

# new horizons

The magazine of the National FFA Organization

July/August 1998



## big country

BRYANT REEVES TAKES THE FFA TO THE NBA

## amber's web

A MONTANA FFA  
CHAPTER HITS THE  
INFORMATION  
SUPERHIGHWAY

## how the test was won

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE  
TAKING THE ACT OR SAT





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# new horizons

Official Magazine of the National FFA Organization

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# contents

July/August 1998

## coverstory

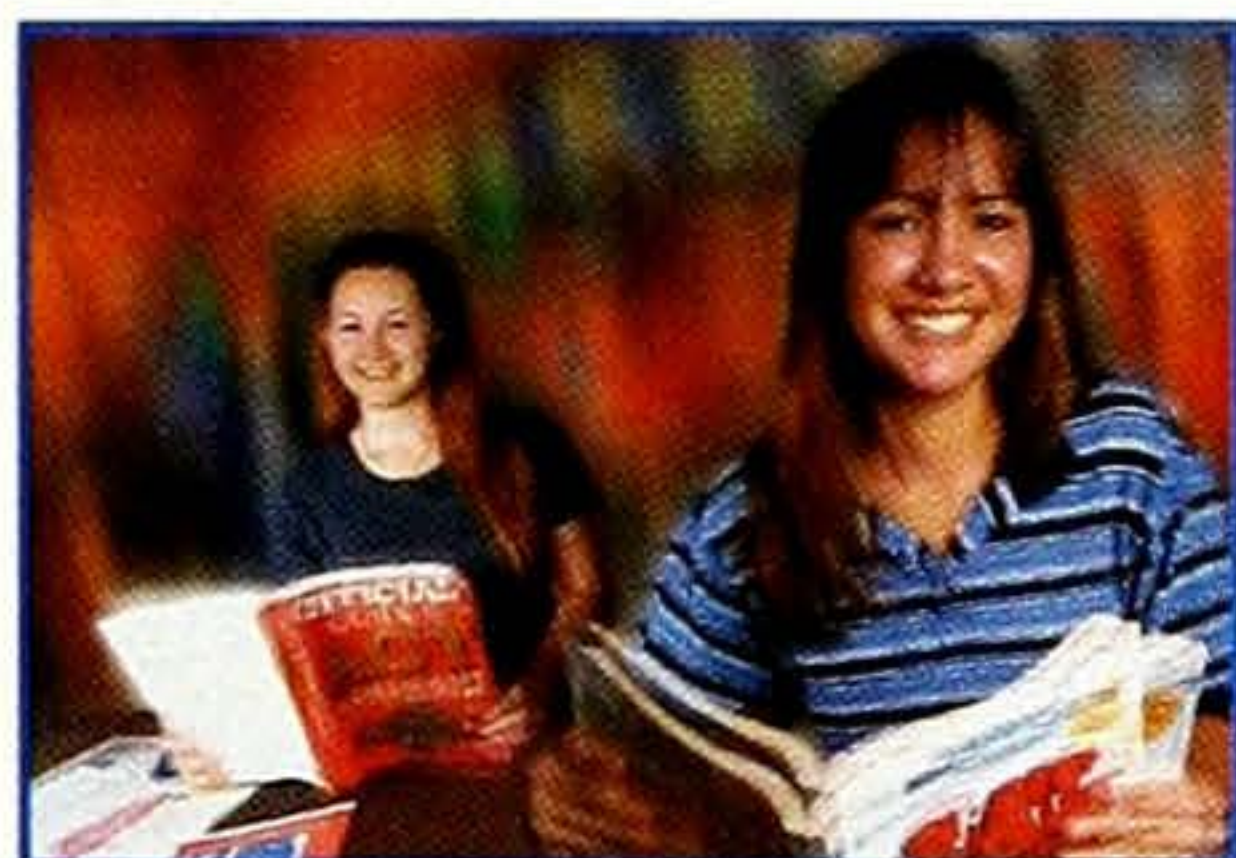
### 10 Big Country



Whether he's branding cattle on his ranch or tangling with Charles Barkley for a rebound, Bryant Reeves (the former FFA member now playing in the NBA), knows how to get the job done. We caught up with Reeves before a matchup with the Chicago Bulls.

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College entrance exams play a major part in whether or not you're accepted to the college of your choice. Fortunately, there are ways to be sure that, come exam day, you have the know-how to do well.

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Even though her dad Mel Tillis, is one of country music's legends, Pam Tillis has cleared her own path to success. With her powerful voice and carefully crafted songs, she's been making a splash in Nashville since her first hit song in 1991.

### 25 Amber's Web



With hardly any Internet knowledge, Amber Ludwick took on the task of creating a chapter website. See how she got started and learn about the explosive growth of job opportunities in this field.

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## FFA Mission Statement

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

## Agricultural Education Mission

The mission of agricultural education is to prepare and support individuals for careers, build awareness and develop leadership for the food, fiber and natural resources systems.



On the Cover: Bryant "Big Country" Reeves. Photo courtesy of the NBA.



## one on one with Cody Nash

If you could meet any person in history, who would it be, and why? Will Rogers, because I want to be just like him. He did something for the American agriculturalist that no one has done since. During the Depression and Dust Bowl days, he brought hope to farm families from the Midwest. He was witty, and he was clever. Through his humor, he guided the opinion of the nation about war, the Depression, and better days to come. And he was a tremendously humble person. I've tried to emulate some of his style this year as I've travelled because he just had a way about him. It wasn't planned, it wasn't schemed—it was just honest to goodness, salt of the earth.

**What is one important discovery you have made this year?**

In Japan I realized that a smile is universal. And people are people no matter where you go.

**Tell us about your business and industry tours.**

Amber Miller and I worked together for the entire two weeks, and it was great to share the FFA story and build relationships with industry people who didn't know a lot about FFA.

If you could be president of the United States for a day, what would you try to do for the country? If I could be president of the United States of America for one day, I would pay teachers more than professional athletes, and I would give a State of the Union address talking about all of the good things we have to be thankful for in America.

**What are your career plans?**

My plan is to get my degree in agricultural education with a masters in ag communications, so I can be involved in TV, radio and journalism. And then I'd like to teach eventually.

**What are your hobbies?**

Probably reading—I've got plenty of time to read. I've started writing some poetry because some of the places I go are pretty inspiring. I don't know that it's worth much but it sure is fun.

**What's your next destination?**

I will be in Ohio and Oklahoma, and then I go home to the Texas FFA Convention on July 14 and 15. ★

### VITALS

Hometown: Tolar, Texas

Age: 19

Chapter: Tolar

Advisor: Kim Sullins

SAE: Diversified livestock consisting of Brahman cattle, market swine and market goats

Education: Freshman at Tarleton State University

Major: Agricultural education

My favorite singer: Garth Brooks

Last book I read: George Burns' autobiography

Last movie seen: Titanic

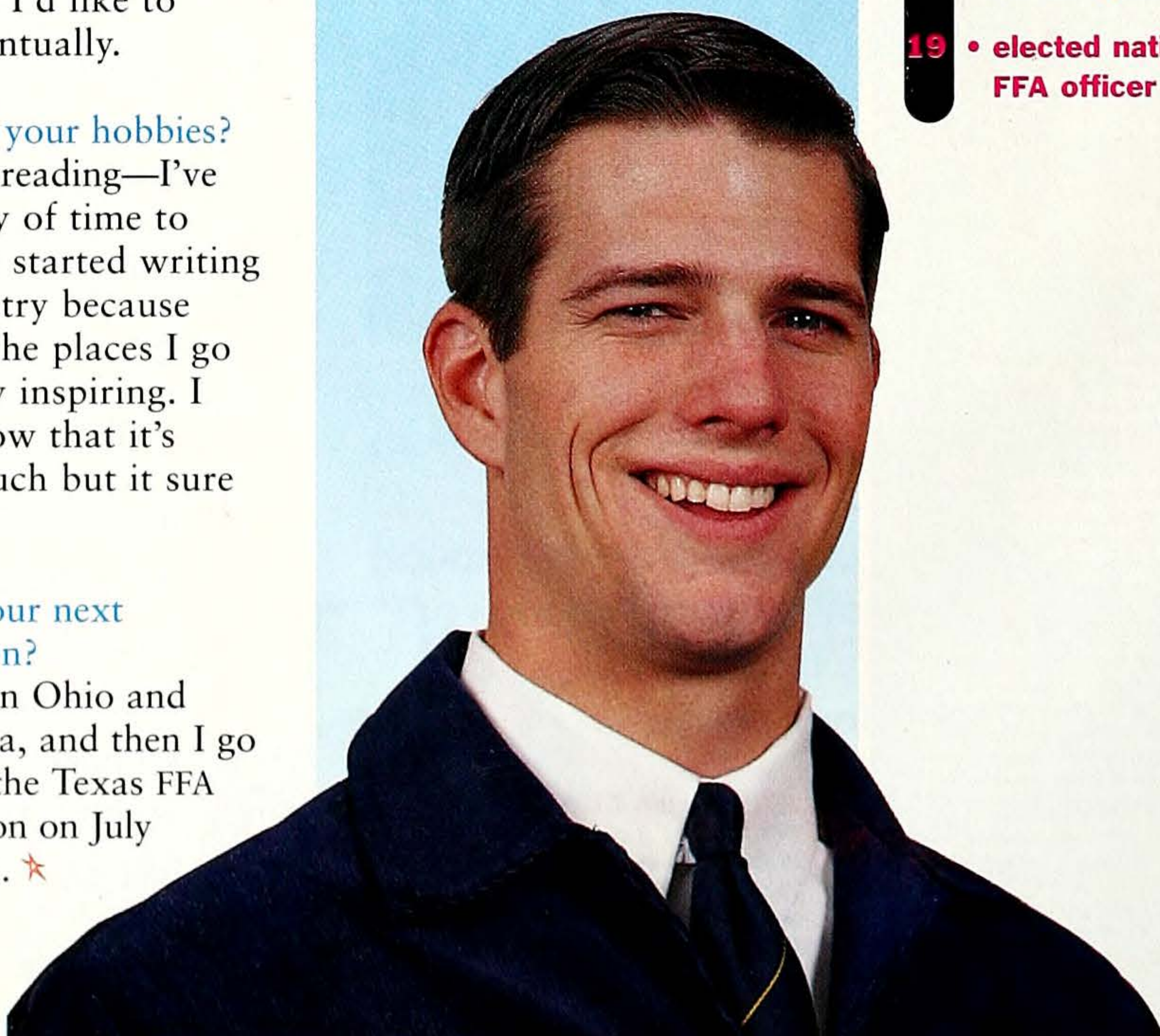
Favorite food: Dairy Queen Country Basket

Number of states visited this year: 26

### TIMELINE

#### Age

- 14** • attended first state FFA convention
- 15** • began diversified livestock SAE
- received Greenhand FFA Degree from Tolar FFA Chapter
- 16** • elected FFA district officer
- attended first national FFA convention
- 17** • elected FFA area officer
- delegate to national FFA convention
- 18** • elected state FFA officer
- received American FFA Degree
- 19** • elected national FFA officer



