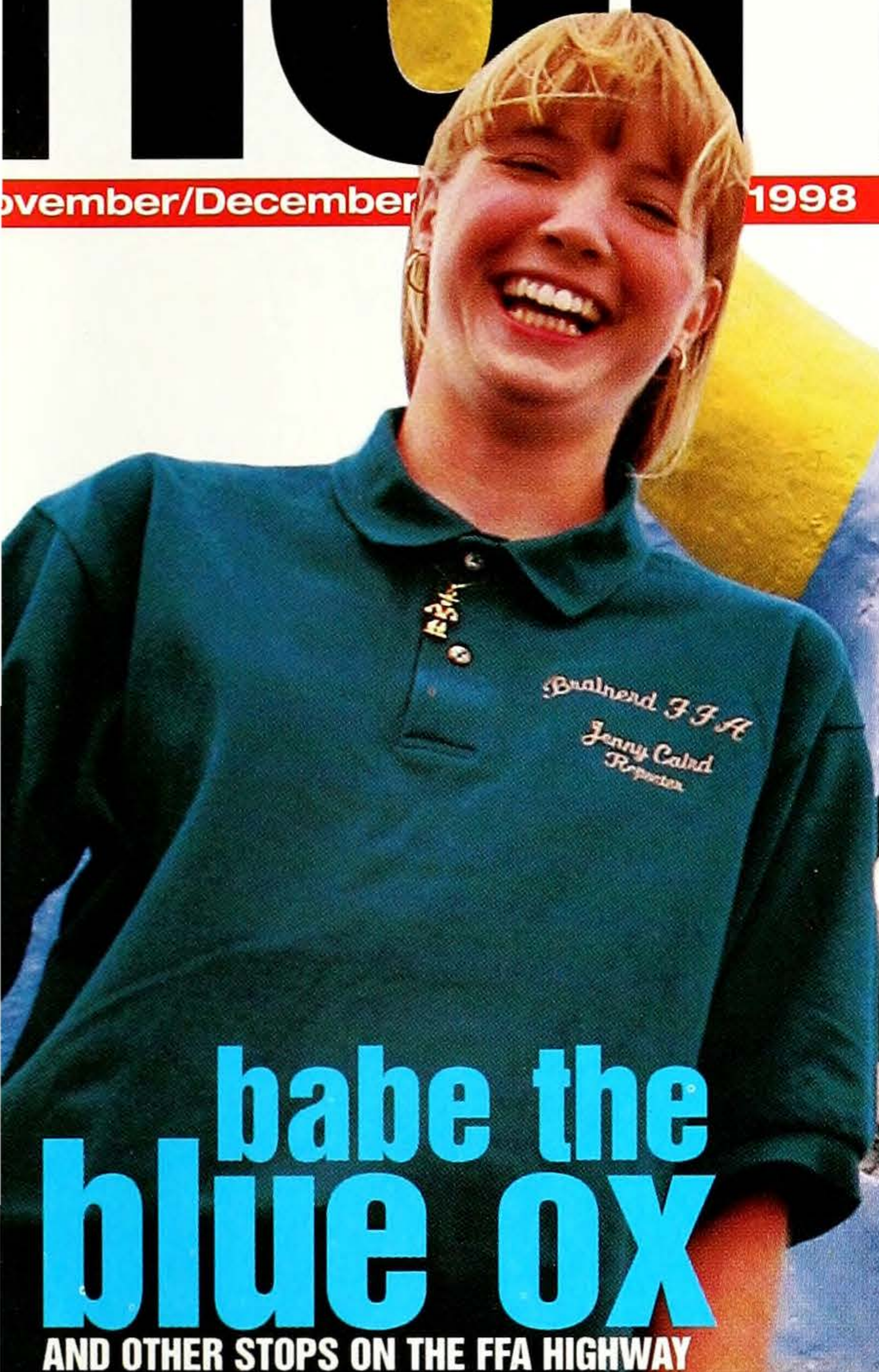


new horizons

The magazine of the National FFA Organization

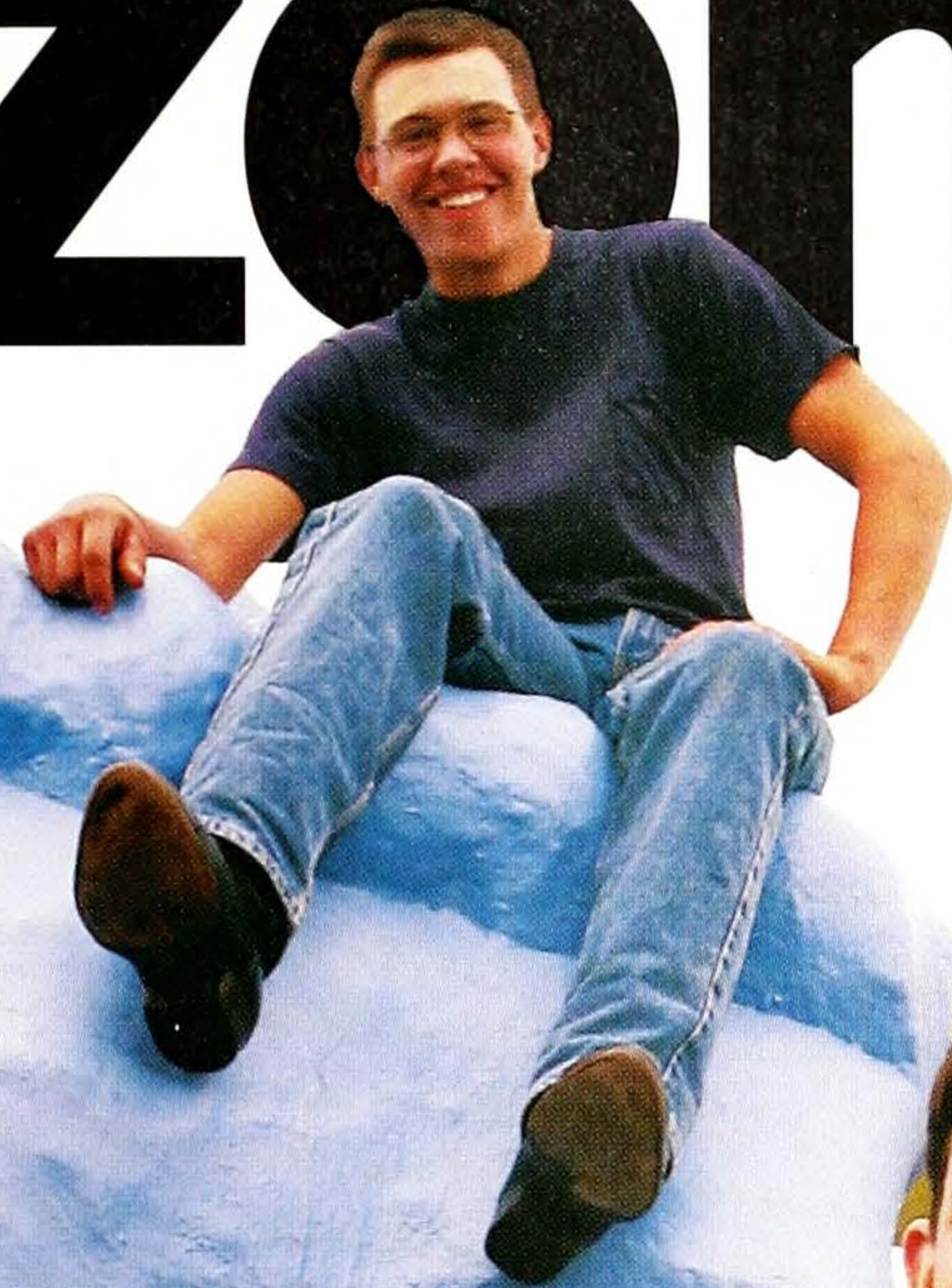
November/December

1998



babe the blue ox

AND OTHER STOPS ON THE FFA HIGHWAY



barn improvement

GO ON LOCATION WITH AN FFA BARN BUILDING CREW

whiz kids

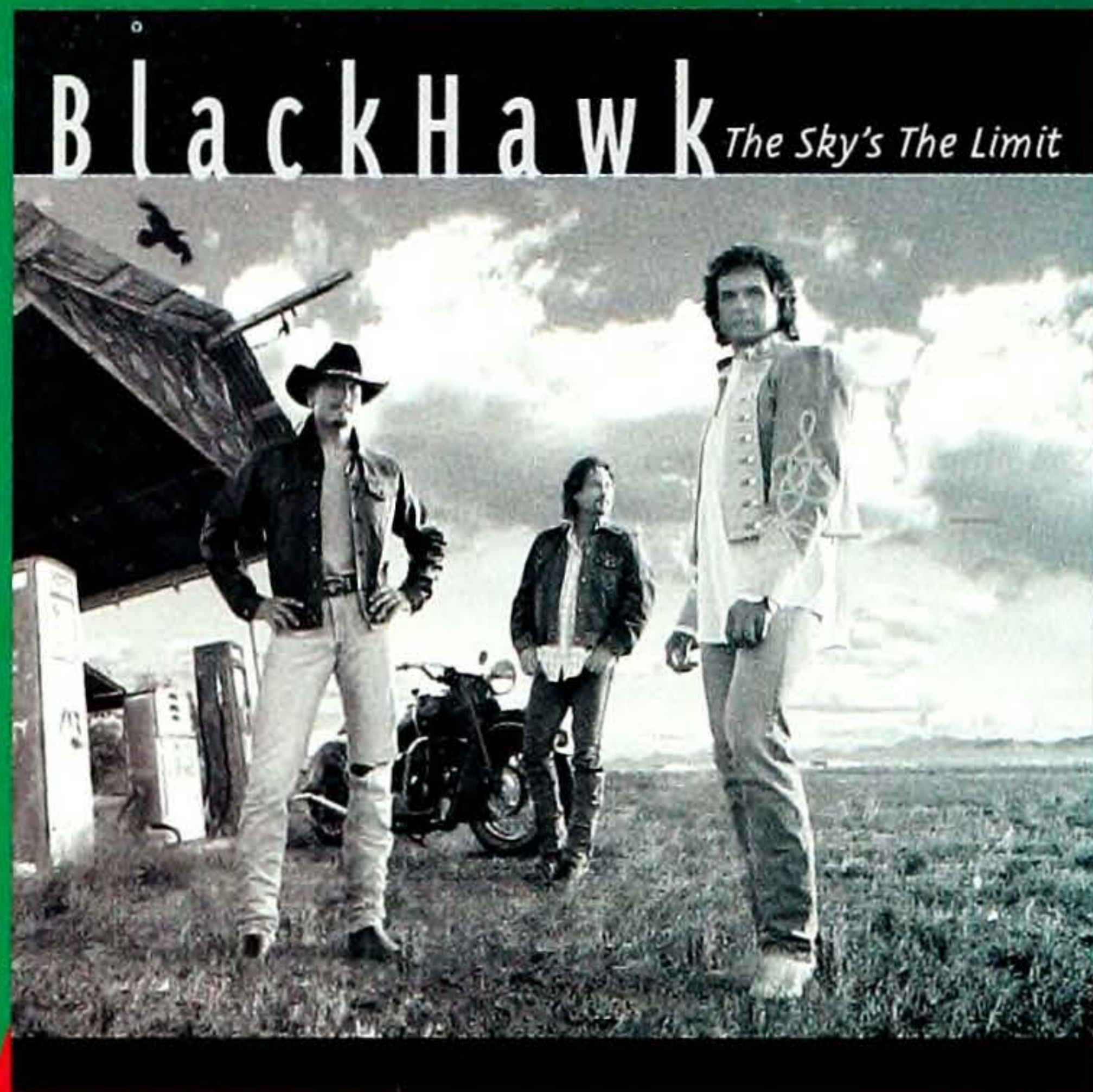
A NEW GENERATION OF COMBINE BUILDERS

life in the fast lane

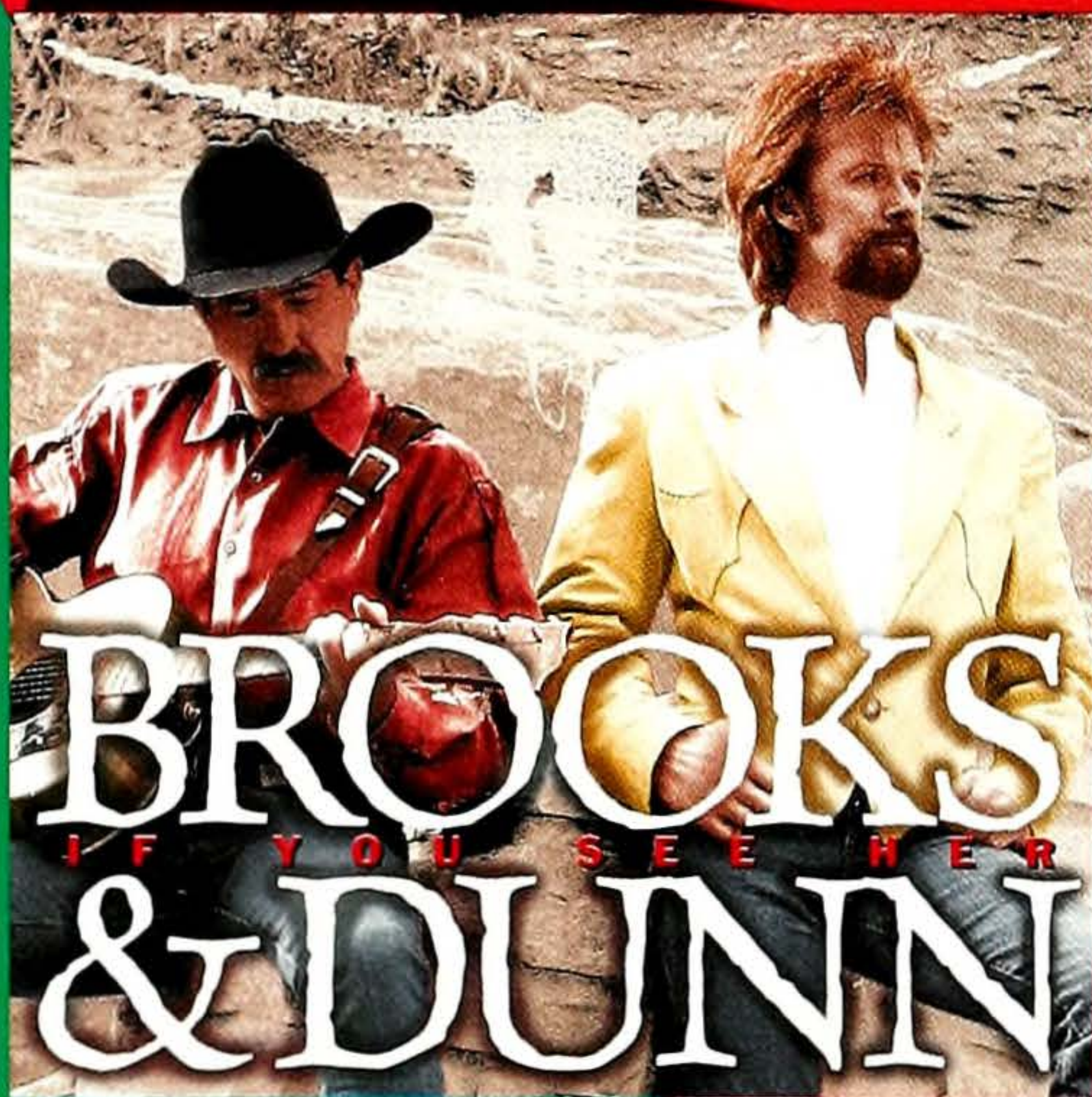
BOWLING MAKES A COMEBACK

50

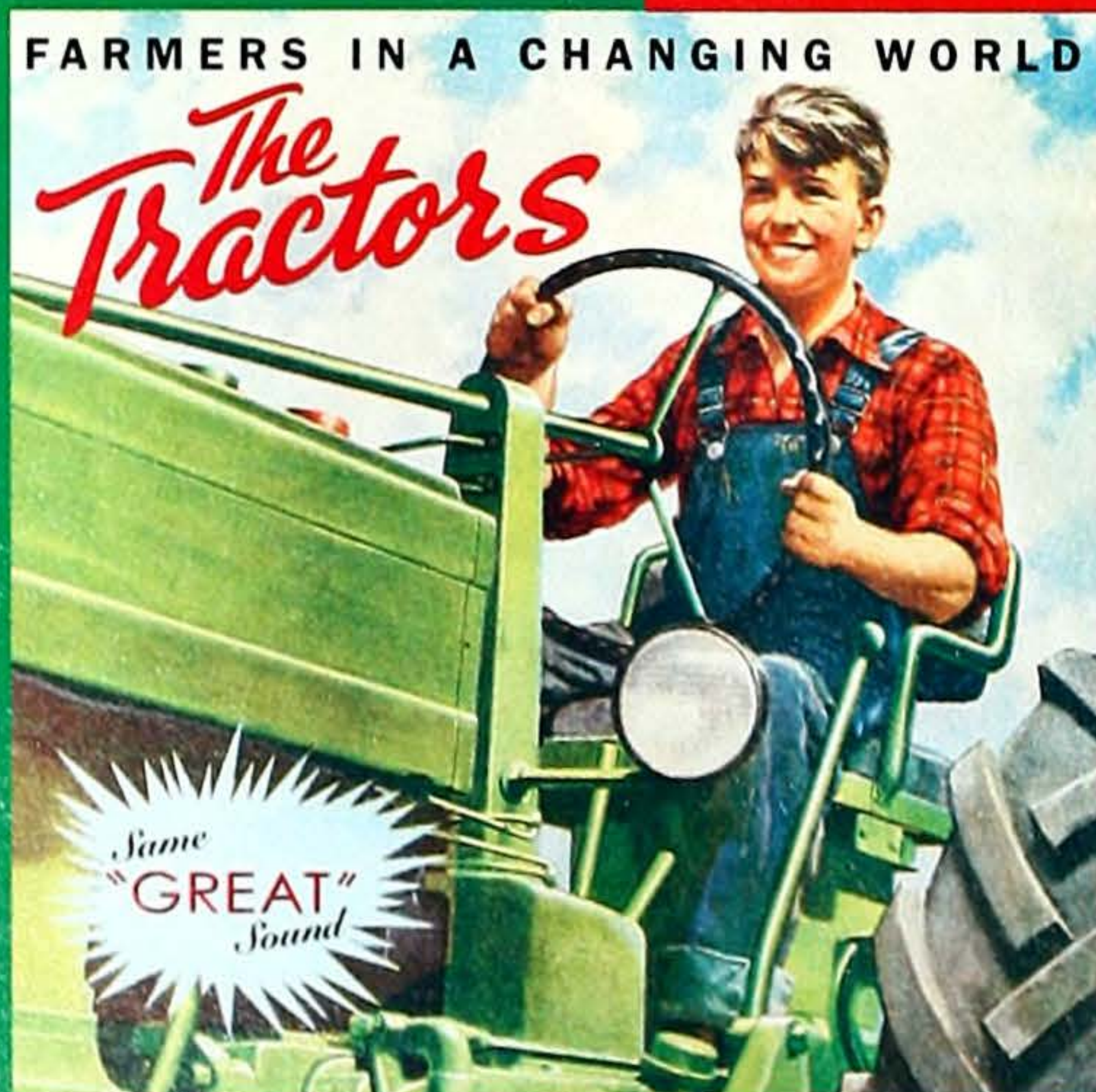
BLACKHAWK *The Sky's The Limit*
featuring "There You Have It" and much more



BROOKS & DUNN *If You See Her*
Featuring "Husbands And Wives," "How Long Gone" and "If You See Him/If You See Her"



THE TRACTORS *Farmers In A Changing World*
The band that brought you "Baby Likes To Rock It" (Like A Boogie Woogie Choo Choo Train) delivers 10 new songs



SO...

