

new horizons

The magazine of the National FFA Organization

November/December 1996

blazing ambition

PUTTING IT ALL ON THE LINE BATTLING FOREST FIRES

a move for
the future

FFA CONVENTION AND OFFICES TO MOVE

biting back

FFA MEMBERS SAVE AQUATIC LIFE

A full-page photograph of Alan Jackson. He is wearing a white cowboy hat, a blue and white striped long-sleeved shirt, and blue jeans. He is sitting on a wooden surface, possibly a boat, and looking off to the side with a slight smile. The background is dark and out of focus.

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heard
anything
'til you've heard
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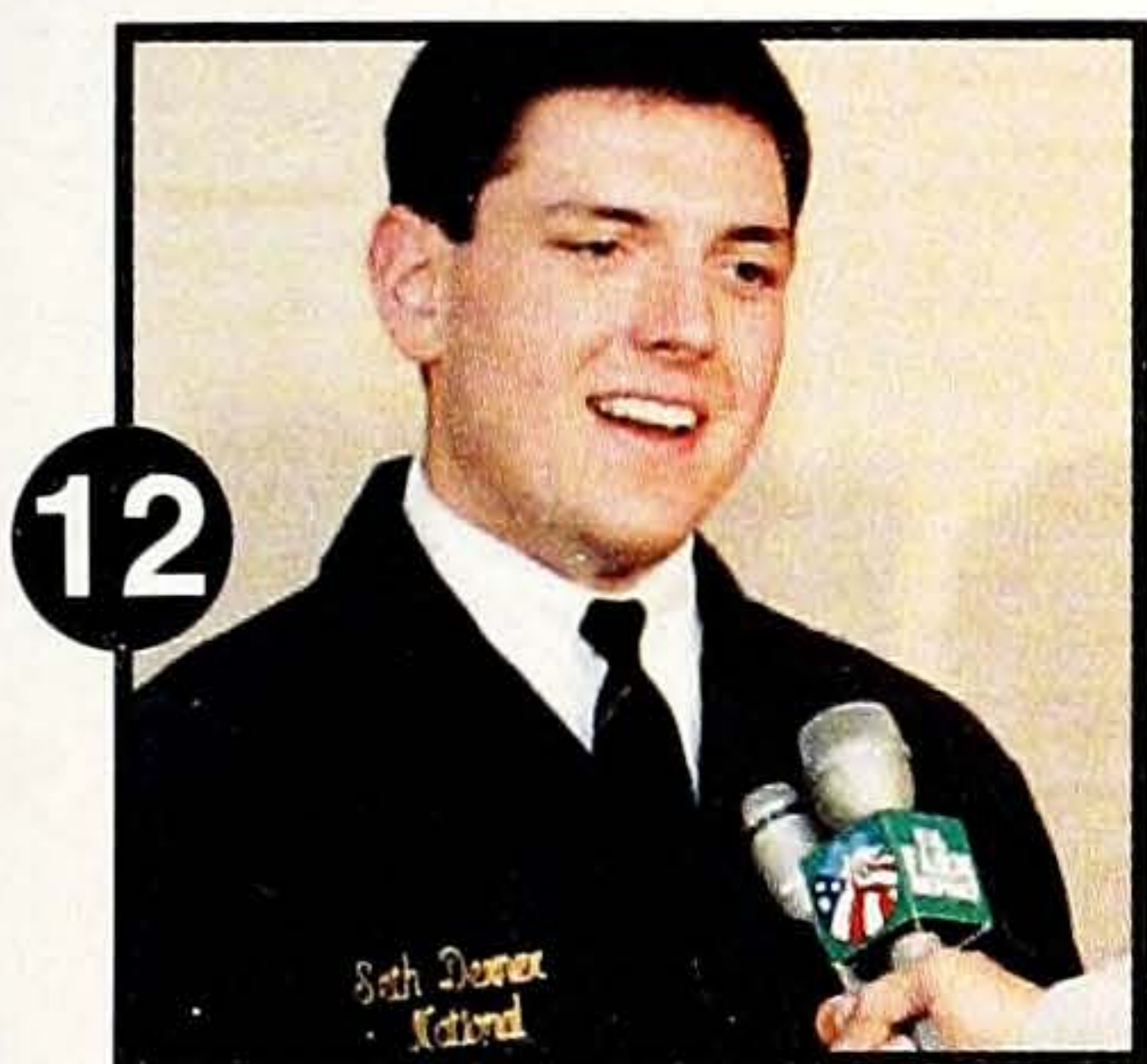
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FFA Mission
FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

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

a few minutes with

Andy McCall

What goals did you set for your term as national officer?

My No. 1 goal this year primarily has been to help other people believe in themselves. Coming from an urban background, I really felt like I had the chance to let people know that it doesn't matter where you come from or what your future interests are. Those things aren't as important as the effort you put forth today. I wanted to let everyone know that there is a place for everyone in FFA. And everyone has within themselves what it takes to be successful.

Do you feel like you've been able to accomplish this goal?

I think so. There's times toward the end of a state convention or some other activity when someone will come up to you and very sincerely let you know that your time there was

well spent. If I was able to touch one person's life this year, then I accomplished that goal.

Who's had the greatest influence on your life?

Definitely my family. The older I get, the more I realize how amazing my mom and dad are. I can see the influence they've had on me. I'll see myself do something and then I'll realize that was a lesson I was taught when I was younger.

Also there's my older brother and sister. We were all born on the same day, April 6th. My sister

was born in 1970, my brother in '72, and me in '76. I don't know if it's because of this, but we have a very good relationship. They are really my best friends.

What are your plans for the future?

I'm going to go to law school. Eventually I want to get involved with international agriculture trade. Houston is a good place to do that. I want to get involved with public service—or politics as it is better known. My goal is to become governor of Texas someday.

What's the best reason to attend national convention?

It is without a doubt the experience of a lifetime. Walking into convention arena where it's cool to be successful. It's cool to be motivated and excited about an organization like this. At convention it's considered neat if you're willing to leave your comfort zone and meet other people. At convention, the "in-crowd" consists of the people who are motivated about life. ★

VITALS

Name: Andy McCall

Age: 20

Position: Vice president-western region

Hometown: Houston, Texas

FFA Chapter: Cypress Creek FFA

FFA Advisors: Kevin Page and Wayne Sales

SAE: diversified livestock production

College/major: Lubbock Christian University/agricultural business

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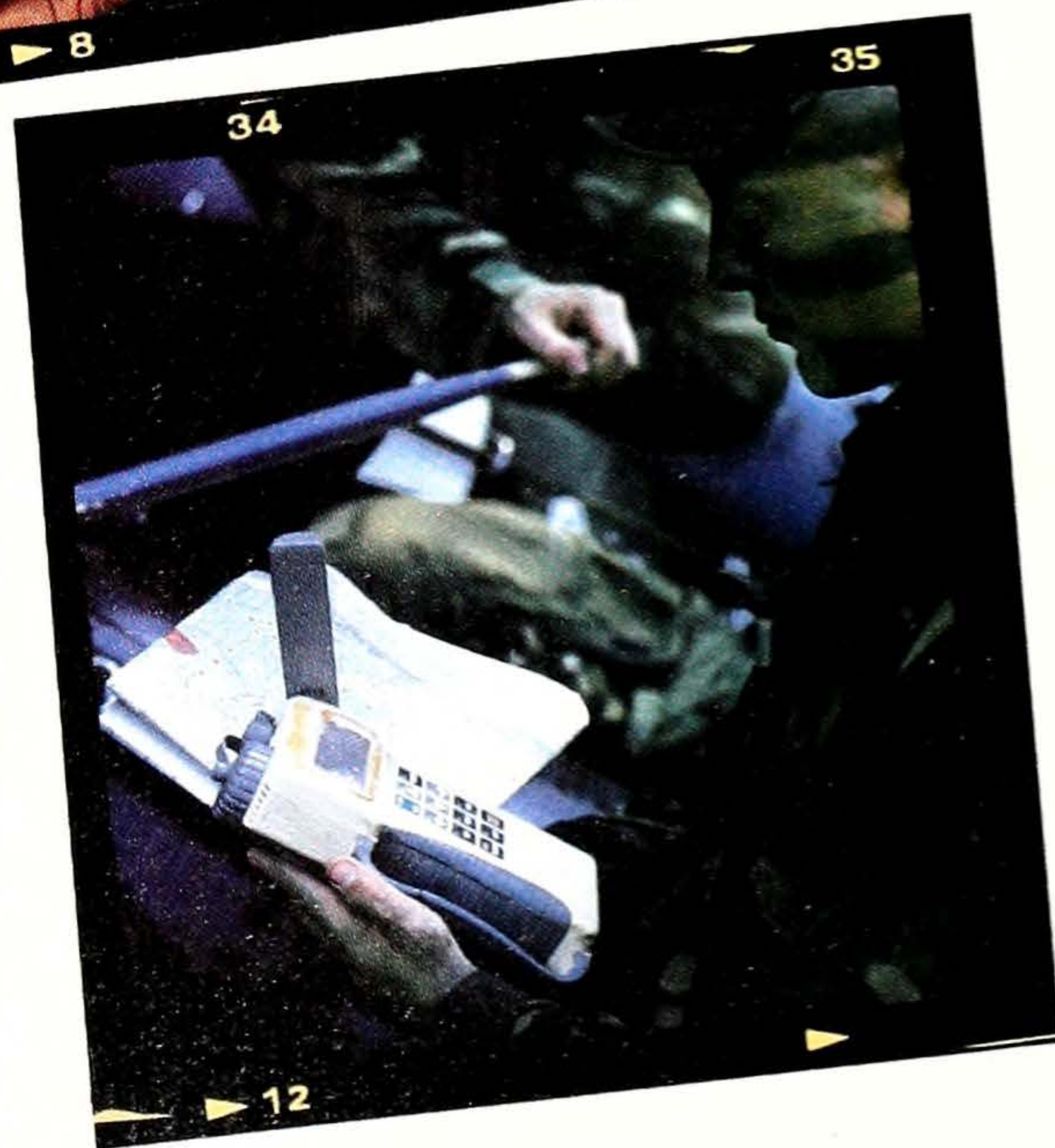
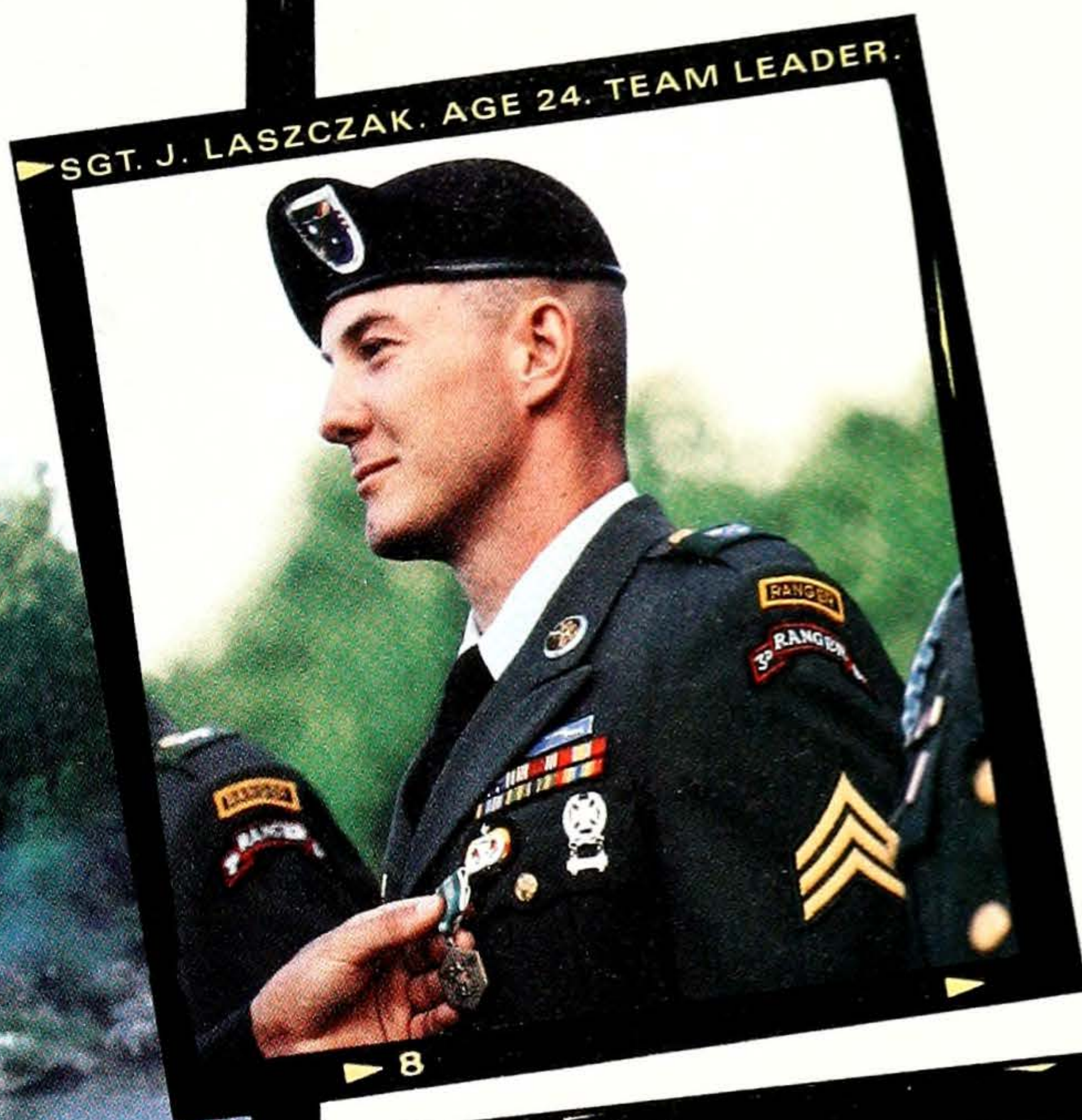
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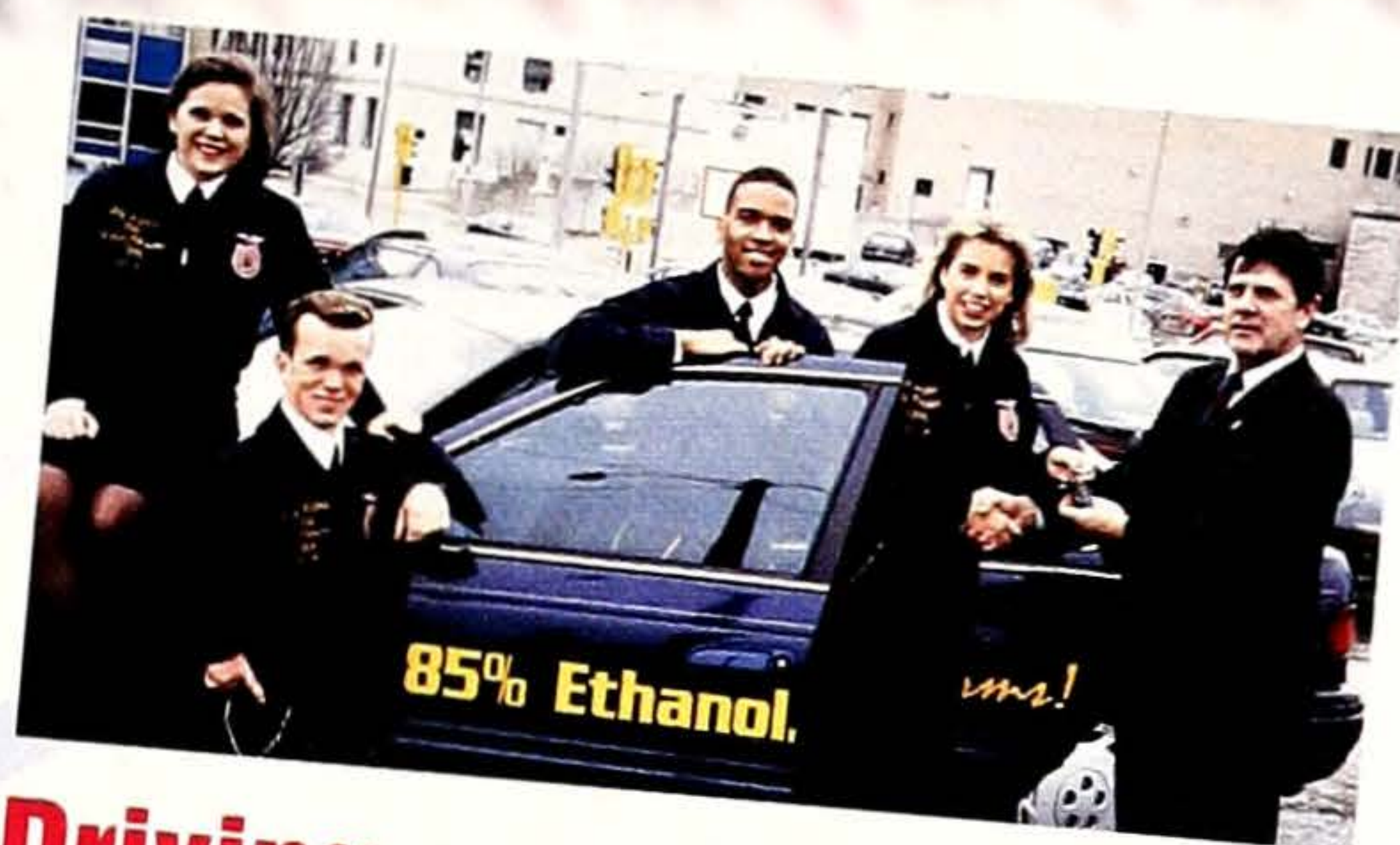
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Tune in

On November 21, the Channel One Network's classroom service will broadcast highlights of the National FFA Convention. Be sure to program your school's VCR before leaving on Wednesday, November 20. Questions? Call Channel One/The Classroom Channel Key Operator or Jennifer Conway at the FFA at (703) 360-3600 ext. 245.



