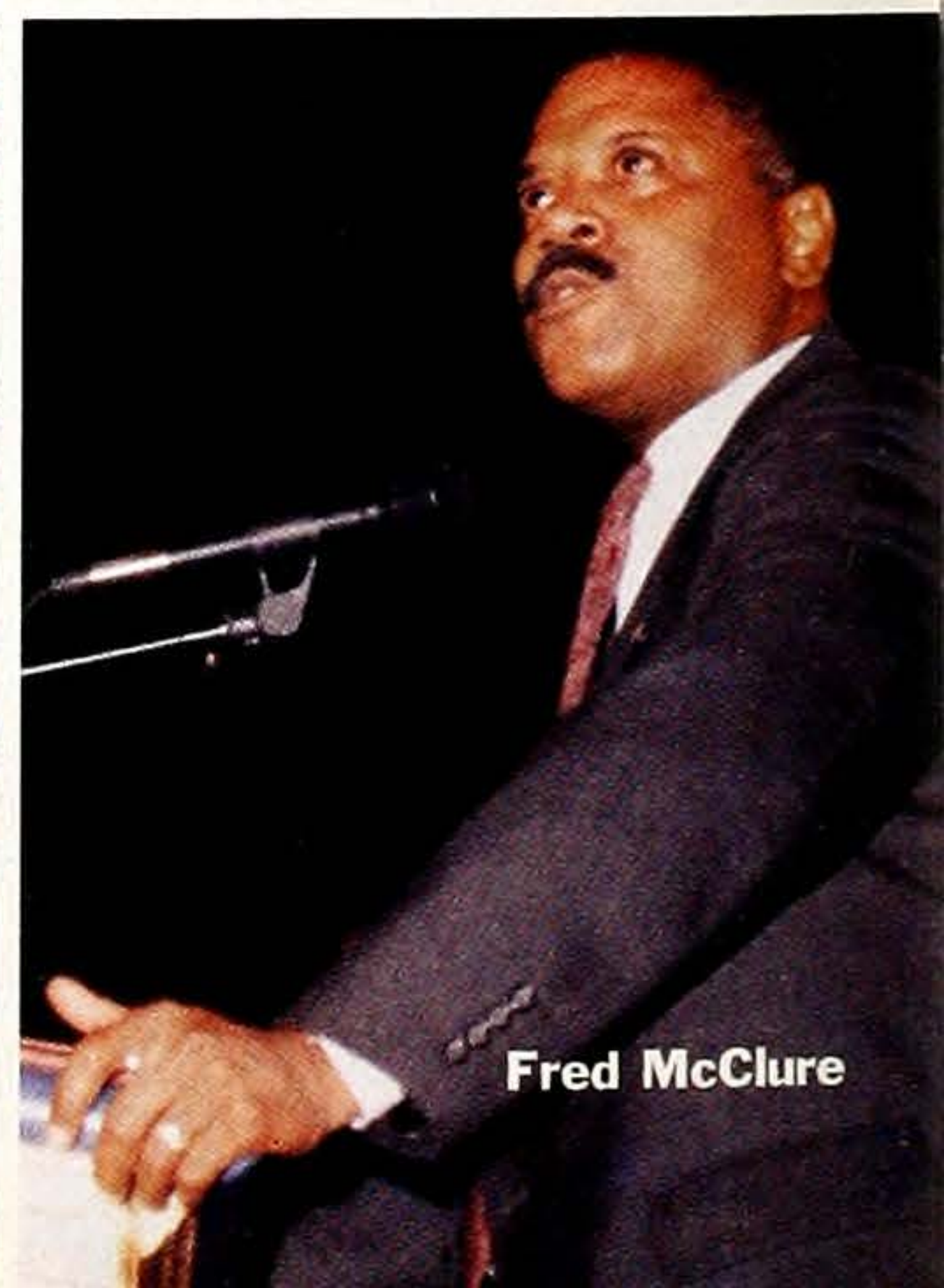
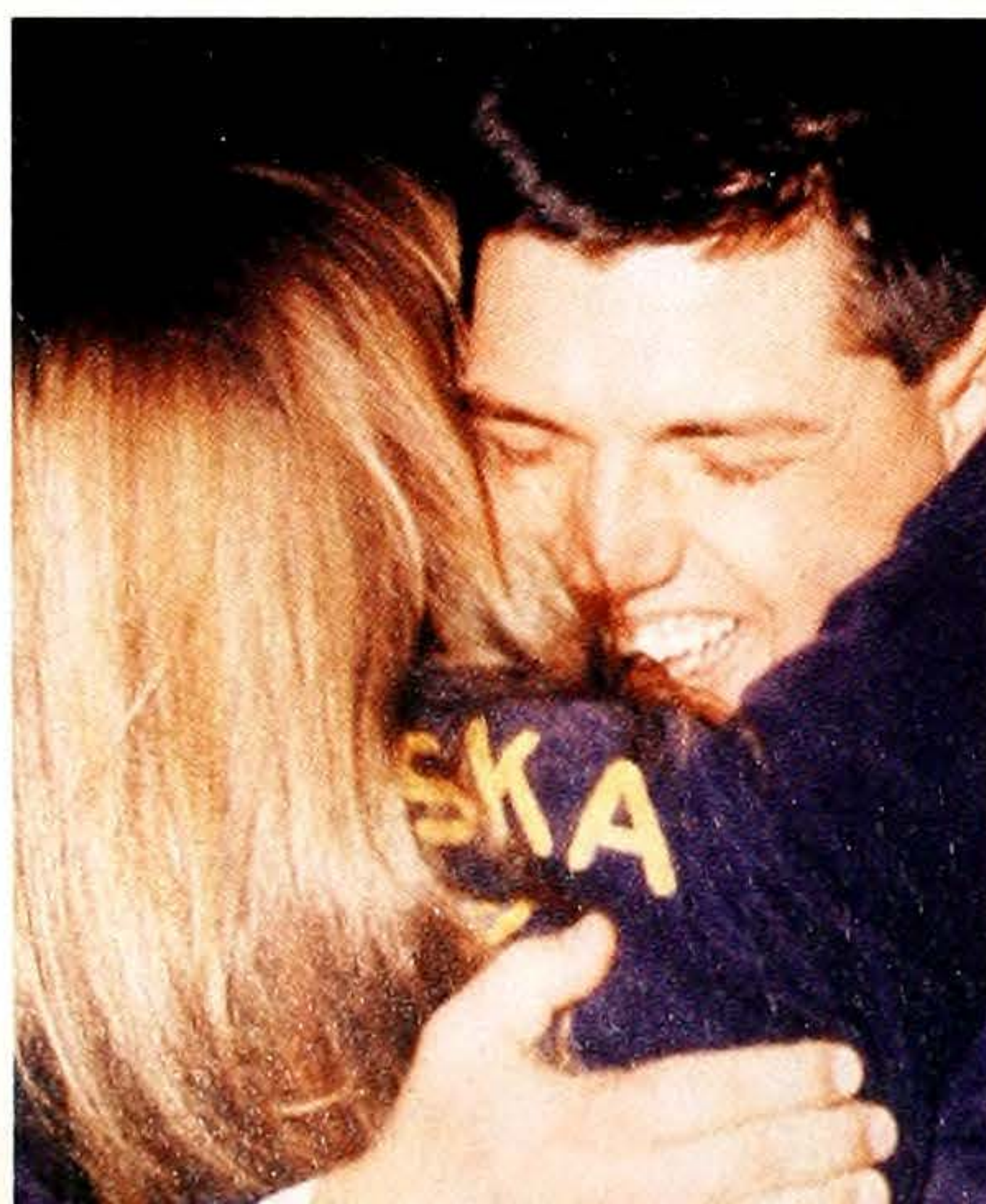
**"I met a lot
of new friends playing
clarinet in the FFA band.
I don't think I'd get on
stage without the skills
I've learned in FFA."**