WHAT

ELSE

ARE

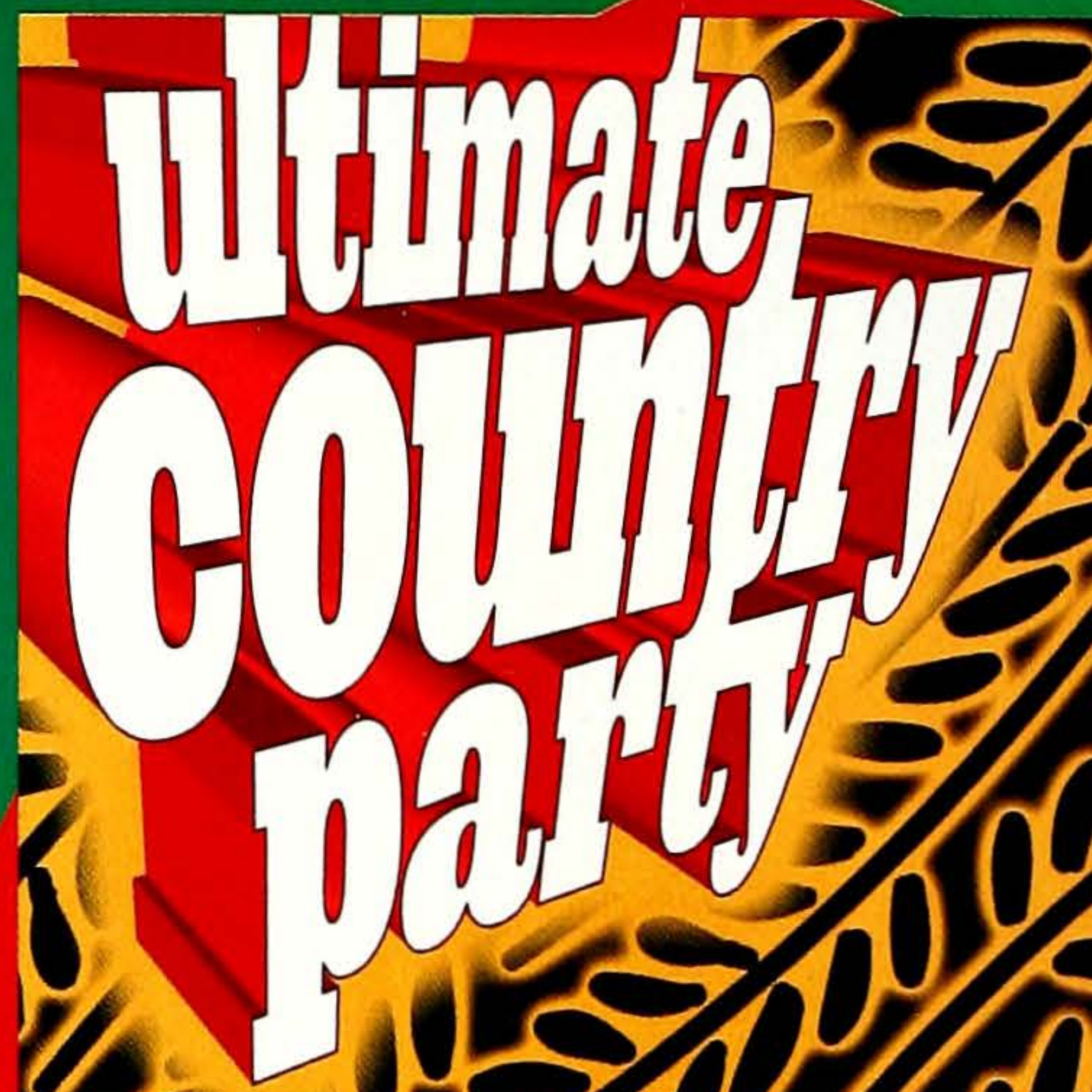
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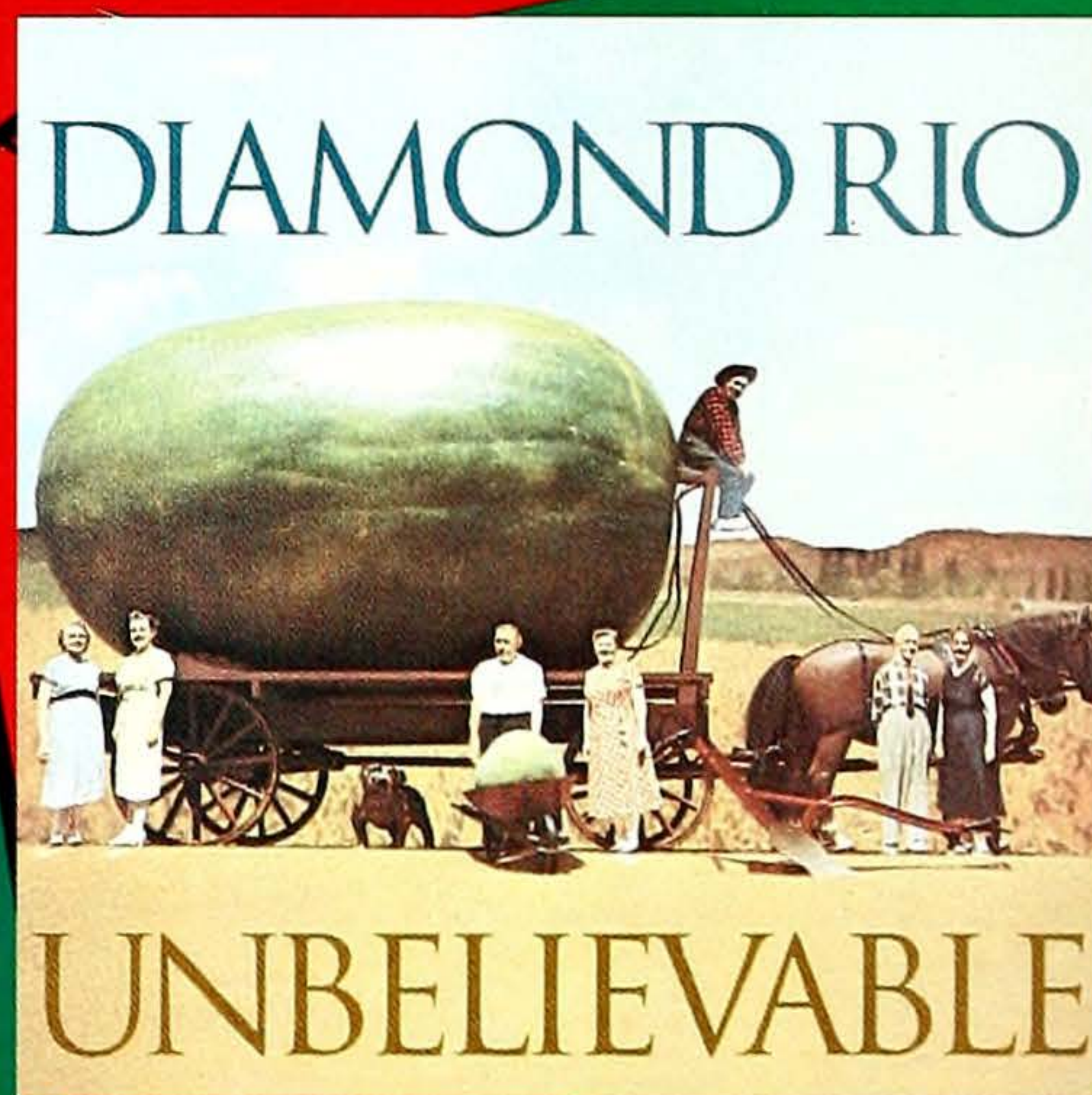
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CHRISTMAS?

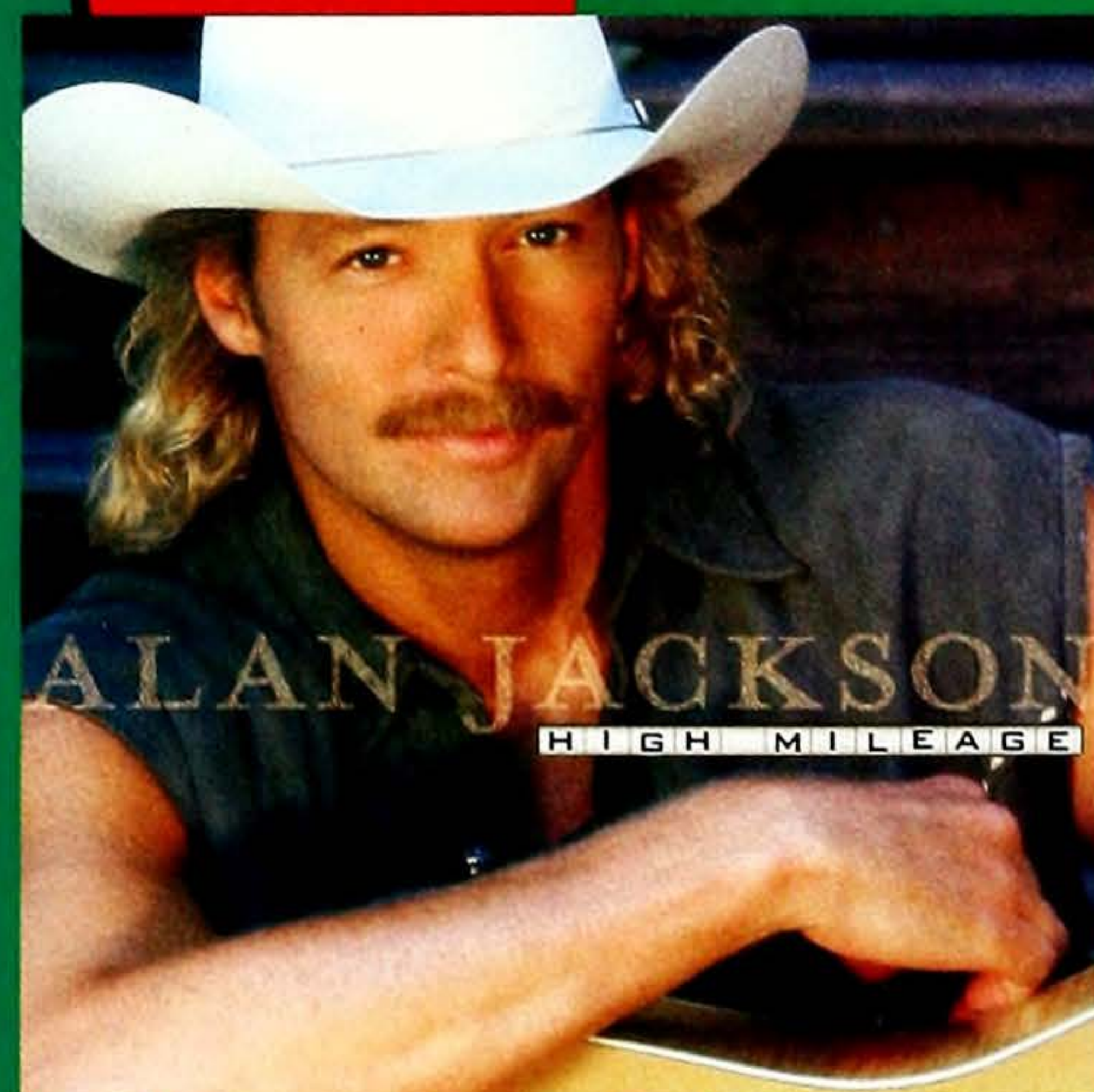
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The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff as an equal opportunity employer.

November/December 1998



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: Babe the Blue Ox and Brainerd, Minnesota, FFA members (clockwise from top): Rick Kosloski, Jason Jay, Tabitha DeRosier and Jenny Caird. Photo by Shane Morgan

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coverstory

8 The FFA Highway

The FFA Highway continues as we drop in on two state FFA conventions, a home building FFA chapter, Paul Bunyan's hometown, a Swiss Miss and an FFA chapter that's going that extra mile, literally, for cancer research.

features

14 Whiz Kids

To build and sell a combine in today's marketplace, companies such as John Deere are seeking young employees who have college degrees and know their computers.

20 Life in the Fast Lane

Looking for winter fun? Make a trip down to your local bowling alley and discover just how fun it can be throw heavy objects. Bowling is back, so grab a ball and let it roll!

24 Barn Improvement

More than 100 farmers in and around Dodge County, Georgia, can claim ownership of a barn built in a day by members of the Dodge County FFA Chapter. See why these ambitious FFA members do it.

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one on one with Mark Wilburn

Now that your year as national officer is almost over, can you tell us about one of your more memorable experiences? In January, Amber Miller and I spent a week in Miami, Florida, visiting members from nearly 20 urban FFA chapters. We experienced the true diversity of our organization when the FFA members recited the creed in four different languages.

What are some of the things you learned by doing chapter visits? I've learned that FFA members are the greatest people in the world. This year I've visited FFA members from 35 states, and I've seen the tremendous pride members feel when presenting opening ceremonies or reciting the creed. I've tried to share with others that the future of agriculture and our country are in good hands.

Do you think the job outlook is good for FFA members in the coming years? Yes. I've always heard about the tremendous scope of the agricultural industry but had never realized the numerous opportunities. Careers range from agronomists and farmers to lawyers and biochemists. During various tours we met with industry leaders who assured us that there will be a place for any young

person interested in agriculture.

Does living in hotels for a year make you appreciate home a little bit more? Definitely. I have always been proud of my school and hometown, but a year away from family and friends makes you realize the meaning of "home sweet home." It's nice to have a home cooked meal and good night's sleep in my own bed after 270-plus days on the road.

What was your most embarrassing moment this year? The guys on our team went to a Japanese bathhouse during our trip overseas in February. I stepped into a hot tub not realizing that it had a low-grade electric current going through it. It was quite a shocking experience. The Japanese men with us got a good laugh.

What advice do you have for FFA members? Get involved and be willing to accept new challenges. I reflect on my high school days and wish that I would have tried a public speaking event. I refused to participate because I was scared. I've realized that it's okay to fail. I've learned more from my failures than from any of my accomplishments. ★

VITALS

Hometown: Laddonia, Missouri

Age: 21

Chapter: Van-Far

Advisor: Rex Moore

SAE: Beef and swine enterprises and placement in production

Education: Junior at the University of Missouri

Major: Agricultural economics and agricultural education

My favorite singers: Garth Brooks and Tom Petty

My favorite band:

Matchbox 20

My favorite TV show:

SportsCenter

My favorite hobbies:

Showing steers, watching Chicago Cubs baseball

My favorite Food:

Anything from mom or grandma

Number of speeches given this year: 68

TIMELINE

Age

14 • joined FFA

15 • placed first in state FFA knowledge competition

• named Star Chapter Greenhand

16 • lost class officer election

17 • named academic all-state basketball team

18 • elected state FFA first vice president

• began studies at University of Missouri-Columbia

20 • elected national central region vice president



National central region vice president: Mark Wilburn



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ffa in action

OHIO Chocolate challenge



It's not easy eating a chocolate bar with your wrists tied together. But it's sure fun trying. Members of the Liberty FFA Chapter had the unique opportunity to do this in January during a Made for Excellence conference. The members also performed five-minute skits to demonstrate teamwork and friendship. ★

*submitted by Andy Westhoven,
chapter reporter*

Members of the Liberty FFA Chapter have fun performing a skit during a recent Made for Excellence conference.

PENNSYLVANIA Operation Donation

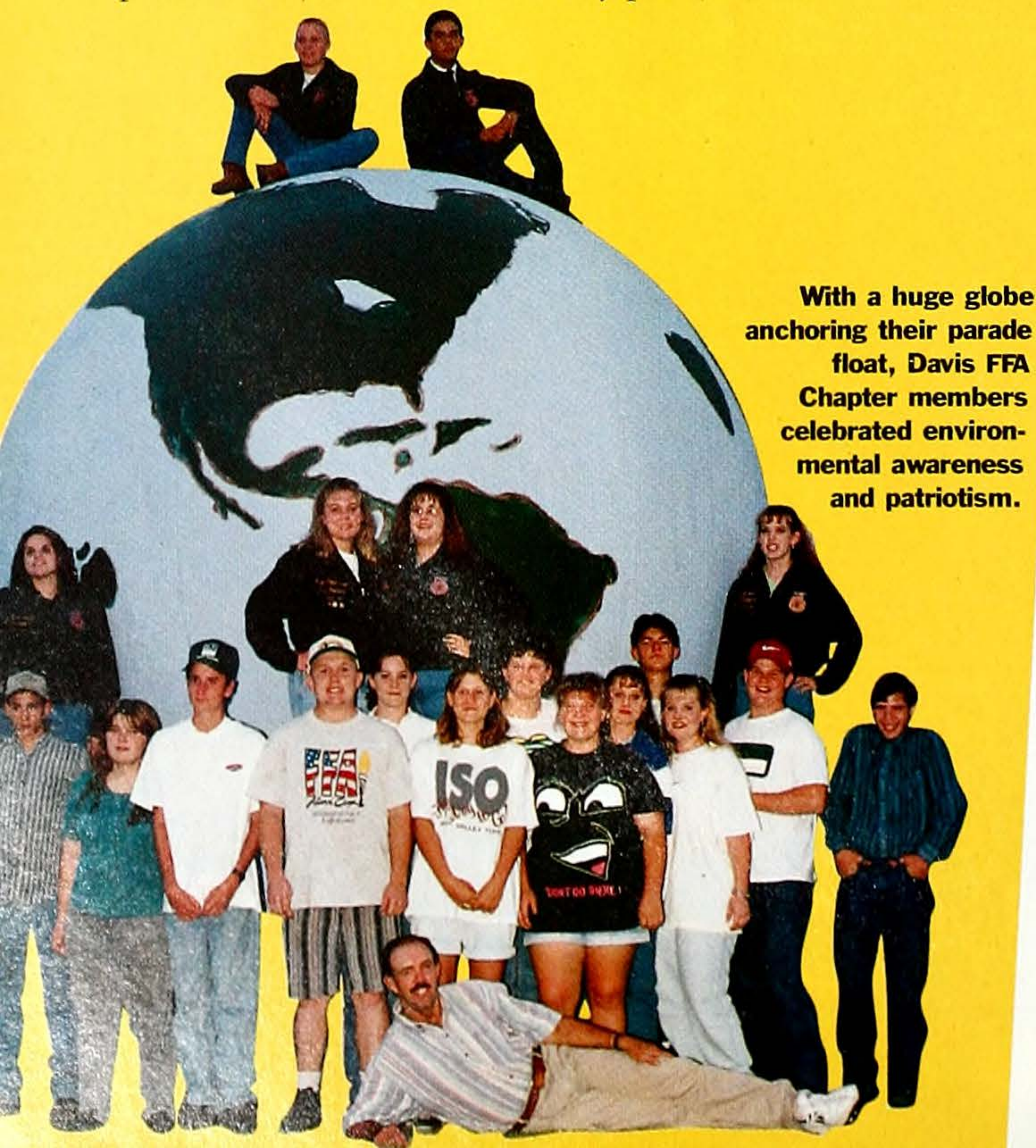


The toys on the table were collected by members of the Saul FFA Chapter and later donated to a local homeless shelter.

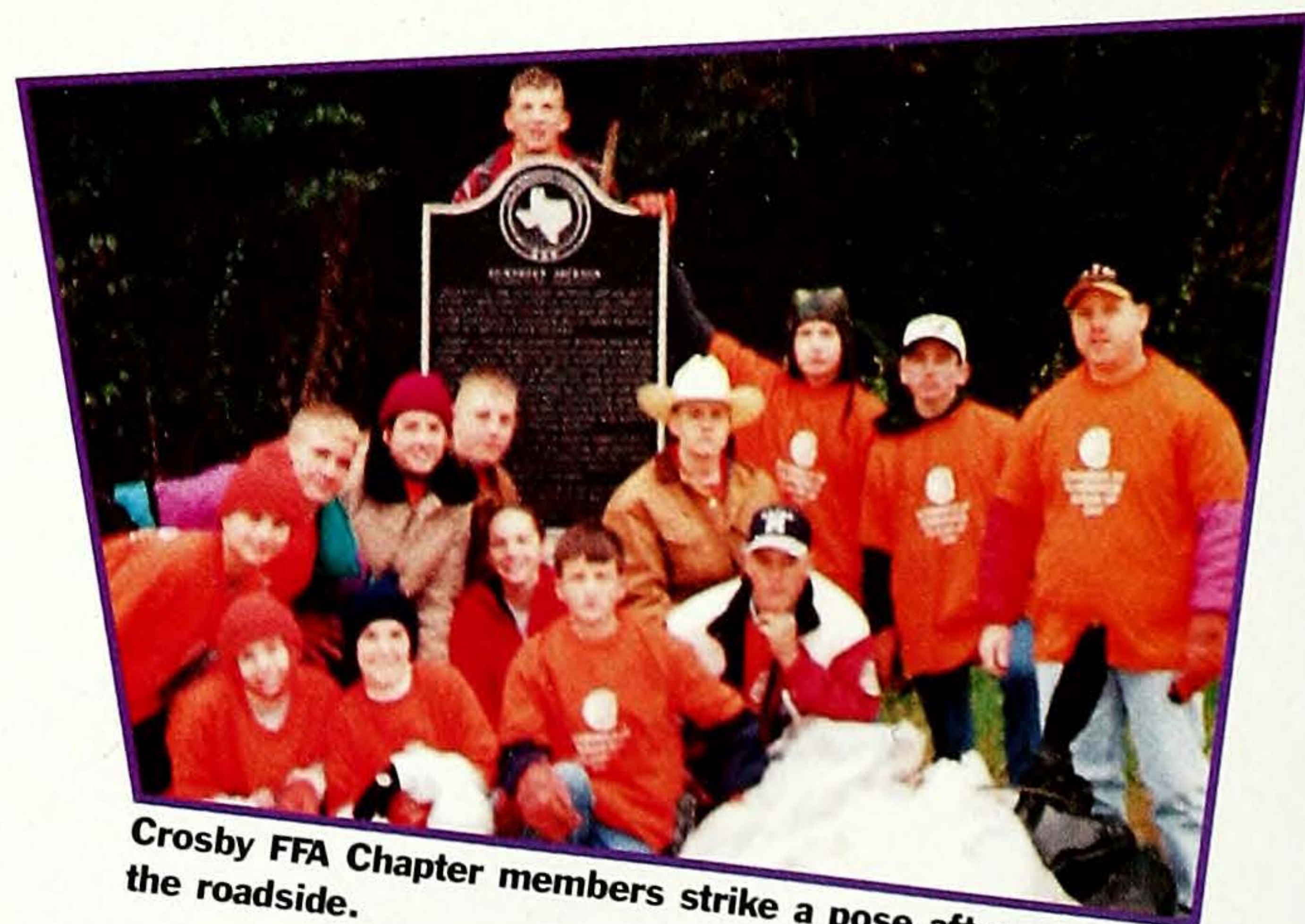
They knew they weren't going to solve the problems facing residents of Philadelphia's Eliza Shirley Homeless Shelter, but by collecting and delivering donations of toys, clothes and money, W.B. Saul FFA Chapter members improved the lives of the homeless residents. The project was carried out by the floriculture class and advisor Pamela Snyder. ★

OKLAHOMA Sittin' on top of the world

Members of the Davis FFA Chapter have taken recycling to a new level. With a broken down Doppler radar sphere (the kind used by meteorologists to forecast the weather) and gallons of green and blue paint, they created a globe, which they used for their homecoming float's themes of environmental awareness and patriotism. They took first place in the competition and followed that up with a third place finish in the Veterans' Day parade. ★



With a huge globe anchoring their parade float, Davis FFA Chapter members celebrated environmental awareness and patriotism.



Crosby FFA Chapter members strike a pose after scouring the roadside.

TEXAS Bag it!

