

FFA

APRIL-MAY 1991

New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE FFA ORGANIZATION



**FFA
Members
Salute Their
Agriculture
Teachers**

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FFA New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

April-May, 1991

Volume 39 Number 4



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Photo by Andrew Markwart.

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Salute to Advisors

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THE BOTTOM LINE

Freedom must be won anew by each generation," someone once said. He must have been looking into the future for this certainly has proven true during my lifetime. We fight wars so our children will not have to fight them only to learn that a world constantly changing will not let that happen. World War I was fought "to end all wars," it was said. Since then we have had World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama and now Desert Storm.

While no official record is kept, we do know that in any major conflict, former FFA members are involved. In this issue, there is an article by 1st Lieutenant Marty Coates, once a national FFA officer, who became involved in Desert Shield and later Desert Storm when his reserve unit was called up for active duty. There are other unconfirmed reports of former members who are serving there. FFA in Action carries items about chapters that have supported our men and women in military service during this crisis.

We pledge in the opening ceremony at official FFA meetings, "To practice brotherhood..." And that is what FFA members like to do—all the way from community development projects to exchange programs with other nations. In fact, three FFA representatives have just returned from Russia where they were investigating the possibility of setting up an exchange program whereby young people from Russia would come to this country to study how a family farm operates. Those who went were Dr. Larry Case, national advisor; Bernie Staller, Foundation executive director; and Lennie Gamage, program specialist for international activities. Sharing knowledge to benefit human beings, regardless of borders, is an excellent example of FFA "practicing brotherhood."

One of the purposes of FFA is to "...train for useful citizenship and foster patriotism." This is illustrated by the use of the flag which should be displayed at all official FFA meetings and functions. And of course, all official meetings of FFA close with a pledge of allegiance to the flag. FFA members illustrate their citizenship and patriotism by voting, taking part in community and civic affairs, and related activities.

Good citizens, patriotic and willing to serve their country in a time of need—that is what all of this says about FFA members—if not in service, in support of those who are.

We owe a special thanks to all of those who served in Desert Shield and Desert Storm but it is appropriate here to offer a special salute to those members and former members of FFA who answered their country's call. We can say to them that no doubt your overwhelming victory has contributed significantly to world peace and sent a message throughout the world that will last for many years. We can hope—hope once again—that your presence there will mean freedom will prevail and your children will not have to fight another war. Thanks for a job well done.

Wilson Carnes

**I AM A SOLDIER.
COUNT ON ME.**



**NOW, MORE THAN EVER,
FREEDOM ISN'T FREE.**

THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND ARMY RESERVE

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.....

A Future Member

Our chapter recently held a field day show 'n' tell of FFA activities at a local elementary school. I spoke on the speech and leadership advantages and told the young students about National FFA Convention in Kansas City.

Later, in a mall, a kindergarten girl came running up to me and said, "Hi, Damanda." When her mom asked who was that, she answered, "It's Damanda from FFA."

She may have gotten my name wrong but I am sure she will be a future FFA member.

*Amanda Fischer
Galena, Missouri*

Word From Saudi Arabia

Thanks for the letters. When you're this far from home any mail is welcome and especially mail from friends.

You wouldn't believe how much of

what I learned in ag has helped me with my job. As you know, leadership in the service is endless. I only wish I would have put a little more into it — like giving speeches. It all goes back to the bottle story "No deposit, no return."

Keep up the good work in the chapter and thanks for all the support.

*Spec. Derik Webster
From Saudi Arabia in a letter to his
Muskogee FFA Chapter
Oklahoma*

Word From Sweden

I was very impressed with the December-January, 1990-91 edition of the magazine. It was nice to see information about programs and scholarships. Being a WASS participant in Sweden this year, I have not been able to find such information readily available and I know what a difference it can make. I was thankful to receive news of the national convention.

What other organization can bring so

many young people from such a large country so close together?

*Joy Anna Hagen
WASS 1990-91
Teckomatorp, Sweden*

Word From Hungary

I left the United States on December 7th for good (returning to Hungary).

What to say? I had spent one and a half great years in the U.S. and I shall be grateful toward FFA forever. It was an interesting, very useful and lovely experience. I made some friends and learned some basics of English as well.

*Eve Gyetvai
Budapest, Hungary*

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Desert Storm Receives Flood of Mail

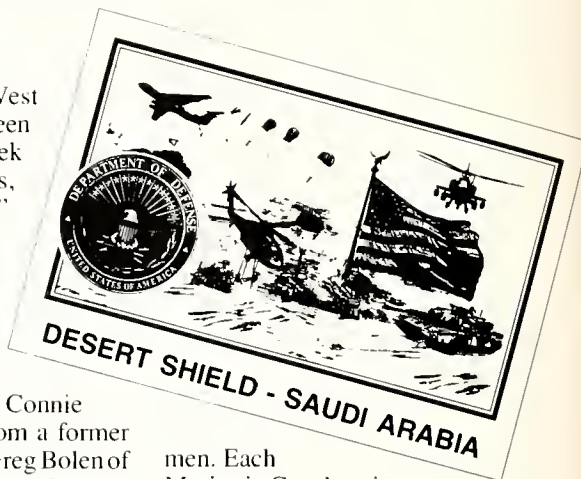
Members of the Ripley, West Virginia, FFA Chapter have been sending two letters each week to a group of 12 Marines, nicknamed "The Dirty Dozen" on the USS Tarwa, stationed in the Persian Gulf. These letters are in addition to the correspondence of chapter family members.

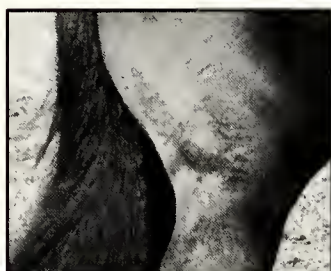
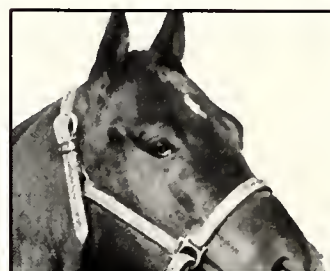
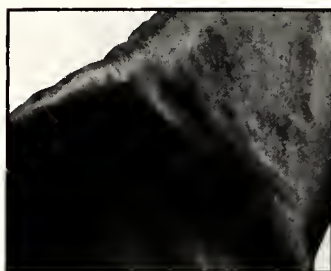
The pen pal exchange started when chapter advisor Connie Dewhurst received a call from a former student and chapter officer, Greg Bolen of Baboursville, West Virginia, who was shipping out to the Middle East and asked her to stay in touch. As time passed and more family members of Dewhurst's students left for the Gulf, a list of names was kept on a bulletin board in the agriculture room.

In early February, Bolen asked the Ripley chapter if they could adopt some of the men in his squad as pen pals. "Mail from home means a lot to these men, especially those who do not have family," wrote Bolen. According to Dewhurst, "after only one day, the Ripley FFA members had committed themselves to write at least two letters per week to all twelve

men. Each Marine in Greg's unit was put on the computer to be printed on address labels. The horticulture class is constructing floral arrangements and some will be donated for sale to cover the cost of postage."

The students developed a questionnaire for the soldiers to get better acquainted with them and know what kinds of goodies they would like sent in personal "care packages." Dewhurst says that even though the students know that the mail takes about two weeks to reach the soldiers, "the students are happy knowing that they will, in some small way, be helping the war effort from the home front."





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LOOKING AHEAD

Beat With a Stick

Factory-reject broomsticks are finding a new life in the war against boll weevils, cotton's nastiest enemy. As "bait sticks," these rejects dot test plots in cotton fields and the result is a sharp decrease in the use of pesticide.

A plastic cap attached to the 4-foot-long wooden stick lures boll weevils to a surprise death. Weevils chew the insecticide-laced cap and die shortly after.

"It's a simple concept, really, but represents putting together findings from 30 years of research on boll weevil behavior and the boll weevil pheromone," says Gerald H. McKibben, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist.

In the second year of tests on Mississippi cotton fields, McKibben has found up to 70 percent fewer boll weevils. "It's possible that the bait stick idea could be used for other insect pests on other crops in the future," says McKibben, "but we have to test that further."



It takes only 1 gram of insecticide located in the cap to make this bait stick an effective control for boll weevils in USDA test plots.

Through with Chew

Smokeless tobacco use is on the rise, especially among teenage males. Sixteen percent of all males between that ages of 12 and 17 chewed tobacco last year. Many of these teenagers believe smokeless tobacco is a "safe" alternative to cigarettes. They're wrong.

"Some experts are predicting an oral cancer epidemic in the future," says Dr. Jerome C. Goldstein, M.D., executive vice

lump or thickening in the mouth; a persistent reddish or whitish patch; and difficulty chewing, swallowing, or moving the tongue or jaw.

Expensive Drought

The drought in California could result in a \$642 million loss in revenue to farmers and a \$207 million increase in food costs to consumers this year, according to a computer model devised by Richard E. Howitt, University of California - Davis professor of agricultural economics.

According to his model of the economic impacts of the drought on California's irrigated crops, a 20 percent reduction could occur in the production of alfalfa, cotton, grain sorghum and sugar beets, and the prices of fruits and vegetables could rise from 5 percent to 12 percent. He expects rice, hay and cotton prices to increase less than 10 percent.

In devising his model, Howitt considered six agricultural regions and 30 crops, and assumed that surface-water reductions will average 80 percent of normal supplies, that groundwater pumping can be increased by 70 percent and that the average water costs to farmers double due to extra pumping costs.



president of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. An estimated 30,000 cases of oral (mouth) cancer will be diagnosed in the U.S. this year. At least 9,400 of these cancers will result in death. The primary cause for most of these cancers will be the use of tobacco products.

Early detection and successful treatment of oral cancer symptoms to look for include a sore mouth that won't heal; a

Exciting Career Outlook

College students looking ahead to career choices should consider preparing for scientific and technical careers in agriculture because of the steady availability of jobs, according to a report developed at Purdue University and issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research Service.

At least through the middle of this decade there is a projected annual shortfall of 11 percent in highly trained people to fill available agriscience and agribusiness positions.

College graduates will find the best career opportunities as marketing, merchandising and sales representatives where the demand for skilled professionals will exceed supply by 18 percent.

