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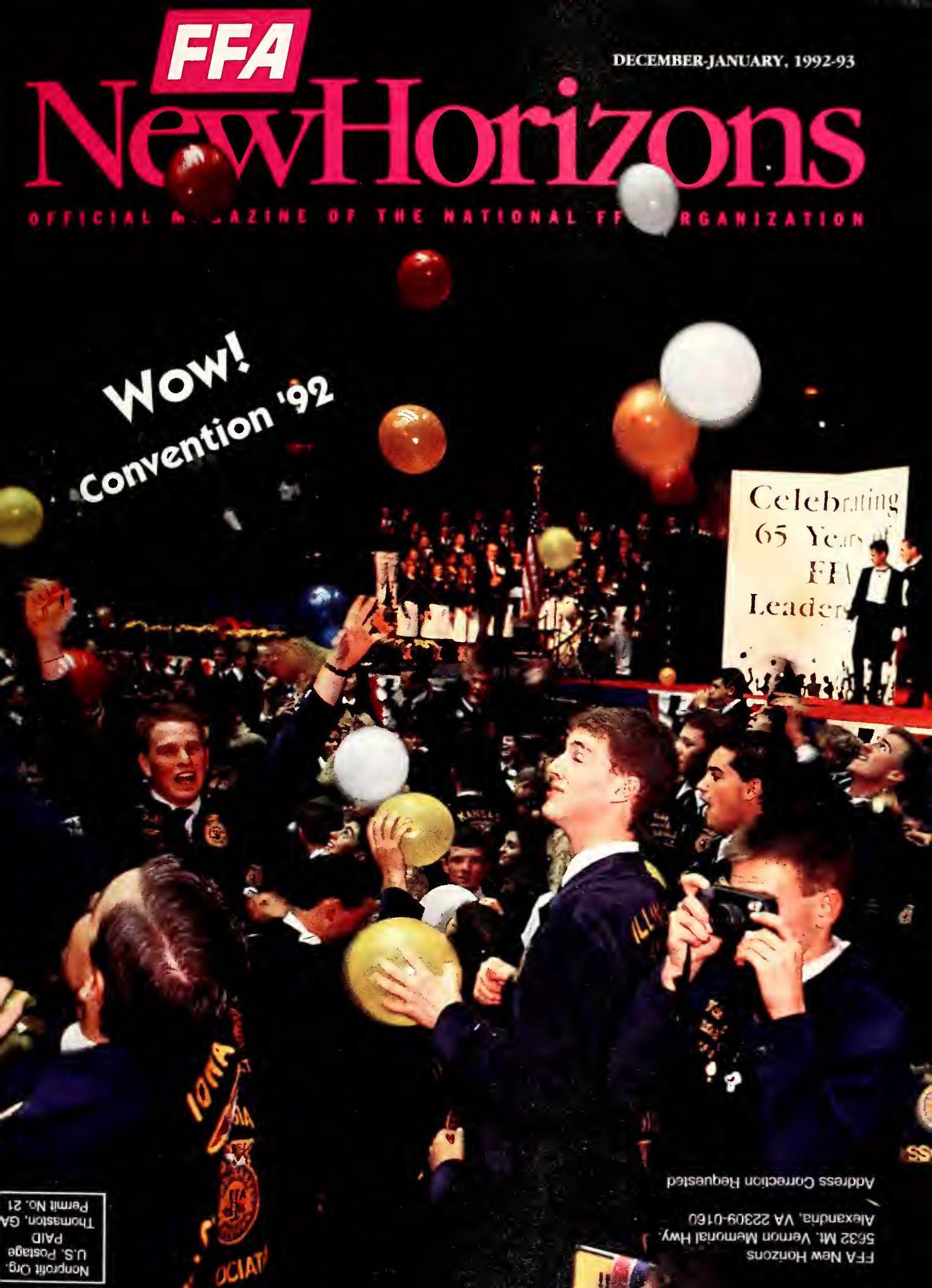
DECEMBER-JANUARY, 1992-93