National western region vice president: **Cody Nash**



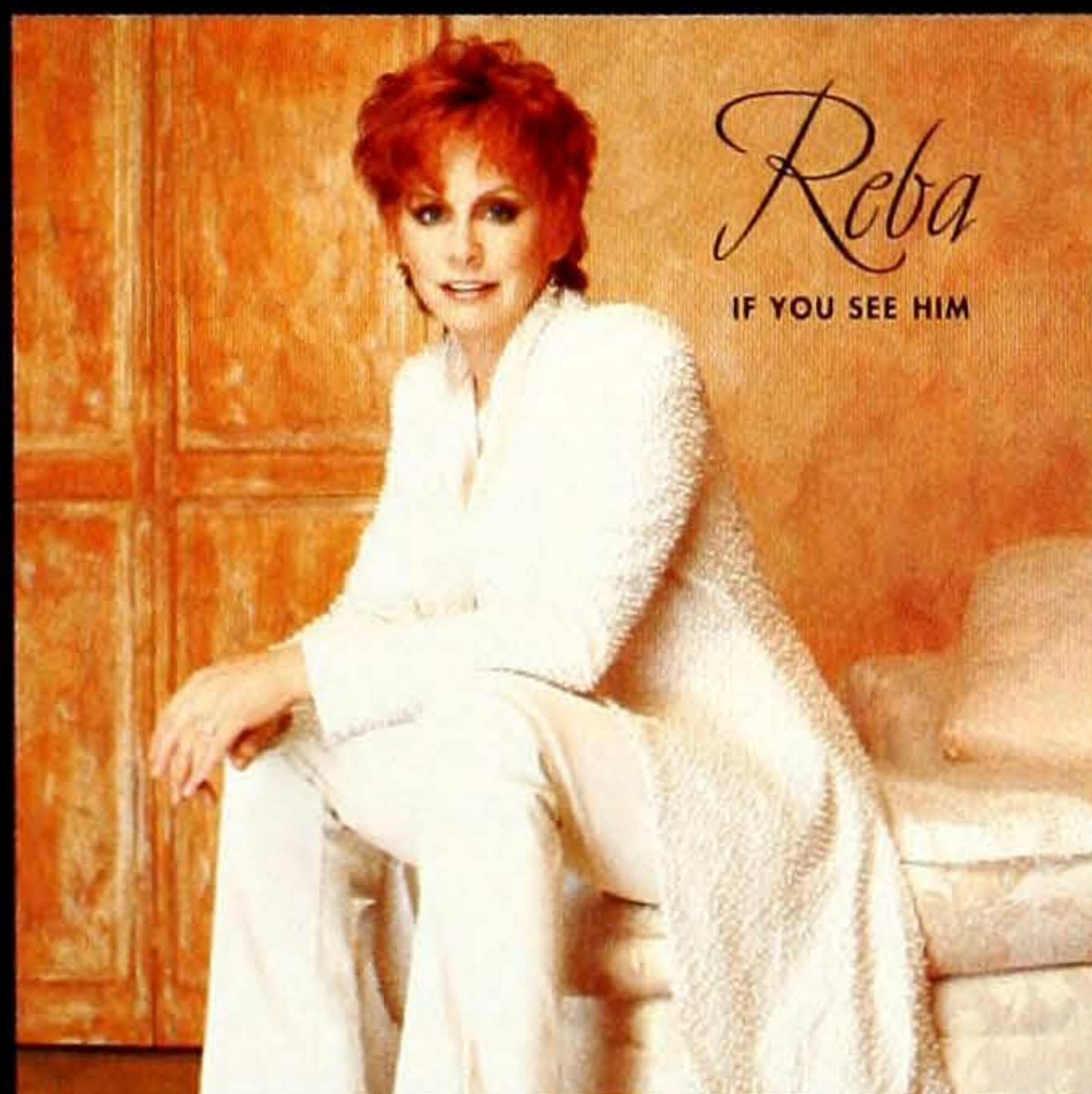
*one unforgettable song*  
*"If You See Him/If You See Her"*



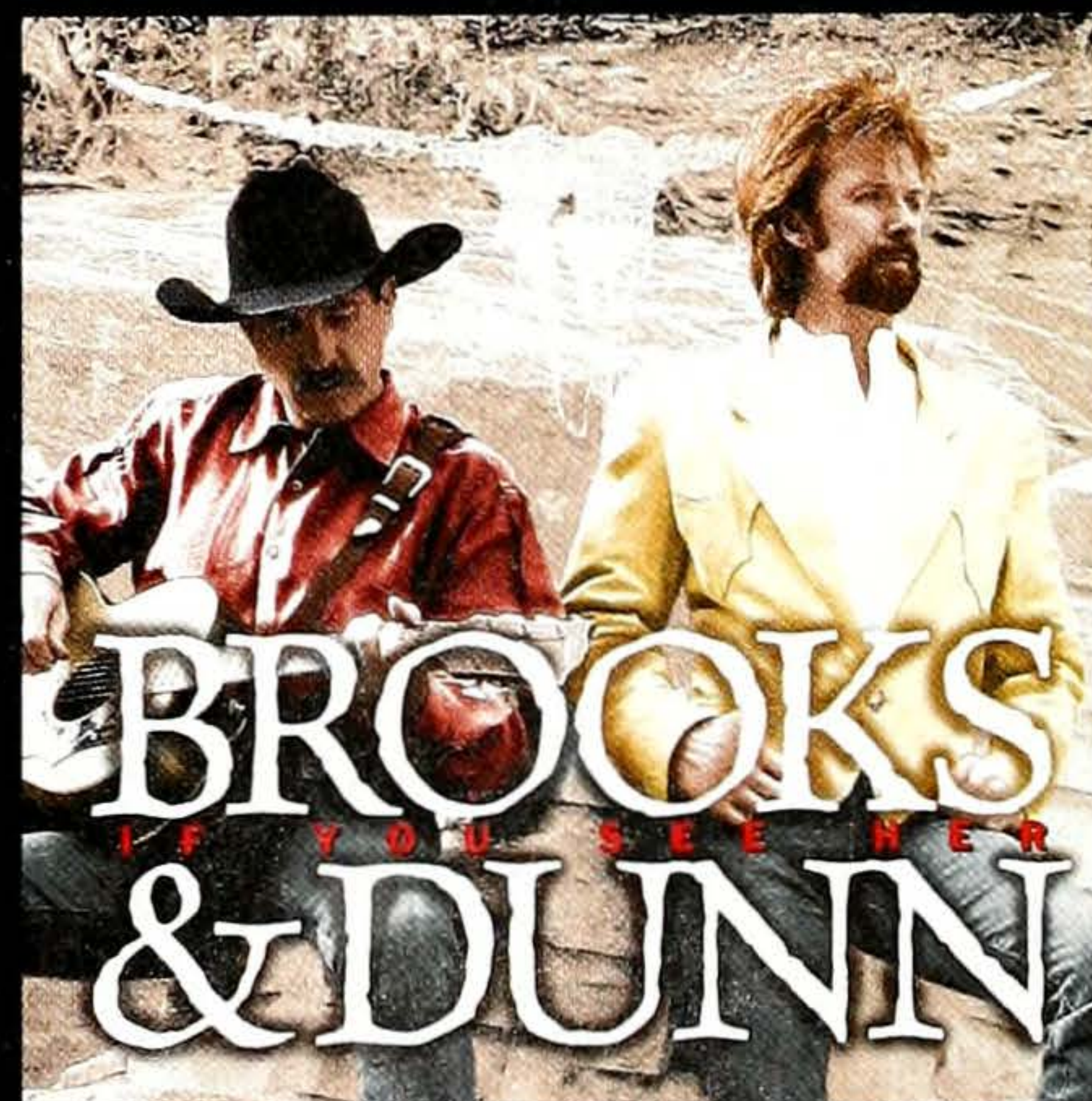
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R

B  
A



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# ffa in action

## CALIFORNIA

### The Japanese connection

The Fresno-Central FFA Chapter rolled out the red carpet for 21 Japanese agriculture teachers who came to the U.S. to learn about FFA and agricultural education. Chapter president Cori Calvert and vice president Michelle Yandell greeted the group upon arrival. The chapter advisors and members then guided their guests on a tour of their beef, sheep and swine units, aquaculture lab, greenhouses, landscaping areas and ag mechanics shop. The chapter presented the Japanese instructors gift baskets containing agricultural products from the region. ★



Fresno-Central FFA Chapter members and advisors hosted 21 agriculture teachers from Japan in November. The visitors came to learn more about FFA and agricultural education.

## OHIO

### Driving the food drive



Two East Clinton FFA Chapter members load food into boxes before delivering them to needy families in the area.

The East Clinton FFA Chapter, with the help of the Sabina Community Service Center, local churches, and elementary school, recently organized a food drive to help local families in need. The

FFA members' role in the operation was to deliver food to the families. With each box of food they delivered, the 27 participating FFA members gave the children gift bags containing tooth brushes, games and gum. ★

*submitted by Laura Greer, chapter reporter*

## IDAHO

### No couch potatoes here



When the highway shoulder piles up with bottles, tires, food wrappers and cans, members of the Emmett FFA Chapter head out to clean up. They scour the roadside three times a year as part of the "Adopt-a-Highway" program. Pictured in the back row (left to right): Brian Hill, Eric Van Leuvan, Josh Rollins, Donnie Rhoton, Cody Croquist and Cody Rollins; middle row (left to right) Chad Draper, Rachel Swanson, Jake Barnet, Nick Feaster, Bonnie Stallions, Janet Wilkenson, Angie Obermeyer, Tami Klingback and Amber Moroney; and front row (left to right): Jason Herman, Jeremy Rolland, Staci Herman and Mike Fink. ★

*submitted by Jennifer Fackler, chapter reporter*

## TEXAS

### Helping others help others

The Victoria Riding Therapy Center, like a growing number of operations just like it around the country, helps people who are physically disabled to rehabilitate their muscles by riding horses. When the center's lease recently expired, the center had to find a new home. Once they found a new site, they needed some help cleaning it up and getting it ready for the riders. When the Stroman FFA Chapter members found out, they organized a team of volunteers who got the riding therapy center back on track. ★

*submitted by Amanda Motal, chapter reporter*



WHERE THE FUTURE IS AS BRIGHT

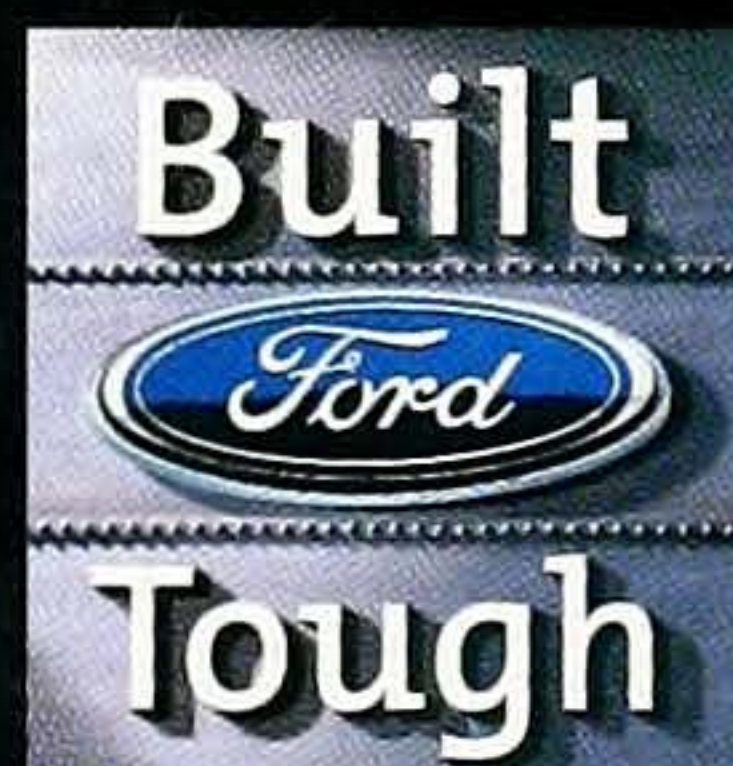
AS THE SUN ON OPEN FIELDS.



THAT'S FORD COUNTRY.

## FORD TRUCK SCHOLARSHIP FUND

For the past 50 years the FFA and Ford trucks have worked hard to cultivate success in agriculture. Even after all this time, it's still a hard-working partnership. This year there's more reason to celebrate. Ford is commemorating 50 years of F-Series and 50 years of supporting the FFA. At this milestone, we are introducing the Ford Truck Scholarship Fund. Because when looking to the future, education is the best way to ensure success.