**Meghan McCracken
Gailther, FL**



**"This has been
real fun and real different.
The best part of this
whole experience
has been being able to
meet all kinds
of different people."**

**Tania Simoes
San Joaquin Valley, CA**



Fred McClure

spent most of my time here at the career show, trying to meet college representatives and to get information on scholarships I can get through agriculture," he said.

Out and about

Elsewhere, FFA alumni conducted leadership training seminars with small groups of active FFA members seeking to better their chances in a job interview or improve their public speaking skills. "I'm studying to be an ag teacher," said Alan Freeman, a student at University of Missouri and a member of the Salem FFA Chapter,

"so this kind of thing gives me some good ideas on interacting with people."

With all the activities, seminars, speakers and excitement that went into a day at the national FFA convention, most attendees just wanted to get back to their hotel rooms for a good night's sleep, right? Wrong! When the day was done, FFA members were just getting started. Over 6,000 hit the dance floor at the convention's three dance nights! And if they weren't two-stepping, it's a good bet they were taking in the American Royal Rodeo or watching one of several concerts organized for the convention. Toby Keith, Shenandoah, John Anderson and Collin Raye all made sold-out stops in Kansas City.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Humorist Jeanne Robertson

When the 68th national FFA convention finally wrapped up and "the sea of blue jackets" began to head home to places as close as Wichita and as distant as the Micronesian Islands, departing attendees thought about how they would describe the convention to their friends and teachers back home. "We're going to make a presentation in front of our entire school board about the national FFA convention," said Missy Store of the Joppa FFA Chapter in Illinois. "We'll have a lot to tell them!"