Members of the Crosby FFA Chapter didn't like seeing trash cluttering their roads and highways, so they decided to do something about it. With trashbags in hand, they set out and cleared several major roadways during the Crosby-Hoffman Chamber of Commerce's Cleanup Day. The chapter plans to do it again next year, but on a larger scale. ★

submitted by Heath Ressler, chapter president



clockwise from top:
Ariat Competitor™, Ariat Jessie™ & Ariat Jamie™



Ariat Montana™ & Ariat Cheyenne™



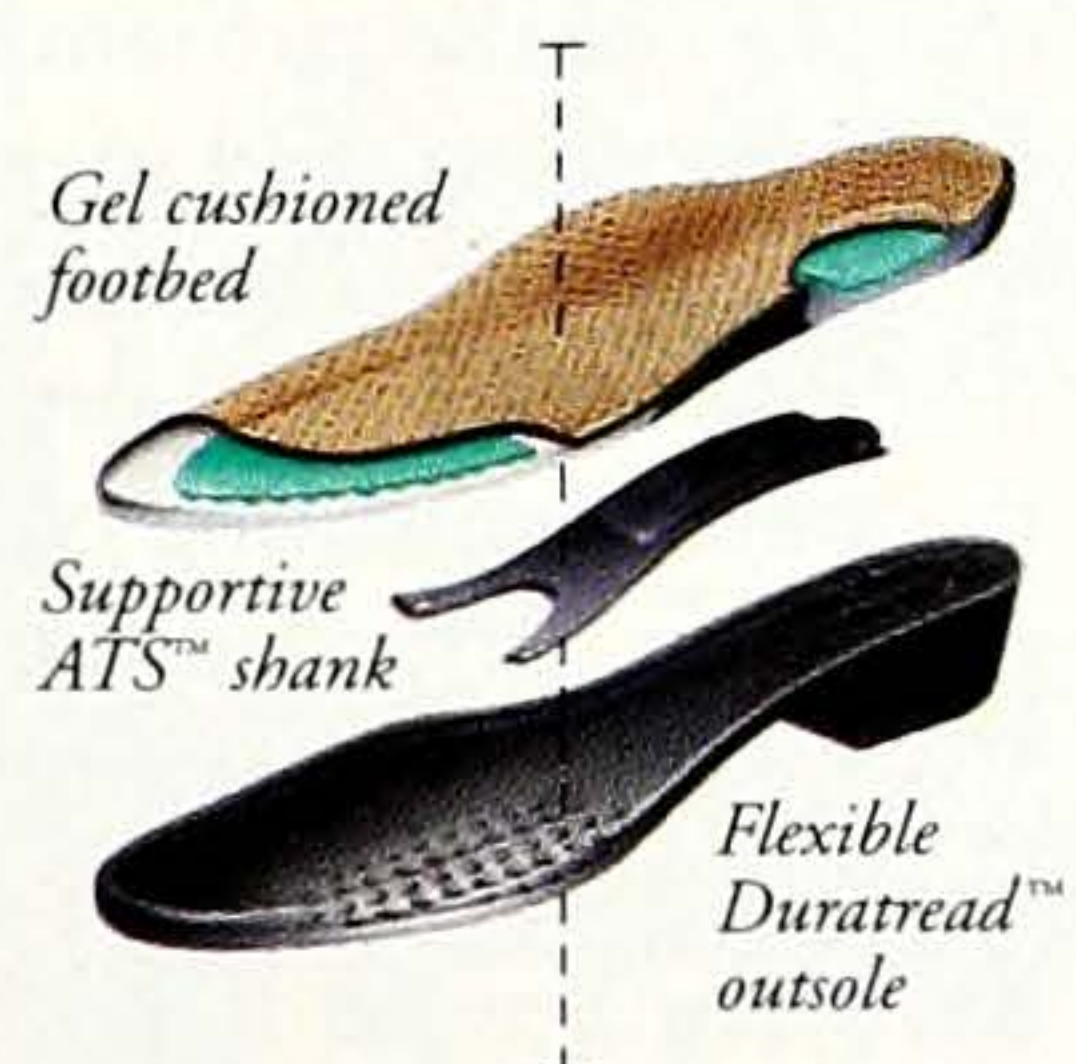
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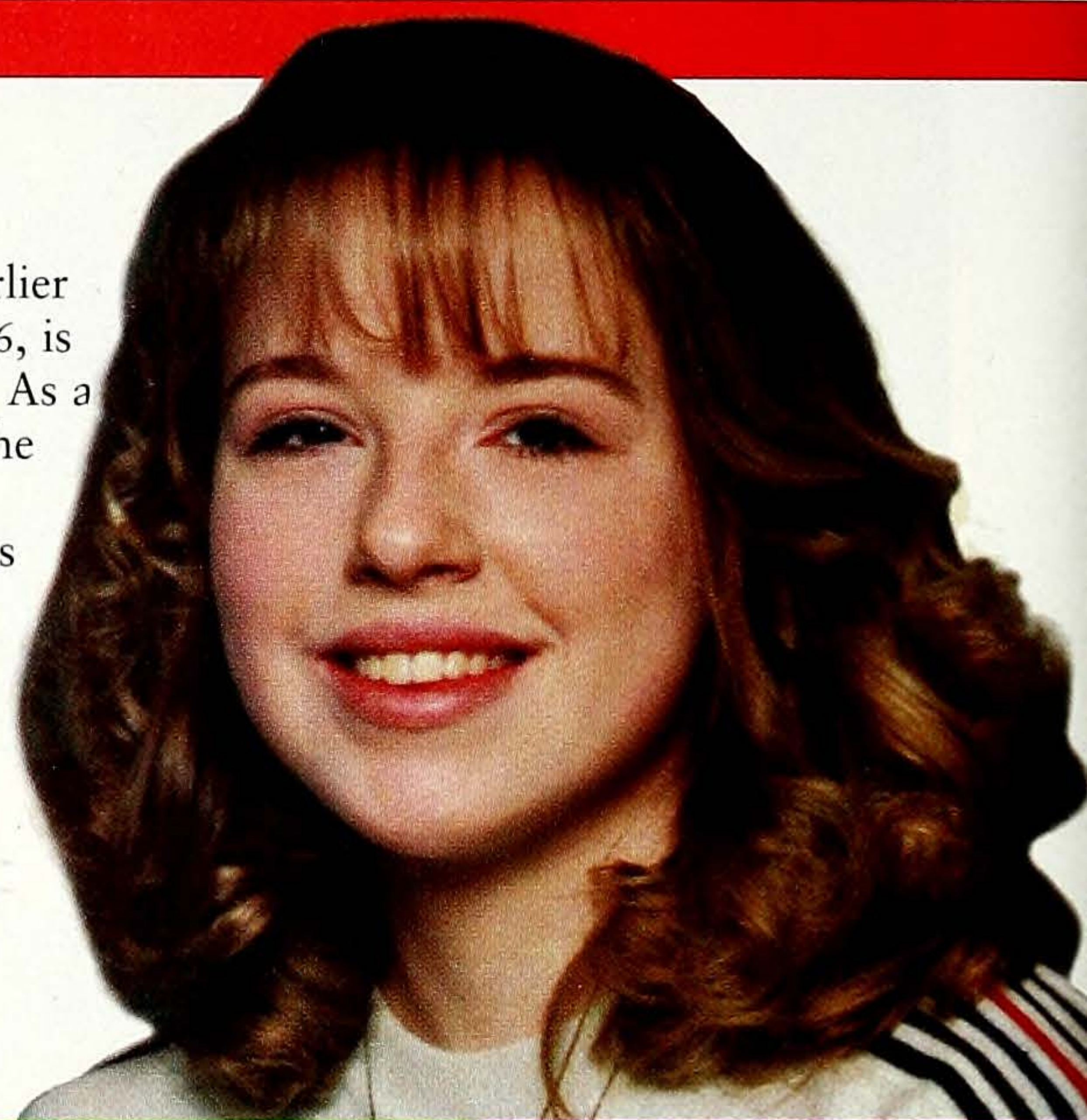
stars

1-800-COLLECT**NEBRASKA****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 32 for more details. ★

Amber Storm

Even though she had to change schools earlier this year after her family moved, Amber, 16, is still forging ahead in her FFA involvement. As a member of the North Bend FFA Chapter, she has competed in district land judging and livestock management competitions. At this year's state convention, she placed seventh out of 100 in the horse management competition. Amber also raises animals and is active in barrel racing. When she's done with high school she plans to attend the University of Nebraska. ★

**MINNESOTA****MONTANA****ARKANSAS****NEW YORK****Joey Christianson**

Sixteen-year-old Joey Christianson is a competitor who has made a huge impact on the Battle Lake FFA Chapter in just two short years. Last year he and his forestry team took first in the state (he also placed first individually) and fifth in the nation. This year his market plan team took first and his parliamentary team took third in the state. Last year Joey served as chapter reporter. In April he was elected regional parliamentarian. Joey's SAE is based at his family's hog farm. ★

**Bridger Linder Forsness**

With his own cattle operation, which he's been building since his freshman year in high school, it's clear that 18-year-old Bridger knows what it means to work hard. It's especially true when you consider he's a state officer, a member of the National Honor Society and a musician. So how does this Missouri Valley FFA Chapter member unwind? He ropes with family and friends. Bridger plans to attend Montana State University and major in mechanical engineering. ★

**Kelli McKinnon**

Even though she lives in town, Kelli, 17, raises three lambs, two pigs, two steers and a heifer on her grandparents' farms outside of town. Kelli, who is now the president of the Gurdon FFA Chapter, is a member of the parliamentary procedure and meat judging teams. This summer, she also served on the state nominating committee and attended the Washington Leadership Conference. She's busy, but Kelli manages to find time to help others with their animal projects. ★

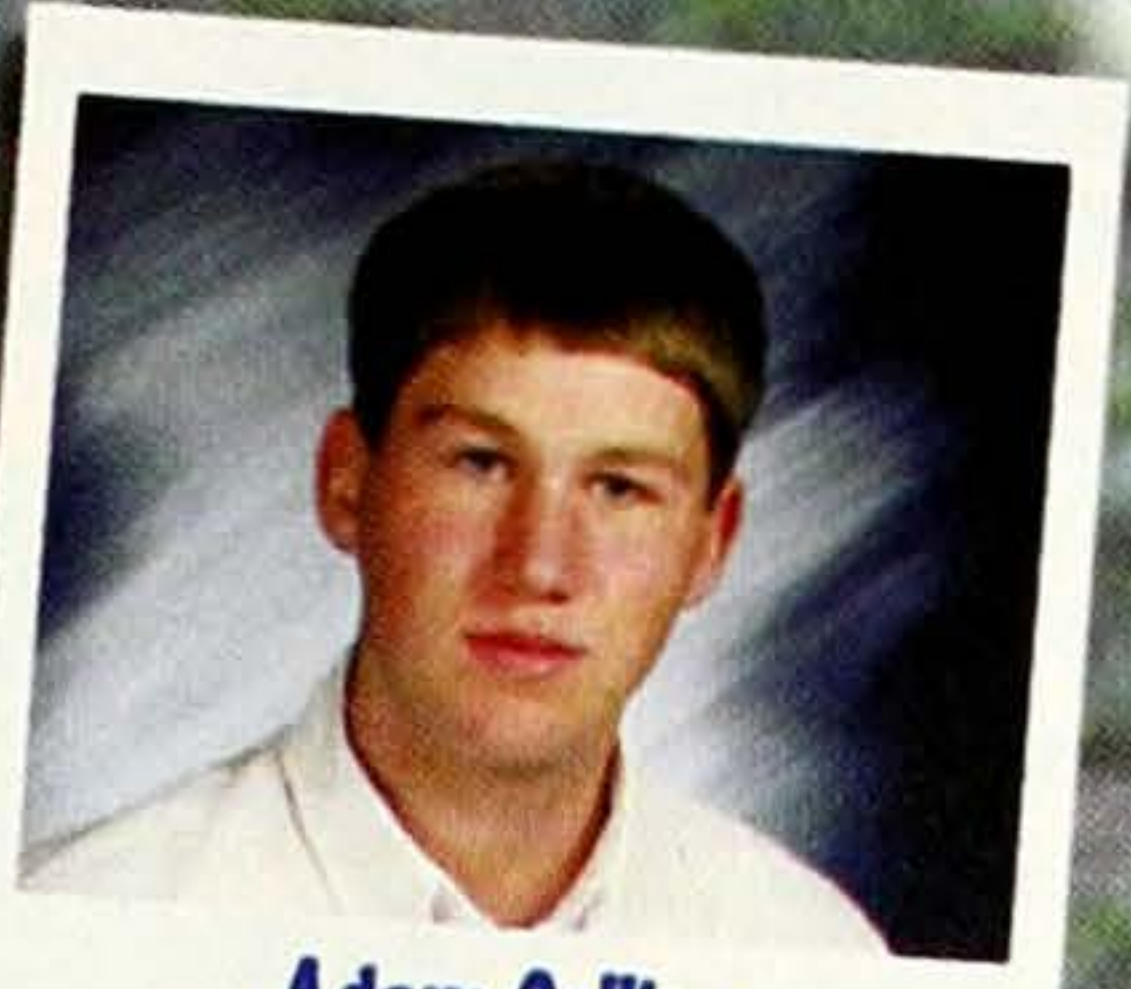
**Aaron Vaughn**

His high school didn't have an FFA chapter, so 17-year-old Aaron joined his cousin's chapter and commuted there just for FFA meetings and activities. After two years, he was so involved in FFA that he decided to transfer to the school, Penn Yan Academy, where he was emerging as a chapter leader, serving as chapter sentinel, vice president and president. This summer Aaron received his state FFA degree and was elected state FFA president. ★

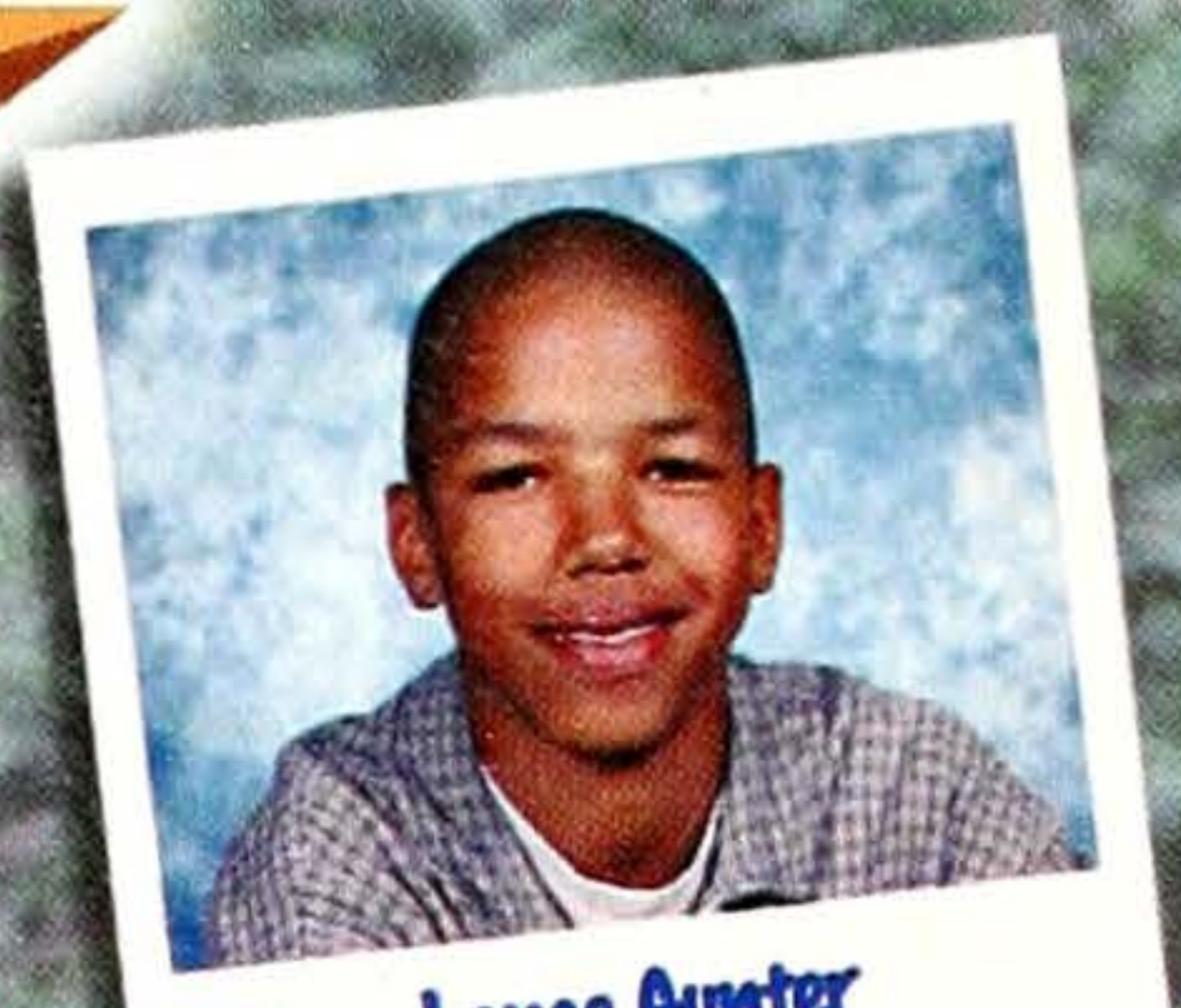
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FFA