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Members making a difference

## stars

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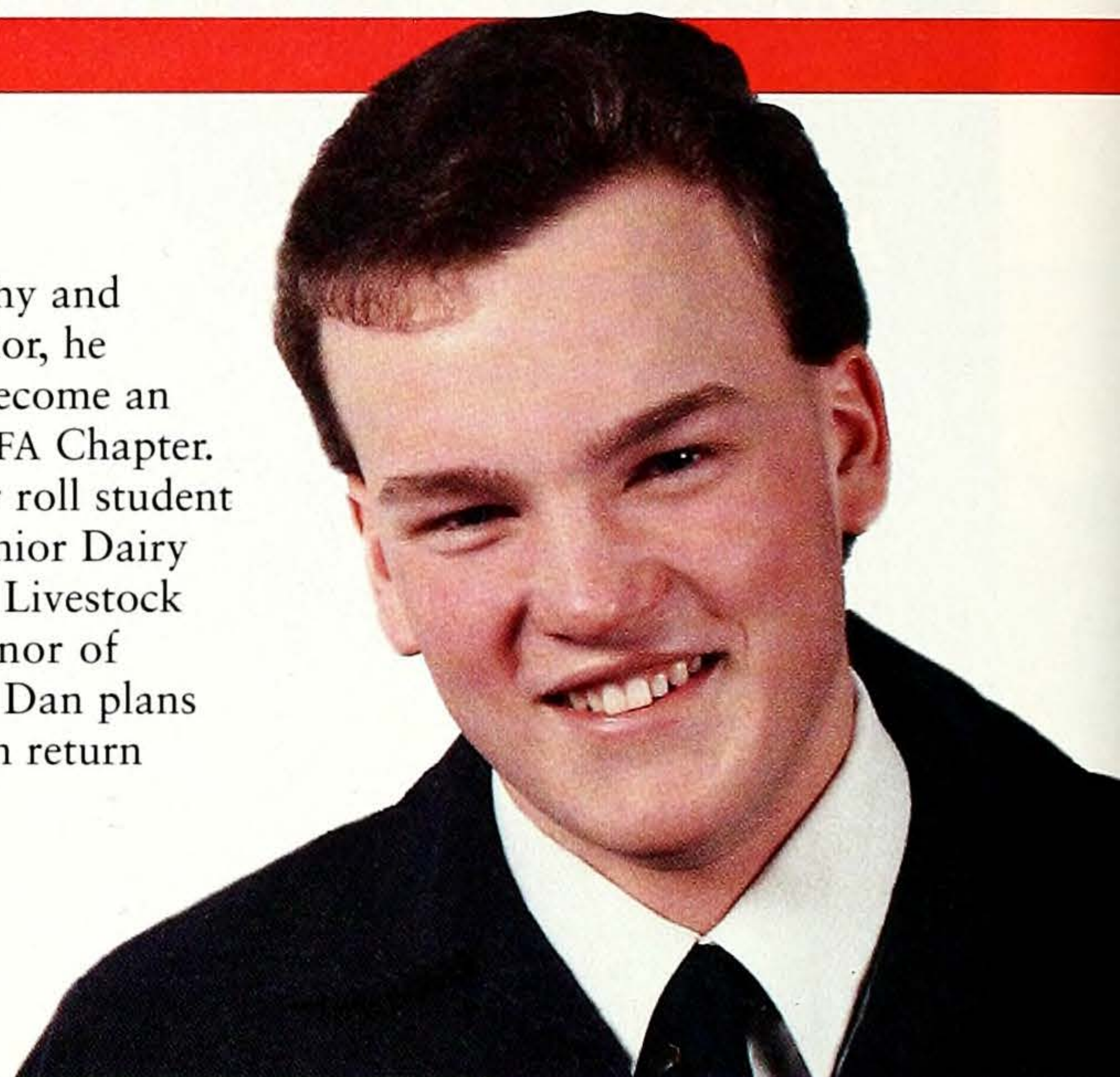
MINNESOTA

## calling all stars

FFA members selected as "FFA Stars" will receive \$500 from 1-800-COLLECT which can be applied to the Washington Leadership Conference or an FFA International Experience. You can nominate yourself or any FFA member. Write us a note and tell us why you think you or your nominee is an "FFA Star." See page 28 for more details. ★

## Dan Caughey

Dan started his high school career a shy and quiet guy. Now, as an 18-year-old senior, he jumps at every opportunity and has become an accomplished leader in the Brainerd FFA Chapter. As chapter president, Dan is an honor roll student who was named Grand Champion-Senior Dairy Showman at the Minnesota State FFA Livestock show in 1997. He also earned the honor of outstanding junior in his FFA chapter. Dan plans to attend Ridgewater College and then return to his family's dairy farm. ★



NORTH CAROLINA

OREGON

NEBRASKA

ALABAMA



## Brittany Whitmire

At age 16, Brittany has state FFA office and veterinary school on her agenda. It seems she's already well on her way to achieving those goals. She's currently the Rosman FFA Chapter vice president and Western North Carolina Region secretary. Outside of FFA, she's in student council, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and a member of the varsity basketball team. She represented North Carolina in the 1997 National FFA Talent Program. ★



## Josh Vanderzanden

Whether he's harvesting his five acres of pumpkins in time for Halloween or he's working at his chapter's scrap metal drive, Josh is always trying to make things better. This 18-year-old Glencoe FFA Chapter member just finished high school, where he served as chapter reporter and secretary. This fall he plans to attend the Blue Mountain Community College, where he will study farm and ranch management. Josh is working toward his state FFA degree. ★



## Carmen Pauls

Leading by example is what this 18-year-old Sutton FFA Chapter president knows best. In addition to her FFA office, Carmen is co-captain of the basketball team, a member of the Nebraska All-State Honor Choir and president of the chorus. For her SAE projects, she raises three cow-calf pairs and works as a dietary aid at the Sutton Community Home. And, when she finishes high school, Carmen plans to major in pre-medicine at the University of Nebraska. ★



## Felecia Wright

Felecia is making a difference in her school and community on and off the field. On the field, she's a Jaguar Majorette, leading Wilcox Central High School's Marching Band. Off the field, she's chairman of her FFA chapter's recreation committee, a member of the parliamentary procedure team and a volunteer for the Rural Elderly Enhancement program. Felecia's goals include the American FFA Degree and a masters degree from Georgia State University. ★



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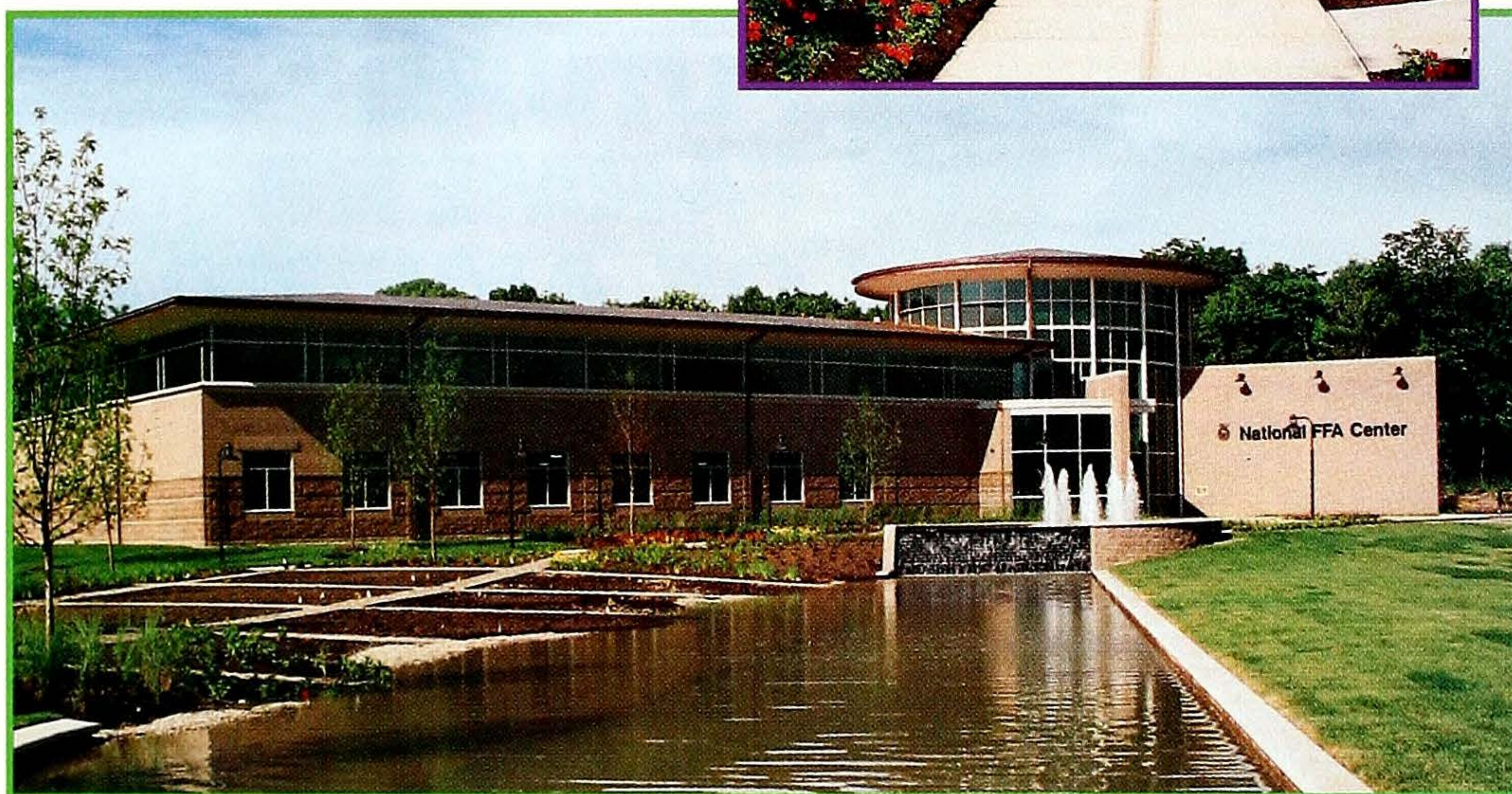




construction  
**zone**

**New national FFA center takes shape**

# Done!



The newly completed National FFA Center will be dedicated during a week of events which will take place from July 21 to 24.

Interestingly, the day the last "Seinfeld" episode aired was also the last day that the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia, served as the official home of the National FFA Organization.

For NBC, the end of "Seinfeld" meant the end of a Thursday night dynasty. But for the FFA, the end of the Alexandria home marks the start of a new era six hundred miles away at the new National FFA Center in Indianapolis.

The construction workers, tools, trucks, hard hats and blueprints are all gone. What now

stands is a spectacular new building that houses the National FFA business operations, foundation and alumni. Nearly 40 dedicated FFA staffers moved themselves, their families and their homes to Indianapolis for one simple reason—to better serve FFA members. They're now settled in, and it's business as usual at the FFA.

And they're already taking advantage of the many benefits the new location offers. Among them, a technologically advanced working environment, lower operating costs (which means more

money for FFA member programs), improved employee recruitment, strengthened partnerships with agribusiness and improved interaction between FFA staff and members.

The staff is now preparing for the center's official dedication ceremonies and activities, which will take place from July 21 to 24. We'll be there to cover the festivities, so we hope to see you there. If you can't make it to Indianapolis, go with us on a tour of the new National FFA Center in the next issue of *FFA New Horizons*. ★

## Landscaping Winners Announced

Out in the yard, the landscaping looks fantastic, thanks to the skill and creativity of the FFA members listed below who won the National FFA Center landscaping competition. All or part of their designs have been incorporated into the new center gardens. Judging criteria were based on plant selection, function and presentation.



### Individual Entries

**Evan Harlow**

Frederick County  
Career & Tech Center  
Frederick, Maryland

**Diane Ogg**

Frederick High School  
Frederick, Maryland

**Nathan Sheldon**

Big Foot High School  
Walworth, Wisconsin

**Brian Spencer**

Chester Technology Center  
Chesterfield, Virginia

### Team Entries

**Elizabeth Hoover  
and Erin Holliday**

Lexington Applied  
Technology Center  
Lexington, South Carolina

**Pamela Fedeler and  
Katherine Breitbach**

Starmont Community Schools  
Arlington, Iowa

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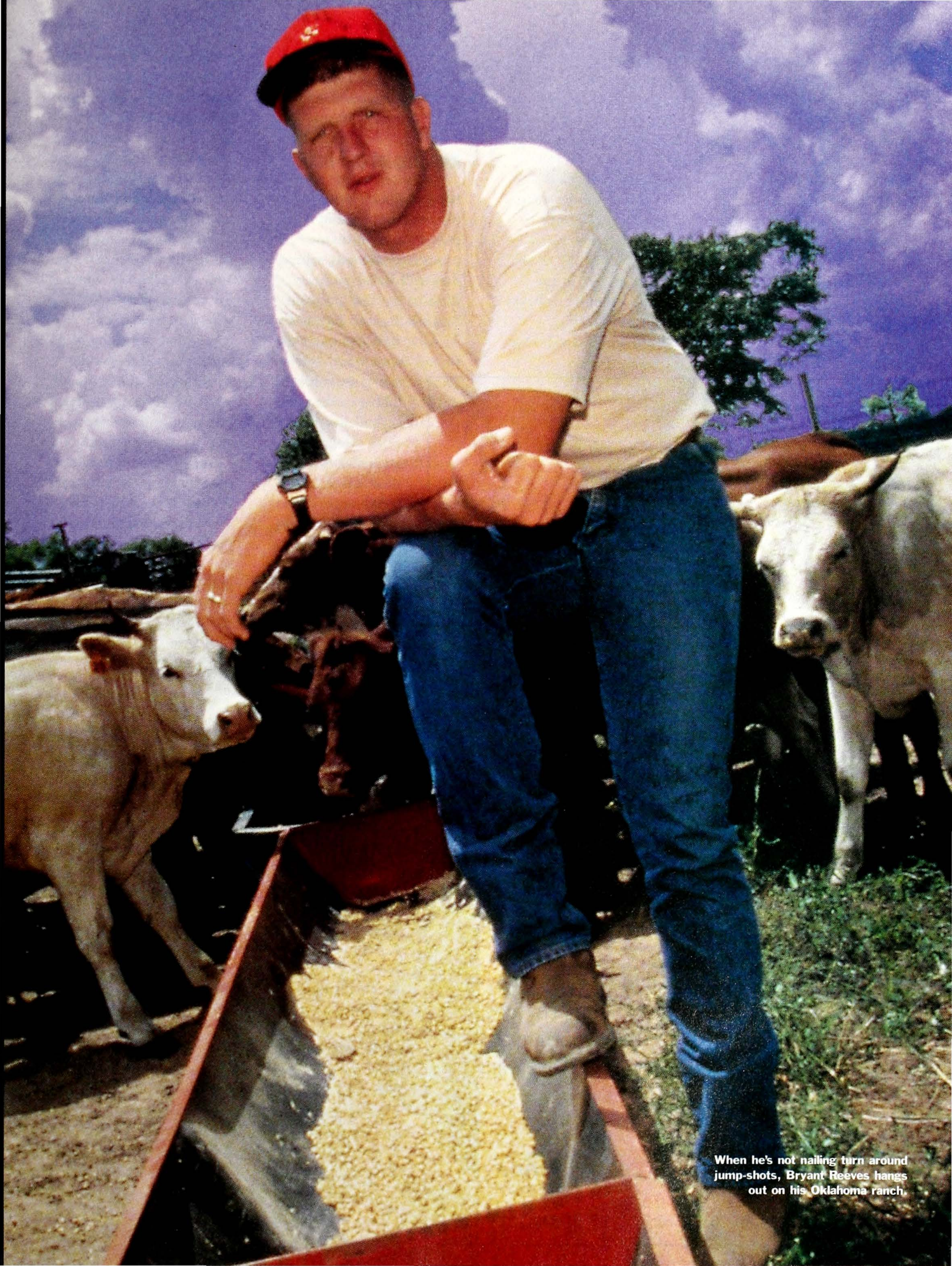
**Former FFA member Bryant Reeves scores in the NBA**

# Hooper country

By Erich Gaukel

It's a crisp March morning, and on the north edge of downtown Chicago, a white tour bus with tinted windows pulls to a stop in front of the Moody Bible Institute, a small private college whose recreation center is used by visiting NBA teams for game-day practices (called "shootarounds" in league circles).