After all, the convention provided more than just inspiration, competition and a few new friends. It truly planted the seeds of Leadership for a Lifetime. ■

PEOPLE STOPPERS

Here's how a few career show exhibitors kept their booths busy!

AGCO

Sponsored an autograph session with Miss America Shawntel Smith

Case IH

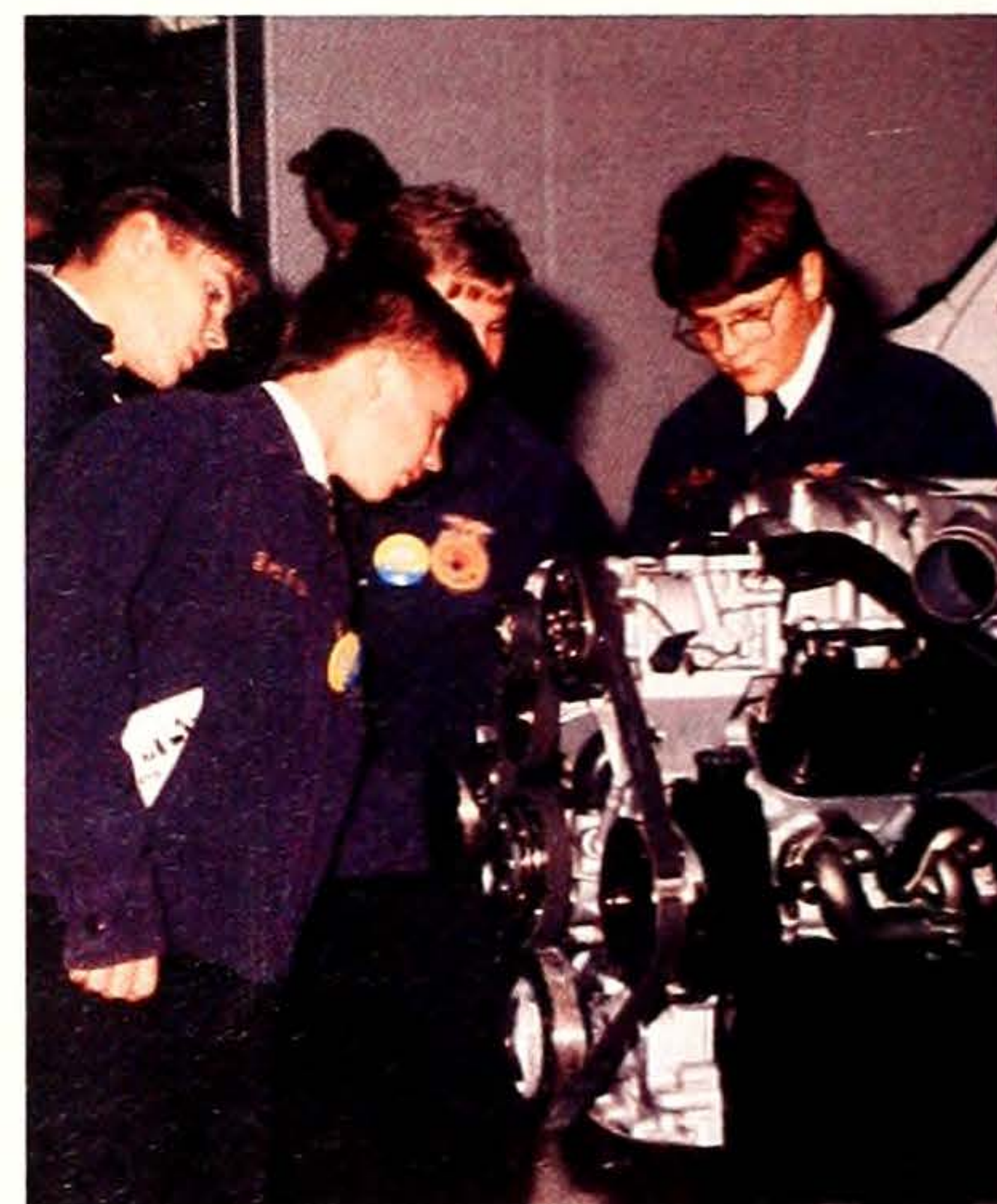
Featured an actual tractor wreck to promote farm safety

DeWALT High Performance Industrial Tools

Showcased 93 different power tools with fast and furious hands-on contests

Ford & Dodge Trucks

Invited everyone to kick tires and look under the hoods of their latest models



BUILDING ON A SOLID FOUNDATION

The National FFA Foundation sets all-time fund raising record

Forget the savings & loan. When the FFA needs funding for its many awards, scholarships and achievement programs, it turns to the National FFA Foundation. Since 1944, the National FFA Foundation has provided over \$63 million to FFA members. This year, the Foundation shattered existing records to raise a 1995 total of \$6,070,000 for FFA programs and agricultural education projects.