Excellent career opportunities are available as sales representatives for plant protection products, fertilizer, seeds, forest products, and lawn, garden, and nursery products. Industry demands also call for more commodity brokers, insurance agents, market analysts and real estate brokers.

Scientific, engineering and related specialties are expected to account for nearly 30 percent of the total projected annual openings in agriculture, natural resources and veterinary medicine. Forecasters expect demand to exceed supply by 15 percent. Career opportunities are especially good in the areas of biochemistry, environmental sciences, food process engineering, entomology and soil science.

In contrast, there are more than enough qualified graduates to fill the available positions in communications, education and agricultural production specialties.

The agriscience and agribusiness employment opportunity picture is driven by three characteristics: a stable number of professional opportunities; a shrinking supply of qualified graduates; and fewer graduates from colleges of agriculture, natural resources and veterinary medicine.

Jane Coulter, CSRS deputy administrator for higher education programs, said that the shortage of expertise is being felt now. "We aren't talking about the next 10 to 20 years. We have a shortage now and with the growing strategic importance of our food, agricultural and natural resource system, the problem is becoming critical," Coulter said.

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..... **Board Of Directors, Officers Make Important Decisions**

A number of important decisions impacting the National FFA Center, a parliamentary law contest and major awards were made at the National FFA Board of Directors meeting held in January.

Acting on the recommendations of a task force that studied the organizational structure at the National FFA Center, the



Mark Timm, national FFA president, listens to Larry Case, national FFA advisor, during the January board of directors meeting. The student officer board and adult board of directors work together in making national decisions. Sitting left of Timm is Coleman Harris, national executive secretary.

board voted to consolidate the operation and administration of the Center and the National FFA Foundation through a joint FFA and Foundation Chief Operating Officer (COO). Bernie Staller, executive director of the National FFA Foundation, was reassigned to the new position of COO beginning March 15. Foundation offices will remain in Madison, Wisconsin.

The Board moved to establish a national parliamentary law contest. A task force has been formed to develop the objectives, skills, competencies and format for the contest. They will report back to the board in July.

The board sustained the action of the delegates at the recent FFA convention to change the terminology used in referring to the star awards. The approved terminology, which removes gender-specific reference (agribusinessman), is "American Star Farmer" and "American Star in Agribusiness." The new titles become effective following the 1991 National FFA Convention.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Extra Supply Service Hours

To help west coast chapters prepare for banquet season, the FFA Supply Service will remain open for an extra hour in the afternoon through May 17. For this period, phone orders may be placed up to 5:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time. Since staff will be limited, orders must be placed using the direct service phone number, 703-780-5600. Orders can be placed only with credit cards or school purchase order numbers.

Officers Tour Agribusinesses

The six national officers traveled with National FFA Foundation representatives through eight states during the annual FFA business and industry tour, February 24-March 7.

The group began its tour in St. Louis by meeting with Bob Reynolds, vice president, Crop Protection Products Division, Monsanto Agricultural Company. Reynolds serves as the 1991 chairman of the National FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board.

The tour gives the officers a chance to meet with some of agriculture's top industry leaders and learn first-hand how the companies work.

Washington Conference News

Plans are being made for this year's Washington Conference Program, a week of leadership training in the nation's capital. Seven one-week programs will begin on June 11 and end the week of July 30.

Staff members for the two hotel sites have been selected. At the Holiday Inn - Crowne Plaza, director Jaye Hamby, Tennessee, will be working with staff members Sara Braasch, Idaho; Kelly McIntire, Oklahoma; Nichole Phillips, Utah; Scott Shuman, Colorado and advisor coordinator Carl Mitchell, Virginia.

At the Rosslyn Westpark Hotel, director Terri Hames, Oklahoma, will be working with her staff of Michael Bennett, New Mexico; Chris Henning, Minnesota; Brad Lewis, Alabama and Casey Moore, Georgia.

Cost for the conference is \$395. Transportation to Washington, D.C. is extra. For more information, contact WCP program manager Kip Godwin at the National FFA Center.

Presidential Pitch



White House Photo by Susan Biddle

When the national officer team visited President Bush at the White House in January, the president gave, or in this case tossed, the officers tie bars and stick pins sporting the presidential seal. White House photographer Susan Biddle caught the president's toss to Julie Classen, central region FFA vice president, in mid-air. Like the rest of her sure-handed officer team, Julie made the catch.

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The wheels of a Northwest Airlines 747 carrying the national FFA officer team touched down in Tokyo, Japan, on February 3, 1991, marking the beginning of two weeks of learning, touring and exchanging ideas with the Japanese people.

The trip provided officers Mark Timm, Danny Grellner, Lesa King, Matt Lohr, Ben Nessmith and Julie Classen with an inside look at Japan's agricultural industry, school system, culture, customs and people. The officers found many differences between Japan and the United States.

Agriculture: The average farm size in Japan is one hectare or 2.5 acres. The U.S. average farm size is 400 acres. Primary farm products include rice, vegetables and fruits. All farming practices maximize output on minimum acreage due to the small amount of productive farmland



Resting in the East Garden of the Imperial Palace during their tour of Tokyo are, left to right, national officers Nessmith, Lohr, Timm, Grellner, Classen and King.

JAPAN...A Look Inside

National FFA Officers tour the orient

By Marshall Stewart

available for crops other than rice. Pork, beef, poultry and dairy products are produced, but in smaller amounts due to a lack of pasture lands. Fish and other aquaculture products are common in the Japanese diet.

Schools: Japanese students attend school from Monday to Friday and a half day on Saturday. Courses focus intensively on math, science and language skills. In addition to learning Japanese, students complete three years of English before graduating from high school.

Competition in school is extremely high. Students must pass difficult tests for acceptance into high school. This pressures the student to excel and study long hours.

Culture: Loyalty, service, courtesy,

kindness and honesty are fundamental values that are ingrained in the Japanese people. The Japanese family may be quite large with several generations living in the same home. Grandparents, parents and children often live together.

Perceptions: Japanese youth are very curious about America and its people. They are fascinated by its geographic size and wide-open spaces.

The leading entertainment, sports, music and political figures in the United States are well-known in Japan. From Michael Jordan to M.C. Hammer to George Bush, these names pop up in conversations when Japanese talk about the United States.

What this all means: Communications and rapid travel have brought our world

closer together. For too long Americans have not been concerned nor have we learned enough about our foreign neighbors. Today, more than ever, we have to understand different cultures and how they operate in order for America to maintain and improve its leadership role as a democratic model and economic power. The agricultural industry is and will continue to be a major player in world trade, economic and social issues.

If America is to compete in the future, we must go beyond an understanding of our nation, to an appreciation of the world of nations. ...

This international experience program is sponsored by Mitsui Grain Corporation and Mitsui & Co. Ltd. Tokyo, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



Photos by Author



Pictured far left, Lesa King learns origami from a student at Narita Horticultural High School.

Mark Timm, left, and Matt Lohr planted their business cards with tomato seeds in the high school's greenhouse. Pictures of the mature plants will be sent to the officers later this year.

Built With Pride In the USA

Ag mechanics projects build confidence and teamwork

By Glen Shinn

The air was filled with excitement as trailers pulled into the Astrodome for the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. But there wasn't a moo, grunt, baa, or whinny to be heard! It was the beginning of the 11th Texas Agricultural Mechanics Project Show. Sixty-six FFA chapters and over 525 FFA members had entered 398 projects to compete for honors and tool and equipment prizes.

Each project was the result of planning, design, cost estimating and skillful construction. Some projects were built by individual members. Other larger ones were the result of class projects in Agricultural Science and Technology courses.

As the projects were unpacked, polished and prepared for judging, the contestants were beginning three days of exhibiting. Each project was to be evaluated. Also the chapter display and showmanship was being considered. Chapter members prepared to answer questions from the judges and the public as well as



Pride, cooperation and a lot of hard work build award-winning projects.

keep the display in top shape.

In cow country, everyone has a trailer. But nobody has a trailer like the one built by students at Mt. Vernon High School. Misty Worley, Jeff Hunnicutt, Chris Jordan, Kenny Swinford and David Stout

were members of the construction team. The design took planning and teamwork despite all five experienced non-related injuries during the year which required a trip to the hospital. David said, "we all had a goal to finish the trailer and bring it to Houston, so we all pitched in to get the job done right." Everyone felt good when the trailer won a blue ribbon in its class; then Champion of the Division and on to win Grand Champion of the entire project show. Kenny reported, "everybody wanted to be able to say they were a part of something good, so it gave us inspiration to really do a good job. It brought us closer together, taught us to work as a team, and showed us we could depend on each other to get the job done."

Each FFA member brought projects to Houston hoping for a chance to win. Each one left on Sunday afternoon as a winner. They realized they had accomplished many of their goals and they discovered the best part was the pride of "Made in the USA." ...



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Salute to Advisors



These heartfelt tributes were written by FFA members. What does your advisor mean to you?

Advisors: Mark Bracewell (left) and Tom Williams

"I live in a small town here in Florida where there's not much to do for fun. The things that do keep us out of trouble are the ones provided by FFA."

Angie Foister
Lake Butler, Florida



Advisor: Keith Walker

"Students get excited about Mr. Walker's classes when they dread going to others. He makes everyone have the desire to learn."

Kate Ellis, Wilmington, Delaware

These former students also sent in tributes to Keith Walker:

"...Caring, committed and creative." — **Alison Aubrey, Newark, Delaware**

"He continues to reach out to us whenever he is needed." — **Marilyn Paladinetti, New Castle, Delaware**

"I know I have had a real void in my life if I never had Keith Walker touch mine." — **[Name], New Castle, Delaware**

(Pictured left to right with Mr. Walker are: Alison Aubrey, Kate Ellis, Marilyn Paladinetti, and [Name].)



Advisor: Ellen Doese

"Mrs. Daese is the easiest person to talk to right now in my life, as she understands what I'm going through and suggests ways to help me understand."

(Lori Le Kleitsch, left, with Advisor Doese.)

Lori Le Kleitsch
Fairbank, Iowa



Advisor: Steve Pietrolungo

"He has a special FFA fund set aside just for kids who have financial problems or those who just don't have enough for such things as livestock."