When he's not nailing turn around jump-shots, Bryant Reeves hangs out on his Oklahoma ranch.



The Vancouver Grizzlies are stepping down off the bus for their morning shootaround. None of them, except maybe Bobby Hurley (the former Duke University star)—are much under six foot ten. They walk slowly, perhaps conserving their energy for tonight's matchup with the world champion Chicago Bulls.

Among the walking, human forest is Bryant

"Big Country" Reeves, the former Oklahoma FFA member who has become the team's star center. That morning, the Chicago *Sun-Times* printed a full-page story on Reeves and his six-year, \$65 million contract. The story made a case that Reeves is one of the top ten centers in the NBA, and that he deserves the fat paycheck.

Even with his valuable

talent, Reeves and the Grizzlies arrived in Chicago with a dismal record of 15 wins and 50 losses.

## Running of the Bulls

Back at the rec center, the players, coaches and support staff file into an upstairs classroom, where they will watch game films of the Bulls, a team they have never defeated.

After half an hour, they walk back downstairs, through the lobby, to the basketball courts. They stretch, walk through some plays, scrimmage and practice free throws. As the hour-long session comes to a close, a few of the players gather at center court and launch half-court shots for fun.

After four or five misses from the group, Reeves grabs the ball and, like a cannon, fires it at the basket. As the ball dances through the net, the players let out a collective yell and shower Reeves with high fives.

This is fun. Playing the Bulls is not.

When asked what the Grizzlies have to do to stop Michael Jordan and the gang, Reeves laughingly admits: "We

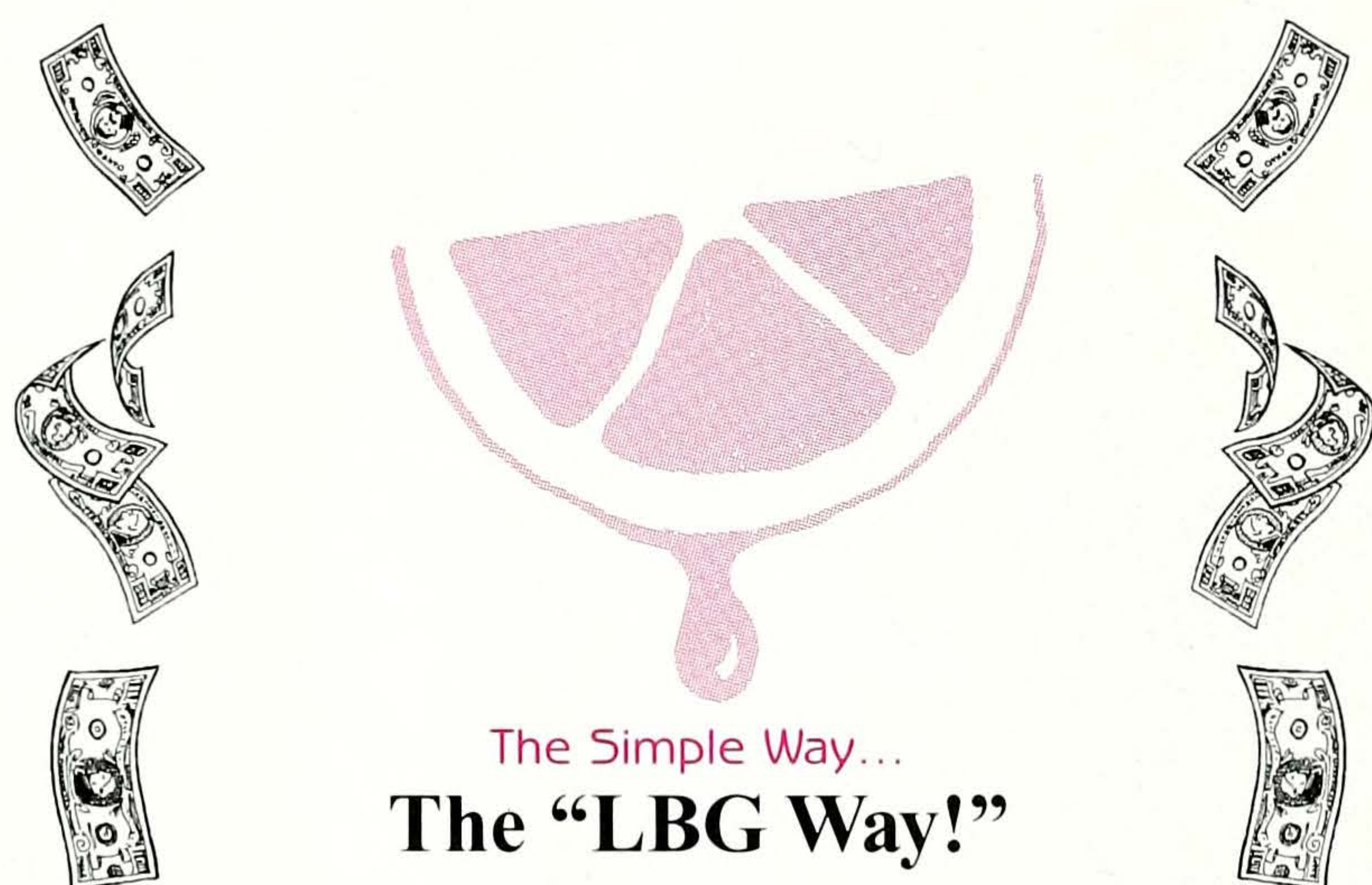
haven't figured it out yet. We've never been able to beat the Bulls. You've got to hope—especially for us—that we're going to catch them on a bad night when they're not shooting the ball well, and we play mistake free."

Since Jordan and Dennis Rodman were already NBA powerhouses when Reeves was still in high school, Reeves says it takes some adjusting to go out there and do battle with them. "You grow up watching these guys play," he says, "and then you step on the court with them. When you're out there playing the game, it doesn't seem that bad. . . . Two or three days later, you look back and you say you were on the floor with the greatest basketball player of all time and the greatest rebounder ever to play the game—and that's when it kind of sinks in."

## More bulls

When basketball season is over, Reeves still has to worry about the Bulls. But these are not the basketball variety—these are the bulls on the "Big C Ranch," his cattle operation back home in Gans, Oklahoma. The ranch, he explains, is "just now in the process [of getting started]. I have about 180 to 200 head of cattle. This is the first year that we've had calves coming off the spring. So, so far so good."

It's been said that you can take the man out of the country, but you can't take the country out of



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the man. It's certainly true for this transplanted rancher from Oklahoma, who calls Canada home during the basketball season. "I definitely agree with that," Reeves says. "No matter where I go, I'm always thinking of going back home, living out in the country."

## FFA in the NBA

So how did FFA make a difference in Reeves' life? "It made a big difference because it went along the same lines as basketball. It taught you how to work with one another, how to take care of each other and help each other out. . . . That kind of stuff transpires every day

for anybody."

This teamwork that Reeves describes was put to the test that very evening against the Bulls. Reeves and the Grizzlies, despite their youth and losing record, put on one of their strongest performances of the season. Reeves posted a career game, leading all scorers (including Jordan) with 30 points. In the end, though, the Grizzlies lost, 92 to 98.

But expect to see Reeves lead this team to the top in the coming years. "I'd like to play about 12 years in the league," he says. "Maybe by then we'll have the cattle ranch up and operating at full speed, and that's what I'll do the rest of my life." ☆

## Big Country Stats

**age:** 24

**FFA chapter:** Gans (Oklahoma)

**height:** 7 feet

**weight:** 275 pounds

**college:** Oklahoma

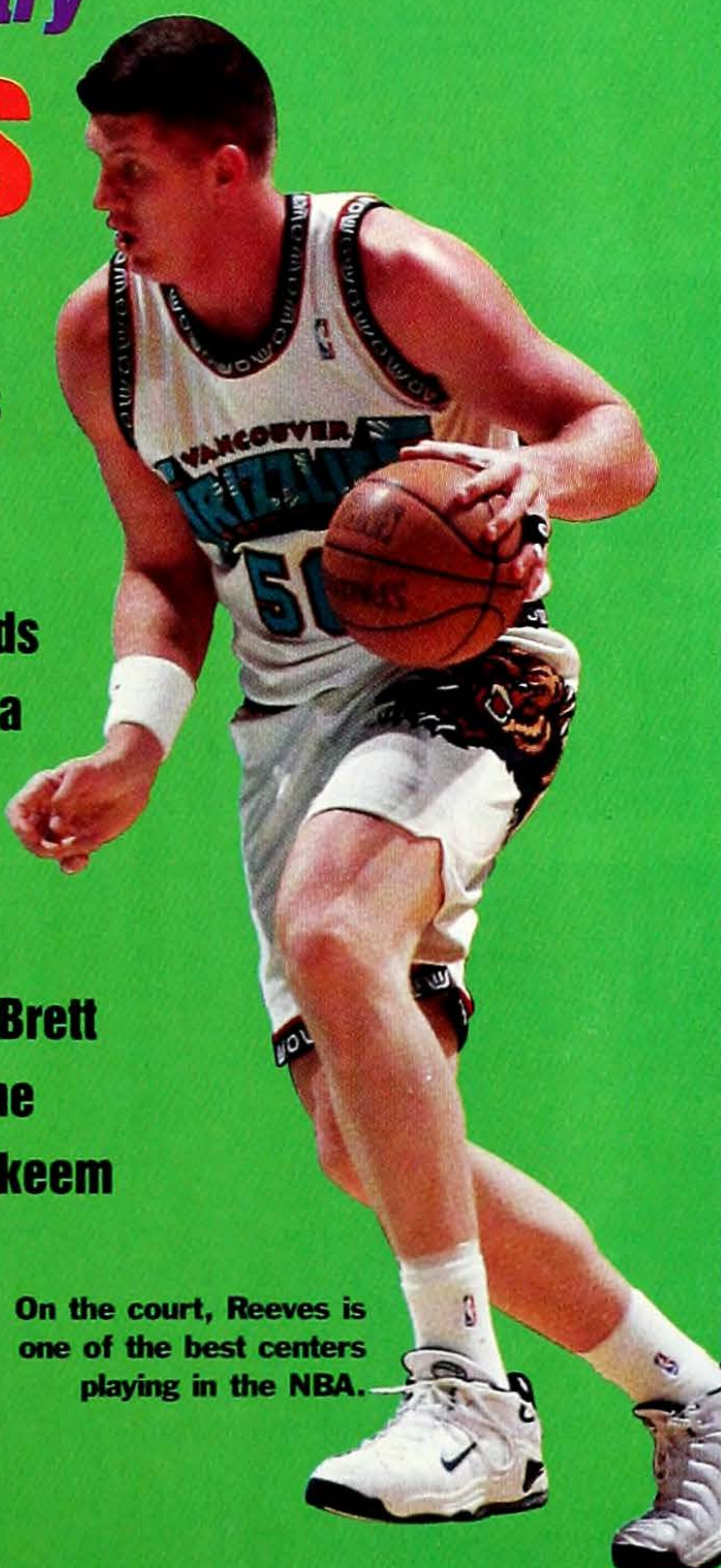
**State University**

**position:** center

**years in NBA:** 3

**favorite athletes:** Brett Favre (NFL), Wayne Gretzky (NHL), Hakeem Olajuwon (NBA)

On the court, Reeves is one of the best centers playing in the NBA.