In presenting the funds at the national FFA convention, H.D. "Harry" Cleberg, 1995 FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board Chairman told attendees why the 1,000 Foundation sponsors believe in the FFA. "The FFA provides excellent training, not only for agricultural careers, but also for personal leadership skills," he said. "My industry colleagues and I know that supporting the FFA today ensures us well-trained, motivated employees tomorrow."

Allan R. Johnson, president of Farm Progress Companies, Inc., will chair the 1996 FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board. The Foundation's theme will be "Leadership for a Lifetime".

FFA Student Services

Searched for the next Arnold Palmer with a putt-putt golf contest

Imperial Schrade Corp.

Drew starry-eyed crowds with rodeo champs Ty Murray and Joe Beaver

Lincoln Electric

Encouraged visitors to slip on a face shield and try their hands at welding

U.S. Marine Corps

Challenged visitors to test their mettle with chin-ups and static hangs

SPEAKING OF

Retiring addresses get to the core of what it takes to succeed

The crowning event for any national FFA officer is the retiring address. It gives them a chance to talk about what their year in office meant to them—every mile traveled, every workshop they've led, every member they've met. This year's national officer team brought these experiences together into retiring messages that shared with FFA members what it means to be a leader, what it takes to be successful and how their FFA experiences will guide them as they move on to even bigger and better things in life.

"Long Way Home"

Corey D. Flournoy, retiring National FFA President

In a theatrical farewell address complete with props and musical accompaniment (from gospel singer Felicia Coleman Evans), Corey talked about the forces that motivated him during his historic yearlong journey as the first African-American national FFA president.

"This past year, I have encountered so many people along the way who have become frustrated, distressed, or lacked the confi-

dence to pursue their dreams because they did not understand all that they were capable of accomplishing. Regardless of your physical conditions, gender, ethnic background, race, how much you or your family owns, where you live or other ways people may criticize or classify you, you must live your life to the fullest and never let anything stop you from being successful."

"Creating Miracles"

*Lee Schroeder
retiring National FFA Vice President
—Eastern Region*

Lee underscored the importance of service and sacrifice in living a useful and productive life.

"For several weeks between my sophomore and junior years in high school, I saved every penny I could to make that down payment for my

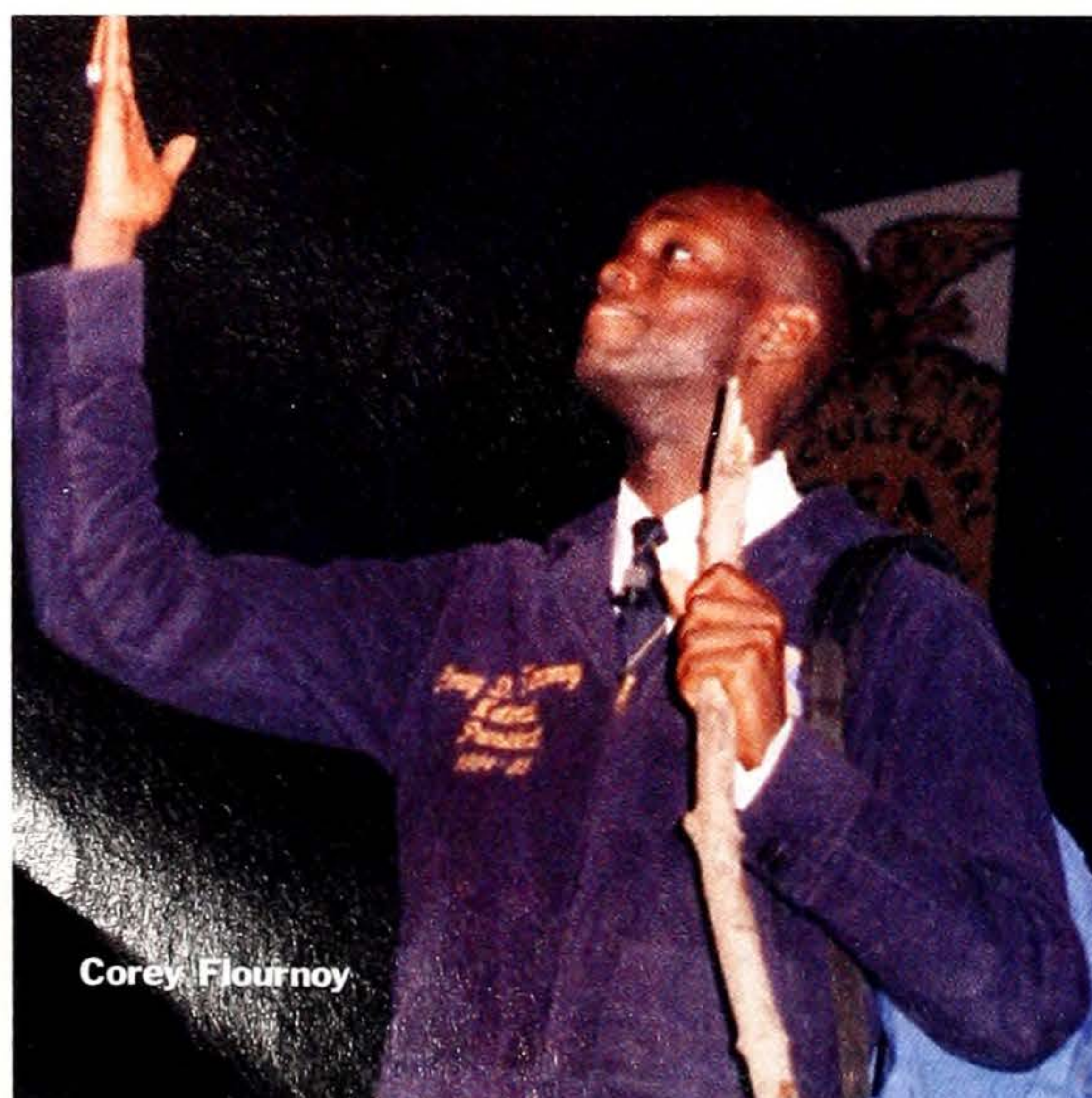
steers...I believe the discomforts of agricultural life were the most beneficial for me because of the opportunity to sacrifice. Miracles...are created from recognizing opportunities to sacrifice and serve."

