

new horizons

The magazine of the National FFA Organization

August 2001

city kids

FFA AND AGRICULTURE IN NEW YORK CITY

pack your bag

WHAT TO BRING—BESIDES YOURSELF—
TO THE 2001 NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

I ♥ NY

mr. rodeo

FFA MEMBER COLIN GREENFIELD
ROPES HIS DREAM

8

CAREERS WHERE YOU CAN
MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER
PLACE TO LIVE



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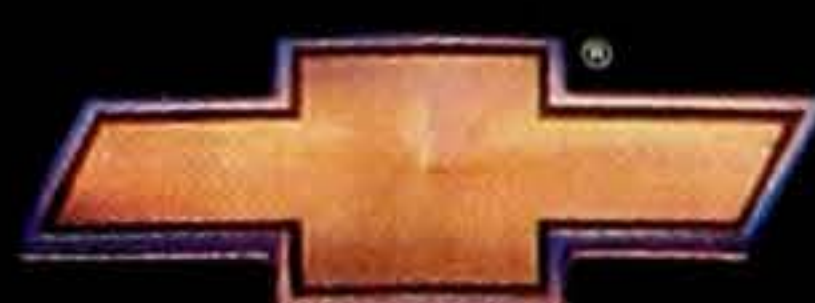
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new horizons

Official Magazine of the National FFA Organization

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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.

contents

August 2001

contents

coverstory

6 City Kids

FFA New Horizons travels to New York City to meet members of the John Bowne FFA Chapter. They're proving that agriculture is alive and well in this city of eight million people.



features

10 Working for the World

Looking for a rewarding career? Here are 8 careers where you can make the planet a better place to live.



16 Pack Your Bag!

The 2001 National FFA Convention is just around the corner. Here's your checklist of things to bring with you to Louisville.



18 Mr. Rodeo

Meet Colin Greenfield, an FFA member who just finished a year as student president of the National High School Rodeo Association.



On the cover: Jorge Figueroa (center), Diane Arweiler (right) and Vanessa Cadiz, members of the John Bowne FFA chapter in New York City. Photography by Shane Morgan.

departments

2 national officer q&a

4 FFA stars

13 what's hot/what's not

20 your money

22 point & click

24 last laugh

missing magazine alert! If you know of any FFA member who has not been receiving FFA New Horizons, please have that member fill out this coupon and mail to: **Membership Services, National FFA Organization, P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960.**

NAME

CHAPTER

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one on one with

Angela Browning

What's one thing you learned during the national officer trip to Japan?

Our time in Japan was a wake-up call to how important it is for all of us to be informed about international agriculture. The industry is truly one that crosses all borders. In Japan, more emphasis is placed on quality than quantity. We visited a melon farm where the farmer hand-selects one melon to grow on each plant, so that all nutrients go to that fruit. His products sell for the equivalent of 30 to 100 American dollars apiece.

Describe agriculture in your home state of California.

I grew up in the mountains where timber is prominent. If you go an hour east you find yourself in the rice fields and orchards of Gridley. An hour north gets you to the alfalfa producers in Tule Lake. An hour south lands you in the heart of the Sacramento Valley, full of vegetables and other row crops. Dairy reigns as king in California, with the largest dairies in the San Joaquin Valley and Chino Valley, and picturesque family dairies all along the coast. California farmers also grow 99 percent or more of the nation's almonds, artichokes, dates, figs, kiwi fruit, olives, persimmons, pistachios, plums, grapes and walnuts.

How important was your supervised agricultural experience program (SAE) to you, in terms of building your knowledge of, and interest in, agriculture?

Very important. In junior high I showed my first pig. When I was a freshman, my brother Luke and I started a breeding swine operation with one Duroc sow. We now have six sows and two boars and provide show hogs to local 4-H and FFA members. The experience of managing our own business, from the bookkeeping to the pen cleaning, has taught me more than any other job could have.

What do you do for fun?

I absolutely love to be outside—hiking, camping, swimming and playing sports. Music is also a passion of mine. All through school I was in band and choir. Now I'm learning guitar—slowly, but I'm loving it. Whatever the activity is, I have the most fun when I'm with family and friends.

What's the best advice you've ever heard?

Life is too short to not be doing what you love. ★

VITALS

Hometown: Grass Valley, California

Age: 20

Chapter: Bear River FFA

Advisors: Dan Kemp and Steve Paasch

SAE: Market swine, breeding swine and horse management

Education: Freshman at California Polytechnic State University

Major: Agricultural education

Favorite musicians:

Celine Dion and Diamond Rio

Last good book I read: "Tuesdays With Morrie" by Mitch Albom

Favorite food: Pasta with chicken and veggies

TIMELINE

Age

- 14 • competed in horse judging, creed and parliamentary procedure career development events (CDEs)
- 15 • competed in first horse show and placed last
 - won state parliamentary procedure CDE
 - won state Farm Bureau-sponsored discussion meet
 - elected FFA Superior Region reporter and chapter secretary
- 16 • elected FFA Superior Region president
- 17 • won state livestock judging CDE
 - elected state FFA vice president
- 19 • earned American FFA Degree
 - elected national FFA vice president





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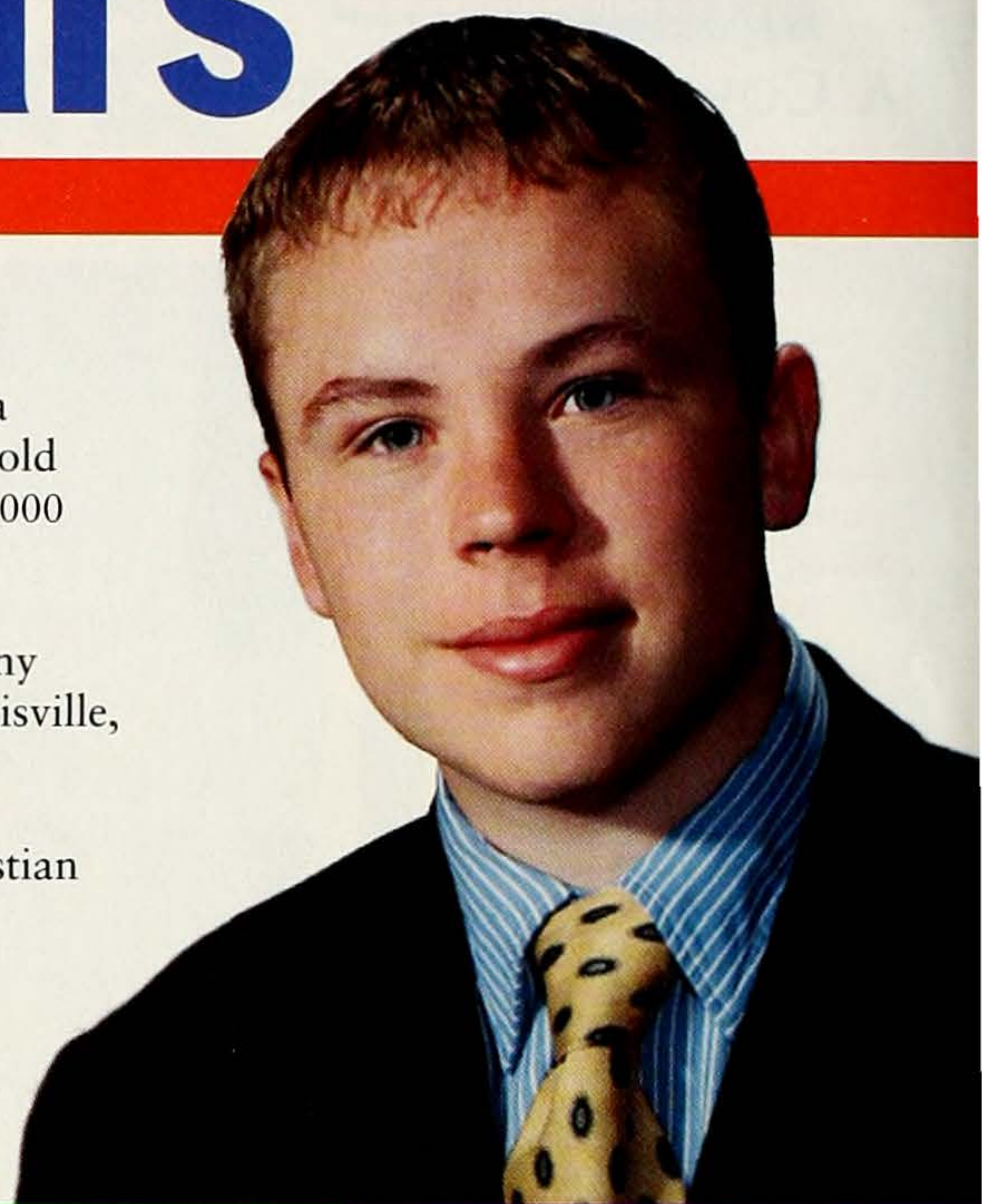
To nominate an FFA member or advisor for "FFA Stars," drop us a detailed note telling us why you or your nominee is a star. Include a photo and the nominee's name, address, phone, birthdate, FFA advisor's name and phone. We also need your name and phone number.

FFA New Horizons "Stars"
P.O. Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960

OKLAHOMA

Jared Cail

As valedictorian of his high school class and a member of the Wanette FFA Chapter, 18-year-old Jared Cail now has a little extra money—\$10,000 to be exact—for college. Along with 99 other U.S. high school students, Jared was named a 2001 Toyota Community Scholar at a ceremony at Churchill Downs horse racing track in Louisville, Kentucky. While there, he also toured Toyota assembly plants in nearby Indiana. Jared will use the scholarship to attend Oklahoma Christian University. ★

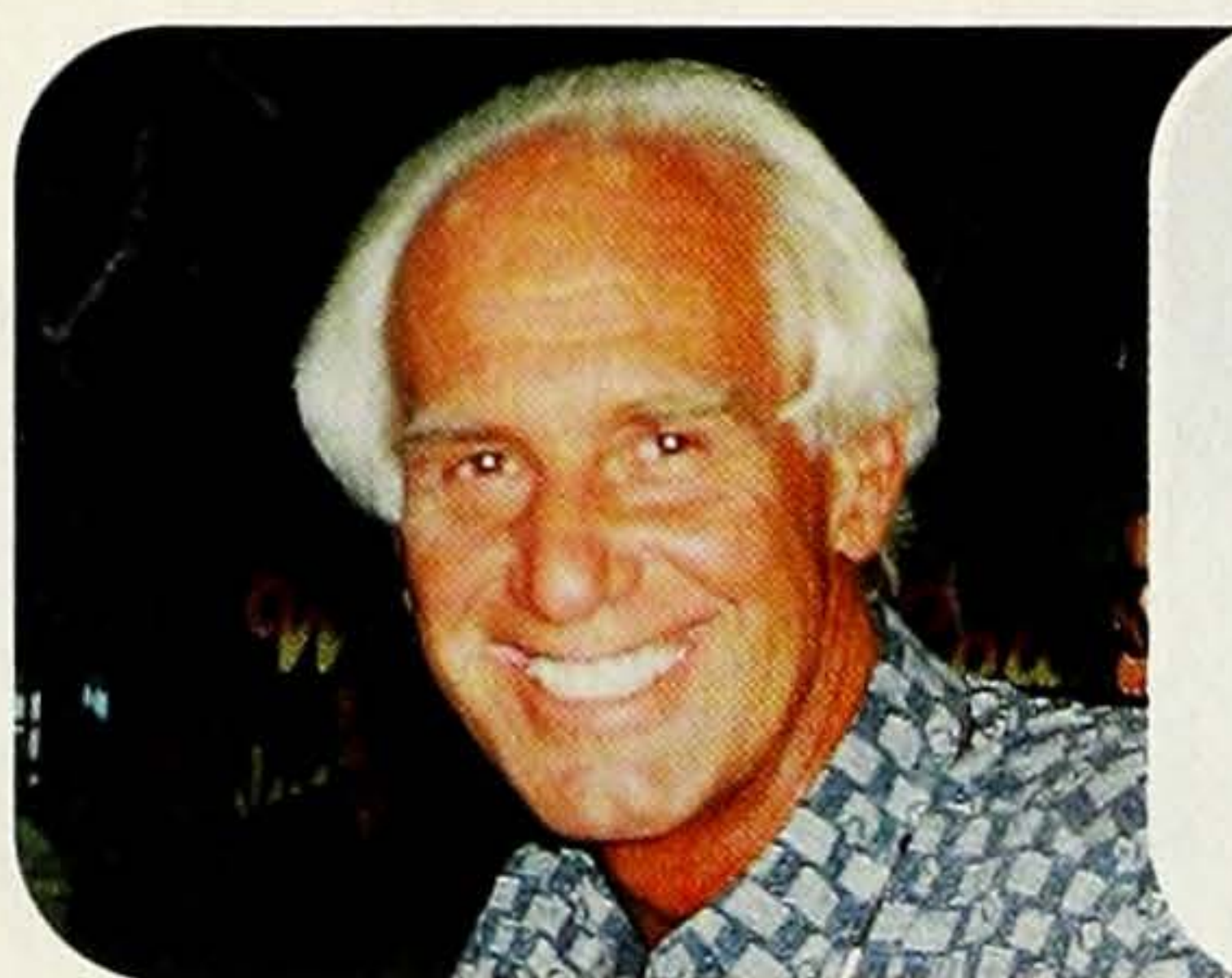


ARKANSAS

VIRGINIA

NEW MEXICO

MICHIGAN



Dennis Mason (advisor)