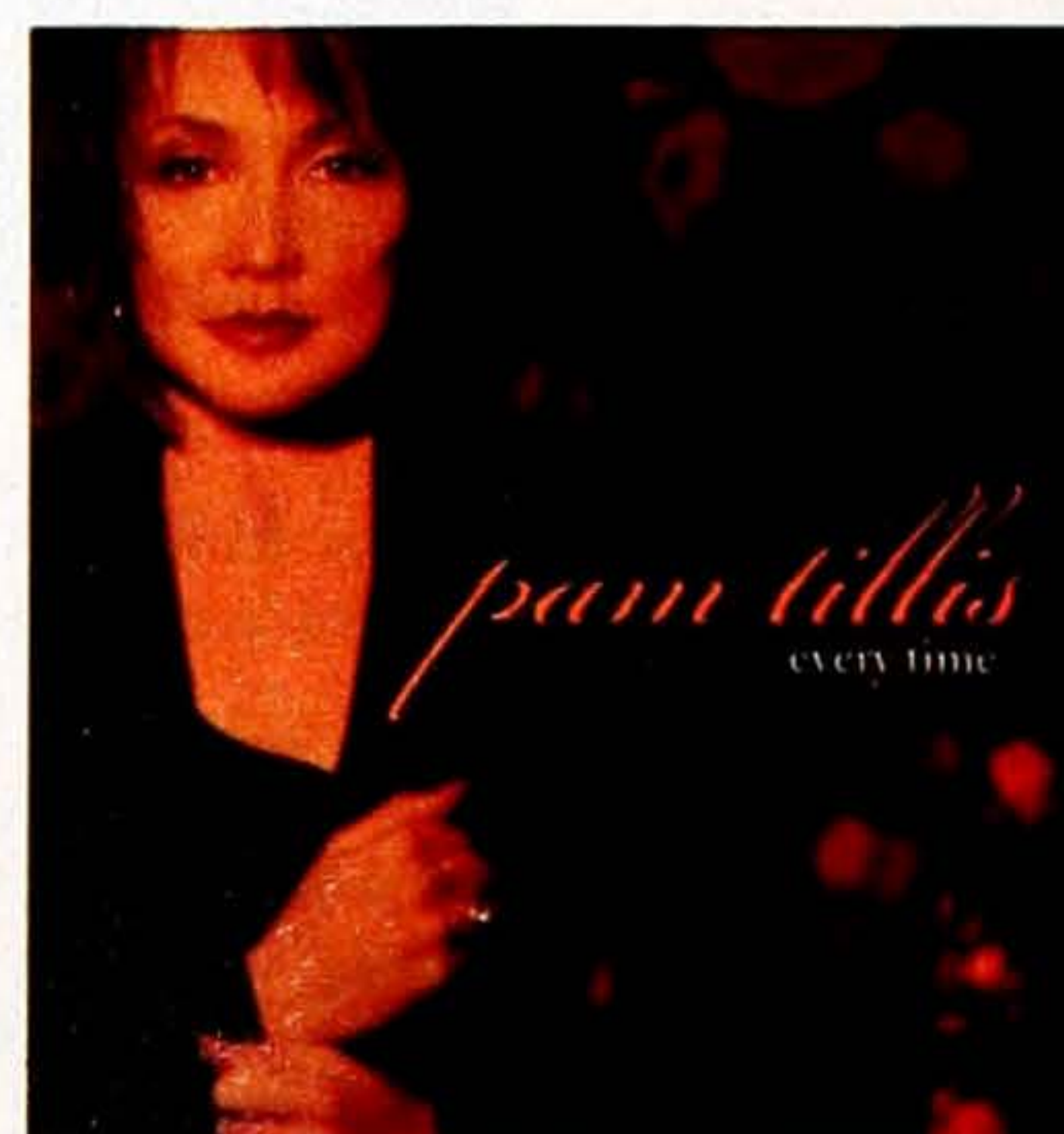
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# your money

Tips on managing your cash

## QUIZ

How far will you go to save a buck? Find out your consumer profile by answering the questions and scoring your answers

**1** You go down to a frame shop to get your Brooks and Dunn poster framed. The clerk writes down your order, takes your poster, and says come back in three days. He then says that you will need to pay the total bill of \$41.98 in advance. What do you do?

- ☐ a. Take the poster to a different frame shop.
- ☐ b. Pay the full \$41.98 and hope for the best.
- ☐ c. Tell him that you'll pay half now, and half when the frame is finished.

**2**

You and a friend are driving home from a weekend trip. You get off the interstate and order drive-thru fast food. When you get back on the interstate you start pulling the food out of the bag and you've got the wrong order. The next exit is 18 miles away. What do you do?

- ☐ a. Eat the food anyway and just forget about it.
- ☐ b. Write a letter to the restaurant when you get home, asking for a refund.
- ☐ c. Drive 18 miles to the next exit, turn around and go back another 18 miles for your food.

**5**

You're finally ready to buy that car you've always wanted (and for which you have been saving for years). You go to the car dealer and fall in love with the first car you find, and the sticker price is \$1,800. You test drive the car and find it in good working order. What are you most likely to do?

- ☐ a. Pull out a wad of cash and close the deal right then and there.
- ☐ b. Thank the sales person for his time, and say you'll think about it so you can shop around some more.
- ☐ c. Negotiate until you get the price down, then close the deal.

**6**

Your FFA chapter is running a garage sale as a spring fundraiser. A stranger offers you \$10 for a bicycle you've priced at \$30. What do you do?

- ☐ a. Hold firm to the already low price of the bicycle, even if it means the customer walks away.
- ☐ b. Negotiate down to a sale price of \$20.
- ☐ c. Just get rid of the bike for \$10.

**7**

You're getting your monthly haircut at the usual place with the usual hair stylist. When she's done, she charges you \$30, which is \$10 more than she charged you the last time you were in. She failed to tell you she raised prices before your haircut, and there are no signs or notices explaining the new prices. What do you do?

- ☐ a. Pay the \$30 without hesitation.
- ☐ b. Pay the \$30 grudgingly.
- ☐ c. Pay the \$30 and decide to find a new stylist.

**3**

It's time to get your car's oil changed. You have three service options, listed below. Which one would you pick?

- ☐ a. Oil changed in one hour for \$20.
- ☐ b. Oil changed in four hours (must wait or leave car) for \$10.
- ☐ c. Oil changed in 15 minutes for \$30.

**4**

You buy a portable CD player for \$75. The next day you see a competing store advertising the same CD player for \$65. What do you do?

- ☐ a. Kiss the 10 bucks good-bye.
- ☐ b. Take your receipt and the advertisement to store where you bought the CD player and demand that they match the price and give you a \$10 refund.
- ☐ c. Reduce your spending in the coming days to make up for the loss.

How long do you save your receipts for major purchases (\$25 or more)?

- ☐ a. Until I get home from the store, then it's trash time.
- ☐ b. For one year in a shoebox.
- ☐ c. For one to two weeks, or until I clean off my desk.

**8**

Calculate your score by finding the right point value for each answer, then add up your total and find out which category best describes you.

- 1. (a)1 (b)3 (c)2
- 2. (a)3 (b)2 (c)1
- 3. (a)2 (b)1 (c)3
- 4. (a)3 (b)1 (c)2
- 5. (a)3 (b)1 (c)2
- 6. (a)1 (b)2 (c)3
- 7. (a)3 (b)2 (c)1
- 8. (a)3 (b)1 (c)2

### "A dime takes time" (19-24)

Your time is your most valuable resource. As a result, you're the kind of person who doesn't like to devote much of this valuable commodity to money matters. You pay what you think is a fair price and leave it at that. You typically know what you want, so you don't see a need to spend a lot of time running around looking for it. For you, all sales are final.

### "I'm tickled when I save a nickel" (13-18)

You'll pat yourself on the back for successfully negotiating, or stumbling upon, a great deal. So you'll spend that extra half-hour to walk to other end of the mall to check out another store's price. You believe in compromise, and you will take the time to make sure you get a fair deal. But, hey, sometimes it's just not worth the hassle.

### "I'll holler for a dollar" (8-12)

For you, there's nothing worse than buyer's remorse. You will shop around for a good deal no matter how long it takes. If you have the opportunity you will negotiate until dawn. And, if you buy something and it stops working two years later, you might just try to return it for a refund—and you'll likely get it.



Movie \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fast food chain \_\_\_\_\_  
 Color \_\_\_\_\_  
 Politician \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of pet \_\_\_\_\_  
 Foreign country to visit \_\_\_\_\_  
 Brand of athletic shoe \_\_\_\_\_  
 Summer leisure activity \_\_\_\_\_  
 Place to go on a date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Place to do homework \_\_\_\_\_  
 School event or function (non-FFA) \_\_\_\_\_  
 FFA event or function \_\_\_\_\_  
 Candy \_\_\_\_\_

Movie \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fast food chain \_\_\_\_\_  
 Color \_\_\_\_\_  
 Politician \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of pet \_\_\_\_\_  
 Foreign country to visit \_\_\_\_\_  
 Brand of athletic shoe \_\_\_\_\_  
 Summer leisure activity \_\_\_\_\_  
 Place to go on a date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Place to do homework \_\_\_\_\_  
 School event or function (non-FFA) \_\_\_\_\_  
 FFA event or function \_\_\_\_\_  
 Candy \_\_\_\_\_

**send your picks to:**

**FFA New Horizons What's Hot**  
**P.O. Box 68960**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46268-0999**

The FFA Chapter that sends in the most  
 "What's Hot/What's Not" surveys will be  
 recognized in our next issue

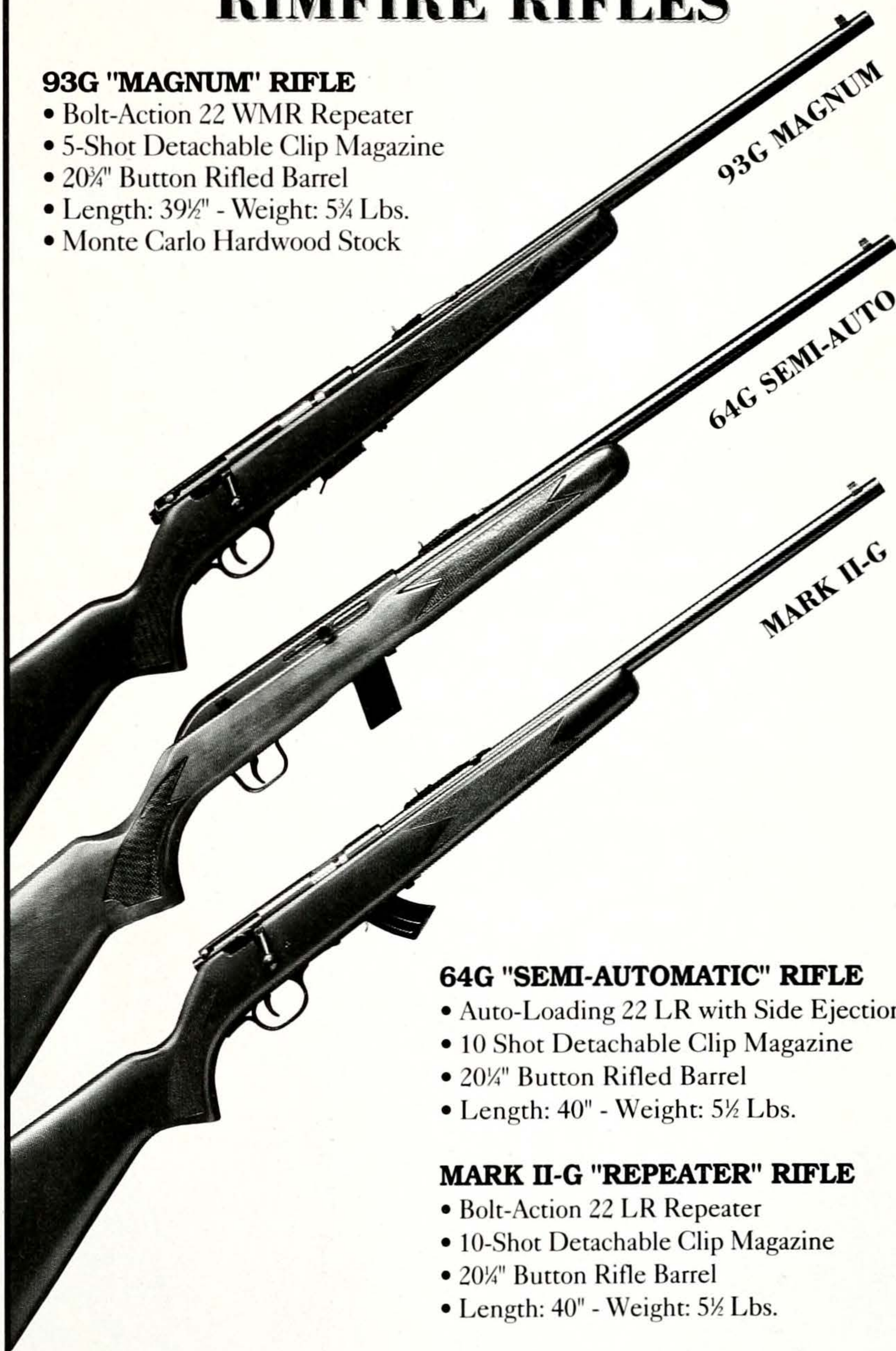
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**Getting your act together before taking the ACT or SAT can help get you into the school of your choice**

# how the test was won

**By Chris Hayhurst**

**C**ollege Entrance Exams. Together, these three words have the power to bring even the bravest of high school students to their quivering knees. After all, in less than three hours of multiple-choice torture, these exams—the SAT and the ACT—play a major part in whether or not you're accepted to the college of your choice. Fortunately, there are ways to be sure that, come exam day, you have the know-how to do well.