# New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

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Convention '92

Celebrating  
65 Years of  
FFA  
Leadership



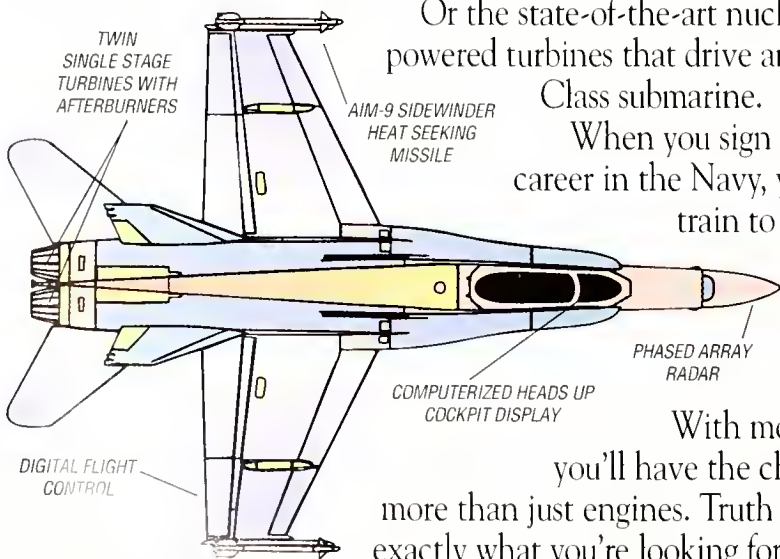
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# FFA New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

December-January, 1992-93

Volume 41 Number 2



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Photo by Mike Wilson

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FFA New Horizons (ISSN 0027-9315), formerly The National FUTURE FARMER, is prepared and published bimonthly by the National FFA Organization, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria, Virginia 22309-0160, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education as a service to state and local vocational agriculture education agencies.

## Magazine Staff

*Editor, Andrew Markwart*  
*Associate Editor, Lawinna McGary*  
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*Art & Production, Linda Flint*  
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## Advertising Offices

*FFA New Horizons*  
P.O. Box 15160  
Alexandria, VA 22309 703-360-3600

*The Brassett Company*  
1737 Fairgreen Drive  
Fullerton, CA 90036 714-523-2776

*Midwestern States*  
Karaban / Labiner Associates, Inc.  
75 East Wacker Drive Suite 930  
Chicago, IL 60601 312-236-6345

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130 West 42nd Street  
New York, NY 10036 212-840-0660

*Robert Flahive Company*  
22 Battery Street  
San Francisco, CA 94111 415-781-4583

**ADDRESS CHANGES:** Send both old and new address to: Circulation Department, FFA New Horizons, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, Virginia 22309-0160.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Address all correspondence to: FFA New Horizons, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, Virginia 22309 0160. Offices located at the National FFA Center, approximately eight miles south of Alexandria, Virginia.

**SUBSCRIPTION:** \$3.50 per year in U.S. and possessions (FFA members \$1.75 paid with dues), Single copy \$1.50; five or more copies \$1.00 each. Foreign subscriptions, \$3.50 plus \$2.00 extra for postage. Copyright 1992 by the National FFA Organization.



The Audit Bureau



Let's go back to the 1988 National FFA Convention. As a photographer for this magazine, it was my job to take pictures of whatever happened on the main stage in the convention auditorium. Catching all of the emotion and excitement made it a fun assignment.

During one of the convention sessions, the chorus director asked a young woman to step out of the chorus to sing a solo. Venus Campos from Florida was 14 years old. She had never taken any singing lessons in her life. Nervous and surprised that her name had been called, she took the microphone and listened to the music begin.

It struck me that this girl must have daydreamed this moment hundreds of times. Now she was really doing it. After the first few lines, the crowd sensed there was an exceptional talent on the stage and you could feel the focus of thousands of eyes grow more intense. Venus seemed lost in the song, as if she had forgotten that she was actually standing in the spotlight at National FFA Convention.



**Venus Campos**

As she squeezed the life out of the last line of the song, the crowd erupted in thunderous applause. The noise jarred her back to reality. She seemed almost embarrassed, as if she had just awoken from a dream to find herself standing in front of thousands of people. She had used her natural talents to fulfill a dream, and in the process, made it a magical moment for everyone attending.

It was then that I realized that part of what the FFA does is put people in places they never would have stumbled into themselves. It's during these experiences, with support from teachers, parents and friends, that FFA members reach down and find out what they are really made of. They discover they can accomplish things beyond the limits they've placed on themselves. It stretches and pulls and surprises all of us.

The great value in all of these "magic moments" is that they feed our self-esteem. Venus Campos will draw on that memory for a lifetime, especially when she doesn't feel much like a winner. These moments happen in each member's FFA experience in many different ways. It may be winning a local speech contest or being elected chapter officer or even getting a "good job" from an upperclassman. These events may not be as public as Venus' moment in the spotlight, but the memories of that personal, successful moment shines just as brightly in each member's life.