"Living on the Edge"

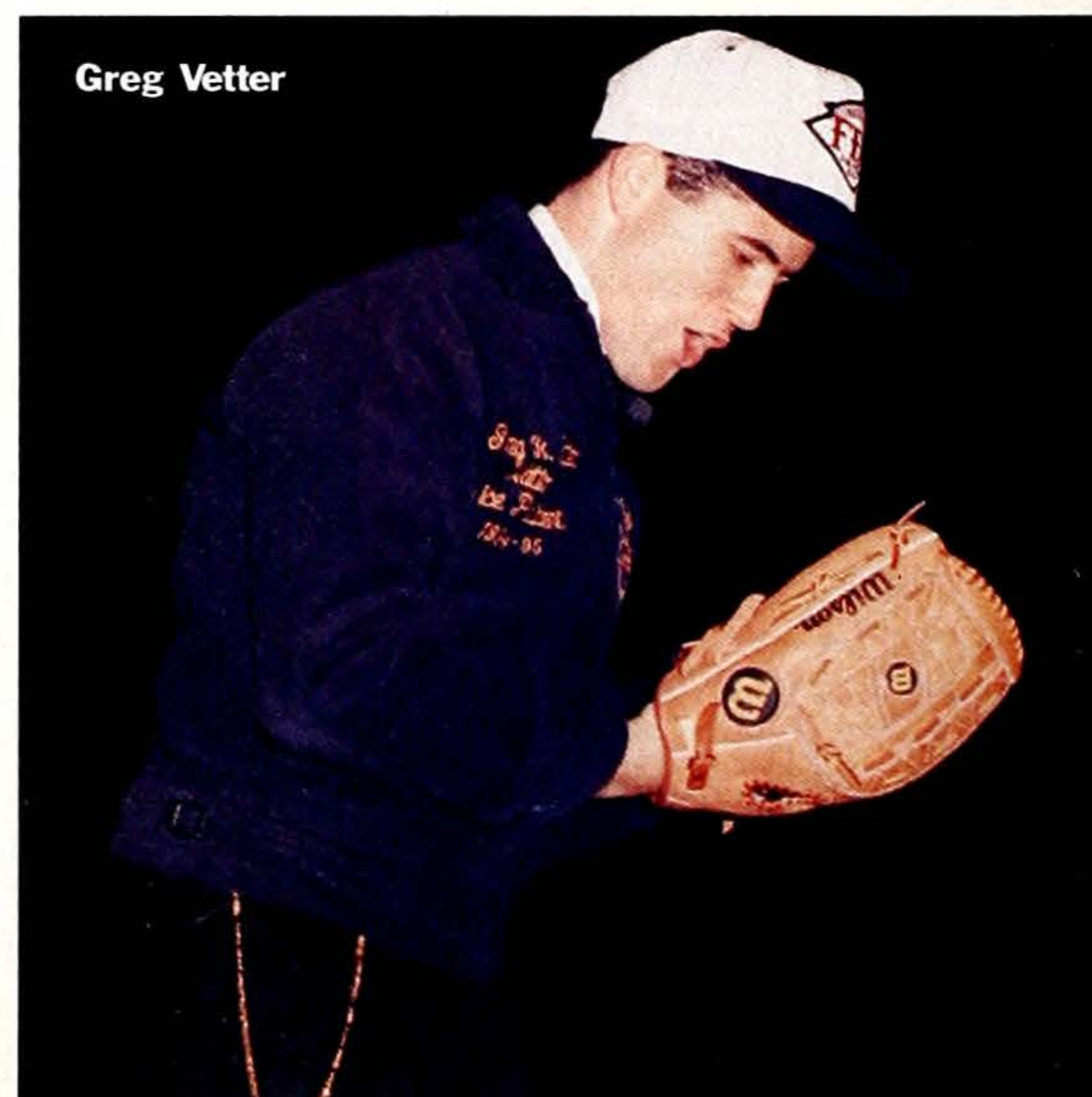
Travis D. Hagen, retiring National FFA Secretary