Nicole Schindler
Canoga Park, California



Advisor: George Butler

"Over the years Mr. Butler has gained the respect of his students. The agriculture students know what is expected of them from day one."

Freda Dawn Russell
Clinchport, Virginia



Advisor: Jack Staats

"Enclosed is an essay on why I consider my FFA advisor to be one of the best. Although the next four pages can't truly express what fellow chapter members and I feel for our ag teacher, the admiration we have for him is far greater than we can ever describe. Please consider him for your article — he is a person you don't want to miss."

Cyndi Passwater
Cherokee, Oklahoma



Advisor: Mr. Kawamoto

"He has brought out all the special talents in each of us and made us realize you can accomplish whatever you set your heart on."

Stephanie Haleamau
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii



Advisor: Mark Lalum

"Mr. Lalum is a teacher, helper, advisor, second father, and someone to talk to when the times are rough. He is a valued adult friend of many FFA members as well as one of the gang."

Helen Hedstrom
Bozeman, Montana



Advisor: Virgil Wilkins

"Virgil Wilkins could be marketing his knowledge and abilities with magnificent success. He is, instead, teaching. He is passing on his talents to young people, building a stable future through the minds of his students."

Twyla Star Longwell
Wileyville, West Virginia



Advisor: Bob Jaskulka

"The way that I am and the way I will be doing things for the rest of my life are a result of his influence."

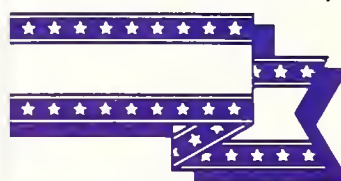
Scott Wendland
Milbank, South Dakota



Advisors: Johnny Story and James Morgan

"Sometimes I think they know more about us than our parents. We are like a family working together accomplishing a lot of great things."

Ben Lee
Calhoun, Kentucky



Advisor: Brian Mink

"Mr. Mink put up with a lot of our immaturity and molded us into successful young men and women."

Sandy Spurlack
Scurry, Texas



Advisor: Nick Kiefer

"When I go home on breaks, I always make a stop at my high school to 'check in' with my advisor. Even though I am now in college, Mr. Kiefer is still interested in my life and always encourages me to do my best."

Tammy Lorch
Waverly, Iowa



In Memoriam
Advisor: Doug Wright
1947 - 1990

"He was (and is) a major inspiration to me; he developed the attitude in me to always go for what you want, no matter what it takes — to live for your dreams and never let them go. He made me want to be in school and work hard. He taught me to believe that I could do anything I wanted to do."

Tracy Percival
Verona, New York



Students from the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences with energetic teachers Sara Uthe, Kathy Selmarten and Lynn Hnetkovsky, left to right.

Dedicated Professionals

From first year agriculture teachers to seasoned veterans, they are all devoted to helping young people

When the bell rings at the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences signaling that it's time for a class change, get out of the halls. The tidal wave of students rushing to their next class moves fast and furious. It's only a safety hazard for those people who aren't with the program.

This fast pace can be found in almost every corner of this urban magnet school of over 452 students, all of which are FFA members. And it is this intensity that has drawn three dynamic new agriculture teachers to the school. Kathy Selmarten and Sara Uthe are teaching their first year at Chicago and Lynn Hnetkovsky is halfway through her second year.

As teachers just starting their careers, these young women have high expectations of what they want to accomplish. They are also getting a crash-course education in the art of teaching.

Animal science teacher Lynn Hnetkovsky is amazed at how much the content of her classes is changing from one year to the next. "The new assignments in ag technology, like aquaculture, are just exploding with possibilities," she says. "I just want

to have the ability to continue to learn about new agriculture and be able to bring that technology and that knowledge to my kids. From my point of view, I can't see teaching for 30 years and not change curriculum year after year."

Every freshman student at the Chicago school takes an agricultural careers and leadership class from Kathy Selmarten. She is also the FFA advisor for the freshman class. Each class at Chicago has a separate set of officers. Her goal as a teacher and an advisor is focused not on herself, but on the students.

"I want my students to achieve and I understand that will vary from student to student," she says. "I want them to fulfill their personal goals with my help or through my guidance."

Horticulture and floral design instructor Sara Uthe also wants the very best for her students, and expects to help them get it. "I want the students to set goals of their own. I want them to go out and be successful. I want them to find their own niche in the world — find what they can do best," she explains. "I want them to be happy with themselves."

(Continued on Page 18)



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Branch _____

Rank _____ MOS _____

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Americans At Their Best.

Dedicated Professionals

(Continued from Page 16)

Uthe says that ever since she was a senior in high school and president of her FFA chapter, she knew she wanted to teach high school agriculture. "I wanted to work in agriculture with people — mostly young adults. Ag education seemed like the perfect thing."

Full of energy and ideas, these teachers are all looking forward to a long career in agricultural education. With years of experience and fond memories, another group of agriculture teachers are looking back at a fruitful, distinguished career.

Ripened with Wisdom

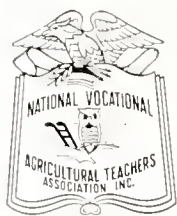
When veterans returned from WWII, many of them needed to learn the new farming techniques that had emerged during the war. After graduating as valedictorian of his class at Louisiana State University in 1950, Richard M. Welch of Oak Grove, Louisiana, joined a force of other teachers in the Veterans On-Farm Training Program. He has been teaching agriculture ever since, for 41 years. He has been teacher and advisor to two generations of FFA members in Oak Grove and is working on his third.

Welch has a list of student and chapter achievements that goes on so long, not even he can remember all of them. He has been advisor to four state FFA presidents, five star state farmers, two star state agribusinessmen, 12 regional proficiency winners, one national proficiency winner and 311 state farmer degree recipients.

Of all those achievements, perhaps what he is most proud of is his attendance record. He has missed only eight days of school because of sickness.

Welch says that his advice to anyone interested in becoming an agriculture teacher is that the person should have a deep desire to teach and not be preoccupied with financial rewards. Like the rookie Chicago teachers, Welch says that "you have to have a strong desire to help young people achieve."

And like most every other agriculture teacher you talk to, Welch says that the main reason he decided to go into the profession in the first place was the strong influence his agriculture teacher had on him as a teenager. ...



Building Better Teachers

Agriculture students become members of FFA to better themselves.

Teachers also have an organization that helps them improve as professionals. It's called the National Vocational Agricultural Teachers' Association.

It's national headquarters is located just around the corner from the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia. As members of this association, teachers attend professional improvement workshops, keep informed on topics of national importance and are recognized for their achievements. The NVATA also helps keep Congress informed about issues in agricultural education.

In July, NVATA's executive director, Sam Stenzel, will retire after 10 years of service to the professional association. The new executive director will be Bob Graham, a former agriculture teacher from Stonewall, Louisiana.



By the Owl

A while back I was asked who has had the greatest influence on my life. I hadn't ever given it much thought, like most folks, I guess. After considerin' for a while I came up with five people that I could say actually affected the direction of my thinkin'. My dad, Doc Brimhall, John Basabe, Red Steagall and Rupert Mansell.

Mr. Mansell was my vo-ag teacher in Las Cruces, New Mexico. "Here by the owl. The owl is the symbol of wisdom..." It's hard for a 16-year-old kid to evaluate wisdom.

I remember Rupert, as we referred to him behind his back, tryin' to teach that rag tag bunch of boys anything (it was all boys back then). Lots of us really didn't have much in the way of money. Our projects included 4 to 5 scraggly sheep, or a couple of steers, some pecan trees, rabbits or whatever. Sure, there were a few boys whose folks were good farmers and had impressive projects but most of us didn't. Rupert treated us all the same.

What we all had was a love of agriculture and the optimism of youth. That was what Rupert had to work with. He taught us that dirt was under your fingernails and soil was what you tilled. He tried, often in vain, to teach us how to weld and work on machinery. How to block sheep, fit a steer, castrate a hog, and how to tell a rib steak from a chuck. It was not until much later that I came to realize how much a vo-ag teacher has to know.

I said Rupert treated everybody the same. That's not quite true since he made me feel like I was special. But, if the truth were known he probably made each one of us feel that way.

He wasn't impressed by politics so when we decided to invite the governor to be the speaker at our local FFA banquet he said to go ahead but don't advertise it in case the "guv" didn't show. We sent out invitations to all the school board, principal and other dignitaries. Most declined; they had other things to do. The day before the banquet the governor confirmed. It came out in the paper. Suddenly the local dignitaries were calling trying to get tickets. Overnight they had developed a sincere interest in the Future Farmers. It was one of Rupert's finest hours.

For all you dedicated vo-ag teachers, I salute you, but I remind you that you are in the position to shape young people's lives. It is no small responsibility. And to Mr. Mansell, from all of us ex-reporters, vice-presidents, greenhands, secretaries, state farmers, soil judges, blacks, browns and whites; if we ever amount to anything, you had a hand in it. Yep, you. There by the owl.

Reprinted with permission of Baxter Black from *On the Edge of Common Sense*.



Students are drawn to Tom Strain's friendly, honest personality. Helping Strain, center, deliver a load of tomato plants after school are alumni supporter Kevin Cunningham, far left, and students Damon Lower and Candi Grimm, right.

Worth The Strain

High school agriculture teacher Tom Strain goes beyond the classroom and the call of duty to help his students grow. Sound familiar?

Last spring, high school agriculture teacher Tom Strain didn't have a weekend to himself for ten weeks. He spent those Saturdays and Sundays with his students. He didn't get paid for the overtime and, other than his wife, Cindy, probably few people noticed. This kind of dedication doesn't make headlines, it just makes good people.

For five years, Strain has been putting in uncountable long hours as the agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at Fulton High School in Fulton, Missouri. He has built up an agriculture program and FFA chapter that had been on the verge of being cut before he arrived. It hasn't happened overnight. It has happened over a lot of late nights.

Ask Strain why he spends so much time working with his students and he counters with, "Where do you shut it off?

You work hard to get the train rolling in one direction and it can't stop. You don't want it to."

Like many successful agriculture teachers, Strain, 31, goes above and beyond the requirement of merely teaching class and "advising as the need arises." He has devoted his most productive and energetic years to help young people develop into adults at a time when they crave attention and search for direction.