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# UNBELIEVABLE!



# Spectacular 65th Convention Celebration WOW's crowd



By Lawinna McGary

uddenly, the pitch black stage at Municipal Auditorium was brilliantly lit. Intense spotlights highlighted six national officers in tuxedos dancing to the song *Puttin' On The Ritz*.

Applause was deafening as National FFA President Lee Thurber and national western region vice president Louie Brown tipped their top hats to members.

After the standing ovation settled down, Thurber spoke about why it was time for FFA to celebrate. For the first time in 11 years membership was up, with 18,000 more members this year than last. And it was the 65th year of FFA and for conventions in Kansas City. All of this good news was the perfect cue for his next announcement. "Let the celebration begin!"

Splashes of color and fine-tuned sound flooded the auditorium as the National FFA Band and Chorus made their grand entrance.

To the roaring approval of the crowd, officers wheeled out a six-foot birthday cake and card while the band and chorus performed *Happy Birthday To You*. Thousands of members joined in.

Huge bags of balloons attached to the ceiling were released. In a frenzy, members popped the balloons and threw streamers and confetti. "It was awesome," says Rebecca Walker, Bloomer, Wisconsin. "It got everyone pumped up to get the most out of convention."

The festive scene continued as the band, talent and chorus performed. Finally, the Kentucky HeadHunters (a band that includes three former FFA members) hit the stage for a 45-minute performance.

Delegates danced in the isles. Corduroy was crunched as the convention floor became a mass of blue and gold. Whole crowds of members who weren't dancing swayed to the music. Still others stood in a daze of disbelief. "There was just so much adrenaline and everybody was just so happy. There was this great big feeling inside. We wanted to let loose, but didn't know how. We just stood there in awe," says Freedom Titus, Frederick, Maryland, FFA member. She adds, "Your heart felt so good, your mind just couldn't believe it was happening."

As a record 29,541 people arrived in Kansas City, November 12-14, to celebrate FFA, negotiations were going on behind the scenes about whether the organization will continue to meet there. To keep convention registration fees low and address a number of concerns including availability of hotel rooms and safety, the FFA asked Kansas City officials to spell out a proposal that would make the city an appealing site for FFA. At their January meeting, the National FFA Board will discuss the proposal.

Throughout the week, members packed Municipal Auditorium to see Olympic gold medalist Mary Lou Retton; former hostage Thomas Sutherland; motivational speakers Zig Ziglar and Dave Yoho; Joe Diffie, country music entertainer; and Miss America Leanza Cornett.

While listening to Retton talk about setting goals, "I was at the edge of my seat all of the time," said Charlie Castillo, senior at

(Continued on Page 8)

## FFA members let loose at the Kentucky HeadHunters performance.

Photos by Sam Harrel, Michael Wilson, Cameron Craig, Kelly Rogers and Lawinna McGary



Ysleta high school in El Paso, Texas. "She inspired me when she said she was not expected to do well and then she did. She proved everybody wrong."

Zig Ziglar was Ysleta member Rene Slore's favorite speaker. "He said it's no good to die with the music inside of you. Live your life to the fullest and not to die with any regrets. I liked that."

Listening to speakers and celebrating was only a small part of convention activities. Members crowded into business sessions, award ceremonies, contests, the career show, sponsor recognition and the Alumni auction.

This year, official delegates passed a recommendation to change the four regional boundaries. The change would mainly affect selection of national officers. Delegates will vote on whether to approve regional realignment at next year's convention.

The delegates also recommended that an honorary FFA jacket, similar to the advisor's jacket, be available for people who will use the jacket in a positive way for FFA, and that the FFA stop selling chapter sweetheart items. The National FFA Board Of Directors will vote on these issues in January.

### **National Winners**

Throughout the week, hundreds of members compete. Here are some of the winners.

#### **American Star In Agribusiness**

Chad Wells, McMinnville, Tennessee

#### **American Star Farmer**

Kelby Paske, Arlington, Wisconsin

#### **Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest**

Curtis C. Childers, Nemo, Texas

Topic: The Free Market In American Agriculture

#### **Prepared Public Speaking**

Brian E. Tribble, Camden, Arkansas

Topic: American Agriculture—Shop And Compare

#### **Agriscience Student Recognition Program**

Robin Bareman, Washington, New Jersey

#### **Building Our American Communities**

Ysleta, Texas

Project: Door-to-door outreach to pass out bilingual literature and to answer questions on the uprising of cholera.