The road to scoring well on the SAT or ACT begins when you enroll in English, math and science classes. You can start taking these your freshman year, and it's a good idea to take as many classes as you can in these areas before you graduate.

By the time you're a sophomore, you're ready to take the preliminary versions of the two exams—the PLAN and the

PSAT. The idea, says Phil Caffrey, an associate director of admissions at Iowa State University, is to become familiar with the test formats. These early trial runs, he says, "let you see exactly what taking the test is like." At this stage in the game your results will also give you an idea what subject areas you're doing well in, and which could stand more work before you take the real thing.

Start taking the actual SAT or ACT (most colleges will accept results from either, but check with individual schools to make sure) in the spring of your junior year. That way you'll have plenty of opportunities for retakes before it's time to send your best scores to your top choices. (Caffrey points out that many other universities around the country only consider your highest scores. Check each school's policy.)

## **The months before . . .**

Two companies, Kaplan and Princeton Review, offer courses to help you prepare for the tests. Other sources of instruction include books and interactive software programs. Ask your guidance counselors for prep materials and information.

As the date of the test looms larger, go through the study guides that come with registration materials. They include sample tests that you can use to hone your test-taking skills. Review these tests until the instructions and format are ingrained in your head.

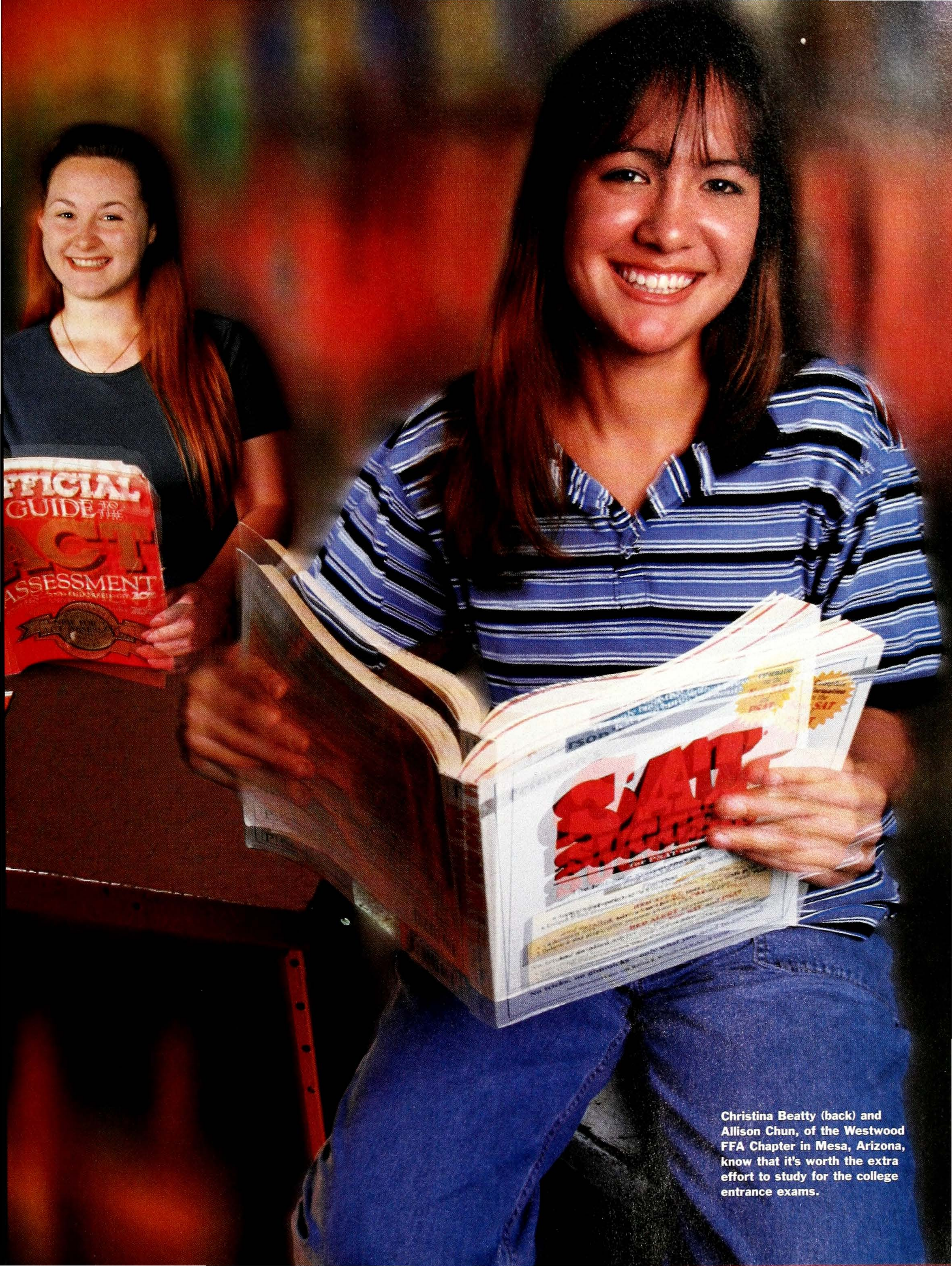
## **The day before . . .**

Put together your "exam survival kit"—your number-2 pencils, test admission ticket, photograph I.D., watch, and an energy-boosting snack. Do a test-site drive-by to make



PHOTOGRAPH BY RETT EMMES DIGITAL IMAGING BY GRAHKA





Christina Beatty (back) and Allison Chun, of the Westwood FFA Chapter in Mesa, Arizona, know that it's worth the extra effort to study for the college entrance exams.



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sure you know exactly where the exam will be held. "The idea," says Kaplan instructor Devin Kleiner, "is to get everything else out of the way so your only concern is the test." Eat your favorite dinner, watch an early movie, then get a good night's sleep. Forget any last-minute "cramming." It's too late.

## The morning of . . .

Eat a nutritious breakfast. If you go into the test on an empty stomach you'll be more likely to fall asleep than set any scoring records.

Dress in layers—exam sites are often cold, sometimes hot, and seldom just right. Make sure you're seated, relaxed, and ready for action at least ten minutes before the exam.

## Begin!

OK. It's time to show 'em what you've got. If you've done your homework you should already know the directions, so don't waste crucial time reading them. At this point the test format shouldn't come as a surprise.

As you put pencil to paper, keep in mind that every question is worth the same number of points. Don't spend too much time on any one question. If you're getting bogged down on a difficult problem, you're failing to look at the whole picture. "Move on," says Kleiner. "Get the ones you know, and save the ones

you don't know for extra credit." You can always return to these nail-biters later if there's time.

Questions at the start of a section are generally easiest, while those at the end are hardest. So if you see an "obvious" answer at the beginning of a section, it's probably the right one. On the other hand, if you're plodding through a section's end and an answer to a question immediately jumps out at you, the test-makers may be trying to trick you. Be careful!

OK. You've gone through a section once, answered everything you could, and now you're faced with a pile of unanswered questions. Worse yet, your watch indicates that there are only precious minutes left for you to finish. Do you start guessing or just resign in anguish? The SAT and ACT are different in this regard. You won't lose points on the ACT for wrong answers, so if time is about to run out start flipping your lucky coin. With the SAT, however, it's not worth it to guess randomly—unless you can eliminate one or more of the answers. In that case an "educated" guess might be just what it takes to boost you into the next percentile.

Finally, when the test is over, congratulate yourself. No matter how you do you can be sure you gave it your best shot—and when all is said and done that's what counts most. ★



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## what's

We knew we had to put Bryant "Big Country" Reeves on the cover of this issue after basketball was named "hot" in three different "What's Hot/What's Not" categories. We've come up with some new categories for our next issue, so be sure to fill out the "What's Hot/What's Not" survey on page 15!

We tip our caps to the members of the **Penns Grove FFA Chapter** in New Jersey for jamming our mailbox with more surveys than any other FFA chapter. Congratulations!

hot

**horticulture**

class/subject in school

math

not

hot

**martin luther king, jr.**

person in history

adolf hitler

not

hot

**pizza**

school lunch item

tuna

not

hot

**no smoking**

school policy

dress code

not

hot

**basketball**

after school activity

detention

not

## what's

hot

**basketball**

sport to play

golf

not

hot

**basketball**

sport to watch

golf

not

hot

**north carolina**

college basketball team

duke

not

hot

**pepsi**

beverage

beer

not

hot

**hanging out with friends**

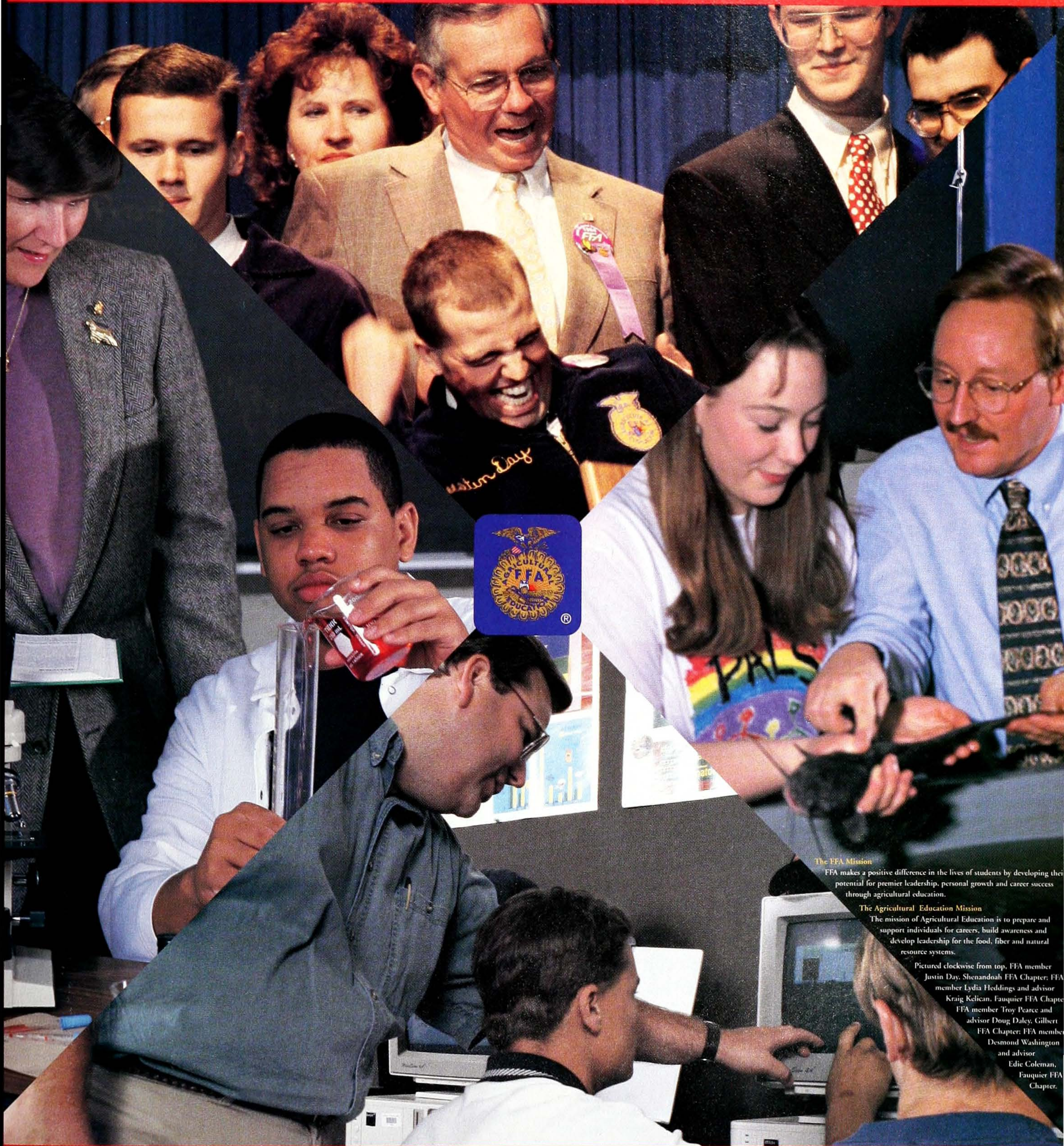
weekend adventure

staying home

not



# Why Not Change Lives?



## The FFA Mission

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

## The Agricultural Education Mission

The mission of Agricultural Education is to prepare and support individuals for careers, build awareness and develop leadership for the food, fiber and natural resource systems.