Driving a real bargain

The Illinois major state officer team is cruisin' in an unusual way: a 1995 Ford Taurus powered by 85 percent ethanol. The car comes courtesy of the Illinois Corn Marketing Board. The board saw the state officers' extensive travel as an opportunity to

educate Illinois agriculture students on the benefits of ethanol. ★

Lynn Laible (right) of the Illinois Corn Marketing Board presents the keys of a 1995 Ford Taurus to the 1995-96 Illinois state officer team. The car uses ethanol as a primary source of fuel.

Surf's Up!

Grab your boogie board and get ready for some great surfing with FFA!

Check out FFA Online at <http://www.ffa.org> for fun new features and great FFA information.

Visit the new "Students Only" section, where you can tune in each week to read the latest about five cool characters in the hottest new series, "Club FFA," or find out about real FFA members' successes in the Award Announcements section, where we'll post winners' names.

Catch the next wave to the "About FFA" section, and find out how to build your own homepage! Or, take a shopping break with the Virtual FFA Catalog, full of your

favorite FFA merchandise.

Don't forget to visit the national FFA convention site, which has links to Kansas City pages to help you plan your trip. You'll also find the convention planning guide and information about

convention speakers, including Terry Bradshaw. For those of you not attending the convention, check the site Nov.

14-16 for daily updates on what's been happening.

Along the way, stop at the FFA Talk bulletin boards, where you can leave messages for FFA members, advisors and alumni. You can find new ideas for your chapter, share tips with other members and make new friends.

See you online! ★



Vote FFA!

We'll soon be counting ballots for 1998 and 1999 National FFA Week themes. FFA Week, celebrated each year during the week of George Washington's birthday, is the perfect time to celebrate your chapter's accomplishments and show what makes FFA great. Drop us a note with your pick from the list below. Include your name, chapter and address, and let us know whether you're a student or advisor.

- FFA—A World of Opportunity
- FFA—America's Future, America's Best
- FFA—Building the Future
- FFA—Committed to Excellence
- FFA—Pride in Agriculture, Pride of America
- FFA—World Class Leadership

Submit your vote by January 1, 1997 to: FFA Week Theme, 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 15160 Alexandria, VA 22309-0160 or e-mail: lyn_salata@ffa.org

FFA MAILBAG

Poets on the Horizon

Editor's note: In addition to letters and comments we receive from you, we occasionally come across creative work submitted by FFA members. Following is a recently submitted poem that will be sure to get you in the convention spirit.

Convention '95

They came in marching like little soldiers,
The arena turned into fields of blue,
Individuals shone like stars at night,
Artillery used were hands, heart and mind,
Footsteps signaled the signs of achievement,
Hands were shook; smiles were given to make friends,
They traveled from near and far to join us,
Leadership sessions taught us future skills,
Talent shows and career fairs were attended,
Friends were linked by line and partner dances,
The nights lasted into the morning glow,
Letters were written after long good-byes,
To keep in touch and make plans for next year,
Pictures keep memories, that last forever.

by Megan Brown and Sally Jennings

Lawrence, Kansas, FFA Chapter members

CONNECTICUT

Helping hands—lots of them

Last summer, sophomore Woodbury FFA member Sean Moran was thrown from the back of a speeding motorcycle. He suffered severe head trauma, underwent brain surgery, lost an eye, was in a coma for nine days and very nearly died. But the accident did nothing to diminish Sean's share of guts. He has not only made a remarkable recovery, but is back in school, walking, talking and working on his SAE program again. Sean's comeback was recognized with a standing ovation at his chapter's banquet recently. The chapter has raised more than \$5,000 to help with Sean's medical expenses. ★



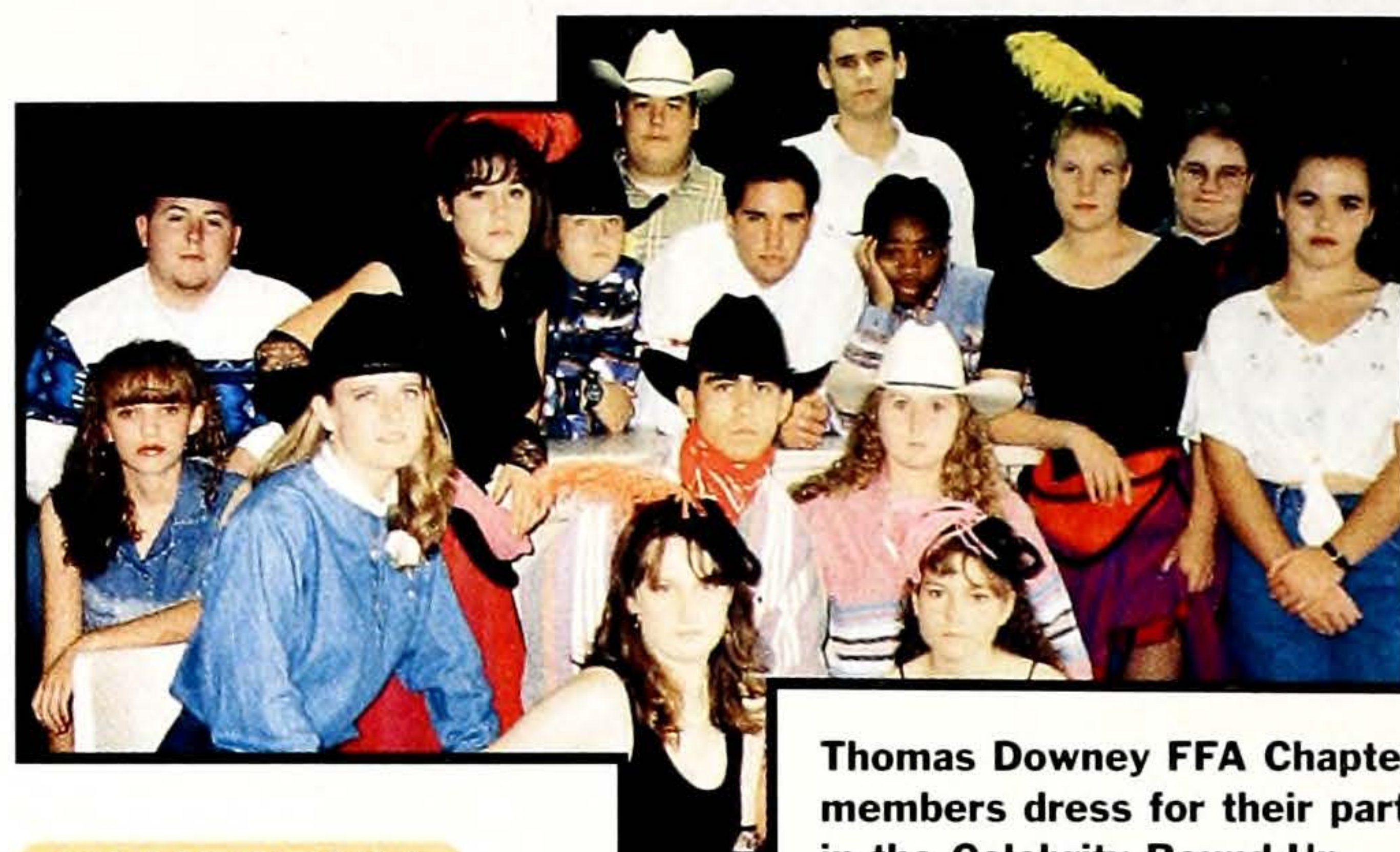
Woodbury FFA member Sean Moran (left) receives a standing ovation at a banquet celebrating his comeback after being involved in a near-fatal motorcycle accident last year.

OHIO

Bringing the zoo to the school

There must have been at least a few startled faces at John Glenn High School in New Concord earlier this year, when a 2,250-pound draft horse showed up on the school's front lawn. To most, however, it was no surprise—it was just another addition to the large animal petting zoo organized by the John Glenn FFA Chapter for "FFA Week." Also on display were two heifers and a mule, all of which were on loan to the school. Other related activities included "chicken bingo" and livestock weight guessing contests. Explains chapter president, Megann Mattox, "We wanted the rest of our school to see what we do and to give them a chance to be involved." ★

Submitted by Renee Morrow, chapter reporter



CALIFORNIA

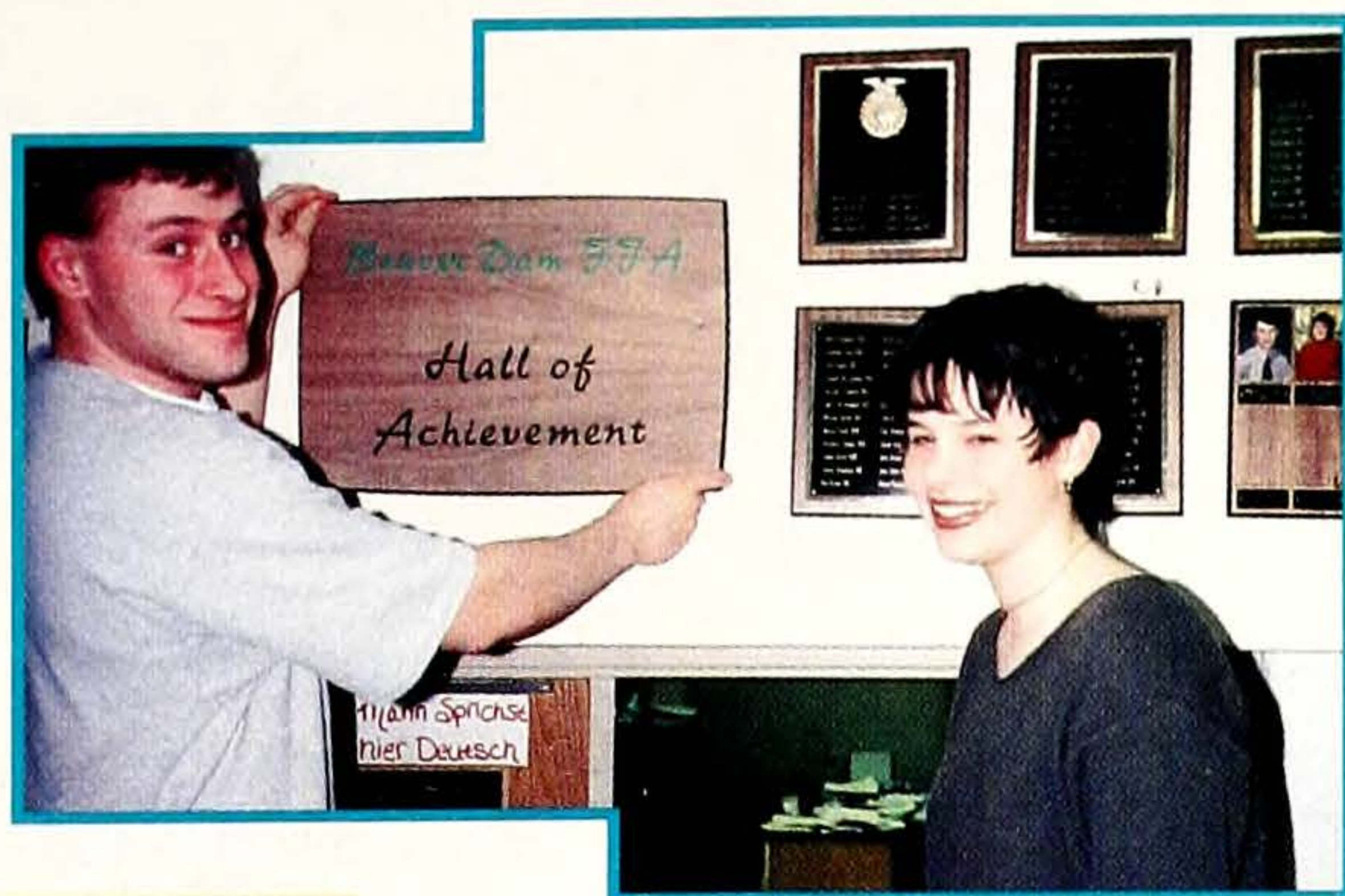
Stars behind bars

While there are all kinds of ways to coax celebrities into participating in fund-raisers, the Thomas Downey Chapter in Modesto has a truly ingenious tactic: Throw the celebs in jail! The "celebrities" in question—administrators, teachers, parents, radio personalities, the FFA president, FFA boosters and many more—are informed one month in advance of the event, in which they are rounded up, sentenced and tossed in "jail." To be set free, they must post bail of \$200. In most cases, the celebs collect donations from friends, family and co-workers. This year's event was a big success, generating more than \$2,000 for the chapter. ★

Submitted by Gillian Means, chapter reporter



John Glenn High School students visit the large animal petting zoo set up on the front lawn of the school.



WISCONSIN

Sharing the Pride

The Beaver Dam FFA Chapter has won many plaques, trophies and awards over its 70 years—but few ever get to see them, except those enrolled in the chapter's classes. Last summer, officers set a goal of recognizing the highest-award winners with a Hall of Achievement. Recently the Hall's finishing touches were applied, and the dedication ceremony received local radio and newspaper coverage, plus statewide TV exposure. Best of all, now many students in the school regularly stop to see the names, photos and plaques won by the chapter. The result? The highest enrollment ever in next year's Beaver Dam agriculture classes. ★

Submitted by Kim Brooks, chapter reporter

OKLAHOMA

Tribute to Jim Thorpe

The Prague FFA Chapter was asked by town leaders to construct a fence around the town's monument to hometown hero Jim Thorpe, the Olympic gold medalist and baseball and football great. With donations from local businesses, 15 FFA members began the task of building the pipe fence on May 16. With food and drinks brought by FFA boosters and with the help of a borrowed hydraulic post driver, the group got the job done by midnight on May 17. Not bad for a day's work. ★

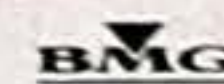
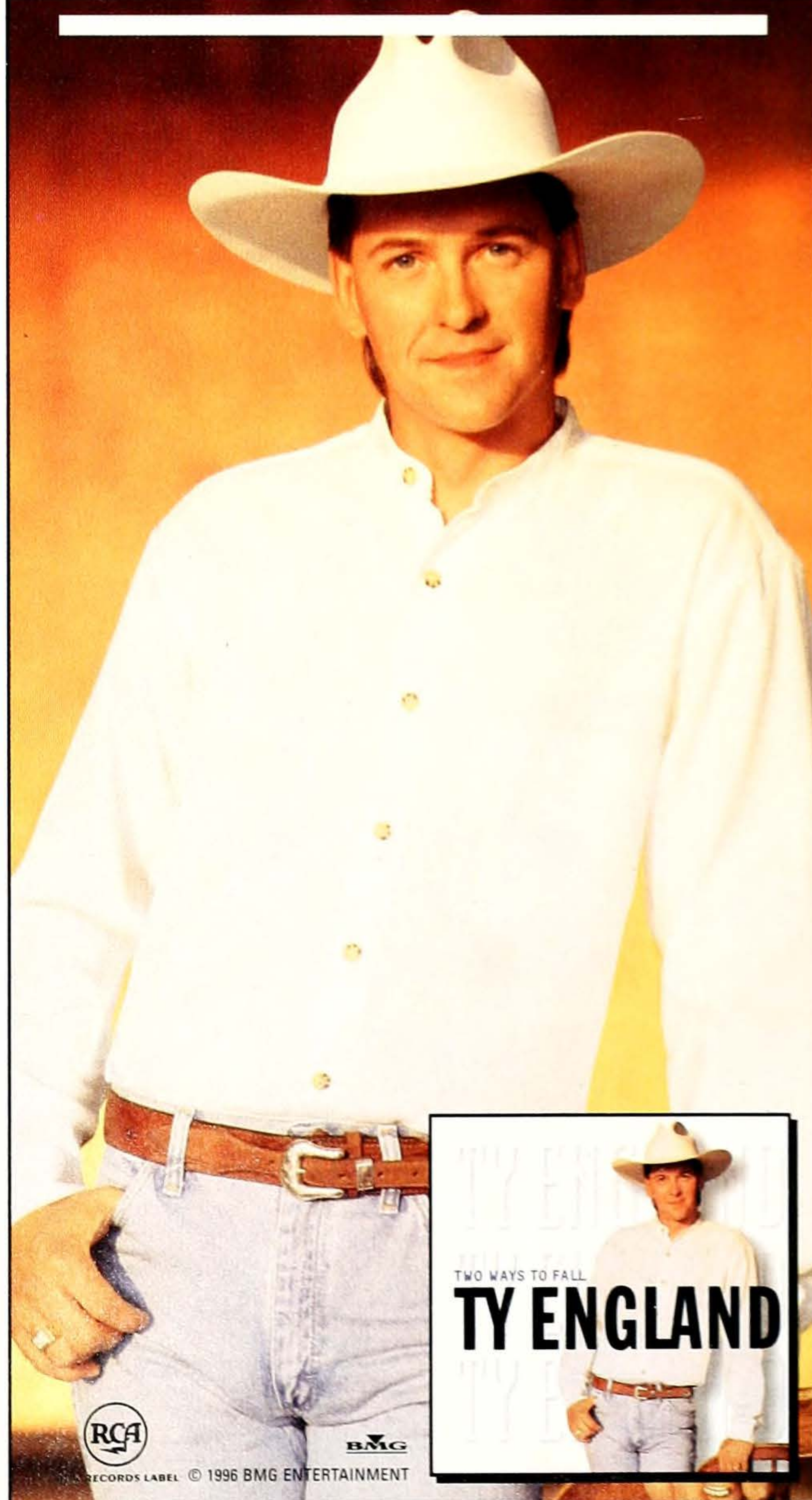
Submitted by Kyle Utsler, chapter reporter