"I teach technical agriculture, but I teach kids to be people. I don't know if they get that anywhere else. I'm sure they do, but they don't get enough these days," says Strain. "I think we've replaced some of the stuff that families used to supply. They need a pat on the back and a 'you look nice today.' Families used to do that."

(Continued on Page 20)



With so many demands on Strain's time, paperwork is not a high priority.



Strain is dead serious when he explains shop safety rules to a new class of would-be welders.

Strain has the gift of knowing when to be a friend to a student and when to establish who is the boss. That level of respect starts the first day they walk into class. "I try to expose them to as much of a real-world situation as possible. In shop class, I tell them, 'We're going to treat this class like a business, and I'm the boss. I can be the best boss you've ever had or I can be the biggest S.O.B. you'll ever see. That's up to you.'"

In shop, he also vividly explains the power of the tools they are using and the danger they represent. "You are working with over 220 volts of electricity," booms Strain's voice as he reviews welding safety. "It can kill you — and I mean graveyard dead." No one looks like they are ready to test the theory.

It's clear that Strain doesn't mince words with his students. He treats students like the intelligent young adults they are and the students respond. It's a simple thing that some teachers miss.

Strain says that he keeps that attitude in his classroom. The teachers' lounge. "The major problem we don't go is

"You are working with over 200 volts of electricity. It can kill you — and I mean graveyard dead."



Constructing bleachers for the local fairgrounds challenges advanced students and makes for good public relations.

because I don't want to hear all the negative talk. There's a bunch of negative sentiment in a teacher's lounge and I don't need that. Many of the students I teach, have negative experiences in other places in the school during the day. They don't function that way in my class."

Strain says that what makes agriculture teachers different from all other teachers is the diversity of topics they must teach and what he calls "extended personal contact." "I see my students after hours and at home. I see them in Kansas City when they've been away from mom and dad and they're scared to death or happy as a lark. I see them at camp for a week when they're going wild."

Although he takes pride in his students' and chapter's achievements, Strain is not one to chase after state or national FFA awards. His philosophy is simple and rooted in making a change in as many people as possible. "I'm not so much into getting one or two or three students recognized on the state level," he explains. "I'd rather have ten students feel good about themselves, build some confidence



With no parents to help, Strain stands by student T.W. Davis, left, as he asks Ned Digh for money to buy parts for a trailer he is building. Digh handles Davis' financial affairs until he is 18.

Photos and Story By Andrew Markwart



Strain likes to "work the crowd" at lunchtime. As a result, Brad Murray decided to enroll in ag class this year.

and be recognized in their community. That's where they're going to live."

Since many of Strain's students come from non-farm backgrounds, he has set up a cooperative garden that is run like a business by the students. Each student is responsible for keeping track of the time he or she has worked. During the summer and fall, the vegetables are harvested and sold. At the end of the year, when expenses have been paid for and profits are revealed, the students find out how much money they earned per hour. It is another



When junior Mike Kirchhof was in jeopardy of being expelled from school, it was Strain who was called in to talk about the consequences.

(Continued on Page 22)

Many of Strain's students are business partners in the vegetable garden. Run like a cooperative, the students split profits at the end of the year based on how much time they spent working.



scheme employed by Strain to encourage as many students as possible to get involved.

Like many hard-driving agriculture teachers, Strain is quickly becoming a victim of his own success. His enrollment has climbed to 90 students this year and for many programs, it would be time for a second teacher to be hired to help share the teaching and advising. In a school that says it can't afford another ag teacher, Strain is, well, feeling the strain.

"I just get tired," he admits. "I don't think the students see any of the planning or the preparation. I don't think they see me as having another life. They probably think I get my mail here (at school). They're ready to schedule anything at anytime." With a master's degree already under his belt, he is beginning to entertain thoughts of pursuing a Ph.D or go into high school administration. He says he could make more money as a principal and probably work less hours. That's a strong lure after eight years of long days and lost weekends.

Despite the personal sacrifice necessary to be an effective teacher and advisor, Strain believes that what he is doing has a far-reaching impact.

While talking to a student teacher who had made some mistakes handling a student, Strain told the young man, "You have to realize that you can change people's lives in this business. You need to think about that." ...



Making good on a friendly bet, Strain grills steaks at home for a field crops team that won the district contest, contrary to his prediction.

He treats students like the intelligent young adults they are and the students respond.

Agriculture's New Professionals

Agriculture Teacher

By Lloyd Borden

Nestled among magnificent Appalachian foothills, planted on rich red clay soil, the town of Jacksonville, Alabama, is where John R. Whaley is in the business of shaping young lives. In communities all over America, 11,200 other agriculture teachers and FFA advisors are doing the same.

Whaley, 28, was named one of six Outstanding Young Member Award winners by the National Vocational Agriculture Teacher's Association last year in recognition for the energy and creativity he puts into each of his classes at Jacksonville High School.

This young professional was attracted to the teaching profession by high school teachers and caring parents. Their willingness to help him develop as a leader gave him the desire to follow a similar course in life. Whaley still admires his teachers and advisors.

"I wanted to be a teacher so that I could have the same impact on others," he admits.

A former member of the Lineville, Alabama, FFA Chapter, Whaley received a bachelor of science degree from Auburn University in 1984. He is working on a master's degree at Alabama A & M University. Courses taken at these universities provide him with a solid background in the many different areas that an agriculture teacher must understand.

The courses Whaley teaches are divided between life sciences, mechanics/technology and leadership development. This broad range of topics calls for exper-



Whaley mixes proven traditional activities with innovative teaching techniques in building a successful program.

tise in horticulture, computers, crop science, electricity, wood technology, metals technology, animal science, public speaking, community development, small engines and employment skills.

A typical work day could find Whaley teaching a class on how to preserve the environment, conducting home visits, buying seed for the vegetable garden, informing the local media about upcoming FFA activities, contacting resource persons and ordering materials from the National FFA Supply Service. He might also be planning the purchase of instructional materials, serving as a volunteer bus driver for selected school activities, maintaining tools and equipment in the school shop, arranging field trips and instructing a student in the correct use of a complex piece of equipment.

Whaley uses both tradition and innovation to build his program. The time-

tested activities of home visits, a school vegetable garden, an annual parent-student banquet and patriotic activities are still very important to his program. Moving progressively, he has introduced use of video equipment for educational purposes, hydroponic farming, computer awareness, importance of safe-guarding the environment and short-term exploratory classes for younger students.

Whaley's greatest satisfaction comes when students, teachers, parents and community leaders combine efforts and complete a successful activity. He says, "This community is always ready to support the agriculture program and FFA chapters. The support ranges from a mother who types award applications to civic organizations that provide air transportation to the National FFA Convention in Kansas City."

Being willing to work hard has paid off for this dynamic young teacher. Working long hours after

school with students has resulted in National Gold ratings in the superior chapter, chapter safety and BOAC recognition programs, an FFA quartet with over 100 performances and three recorded albums, an annual chapter banquet with average attendance over 300 people, and a state award for submitting the most news articles for publication. Whaley has been honored individually with a yearbook dedication and teacher of the year award by the local school system.

He believes in serving as a role model and being available to counsel students when they have needs. He and his students visit three colleges and universities each year.

Whaley credits his success as an agriculture teacher to the competitive spirit fostered by 55 colleagues in the Northeast District of Alabama. He adds, "the administration, faculty and staff of Jacksonville High School have proven to be faithful friends in my development as a young teacher."

His wife, Missia, also a teacher, supports his dedication to the teaching profession and attends most Jacksonville FFA activities. ●●●

"I wanted to be a teacher so that I could have the same impact on others."

Writing Contest Winners

Members spoke out about our nation's environmental problems and how agriculture will play a role in finding solutions in the "Up With Agriculture" Writing Contest conducted by FFA *New Horizons* magazine.

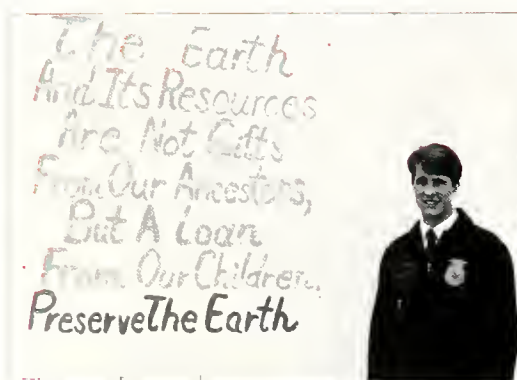
They were limited to 100-word essays focusing on agriculture's role in preserving the environment.

National winner is Timothy Steele, 19, from Kansas. He receives \$500 as national winner and an additional \$50 as Kansas state winner. His local FFA advisor is Dan Palmateer.

The contest is sponsored for the magazine by Garst Seed Company as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

National runner up is Troy Robertson, 17, from Missouri. His advisor is Craig Lehman. Third place winner is Sarah Cockle, 15, from Washington. Her advisor is Fred Cockle. Fourth place winner is David Dempster, 17, from Montana. His advisor is Tim Schaff.

They each receive \$250 as national finalists and an additional \$50 as state winners. Every state winner will be recognized at their state FFA conventions by the national FFA officers.



“ There are many white faded barns scattered throughout the countryside. However, one owned by my uncle is very unique. Painted on the door in red is a saying: “The earth and her resources are not a gift from our ancestors, but a loan from our children.”

For years, man's goal has been to tame the environment. In the process it was unintentionally abused. It is time that the men and women in agriculture set the standards by working with nature, not against it. Yes, the earth is a gift, but it is a precious gift that must be passed on.

”

**Timothy C. Steel
Barnes, Kansas
Valley Heights FFA**

The Winner

Runner-Up



Troy Robertson
Grovespring, Missouri
Hortville FFA

"It seems that everyday we hear of more news about pollution. In America, the number one cause of pollution is exhaust from the millions of automobiles that American farmers depend on for transportation. I feel that the American farmer holds the key to open the door to a cleaner environment. I feel that by utilizing America's considerable grain supplies to produce ethanol, we the people could begin to solve this problem. By using a cleaner burning mixture of ethanol and gasoline on a large scale, we the people could help preserve not only our environment, but also our nation's farming economy."