Travis revved up the crowd with a high-energy appeal to FFA members to prove the world wrong about today's young generation, so often stereotyped as Generation X.

Travis challenged the crowd to gain the edge. "The edge is what separates us from the others. It gives us an advantage over our competitors. It helps create success for us in the future. I'm not necessarily speaking about the edge of danger, but I am talking about



Corey Flournoy



Greg Vetter

RSHP

the edge that defines our uniqueness. It is an edge that will make us our best. This is the edge of victory, the place where winners exist, for those who strive for perfection, and are willing to work hard, play hard, and practice as if their life depended on it... They are the ones who have an edge in life."

"Way Out in Left Field"

Greg Vetter, retiring National FFA Vice President—Western Region

Greg reminded everyone of the dangers of taking the people who care for you for granted.

"Don't take for granted those opportunities to love and share with the people that are close to you. This may be your mom and dad, your best friend, or your guardian...Fellow members, remember that life is so short, and it can end in the snap of a

finger. It's those little things—those little opportunities, like your family, that help guide us through this world."

"Even Eagles Need a Push"

*Jennafer Neufeld
retiring National FFA Vice
President—Central Region*

Jennafer's farewell address reminded FFA members that the many "firsts" that scare us in life—the first time you give a speech or run for office—often lead to greater things if you give in to an encouraging push from a parent, advisor or friend.

"There are many times when we get comfortable in the nest, or we get comfortable in doing what we have always done. It is at these times that a baby eagle needs someone else to push them out of the nest. Who has pushed you? Maybe someone pushed you to

get on a plane and come here, to go on a trip away from home for the first time, or I bet a certain advisor pushes you to fill out your record books every once in a while, even when you really don't want to."

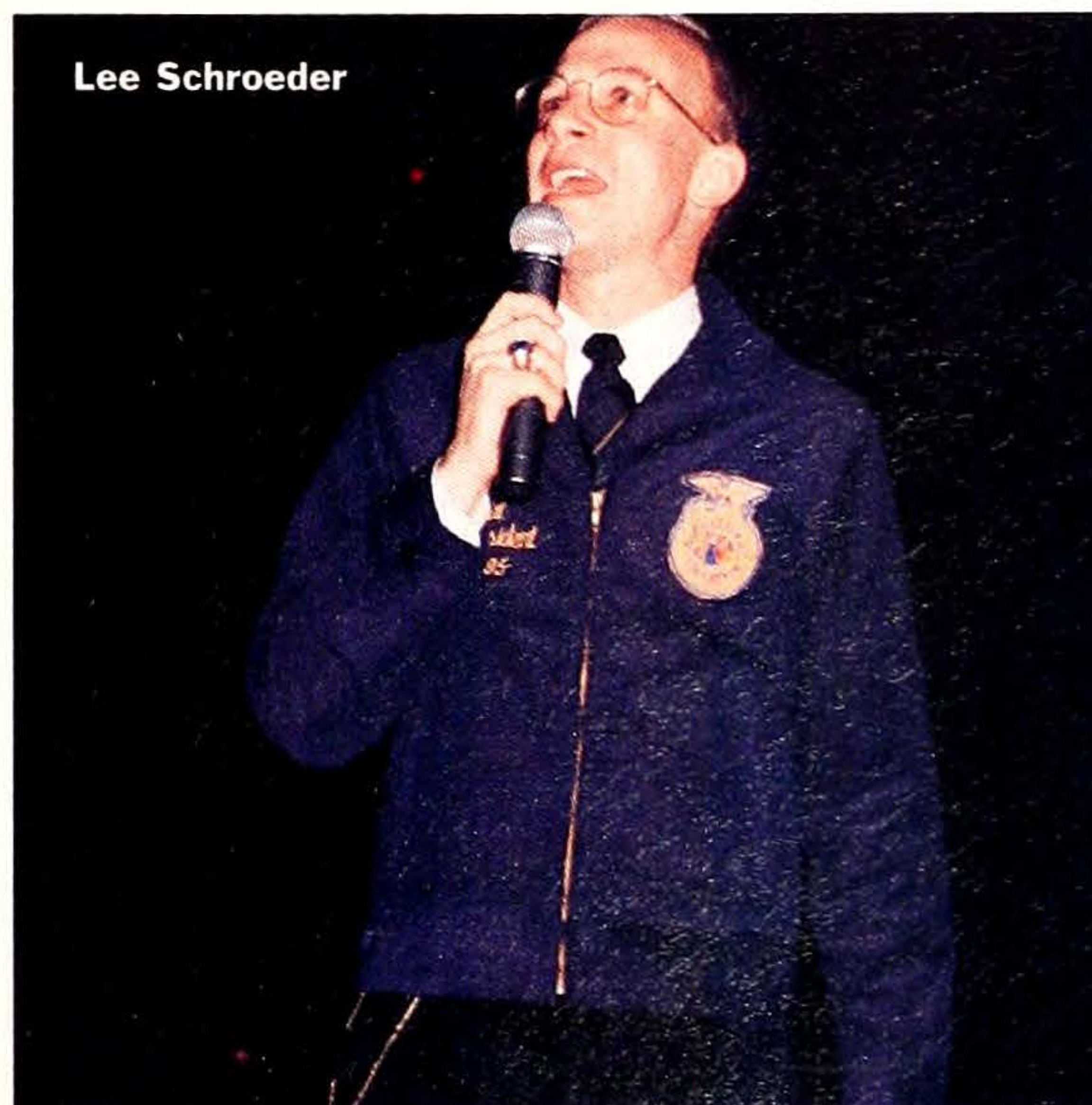
"What It Takes"