#### **Achievement In Volunteerism**

Jeremy Carroll, Amity, Arkansas

Project: Coordinated a major service crew for senior citizens in the community.

From top to bottom,

Each convention session was energized by the national FFA chorus and band.

2,500 FFA members attended the first-ever dance.

Olympic gold medalist Mary Lou Retton kept FFA members at the edges of their seats with her speech about goal setting.

Awesome! Mark Yates, Fishtail, Montana, realizes he is the national Home and Farmstead Proficiency winner.





**Corey Flournoy, (far right) Illinois delegate, leads discussion as chair of the marketing and merchandising committee.**

**Computers In Agriculture Contest**

Dustin W. Harmon, Bainville, Montana

**Parliamentary Procedure Contest**

Ritzville, Washington

\*This was the first year for this contest at the notional level.

A complete listing of all national award winners is included in the *Convention Proceedings* which is being mailed to each FFA chapter. Extra copies are available for \$2.50 plus \$.35 postage and handling through the FFA Supply Service, 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy., Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.

**Services**

Students won awards only after going through tough competition, but they found food and souvenirs were easier to get than ever before, thanks to the new FFA food court and shopping mall. "I liked the food court and the FFA mall," said Slorean. "You didn't have to walk far, and with the big screen in the food court you could see what was going on on the convention stage."

Just across a curtain from the shopping mall was the largest-ever FFA Career Show where members met sponsors, representatives in agricultural businesses and college staff. "It's nice to know there are businesses out there that understand FFA, and know it's not limited to farming," said Titus.

**Sponsors And Supporters**

Neil O. Christenson 1992 FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board chairman is one of many sponsors who sees the contributions of the more than 1,000 Foundation sponsors as an investment in the future of agriculture. "We are really counting on you, the FFA, to keep this industry growing," he said. Next, he announced \$4,751,000 was raised by the National FFA Foundation in 1992 to support programs for FFA and agricultural education. Christenson is vice president, Farm Equipment, US & Canada for Deere & Company.

Other supporters, the National FFA Alumni Association, held their convention prior to the FFA convention. The annual Alumni Auction raised \$36,200, including a Chevy Truck that sold for \$18,000. They also held six Alumni leadership workshops that drew thousands of FFA members.

From the opening celebration, to the last session, the energy and pride in FFA was contagious. "I would go back for a million years if I could," said Titus. "Just seeing a first-year member...they get so excited. A little of them rubs off on you." Castillo, who went to Kansas City for the first time this year, says, "I wish I could have been there last year and the year before. The atmosphere there is that everybody is proud of FFA. We would go into a restaurant, and they would acknowledge we were from FFA. They would want to know where we were from. They treated us very special."

*(Continued on Page 10)*



**"Students in the forestry contest identify trees, find their way through the woods, make decisions about timber stand improvement, estimate the value of timber, and take a written math test," says contest superintendent Marion Fletcher.**

# Far From Home

## An FFA member tells about his trip to Kansas City

**T**he 65th National FFA Convention was an especially festive one. But for some convention goers, the band is always a little bit louder, the chorus always sounds a little bit sweeter, and the whole affair is a little bit more magical.

For FFA members from small schools like mine, a trip to Kansas City is a trip into another world—a world that is radically, even fearfully different from their normal small town lives. FFA is still a rural organization. For many convention goers, each November offers a bus, car, van, or airplane ride into the unknown.

Some students spend weeks preparing for the convention. They make up homework, pack and re-pack, and try to picture in their minds what the whole experience will be like.

For me, the trip is almost a spur of the moment idea. I catch up on my schoolwork at the last minute, pack my bags the day I leave, and approach the convention with a few vague expectations.

The trip to Kansas City is full of “firsts” for many students. Some have never stayed in a hotel, taken a long car trip, or seen a skyscraper. Many are on their own for the first time. Leaving parents and siblings, even for a few days, can be a scary experience. It means the freedom to make your own choices, but it also means you make these choices—even simple ones like how much money to spend on a meal—alone.

My chapter always spends the first few minutes in downtown Kansas City in a daze. As we pile out of our van, our eyes inevitably turn upward, marveling at the impossibly tall buildings, looking for some sign of the familiar sky amid the alien skyscape. The city is an all-out assault on the senses. Diesel fumes, car horns, sirens, loud conversations, and neon signs replace the familiar sights and sounds of home.