Third Place



Sarah Cockle
Everson, Washington
Nooksack Valley FFA

"I believe agriculture can take the lead role in preserving our environment. Several areas offer opportunities for environmental improvement.

I believe the area that holds the most promise is the Low Input Sustainable Agriculture (L.I.S.A.) movement. By using L.I.S.A. principles in farming, chemical and pesticide use could be reduced, leading to a cleaner environment.

I believe through the use of biotechnology, the development of new varieties of disease and pest-resistant seed will also reduce the need for chemicals.

I believe that agriculture is in the perfect position to preserve and even enhance the environment for our future."



Fourth Place



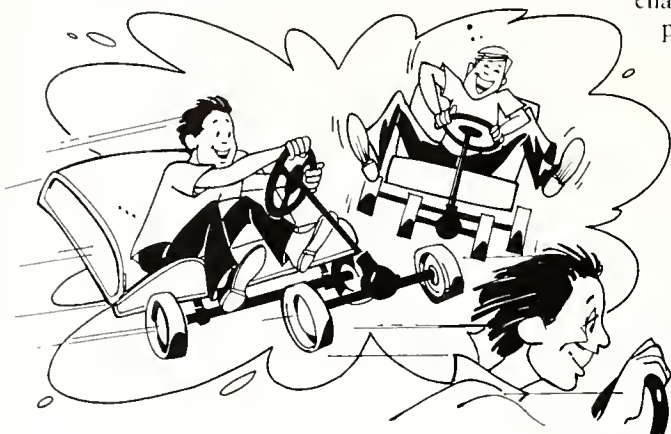
David Dempster
Laurel, Montana
Park City FFA

"Why would babies want to leave heaven to come here?" These words, from a recent *Family Circus* cartoon, reflect America's concern for one of our greatest problems: the deterioration of our environment.

As the largest user of land in our nation, agriculturalists must exert special efforts to serve not only as owners, but as stewards of the land. We must be role models, acting as ambassadors of Earth to the public. By setting an example and reaching out to our nation and world, American agriculture and the FFA Organization can make a difference in solving our globe's greatest present challenge."

CHAPTER SCOOP

At the annual fall fair in Centralia, **Missouri**, new members from the middle school competed for prizes in contests like apple bobbing, nail driving, hay tossing and backseat driving.



Members of the Unionville-Sebewaing, **Michigan**, FFA have released an average of 320 pheasants each fall in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources.

Recruitment was the goal of Atwater, **California**, chapter officers when they visited four middle schools. They signed up 460 prospective students to follow up with about high school agriculture.

"Olympic" games were conducted by Barren County FFA in Glasgow, **Kentucky**. They charged participants 25 cents to play darts; 50 cents to play checkers, ping pong or box hockey; and \$1 to play Pictionary, Uno, arm wrestling or Rook. Trophies went to the winners. Profits went to charity.

Not only does the ParkView Middle FFA in South Hill, **Virginia**, pick up the litter on their assigned 2-mile stretch of highway, they also recycle cans, glass and plastic.

FFA cowboys in Springdale, **Arkansas**, Chapter taught the drill team how to 2-step and swing for the school pep-rally.

Alva, **Oklahoma**, FFA is constructing a gazebo for the town square. Later a directory of stores and public buildings will be added.

After the chapter business meeting, the Greenville, **Ohio**, FFA showed a movie.

After the Smithville, **Ohio**, FFA meeting to induct the 11 new Greenhands, the chapter sprung for cake and punch to celebrate.

It took 14 tons of sand to fill up the 2,000 little containers sold in Christmas luminary kits sold by the Cumberland County, **Pennsylvania**, Cancer Society. FFA knows because they did the shoveling.

FFA contributed oranges to the Meals on Wheels program in St. Johnsville, **New York**. Director Carol

Smith said, "The people really enjoyed the fruit and that the students took notice and helped them."

Black River FFA in Sullivan, **Ohio**, had a lamb roast along with the FFA chapter. The barbeque served 152 members, parents and guests of the two organizations.

Money maker for Des Laes-Burlington, **North Dakota**, FFA is packing specialty gift fruit boxes - first the green "grass," then red and yellow apples, grapefruit and oranges.

In Oklahoma City, **Oklahoma**, the John Marshall FFA decided to collect homemade cookies for the Foundation for the Disabled.

Gonzales, **Texas**, FFA invited the faculty to join the members in a hot dog feed at school. The event helped build better relations and improve communications between FFA members and their teachers.

This year for the FFA-FHA dance at Waynoka, **Oklahoma**, the chapters each invited two state officers

A disaster awareness assembly for elementary school children is a project of the Gilroy, **California**, FFA. Topics include earthquake preparedness, hunter safety and safety around the school.

Idabel, **Oklahoma**, members went door-to-door in a scavenger hunt to gather canned goods for a food drive. They wore official dress and had letters explaining they were with FFA.

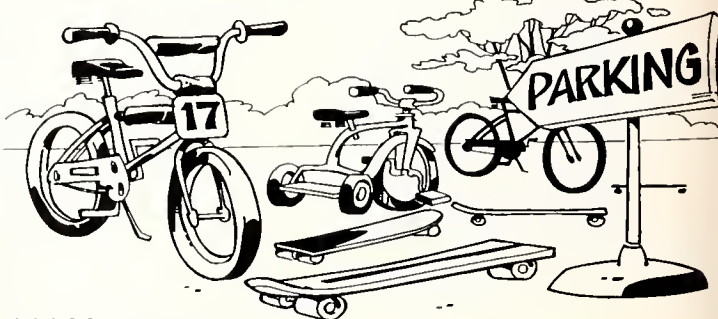
In the Antelope, **Arizona**, Chapter Newsletter, they publish a column from their school principal called "Principal's View."

The Medford, **Oklahoma**, FFA Chapter built a sign honoring the men and women from our country serving in the Persian Gulf.



The name of the Loyaltan, **California**, Chapter newsletter is "FFA Moo's."

Every chapter has a shot at getting mentioned in Chapter Scoop. All that is needed is for someone to write something on paper about the nifty or fun activities of the chapter, then mail it to the magazine editors.



Waubay, **South Dakota**, is developing a kids' park downtown.

Operation Desert Storm

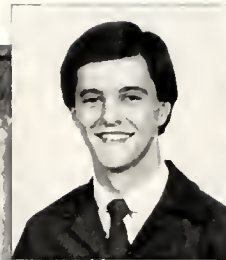
...A personal account

By 1Lt Marty W. Coates

When soldiers of the Iraqi military invaded Kuwait last August, our United States military was called upon to demonstrate the commitment of the American people to preserve freedom in this region. I received the call in late August to go to Saudi Arabia.

I have known since my commissioning as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve that the possibility of going to war existed. Responding to the call of my country, I left behind my family, career, church and, for the most part, life as I know it. But I was not alone. Thousands of citizen soldiers had been called up to serve along side the active duty forces deployed in the Persian Gulf.

With my bags packed, my personal matters now in the hands of my wife and



Marty Coates, right, used his FFA leadership skills to lead his men in Desert Storm.

the necessary training behind me, I was off to Saudi Arabia to participate in Operation Desert Shield.

For the past five months I have served in a transportation battalion whose mission has been to transport troops and equipment to strategic locations. My day-to-day job entails providing plans and operational support to five trucking companies. I work closely with Saudi Arabian contractors who provide trucks for our use.

Living conditions vary. Some troops

went immediately to desert locations upon their arrival and remained there. During the fall months the high temperatures reached 120 degrees.

I was among the luckier soldiers whose location has changed five times in as many months. Each time the conditions improved. Unlike many of my comrades in the desert I enjoy at least some hot meals and a daily shower.

(Continued on Page 37)

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Another Man's Treasure

A Texas FFA member turns old tractors into a profitable business

By Lynn Hamilton

Other people's trashed tractors are Cody Jones' treasure.

The 19-year-old from Cleburne, Texas, buys old Ford tractors from the 1940s and 50s, then rebuilds, repaints and resells them. His business is not only paying his way through college, it also earned him the 1990 National Agricultural Mechanics Proficiency Award at the national FFA convention.

Like most entrepreneurs, Cody started small. When he was a freshman in high school, he took out a \$1,200 loan from his father to buy an 8N Ford tractor. He reconditioned the small, 23-horsepower tractor, repainted it to its original red and gray colors, and found a buyer. He made enough money to buy another tractor, and he was in business.

Since then, both his business and his knowledge about tractors has expanded considerably. The first few years, Cody hired a mechanic to do the engine work, while he concentrated on the body work and painting. He didn't have much shop space, so Cody did most of his work outside. "I had to hope for a real sunny day when I was painting," he says.

Gradually he added tools and equipment to his inventory, and recently constructed a steel building for a shop. Now he does all the work himself, and to date, has reconditioned and sold 75 of the Ford tractors.

Cody credits his agricultural mechanics classes at school in helping him to learn his trade. Now that he has graduated, he returned the favor last year by donating a tractor to the FFA chapter. He paid chapter members to work on the tractor and then bought the tractor back once it was finished. The members earned enough money to attend the Texas FFA convention.

Though a sluggish economy has left many businesses stumbling, the recession



Cody Jones, right, has sold 75 reconditioned Ford tractors.

has actually helped Cody's sales. "I sell my tractors for about \$1,950. A new tractor of that size would probably run \$3,000-\$4,000." He gets a lot of business from a nearby vacation area, as people going to their cabins stop by to purchase a small tractor or mower. Business has been good locally, but Cody has also received tractor orders from Corpus Christi, a city 400 miles away.

Advertising in both newspapers and radio has helped him spread the word about his business. "I'd always bought tractors through the newspaper, and thought I could sell them through the newspaper," he said. He uses a radio show called "Trade Fair," to tell about his business. He calls in several times a week, and has sold a half-dozen tractors over the air.

Tractors will be in Cody's future, even though he hopes to get a degree in accounting and attend law school. "I'll probably always work in tractors on the side," he says.

Cody's success comes as no surprise to his former agricultural education instructor Jack

Swilley. "Cody is a pretty self-motivated young man," Swilley says. "Whatever he does, he gives 100 percent, there isn't anything halfway about it." Swilley also says Cody has some savvy business skills. "He can sell anybody anything." Cody was named the Star Lone Star Agribusinessman in 1990, and plans to apply for the Star Agribusinessman of America award this year.