*Trisha Bailey
retiring National FFA Vice
President—Southern Region*

Trisha pointed to three qualities that will give any person an advantage in life: curiosity, compassion and conviction.

"Curiosity led me to wonder, 'What if I run for office, even though I don't know anyone and know even less about public speaking?' Compassion has granted me the patience to realize that so many people have hidden talents and...we can pull them out of a shell.

Conviction changed me from a shy and insecure little girl who often wanted to cower in fear in a corner to a flamboyant young adult who knows she is ready to take on anything that might try to slow down the bullet train she's on." ■



Meet your new national FFA officers

These six young achievers have seen a dream come true with their election to the 1995-96 national FFA officer team. Each national officer will take a year off and travel across the country representing FFA members in meetings with leaders in business, government, education and agriculture.

Seth Derner **National President**

Bartlett, Nebraska
Wheeler Central FFA Chapter
FFA Advisors: David Nichols and Robert Swett

SAE: cow/calf operation, ranch improvement and placement agricultural production

Seth, 21, is a junior agricultural education major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Cody Wagner **National Secretary**

Banner, Wyoming
John B. Kendrick FFA Chapter
FFA Advisors: Jim Bohn and Nick Siddle

SAE: beef and sheep operation; agricultural sales and service

Cody, 20, is a sophomore molecular biology major at the University of Wyoming.

Joe Caffee **Vice President—Central Region**

Geneva, Indiana
South Adams FFA Chapter

FFA Advisor: Fred Schuman

SAE: beef and poultry production; agricultural processing and agricultural communications

Joe, 20, is a sophomore at Purdue University, where he majors in agricultural education.

Bill Catania **Vice President—Eastern Region**

Westfield, New York
Westfield FFA Chapter

FFA Advisor: Phil Baideme

SAE: turf and landscape management, fruit production and horticulture

Bill, 19, is a freshman agricultural education major at Fredonia State University.

Clara-Leigh Horn **Vice President—Southern Region**

Ashville, Alabama
Ashville FFA Chapter

FFA Advisor: Tommy Hill

SAE: diversified livestock operation



THE NEW LINEUP: Clockwise from top center: Seth Derner, Bill Catania, Clara-Leigh Horn, Joe Caffee, Andy McCall and Cody Wagner.

Clara-Leigh, 21, is a junior at Auburn University, where she majors in animal science/pre-veterinary medicine.