Some people immediately fall in love with the city. For them, the city is an adventure, a chance to find new experiences, to take previously unheard of risks. It is a foreign land they want to absorb fully.

I am one of these people. Each time I come to Kansas City, I try to spend at least a few minutes wandering around the downtown. I breathe in the air of a new place, and try to lose myself in the hustle and bustle of the city.

But the city eventually becomes a backdrop to the convention itself. The convention center teems with excitement. From the Career Show to the general sessions, the national convention is a chance for small town members to lose them-

selves in a sea of blue jackets.

Making friends is easy at the national convention. There is a sense of having something in common with everyone. After all, everyone there has come to celebrate their involvement in FFA and to grow as a person.

There is a sense of living for the day—national convention is a short time, and there is a lot to see and do. Chances are, I will never see the girl from South Dakota I talked to for three hours at the third session again, or the state officer from Puerto Rico I met at the Career Show. But it doesn't matter. National convention is a time for friendship. It is a chance to escape the routine of everyday life and go to a place where everyone has at least a few things in common with you. It is where almost everyone is willing to be your friend. And that's a nice place to be. ...



**Paul Bolstad, a senior at Gays Mills, Wisconsin, is shown making a presentation about FFA *New Horizons* at the convention. We're looking for other students who can write for the magazine. If you would like to try, send some samples of your work to Associate Editor, FFA *New Horizons*, 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy., Alexandria, VA 22309.**



**A record 29,541 people gathered in Kansas City, November 12-14, to celebrate FFA and the spirit of leadership. This is the Municipal Auditorium where the main convention sessions are held.**



# New 1992-93 National Officers



The new officers from left to right are:

**Secretary Kevin White, 20, of Redding, California.** Kevin's SAE program consists of market and breeding swine, agricultural sales and service and landscape development. After his term is over, this Anderson FFA member plans to attend Cal Poly State University and major in agribusiness and political science. Kevin's local advisor is George Wold. His parents are Shelly Burts and Larry White.

**Eastern Region Vice President Rick Perkins, 19, of Bloomville, Ohio.** This Sentinel FFA Chapter member is a freshman at The Ohio State University studying agribusiness and applied economics. He will take a year's leave of absence to serve his term. Rick raised registered Hampshire sheep and crops, and works on a farm for his SAE program. William and Sarah Perkins are his parents. His local advisor is Tom Gerschutz.

**Southern Region Vice President Todd Hingson, 19, of Live Oak, Florida.** Soybeans, watermelons and tobacco made up Todd's SAE program. He attends the University of Florida, majoring in agricultural economics and political science, and will take a one-year leave of absence to serve his term. Todd is a member of the Suwannee FFA Chapter. His advisor is John Thomas. Duane Hingson and Dorothy Long are his parents.

**Western Region Vice President Dennis Degner, 19, of Malone, Texas.** As a Hillsboro FFA Chapter member, Dennis raised market steers and purebred Angus beef cattle. He is the son of Morris and Irene Degner, and a sophomore at Texas A&M University, where he is studying agricultural engineering. Degner will take a year off from his studies to serve his term as a national officer. His local advisor is Bill Woody.

**Central Region Vice President John Kleiboeker, 20, of Stotts City, Missouri.** John raised purebred and commercial beef

cattle for his SAE program. He will take a one-year leave of absence from the University of Missouri-Columbia where he is pursuing an agricultural communications degree. This Pierce City FFA Chapter member's local advisor is Jeffrey Martin.

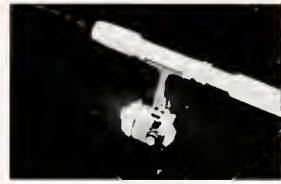
**President Travis Park, 20, of Franklin, Indiana.** A member of the Indian Creek FFA Chapter, Travis is a sophomore at Purdue State University majoring in agricultural education. He will take a year's leave of absence from his studies to serve his term as president. His supervised agricultural program (SAE) consists of a diversified crop and livestock operation as well as a custom hay and straw baling enterprise. Travis is the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Park. His father is his local advisor.

During their year of service, the national officers will each travel more than 200,000 miles making hundreds of appearances on behalf of the FFA.





## First Place



UL4 Classic Combination  
from ZEBCO

When asked to set goals at a recent FFA leadership seminar, Valerie Hau, Woodbury, Connecticut, decided she'd like to win a photo contest. But she says, "I never expected to win this contest. I thought it would be 20 years from now." Hau shot her first-place photo of this monarch butterfly while hiking with a friend in a local park.