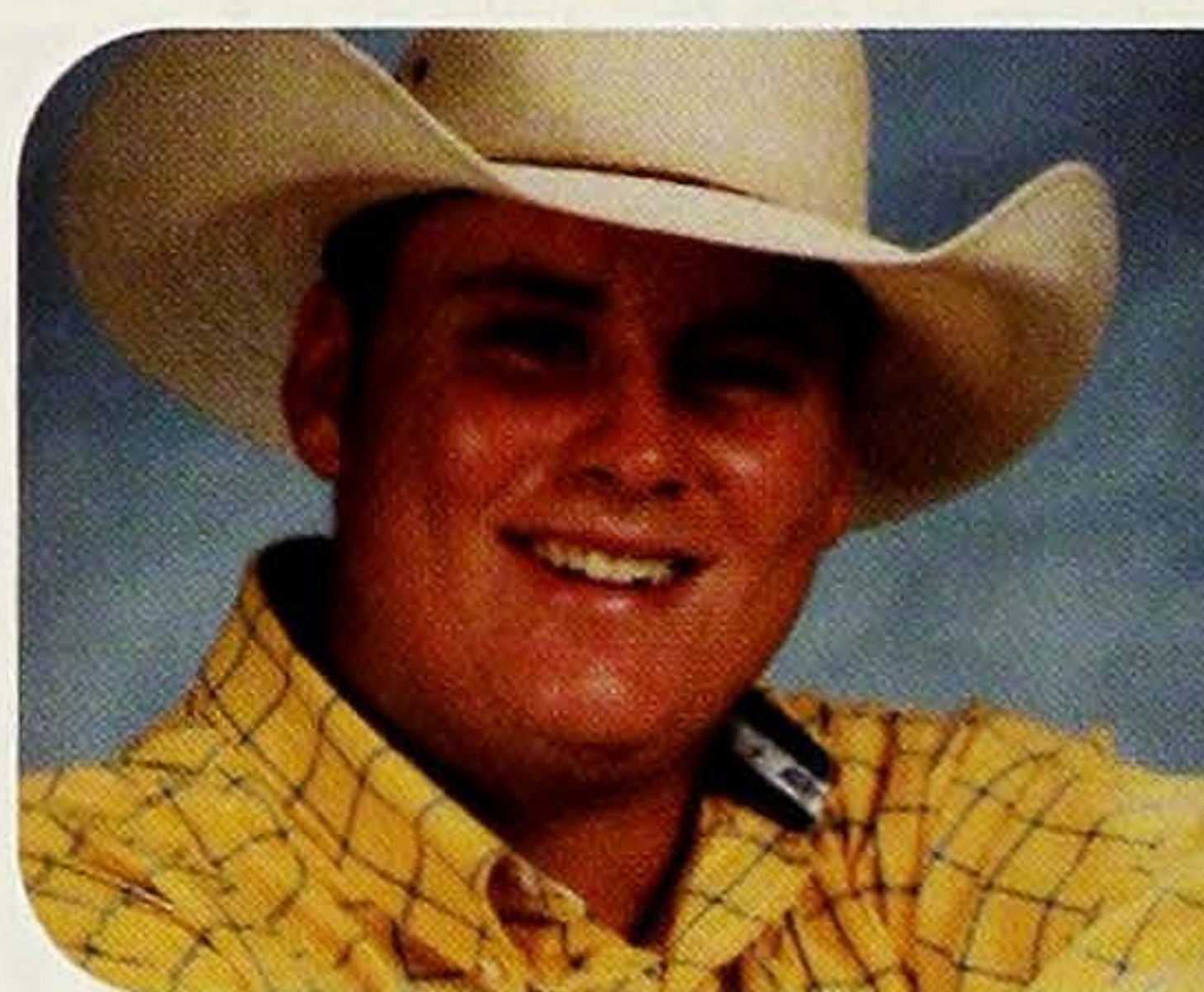
When Mr. Mason, Springdale FFA Chapter advisor, encourages his students to do their best, he can point to his experience on a national gold emblem-winning career development event (CDE) team. He's proud to have sent students to state competition each of his 27 years in teaching. In that time, he's also had 10 national first place winners. His motto: "Anything worth doing is worth doing right." ★

Would you like to see your FFA advisor recognized here? Find out how at the top of this page!



Mindy McCroskey

A student at Virginia Polytechnic University, majoring in agricultural education and animal science, 19-year-old Mindy McCroskey is committed to agriculture. A member of the John S. Battle FFA Chapter in Bristol, Mindy served as president of her chapter for two years, was on the state winning floriculture CDE team and was named chapter and area star farmer. She served as Virginia's beef ambassador and was recognized by the Virginia Farm Bureau as outstanding young agriculturist. ★



Brett Pafford

With valuable experience as Raton FFA Chapter president under his belt, a confident Brett Pafford moved to the East Coast and entered the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York. This cadet had swine production and equine science SAEs and competed in wildlife, forestry and livestock judging. Brett was named outstanding senior in agriculture, earned his state FFA degree and graduated with academic honors. On top of all that, he was a standout in football, track and basketball. ★



Ann Taylor

The Fennville FFA Chapter sent 12 of its members to participate at the Michigan FFA Convention this year—a record number. Much of the credit for this achievement can be attributed to Ann Taylor's leadership and enthusiasm. Ann, 19, served as last year's chapter president. Before earning this distinction, Ann was already emerging as a leader. She was star Greenhand her freshman year, chapter star farmer her sophomore year and, the following year, outstanding junior. ★

the Shape of things to come...

In the **next** issue of FFA New Horizons, we'll be celebrating the magazine's 50th year of informing, entertaining and inspiring FFA members. To mark the occasion, our editorial staff has worked with the FFA New Horizons Editorial Board to improve the magazine in a number of ways. Some of the areas in which you'll notice the changes:

The Look

Without changing the basic look of the magazine, we've updated the look from top to bottom. You'll notice new colors and type styles.

The Feel

More information, more FFA member involvement, more consistency from one issue to another.

The Fun

Watch for a new crossword puzzle and an updated "What's Hot" page.

Your interactivity is required

There are now more ways than ever to interact with FFA New Horizons. We want to hear from you! Here's how you can get involved—and possibly see yourself, your friends or FFA chapter mentioned in the magazine.

FFA Stars

We're changing the name to "FFA Faces" (to avoid confusion with the "Stars Over America" program) and we're going to include more FFA members. Starting in September, each issue will feature one middle school member, one freshman, one sophomore, one junior, one senior, one post-high school member and one FFA advisor. You can nominate yourself, someone from your chapter or your advisor. In addition to a color photo, please include the following information about your nominee: achievements in and out of FFA, birthdate, name, address, phone number, name of FFA chapter, name and phone number of FFA advisor.

FFA in Action

We want to know what your FFA chapter is doing. Send us color photos and as much information as possible. Please include name and phone number of contact person.

Career Question and Answer

In each issue, we will run a story about careers in agriculture. In it, we will answer FFA members' questions related to careers in agriculture. Find out more on page 10 of this issue.

What's Hot

We're expanding the scope of this reader favorite by listing the top five vote getters in each "hot" category. In keeping with the positive attitude of the magazine and the readers we serve, we've retired the "not" list. We've also added new categories. You can vote on page 23 of this issue.

Last Laff

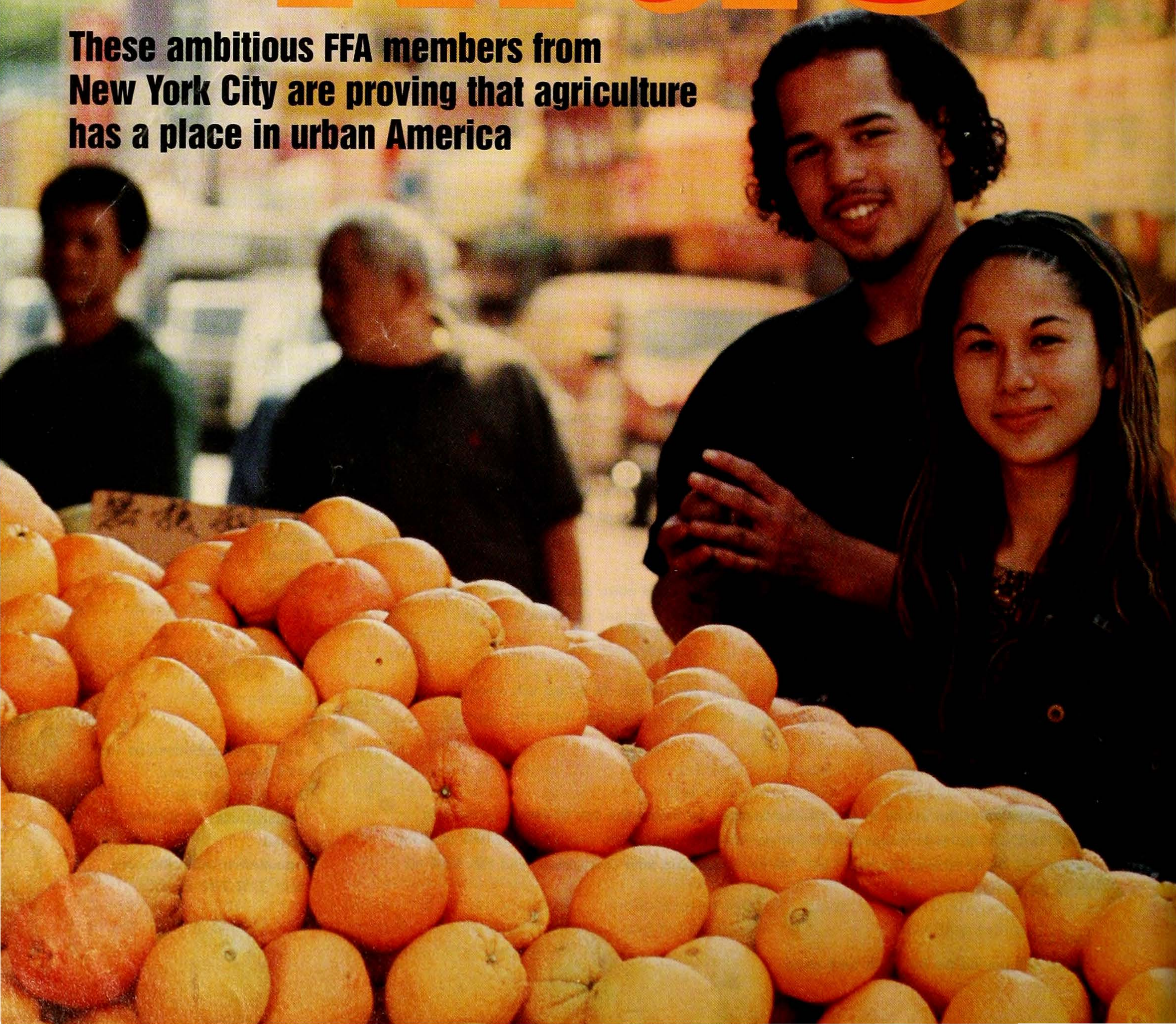
We're still paying \$5 for each joke used.