This summer, Cody will reap even more benefits from his business as he participates in the 1991 European Travel Seminar for national proficiency winners. The Agricultural Mechanics proficiency award is sponsored by Case IH as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. ...

Be Your Own Boss

If you want to start your own business, take a few tips from Cody Jones.

His first advice is to find something you're interested in and research it. He found his niche in restoring old tractors; your interest could be computers, landscaping, raising animals, grooming dogs, or any number of Supervised Agricultural Experience programs.

Don't be afraid to take out a

small loan to get started. It might seem like a big step, but it could really pay off—if you're willing to follow Cody's advice.

"A lot of time and hard work will make your SAE blossom," he says.

"After I learned a lot and talked to people and put time and energy into it, my tractors turned out to be a lucrative business I think you could do that with just about any project."

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Dream Machine

When their town lost all of its firefighting equipment, this Arkansas chapter came to the rescue

By Jody E. Pollok

A lot of people dream of being a fireman when they grow up, but how many dream of building a fire truck? The 27 FFA members of Delaplaine, Arkansas, came to the aid of their community by building an original firefighting vehicle they affectionately call the "Dream Machine." It's a 1970 Ford F-600 pickup that was converted into a fire truck by the Delaplaine FFA members in late 1989 and early 1990.

It is the most recent of an impressive string of community service projects developed by the chapter over the past few years. Some of the chapter's BOAC (Building Our American Communities) projects have supported fire safety such as building a 2,500 gallon folding water tank, building hose drying racks, building restrooms and an office in the fire station and wiring the station.

The idea of building a fire truck had been discussed for quite some time according to Wendell Hogan, Delaplaine FFA advisor.

The project began in April 1989, when a design contest was held in the ag mechanics class. The students were given the specifics for the truck such as gallons of water it should hold, weight, width, length and other equipment that needed to be hauled on it. The students submitted their plans which were critiqued. The final design was a compilation of all the plans.

"We took the best of everybody's ideas and put them together. Then we sat down with the fire chief and ironed it out," said Hogan. The Dream Machine is not your everyday fire truck. According to Hogan, "It is a super truck. Most trucks are either a tanker or a pumper, but this is a combination of the two."

After the design was complete, the assembly work began. Some students worked over the summer, but most of the Dream Machine was built in the fall. The tank was built first and then filled with water. The students discovered that there were 42 leaks in the tank. All of the leaks were marked and fixed.

"Trying to get the leaks to stop was probably the most challenging," remembers chapter member Scott Meredith, who worked on the truck. "We worked on it quite awhile and surprisingly we didn't have as many leaks as we thought we would."

Students worked on the Dream Machine two nights per week



Scott Meredith and his classmates worked six nights a week to complete the Dream Machine on schedule.

and during class. Anyone who wanted to work on the truck was assigned a task.

Just as the project was in full swing in January, the Delaplaine fire station burned. Both trucks and the station were lost. The fire caused the deadline for the completion of the Dream Machine to be moved up to FFA Week in February, 1990. In order to meet their new goal, the FFA members changed their schedule to work six nights per week. The fire department became more involved and assisted in completing the truck. The Black River Vo-Tech auto body class pitched in by painting the truck.

The Dream Machine was finished and presented to the fire department during FFA week. "I feel good because I got to work on it. It will be something that I will always remember," said Meredith.

The Dream Machine has helped create more public support for the Delaplaine Volunteer fire department besides providing a new fire truck for the community. For this unique undertaking, the Delaplaine FFA was recognized as having the state-winning BOAC project in Arkansas last year, a distinction that has everyone in Delaplaine beaming. "The students are proud of it," said Hogan, "and the community is proud of it." ...

Building Our American Communities is sponsored by the RJR Nabisco Foundation Inc. as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

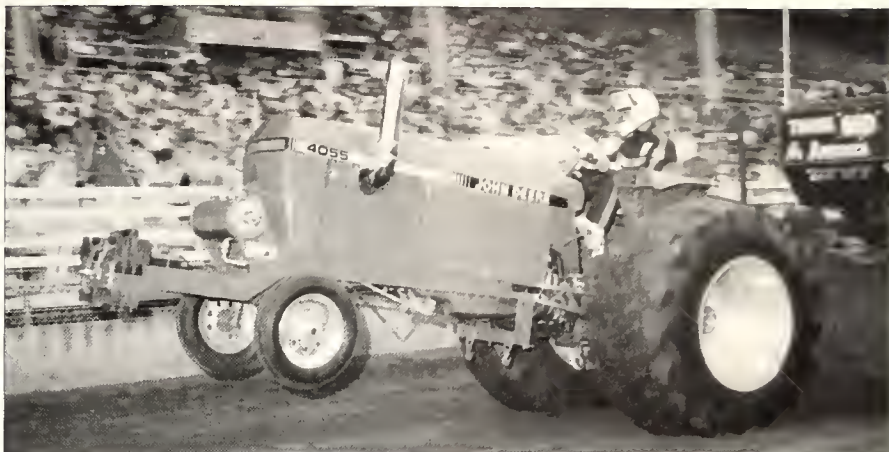
Tractor Pulls Family Together

It is a family affair when Jason Newell loads up his John Deere 4055 Super Stock tractor and heads down the road for another tractor pull.

Newell, 19, of Belle Rive, Illinois, started competing in tractor pulls when he was 16. Ever since then, Jason's parents and sister help Jason prepare for the pull and go to cheer him on. "It's a family outing we do for recreation," says Jason. "My father and I do all the work on the tractor. My mother and sister help clean and polish the tractor and help with anything else they can."

The Mt. Vernon FFA Chapter member competes in 40 to 50 pulls a year, most of which are at county fairs. He placed fourth in his 5500 lb. Super Stock class at the Illinois State Fair in 1989 and fifth in 1990. The Super Stock class requires contestants to retain the tractor's original block and rear-end, but anything else can be modified. Since Jason and his father bought the tractor, they have completely reconditioned everything on the tractor, crafting it just the way they want it.

The engine has a 6-cylinder, 466 cubic



Jason Newell pulls his turbocharged, methanol-burning Super Stock tractor at over 40 events each year.

inch engine that is fueled by methanol and produces about 800 horsepower. The methanol burns at such a cool temperature that a cooling system and radiator is not necessary. Jason says that each trip down the track burns 4 to 5 gallons of fuel.

Jason is a member of the Illinois Tractor Pulling Association (ITPA) and the National Tractor Pulling Association

(NPTA). Among other responsibilities, these associations enforce safety regulations. Starting this year, the ITPA will require all pullers to wear a complete fire suit in addition to a safety helmet, which has been required for several years.

Jason says that he has been able to pay for upkeep of the tractor and cover travel expenses with the prize money he wins.

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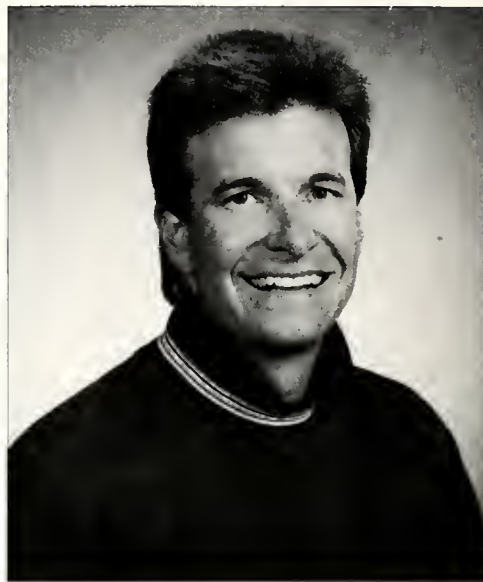


You Make It Happen

A series of articles to help FFA members
get the most out of life

Taking the Pressure Out of Peer-Pressure

By Bill Sanders



Bill Sanders

We blame our problems on peer-pressure a lot like the world is blaming its problems on Saddam Hussein. The big difference is that Mr. Hussein is guilty of most of his accusations...but peer-pressure is not.

Ask many of your friends in your school or FFA chapter why they started drinking, stealing, lying, smoking, snorting or having sex. Most of them will say, "peer-pressure made me do it." Almost every week some teen in some school tells how they made a decision to do something and it will have a devastating effect on the rest of their life. (Catching AIDS from a first-time safe-sex experience for instance...Sure was "safe" wasn't it?)

I devoted a third of my book, *Tough Turf*, to peer-pressure. Let's dig some meat and potatoes from those pages:

There are four types of negative peer-pressure (when we do something that is harmful to us, our future, our family, or our friends). They are: "Follow the Crowd" pressure; "Can't be Me" pressure; "Afraid to Try" pressure; and "Me Pressuring Me" pressure.

Notice that only one type has to do with your friends (Follow the Crowd) and in all four cases YOU are in control. Before you "Follow the Crowd," ask if you want to: 1) act like; 2) end up like; or 3) be treated like them or have their reputation. Partiers turned boozers turned burn-outs should be a good enough example.

I have a t-shirt that says "Don't Follow the Sheep -

Follow the Shepherd." We need to follow the right kind of people.

"Can't Be Me" means we wear our mask that covers up the real me. I'm smiling on the outside...but dying on the inside. I have questions, but I'm too afraid or shy. I know a friend who has been selling drugs or is being abused, but I never open up or offer them help. Be yourself!

Remember what Michael Jordan says, "Don't envy my talents... Use the ones God has already given you."

"Afraid to Try" means just that. You don't run for an FFA office because you can't speak as good as someone or because two of your peers said you will never make it. Remember...if you do what's on your heart you may not be in the majority, but you will be in demand!

"Me Pressuring Me" is whey lying, cheating on a test, most alcohol and other drug abuse, and pre-marital sex come from. You have convinced yourself that you must engage in this activity to save face — be cool — be popular, etc.

Now that we've identified the major areas in your life for this so-called "peer-pressure," you can decide to "Get Real" and be yourself. God made you like you are for a reason. Identify your abilities and dreams and put them into action.

If you are not affected by peer-pressure you will surely be proud to brag about FFA to your friends, as well as be seen with your mom at the mall! ...

FFA New Horizons is asking some of the country's top experts in motivation and personal development to share their ideas of how FFA members can achieve their dreams.