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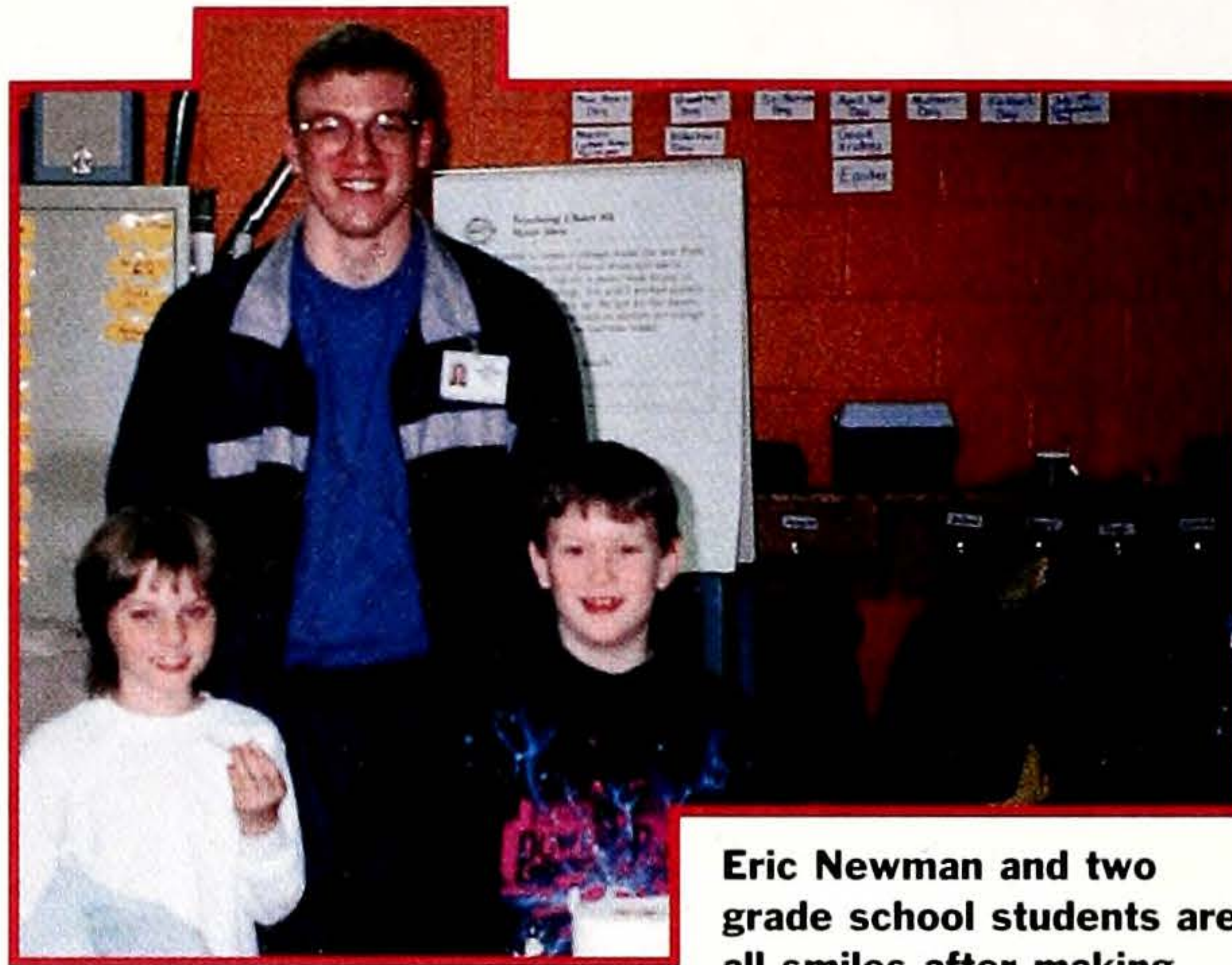


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TENNESSEE

Food for thought

When Eric Newman, FFA chapter president in Gates, Tennessee, was approached by his advisor about starting a Food For America program at the local grade school, he never dreamed he'd one day be looking at 400 smiling little faces. But 10 teachers signed up for the ambitious five-month program; 10 classes grew to 18 in barely a month; and Eric was soon taking hundreds of first- and second-graders to the Agriculture Experiment Station at the University of Tennessee at Martin, where they made butter and exhibited farm equipment from the local John Deere dealer. Realizing that he's made a difference in all those young lives, Eric will enroll at UT Martin in the fall of 1997 to pursue agricultural education. He highly recommends the Food For America program for all FFA chapters. ★



Eric Newman and two grade school students are all smiles after making butter as part of the Food for America program.

OREGON

It amounts to a hill of beans

Students involved in agricultural processing and community service benefit from the annual "canning takeover" project run by the Capital FFA District. The chapter "takes over" a cannery owned and run by the Church of Latter Day Saints, takes several tons of green beans donated by local farmers, and processes and cans them. The final product is then donated to local food banks. Last year, the chapter processed and donated nearly 10,000 cans! ★

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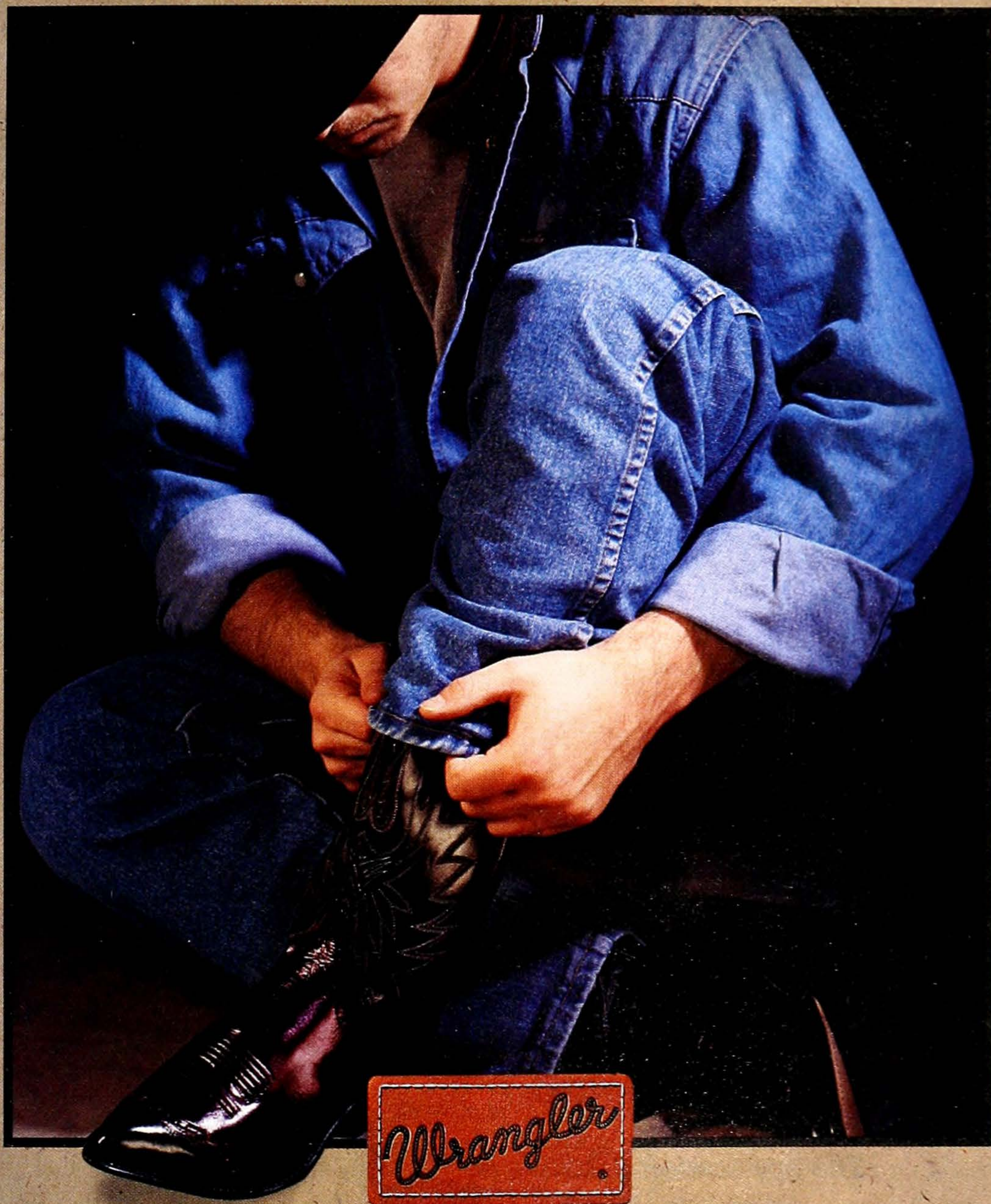
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The sponsors listed below have each funded \$10,000 or more in National FFA Scholarships this year.

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A total of 195 sponsors provide scholarships as special projects of the National FFA Foundation. Several of the companies also support other FFA programs.

**If you have plans
for continuing your
education...**



National FFA Scholarship Opportunities

There are 865 scholarships ranging from \$250 to \$10,000 available through the National FFA Scholarship Program. If you are interested in continuing your education in college or technical school—why not apply for a scholarship? FFA scholarships are available for high school seniors and for FFA members currently enrolled in college.

Selection is based on your FFA leadership activities, academic record, supervised agricultural experience program and community involvement.

Early application is encouraged. Pick up a scholarship application from your FFA chapter advisor or guidance counselor. You may also write to the FFA Scholarship Office to obtain a copy of the application form.

IMPORTANT NOTE

***The application deadline is
February 15, 1997.
Applications postmarked later
than February 15
WILL NOT be accepted.***

Scholarship Office
National FFA Organization
P.O. Box 15160
5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy.
Alexandria, VA 22309-0160

Justin's Olympic glory

Of all of the distances Justin Johnson has covered as a member of his school's track team, there is a one-kilometer stretch of lonely highway in Missouri that he will never forget. It was here that the Kelly-Benton FFA member proudly carried the Olympic torch for a segment of its cross-country trek to Atlanta.

When Justin was dropped off at his starting point by the official shuttle bus, he found his whole family waiting for him at the starting point. After a 30-minute wait, Justin finally saw the preceding runner approaching over the crest of the hill behind him. When the runner arrived, he lit Jason's torch. Then, surrounded by media, Olympic vehicles and Casey Faro, his escort for the run, Justin embarked on his unforgettable piece of Olympic glory. ★



ARIZONA

Valerie reins in her future

Valerie Key juggles so many projects at once, it's a wonder she has a hand free to guide her horse. She's won the prestigious title of Miss Indian Rodeo America, while maintaining a 4.0 GPA in school and holding down a part-time job in the San Carlos Apache Tribe's education department! Valerie's also on student council, president of her FFA chapter, a member of the Native American National Honor Society and an ambassador for the Southwest Indian Rodeo Association. Besides her new national title, Valerie has won the Miss San Carlos Veterans' Rodeo title. She's the FFA



District Reporter representing the Gila Southern District, and she's written articles for several area newspapers about agriculture and the FFA's role in promoting the farming and ranching industries. Valerie is attending The University of Arizona. ★

Nominated by Neil Schneider

TENNESSEE

CALIFORNIA

WEST VIRGINIA



Violet Taylor

Violet Taylor, of the Campbell County FFA, apparently says what she thinks. She's won her state's prepared public speaking contest, and has ranked in the top 16 nationally. Violet has been chapter reporter, secretary, vice president and president, and is en route to earning her State FFA Degree. She's achieved Star Greenhand, Chapter Star Farmer and Chapter Star in Agribusiness honors, too. ★

Nominated by Jeanne White



Ronda Hamm

Anyone who knows agriculture knows you reap what you sow. Ronda Hamm of the Fresno-Central FFA Chapter is living proof. She's received more than \$11,000 in agricultural scholarships, and attributes her success to being active in the agriculture community and in FFA. She's been chapter treasurer, sectional secretary and president, and San Joaquin regional vice president. ★

Nominated by Cori Calvert



Carrie Ruddell

According to her friends, Carrie Ruddell—president of the Franklin FFA Chapter—is one of those people who's outgoing and fun. She balances this with a more serious side, which has helped her become an honor roll student known for her involvement in basketball, livestock judging and National Honor Society. The Franklin High School senior won her state's extemporaneous speaking contest last year. ★

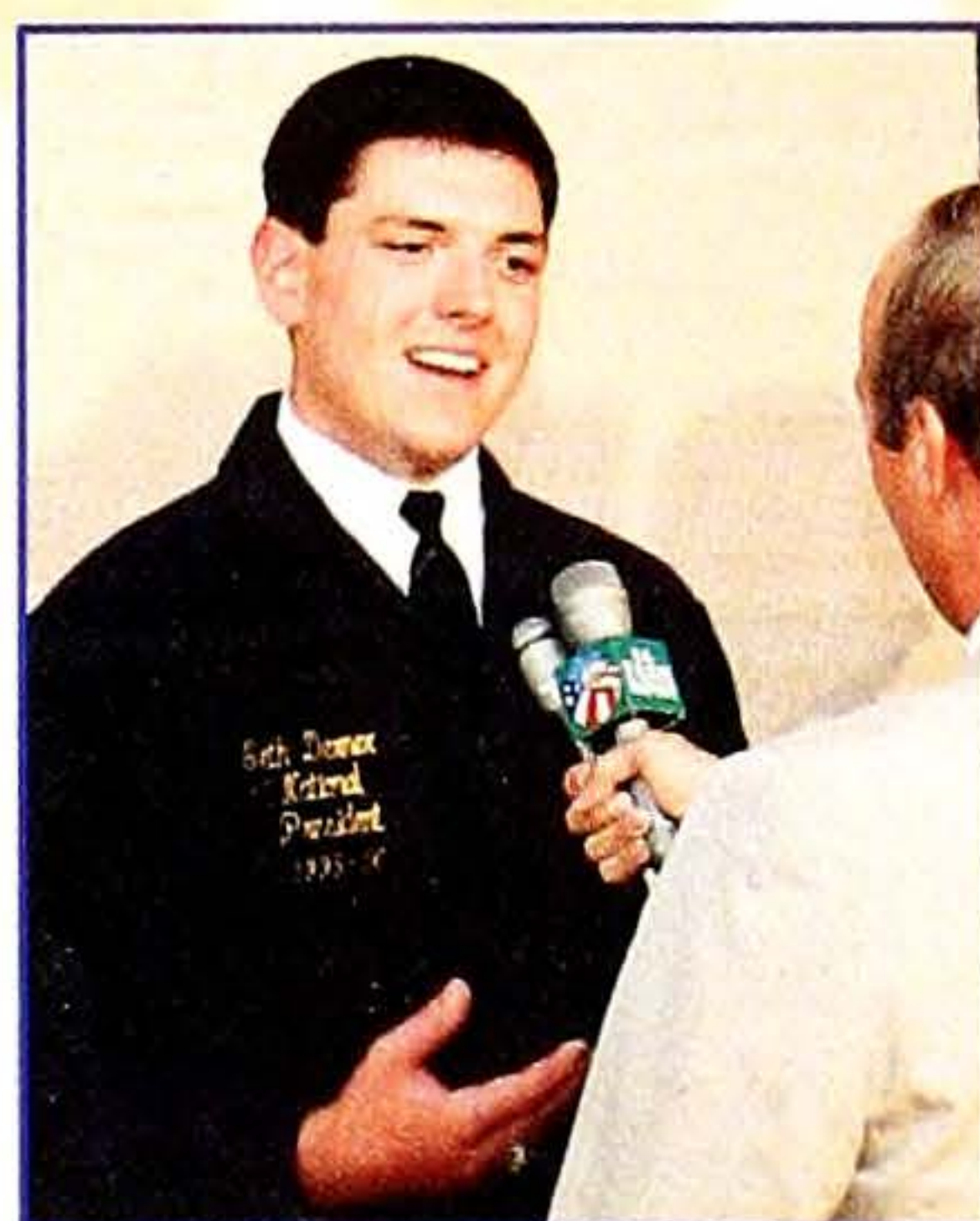
Nominated by Franklin FFA Chapter

MOVE THE FOR FUTURE



A number of Kentucky FFA members were on hand for the announcement that Louisville will host the national FFA convention beginning in 1999.

National FFA President Seth Derner fields questions from a reporter following the news conference in Indianapolis.



FFA Selects New Sites for the National FFA Convention and National FFA Center

by Erich Gaukel

In a move to enhance member services and better its position for the future, the National FFA Organization announced on September 12th that the national FFA convention will be moved from Kansas City, Missouri, to Louisville, Kentucky. The move is effective beginning with the 72nd National FFA Convention in 1999.

FFA also announced its decision to move the National FFA Center to Indianapolis, Indiana. This move involves the relocation of 85-plus employees from the National FFA Organization offices in Alexandria, Virginia, and the National FFA Foundation, Inc. in Madi-

son, Wisconsin. The FFA will also support an enhanced headquarters for FFA and agricultural education leadership in the District of Columbia.

The announcements, made in both Louisville and Indianapolis by National FFA President Seth Derner, came after extensive cross-country searches conducted by the FFA in conjunction with private relocation consulting firms.

"In our decision," said Derner, "we tried to decide what was best for the FFA members, because we believe that to do what's right for FFA members is to do what's right for our organization."

Louisville in '99

The decision to move the convention, according to Bill Stagg, team leader of the FFA Communications Resources Team, hinged on Louisville's ability to handle future growth of the event, which could attract as many as 50,000 people by the year 2000. Other cities considered finalists for the convention were Kansas City and Indianapolis.

"The FFA convention has been in Kansas City for 68 years. It has," Stagg explained, "become a tradition and like a second home to us. It's very difficult for FFA to leave the friendships and partnerships we've created there. But we're trying to plan for the future, when we'll have an increase in

Indiana FFA members and news media listen as a reporter asks a question about the announced move of the National FFA Center to Indianapolis.



attendance. This makes it crucial that we have the community, the facilities, hotel rooms, food service, and safety that will accommodate that group."

The FFA signed a seven year deal with Louisville, securing the convention site from 1999 until 2005.