Andy McCall **Vice President—Western Region**

Houston, Texas
Cyprus Creek FFA Chapter
FFA Advisors: Kevin Page and Wayne Sales

SAE: showing swine and raising rabbits

Andy, 19, is a sophomore agricultural business major at Lubbock Christian University. ■

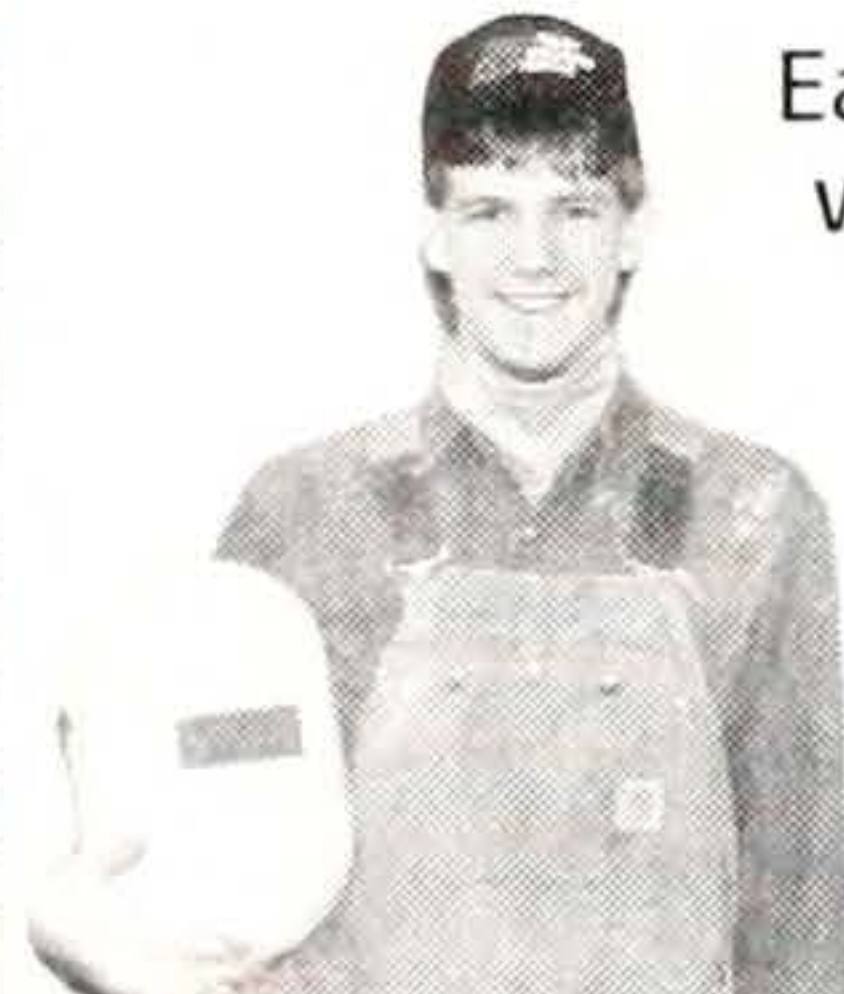


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Last Laff

Q. A baseball team scored six runs in one inning, but not one man reached home plate. Why not?

A. It was a girls' team.

Nick Worden

Jamestown, Missouri

Q. What do cows eat with jelly?

A. Peanut-udder.

Grace Fisher

Munnsville, New York

City Slicker: What do you use the rope for?

Cowboy: I use it to catch cattle.

City Slicker: Oh really? What do you use for bait?

Tommy Smith

Dawson, Texas

Q. Why did the abominable snowman back out of his wedding?

A. He got cold feet.

Mike Fischer

Rio, Wisconsin

Q. What is bought by the yard but worn by the foot?

A. Your carpet.

Delta George

Uniontown, Kansas

Did you hear about the freight ship sailing from Hong Kong to San Francisco? It was carrying 12 tons of yo-yos when it ran into a storm that proved fatal. It sank 42 times!

Nicarda Bradbury

Lakeview, Oregon

Q. Why do elephants have trunks?

A. Because they don't have glove compartments.

Debbie Rhinehimer

Nicholasville, Kentucky

Q. What did one eye say to the other?

A. Just between you and me, there's something that smells.

Karena Velo

Powers Lake, North Dakota

Q. Why do cows drool?

A. Because they don't know how to spit.

David Soto

Arecibo, Puerto Rico

Q. There's two flies in the kitchen. Which one's the cowboy?

A. The one on the range.

Matt Gardner

Lakeland, Florida

There are two mushrooms at a dance party. The guy comes over to the girl and asks her to dance with him, and she says "No." Later, he asks her again. She still says "No." Finally, he asks her "Why don't you like me? I'm a fungi!"

Jenny Hodges

Ashland, Mississippi

Daughter: It's so hot today. Could you tell me a ghost story?

Dad: Sure, but why?

Daughter: Because ghost stories are so chilling!

Mike Huett

Waycross, Georgia

Q. What do you get if you pour boiling water down a rabbit hole?

A. A hot cross bunny.

Mike Batchelor

Andalusia, Alabama

Q. What is black and white and black and white and black and white?

A. A zebra rolling down a hill.

Julie Le

Crowell, Texas




Make us laugh!

FFA New Horizons will pay \$5.00 for each joke selected for Last Laff. Jokes must be addressed to:

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Stay tuned! A new, improved "Charlie and Friends" comic will appear in an upcoming issue of FFA New Horizons!



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