Bill Sanders is a writer, speaker and seminar instructor who specializes in helping people understand and control peer pressure. He has spoken at national FFA convention events, addressed state FFA conventions and has served as a training consultant working with FFA's Made For Excellence staff.

FFA IN ACTION



Chapter members pose with old Saint Nick during the FFA Christmas Outreach for the families of Operation Desert Shield soldiers stationed at Fort Bliss.

Texas

Holiday Helpers For Operation Desert Shield Families

Ysleta FFA Chapter in El Paso, Texas, included families effected by Operation Desert Shield in a Christmas event.

Because El Paso is the site of the Army Air Defense Unit at Fort Bliss, the community has certainly been impacted by world events. Chapter members helped

sponsor a breakfast for the families of soldiers sent to Saudi Arabia. Members secured a Christmas dinner for over 400 families with the assistance of the Sargent-Major's Academy and local food-chain stores.

Children got to have their picture taken with Santa Claus and toys were also distributed. Additionally, members sent over 500 letters of greeting and established a pen pal chain. ...

California

Gifts To the Desert

The Mt. Whitney, California, FFA Chapter in Visalia wanted to express in some way that they are in full support of our service personnel in Saudi Arabia.

They organized a community service project to collect and send gift boxes to persons originally from Mt. Whitney or the Visalia area. They asked for donations of items that could be packaged and sent easily with emphasis on food items locally produced like raisins, nuts, dried fruits, canned fruits and fruit juices.

Also they collected personal items like baby powder, shampoo, sunscreen and toothpaste.

The chapter made an effort to locate any "hometown" persons in order to add their addresses to the list.



Members set up an assembly line to pack the gifts contributed to their "Operation Home Front."

The FFA collected the items and organized work days to put all the items together into care packs. Then they put the packs together for shipping.

Holiday cards, letters from home, newspapers and lists of all those who donated goods were included with the supplies according to FFA chairman Dan Foster.

FFA solicited additional cash to buy shipping supplies and to get boxes delivered to the military. ...

Michigan

Cards Carriers To the Desert

The Bronson, Michigan, FFA organized a Christmas card drive for the soldiers serving in Operation Desert Shield. We used the activity as an opportunity to explain the war to elementary students by opening the drive to all grades K-12. We received and forwarded over 150 cards to servicemen from our town and the surrounding area. We received a letter back from the commander on the U.S.S. Guam thanking us for the thoughts. Also, many individuals received personal thank you letters. (Beth Carpenter, President) ...

Montana

Rap Messages For Kids

The Missoula, Montana, FFA chapter has been working extremely hard on a new community service project. Entitled "FFA Against Drugs" or FAD, the group travels city and statewide performing a rap written by group member Jesse Andres. The rap not only provides entertainment for its listeners, but also presents an anti-drug message from a peer perspective.

Group members include Jesse Andres, Julie Andres, Meta Loftsgaarden, Nate Andres and Dan Muir from the Missoula Chapter and two former Missoula Chapter members who are now state officers, Jerry Andres and Duke Gilman.

The group performed at a Dan Seals concert given in Livingston, Montana, and also at the Montana Red Ribbon Rally. The rally was held at the state capitol.

Efforts are now turning towards the grade schools. FAD members are setting up workshops on the fifth grade level around the city of Missoula. With the help of counselors, FAD hopes to present the problems of drug abuse from a teenage perspective. Each workshop begins with the rap followed by group discussions.

FAD feels that the project is proceeding extremely well and has received much positive feedback. (Meta Loftsgaarden, President) ... (Continued on Page 34)

Ohio

Campground Comment

For their December meeting, the Danville, Ohio, invited 1989-90 state president, Dena Wyler, to speak to the chapter about FFA Camp Muskingum in their state. She is currently a spokesperson for the camp.

In her discussion, she explained the seven major benefits of the facility for FFA members - education, nature, good food, fellowship, leadership, personal development and recreation. She also talked about many fun activities the camp provides, such as basketball, volleyball, tennis, football, softball, swimming, fishing and canoeing. There is also a rifle range, a shotgun range, archery, crafts and a nature center.

During camp FFA member are on teams to compete in the agriculture olympics. There are also FFA Quiz and public speaking contests.

The students were very interested in her discussion and some members are planning to attend. (Jamie Kauffman, Reporter) ...

Kansas

Ag Hall of Fame To Honor Farm Cooks and Their Families

The National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame announces a 1991 fundraiser cookbook. The sale of the 300-plus page hardbound cookbook will fund a new Food and Nutrition Building at the Center.

During the national FFA convention, over 3,000 members visit the Hall of Fame in Bonner Springs, Kansas, just outside Kansas City.

The new building will include an exhibit honoring the nation's best cooks and their recipes. The Center is calling for recipes at this time.

A \$10.00 entry fee for each recipe is requested to offset the cost of printing the cookbook. Each entrant has a chance to be chosen for a place of honor in the new building. All entrants will receive a \$5.00 coupon good towards the purchase of the cookbook (a \$30.00 value). Not only will recipes be featured but a history of each cook's family and community will be emphasized.

Mail check or money order for \$10.00 for each recipe submitted to The National Hall of Fame Cookbook, Marketing Services, 1000 Broadway, Suite 300, Kansas City, MO 64101 ...

(Continued on Page 36)

By Chris Feaver

The year was 1979. The Los Angeles Lakers had just won the first game of the new National Basketball Association season, and 20-year-old rookie guard Earvin "Magic" Johnson was jumping up and down at midcourt, celebrating and hugging everybody in sight.

When it came time to hug all-star teammate Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, the 7-foot-2 center grabbed hold of Johnson. "Take it easy," the veteran Jabbar said, "we've still got 81 more games to play."

Magic Johnson played those 81 games in the 1979-80 season, leading the Lakers to a world title, and nearly 1,000 other games since; yet he still displays the same enthusiasm for the game, and for winning, that he displayed in his first NBA game more than 11 years ago.

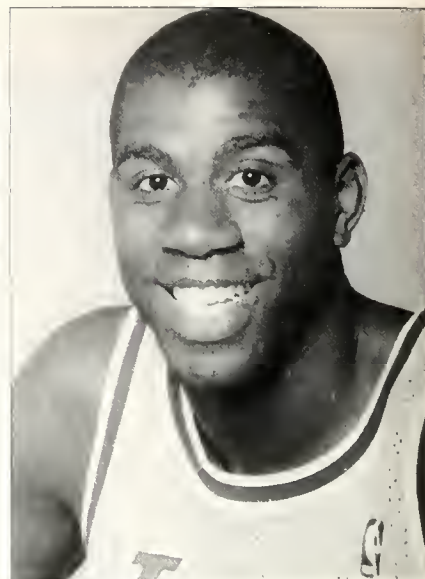
At age 31, he now saves his mid-court celebrating for more important moments, like winning NBA championships. Even so, he still has had a number of occasions over the years, such as five NBA titles and three Most Valuable Player trophies, to spin and twirl at mid-court.

"I play for the love of the game and to win championships," Johnson said. Johnson began tuning up for his NBA titles as a senior in high school, when he led Everett High, located in his home town of Lansing, Michigan, to the state title. The following year, as a freshman at Michigan State University in East Lansing, he was instrumental in leading the Spartans to the Big 10 title. Johnson produced an NCAA title his sophomore year as his Spartans defeated the Larry Bird-led Indiana State Sycamores in the NCAA finals.

Johnson has enjoyed the same type of success off the court as well. One of the highest-paid athletes in history, he lives in a luxurious house in the hills of Los Angeles. He has also become active in the business world, owning a Pepsi distributorship, among other interests.

But while he earns a great deal of money, he has also given a great deal back to society. For the past five years, he has conducted an annual all-star game benefiting the United Negro College Fund. Last year's game generated more than \$1.5 million, bringing the five-year total to more than \$5 million.

Also, he is constantly on the move in the off-season, conducting basketball camps, speaking and working with a



Magic Johnson

number of benefits for charities such as Muscular Dystrophy, City of Hope, the Starlight Foundation and the American Heart Association. In 1987, he was named the NBA Man of the Year for his involvement with charity and community service work.

But Johnson is most famous for what he has done on the basketball court. While he was busy winning titles, he was also revolutionizing the game. Magic Johnson is no ordinary guard. He is a point guard who stands 6-foot 9-inches tall.

The point guard is the leader of a basketball team. He runs the offense and is required to be an excellent passer and ball-handler. The point guard is usually the smallest player on the court. Johnson changed that tradition.

Despite his height, Johnson displays superior ball-handling skills, giving him an advantage over his shorter opponents. His knowledge of the game, and the seeming ease and grace in which he can distribute the ball to wide open teammates, has made him one of the greatest guards of all time. In fact, he should pass Oscar Robertson's all-time career assist record of 9,887 sometime next season.

Johnson is having another spectacular season, averaging nearly 19 points and 13 assists per game. The Lakers are once again contending for the NBA championship. Some things never change when you have the skill and the will to win of a Magic Johnson. ...

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FFA IN ACTION

(Continued from Page 34)

Illinois

Mrs. USA Visits Hometown FFA

On January 25, 1991, Mrs. USA, Dr. Deborah Williams, PhD., visited the Chicago Ag Science Chapter during her visit to Chicago. Mrs. USA spoke to approximately 450 FFA members during their chapter meeting. Her topic of discussion was "Climb your Mr. Everest and don't let anyone or anything stand in the way of your dreams." She emphasized the importance of overcoming any obstacles that arise and try to keep you from obtaining your goals.



During her talk, Mrs. USA complimented the chapter for their enthusiasm and for conducting well organized meetings.

After her reign as Mrs. USA, Dr. Williams is planning to establish her own private practice. She is a mother of one and the wife of the NBA Dallas Mavericks power forward, Herb Williams. (Latecia Williams, Reporter) ...

Connecticut

Tree Tidings of Joy

The Woodbury, Connecticut, FFA took part in a community decorating event for the Ronald McDonald House in their area. This activity was a fun event for the whole chapter and served as a large charity event. The chapter was one of several groups



The decorating crew from FFA added a festive touch to the front porch of Ronald's House.

who decorated a Christmas tree. At the end of the day the decorated trees were auctioned off to raise money. (Laurene J. Kern, Reporter) ...