The Louisville site will put nearly the entire convention under one roof. The Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center boasts a 19,800-seat arena, one million square feet of exhibit space, 35 meeting rooms, 300 acres of outdoor demonstration space, 19,000 parking spaces, a 7,000-seat arena and an amusement park.

Sufficient, affordable hotel rooms within 30 miles of the convention were another criteria. According to Stagg, it was not just a matter of finding a city with a large number of hotel rooms. "We need affordable space," said Stagg. "We need a city that can commit a set block of rooms that we can be confident will be available for our members." Hotel rooms in Louisville are projected to cost an average of \$5 less per night, which adds up to \$2.1 million in savings over seven years.

"Taking all the criteria into consideration, Louisville provided the best overall opportunities for the national FFA convention in the future," said Larry D. Case, national FFA advisor and chairman of the National FFA Board of Directors.

Working closely with the national FFA officers, the National FFA Board of Directors made the final decision to move the convention.

Joining Derner, Case and Stagg for the announcement were Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson, Ronald Scott, Louisville's convention bureau president, Crit Luallen, Secretary of the Cabinet in the Kentucky Governor's office and Billy Ray Smith, Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture.

A new era in Indianapolis

The National FFA Center is expected to be operating out of Indianapolis by January 1998. The new facility, yet to be built, also will house the National FFA Foundation, which secures financial support for many FFA programs.

As Stagg explained, the staff will consist of "people who develop the programs, contests and awards and operate our supply service. Really, they provide the essence of our program, as well as coordinate the activities of our national officers, work with state officers and leaders, produce our publications and communicate with members at a local level."

To enhance relations between the FFA and national leaders in education and agriculture, the FFA will, however, retain its national headquarters in Washington, D.C. This office will establish direction for the organization. "We believe that moving FFA business operations to Indianapolis and maintaining a headquarters in Washington, D.C., strengthens agricultural education and FFA for the future," said Case, who will head the office.

Among those on hand for the announcement were Mayor Stephen Goldsmith, DowElanco President and CEO John Hagaman and Indiana Governor Evan Bayh, who remarked, "Today is an important day because as the young people from across America who are involved in agriculture and agribusiness commit to build their future here in Indiana, they also help to build Indiana's future, with more

jobs and by preserving the heritage and values that have always made Indiana such a special place."

Indianapolis provides FFA an improved ability to attract and retain quality staff members because of the city's healthy economy, living environment and low cost of living. With FFA chapters in and around Indianapolis and affordable flights available to chapters across the country, staff will better be able to interact with members and advisors. The current National FFA Center is 50 miles from the nearest FFA chapter.

By moving, the FFA hopes to achieve substantially lower operating costs. This may result in more funding for programs impacting FFA members. The FFA hopes to achieve this, in part, with more economical use of space and resources in the new facility, which will be able to house more staff and will be equipped with improved communications technology. The current facility has been in use by the FFA since 1955.

Speaking on the move, Derner noted, "It was important to the six national FFA officers that we represent the views and interests of our members in making this decision. As we traveled to conventions and workshops during the year, we had the opportunity to talk to members and advisors across the country. The diverse opinions and concerns they expressed are important and we considered them carefully. In the end, we made the decision to move based on what we heard in the field and what we believe to be the best for the future of FFA and agricultural education." ★

The board's role in selecting the convention location is explained in Article XII, Section A of the National Constitution and Bylaws in the 1996-97 Official FFA Manual.



National FFA Advisor Larry Case looks on as Governor Evan Bayh welcomes the FFA to Indiana in his remarks during the Indianapolis news conference.

A dramatic photograph of a forest fire. The background is filled with intense orange and yellow flames consuming tall evergreen trees. In the lower center, a firefighter wearing a helmet and carrying a backpack is walking away from the viewer towards the fire. A bright, white, cone-shaped light source, possibly a spotlight or a fire hose nozzle, is visible in the lower left foreground, illuminating the ground.

blazing

**Meet FFA members who
are putting everything on
the line to protect lives,
property and forests**

by MargaretAnn Cross

ambition

When lightning strikes a forest in the heat of summer, a fire may ignite and start to spread. If that happens, there's a good chance an FFA member will be called to get out of bed or off a tractor, pull on firefighting gear, and rush to the scene to help put out the fire.

They may have to hose the fire down or dig a line around the perimeter to try to contain it, or perhaps they'll have to clear brush away from nearby houses and then stand guard while the fire chooses its path.

Later, when the flames die

down, they might mop up, or go through the burnt areas to make sure all of the smoldering embers are extinguished.

"It's hot, sweaty and gruesome work," says Travis Sweeney, a 23-year-old former FFA member, who received the American FFA Degree in 1993.

Sweeney lives in Chelan, Washington, and has served as a volunteer with Chelan County Fire District 7 since he turned 16.

"Firefighting's in your blood, and if you don't like it, you don't do it,"

says Sweeney, whose dad has been a volunteer firefighter for more than 20 years.

Student firefighters

Sweeney is one of thousands of people around the country who fights wild-land fires as part of rural fire departments and government agencies. Many of these people are high school and college students who love the outdoors, says Steve Elefant, a forest protection supervisor for the Oregon Department of Forestry.

COVER STORY

Some student firefighters work year round. For example, at Chelan High School classes are often interrupted when students are called to a fire, says FFA advisor Walt Pierson.

"When the fire alarm rings, the five or six kids in our school who are members of the fire department are out of there," he explains. "The students wear beepers. Of course, if they're flunking their class, they're not out of there. They have to be doing A or B work."

Fires out West get especially bad during summer months. It's then that some students get paying jobs battling

take classes in firefighting. Her goal is to become a fire investigator or to work within the management level of fighting forest fires, she says.

A public service career

"Firefighting is a high public service career," says FFA alumni member Kipp



forest fires full-time.

A few years ago, FFA member Lacey Myers landed a summer job as a student worker on a three-person Oregon Department of Forestry fire engine crew. A busy fire season meant she had less than 10 days off all summer. She spent most days and some nights digging line around forest fires and doing mop up.

"It's fun, and it's not as scary as I thought it would be," says Myers, a graduate of Henley High School in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Myers decided to make firefighting a career. She's now a forester trainee with the Oregon Department of Forestry and a student at Linn-Benton Community College in Albany, Oregon. She plans to transfer to Oregon State University, where she'll



Bottom: Lacey Myers, who got her start with the Oregon Department of Forestry. **Top:** Lacey and another firefighter "mop up."

Struckmeyer. "I was looking for a public service career, and then I got to thinking about the excitement, too, and that's why I chose it."

Myers and others say fighting a fire gives them a huge rush of adrenaline and a strong sense of accomplishment.

"It's high risk, and that risk provides the adrenaline that makes it exciting," says Struckmeyer, who signed up with his local volunteer fire department

Talk the talk

Firefighting has a language all its own. Here's a list of some terms you'll need to know if you're interested in becoming a firefighter, as defined by sources including the Keep Oregon Green Association.

Airdrop: The dropping of water or chemicals on fires from aircraft.

Back in the black: A burnt area that the fire already has been through. Sometimes referred to as a safety zone.

Bird-dog: The aircraft carrying the person coordinating the airdrops on a fire.

Blowup: A sudden increase in fire intensity or a sudden increase in the rate of fire spreading. Can be strong enough to stop direct control of fire or upset existing control plans.

Broadcast burning: Intentionally burning a specific area.

Cat line: A line around a fire dug by a bulldozer.

Digging line: A means of stopping or controlling the path of a fire. Firefighters will clear a path, down to the mineral soil level, removing anything that can help spread the fire.

Mop up: Using water or a shovel to put out smoldering or smoking debris after a fire has died down.

Overhead: The management in charge of a fighting a fire, organized by a specific chain of command.

while a student at Holyoke High School in Holyoke, Colorado. Today, 19-year-old Struckmeyer—who spent last year as an FFA state executive committee member—is just starting work toward an associate of applied science degree in firefighting at Aims Community College in Greeley, Colorado. He hopes to become a full-time firefighter in a metropolitan area.

Sweeney, who hopes to win a full-time job with his department when an opening comes up, also enjoys firefighting because he's giving back to his community, he says. He once fought

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flames away from a small building during a forest fire. "I was able to put out what I thought was a shack, but it was actually somebody's house. Somebody lived there. I'll never forget that. It gives you a real feeling of pride."

Learning what it takes

Myers always knew she wanted to go into some sort of forestry as a career, she says, but her trek toward firefighting didn't begin until she enrolled in a fire school sponsored by the Keep Oregon Green Association and the Association of Oregon Forestry Clubs.

The three-day fire school builds on what forestry students are taught in high school by offering 38 hours of intensive, hands-on experience with firefighting tools and more instruction, says John Mingus, president and chief executive officer of Keep Oregon Green.

Students take classes in radio communication, fire weather and more as well as learn how to operate firefighting tools. "Then they get a certificate and a list of things they've accomplished," Mingus says. "It gives them a leg up when they go out to get a firefighting job."

Myers turned the experience into her first firefighting job as a student worker. The next year, she returned to a crew as a firefighter. She was in charge of the fire engine two days a week. "I had to make sure the engine was fueled up, and I was in charge of the student worker," she says. On

Jake Krogen, a firefighter with the Chelan County Fire District, takes a moment to relax at the station.

small fires, she often had to make such decisions as where to begin digging a line around the fire.

"You have to be able to think quickly on your feet at all times," Myers says. "You learn a lot about leadership as well as team work and how to take orders. Crew members rely on each other. Your life depends on them, and their lives depend on you when you're out on a fire."

A key factor is to always be think-

So, you want to be a firefighter?

Firefighting makes a great summer job for college students and others who enjoy hiking and camping and don't mind hot weather or getting dirty, says Steve Elefant, a forest protection supervisor for the Oregon Department of Forestry.

State and federal agencies in the Western United States enlist the help thousands of seasonal workers every year to battle fires. Oregon, for example, hires about 2,000 people each summer, Elefant says.

The pay ranges from about \$6.50 to \$10 an hour and varies according to the position and level of seniority (many people come back to the seasonal jobs every year for several years).

"You'll get a much better salary out of that than working at McDonald's," says John Mingus, president and chief executive officer of the Keep Oregon Green Association in Salem, Oregon. And that can help pay for college, he says.

Keep Oregon Green co-sponsors two annual fire schools for high school students interested in firefighting. Participating gets an application noticed

when it passes over the desk of someone who's hiring seasonal staff, Elefant and Mingus say.

But knowledge of the field isn't required to be hired because training is provided, Elefant says. "I'm really looking for someone who's self-motivated and can show that they get tasks completed."

If you're interested in fighting fires, Elefant recommends researching what area of the country you would like work in. Then, find out what fire control programs operate in that general destination and submit applications to them. A place to start would be the state's Department of Forestry.

Seasonal firefighting positions

include a variety of duties. When not battling flames, firefighters hike through the woods on patrol and talk to people about fire safety. The job may include maintenance projects such as clearing roads and painting buildings.

Sometimes firefighters are sent to other areas if fires are particularly bad in one part of the state, Elefant says. "It can be a great way to see a lot of the country." ★



ing about safety, she says. "You have to note in your mind where your safety zones and your escape routes are," she says.

Communication is another key factor in staying safe, she learned. During one forest fire, while she was a student worker, members of her crew lost track

of one another. Flames then engulfed their truck. Myers made it out safely, but another crew member spent several days in intensive care after he drove the partially melted truck out of the flames, Myers says.

"That has been the only instance, because we all caught on really quickly after that," Myers says.

"What they're learning are responsibility and accountability," says advisor Pierson. "When you are a firefighter, you have a certain area of expertise to take care of, and if you do not do that, then you're letting the rest of the crew down." ★

what's **HOT** what's **NOT**

In The South

This issue, we pay a visit to FFA members throughout the southern United States to find out what they think is HOT...and what they say is definitely NOT!

Next issue:

**What's Hot/What's Not...
In The Midwest**

Movie
Pure Country

Actor
Brad Pitt

Actress
Michelle Pfeiffer

Musician
George Strait

Sport
Football

Clothes
Wranglers

TV Show
Home Improvement

FFA Fund Raiser
Fruit Sales

Career Choice
Ag Mechanics

Movie
Natural Born Killers

Actor
Tom Cruise

Actress
Roseanne

Musician
Billy Ray Cyrus

Sport
Baseball

Clothes
Baggy Clothes

TV Show
Roseanne

FFA Fund Raiser
Raffles

Career Choice
Hairdresser/Barber



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climbing to the top

Forest Management Proficiency Finalists Branching Out

The recent forest fires that have caused damage in such states as California, New Mexico and Oregon only underscore the importance of education in forest management. FFA members nationwide are learning skills in such areas as fire control, conservation and logging. The four finalists in the forest management proficiency award represent the future of this important field. The award is sponsored by the Chrysler Corporation Fund—Dodge Trucks, Homelite and Stone Container Corporation as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

same goals he had.” For Jason, the hard work paid off, and by his junior year, he was working for Chehalis Valley Reforestation and Top Line Cedar. Living in northwest Washington, Jason is in the thick of the logging industry. So, it’s no surprise that he’s done it all: planting, trapping, creek clearing, brush burning, millwork and road clearing. He’s planning on enrolling in the forestry program at Green River Community College in Auburn, Washington. After that, he’d like to put his skills to work for a timber company.

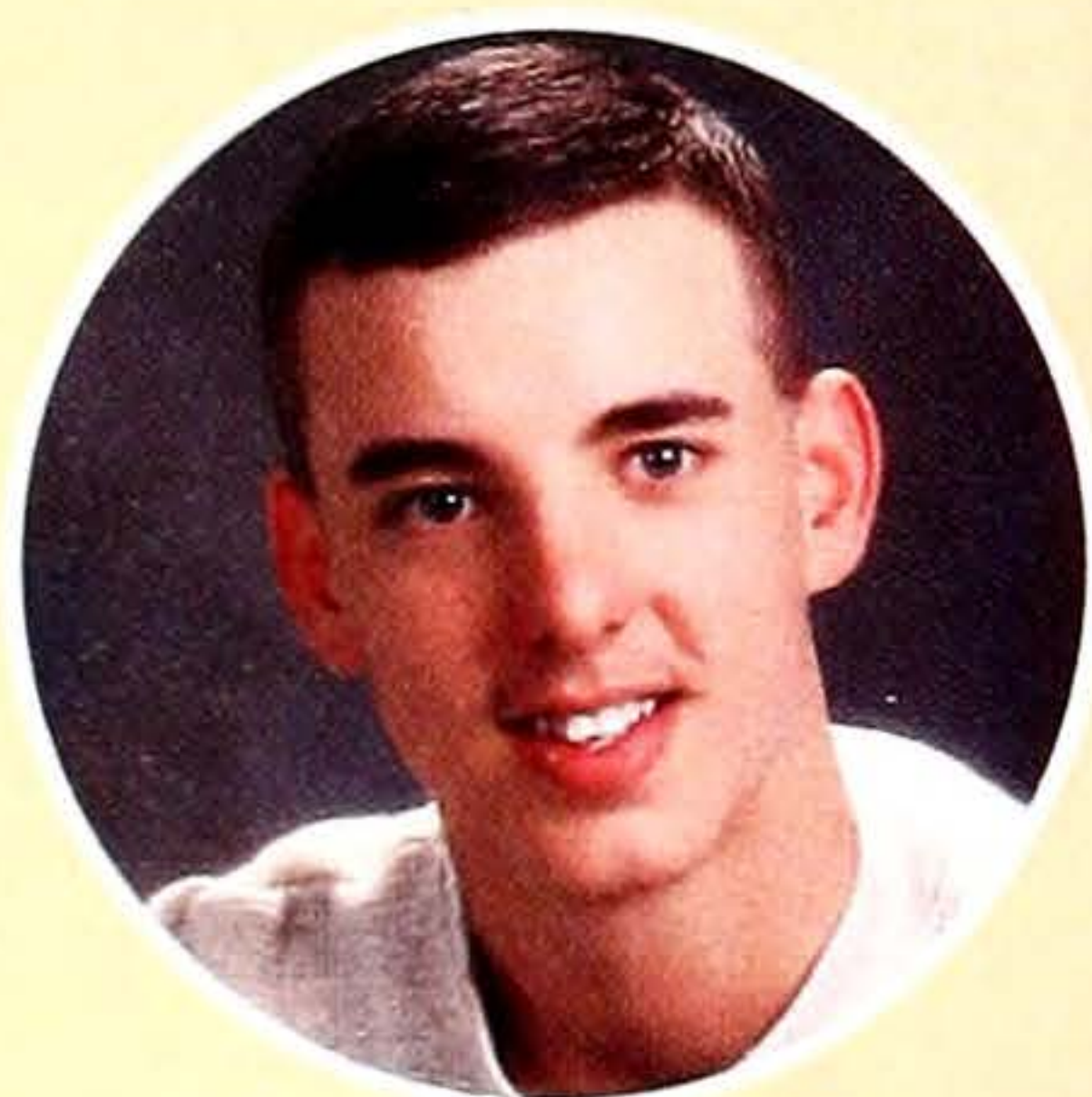
Clayton Finley, of

gaining responsibility for another 20 acres. Clayton explains, “I was always amazed at how fast these trees grew. We averaged about ten feet of growth on these trees per year.” He adds, “It’s also amazing to me when you can go out in the trees and distinguish the different types of clones that they have within these trees. Clayton plans to attend Eastern Oregon State College, where he will study agribusiness management.

Josh Henslee, of Camptonville, California, has been spending time in the forest since he was 11 years old. So, it’s no sur-

attended the Sierra Cascade Logging Conference. As a student at Butte Community College, Jason is studying welding. He plans to eventually become an agriculture teacher.