Stars



Adam Collins
FFA Star Jan/Feb



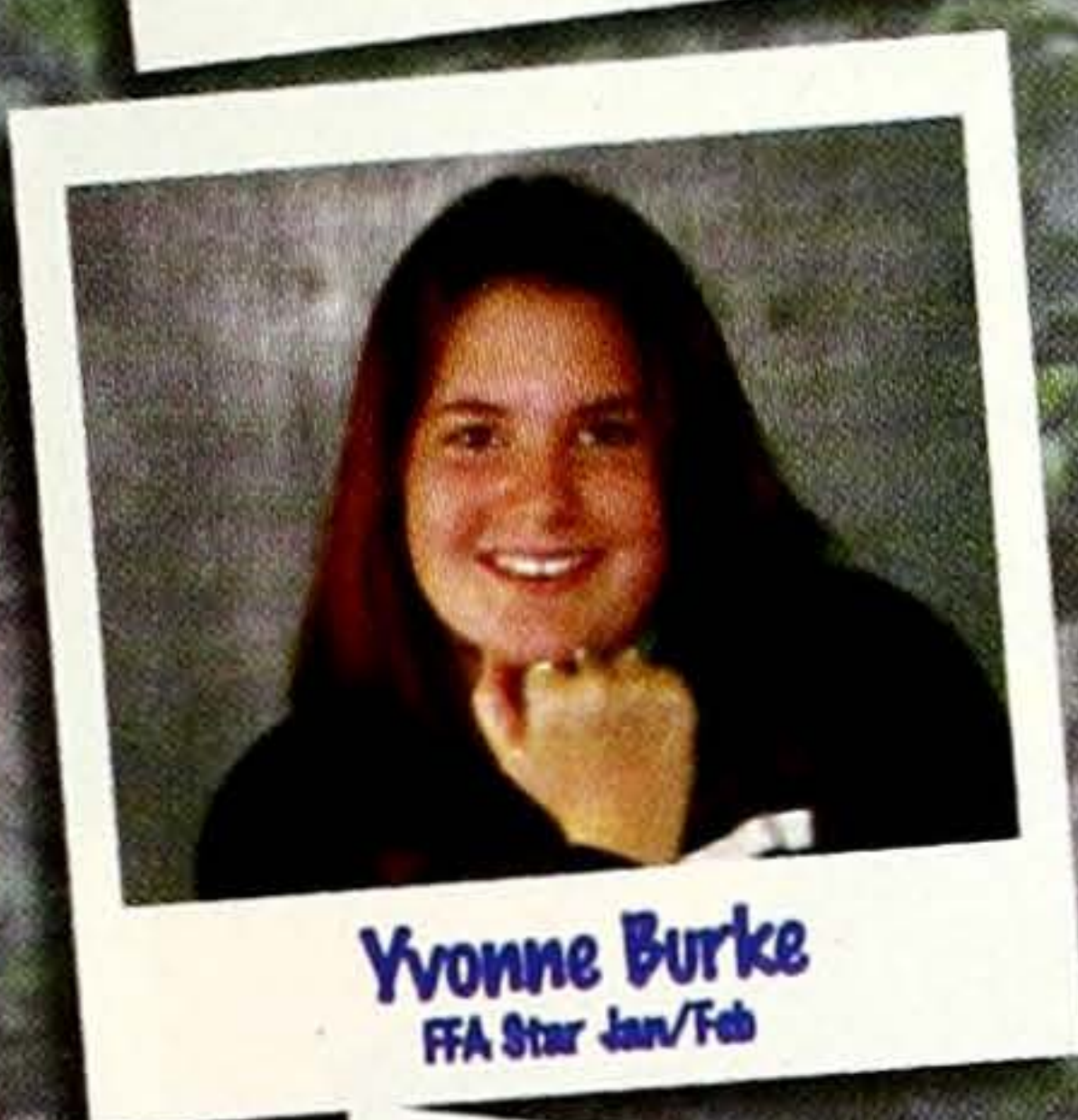
Lance Gunter
FFA Star May/June



Chas Robbins
FFA Star Jan/Feb



Brittany F. Whitmire
FFA Star July/Aug

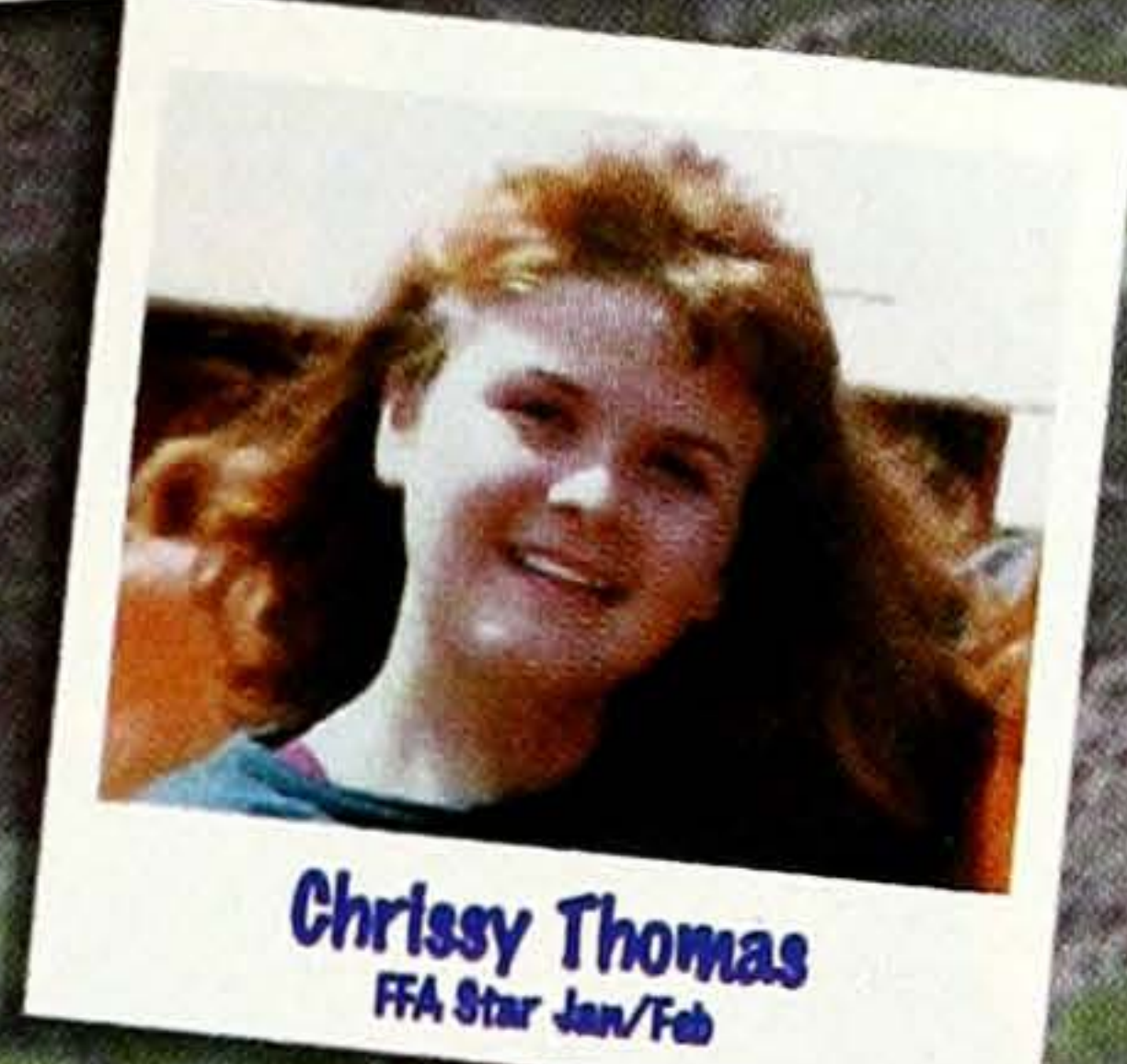


Yvonne Burke
FFA Star Jan/Feb

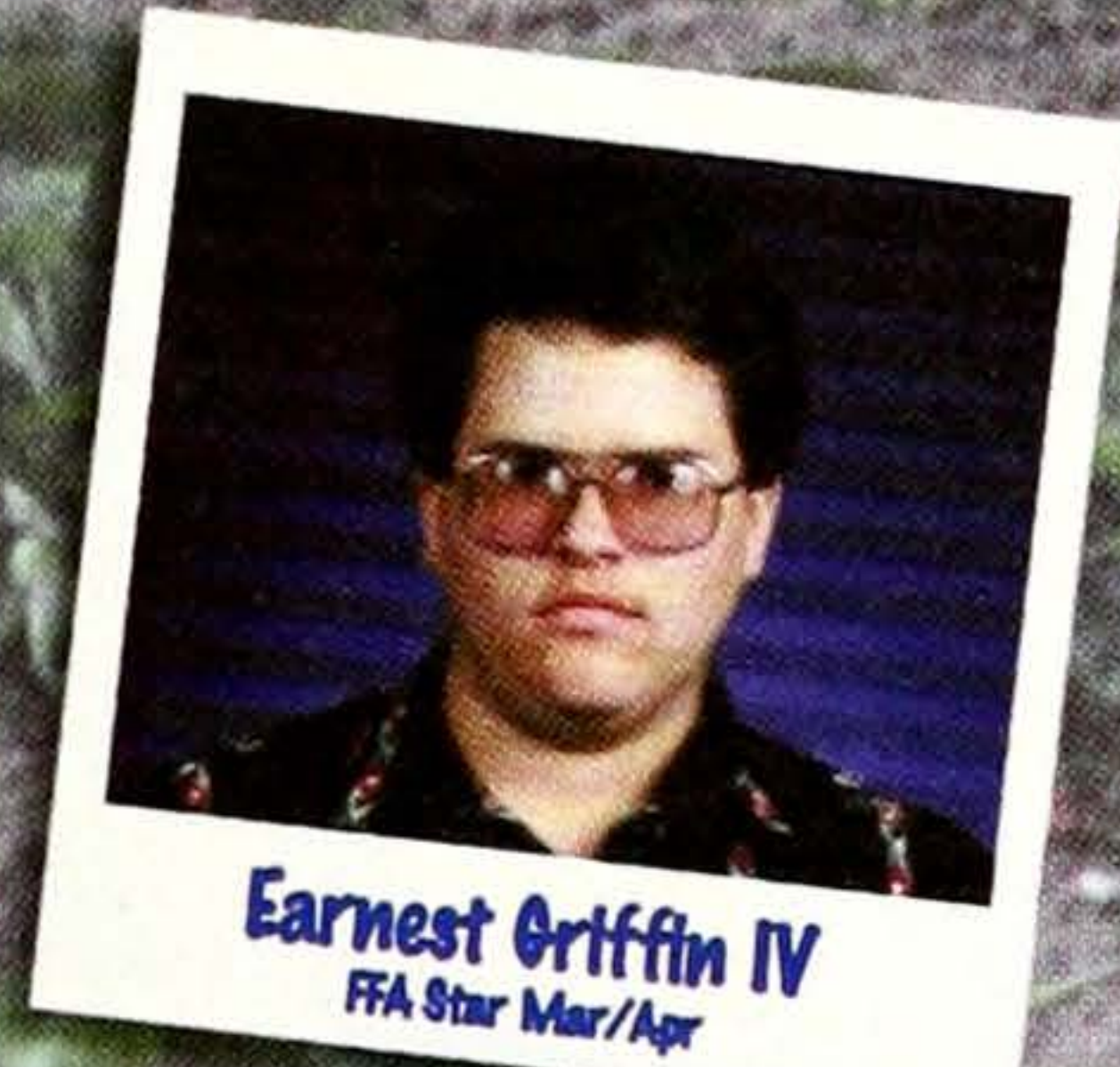


Trevor Haas
FFA Star Sept/Oct

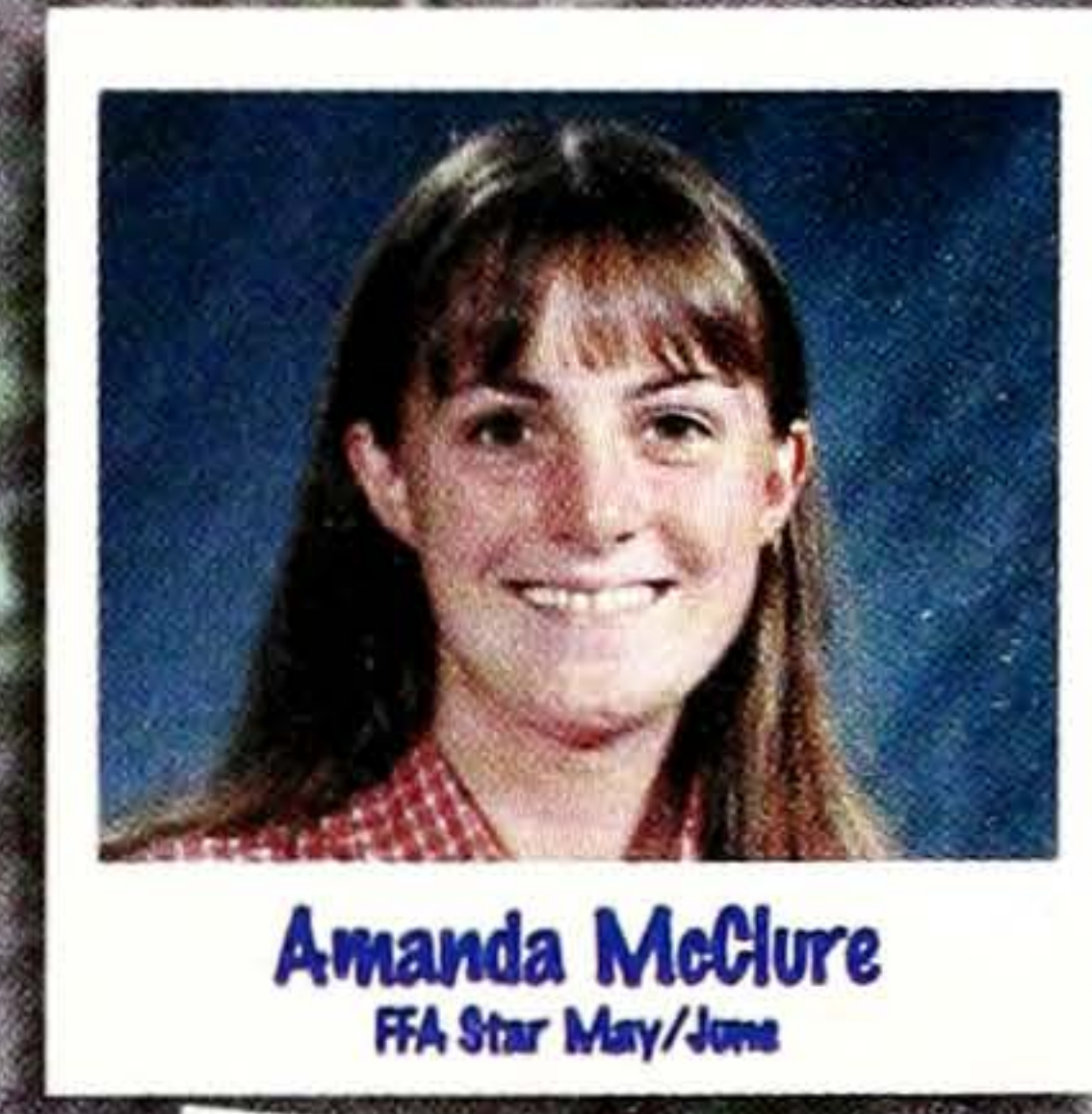
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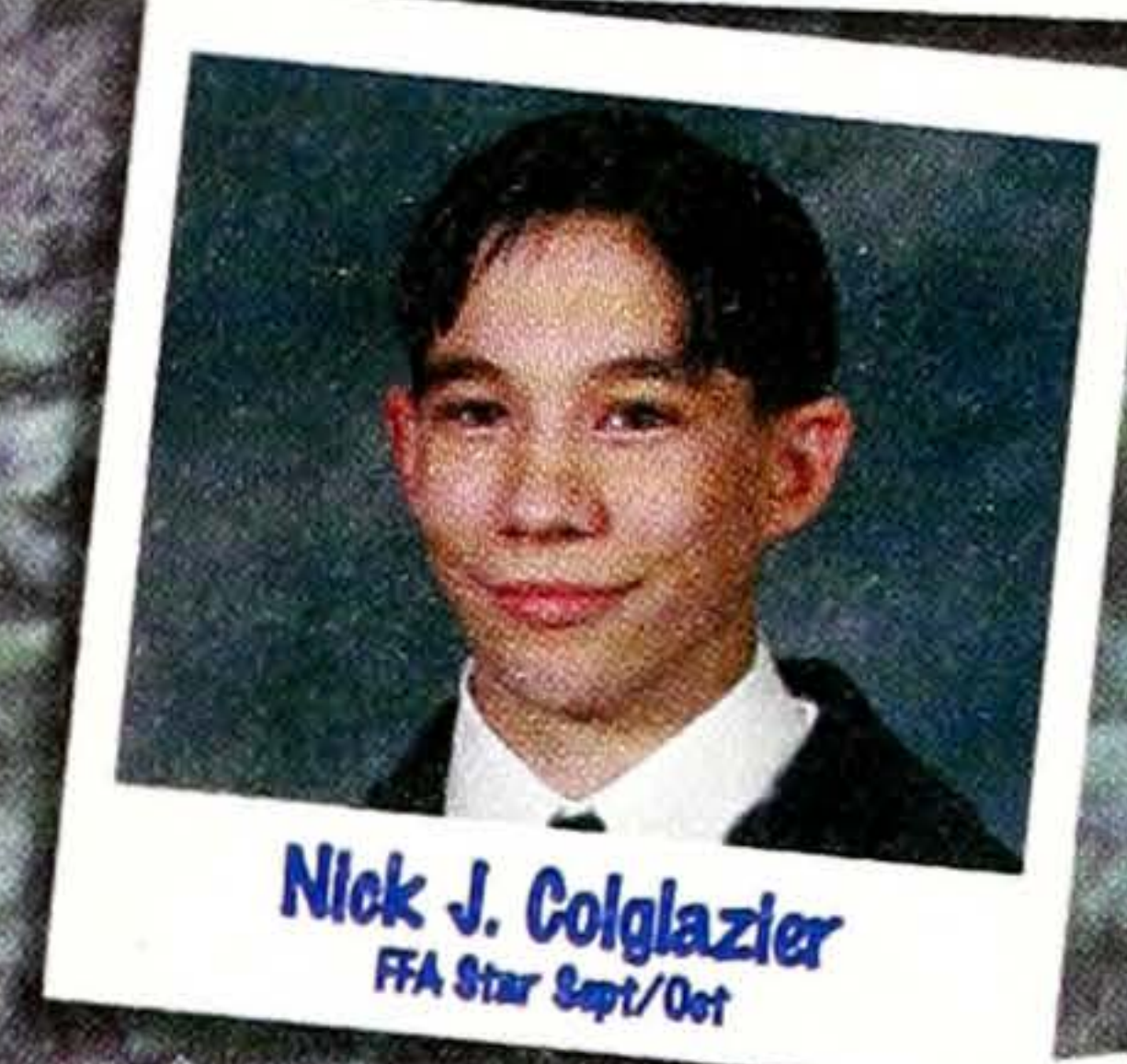
Chrissy Thomas
FFA Star Jan/Feb