Send your submissions to:
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city kids

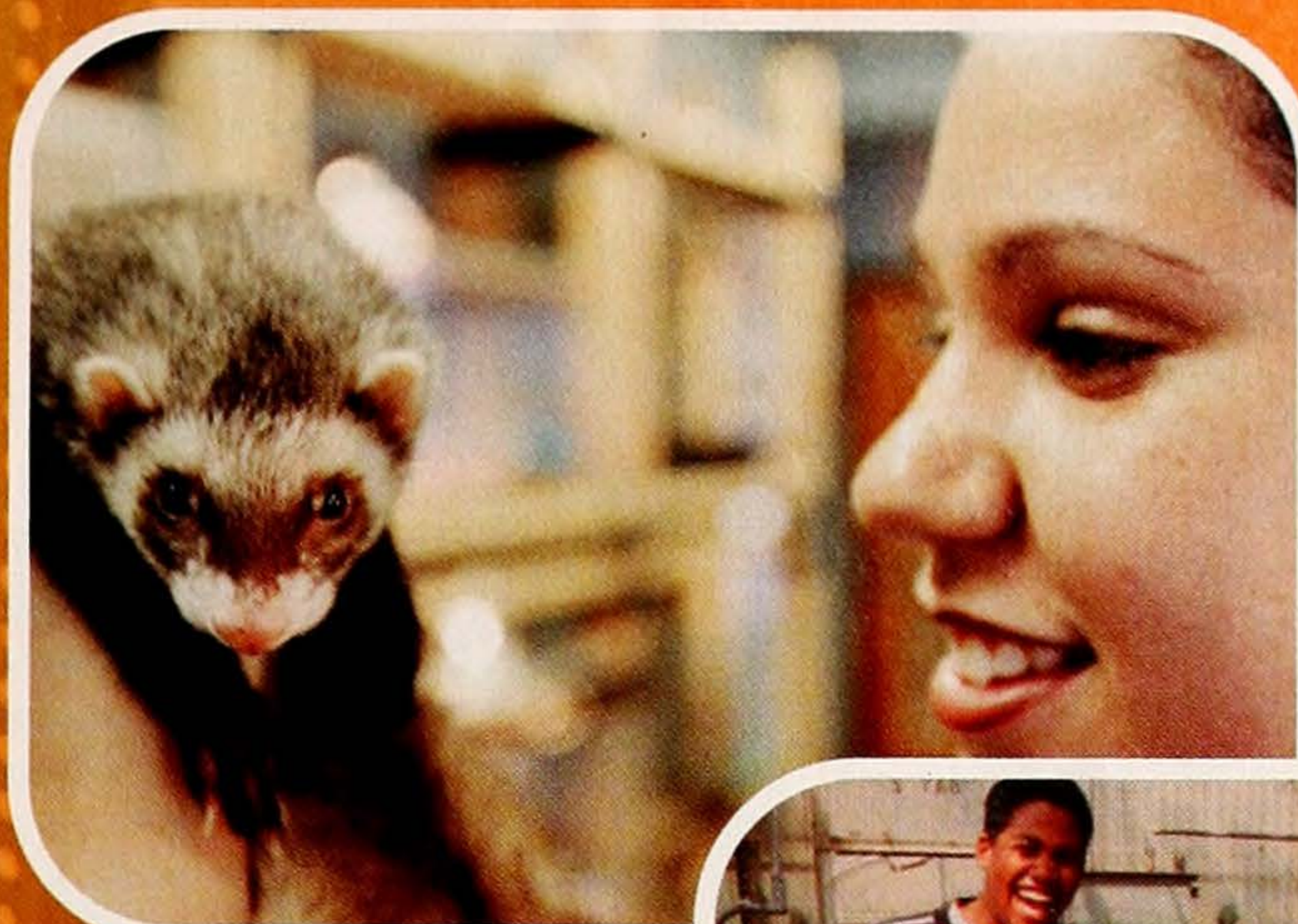
by Erich Gaukel

These ambitious FFA members from New York City are proving that agriculture has a place in urban America



When you think of New York City, agriculture probably isn't the first thing that comes to mind. In a space that is smaller than some ranches in the western United States, over eight million people live and work. Even in this environment of skyscrapers, subways, traffic and noise, agriculture thrives.

It's in full swing at the city's zoos, public parks, aquarium and botanical gardens. You'll also find it



Xaxia Sanchez, 17, enjoys handling animals. She recently earned her state FFA degree and hopes to someday pursue a farming career in Puerto Rico or the Dominican Republic, where she has relatives.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHANE MORGAN

happening at veterinarian offices, greenhouses, landscaping businesses, cemeteries, farmers' markets, floral shops, athletic fields, restaurants and grocery stores.

It's even happening in the glass and steel skyscrapers, where agricultural commodities change hands and corporations involved in agriculture, such as Pfizer, have their offices.

Perhaps nowhere in the city is there more enthusiasm about agriculture than at John Bowne High School in Queens (population, 2,000,000), one of



Victor Rodriguez, 18, gets a kick out of working in the greenhouse. In addition to earning his state FFA degree, he placed second in the state job interview and scrapbook competitions.

New York City's five boroughs. Home of the John Bowne FFA Chapter, the school is only a short drive from Shea Stadium, home of the New York Mets, and is just a \$1.50 subway ride away from the Empire State Building.

Commitment

Just to get into the agriculture program at John Bowne is a little like getting into college. Since enrollment in the program is open to any student in the New York City public schools, students have to apply and demonstrate a strong interest in agriculture.

For some, agriculture is important enough in their lives that they're willing to endure commutes—by subway, city bus or car—that can take anywhere from 30 minutes to two hours each way.

In college, students choose majors. At John Bowne, students make a similar choice after their sophomore year. They have two options—animal science or plant science.

Karen Escobar, a 15-year-old sophomore, grew up on her grandfather's farm in Colombia, South America. She picked animal science. "I really like animals. I grew up with animals. When I get out of high school, I want to be a veterinarian," she says.

Sabrina Messner, a 16-year-old sophomore, chose plant science. After working for a summer at the school's "land lab" (something all agriculture students here do during the summer following their freshman year), she found that she really enjoyed growing herbs and vegetables. She hopes to pursue a career in the grocery retail business.

The start of something big

The land lab is a four-acre tract of farmland adjacent to the school. During the summer, all students are provided with a 15-foot square of ground in which they grow vegetables and plants to start their first supervised agricultural experience programs (SAEs). For those not used to working outside all day during the summer, it's tough at

Continued on next page

Jorge Figueroa, Diane Arweiler and Vanessa Cadiz, members of the John Bowne FFA Chapter in New York City, share a passion for FFA and agriculture.

first. But for many, this is where their passion for agriculture begins.

For Jorge Figueroa, an 18-year-old senior, agriculture and FFA define his high school experience. The same goes for many of his classmates. "I think I can speak for all of us when I say that most of us had a passion for agriculture before we got to this school. But once we came here, the passion just grew into something that we can't even control right now. It's just unbelievable."

John Bowne students team up to move plants on the school's 4-acre farm.

Agriculture is the reason they're here. But there's more to it. Vanessa Cadiz, a 17-year-old senior, puts it this way: "Agriculture opens us up to so many different things. It's not just ag—it's leadership skills, it's learning how to go out into the real world and do job interviews. It's about communicating with people."

Senior Diane Arweiler, 18, says agriculture is something that's hard to appreciate

unless you understand it. "It's like we've seen behind the scenes—we know how it's done, we did it. We know the work we have to put into it to get it to work. It's important for us to be able to comprehend how things are done."

Helping out and having fun

When they're not in class, commuting or working jobs as part of their SAEs, John Bowne FFA members do their best to make a difference in the community, promote their FFA chapter and have fun.

During National FFA Week in February, a group of FFA members, led by current chapter president Dominique Yasin, headed for Times Square, where they held up FFA signs and managed to engage Al Roker (weatherman for the NBC-TV "Today" show) in an on-air conversation. The next day, wearing official FFA dress, they worked their way into MTV's studios to tape a promotion for the network (they still haven't heard if it aired).

Twice a year, John Bowne FFA members feed the homeless at a local church. They also visit nursing homes

and help keep nearby Flushing Meadow Park clean.

State convention success

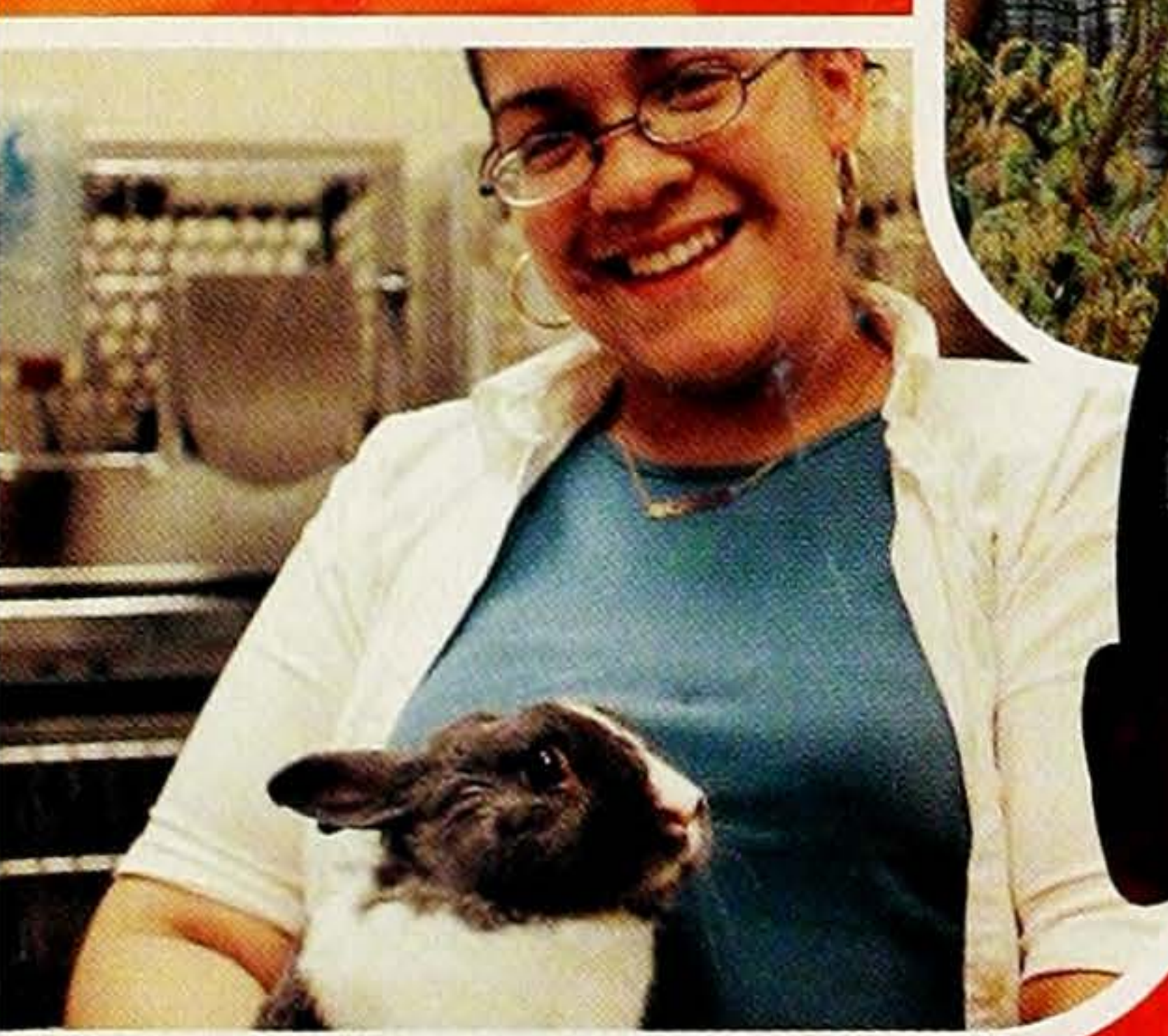
In May, the John Bowne contingent came home from the New York FFA Convention with a load of awards. Many individuals earned high honors, while the small animal care team took first, and the horticulture and aquaculture teams took fourth.