Tim Mikonowicz, of Reedsburg, Wisconsin, can’t wait for Christmas to come. He and his family started a Christmas tree farm six years ago as a side cash crop to pay for college. The trees—white pines, frazier firs and spruce—are finally mature and are now ready to be cut and sold. The timing couldn’t be better for the Reedsburg FFA Chapter member, who is a freshman



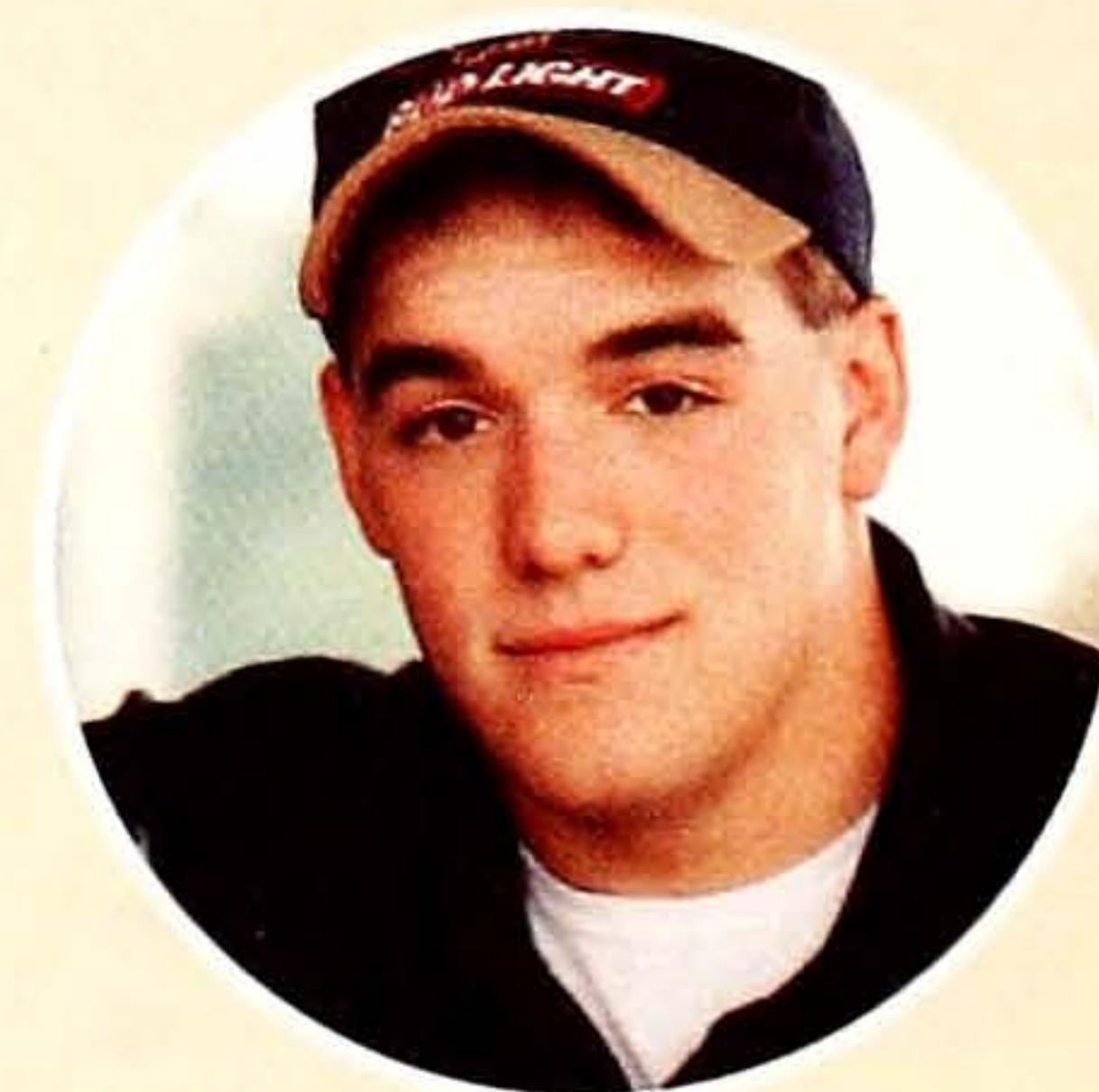
Jason Bodine, of McCleary, Washington, states with confidence that he will be a forester someday. It all started sophomore year for the Elma FFA Chapter member when an older student in his forestry class was named a national proficiency award finalist. “He was telling me how he did it and he showed me all the things he won and all the things he got to see and go to. I said to myself, ‘Man, I want to do that.’ So, near the end of my sophomore year I started working real hard toward some of the



Boardman, Oregon, has spent much of the last two years as a field worker at the Potlatch Corporation, an Idaho-based producer of wood pulp. Clayton started out as a temporary summer worker, where he maintained a 40-acre plot of trees. This work entailed fertilizer and watering tests, weed control and monitoring of the trees’ general health. Clayton’s good work caught the attention of the management, and he was later offered him a full-time summer job. Clayton worked there two summers and on weekends during the school year, eventually



prise the Nevada Union FFA member has been very active in the area’s logging industry. He’s performed work in such areas as falling, equipment repair, terracing, and even fire-fighting, operating a bulldozer during a 175,000-acre cottonwood fire in 1995. He’s put his welding skills to use in the construction of a logging truck bridge, and, at his high school’s “Farm Day,” Jason, decked out in his gear, brought out his tools and spoke about logging to around 1500 students in two-day period. He’s a member of the California Associated Loggers and has



at the University of Wisconsin at Platteville. Tim estimates that he and his family have planted eight to ten thousand trees on their 120 acres. Since they will sell only part of the crop each year, there will be plenty of trees to harvest each Christmas, providing a steady source of income for college. Tim attributes his interest in growing trees to his love of the outdoors and instruction he received in agriculture classes. He’s planning to become a civil engineer after college, and he hopes to stay involved in the Christmas tree business as a hobby. ★

Idea

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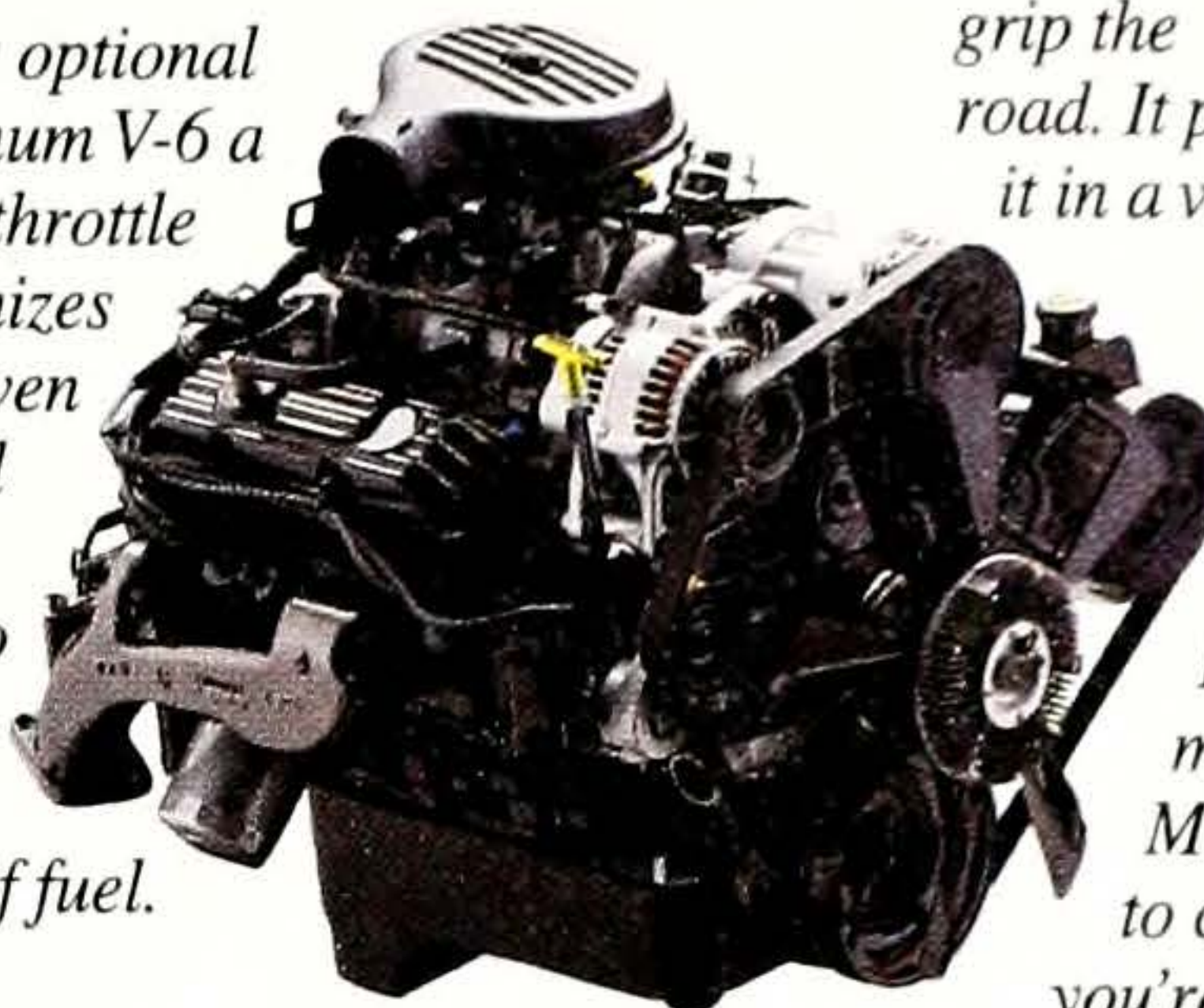
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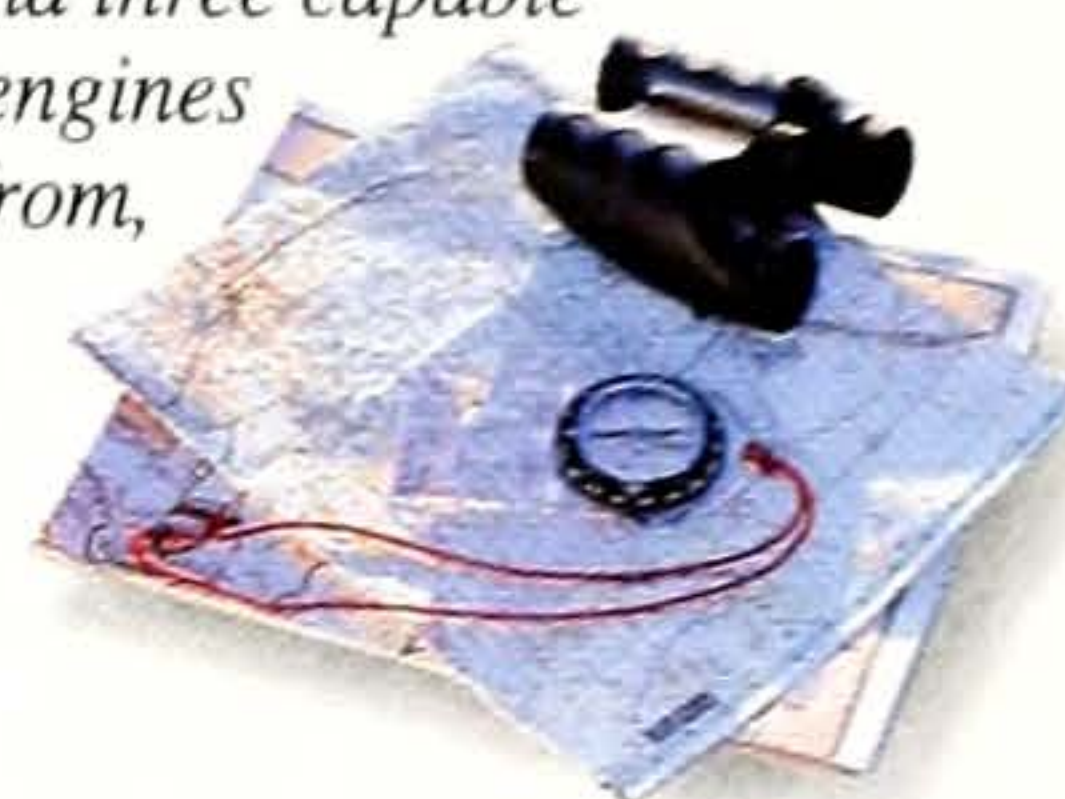


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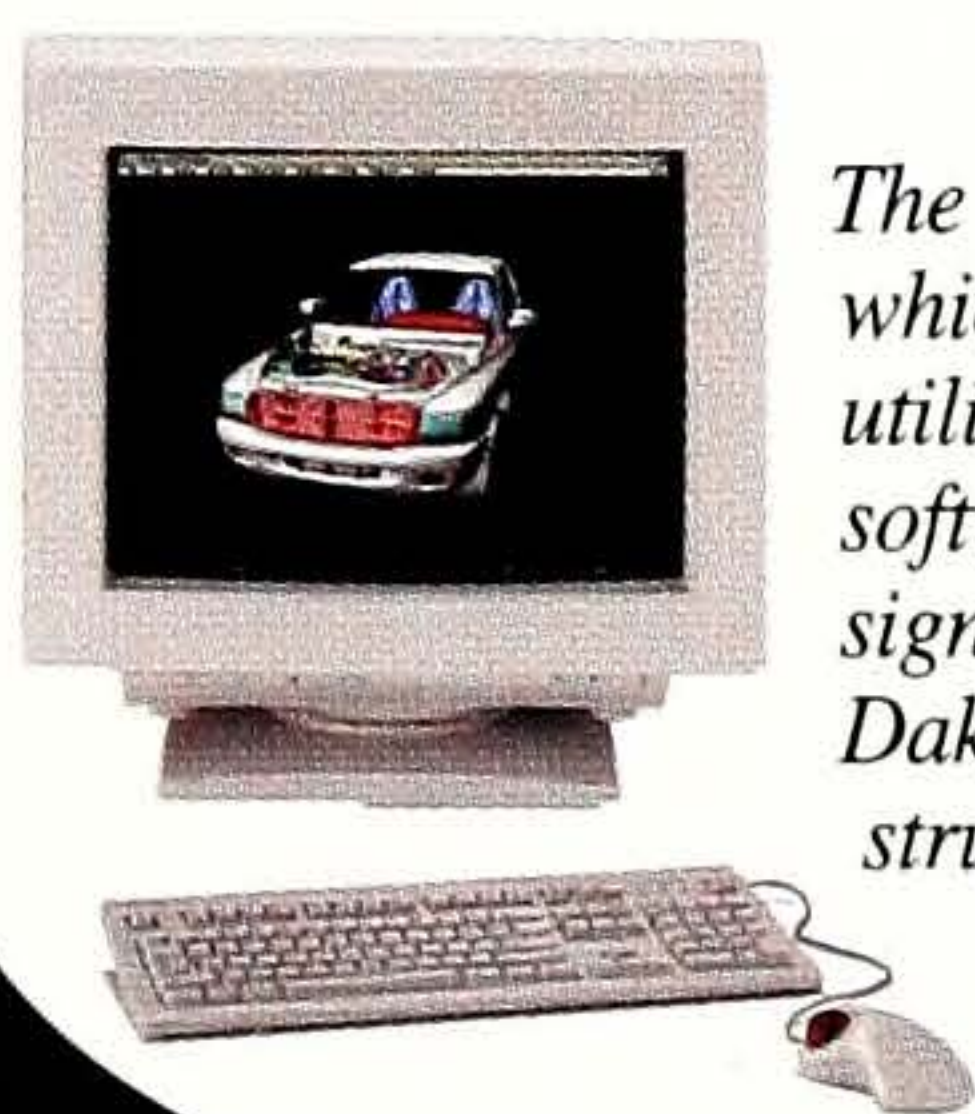
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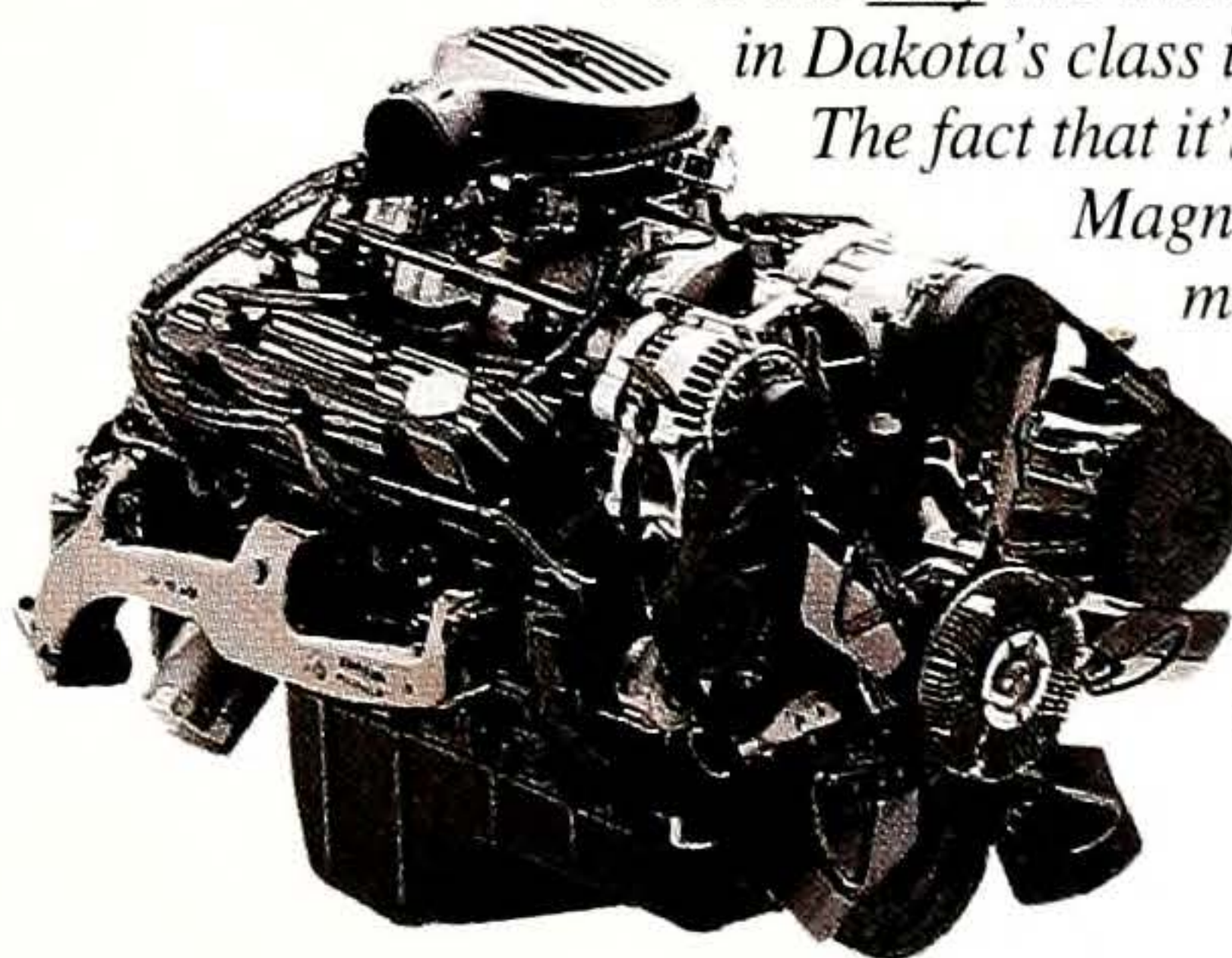
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Waupaca FFA member Jason Warzinik, 18, knows more about wood turtles than most. He's spent the last four years getting to know them along the Waupaca river in central Wisconsin. Jason's strong desire to help the environment around him and to prevent future damage to several types of species, drives him to dedicate long hours of his time to the turtles. He is one of many FFA members across the country lifting a hand to help wildlife flourish in spite of damaging human forces.