Earnest Griffin IV
FFA Star Mar/Apr



Amanda McClure
FFA Star May/June



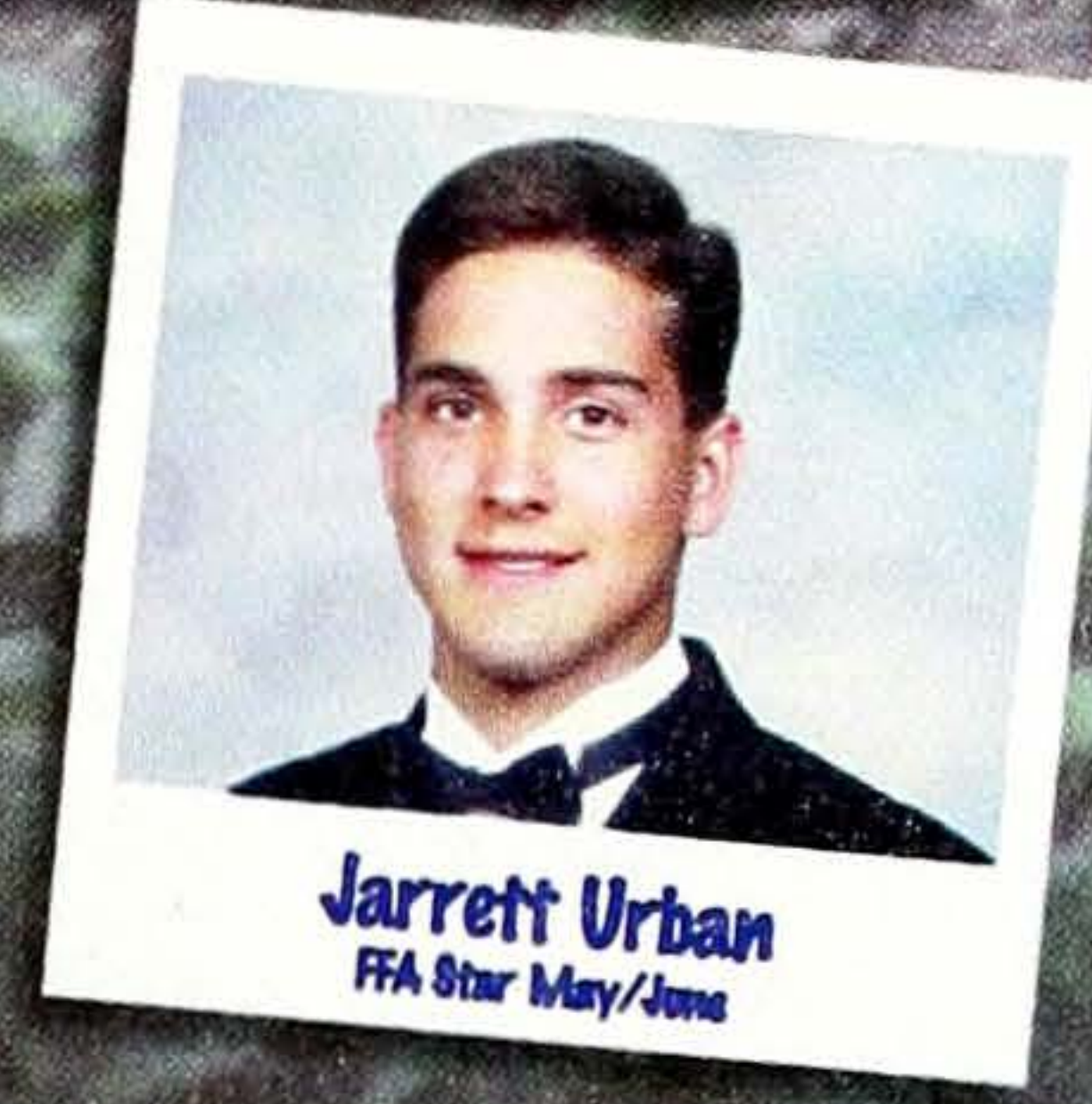
Nick J. Colglazier
FFA Star Sept/Oct



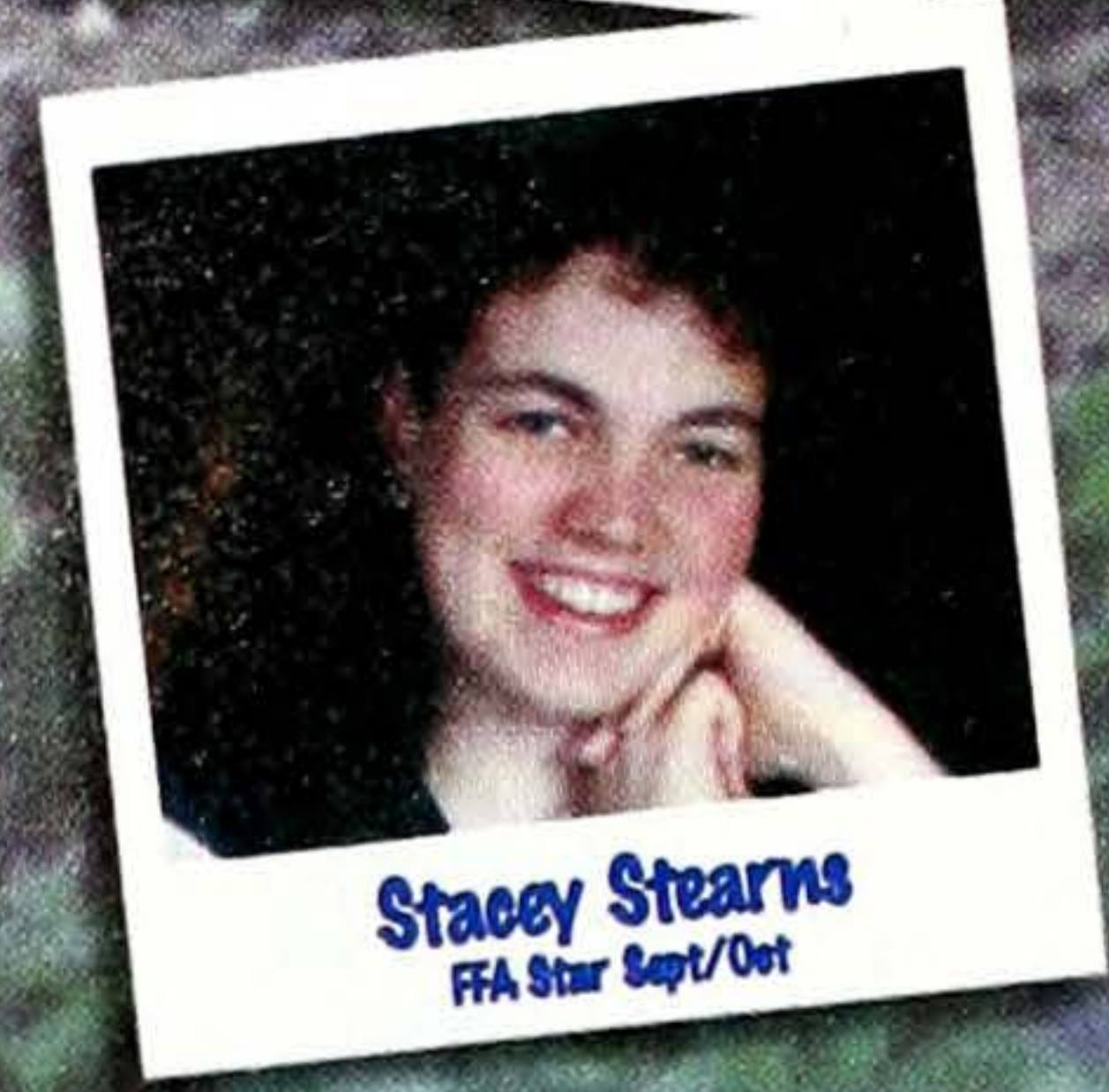
Heather Griffin
FFA Star Mar/Apr



Saren Simmons
FFA Star Mar/Apr



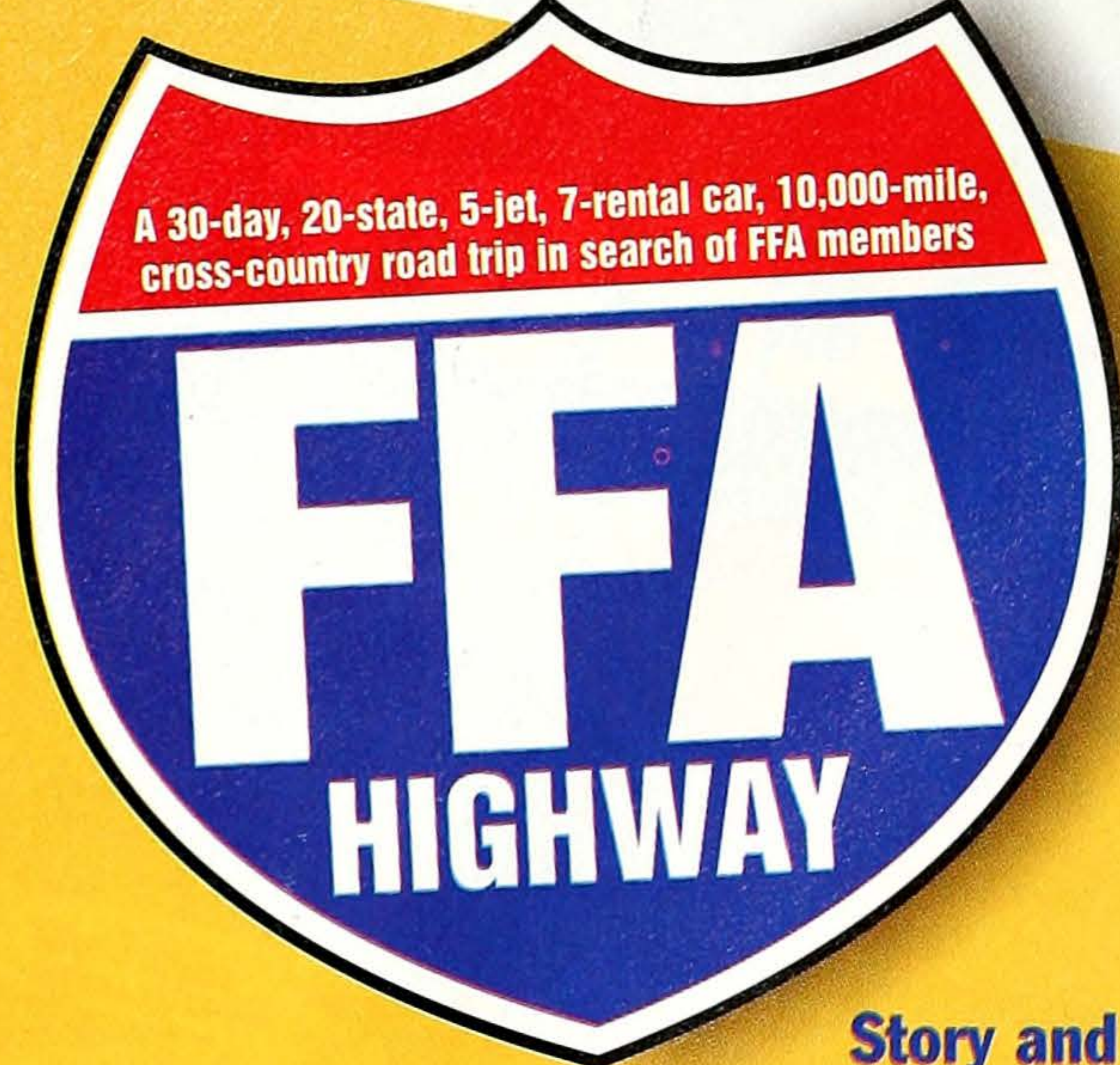
Jarrett Urban
FFA Star May/June



Stacey Stearns
FFA Star Sept/Oct

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Part Two: From the Rockies to the Midwest

1 Montrose, CO

Located on Colorado's western slope, the wide streets of this scenic town are lined with pickups, the preferred mode of transportation. Over at the high school, the parking lot is full of them, along with dozens of vans and buses. A bumper sticker on one of the pickups reads: "Colorado, It's AgriCultural." A steady rumble comes from the gymnasium, where a thousand Colorado FFA members are generating more energy than the Hoover Dam. The fourth session of the 70th Colorado FFA Convention is just getting underway.

On the cover of the convention guide is a photo of a mountain climber walking among the clouds as he is ready to climb a sheer face of ice, snow and rock. Hundreds of feet below him are distant mountains—and more clouds. Much of Colorado actually looks like this. For the thousand attendees here, however, scaling the Rockies' steep cliffs is probably not a part of everyday life. But, hey, it's not a bad way to get inspired.

Outgoing State FFA Treasurer Justin Homm takes the spotlight at the 70th.

Story and Photos
by Erich Gaukel

2 Elkton, SD

In 1916, an escaped circus elephant chased a terrified man around Elkton. That is still big news around this small town on the Minnesota border. Elkton is so small, in fact, that the FFA chapter here builds most of the town's new homes.

Why? A severe housing shortage developed a few years ago. With no builders to be found, the chapter teamed up with a local lumberyard. The lumberyard would supply the materials; the chapter members would build the homes. So far, the chapter has built several homes and plans to do even more.

When I dropped by, Elkton FFA members Steve VanDyke, Brooks VanDyke (they're cousins), and Megan Heggerfeld showed me their latest home, which was nearly finished and resting on a temporary foundation across the street from the school. When finished, the house will be moved to a flatbed truck and pulled to the owner's lot.

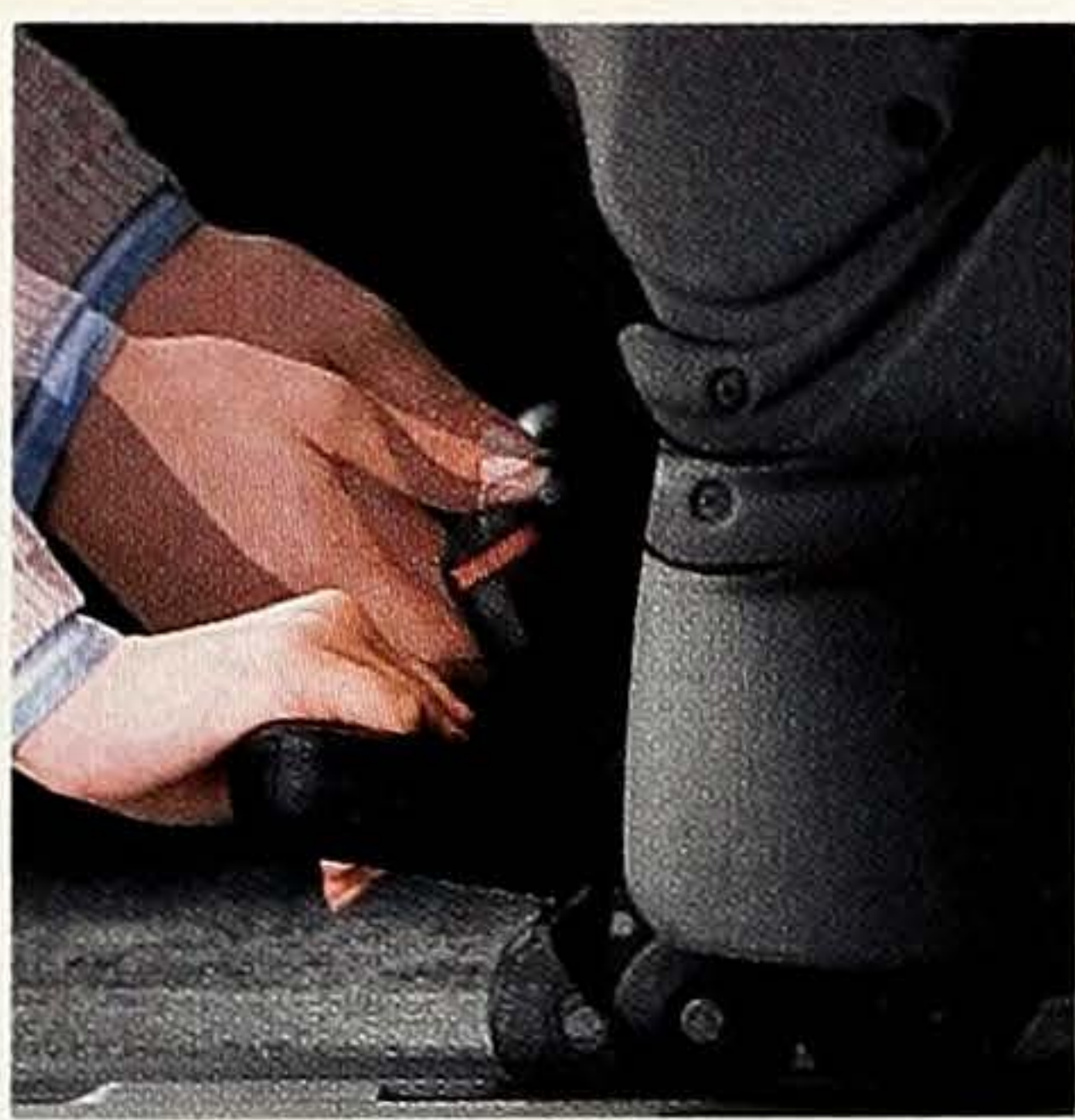
Building houses is old hat for Elkton FFA members Megan Heggerfeld, Steve VanDyke and Brooks VanDyke.



continued on page 10

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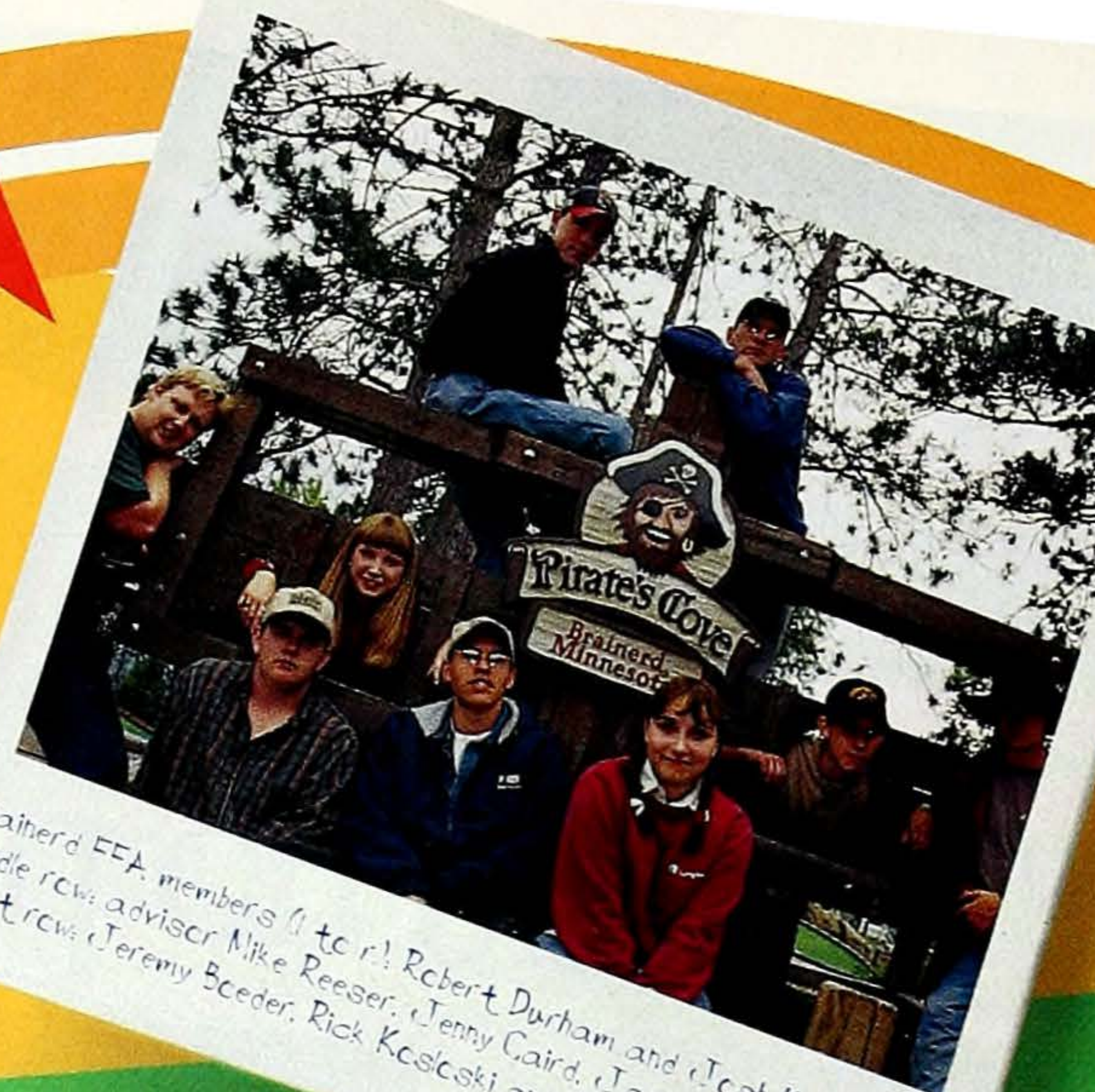
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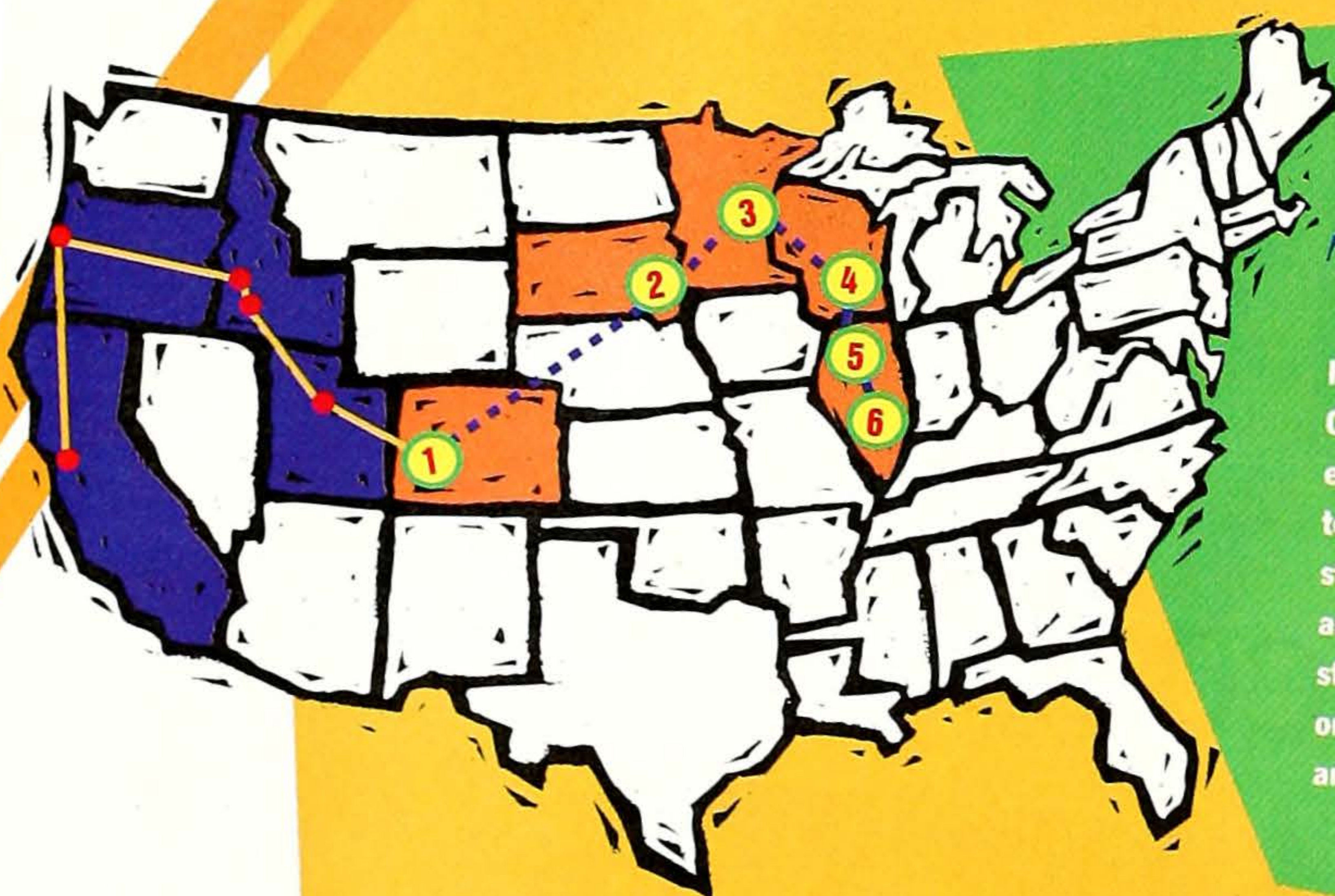
3 Brainerd, MN

The mythical frontier lumberjack Paul Bunyan and his sidekick Babe the Blue Ox call this northern Minnesota town home. They live at the junction of highways 210 and 371. You have to pay to get in for an up-close look at the larger-than-life figures. Tourists, who flood the area in the summer for the fishing, water skiing and camping, frequently stop by to see the pair. This is Brainerd's claim to fame, though you might also remember the town from its appearance in the movie "Fargo."

The reason I drove up to Brainerd, however, was to spend the day with members of the Brainerd FFA Chapter. I hooked up with them at the Brainerd High School Farm, the only such facility in the land of 10,000 lakes. Here, students from all over the area come together to work and learn in the stables, in the machine shop, in the greenhouse, and in the field. This is a tightly knit bunch of dedicated FFA members who, despite thoroughly defeating me in a round of miniature golf, are proud of their school, proud of their town, and proud of Paul and Babe.

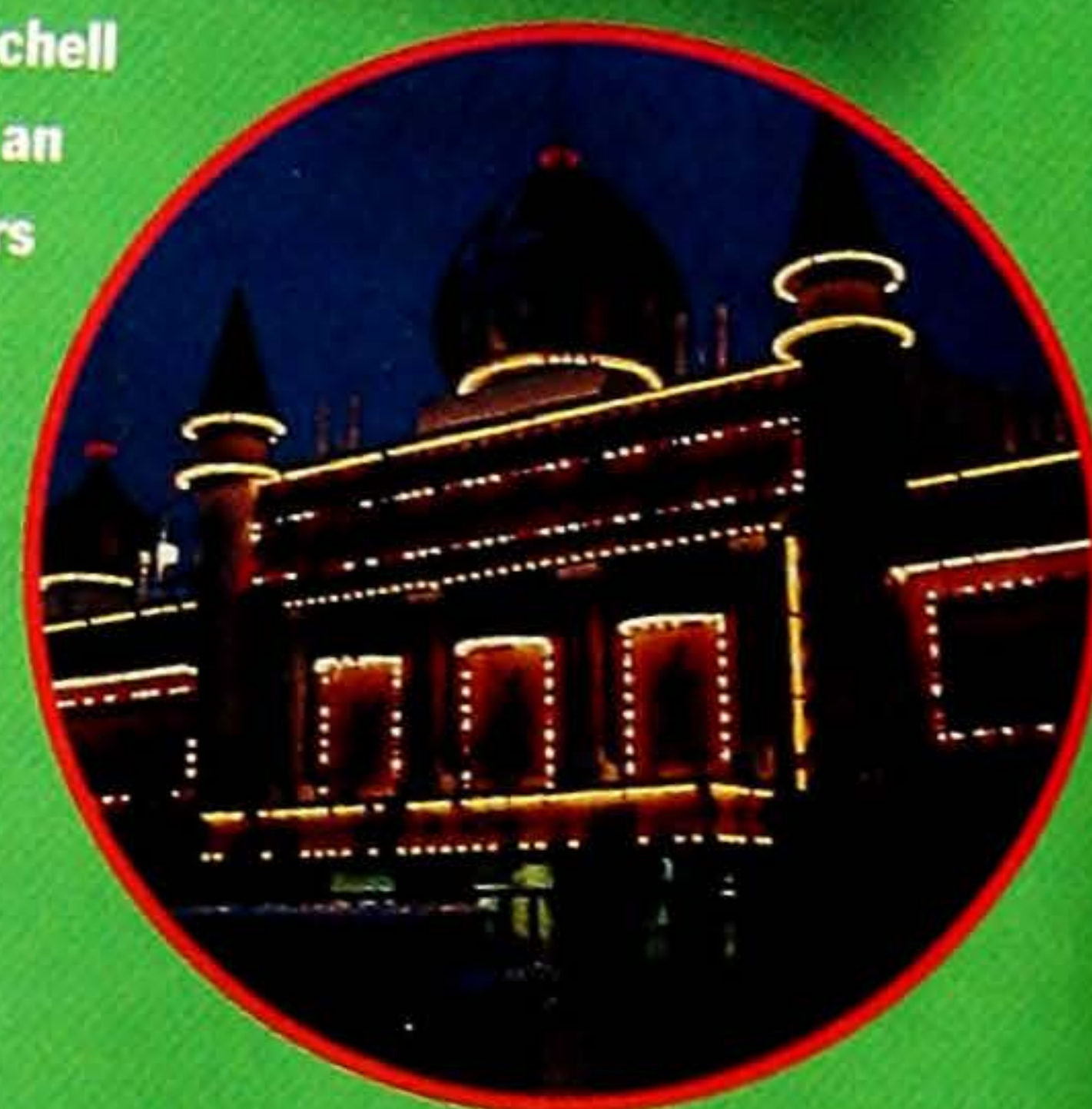


Brainerd FFA members (l to r): Robert Durham and Josh Knepek; middle row: advisor Mike Reeser, Jenny Caird, Jason, Jay, Allen Murray; front row: Jeremy Boeder, Rick Kosloski and Tabitha DeResier.