The convention is an opportunity to hang out with FFA members from all over the state. But it's also a chance to be proud of being "city kids." In the state FFA talent competition, the John Bowne dance team—with members Diane Arweiler, Tatiana Rieloff, Colleen Loftus, Melissa Chinchilla, Dominique Yasin and Xaxia Sanchez—took the convention by storm and won first place with their tightly choreographed dance routine. They see the music they chose—a reggae re-mix of Jennifer Lopez's "My Love Don't Cost a Thing"—as a reflection of who they are.

"The competition was great," Diane says. "They had some country music, and then we came up there with a different style of music. So, it was kind of a different thing for them to see." ★

Feyza Canveren, 17, worked on her SAE at an animal hospital in nearby Manhattan. She hopes to become a veterinarian.

Michael Morales, 16, has a strong interest in animal science. He takes care of seven animals at home and works several hours a week with the school's small animals. He plans to become a herpetologist.



FFA in the city Did you know?

New York is not the only metropolitan area where agriculture is a part of the urban scene. There are also FFA chapters at high schools in Atlanta, Birmingham, Boise, Chicago, Cincinnati, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Indianapolis, Jackson, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Louisville, Memphis, Miami, New Orleans, Oklahoma City, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Seattle and others.

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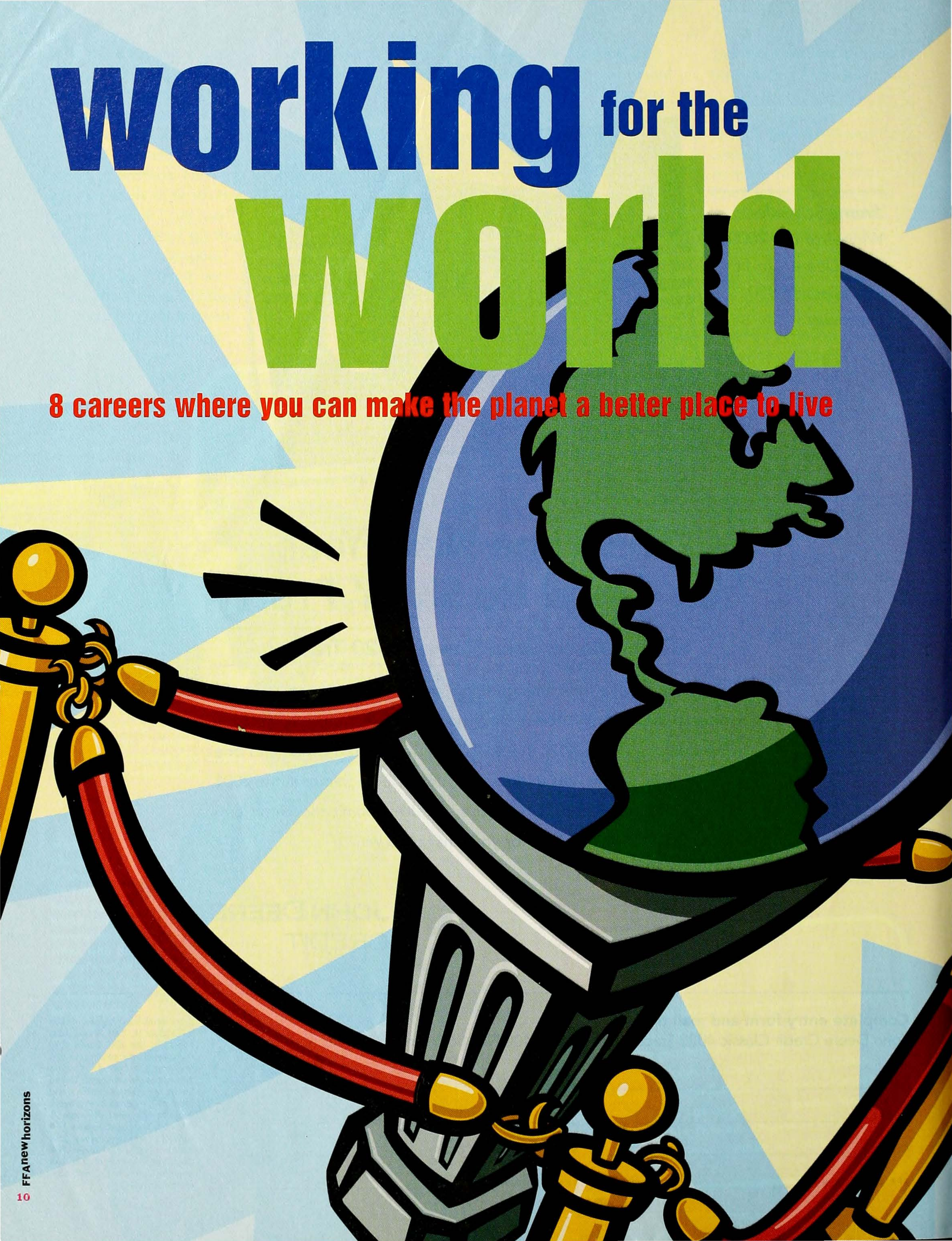
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Wildlife Manager

You'll find wildlife in oceans, on farms, in forests, in rivers and in your backyard. Wild animals are an essential part of our natural environment. As such, animals and



their habitats are studied, tracked and researched extensively by wildlife managers (also called wildlife biologists). These professionals also study the impact humans and other factors have on wildlife populations and migrations. Based on their observations and data, they constantly look for ways to improve the overall well being of wildlife and habitats.

education: A four-year or master's degree in wildlife biology, zoology, botany or related fields is required. High school classes in agriculture and science are recommended.

related FFA programs: Wildlife production and management, Environmental science and natural resources management supervised agricultural experience programs (SAEs).

salary: Starts in the \$22,000 to \$27,000 range. The average for established wildlife managers ranges from \$35,000 to \$57,000.

employers: Federal, state and local governments and private and nonprofit groups.

more information: National Wildlife Federation (www.nwf.org)

Forester

With wildfires an ever-present danger in the heavily forested areas of the western and southeastern United States, foresters play an increasingly important role in managing our forests. One of their key roles is to prevent, detect and suppress fires, which can ravage entire forests, homes and other nearby structures. They are also involved in tree harvesting, planting, clearing, prescribed burning, trail maintenance, disease control and forest-wide data collection.



education: A four-year or master's degree in forestry is required. High school classes in agriculture and science are recommended.

related FFA programs: Forest management and production, Environmental science and natural resources management SAEs; Forestry CDE.

salary: Starts in the \$19,000 to \$29,000 range. The average for established foresters in the U.S. government is \$47,600.

employers: Two out of 3 foresters work for federal, state or local governments. Others work for logging and timber companies, sawmills and research companies.

more information: Society of American Foresters (www.safnet.org)



Soil Conservationist

Keeping fertile ground under our feet is a top concern for soil conservationists. Using the latest techniques in soil testing and mapping, they work with farmers, ranchers and foresters to get the best use of this valuable resource, while, at the same time, preventing it from eroding away into rivers and streams. Soil conservationists are also involved in other types of land-use projects such as excavation, construction and landscaping.

education: A four-year degree in soil science, agronomy, forestry, range management or a related area is required. High school classes in agriculture and science are recommended.

related FFA programs: Environmental science and natural resources management, Emerging agricultural technology SAEs; Agronomy, Environmental/natural resources CDEs.

salary: Starts in the \$18,000 to \$24,000 range. The average for established soil conservationists in the U.S. government is \$45,200.

employers: The majority of soil conservationists are employed by federal, state and local governments. Others work for agricultural, timber, mining and power companies.

more information: Soil Science Society of America (www.soils.org)

Agricultural Engineer

These professionals constantly seek to improve the efficiency and safety of agricultural practices at all levels. They design irrigation systems that waste less water, farm implements that cause less soil compaction and transportation systems that get food from producer to consumer faster. Engineers are trained to investigate problems and find ways to solve them. This involves lots of testing, experimentation and collaboration with other engineers.



education: A four-year degree in agricultural engineering is required, but a master's or doctoral degree is required for research and teaching positions. High school classes in agriculture, science and math are recommended.

related FFA programs: Environmental science and natural resources management, emerging agricultural technology and other SAEs; Agricultural mechanics, Food science and technology and other CDEs.

salary: Starts in the \$38,000 to \$45,000 range. Established agricultural engineers can earn over \$70,000.

employers: Seed and chemical manufacturers, equipment manufacturers, design companies, universities and government agencies.

more information: American Society of Agricultural Engineers (www.asae.org)

Meteorologist

The weather, perhaps more than anything, dictates the environmental conditions on earth. Meteorologists study the atmosphere for a variety of reasons, the most visible of which is the five-day forecast on TV. But much meteorological work is done behind the scenes and involves research on long-term climate changes, the tracking of air pollutants in the atmosphere, ozone depletion and the formation of lightning and other atmospheric activity.



education: A four-year degree in meteorology, physics, engineering or geography is required, but a master's degree is recommended. High school classes in agriculture, math and science are recommended.

related FFA programs: Environmental science and natural resources management, Emerging agricultural technology SAEs; Environmental/natural resources CDE.

salary: Starts in the \$20,000 to \$28,000 range. The average for existing meteorologists in the U.S. government is \$57,000.

employers: Forty percent of all meteorologists are employed by the U.S. government. Others employers include private weather consulting services, TV and radio stations and universities.

more information: American Meteorological Society (www.ametsoc.org)

Continued on next page

Environmental Educator

Working at camps, parks or wilderness areas across the United States, environmental educators create a fun atmosphere where groups of kids or adults can learn about the environment through hands-on activities. These educators must be able to teach environmental education topics that relate to a specific area's wildlife, natural resources and cultural history. They often lead overnight wilderness trips and develop and teach leadership, team-building and outdoor recreation programs.

education: A four-year degree in education, outdoor recreation, environmental studies, biology or a related field is usually required. High school classes in agriculture, biology and communications are recommended.

related FFA programs: Outdoor recreation, Environmental science and natural resources management SAEs; Environmental/natural resources CDE.

salary: The average for all professionals in this area is \$30,000. Wages for seasonal and temporary workers vary widely.

employers: More than half of all professionals in this area work for government agencies (most of these at local parks-and-recreation departments). Others work at camps (FFA, 4-H and YMCA, for example), wilderness areas, conservation groups and nature centers.

more information: Association for Experiential Education (www.aee.org)



Groundwater Professional

The importance of water is difficult to imagine unless you've ever had to do without it, as happens occasionally in various parts of the world. Groundwater professionals, the collective name for the geologists, geophysicists and hydrologists who specialize in this area, tackle water problems. Using sophisticated technology and their knowledge of the earth's composition, geologists and geophysicists locate and track underground water systems. Hydrologists study the water cycle, from groundwater to clouds, and look for new ways to extend water supplies for cities and farms.



education: A four-year or master's degree in hydrology, geology, chemistry or civil engineering is required. High school classes in agriculture, science and math are recommended.

related FFA programs: Environmental science and natural resources management, Emerging agricultural technology SAEs; Agronomy CDE.

salary: Starts in the \$30,000 to \$36,000 range. The average for established groundwater professionals is \$60,000.

employers: More than half of all groundwater professionals work for environmental service firms, which conduct research for corporations, government agencies and other clients. Others work for federal, state and local governments.

more information: Geological Society of America (www.geosociety.org)

Communications Specialist

If a conservation group is trying to save local wetlands from urban sprawl, it needs to get its message to the public. Communications specialists are trained to inform the public by taking a message and packaging it in a variety of forms: websites, press releases, brochures, public forums, speeches and newsletters. Government agencies, corporations and universities also use communications specialists when they want to spread the word about new environmental research or products.

education: A four-year degree in journalism, English, mass communication or public relations is usually required. High school classes in agriculture, English and communications are recommended.

related FFA programs: Agricultural communications, Environmental science and natural resources management SAEs; Agricultural communications, Public speaking and other CDEs.

salary: Starts in the \$20,000 to \$28,000 range. The average salary for established communications specialists is \$43,000.

employers: Nonprofit environmental groups, public relations agencies, agricultural companies, government agencies and universities.

more information: National Agri-Marketing Association (www.nama.org)



What's on your mind?

Starting in the next issue of *FFA New Horizons*, we'll answer your career-related questions. Send your questions to:

Editor

FFA New Horizons

P.O. Box 68960

Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960

e-mail: egaukel@mindspring.com

Read all about it!