Inhabiting only Midwestern states, the wood turtles are threatened in Wisconsin and are considered endangered in some surrounding states. Among the factors hindering the survival of the turtle are development of river front property, over-collection by people who want to sell them for pets and, believe it or not, the use of them in turtle soup.

Turtles need two different ecosystems to live in—aquatic and terrestrial. "In the winter, they need a clean, fast flowing river because they hibernate totally underwater," Jason says. "They don't take oxygen in with their lungs. Instead, they take in water and then run that water through special muscles, out of which they get their oxygen."

A couple years later, with the help of that same science teacher, Jason and his classmates wrote a grant and received funding for an environmental impact study on the wood turtles.

"We were developing an environmental education trail along the river and wanted to make sure that the trail wouldn't put the turtles in more jeopardy of being eliminated from the Waupaca River," Jason says.

The funding enabled the group to purchase radiotelemetry equipment, allowing them to place radios on the turtles' backs. High frequency beeping of the radios led the students to the turtles. "My longest turtle had one on for a year and a half. Each day I would go out before or after school and find each turtle. I would record data about its surrounding microclimate," adds Jason.

Data gathered in this way include the percent of sun on the turtle and soil, water and air temperatures. This information helped the group find out if the turtles had a

BITTING BACK

**FFA members make
a splash trying to
keep aquatic
wildlife flourishing**

Jason began his work to help save the wood turtles in 1992 with the help of his science teacher, who is also staff biologist at the Waupaca Field Station. On warm days, they would search for the turtles along brush piles or under downed objects. Once found, Jason and his teacher would weigh the turtles and measure their shell lengths. "Each turtle has a unique number that we filed into the part of their shell that curves up at the end," Jason says. "When a turtle was released, we developed a tracking system that allowed us to slowly build a history on that turtle over the years."

BY
NANEY PETRO

preference for their environment.

"What I found is that if the trail is used minimally during early Spring, when the turtles will most likely be on the trail sunning themselves to stay warm, then the trail shouldn't have very much impact." Jason also says that signs can be put up warning people to step over the "brownish little rocks" that could be confused for the

wood turtles. And, with the Endangered Species Act, Jason hopes that more penalties will be given to those illegally harvesting the wood turtles.

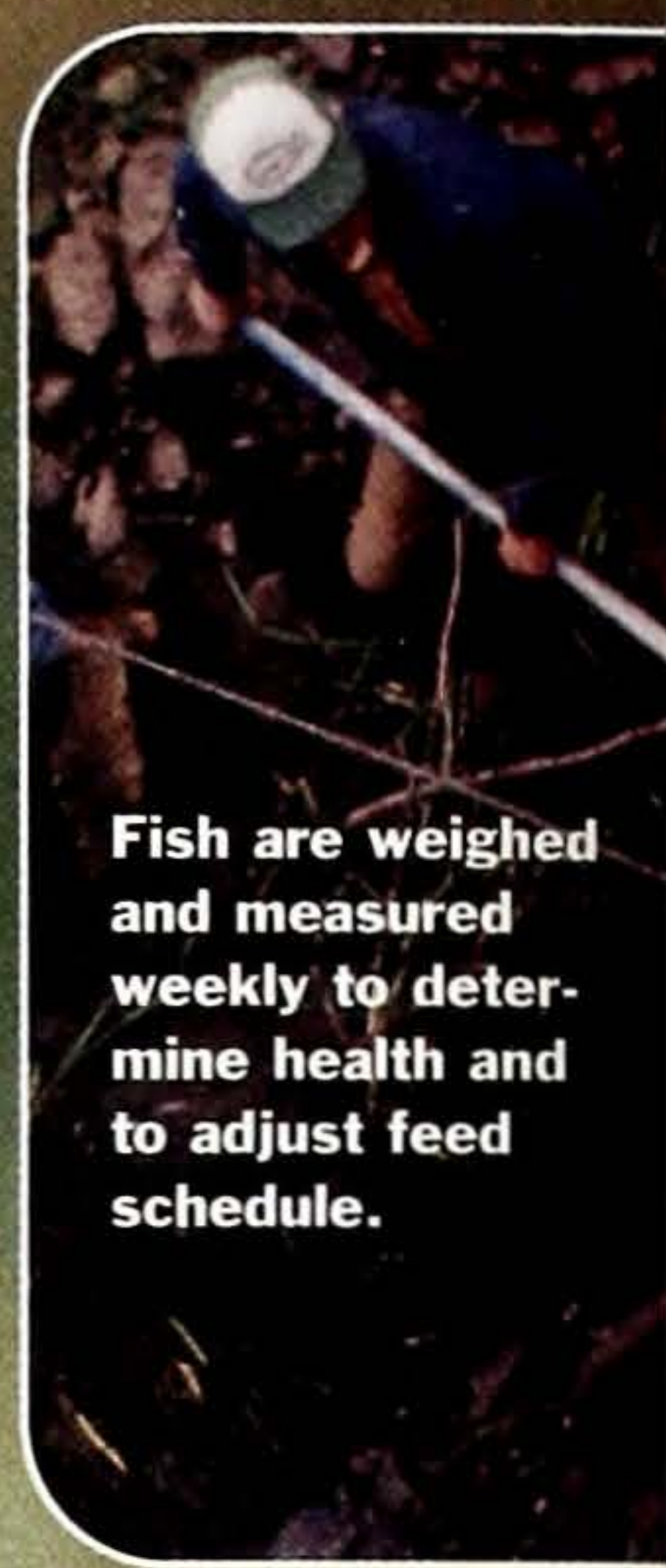
Interestingly enough, Jason has gone to school at the University of Wisconsin at Steven's Point, where he is majoring in Water Resources. "Water Resources encompasses a lot, including reptiles, amphibians in waterways, mussels, aquatic insects, and mostly anything having to do with

water." During this past summer, he worked at the Waupaca Field Station doing environmental research. After graduation, he hopes to get a job at a consulting firm where he can continue to do research and write environmental impact statements.

"One thing we try to follow at the Waupaca Field station is to think globally but act locally. There are so many big environmental groups pushing to save the rain forest . . . which all seems very far away. While it's important to

try to do something globally, we try and act locally so we really make a difference in our neighborhood," Jason says. "Find stuff that is happening locally and try to stop it. Or study it and see what the effects are. We're here now and we want to do something good around us."

"If students find something they like, and even though their friends make fun of it, just stick



Fish are weighed and measured weekly to determine health and to adjust feed schedule.

'ONE THING WE TRY

with it. If it's important to you, you're the one who will benefit in the long run."

Putting salmon back in the water

When Quin Bassi first walked down to the 194-foot salmon rearing pond as a freshman, he knew right then he'd be going there every day. Four years later, as a senior, he is instrumental in keeping the FFA class project alive and running. Quin and his classmates work with the local salmon hatcheries to increase the salmon numbers in the Columbia River. As it stands now, the river is closed for fishing most of the time because of the depleting salmon runs.

"One of the main problems I see are hydroelectric dams. The fish can't make it through the dams without getting chopped up. Other problems are from the North Pacific drift fleets, which lay out miles of net and catch everything in site. We're looking to enhance the salmon numbers on a scale that's going to help," Quin says.

The Cathlamet FFA members start off working with the local salmon hatcheries to help spawn the salmon and incubate the eggs. In February, the hatched salmon are then brought down to the rearing pond, where they are raised until large enough for release near the end of June.

The rearing pond receives the salmon from the hatcheries when

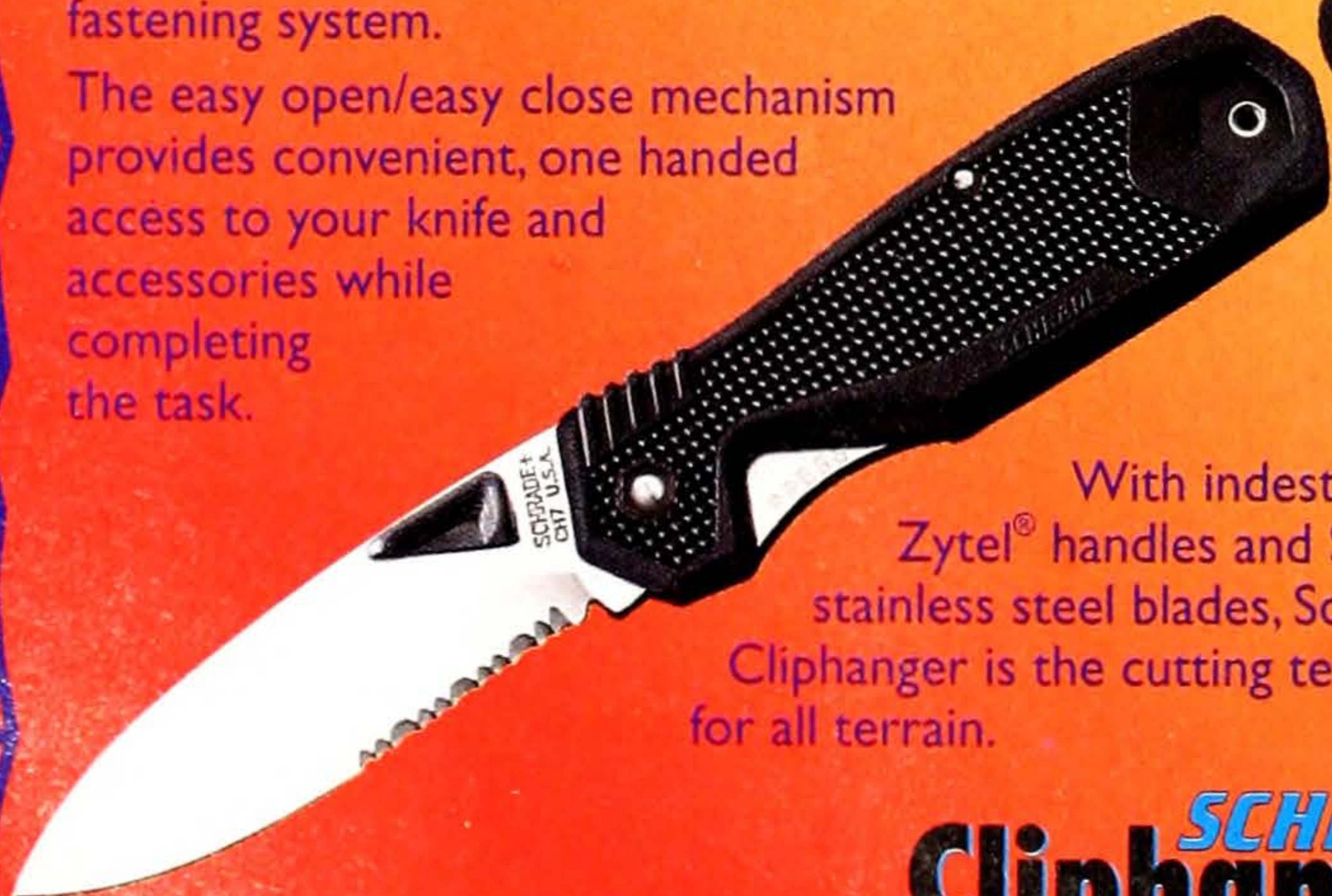
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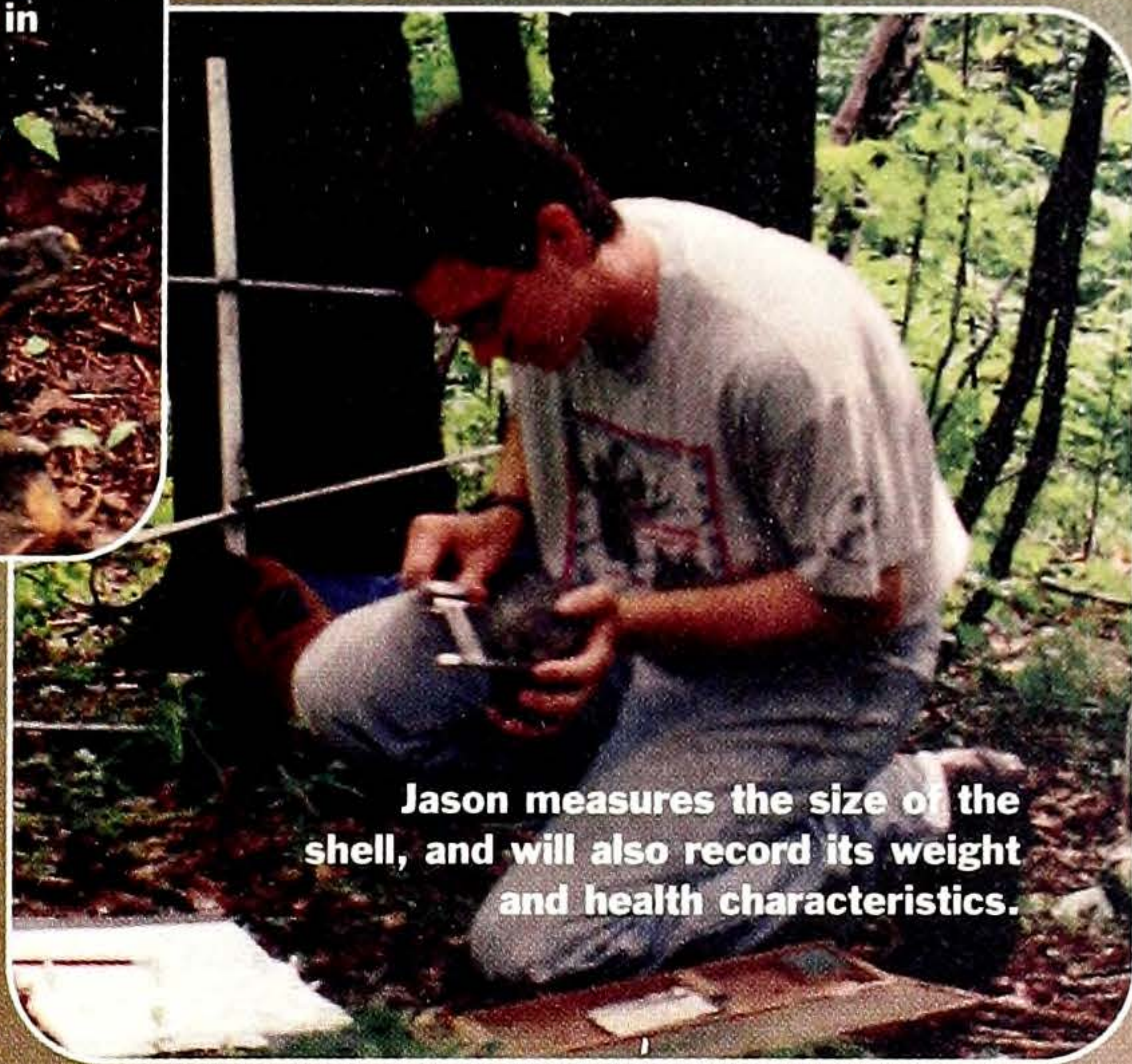


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Because the turtle is cold blooded, it can be found warming itself in the sun on cold days.



Jason measures the size of the shell, and will also record its weight and health characteristics.

They take off and feed around the area of the creek for a while, and eventually they make their way out into the Pacific Ocean. They go out to sea for three, four or five years and then they come back." The students are averaging more than 300,000 released salmon a year.

Since the pond is only about a mile from the school, it's easy access for all FFA members wanting to play a part in the process. "Almost the whole school is involved since everyone is in the FFA class. Maybe the first period will do it one day, and then second period will do it the next. We switch back and forth so everybody gets a chance to be involved," Quin says.

"I love the outdoors, it's my life.

TO FOLLOW IS TO THINK GLOBALLY BUT ACT LOCALLY"

they're only a couple months old and 1.5 inches long. "We feed them and make sure no diseases get in the pond. We have screens on the upper and lower ends of the pond, which we keep clean so we can get a good flow of water and natural food to go through

the pond," Quin says. "We also have nets over the top of the pond so the birds can't get in.

"When we turn them loose they're a pretty good size, about two or three inches long. We turn them loose out into the Columbia River.