The Mitchell Corn Palace

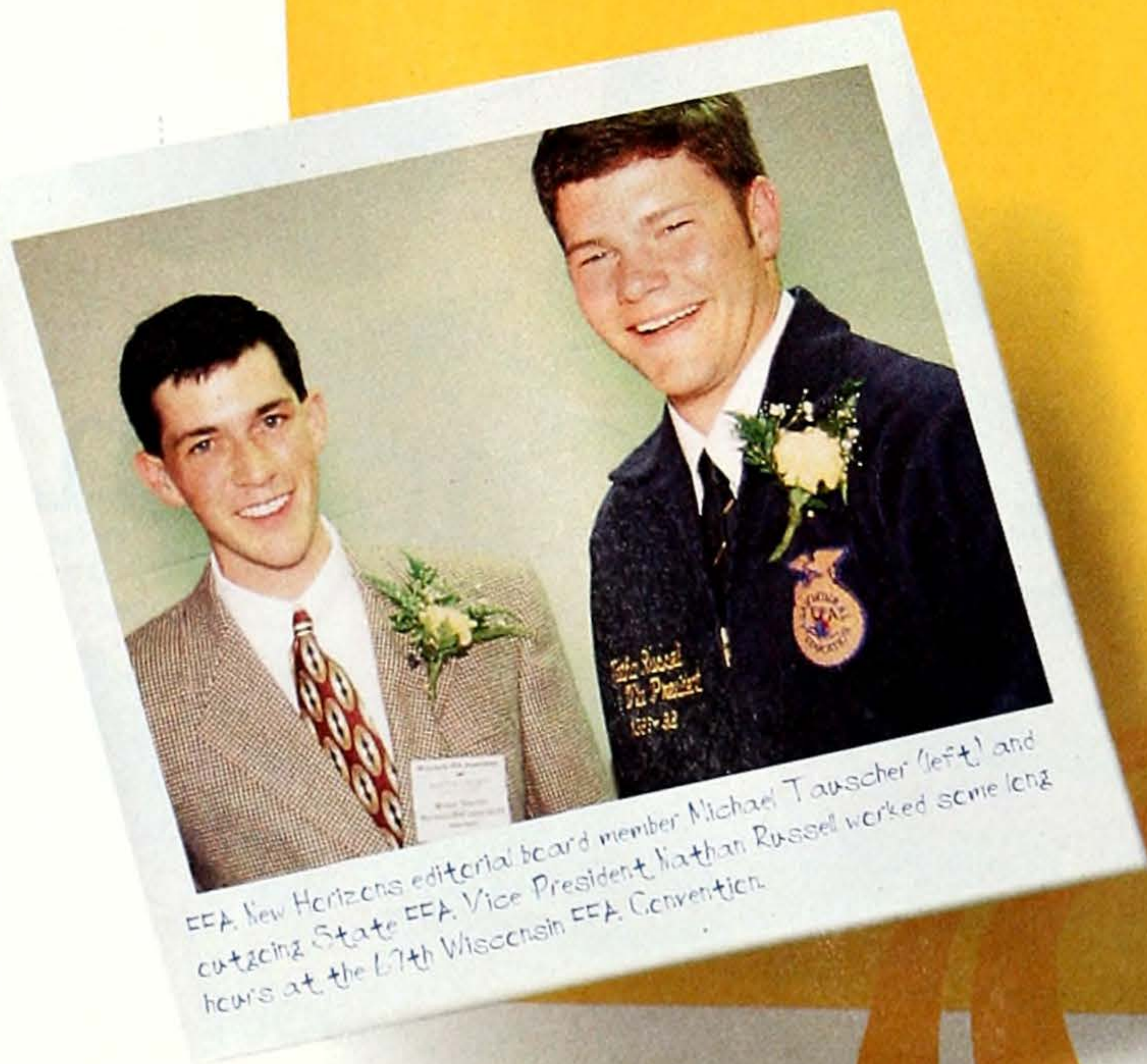
Here in Mitchell, SD, you can tour the Mitchell Corn Palace, built in the 19th century for an exposition intended to attract corn farmers to the state. Built of wood and corn, the structure was later proclaimed a fire trap and rebuilt in the 1920s using mostly steel and concrete. The corn is now used only in huge murals adorning the front and interior of the building.



4 Madison, WI

When you see people loading band instruments into vans, that's when you know you've missed what you've come to see. I drove down from Minnesota to catch the tail end of the Wisconsin FFA Convention. When I rolled into Madison, I hoped I would still be able to catch the last convention session. And I did—the part where everyone files out of the arena and leaves.

Fortunately, the convention newsroom was still open, so I dropped by and found Michael Tauscher, whom I know from the *New Horizons* editorial board. He's a native Cheesehead student, he was in charge of running the newsroom, which was now quiet and cluttered with extra news releases. Michael filled me in what I missed and introduced me to Nathan Russell, who had just finished his year as a state officer. So how was the convention? I asked Nathan. "It was one of the best ever," he said with a huge smile.



FFA New Horizons editorial board member Michael Tauscher (left) and outgoing State FFA Vice President Nathan Russell worked some long hours at the 67th Wisconsin FFA Convention.

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Two students will each win a **\$5,000 college scholarship** and a **free trip** to a Walls photo shoot, plus **\$2,500** for their FFA Chapter. And the top 50 finalists get **free Walls jackets**. Hurry, the contest ends December 31, 1998!

No bull!



1997 Scholarship Winners *Brekelle Deeg* of American Falls, Idaho, and *Sam Halcomb* of Franklin, Kentucky, in the Fort Worth Stockyards National Historical District during their recent Walls photo shoot.



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and rules!*



5 Heyworth, IL



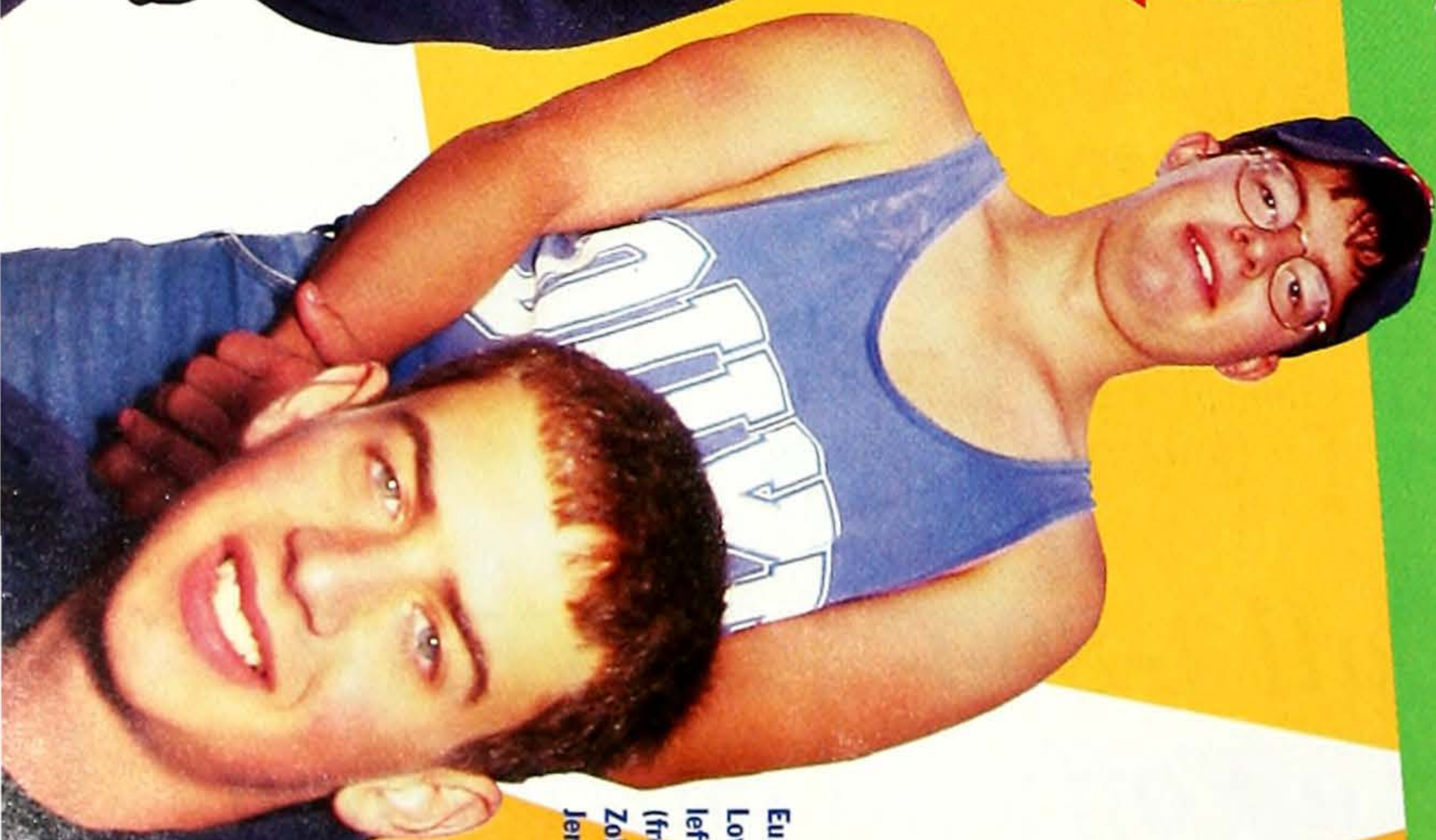
Lindsay Donovan and brother Brandon are both Brown Swiss exhibitors. Lindsay was recently named the state's "Swiss Miss" and Brandon just restored the old John Deere tractor seen here.

Lindsay Donovan recently won the 1998 Illinois "Swiss Miss" crown. As an ambassador for the Brown Swiss Dairy Association, this role came naturally for Lindsay. She and her brothers are fourth generation Brown Swiss exhibitors. Lindsay and brother Brandon (he's a herdsman for a Brown Swiss herd), spend most of their summers at fairs, which, according to Lindsay, is no Ferris wheel ride. "When people hear that we go to fairs," she says, "they always assume it's all fun and carnival rides. Oh, what they don't know—we never see the carnival!" As Clinton FFA Chapter reporter last year, Lindsay wrote more than 50 newspaper articles and was named one of the top 10 chapter reporters in the state. She's now district reporter. Brandon, who's also a Clinton FFA member, restores antique tractors when he's not in school or tending the herd.



6 Eureka, IL

After driving through a wicked hailstorm outside of Heyworth, I made it to the Busy Corners Restaurant in Eureka just in time for my dinner with members of the Eureka FFA Chapter. According to chapter reporter Lowell Stoller, the former U.S. President Ronald Reagan once lugged his books around the college campus here. This is about the only claim to fame for this central Illinois town. But the Eureka FFA members could be changing all that if they come up with more fundraisers like their recent "Relay for Life," which gave a nice boost the American Cancer Society. For this marathon event, chapter members took over the school track for 24 straight hours of walking, walking and more walking. Even though no single person had to endure 24 straight hours of walking, there were plenty of tired legs when the final lap was completed.



Eureka FFA members Lowell Stoller (front left), Chad Zimmerman (front right), Justin Zobrist (back left) and Jeremy Crouch.

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To build and sell a combine in today's marketplace, companies such as John Deere are seeking young workers who have college degrees and know their computers

Whiz kids

By Erich Gaukel

Photography by Shane Morgan

From the outside, a combine looks simple. It goes through the field, gobbling up several rows of a crop at once, leaving the waste behind and sending the good stuff up to the grain tank. But combines are among the most complex machines in the world. Each modern combine consists of thousands of parts, and the assembly cycle for a single combine takes 20 days and requires hundreds of workers. New manufacturing technologies and customer demands constantly push companies to build better combines.

The combine market is nearly as complex as the combine itself. John Deere, Case and New Holland and others compete in the U.S. and abroad for a very limited number of customers whose buying decisions are sometimes based on such unpredictable factors as world markets and weather.

At the same time, the industry is gearing up for a major hiring period as a large chunk of its workforce nears retirement. Companies like John Deere will soon need to replace these workers with young people—and a high school education alone won't get you in the door for many of the new opportunities.

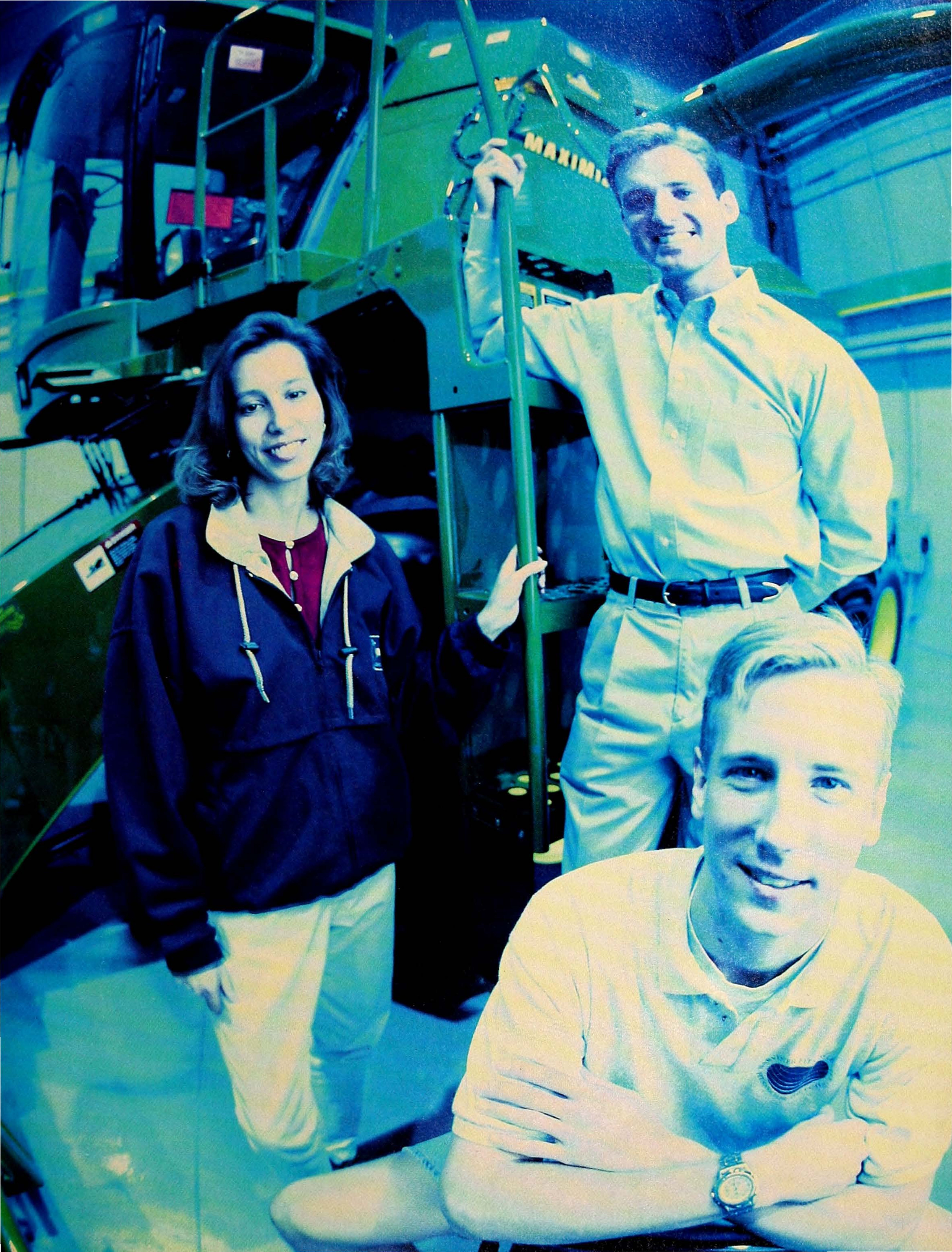
New faces of technology

At the John Deere Harvester Works in East Moline, Illinois, you can see the technology and youth movement already in action.

Where dozens of people used to manually cut sheet metal, there are now laser cutters that cut the metal cleaner and faster. Workers are still needed, however, to install, program, monitor and maintain these machines.

Back in the 1950s, John Deere would have hired someone straight out of high school to cut sheet metal. Today, it takes people like Becky Doerffeld, a recent University of Iowa graduate who studied computer science and English. She started in John Deere's corporate information systems

As Becky Doerffeld, Bryan Totten and Dave Lindell (front) are finding out, it takes more than a high school diploma to build combines.



office, but later transferred to the Harvester Works because she wanted to be near the action in the factory. She installed the computer system that drives the sheet metal cutters and works with programmers to keep things moving smoothly.

Becky says the combination of her education and a John Deere summer training program played big roles in getting her to where she is today. A self-proclaimed city girl, Becky says that while she didn't grow up on a farm, a farming background is always a plus for someone coming into a similar line of work.

Degree in pocket

While lasers may cut sheet metal, there is still plenty of hands-on work going on here. Hundreds of employees here use their hands in shaping, welding and assembling the combines' parts. A college degree is not required for many of the hourly-wage positions, but those who have a degree have a better shot at moving up to a salaried job. Dave Lindell has a degree in psychology from Western Illinois University. He has been a manual welder here for less than a year. As he builds his seniority, he hopes to move to a

salaried position in robotic welding, where he may someday work for Bryan Totten.

Bryan came to John Deere three and a half years ago with a welding engineering degree from The Ohio State University. Bryan started in product development, transferred to hydraulic cylinder production, and finally became a module leader (manager) in charge two teams of workers who install robotic welding machines. Bryan's advice for anyone interested in pursuing this type of career: "Take lots of math."

Jamie Flood is a sales and service representative. He came to John Deere with an engineering degree from Marquette University. His multi-faceted position has him on the road around forty percent of the time, supporting custom cutting crews during the wheat harvest, training people in territorial

offices and talking shop at events like The Farm Progress Show.

Jamie got his foot in the door by taking part in John Deere's Cooperative Education program where college students take a few months off from college to get their feet wet in a real working environment. It's a great way to learn the business and a great way for the company to recruit and evaluate potential employees. Jamie says this really eased the transition from academic world to the real world.

Knowing your stuff

At the dealer level, the same types of issues face employers. To be able to work on the new, technologically advanced combines, dealers need technicians who know the latest computer technology and are willing to take classes as needed to stay up to speed. A four-year college degree isn't typically required for these jobs, but dealers want technicians who have completed coursework at a two-year college.

On the sales side, the emphasis is also on college and computer. Roger Goodrich is the sales manager at Goodrich

Foot in the door

John Deere and Case I-H, two of the biggest agricultural equipment manufacturers, offer internship and training programs for college students. You can learn more about these "get-your-foot-in-the-door" opportunities by checking out the employment pages on their websites.

www.deere.com
www.caseih.com

Equipment, a John Deere dealer in Geneseo, Illinois. He says that the competition among dealers is such that when he's hiring (he typically hires two to three new college grads every year), he requires a college education with a major in economics, business or marketing.