Pictured clockwise from top, FFA member Justin Day, Shenandoah FFA Chapter; FFA member Lydia Heddings and advisor Craig Kelican, Fauquier FFA Chapter; FFA member Troy Pearce and advisor Doug Daley, Gilbert FFA Chapter; FFA member Desmond Washington and advisor Edie Coleman, Fauquier FFA Chapter.

# Teach Agricultural Education



# interview interview

## Tillis talks teens and tunes

**Even though her dad, Mel Tillis, is one of country music's legends, Pam Tillis has cleared her own path to success. With her powerful voice and carefully crafted songs, she's been making a splash in Nashville since her first hit song in 1991. She's on the road now, playing music from her new record, "Every Time"**

**What effect do you hope your songs have on your listeners?**

Well, I hope the songs help them know they're not alone when they're feeling down, and that we all go through the same things. I think it's comforting to know that if you're struggling, you're not the Lone Ranger. And my songs are about rising above different kinds of struggles.

**As what point did you know music was your calling?**

I think I was three. I've always wanted to do it.

**Did your dad have a lot to do with that?**

I imagine growing up around it made me think that it didn't seem like some pie in the sky idea. It seemed reasonable because I already knew somebody else doing it.

**You were on the Grand Ole Opry at the age of eight. What was that like?**

It seemed like it all happened in slow motion. It was cool. I liked the spotlight.

**I read that you were involved in a serious car accident when you were a teenager. How did that change your outlook on life?**

I was really starting to walk down the wrong path, and God wanted my attention and got it. It really slowed me down and made me think. Sometimes teenagers don't take the time to slow down and think about consequences. I don't like to preach because I know that the world was pretty confusing when I was a teenager, and it's even crazier now—and I have a teenage son, so I know how difficult a time that is to navigate. But I know that drinking and driving don't mix. I wasn't driving, but I got in car with someone who was. I was carrying on like everybody else, but it's not worth it.

**Who were your musical influences?**

I just love good music, so we could spend the whole interview having me tell you stuff I like. It's really broad. There's a lot of old stuff I like. On the bus we listen to blues a lot—my road manager is a blues man. But I'm just happy to just leave it on there because I just like to hear all kinds of stuff. I love R&B and jazz and old rock stuff. My favorite bands when I was in high school were Led Zeppelin and The Rolling Stones, and they never went out of style—and there were Elton John and James Taylor and

Bonnie Raitt. And I like a lot of the new ones—Shawn Colvin, Paula Cole, Jewel. We were singing some bluegrass on the bus last night—I like a lot of bluegrass. And, of course, country. Country's my life.

**As your career developed, how did you stay motivated and focused on your goals?**

I think you have to frequently reevaluate what it is you're trying to do. Make sure that you're doing the things that are on your agenda and not somebody else's. For me, I have to constantly tell myself that this is about the music. Because people want me to do a lot of things that don't have anything to do with music, but have more to do with being a celebrity. That's the hardest thing for me. And there's a certain amount of marketing that goes in with what we do. At a certain point, you have to get back to your original intent. It's really good to make your goals and really know what it is you're after. Because if you don't have a clear idea, you're going to get pulled in a hundred different directions, and you lose yourself.

**How do you keep the energy of a song going after you've performed it over and over?**

I'll add another lick here and there or I'll change the way I sing it a little bit. Or we'll change an arrangement from year to year. If you stay in the moment, it's always new—you don't let your mind wander off to the next song or what time this gig is over. It's amazing that I'm not really sick of some of these songs, but if the audience is into it, it doesn't get old. If it starts getting old for them it would be a real drag for me.

**What's the hardest part of being on the road so much?**

It's not having any kind of schedule, which is kind of hard on the old body. You never eat at the same time, you never get to work out at the same time—if you get to work out at all, and you never get to sleep or wake up at the same time. But if you love it, that's what you do. I guess there's a sacrifice in anything that you do.

**How do you feel about your new record?**

I love it. I really think there's a lot of growth on this record. I think the whole thing about making a record is like a camera—you're capturing a moment or you're capturing emotion. And we pinned some of those suckers down on this one.





**Pam Tillis**



**Features 18  
ultimate  
country hits**

# ultimate country party

**Alan Jackson**  
Chattahoochee  
**Vince Gill**  
One More Last Chance  
**Shania Twain**  
Whose Bed Have Your Boots  
Been Under  
**Tracy Byrd**  
Watermelon Crawl  
**Mark Chesnutt**  
Goin' Through the Big D  
**Brooks & Dunn**  
Boot Scootin' Boogie  
**George Strait**  
She Lays It All On The Line  
**Lorrie Morgan**  
What Part Of No  
**BR5-49**  
Cherokee Boogie  
**Lonestar**  
No News  
**Clint Black**  
A Better Man  
**Ricochet**  
Daddy's Money  
**Pam Tillis**  
Cleopatra, Queen Of Denial  
**Trace Adkins**  
(This Ain't) No Thinkin' Thing  
**The Tractors**  
Baby Likes To Rock It  
**Lee Roy Parnell**  
If The House Is Rockin'  
**Patty Loveless**  
Blame It On Your Heart  
**Diamond Rio**  
How Your Love Makes Me Feel

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Amber Ludwick put her Montana FFA chapter on the information superhighway

# amber's Web

By Erich Gaukel

**W**hen Amber Ludwick's FFA advisor, Mr. Moore, came up to her one day and said he thought it was time to put a chapter website on the Internet, she agreed.

After thinking about it, Amber, who will be a senior this fall, took a liking to the idea and decided to start the project in an independent study class she was taking at the time.



Today, the Carter County, Montana, FFA Chapter's website is up and running, and Amber's web work is getting noticed. Her talents have even led a local outdoor guiding service and the Ekalaka, Montana, public schools to commission her to build their websites.

### The ways of the web

So how did Amber make the leap from novice com-

puter user to webmaster? "I just kind of had to learn by myself by trial and error." She picked up some tips from Mr. Moore, her computer-savvy FFA advisor, and members of the nearby Park City FFA Chapter, to whom she would e-mail questions about how they achieved certain effects on their website.

Amber uses Microsoft Publisher to create and maintain her websites. With this program, she says, creating a website is not as hard as it was a couple years ago, when you had to know HTML

(hyper-text mark-up language), a complex programming language for the Internet.

Because there are few rules in the new arena of web design, Amber just

used her own judgment when it came time to decide on content for the chapter website. "I put it together, and whatever I thought was appealing to the eye, I just did it. I didn't feel like it had to be a certain way . . . I just kind of did it the way I thought it should be done. And I put pictures

in that I liked.

"You need to go out and look at a lot of websites to get ideas because you need to be really open minded in order to get a really good website," she adds.

### Internet intent

So how is the Carter County FFA benefiting from the website? If your chapter has its own newsletter, look at it this way: a website is really an electronic newsletter that can be accessed by anyone in your town—or anyone in the world, for that matter—with Internet access. It's in color, it can be updated daily and if you want to read it on paper, you can just print it out.

Amber says her chapter's website is educating people about FFA and its activities. This is important in a town like Ekalaka, she says, "because there's a lot of involvement and a lot of opportunities involved in FFA."

Then there's local pride. "I've been getting a lot of positive feedback because I know a lot of people say, 'Oh, I've seen your website—it's pretty cool.' And a lot of people in the community will go and visit it just to say, 'We're from Ekalaka, Montana—a town of 400 people—and we've got something on the Internet.'"

## Spin your own web career

More and more agriculture-related companies are launching websites on the Internet, so there are some great employment opportunities out there. Starting salaries vary widely, but you can expect to earn between \$18,000 and \$25,000. Here's what you can do to get your web feet wet.

### Surf

Spend some time looking at all kinds of websites. The more you see, the more you'll understand the possibilities and limitations of the Internet.

### Just do it

Get your hands on a web designing program and experiment by building your own personal or chapter website. While knowing HTML isn't absolutely necessary, it's not a bad idea to learn it anyway—this could make you more appealing to employers.

### Know your stuff

Employers tend to look for job candidates who have already built websites and have college degrees in such areas as agriculture, computers, English, graphic design and journalism. While college is not always required for web career, it may give you an edge in the job market and a chance for better pay.

### Read up

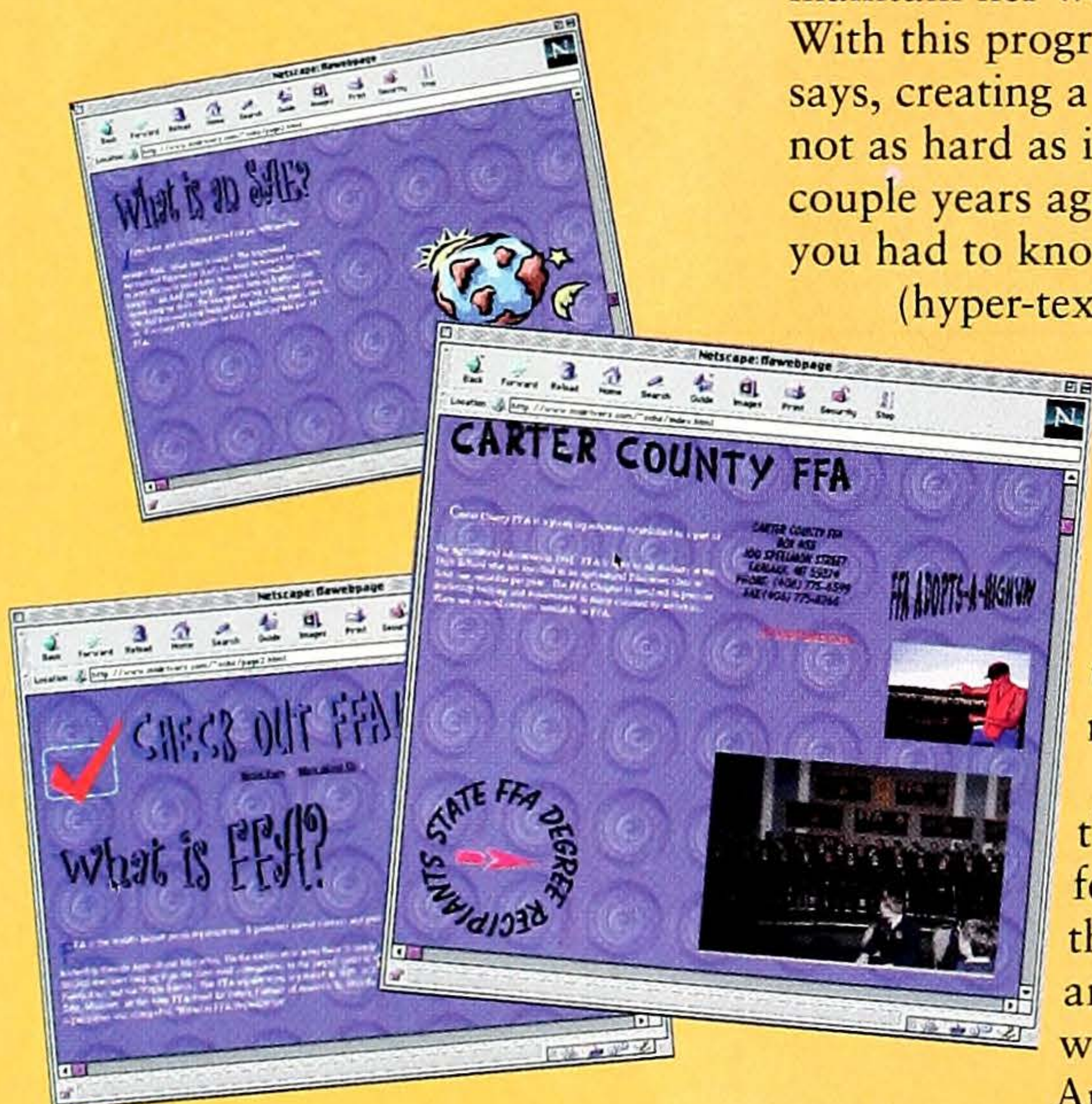
Check out these books on the Internet and website construction:

**The Internet for Dummies** (fifth edition) by John Levine, Carol Baroudi and Margaret Levine Young (IDG Books Worldwide, 1998)

**The World Wide Web for Kids and Parents** by Viraf D. Mohta (IDG Books Worldwide, 1996)

**Create Your Own Web Page in a Weekend** (includes CD-Rom) by Steve Callihan (Prima Publishing, 1996)

**Creating Web Pages Simplified** (IDG Books Worldwide, 1996)



Carter County FFA's web address is:  
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# thanks!