Whenever I get a chance, I'm always going down there," adds Quin, who is planning on a career in the logging industry, where he spent this past summer. ★

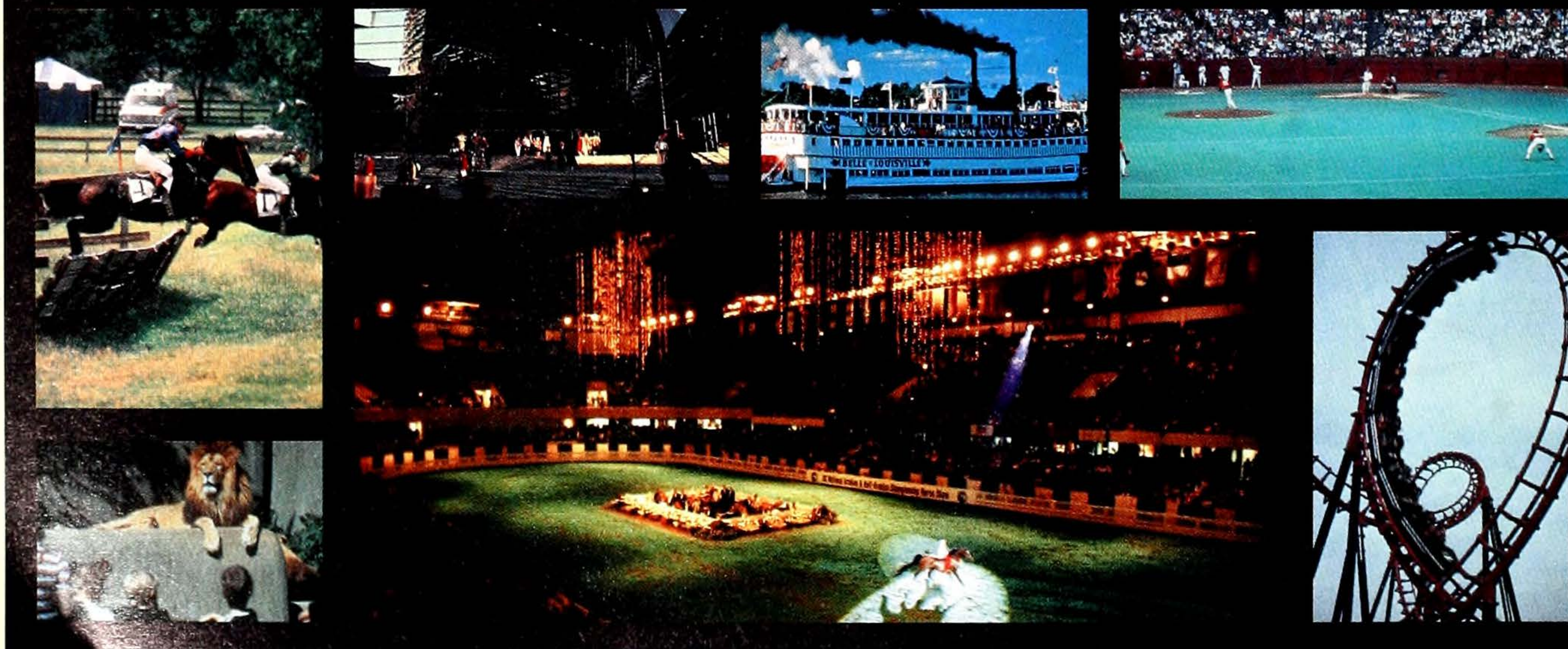


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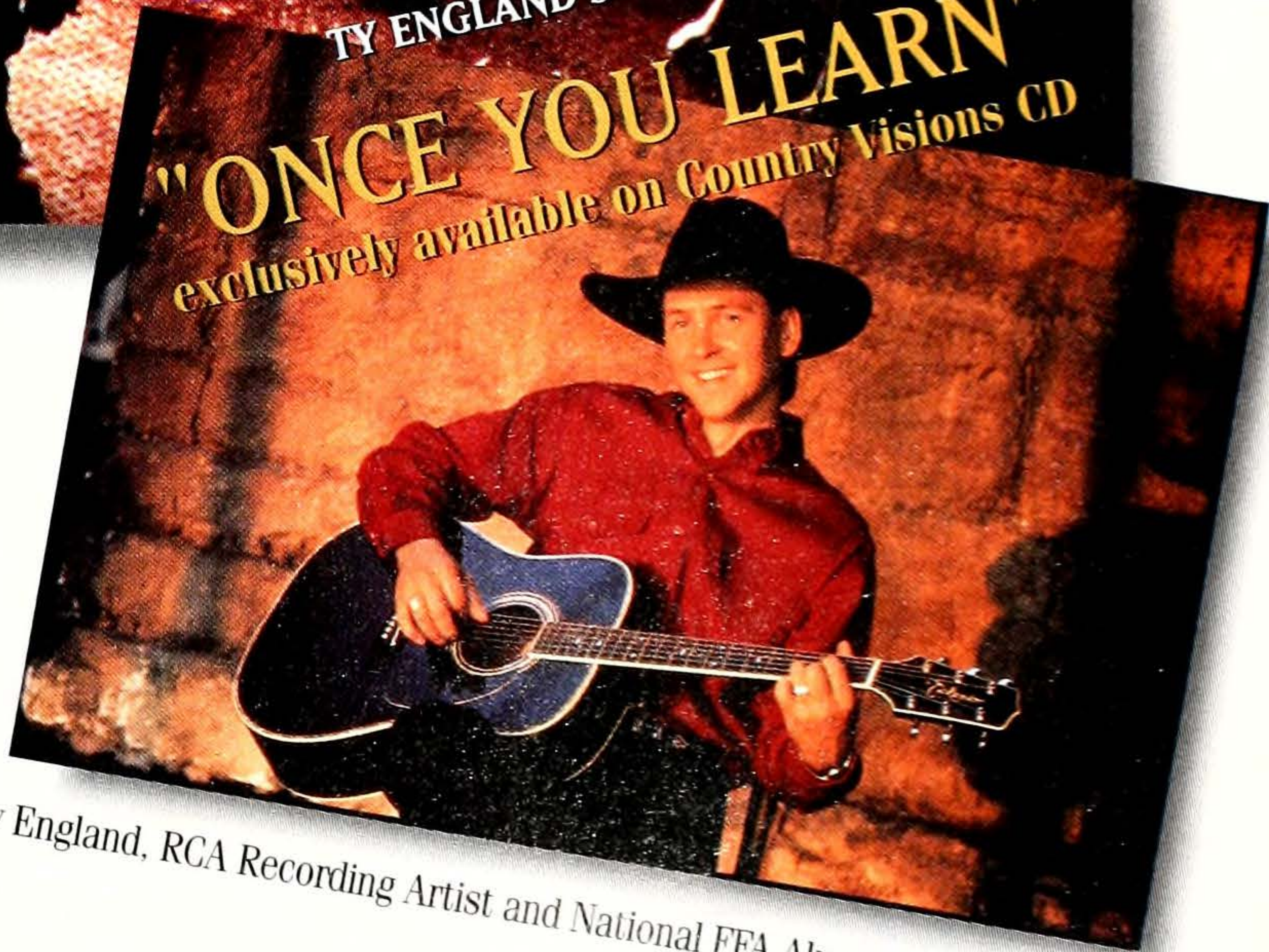
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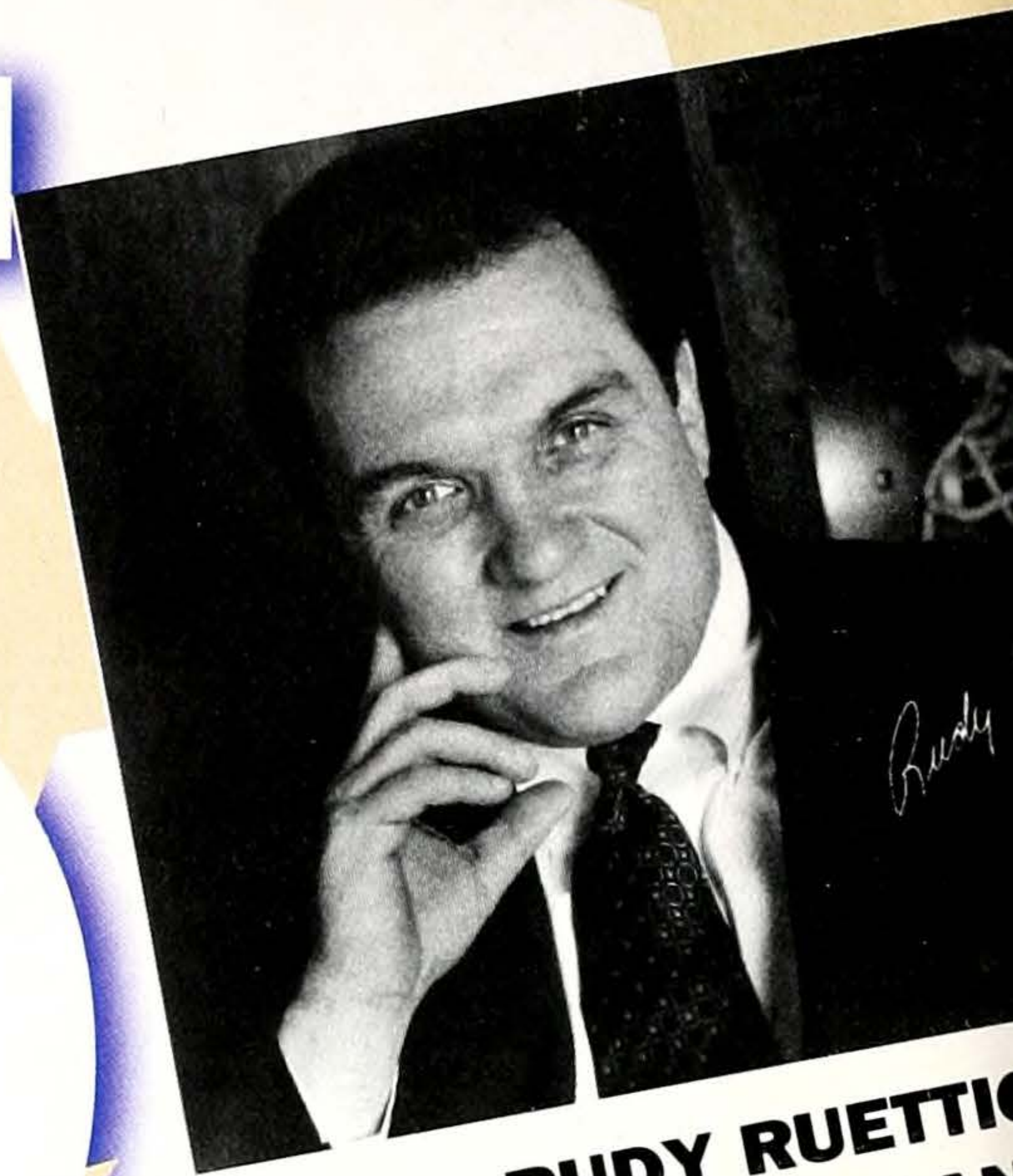
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the Country"
at Opryland, USA.**



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Sheila Kagalis at (703) 360-3600, ext. 355
e-mail: sheila_kagalis@ffa.org
or visit the FFA /Alumni Homepage: www.ffa.org (click on FFA Alumni)



Look for exciting details on THE event of 1997—A Weekend in the Country at Opryland, USA" brought to you by FFA Alumni at our Career Show Booth in Kansas City and in future editions of New Horizons

Terry Bradshaw

Steelin' a few moments with a Four-time Super Bowl champ and upcoming 69th National FFA Convention speaker

Terry Bradshaw is an American football icon with a legendary leadership record. The first player chosen in the 1970 draft, Bradshaw led the Pittsburgh Steelers to eight straight playoff appearances, six AFC championship games and four Super Bowl wins. He was also chosen as Super Bowl MVP two years in a row and was a four-time All-Pro during his astonishing sports career.

FFA *New Horizons* recently spent a few minutes with this football hero to discuss his views on leadership and teamwork. Whether you're into football or not, Bradshaw's words shed some interesting light on what it's like to be a leader and a teammate—all at the same time. If you're going to National Convention in Kansas City this year, be sure to stop by and hear what Bradshaw has to say in person!

As quarterback of the Pittsburgh Steelers, you had to develop strong leadership skills. In your opinion, what are the characteristics of a good leader?

I've often found that people who are confident, and self assured of their talents and themselves, and who have chosen a path in life are the people whom others just naturally follow. A leader is someone who can show direction and show it with a soft hand. In other words, a hand that says, "I'm not necessarily right. And I will certainly listen." This is a hand of encouragement. A hand of assistance.

A leader is someone that others can trust. Because if you can't trust someone, you certainly are never going to follow them. You're never going to listen to them.

How does this apply to the job of a quarterback?

As a quarterback, I'm the guy who talks in the huddle. I'm the guy who says, "Here's the play. Now I'm going to tell every one of you where to go. And trust me. If you follow through and execute the play, we will be successful."

I am the one they look to to give them direction. To give them the inertia. To get them in gear. I'm the leader. I'm the captain. I'm the quarterback, and I

call this play. And then, I trust each and every one of them to believe that they have the talent to execute and use their abilities to make the play happen.

It takes a very special

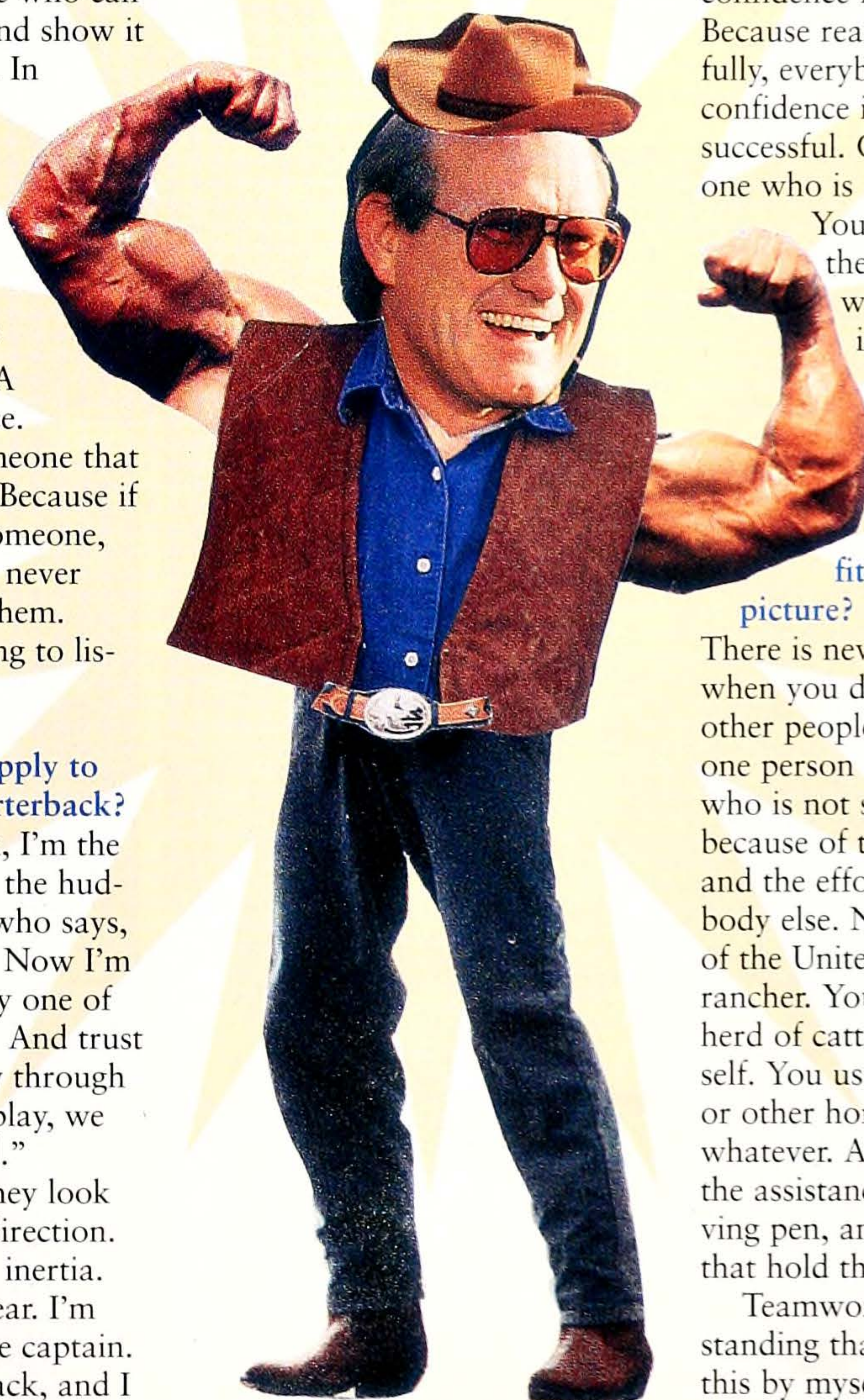
person to be able to identify the personalities of the people who are working for him and to know how to deal with each and every person. Especially in a situation where they lack confidence in themselves. Because really and truthfully, everybody who has confidence in themselves is successful. Go talk to anyone who is not successful.

You won't talk to them 30 seconds without realizing that they absolutely lack confidence.

Where does teamwork fit into this picture?

There is never a time in life when you don't depend on other people. There's not one person in this world who is not successful because of the hard work and the efforts of somebody else. Not a president of the United States, not a rancher. You can't pin a herd of cattle up by yourself. You usually use dogs or other horses. Trucks or whatever. And you have the assistance of the driving pen, and the gates that hold them in there.

Teamwork is the understanding that I can't do this by myself. Also team-



Convention speakers

Terry Bradshaw will address each of the two ticketed sessions of the convention's Reflections program, held at 4 and 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 13.