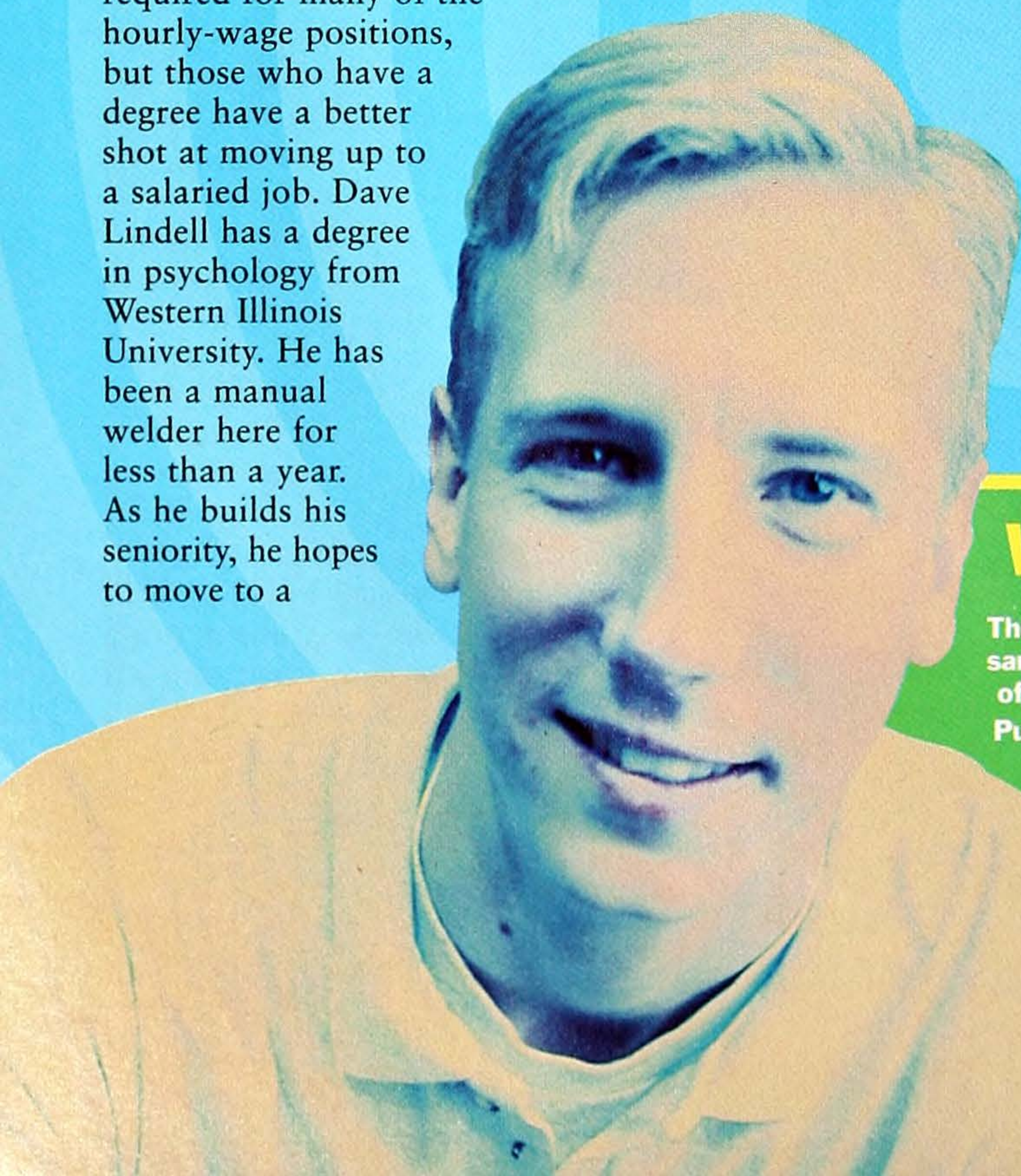
When he sends sales people to customers' farms, Goodrich wants his employees to be able to crunch numbers, know the products and be able to communicate effectively. With a laptop computer in hand, a sales person can set up a spreadsheet to demonstrate a financing plan for a customer, or download photos of the latest combine to hit the market. ★

where the jobs are

The agricultural machinery industry is a hot job market right now, but the same holds true for the entire agricultural industry, especially in the areas of technology, communications and sales.

Purdue University and the USDA crunched some numbers a few years ago that paint a bright future for job seekers. From now until the year 2000, the report says, there will be **47,918** employment opportunities each year for college graduates in the food and agricultural sciences. **13,922** of these opportunities will be for those becoming scientists, engineers and related specialists; **14,353** will go to those pursuing careers in marketing, merchandising and sales.

As a manual welder with a college degree in psychology, Dave can work his way up to a salaried position in robotic welding. At the John Deere Harvester Works, a degree is required if you want to move up to a salaried position.



A climber is silhouetted against a bright blue sky, reaching up while holding a rope. The rope is coiled and extends across the upper part of the image. In the background, a rugged mountain range is visible under a clear sky. The overall scene conveys a sense of challenge and achievement.

Take the Challenge!

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Washington,
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You can reach new heights by applying risk management techniques to your SAE. Just as climbers use ropes and other special equipment to manage their risks, there are tools you can use in your SAE to manage the risks you face.

Plus, you can be rewarded for your efforts through the National FFA Organization's Risk Management Essay Contest. To enter, write a 500-word essay on "**Risk Management Strategies for Your SAE**," and send it in by February 1, 1999. The judges will select 10 lucky winners who will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for themselves and their advisors where they will meet with U.S. Department of Agriculture officials and tour our nation's capital.

For a resource guide and contest rules, ask your advisor or call the National FFA Organization at 317-802-4222. For more information, check out National FFA Online at www.ffa.org.

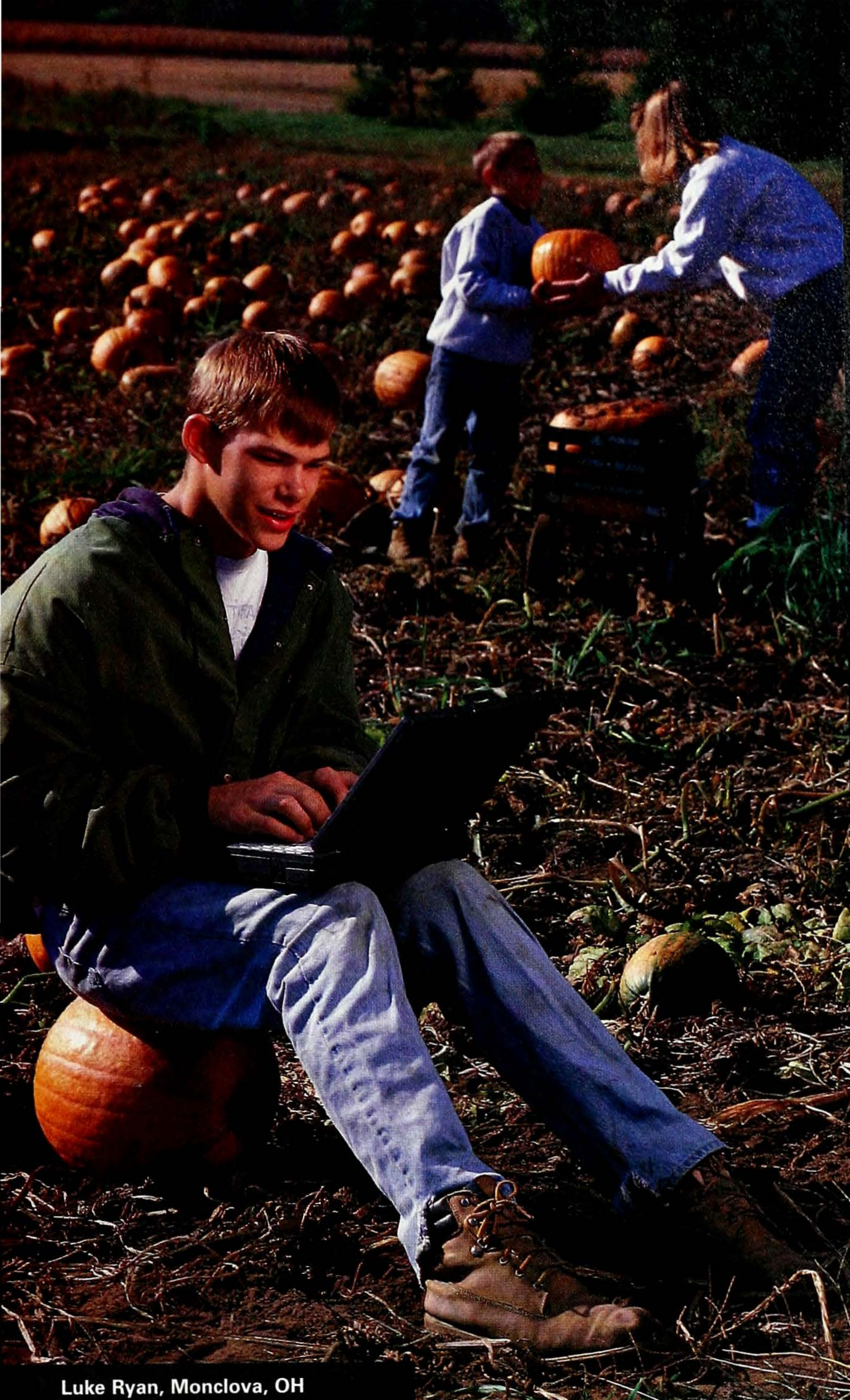
This contest is offered by the National FFA Organization in cooperation with the National Council for Agricultural Education and with funding from the Risk Management Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

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Luke Ryan, Monclova, OH

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bowling is bouncing back,
so grab a ball
and let it roll!

One million years ago, while hunting for game in a far off land, a caveman picked up a heavy, roundish boulder and cradled it between his hairy hands. He was bored; in fact, he hadn't seen anything even remotely edible all day. Taking aim at a nearby rotting stump, he heaved the rock into the air. It bounced twice, missed the stump, and crashed into the brush.

Thumping his chest with excitement, the caveman ran into the brush, retrieved the boulder, then hobbled back to try again.

On his second attempt he hit the stump, smashing it into dozens of pieces. He leapt into the air with joy, and history was made: Bowling was born; and, with it, the spare.

Like In The

Fast Lane

A Little History

Bowling didn't arrive in America until early Dutch settlers brought the game (albeit with nine pins) over the Atlantic from Europe. Post-Stone Age versions of the sport can be traced back to 7,000 years ago when ancient Egyptians entertained themselves by hurling round objects at marble bars. And bowling's future? Experts at the Young American Bowling Alliance (YABA) predict that the sport will make its Olympic debut by 2004.

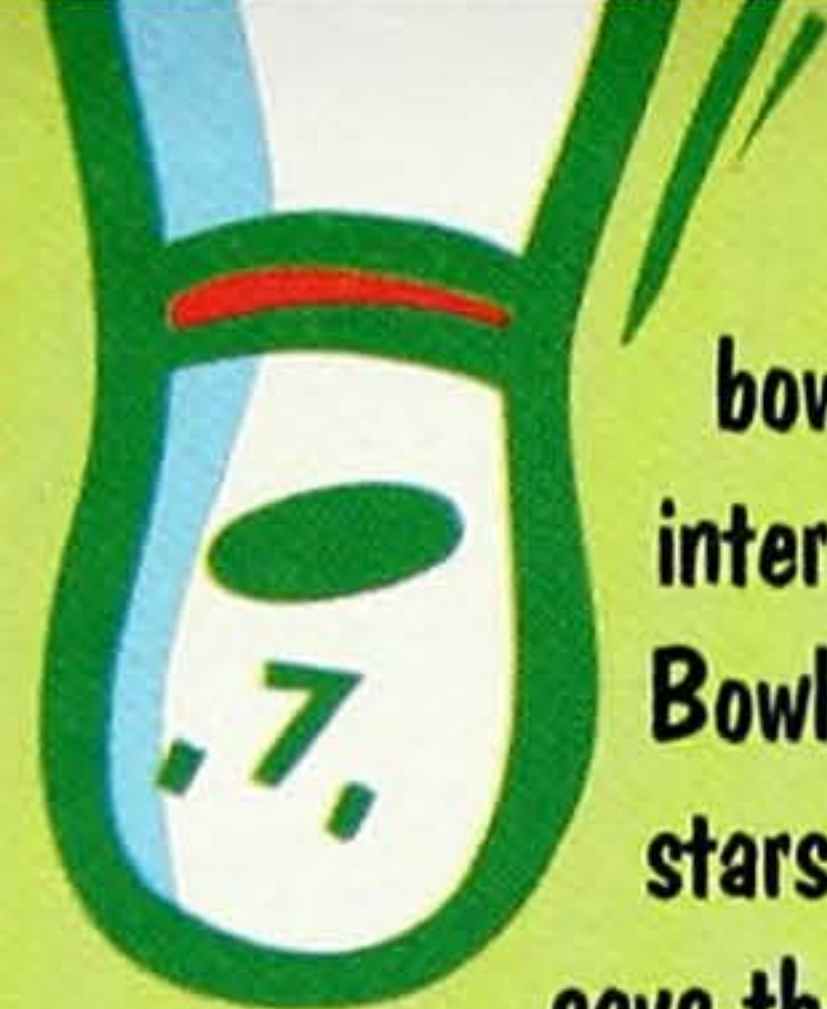
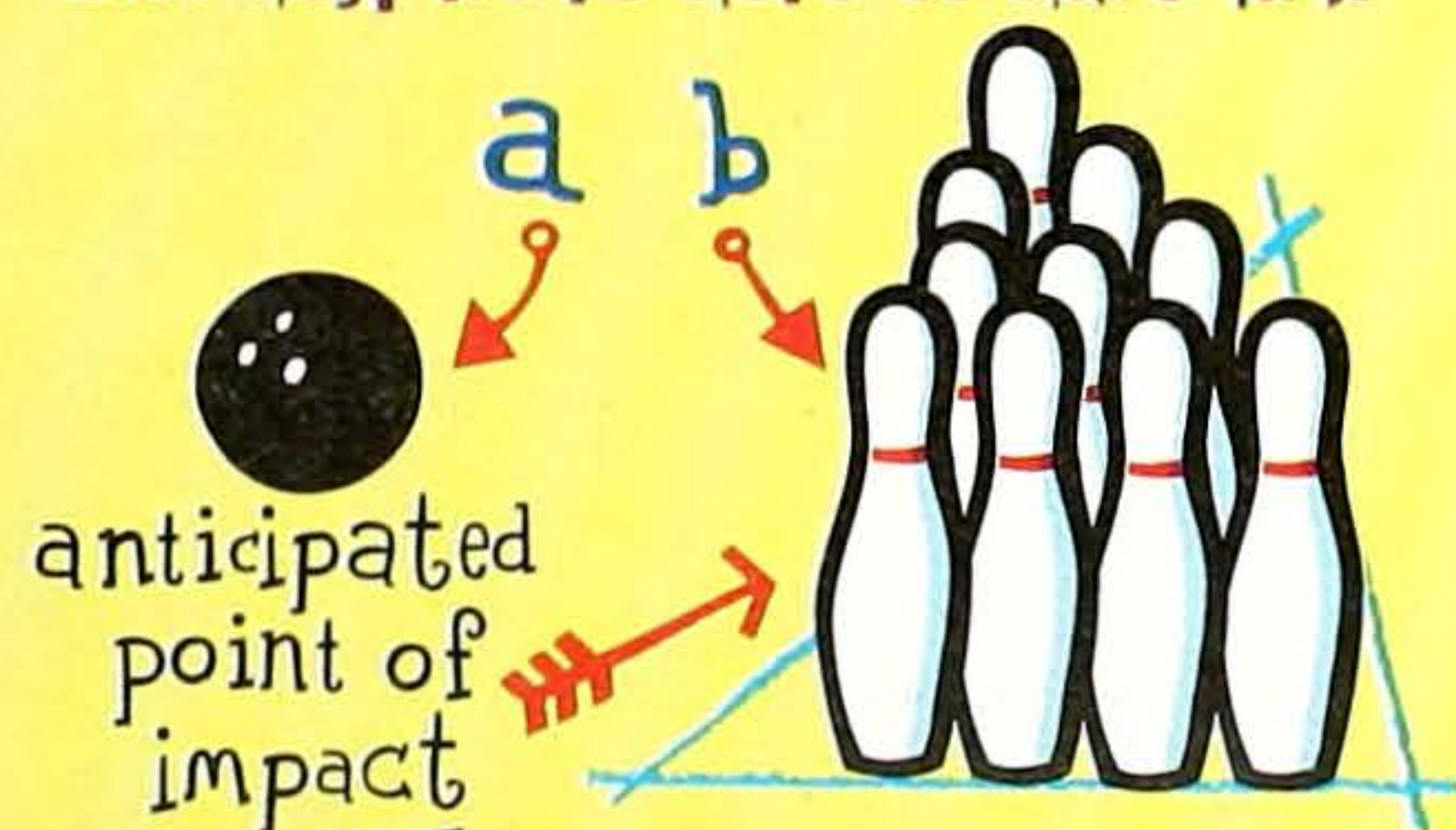
by Chris Hayhurst Illustrated by Robert Zimmerman

Evolution Revolution

The sport of bowling has evolved significantly since this likely scenario for its primitive inception. Today there are ten wooden pins (stumps aren't practical), the polished ball includes a high-resin finish (boulders lost their appeal early on), and automatic pinspotters clean and re-set the pins each time they're knocked down. "Bumper-bowling" helps kids keep the ball in line; "Galactic-bowling"—the game's latest fad—includes special effects like steam-spewing lanes, black lighting, pins that glow in the dark, twirling disco balls, and loud, hip music. Tournaments are held throughout the world—computers, of course, keep the score—and nearly 55,000 kids play in high school club and varsity programs in the United States alone.

THE GAME

Simple: Ten pins. One ball. Roll the ball down the lane and, hopefully, knock the pins down. If any pins are left standing after your first delivery, grab another ball and try again. Of course, in reality it's not quite so easy. And there are rules. But hey, we're here to have fun.



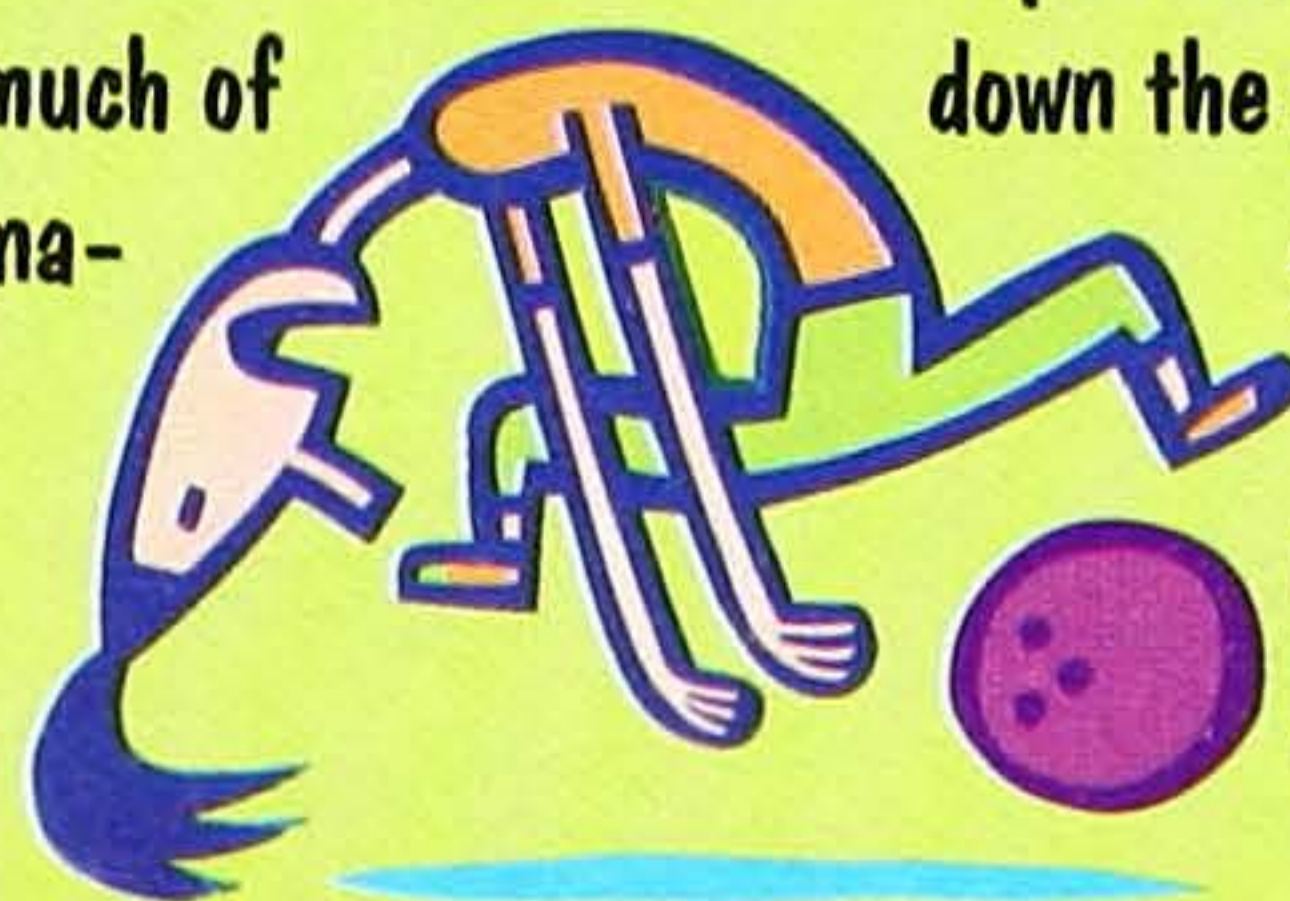
Scott Hamilton is a high school bowling coach and the director of the internationally recognized Dick Ritger Bowling Camp. Having seen many young stars climb through the youth ranks, he says the game is especially enticing for those who may not be inclined to try other athletic activities. "You don't have to be fast, fit, or strong like in a lot of other sports," says Hamilton. "Anybody can play, no matter what their physical stature."

Scott on Strikes

To do well at the amateur level—like in high school, for instance—often all it takes is patience and a lot of practice. Hamilton adds that it's a different story in the world of professional bowling. To excel among the best requires years of experience, not to mention excellent eye-hand coordination and a significant amount of natural athletic ability.

Experience—and a good dose of talent—is exactly what Yuma, Arizona, FFA Chapter member and high school senior Scott Benson has. Scott, who's played the game for most of his life, has come one strike shy of bowling a perfect score of 300 points, and has at least one college bowling team interested in making him a part of their roster.

Although he spends much of his time competing in tournaments, Scott also bowls with his fellow chapter members during their



monthly "activities" night when they take over the local lanes for a night of pin-rocking excitement.

"It's a chance for everybody to get together and have fun," says Scott, who during these nights often finds himself offering helpful tips to his beginner classmates. "I tell them it's not how hard you hit the pins, it's all in your technique and in your head. Ninety-eight percent of bowling is mental."

The "Goofy" Technique

Dina Trabue, a junior and fellow chapter member who only bowls recreationally, agrees. But for her that mental attitude comes down the lane at a leisurely pace. "It's a great way to get together, laugh, and have fun outside of school," Dina says. "We don't feel like we've got to be the best out there."

She and her friends can often be seen bowling backwards—or "goofy," as Dina calls the technique. They throw their scores down the gutter and just have a good time. If pins are knocked down, great. If not, well, they've always got a second chance.



Bowling Terms

Frame: A set-up of ten pins. Ten frames are bowled per game.

Strike: Knock down all ten pins on your first try.

Spare: When all pins are knocked down on your second try.

Double: Roll two consecutive strikes.

Turkey: Roll three consecutive strikes.

GET THE BALL BOWLING!