Iowa

Pancake Pushers

For the past 17 years, the *Des Moines Register* has sponsored the *Register's* Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI). RAGBRAI is a week-long ride from the west border of Iowa to the east. Around 15,000 riders from all over the world participate in this activity.

Each of the seven days brings riders to a different host town. Algona hosted RAGBRAI on July 23, 1990, and saw its population go from 6,000 to over 20,000 for twenty-four hours.

The Algona FFA Chapter was part of RAGBRAI by hosting a pancake breakfast. FFA members selected a location at a farm that all 15,000 RAGBRAI riders would travel by when leaving Algona. Early Tuesday morning, starting at 2:30 a.m., FFA members, advisor Greiman and parents organized for the breakfast.

The first rider appeared at 5:00 a.m. and serving continued until 9:30 a.m. A total of 1,100 riders stopped. (Darin Metzger and Chad Smith, Reporters) ...

California

Leadership Room For FFA

At Fullerton, California, High School in the agriculture department there is an FFA leadership room. It is designed for officers and committee chairs to study or work on related projects.

The room also has pictures of chapter and state officers since 1941. Plaques for American FFA Degree recipients, Star Greenhands, State FFA Degree recipients and Star Chapter Farmers are also located in the room. ...

Ohio

Hats Off For Dollars

The Montgomery County Joint Vocational School FFA in Ohio recently concluded its ninth annual Charity Hat Auction for the Ronald McDonald House in Dayton, Ohio.

This year FFA collected nearly 300 items to sell for the auction from national, state and area agribusinesses and equipment dealers. They received hats, coats, toy tractors and many other items.

The sale netted \$1,970.00 which the chapter donated to the Ronald McDonald House. Over 300 students and FFA Alumni attended the sale and purchased the items. ...

Virginia

Tour Talk For School Credit

An "Explore Virginia's World" fourth-grade agricultural education tour was held at the 1990 State Fair of Virginia with more than 10,000 students and 1,000 volunteers participating.

Each bus load of fourth graders was greeted to the fairgrounds by a state officer of the Virginia FFA Association. The state FFA officers not only provided vital



Joey Reinhardt, state vice president, met a busload of fourth graders and told them what agriculture sights to look for on the fairground.

state fair information, but also answered questions about Virginia agriculture, and explained about FFA.

The tour was designed to meet Virginia's social studies program standards of learning, utilizing various commodity groups' educational materials.

"Explore Virginia's World" is part of the Agriculture in the Classroom program, coordinated by the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. (Will Waidelich, State Executive Secretary) ...

Ohio

Put Wheels On It

The Bowling Green, Ohio, FFA has for 12 years been making Christmas toys for needy children in their area.

Lumber is donated by local yards and members build 12 different trucks, cars, cats, dogs and farm animals. The toys are cut out on a band saw or sabre saw. Then they are sanded and holes drilled for axles. Wheels are made from a hole saw and they too are sanded.

After sanding is complete dowel rods are cut to the proper length for axles and the wheels are put on with wood glue. FFA built about 250 toys this year. (Jim Shertzer, Reporter) ...

M Y T U R N

Lesa Ann King



Lesa Ann King

"Our nation advances only by the extra achievements of individuals. You are that individual." — Charles Towne

I looked out the window at the strange writing, the beautiful mountains on the horizon, and the other trains passing by. I had just finished my home stay in Japan, and I was traveling back to Kyoto, to meet my fellow officers. As I sat on the train, I reflected back on my past week in Japan and what had happened in my life that had brought me to this point and place in my FFA career.

My experiences in Japan had been fantastic. The Japanese students, teachers, and industry people I had met were very friendly. However, I realized that something about Japan was very different.

I remembered how as a sophomore in high school, I had given up on agricultural education classes. All I wanted to do was show cattle, and I felt no need to waste my time in an aged class. Fortunately for me, my school got two new agriscience teachers that year who encouraged me back into the program. Mr. Riggins was excellent with record books, scholarship and proficiency award applications, and FFA degree applications. Mr. Wetsel was involved with leadership development activities and livestock programs. These two men saw potential in me that I did not see in myself. My agriscience teachers cared about my classmates and me as "individuals." My junior year, I got back into the program. With their guidance, I worked to develop my individual talents.

As I completed my travels through Japan and China, I realized what was so different — freedom to be an individual. In all of the Japanese schools, the students wore uniforms. The students were separated and sent to different schools at a very young age based on their grades,

with little chance of changing. The people of Japan were kind, but many of them seemed to hold their thoughts inside.

In China, students have to pay to go to school. The classrooms are crowded with up to 60 students or more in a class, and the classroom facilities are inadequate. Only 10 percent of their students go to college, compared to over 50 percent in the United States. If you go to college in China, the government places you in a job when you graduate. You have no choice in your occupation; the decision is made for you. As I left China, I noticed check stations along the side of the road. These stations are not to keep foreigners out, but to keep their people in.

After National Convention a friend of mine sent me a quote by Charles Towne that reads "Our nation advances only by the extra achievements of individuals. You are that individual."

Our national FFA officer team is made up of six unique and talented individuals. However, just as your chapter needs each individual member, we rely on the individual strengths of each other and our advisors as we "strive for excellence." We would like to thank our past advisors for serving as positive role models, for believing in us and helping us to develop as individuals, for caring about each individual member in our chapters and for being the outstanding individuals that they are.

My officer team and I urge you to thank those individuals who have made a difference in your life. We also challenge you to make a difference in the lives of others. ...

Desert Storm

(Continued from Page 27)

Probably the most difficult situation for any of us has been the separation from our loved ones. Thankfully, the mail has been busy with boxes, cards, and letters to the troops. Many of us literally live for the mail each day, hoping to receive a word from back home.

Among the daily concerns we all face during wartime is dealing with the possibility of being killed. During the past few weeks many of my soldiers have found it difficult to sleep, eat or continue their routine duties. In part, this is where the role of an officer is felt.

Providing positive leadership is vital to the success of our mission here in Saudi Arabia, just as it is in your FFA chapters back home. Though the situations are different, the basic requirements for leading are very similar. As a former FFA officer I developed many of the leadership traits which are required of me today on the modern battlefield. Without those early years of training in public speaking, officer duties, contest teams, laboratory assignments and on-farm supervised projects, my ability as a military officer to perform here would be greatly reduced.

Serving here continues to be a challenging experience. Each day grants me new opportunities to grow emotionally, spiritually and intellectually.

It is in situations like these that our society experiences a renewed commitment to our great nation and all it represents. As the war continues, people here and back home should unite in a prayer for peace. It should be offered by all people who believe in the principles that the FFA and America are built upon.

These are, as Thomas Paine wrote, "the times that try men's souls." From my viewpoint, the hardships we encounter during the crisis in the Persian Gulf, as difficult as they may be, are a small price to pay for the liberties we enjoy as citizens of America.

Service in Desert Shield/Storm has helped me to appreciate more my commitment to three priorities in my life. They are God, family and my country. No sacrifice is too great for any of these. ...

1st Lieutenant Marty W. Coates, Florence, South Carolina, was national FFA secretary from North Carolina in 1983. In his civilian career, Coates is senior vice president, marketing, at Pee Dee Farm Credit Service in Florence.

Coates filed this article on February 20, three days before the Allied Forces began their campaign.

J O K E P A G E

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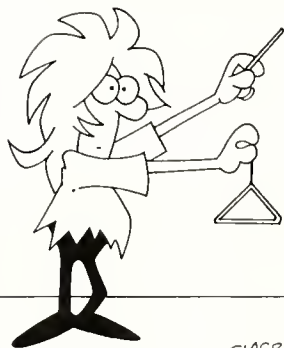
Little Johnny was in his Sunday School Class one Sunday morning and they were studying about Lot's wife.

The teacher stated, "You know what happened to Lot's wife? She looked back and turned into a pillar of salt."

Little Johnny raised his hand and the teacher recognized him, "Yes, Johnny."

"Teacher, that's nothing. My Mom was driving down the street the other day and looked back and turned into a telephone pole."

Maxie Davis
Camden, Arkansas



GLASBERGEN

Lance compensated for his lack of musical talent by becoming the first heavy metal triangle player.

One day at a hometown baseball game the official umpire got sick. A man in the crowd stood up and yelled, "I can umpire, I've seen it done before."

They said, "OK."

The man stood behind the plate and said, "Play ball!"

The pitcher threw the ball and the man yelled, "Ball one. Ball two. Ball three. Ball four. You're out!"

The batter turned and looked at the umpire yelling and screaming, "Why am I out?"

The umpire said, "The bases are full. There isn't any place to put you. You're out."

Rob Gaffin
Hazel Green, Alabama

Fred: Name two things leather is good for.

Frank: Well, for baseball mitts...and for holding cows together.

Billy Cooley
Mountain Home, Arkansas

Bill just got back to the city after being at his uncle's dairy farm for a week and invited his friend Tom over.

When offered the fresh milk Bill brought back, Tom asked, "Does your uncle keep his cows on pasture?"

Bill replied, "Yes, of course. Why do you ask?"

"Because I only drink pasteurized milk."

Roc Rutledge
Yuma, Colorado
Congress-Bundestag Exchange
Student

There were two men driving down the road while bear hunting. They saw a bear jump over the highway.

They stopped the truck and looked for the bear but they couldn't find it.

They continued driving and finally came to a Y in the road. The sign on the left said "bear left." So they went home.

Andrew Morris III
Green County, Pennsylvania

An old farmer from back in the hills told his lawyer, who was making out his will, that he wanted his pickup truck buried with him. When the attorney asked why, the farmer said, "Because I never have gotten in a hole yet but what my pickup couldn't pull me out."

Carolyn Stewart
Collinsville, Oklahoma

Charlie, the Greenhand



"I notice that under parents you've written...yes."

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*1989 New Truck Buyer Study **1990 IntelliChoice Inc., San Jose, CA. Resale cost estimate after five years: Ford F150 and Chevy C-1500 base models with selected options. Actual resale prices and operating costs may vary.
†"Best-Built" claim based on an average of consumer-reported problems in a series of surveys of all Ford and competitive '81-'90 models designed and built in North America. Sales by Division.

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