Be sure to drop by and listen to some of the convention's other speakers as well. Here's a quick look at who they are and when you can hear them.

Dr. Debbye Turner, a veterinarian and former Miss America who hosts two television shows in St. Louis, will speak at the two opening sessions on Thursday, which begin at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Guy Rice Doud, 1986 Teacher of the Year and language arts teacher in Minnesota will speak during the Saturday morning session, which begins at 8:30.

Dr. Rick Rigsby, who conducts communications workshops for state and national officers and who is a professor at Texas A&M, will speak during the Friday morning session, which begins at 8:30.

Gordon MacKenzie, former creative director for Hallmark Cards, will speak during the afternoon session on Friday, beginning at 1:00.

work is very unselfish. The Pittsburgh Steelers were a championship football team for the most part because we had more people caring about the team than caring about themselves. We were able to hold together this team and this concept that if we all work for the common good and have the same goals—all of us together, collectively as one—then we will be a championship team.

This is all based on the understanding that I can't throw a football if they can't catch it. They can't catch it if I can't throw it because someone's not blocking. Without a coach to teach us how to do it and to help us understand why we can do it, we can't accomplish any of these goals.

What career would you have wanted to pursue if you couldn't have become a professional football player?

I would have wanted to be a farmer. Absolutely. People may not know this, but I own 11 John Deere tractors. I was on a tractor all day yesterday spraying fields. People are shocked

when they see me doing that kind of work.

What is it about farming that makes you yearn to work the land?

I love dirt. I love smellin' it. I love everything about it. I love walking on it. I love looking at it. I love touching it. I love seeing the breeze blow the grass and make it bend and make it look like a wave. I love seeing animals on the land. There's nothing about farming that I don't love.

The other thing about farming or ranching that I love is that it doesn't get you into trouble. You're out there and you have yourself, your conscience, your mind and you sit out there on that tractor and turn the soil or cut or clip or bail. Then you come in in the evening and you spend it with your family. You have your dinner and your quiet time and you go to bed. And you have a clean mind. It's the most invigorating—you could almost say intoxicating—experience. For me it is. I just absolutely love being outdoors and working land. ★

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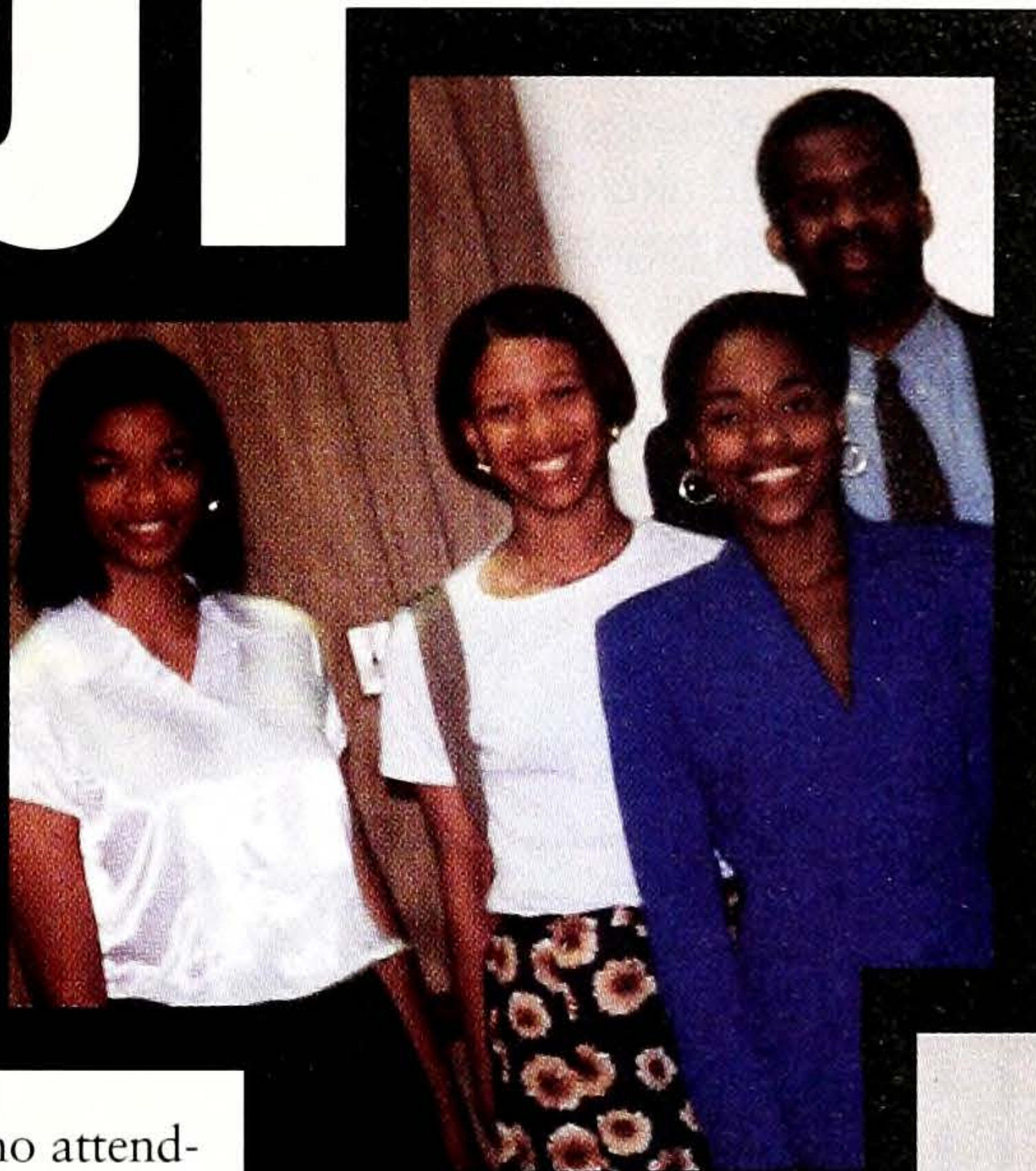
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ONE Step

A group of students
experiences firsthand the many
opportunities available in agriculture
during a summer research program at
Iowa State University
by Carlotta Mast



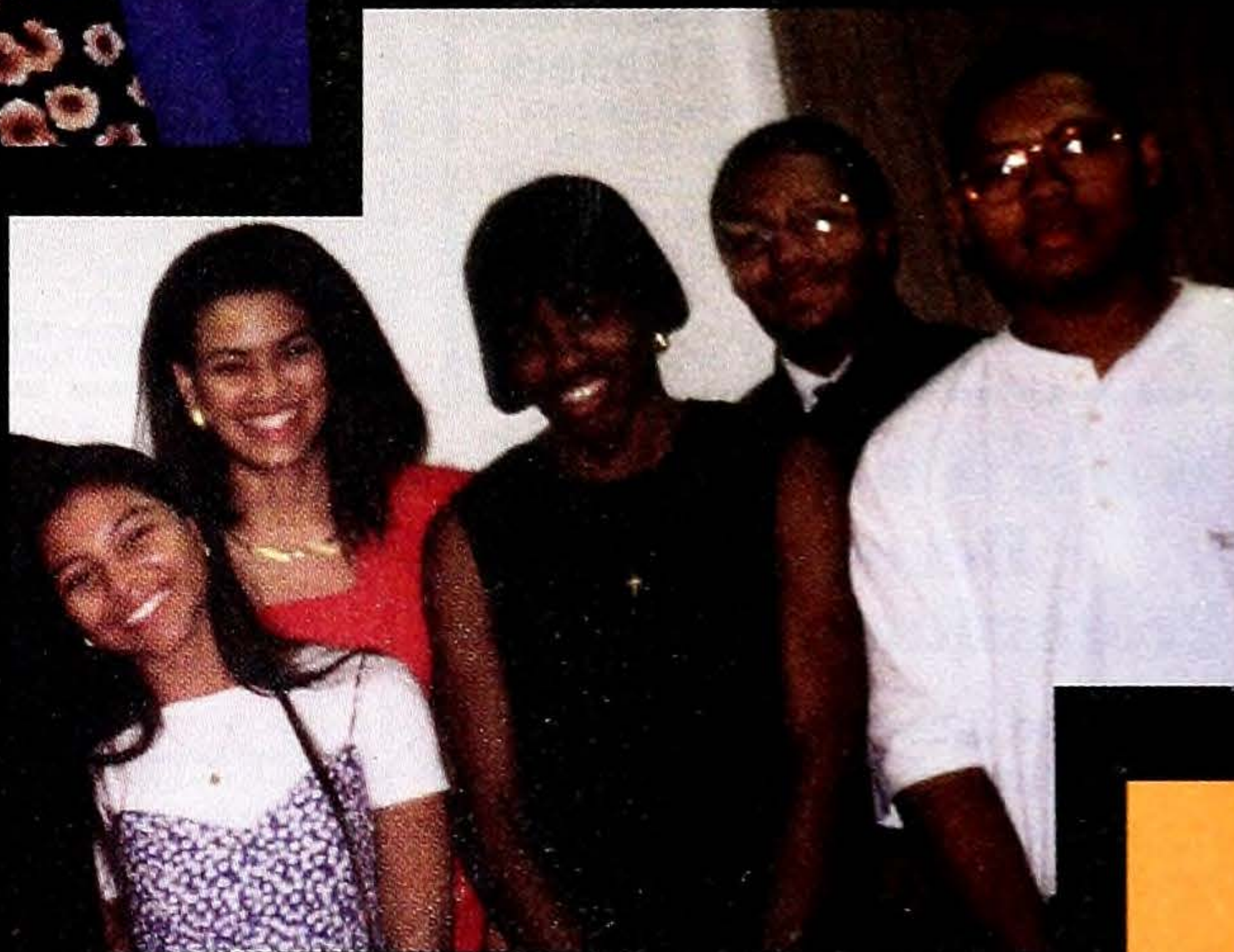
Participants take time off to shop at the Mall of America in Minnesota. The program is designed to get students excited about agriculture's many possibilities.

For the nine students who attended this year's minority agri-science research program at Iowa State University, the world of agriculture offers newfound educational and career possibilities that extend far beyond the American farm.

"There are so many opportunities in agriculture," says Divinity O'Connor-Delos Rios, who participated in this summer's program in Ames, Iowa. "Agriculture encompasses everything. I don't see how anyone could not want to work in agriculture!"

The program is designed to get minority high school and college undergraduate students excited about agriculture's possibilities through hands-on research work. It has done just that for Divinity, an FFA member and senior from the Chicago High School for the Agricultural Sciences.

"We started the program to give minority students a glimpse into the many opportunities in agriculture," says Charanne Parks, director of the program. "We want to



Ahead

teach them that agriculture is more than just farming and that there are many, many more things that they can do with an agricultural background."

Each student chosen for this highly competitive annual summer program is paired up with an Iowa State professor to perform six to eight weeks of research work. The students work 40 hours a week—running lab experiments, compiling and analyzing data, caring for animals or going out in the field to conduct their own research tests. The work is serious and the students are considered an integral part of Iowa State's agricultural research staff during their time in Ames.

Preparations for the future

Divinity, who has always dreamed of pursuing a career working with animals or birds, was paired up with a professor in Iowa State's animal science department, and helped conduct tests on newborn dairy calves. In addition to giving her the chance to work with farm animals, something most Chicago students don't get to do, she says the program helped her prepare for college.

"I did physiology and hypoxia experiments," says Divinity, 17. "When I first

got to Ames, I didn't really understand what physiology and hypoxia are. But now I have some insight into both. This is work I will have to learn in college, so I guess you could say I'm a step ahead of the game now."

For 23-year-old Anthony Ramadan, a senior at Alabama A&M University and a second-year program participant, the time in Ames helped prepare him for the upcoming "work world." Anthony, who plans to earn a masters degree in business administration and pursue an international agricultural marketing career, used new technology to test hogs for meat quality at Hormel as part of his research activities.

"We did ultrasound scanning of the animals to measure how the loins changed over a period of time," Anthony says. "After the animal was slaughtered, we would match the ultrasound scans with the actual loins. I got hands-on experience in this new process that a lot of companies want and must train their employees to do. Since I've already been trained in it, it will help my career down the road."

In addition to research work, the students attend weekly seminars on the many careers available in agriculture,

how to get into college and graduate school and how to write a good resume and cover letter. The program ends with presentations by all of the students to the other participants and Iowa State faculty about their experience. Along with helping their public speaking skills, the presentations allow the program participants to "show off" their work to prospective professors and future business colleagues.

Just as the world of agriculture offers unlimited opportunities to grow a successful and fulfilling career, Iowa State's minority summer research program offers its participants unlimited opportunities to explore just how vast that world can be. ★

To find out more about the program, call or write:

Charanne Parks

Director of Agriculture Minority Program

Iowa State University

23B Curtiss Hall

Ames, IA 50011

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Last Laff

Q. What did one strawberry say to the other?

A. We're really in a jam now!

Mike Reed

Bonnors Ferry, Idaho

Q. What do you call a lazy baby kangaroo?

A. A pouch potato.

Valerie Ogilvie

Knoxville, Tennessee

Q. What did the cow say to the calf?

A. It's pasture bedtime.

Blythe Robinson

Vale, Oregon

Q. What is it that's always behind time?

A. The back of a clock.

Carmi Vassar

Cleveland, Ohio

Q. What did the hat say to the hat rack?

A. You stay here, I'll go on ahead.

Reba Polson

Albany, Kentucky

Q. Does it take longer to run from first base to second base, or from second base to third?

A. From second to third, because there's a short stop in the middle.

Brad Kenyon

Chuckey, Tennessee

Q. What gets colder as it warms up?

A. An air conditioner.

Doug Dahm

Elkhart, Wisconsin

Q. What did the cat do when his tail fell off?

A. He went to the retail store.

Jessica Behrens

Lutz, Florida

Q. What's the best way to avoid infection from biting insects?

A. Don't bite any.

Wesley Long

Montgomery, Texas

Q. What do English sea monsters eat for dinner?

A. Fish and ships.

Jacob Hesse

Sedalia, Missouri

Q. Why did the whisk get arrested?

A. For beating up eggs.

Dave Jones

Chase City, Virginia

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

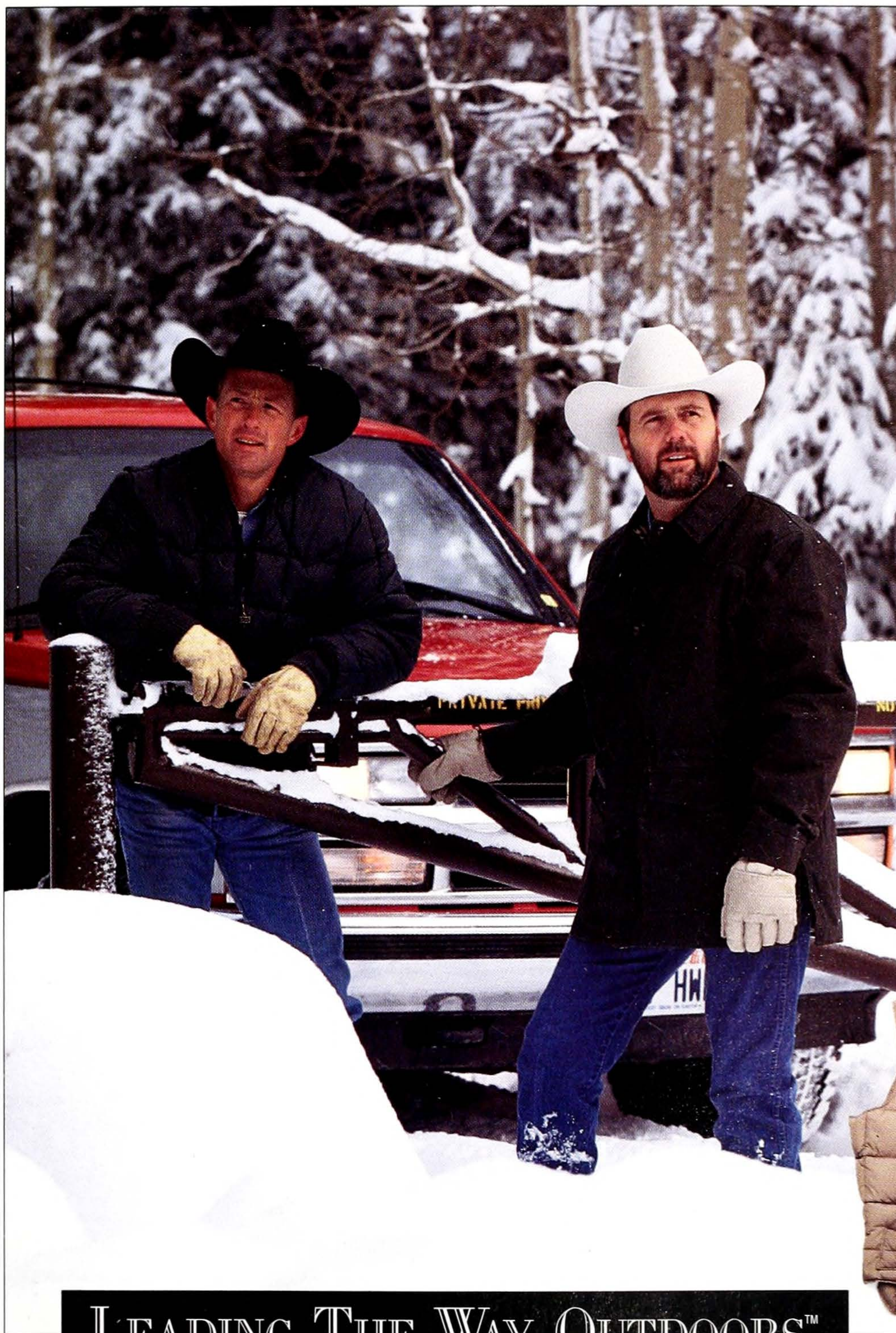
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