Check your library for these environmental career guides:

The Environmental Career Guide
by Nicholas Basta

Occupational Outlook Handbook
by the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics

Preparing for a Career in the Environment

by Ferguson Publishing staff

Careers in the Environment
by Michael Fasulo & Paul Walker

Careers for Environmental Types and Others Who Respect the Earth

by Jane Kinney & Michael Fasulo

Here are even more environmental careers you can check out:

Ecologist, environmental lawyer, landscaper, urban planner, civil engineer, forestry technician, recycling coordinator, hazardous materials specialist, surveyor, toxicologist, air quality specialist, oceanographer, land acquisition professional, horticulturist, arborist, fishery manager, data management specialist, cartographer, range conservationist, journalist, agriculture teacher, college professor, lobbyist and lawmaker.

4

websites with useful information about careers, internships, educational opportunities and more:

The Student Conservation Association: www.sca-inc.org

Environmental Career Opportunities: www.ecojobs.com

Environmental Career Center: www.environmental-jobs.com

The Environmental Education Directory: www.enviroeducation.com

Here's what you had to say in our last What's Hot/What's Not survey.

Be sure to fill out the current What's Hot survey on page 23.

hot jennifer love hewitt

female actor

jennifer lopez

not

hot freddie prinze, jr.

male actor

leonardo dicaprio

not

hot jessica simpson

female singer

britney spears

not

hot garth brooks

male singer

ricky martin

not

hot friends

tv sitcom

frasier

not

hot e.r.

tv drama

law & order

not

hot friday the 13th

movie (on video)

titanic

not

hot atlanta braves

baseball team

new york yankees

not

hot www.ffa.org

website

www.britneyspears.com

not

hot harry potter books by j. k. rowling

book

goosebumps books by r. l. stine

not

hot country grammar (nelly)

cd

no strings attached ('n sync)

not

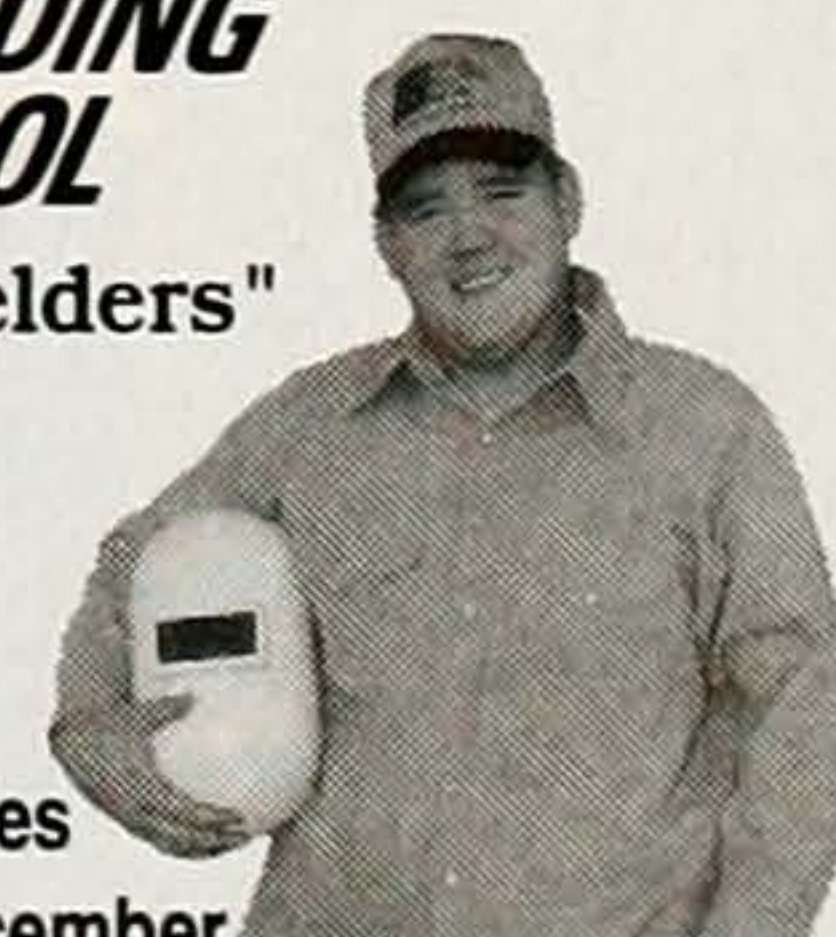
Thanks...

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prize for sending in more
What's Hot/What's Not
surveys than any other
FFA chapter.

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THE WORLD. ON THE OTHER
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pack your bag

A 2001 National FFA Convention Survival Guide

The 74th National FFA Convention, blasting off on October 24, is just around the corner. This year's convention promises to deliver loads of action, in the form of keynote speakers, leadership workshops, career exploration and just plain fun. Before you go, here's your convention gear guide.

Louisville tour guide and map

Even though you'll be spending most of your time in Louisville at the convention grounds, you'll find that the city has lots of great restaurants and attractions that you might want to visit. Contact the Louisville and Jefferson County Convention and Visitors Bureau for all the information you'll need. You can call them at 1-800-626-5646, e-mail them at info@gotolouisville.com or visit their website: www.louisville-visitors.com.

Personal music device

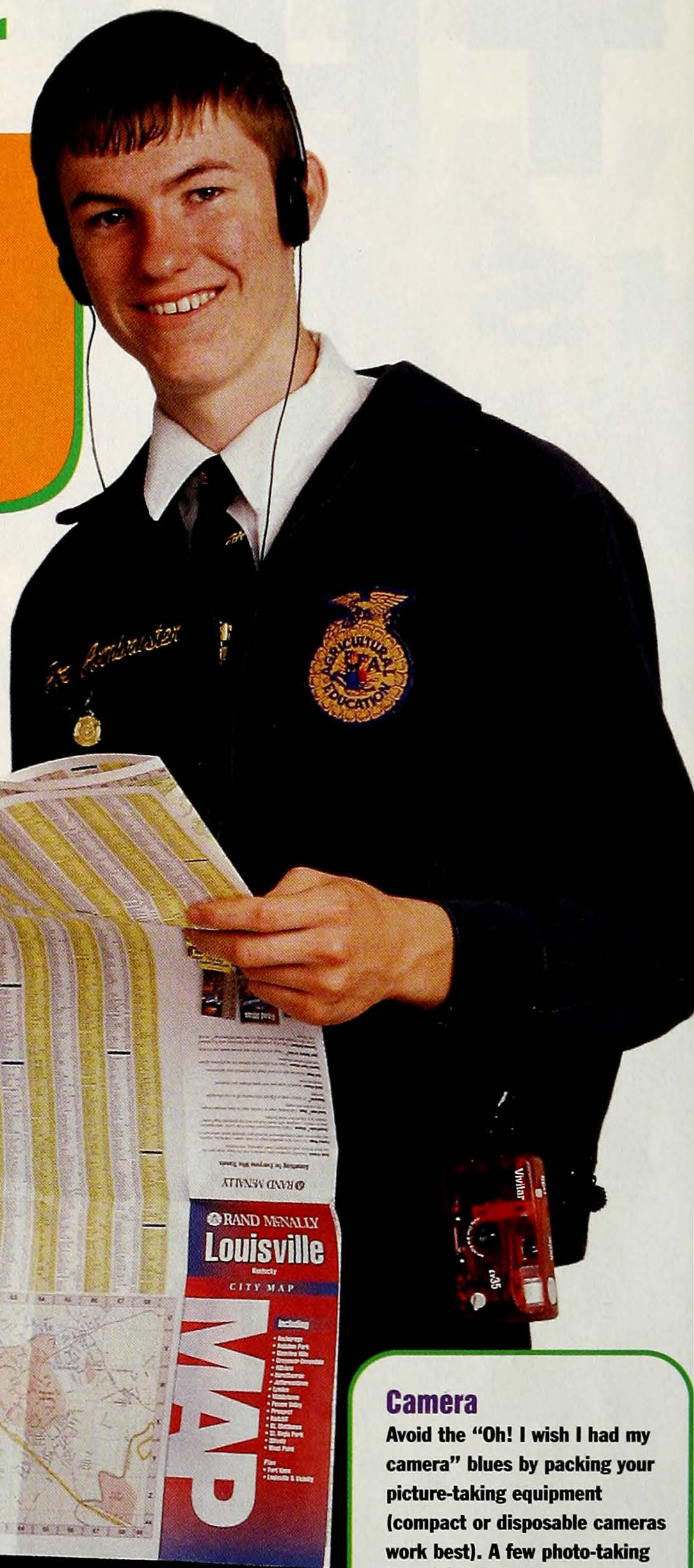
A personal music device (radio, CD player or cassette player with headphones) won't shorten a bus trip from Lemmon, South Dakota, to Louisville, but it can provide a good beat. As you go, swap music with your friends (by the way, you'll hear plenty of good tunes at the convention, too, as Montgomery Gentry and Jessica Andrews are scheduled to appear).

Camera

Avoid the "Oh! I wish I had my camera" blues by packing your picture-taking equipment (compact or disposable cameras work best). A few photo-taking tips: get as close as you can to your subject, use the flash—and, for your parents' sake—ask someone to take your picture with your camera. If you run out of film or need a new throwaway camera, you can buy them at the FFA shopping mall.

Watch for 2001 National FFA Convention updates

As of press time, the National FFA Staff were putting the finishing touches on many of the convention programs and events. We'll include a convention preview in our September/October issue. In the meantime, you can find out about the latest developments on schedules, speakers, concerts, the career show and more at www.ffa.org.



Positive attitude

One thing you can't afford to leave at home is a positive attitude. With that important item packed in your suitcase, you will be perfectly positioned to get the most out of your convention experience, and you'll quickly realize why the convention has been the single most important event in many FFA members' high school experiences. And when you find yourself among 45,000-plus people with the same positive attitude, the atmosphere is electric.

Journal

You can make the convention last forever by recording your experiences and thoughts in a journal. It's a great way to wind down after an exhilarating day at the convention. It's also a chance for you to reflect on what you've done at the convention and make plans for the next day. Bring a notebook small enough to fit in your pocket or purse so you can jot down the key ideas you'll hear at workshops and keynote addresses.

Prepaid phone card

If you have your own cellular phone, move on to the next item on our list. If you don't have a cell phone and you are a person who will be required to call home daily while you're at the convention, bring a pre-paid phone card. With this handy piece of plastic, you can call home from your hotel or any pay-phone in Louisville.

Pillow

There are flat pillow people, and there are fluffy pillow people. You can take a chance and hope that your hotel room has your pillow style, or you can play it safe and bring your own. You might have to have a few family members sit on your suitcase to make it fit, but later, after you've had some decent shut-eye, you'll be glad you brought it.

Business cards

You'll meet fellow FFA members from all parts of the country. If you want to keep in touch with any of them after the convention, it's a good idea to bring business cards with your name, chapter and contact information listed. You can order them through the National FFA Organization (www.ffaunlimited.org), at office supply stores or create your own on a computer.

Clothes

What to wear? We'll give you a clue: it's blue and gold. When you're on the convention grounds and other FFA-sponsored convention events, FFA official dress is required. For some happenings, like the FFA dances, you can wear your everyday clothes. Be aware: Daytime temperatures in Louisville during October can range from the 60s to 80s. In the evening, the mercury can drop into the 40s.