Bowling is cheap and can be played year round. For information on how to get started contact the YABA at (414)423-3398; or visit their Web site at www.bowl.org

Organize a friendly "bowling night" for your FFA chapter. If you'd like to start a high school bowling league in your region, ask the YABA about their "Varsity Bowling" program.

This Christmas, it doesn't matter if you've been naughty or nice.

“You can still get a present.”

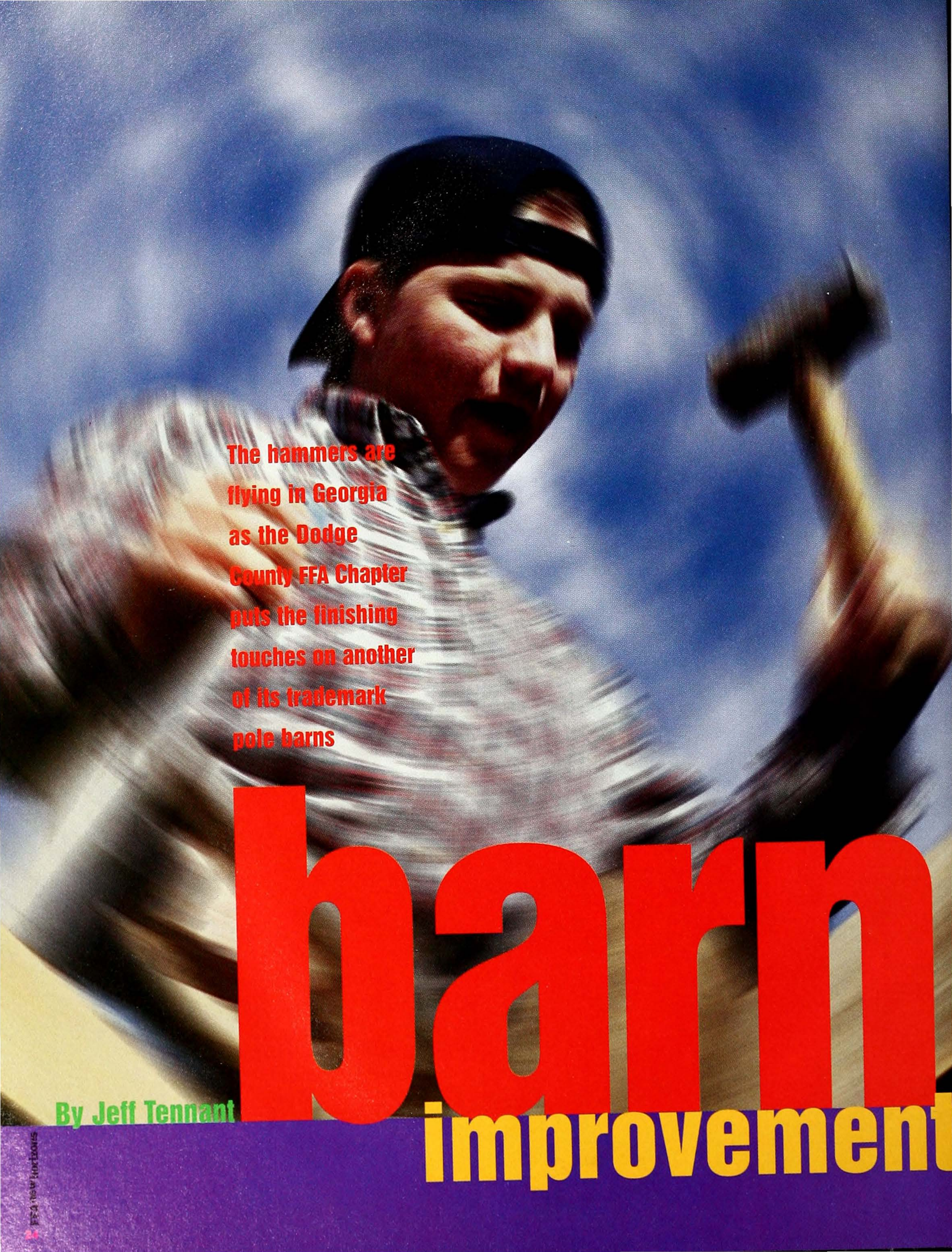
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The hammers are
flying in Georgia
as the Dodge
County FFA Chapter
puts the finishing
touches on another
of its trademark
pole barns

barn improvement

By Jeff Tennant

Driving into the south Georgia town of Eastman, visitors are welcomed with a sign reading, "City with a Future." Nowhere does the town's proud slogan ring more true than in the Dodge County FFA Chapter.

"The FFA members here represent our finest young leaders," offers superintendent Charlotte Williams, who had two sons in FFA. "Eastman is an agriculturally-based community. The FFA program consistently contributes to the surrounding agricultural industry."

She points to one particular project—the mainstay of the Dodge County chapter's community service work. "Building pole barns," she says, "makes the FFA stand out from all other groups."

Barn beginnings

On this sunny March day, Williams has left her office to visit the Adolph Beck farm. She turns to watch an army of FFA members labor like clockwork. Piece by piece, a pole barn rises from Beck's fertile ground.

"It's an amazing thing they do," says 80-year-old Beck, a life-long area resident who will use the barn for machinery and hay storage. "I need the barn, but it's also very special to watch these young people work like this. I've never seen anything quite like it."

Beck says he followed Dodge County FFA procedure to get his barn built. He filled out an applica-

tion form that profiled his shelter size and use needs, and detailed any history of involvement with FFA and vocational agriculture. Upon being selected, he gladly lived up to his side of the bargain.

"I provided the lumber, cleared the site, bought food for the noon meal, and they're providing the rest," he explains, noting that trees around his farmstead were cut and sawed for pole barn lumber. "With carpentry costs here starting at \$12 per hour, the FFA is saving me hundreds of dollars. Plus, I know I'm getting a quality barn. I don't know of any other project, FFA or otherwise, that helps farmers more."

Beck is the latest in a long line of area farmers selected to receive a Dodge County FFA pole barn. More than 100 area farms can claim ownership of such a barn, with each structure serving as a vivid, ever-present testament to FFA members' skill and hard work. For every barn built (all without any serious accidents or problems), students learn and farmers gain. That's a "win-win" situation that fuels the barn project's longevity, and inspires all involved.

A class operation

"I can teach students all day long in the classroom," says Dodge County advisor and teacher T.I. Papel, "but building a pole barn brings three elements together that must be learned and then practiced in real-life situations: agricultural leadership, cooperation and citizenship. These are all vital parts of the pole barn project."

He adds that the pro-

ject also provides application of subjects the students study back in school, such as applied math and physics.

"There's no doubt that the cooperation and teamwork applied in pole barn building improves the quality of the students' class work," he says. "They take greater pride in agricultural education, FFA and themselves."

Papel is celebrating his 20th year of teaching agricultural education at Dodge County High. More than any project, he says, barn raising positively impacts student cooperation and leadership development.

"The barn raising stimulates discussion, with students learning to agree and disagree in a practical situation," he explains. "They know that their decisions can positively or negatively affect the quality or integrity of a barn, as well as the chapter's reputation. This builds self-esteem and respect for others."

Community connection

Dana Yancey, a Dodge County senior and chapter president, says the project links the FFA with area farmers in special ways.

"Not only are the farmers getting a barn to utilize," she says, "but there is vital communication between us and them from the beginning. For instance, the farmer decides if we're to build a 4-bay or 5-bay barn, and works with us to make sure materials are available and ready."

Dana, who's served her chapter in three other offices besides president, says the project provides

inspiration for members, along with fun and fellowship. "The day out of school isn't bad," she chuckles, "but there's nothing we do that achieves more positive relationships, from the media and the community, to the farmers we build for." ★

Barn Rules

How the Dodge County FFA barn building process

Typically, five to seven farmers apply for barns each year. Selections are based on such factors as school and FFA involvement, and need.

FFA members volunteer for the barn raising. Half are "veteran" builders and half are "new" builders. That way, there are always experienced builders returning from one year to the next.

Once a farm is chosen, the farmer assembles all necessary materials, such as lumber, sheet metal, nails and the noon meal, which is sometimes prepared by the farm family, or, more frequently, by students.

Weather permitting, poles are set a day early by alumni members, neighboring farmers or other adults. On building day, students commence work at 8:30 a.m., breaking only for lunch. The barn is usually completed by 3:30 p.m. At day's end, the chapter will have completely built a 4-bay or 5-bay open-ended pole barn, complete with tin roof. The structures are designed to withstand winds up to 95 miles per hour.

You can learn more about barn building and preservation at these websites:

<http://museum.cl.msu.edu/barn>

www.agriculture.com/ba/ba!home.html

'Hope Floats' but 'Titanic' sinks in this issue's "What's Hot/What's Not." Also, France, despite its summer World Cup soccer championship, is cooling off as a travel destination. Check out the survey on page 31.

hot

hope floats

movie

titanic

not

hot

blue

color

pink

not

hot

dog

pet

cat

not

hot

australia

country to visit

france

not

hot

swimming

summer activity

watching tv

not

hot

movie

place to go on a date

park

not

hot

football games

school event (non FFA)

basketball games

not

hot

skittles

candy

snickers

not



Calling the hots and nots

Consider her someone who knows what other teenagers are thinking—or just consider her lucky. Either way, Anna Burge, a member of the Magoffin County FFA Chapter in Kentucky, gets her picture in the magazine for matching 10 of the 20 hot and not items in this issue.

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Ray Chelewski, FFA advisor, named top teacher

the

maine

Ray Chelewski (left) works with his students on the school farm. He was named the Outstanding Disney Teacher of 1998.



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Scotland, Switzerland, Wales

Tucked away in the upper reaches of Maine, the Presque Isle FFA Chapter is closer to the Canadian provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick than it is to any other U.S. state. The entire state of Maine has just over a million inhabitants and 376 FFA members.

But numbers don't really mean anything when it comes to quality. The Presque Isle FFA Chapter boasts something that no other FFA chapter or high school can—the best teacher in the land..

That's a distinction Presque Isle FFA Advisor Ray Chelewski earned at this year's American Teacher Awards. Presented by the Walt Disney Company and aired on the Disney Channel, the awards program recognized 12 teachers (each from a group of three finalists) as outstanding in their individual subject areas.

Two for the price of one

Chelewski took the award in vocational/technical education. Chelewski then found himself accepting an even bigger award at the conclusion of the awards program, when all 36 teachers on hand were asked to vote by secret ballot for the outstanding teacher in the group. Chelewski came out on top and was named the Outstanding Disney Teacher of 1998.

Pam Sutherland is a senior and a member of the Presque Isle FFA Chapter. After four years in the program, she says she wasn't surprised that Chelewski won such a distinguished award. "He's different from all the other teachers that I have had," she explains. "He likes to get involved in what you're doing, and he's genuinely concerned about what's going on in your life."

Tim McKinnon, also a senior, works in the school's farm store, selling the products he has helped to grow. He says that he really likes the way Chelewski makes the school experience feel like a real life work experience.

From the ground up

It's been a long road for Chelewski. When he took over, the FFA program had been closed for two years. Chelewski took steps to diversify the agriscience program by adding classes in agribusiness, marketing, leadership, ecology and natural resources. He added a 4,000 square foot greenhouse, an aquaculture center, a 38-acre school farm and farm store. In the last five years the chapter has grown from 25 to 200 students and has competed in all but two national FFA competitions.

"When I was in high school," Chelewski says, "I was told I would never amount to anything. Fortunately, an agriculture teacher directed me to the opportunities of learning and growth. It was the beginning of a lesson for me of the impact a positive teacher can have on a student's learning and future life successes." ✧

Know your NAAE

As a student, you have FFA. But did you know that agriculture teachers like Ray Chelewski have their own organization? It's called the NAAE (National Association of Agricultural Educators) and it's now 50 years old.

This organization, like the FFA, promotes leadership and personal growth, presents a variety of awards, holds a national convention and helps teachers build networks and friendships. If you're considering a career in agricultural education, you can become a student member of NAAE for \$5 a year. Ask your advisor for more information or visit www.teamaged.org and click on the NAAE logo.



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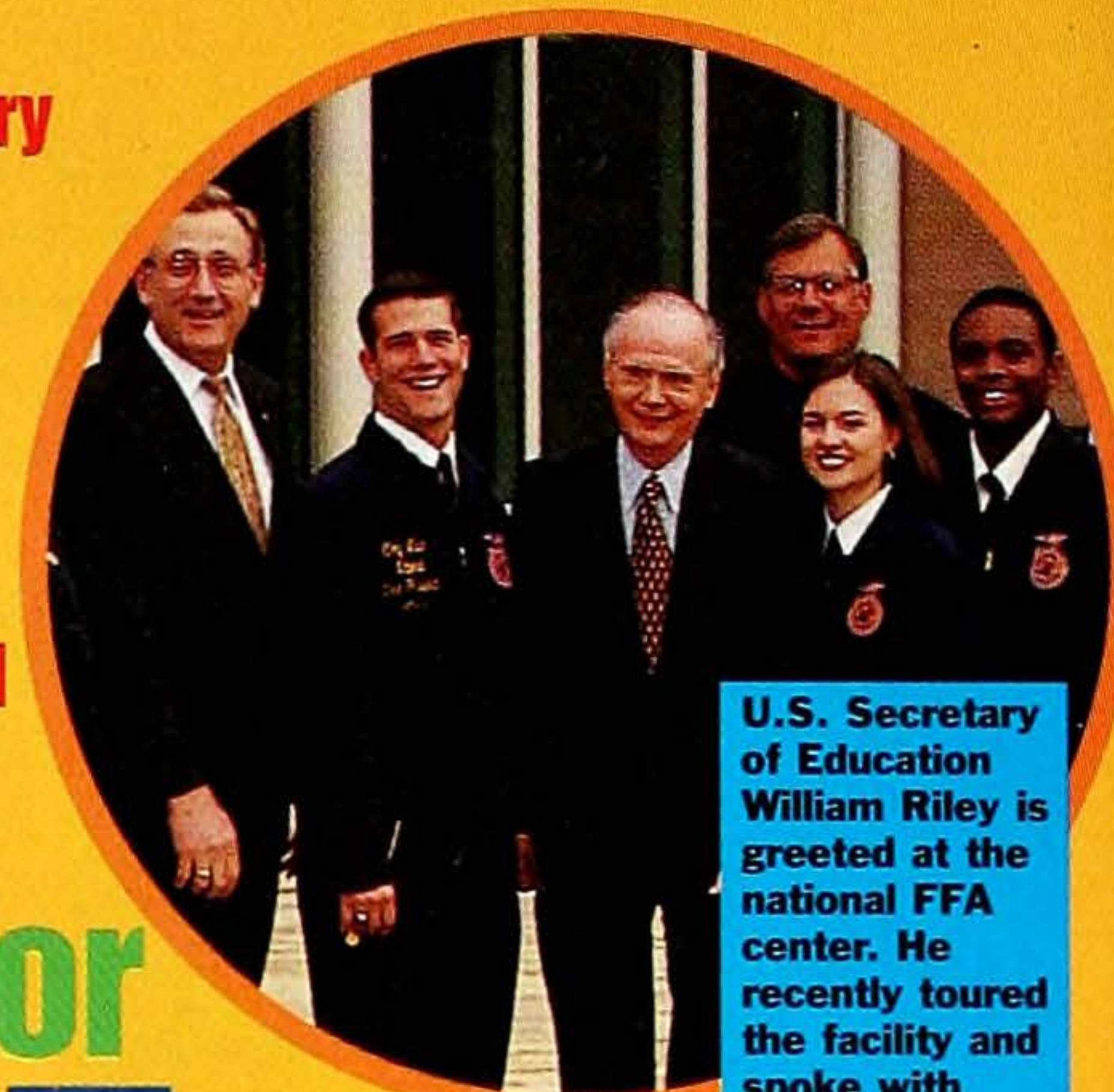
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The U.S. Secretary
of Education
Richard Riley
swings through
the new National
FFA Center

ready for

riley



U.S. Secretary of Education William Riley is greeted at the national FFA center. He recently toured the facility and spoke with FFA members and staff.

When a member of the President's cabinet is scheduled to drop by for a visit, you expect to see an accompanying convoy of police motorcycles and black limousines.

When Richard Riley, the number one man in the U.S. education system, dropped by the national FFA center in September for a visit, he opted for a more low-key entrance, arriving with three staffers and Assistant Secretary Patricia McNeil in a small Pontiac. A state police officer tagged along in his squad car.

As they rolled into the center's circle driveway, national FFA officers Amber Miller and Cody Nash greeted Secretary Riley and his staff on behalf of the National FFA Organization and the Indiana state FFA officers and members on hand at the event.

Inside the center, Cody Nash gave the Secretary a guided tour of the new facility. Riley was obviously impressed by the Hall of Achievement, which showcases FFA history and achievements of FFA members nationwide.

Riley then took the podium inside the center's central atrium and spoke to a group of around 60 FFA members, national FFA staff and media representatives. He commended the FFA for its leading role in American education. He also spoke of the need for more quality teachers and strongly encouraged FFA members to consider careers in agricultural education. ★

Opportunity Knocks

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MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION**
(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

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17. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

David Doerfert, Publisher

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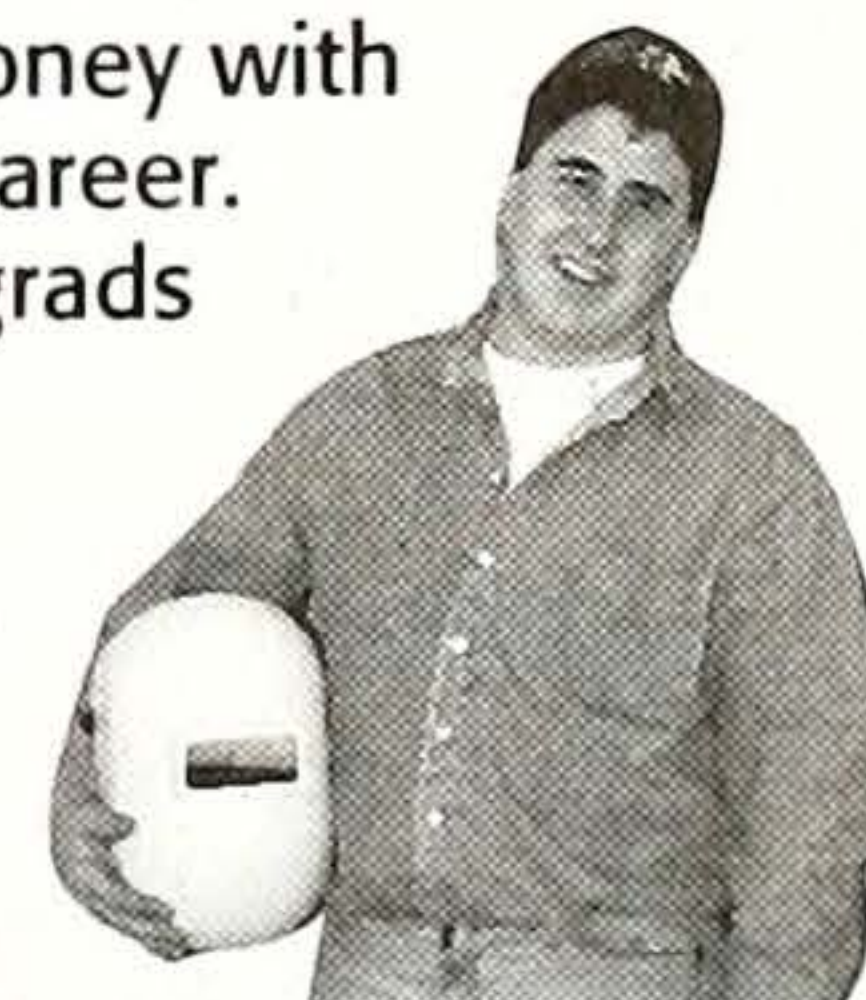
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Last Laff

Q: What do you call a rabbit with fleas?

A: Bugs Bunny.

Reginald McNeill
Lumberton,
North Carolina

Q: What kind of coat does an octopus wear?

A: A coat of arms.

Frank Anthony
Camden, Alabama

Q: Why did the corn get mad at the farmer?

A: Because he pulled its ears.

Katie Breeland
Mart, Texas

Q: How do you fix a broken pumpkin?

A: With a pumpkin patch.

Rhonda Barfknecht
Elmore, Minnesota

Q: What is a horse's favorite sport?

A: Stable tennis.

SuAnn Eby
Thoreau, New Mexico

Q: What did the beaver say to the tree?

A: It's been nice gnawing you.

Angie Vinig
Little Falls, Minnesota

Shawn: "I once sang 'The Star Spangled Banner' for three hours nonstop."

Junior: "That's nothing. I can sing 'Stars and Stripes Forever.'"

Krystal Thomas
Vaiden, Mississippi

Q: How could Noah see in the dark?

A: He had flood lighting on the ark.

Zach Richards
Wauchula, Florida

Q: Who starts on red and stops on green?

A: Someone eating watermelon.

Luci Teague
Greenwood,
South Carolina

Q: Why did the horse vote against the motion?

A: Because all he could say was "neigh."

Joseph Lawson
Hampton, Arkansas

Q: What did the mamma light bulb say to the baby light bulb?

A: I love you watts and watts.

Kim Russell
Asheboro, North Carolina

Q: What did the sunflower seed say to the parakeet?

A: You crack me up.

Gideon Wilson
Pateros, Washington

Q: What did my mom say when I told her it was chilly outside?

A: She went to get a spoon.

Carl Marshall
Selma, Alabama

FFA New Horizons will pay \$5.00 for each joke selected for Last Laff. In case of joke duplication, payment will be for the first one received.

To submit a nomination for "FFA Stars," tell us why you think you or your nominee is an "FFA Star." You must also include the following: color photo, name, address, phone number, chapter and birthdate of nominee, as well as your name and phone number (if different).

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Agrinuts by Jim Bradshaw





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