A special thanks to the following FFA members who took the time to fill out the reader profile survey we sent out this spring. We'll be sending out surveys throughout the year, so if you receive a survey from us, please take a few minutes and fill it out. Thanks!

**Wade Hawkins**  
Woodstock, Virginia

**Nicole Doskocil**  
Rosebud, Texas

**Karl Holshouser**  
Goldhill, North Carolina

**Michael Cardoza**  
Manteca, California

**Ryan Ranes**  
Jamesport, Missouri



## CALIFORNIA

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Clayton  
Clayton Saddlery  
6200 Center St.

Eureka  
Picky Picky Picky  
604 "F" St.

Firebaugh  
Hawaii Clothing Co.  
1066 "O" St.

Half Moon Bay  
W. P. Cunha Inc.  
448 Main St.

Hanford  
Continental Western Wear  
8972 Lacey Blvd.

King's Saddlery  
12207 Lacey Blvd.

Hollister  
Ranchers Feed Of Hollister  
354 First St.

Jackson  
Swensens Shoes  
516 Sutter St.

Laytonville  
Griger's Mercantile  
44951 Hwy 101

Madera  
Evan's Feed & Livestock Supply  
241 S. "E" St.

Napa  
Colonial Saddle Shop  
1207 W. Imola Ave.

Penngrove  
Penngrove Hay & Feed  
10035 Main St.

Petaluma  
A Step Ahead  
115 Petaluma Blvd.

Silver J Western Wear  
216 Petaluma Blvd. N.

Placerville  
Arians Dept.  
469 Main St.

Red Bluff  
Lassen Ranch & Home  
22660 Antelope Blvd.

Redwoody  
B & D Tack  
901 Main St.

San Andreas  
Sierra Feed & Clothing Co.  
682 E. St. Charles St.

San Jose  
San Jose Men's Wear  
1175 S. King Rd.

San Rafael  
Marelli Bros.  
1318 4th St.

Santa Rosa  
Roseland Shoe Mart  
645 Sepastopol Rd.

Soquel  
The Westerner  
5157 Soquel Dr.

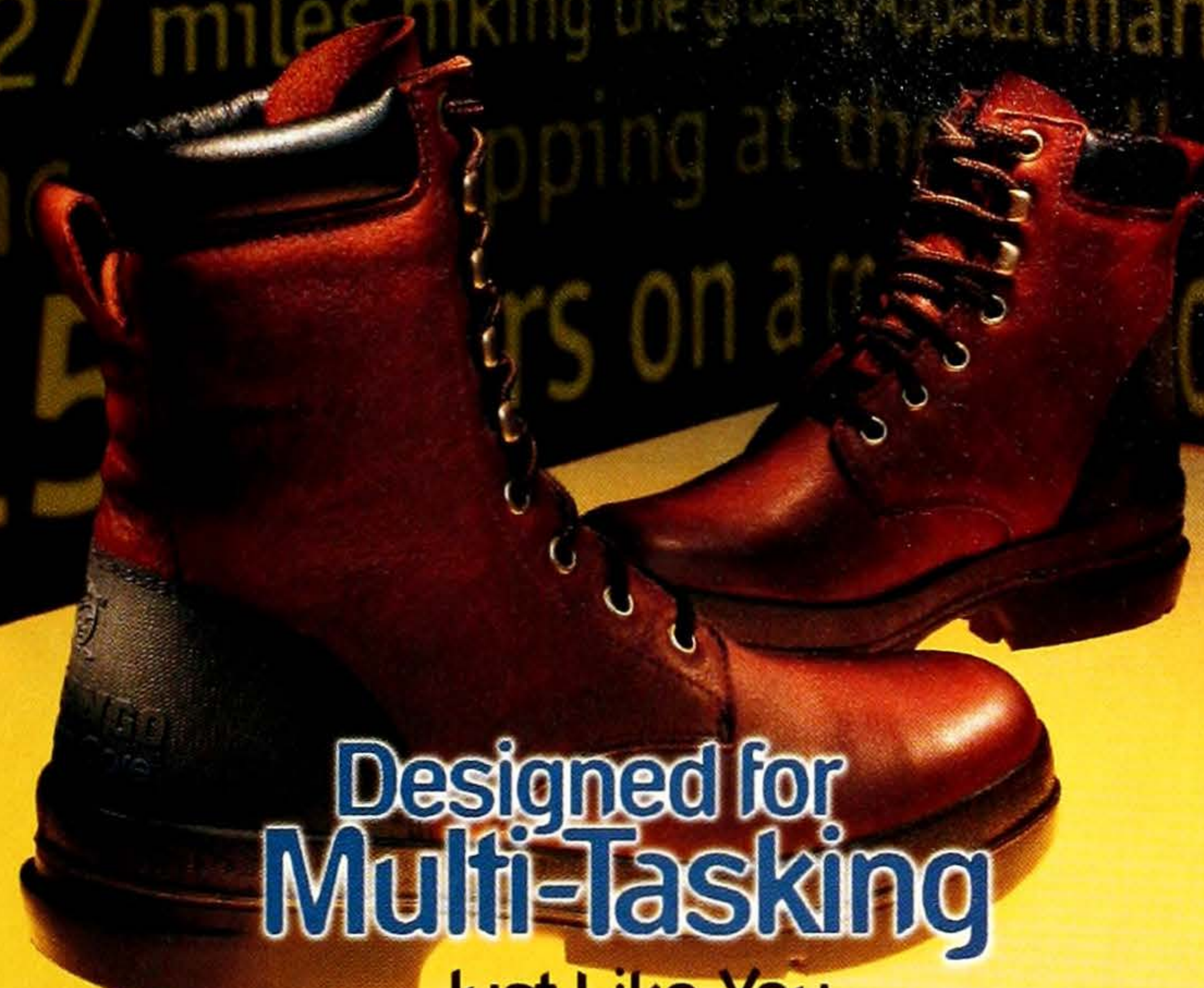
Tulare  
Morris Levin & Son  
1816 S. "K" St.

Ukiah  
Mendocino County Farm Supply Co.  
303 Talmage Rd.

## COLORADO

Brighton  
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Western Unlimited  
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Dan's Western Wear  
226 N. Main

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Gibbons Co. Inc.  
1100 US Hwy 16



**DURANGO**



# Last Laff

**Q:** A duck and a rabbit went to a restaurant together for dinner. Who paid?

**A:** The duck. Because he had the bill.

**Kelly Shirk**

*Litity, Pennsylvania*

**Q:** Which bus travelled the Atlantic Ocean?

**A:** Christopher Columbus.

**Charlene John**

*Kingshill, St. Croix, Virgin Islands*

**Q:** What did the key signature [on the sheet music] say when it had a flat?

**A:** I better pull over and take a rest!

**Kate Weitzel**

*Lucas, Ohio*

**Q:** Why do elephants have wrinkled feet?

**A:** To give ants a chance.

**Zak Jensen**

*Gary, Minnesota*

**Q:** What has ten letters and starts with gas?

**A:** Automobile.

**Steph Balichek**

*Oxford Junction, Iowa*

**Q:** What state has a lot of trees?

**A:** Oaklahoma.

**Amy Harnasch**

*E. Wenatchee, Washington*

**Q:** What body part can grow corn?

**A:** Your feet.

**Jermaine Reese**

*Prentiss, Mississippi*

**Q:** When was beef the highest?

**A:** When the cow jumped over the moon.

**Barbara Wiesinger**

*Shadehill, South Dakota*

**Q:** What did the dentist tell the computer?

**A:** You have a megabite.

**Becky Agnew**

*Cisco, Texas*

**Q:** What is most useful when it's broken?

**A:** An egg.

**Jeremy Ward**

*Throntown, Indiana*

**Q:** Why can't chickens play basketball?

**A:** They always fowl out.

**Jason Statzman**

*Waldron, Michigan*

**Q:** What is one room ghosts hate to be in?

**A:** The living room.

**Julie Joiner**

*Lincoln, California*

**Q:** What did the teacher say when the student kept up her grades?

**A:** Long time, no C.

**Jared Isaacson**

*Manalapan, New Jersey*

**Q:** What's cold and comes in cans?

**A:** Chili beans.

**Jesus Colon**

*Orocovis, Puerto Rico*

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## Agrinuts by Jim Bradshaw and Michael Bettendorf





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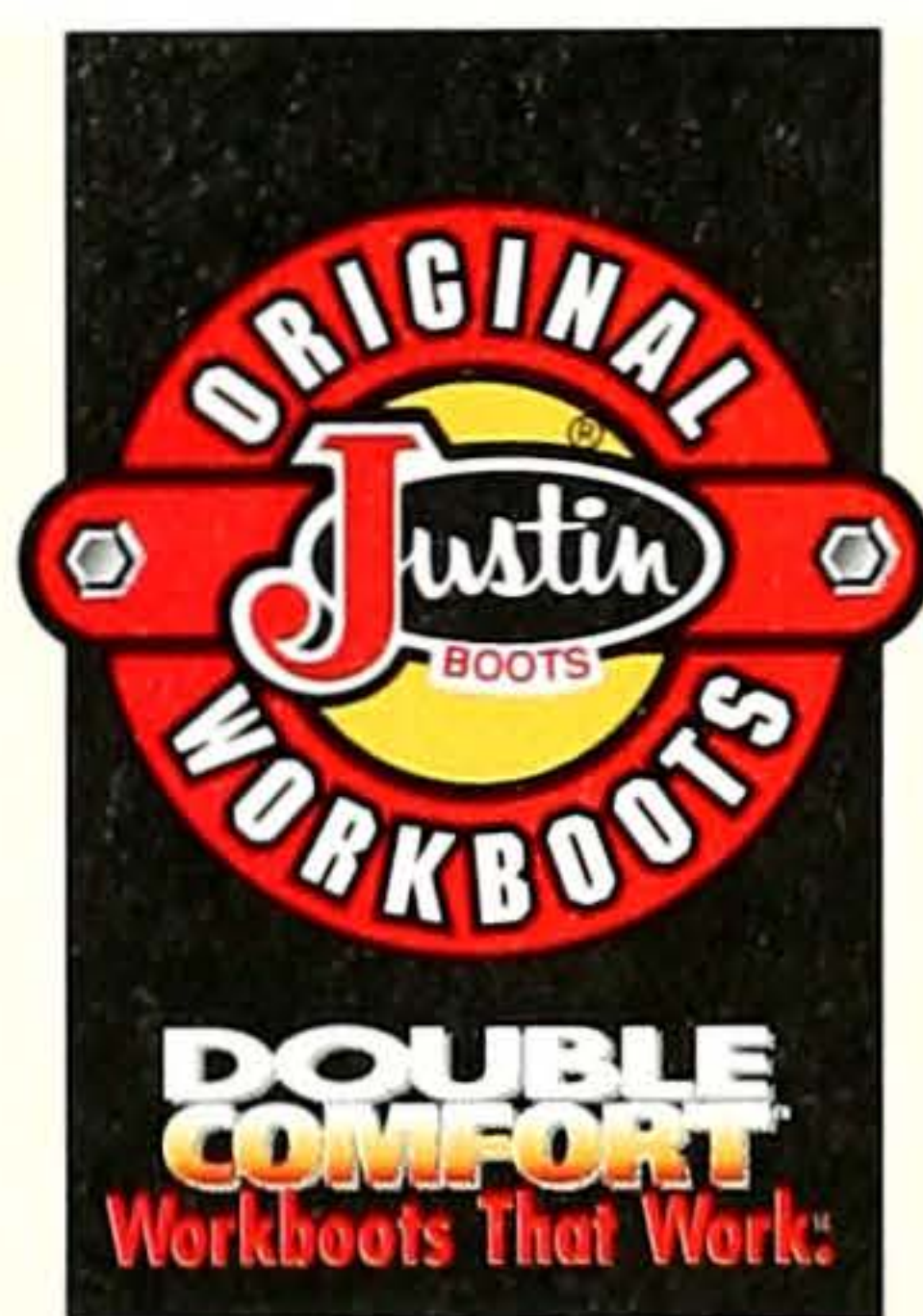
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