Need a crash course in FFA official dress? Here's what the FFA Official Manual says:

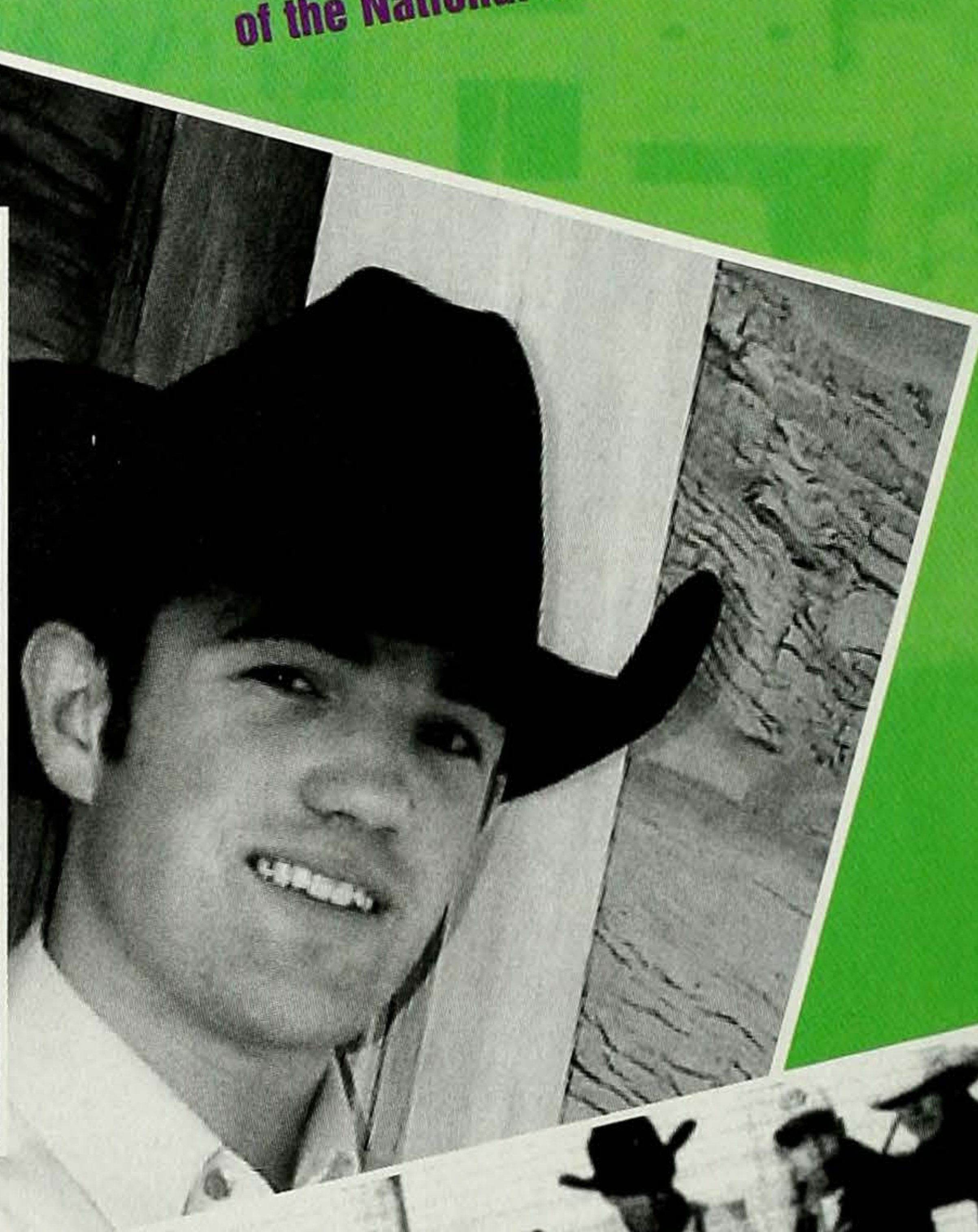
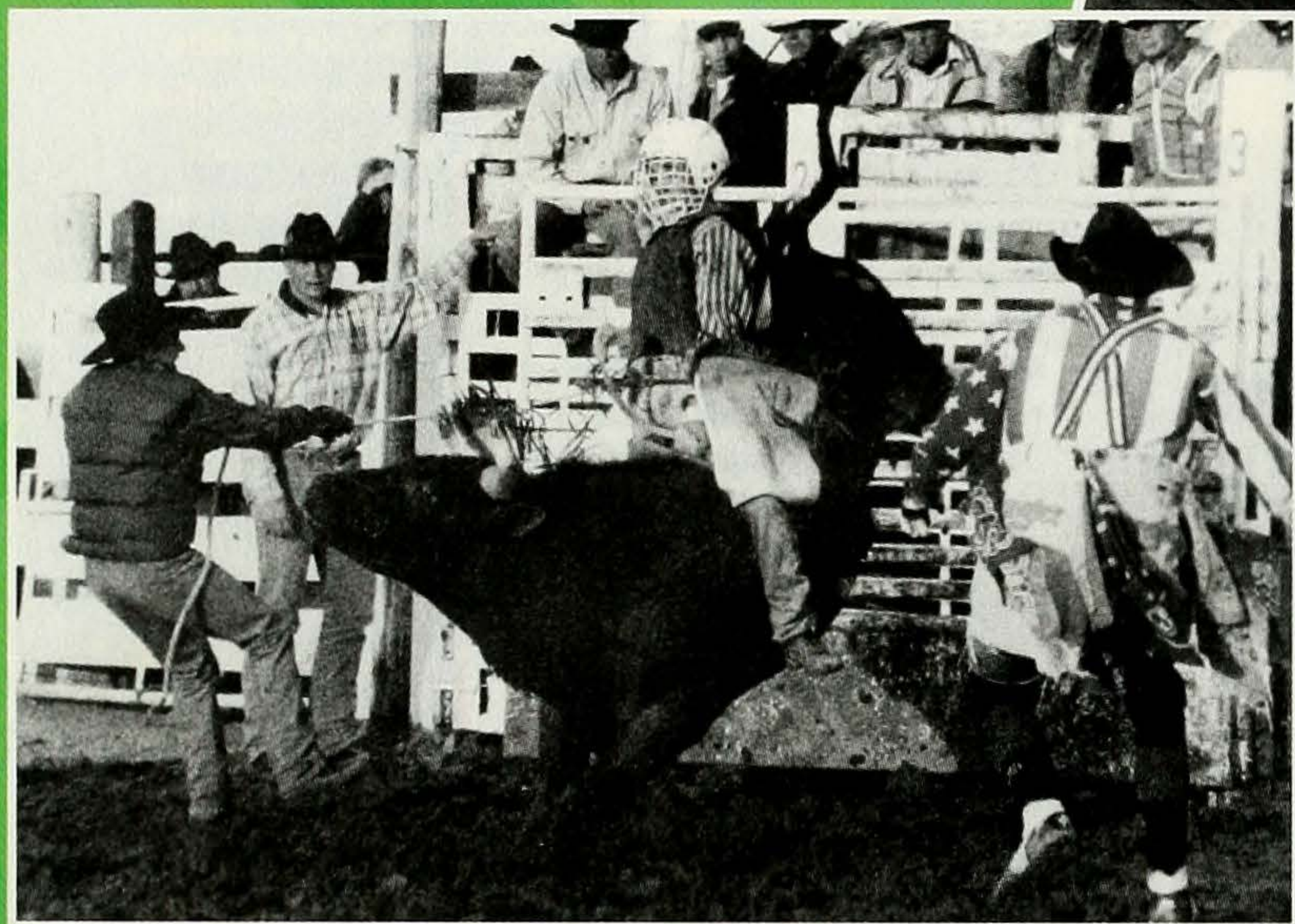
"Female members are to wear a black skirt, white blouse with official FFA blue scarf, black shoes and official jacket zipped to the top. Black slacks may be worn for traveling and outdoor activities such as judging competitions and camping."

"Official dress for male members is black slacks, white shirt, official FFA tie, black shoes, black socks and official jacket zipped to the top."

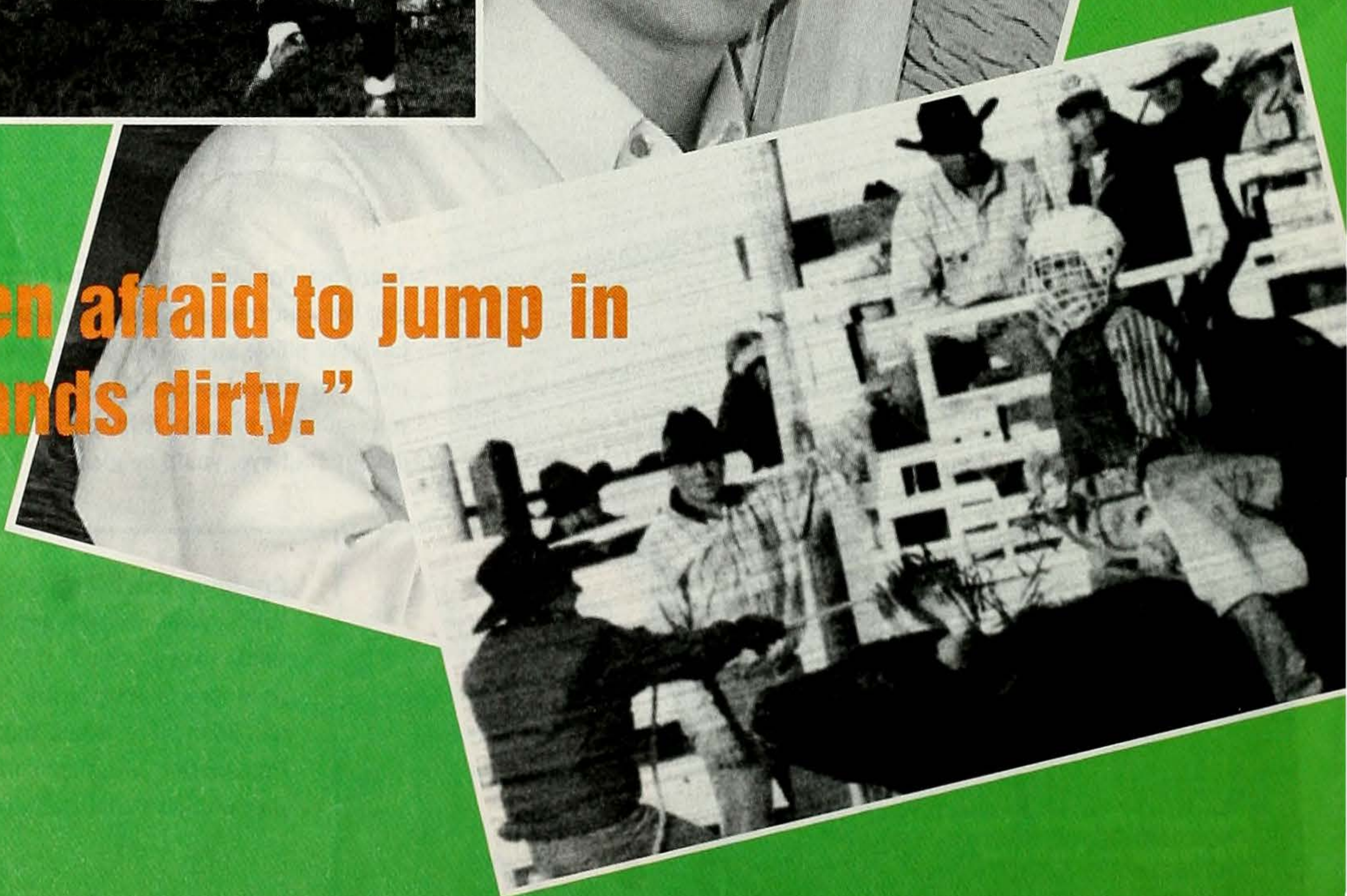
mr. rodeo

by Chris Hayhurst

South Dakota FFA member Colin Greenfield has spent the past year riding bulls and crisscrossing the nation as student president of the National High School Rodeo Association



"I've never been afraid to jump in and get my hands dirty."



"As long as you know what you're doing and try as hard as you can to do it right, you're usually OK."

"I've learned you can't be afraid to get in there and do some extra work, because in the end it's gonna pay off."

At first glance, Colin Greenfield seems like your typical recent high school graduate. He's 18 years old. He's ready for college. He's got a part-time job, enjoys music and likes to hang out with friends.

Take a closer look, however, and it quickly becomes obvious that that's where the similarities end. A five-year member of the Beresford FFA Chapter in his pint-sized hometown of Beresford, South Dakota, Colin just finished an incredible year.

He spent almost every waking moment on the move. Consider this: He was not only the treasurer of his chapter, he was class president. He not only made honor roll, he was a member of the National Honor Society.

He not only likes music, he sang in a band and performed twice in the National FFA Chorus.

And finally, he not only counts riding bulls among his favorite hobbies, but he was also the student president of both the South Dakota High School Rodeo Association and the National High School Rodeo Association (NHSRA). "Colin's a busy young man," says Sheree Christensen, his FFA advisor. "It's remarkable how good a job he did staying caught up in school."

Eight seconds and counting

School, says Colin, is a top priority (he just graduated with a 3.7 grade point average). But you have to dig a little deeper to find his true passion. For that, you must enter the ring.

"Riding bulls is a rush," says Colin. "It's kind of hard to explain. You've got all these feelings all mixed up. You're scared, but at the same time you know it's fun and you know it's something you want to do."

In competition, the bull rider's goal is to stay on board for at least eight seconds. During that time the bull does everything in its power to buck the rider off. After eight seconds, whoever rides the wildest bull for the longest time wins. It's an unforgiving sport. When the game's over, you're often in the dirt, on your face and dangerously close to hoofs, horns and a ton's worth of raging flesh.

But Colin, who finished 37th in the bull-riding division of the 2000 National High School Rodeo Finals and plans to ride on the pro circuit as early as next year, takes it all in stride.

Colin's Stats

Age: 18

Hometown: Beresford, South Dakota

FFA chapter: Beresford

Achievements

in rodeo

National High School Rodeo Association President

South Dakota High School Rodeo Association President

in FFA

FFA chapter treasurer

National FFA Chorus

at school

Senior class president

Graduated with a 3.7 GPA

in music

All-state chorus

State honor choir

in the community

Special Olympics coach

Make-A-Wish volunteer

"As long as you know what you're doing and try as hard as you can to do it right," says Colin, "you're usually OK."

Natural leader

That sense of confidence has taken Colin far beyond the rodeo ring. In fact, it's been a part of his life for as long as he can remember, and is the main reason he's been a leader in almost everything he's done. "I owe it to my upbringing," says Colin. "I've never been afraid to jump in and get my hands dirty."

Over the past year, Colin spent a lot of time on the road, traveling to places like Las Vegas, Nevada, site of the professional National Finals Rodeo competition, where he manned a booth for the NHSRA. The trips often conflicted with school, but with the help of his teachers, he managed just fine. And that, says Colin, taught him a lesson. "I've learned you can't be afraid to get in there and do some extra work, because in the end it's gonna pay off. It's definitely paid off for me." ★

your money

Tips on managing your cash



The ups and downs of credit cards

Here's how you can avoid trouble and use credit cards to your advantage

By Steve Dinnen

If you're off to college this fall, get ready to study a lot, meet new friends—and be constantly bombarded with credit card solicitations. Now that you're 18 and away from home, credit card companies figure you need their plastic.

They're right—to an extent. Credit cards can come in handy when emergencies arise or when a local merchant won't accept a check and you're low on cash. Plus, paying them back on time helps you establish a credit history that will be useful when you buy cars, rent apartments or even apply for jobs.

But credit cards can also spell trouble. They can create a false sense of wealth that makes you forget that credit card companies will, in fact, want their money back, plus interest. Credit card misuse is one of the chief reasons behind the 1.2 million bankruptcy filings in the U.S. last year.

Get started on the right foot

Credit card companies are anxious to sign up clients as soon as they reach 18, when they're first able to take on debt in their own name.

When you decide the time is right for you to get a credit card, you might as well drive the best deal you can. Here are some tips:

- **Forget "teaser" rates.**

Credit card companies often will sign you up for interest rates of 2 percent, meaning they'll assess you just \$2 in finance charges for their \$100 "loan." But that's a special rate that disappears in a few months to be replaced by a rate of up to 20 percent or more. Look for cards with low permanent interest rates. Some are available at a flat rate of 10 percent.

- **Settle for a low credit ceiling.**

It might be fun to have a credit limit of \$2,000, which means the company will let you charge that much at any one time. But can you afford to pay that much back? Start easy, with a \$500 limit.

- **Pay them back quickly.**

Card companies make their money from finance charges, so the slower you are at repaying them, the richer they get at your expense. Pay off your

entire balance monthly. If you can't, pay at least twice the monthly minimum they say is due. And ignore their offers to waive monthly payments—the interest charges will just keep piling up.

- **Skip the T-shirts.** On campuses, card solicitors will give away T-shirts or candy bars to kids who apply for cards. Card solicitors have gotten so aggressive and numerous that many colleges have banned or curtailed such practices. Make sure these solicitors offer cards comparable to other cards. A good place to check nationally is www.bankrate.com.

Over and under 18

Alicia Zatkowski, at Discover Card, said her company does not market to people under age 18. For anyone over that age, they can check out the "student center" at www.discovercard.com for an explanation on how credit cards work from the creditor's viewpoint.

For the under-18 crowd, there's Visa Buxx. It walks

and talks like a regular Visa card, only it's more like a prepaid phone card. Your parents control the amount of money that they periodically load into it and meanwhile, you get a chance to learn about money skills. Check 'em out at www.visabuxx.com. ★

Did you know?

- FFA members who have jobs or are self-employed earn, on average, \$173 per week, compared to a \$67 per week average for working American teenagers as a whole.
- Fifty-four percent of FFA members have jobs or run their own businesses.
- Seventy-five percent of FFA members have savings accounts or certificates of deposit (CDs).
- Forty-five percent of FFA members have checking accounts.
- Seventeen percent of FFA members own stocks or bonds.
- Fifteen percent of FFA members have credit cards.

SOURCES: FFA NEW HORIZONS READERSHIP PROFILE STUDY AND THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Imagine there's a drought in the Southwest.

Imagine FFA members in Oklahoma having trouble buying hay for their animals.

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A roadmap to the Internet

shopping for colleges online



You can use the Internet to find the right school for you

By Melissa Copley

Thinking about college? Need information about universities and colleges that interest you? Looking for financial aid and scholarship guidance? Regardless of your inquiry, most—if not all—of your questions can be answered at the click of a mouse. Thanks to the Internet, a variety of resources offering advice on everything from college selection and admissions to financial assistance and applications are available to you.

If you're not sure where you'd like to go to college, websites such as Embark, CollegeView, CollegeXpress, CollegeQuest and Xap (add a .com after each) are good places to start. These sites offer college profiles,

financial aid and scholarship advice, admissions statistics, career counseling tools and online applications.

Customize your search

You can search for colleges using such factors as location, major, school type, student population and tuition prices. As an example, a general search on CollegeView revealed more than 200 colleges and universities offering agriculture programs.

The search can be as generic or specific as you'd like, and information can be accessed instantly. Links to colleges are available as well as virtual campus tours and information about studying abroad. These sites are also packed with

useful advice for parents and students on SAT and ACT test preparation, filling out applications, calculating costs, locating scholarships and preparing financial aid forms. Basic memberships to these sites are free, but a few require minimal fees to access certain services.

If you have a specific interest in an athletic or extra-curricular activity and would like to pursue it in college, visit College-Recruiting.com. This service links colleges with high school students according to their interests and abilities.

For \$29, students can market themselves to the site's 4,000 registered colleges by creating a profile that packages your academic interests, notable achievements, volunteer activities, job experience and live audio/video clips. In addition, this service is interfaced directly with wiredscholar.com, another helpful college planning tool that has a database of more than 600,000 scholarships.

Online apps

When you're ready to apply, many colleges and universities make it possible to complete applications online. Some don't, but most of these will at least allow you to print an application from their site. CollegeNET.com makes it possible for students to access, complete, submit and pay for admissions applications to over 500 colleges and universities entirely online.

The college experience awaits you—go online and explore your options. ★

The addresses you'll need:

www.embark.com

www.collegeview.com

www.collegexpress.com

www.collegequest.com

www.xap.com

www.collegerecruiting.com

www.wiredscholar.com

www.collegenet.com

LAST LAFF

In keeping with the positive attitude of this magazine and the readers we serve, we've decided to retire the "not" part of the survey and expand the "hot" list. When we print the results in our next issue, we'll show the top five vote getters in each category.

what's hot

Agricultural career _____
 FFA activity _____
 School lunch food _____
 School subject (besides ag) _____
 Female actor _____
 Male actor _____
 Band _____
 Singer _____
 Song _____
 Professional male athlete _____
 Professional female athlete _____
 Website you use most _____
 TV show _____
 Weekend activity _____
 Dream vacation location _____

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picks to:

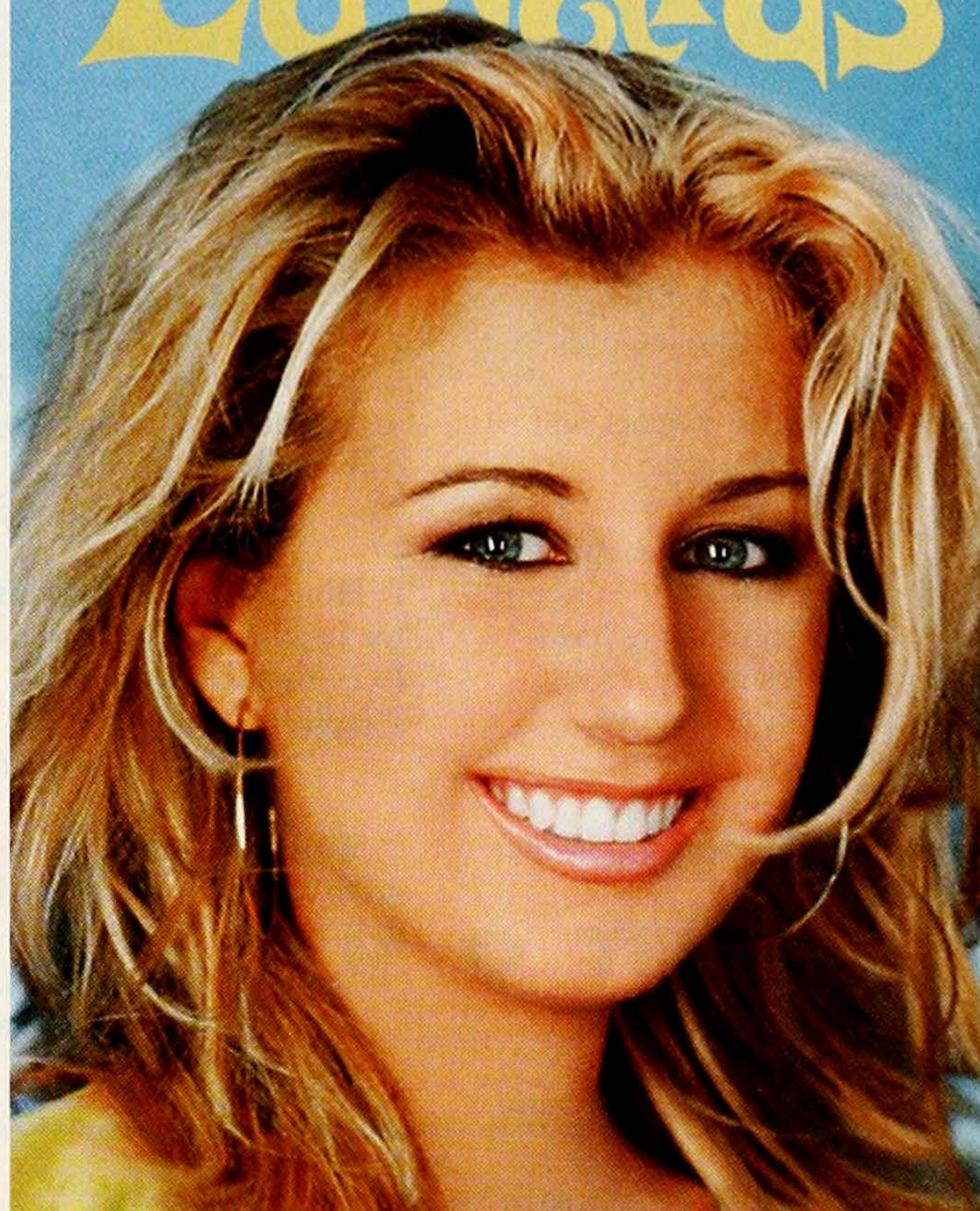
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Have a great joke?
 Write it down here. If we print it,
 you win \$5. See the "Last Laff"
 page for details.

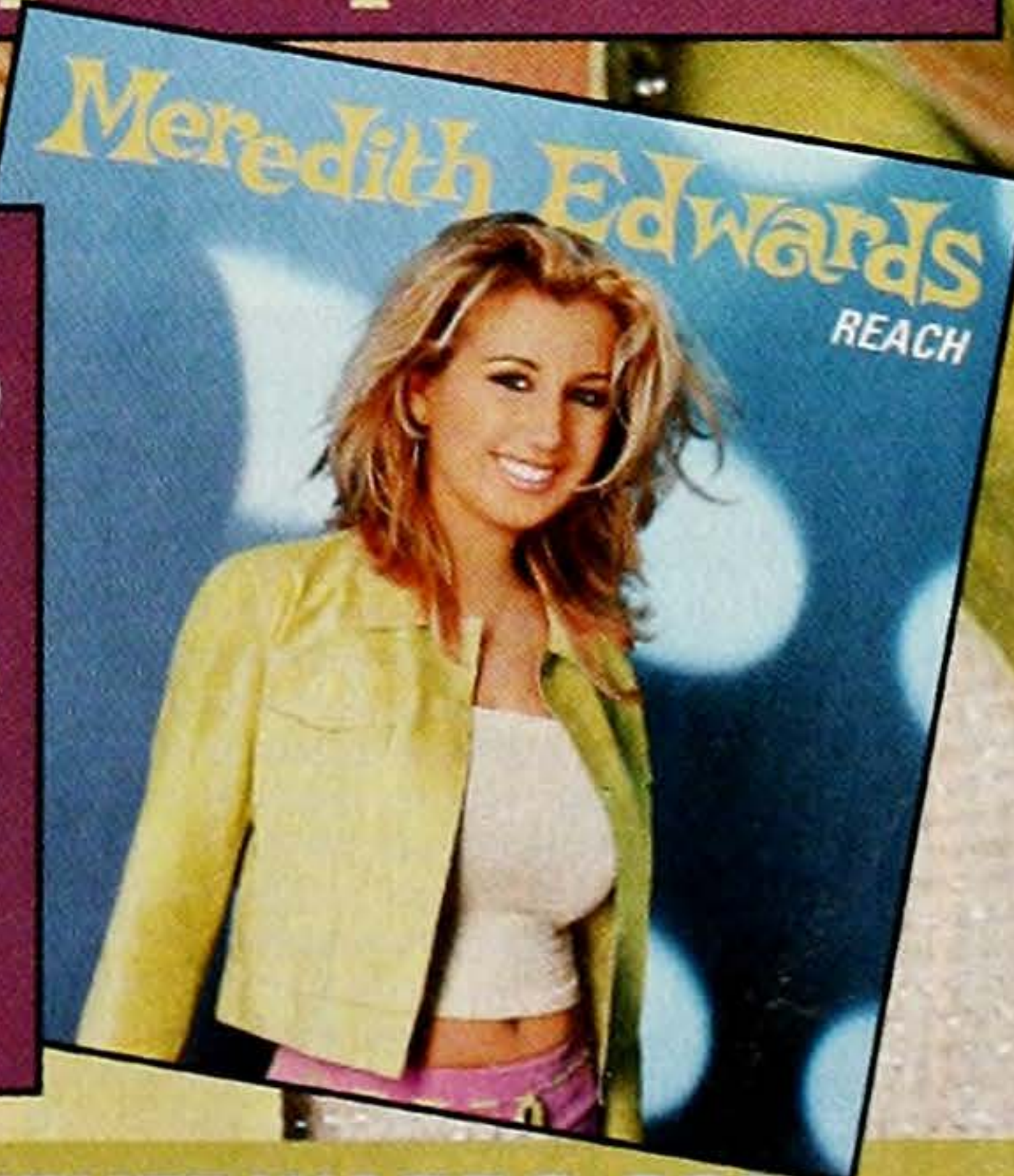
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Last Laff

Q: What is the difference between here and there?

A: The "T".

Amanda Meader

Danbury, Texas

Q: What is the difference between a jeweler and a jailer?

A: One sells watches and one watches cells.

Joseph Hardwick

St. David, Arizona

Q: Why did the pig have ink on his nose?

A: He just got out of the pen.

Jennifer Gasque

Parkton, North Carolina

Q: Which building has the most stories?

A: The library.

Trent Martin

Wauzeka, Wisconsin

Q: What do trees and people have in common?

A: Limbs.

Latonya Gipson

Laneville, Texas

Q: Why did the ghost join the army?

A: He wanted to fright for his country.

Raymond Johnson

Lamar, Arkansas

Q: How do skunks line up for lunch?

A: In alphabetical odor.

Chris Cline

Marion, Virginia

Q: Where do Italian cows go to retire?

A: Rome.

Christopher LeBleu

Jennings, Louisiana

Policeman: You're not allowed to fish here.

Boy: I'm not fishing.

I'm giving my pet worm a bath.

Brandon Kaufman

Moundridge, Kansas

Q: How do you know when you live in a small town?

A: When you dial the wrong number and you can still talk for an hour.

Hannah Anderson

Huntington, Utah

Q: Why is it good to have frogs in the outfield?

A: They never miss a fly.

Amanda Drinsinger

Granton, Wisconsin

Q: How many months have 28 days?

A: All of them.

Sarah Madill

Penngrove, California

FFA Motto

Learning to do, doing to learn, earning to live, living to serve.

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

Agricultural Education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems.

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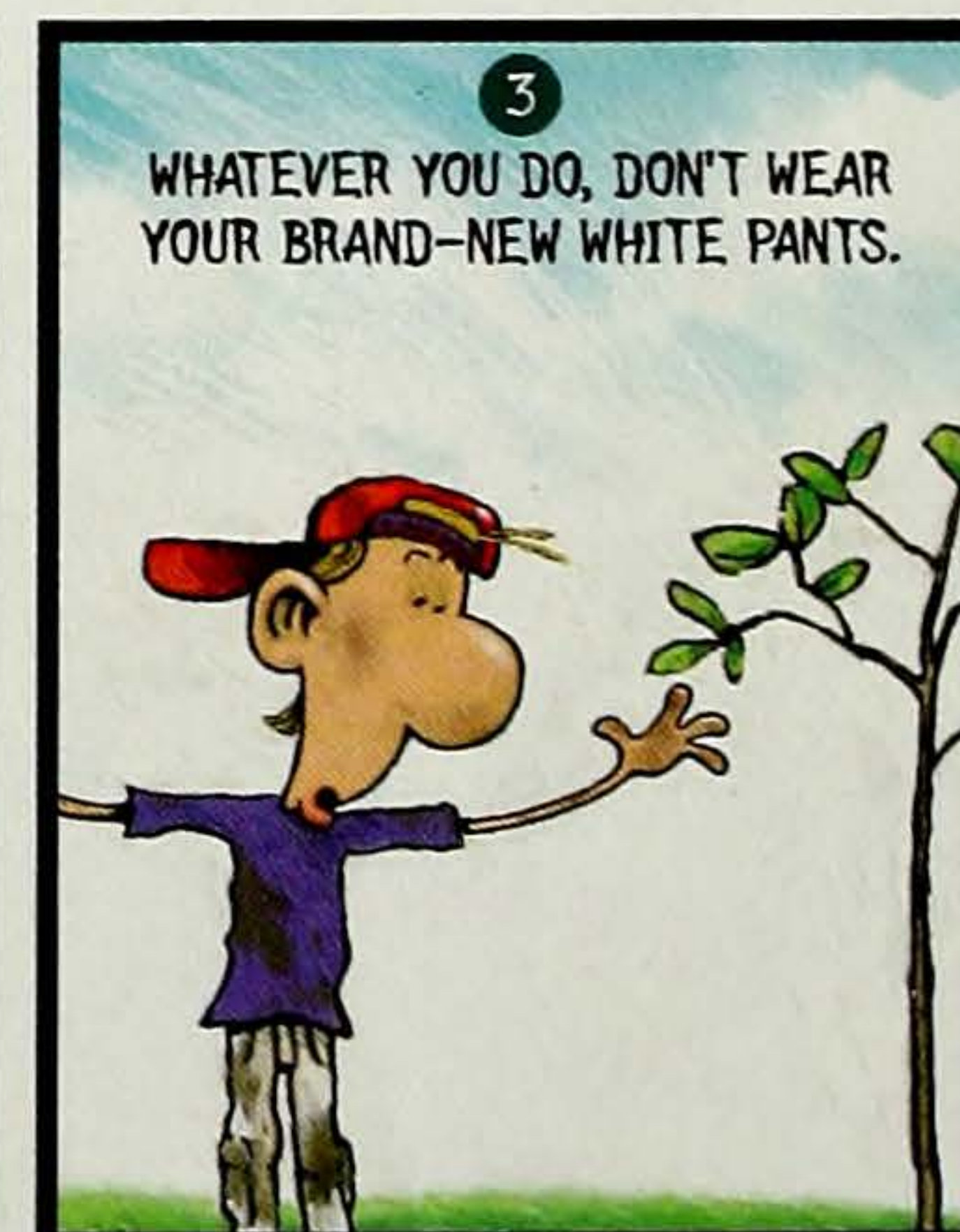
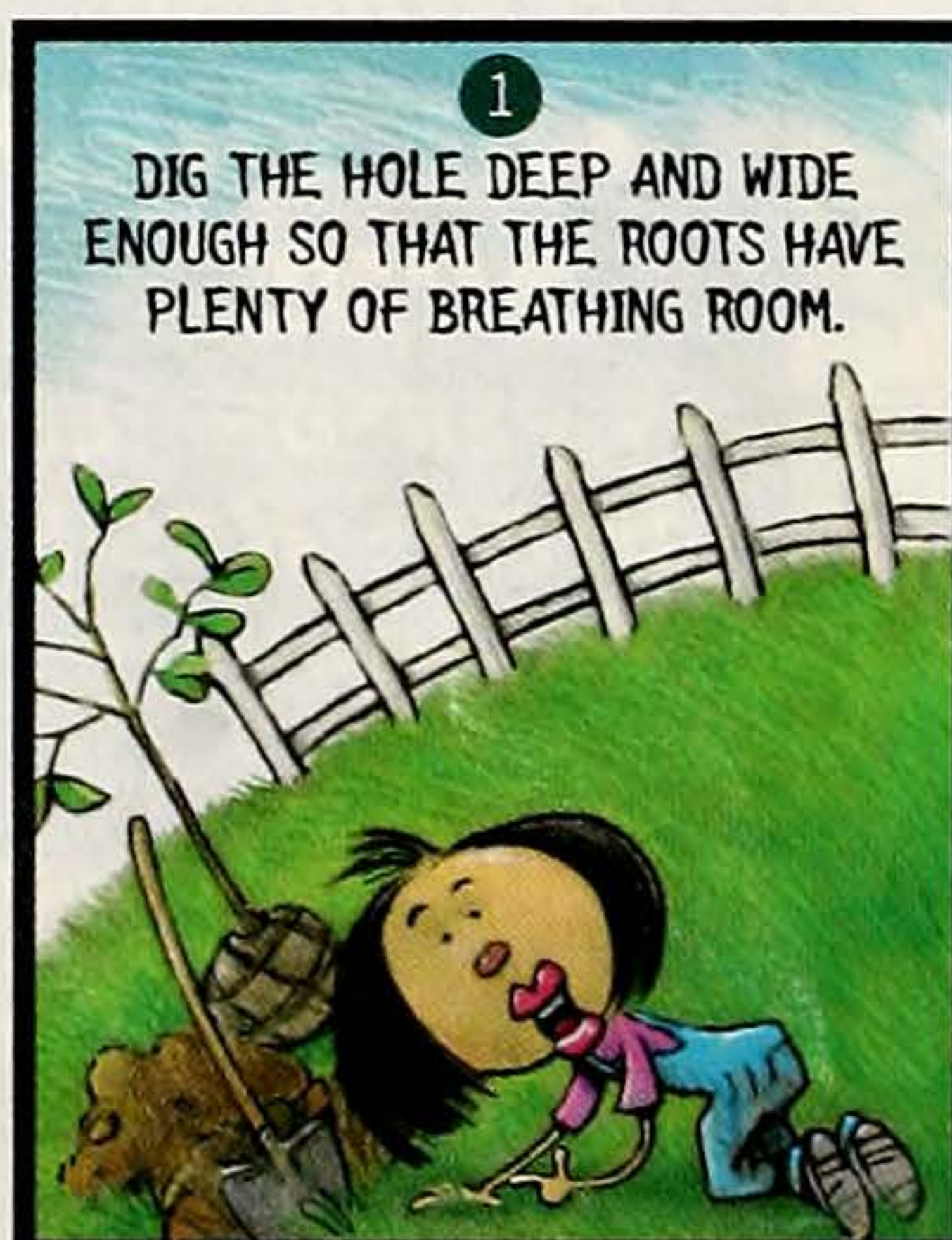
FFA New Horizons will pay \$5 for each joke selected for Last Laff. In case we receive more than one of the same joke, payment will be for the first one received. Contributions cannot be acknowledged or returned.

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