# Where The Wild Things Are

Here are the winners of the Fish and Wildlife Photography Contest. Winners will receive prizes from ZEBCO



## Second Place

Second-place winner Luke Voigt, Mandan, North Dakota, was on the road to Canyon Prairie, Montana, to catch salmon when he saw this doe. Fortunately, he was in his brother's truck, and "my brother always carries a camera with him."



ZEBCO Bullet  
Combination



## Third Place

David Kinberg, Clare, Michigan, had to follow the squirrel in his photo around the tree two or three times before it finally settled down. This third-place winner takes photos for his school yearbook and newspaper.

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# Name Your Job!

## A degree in agricultural education gives you many career options

**T**alk to just about any agricultural employer and they'll say being able to write, make presentations and organize projects will get you far in the world of work.

Many say one college major, agricultural education, will give you the best combination of these skills. Glen Shinn of Clemson University in South Carolina, says one-third of his students end up teach-



John Holladay, right, Mr. Haynes' student for four years, says, "He's my mentor...a second father to me. As an agriculture teacher he knew his duties included more than just teaching. He took me under his wing and was not only my teacher, but also an advisor

ing, another third work in government agricultural agencies and the rest find jobs in agribusiness. He says graduating with an agricultural education degree will help you find a job. "The variety of experience you get...in leadership, working with people, planning educational programs,

organizing instruction, doing follow-up evaluations, as well as knowing about the technical side of agriculture, gives you an edge over many other majors."

Although you don't have to teach if you graduate with this degree, some find it rewarding.

Micheal Haynes, Manning, South Carolina, says he goes to class every day because, "I love it. I love dealing with students. They keep me in tune with everything that's going on. It's exciting because it gives me the opportunity to deal with a number of people from diverse backgrounds."

Haynes spends at least 50 hours a week helping his students get involved. Sometimes, when he's at camp, leadership conference or state convention, the job takes 24 hours a day.

"In teaching, we spend far more time with the student than their parents do. [During the school year] parents see their son or daughter for two to three hours a day. It's nothing for us to be with them for eight to nine hours a day."

### Pay Backs

Being around the students so much helps build a strong bond says Haynes. "I have excellent student relationships. Since the program allows me to have personal contact... I can definitely have an impact on their lives."

Being able to help so many students is worth more than money to Haynes. He says he's satisfied with his salary, but that teaching is not a profession for those who want to get rich.

(Continued on Page 31)



## Job Outlook

Some states have too few agriculture teachers, others too many. In a 1990 national study, 110 teaching jobs were filled by people with emergency teaching certificates.

In California alone, more than 60 positions were available this year with only 32 teachers to fill those slots, says J. Scott Vernon, agricultural teacher educator at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

Edgar A. Persons, University of Minnesota, says his state is experiencing the same crunch for qualified teachers. Many schools in the Southeast, especially in Georgia and North Carolina, are coming up short too. "Since teachers are getting older as a group," says Clemson's Glen Shinn, "more will be retiring soon."

Some states, such as New York, usually have enough agricultural education graduates to take open teaching positions. Susan S. Camp at the University of New York in Oswego says some new teachers have to move to get a job.

In Oklahoma, some graduates aren't getting agricultural education jobs because there's a small number of teachers retiring or leaving the profession. Eddie Smith, Oklahoma State Supervisor of Agricultural Education and state FFA advisor says, "Normally we have openings for 25 to 30 new teachers. This year we only have around 10." He says quite a few graduates have to move to states such as Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Montana and Arkansas to find teaching jobs.

For more information about agricultural education jobs in your area, contact your state FFA advisor.







Olympic Gold Medalist  
Willie Davenport  
Major, Army National Guard

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# Americans At Their Best.



# LOOKING AHEAD

## Satellites Key To New Farming Aids

High above the Earth hovers a fleet of satellites that enables all sorts of minor miracles to take place on the planet below. Fertilizer, seeding rates, even salinity measurements are guided by computers linked to a space-based global positioning system.

Developed by the Department of Defense, the Global Positioning System (GPS) was a lifesaver when used for maritime rescue operations and during Operation Desert Storm.

But don't think the military has clamped a veil of secrecy on GPS. Instead, the technology is being used by surveyors, geologists, and even for those in the fishing industry, where it pinpoints the best oceanic fishing areas.

At Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) Soil Tilth Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, agricultural engineer Tom Colvin is

perfecting a GPS-linked system called JANUS to take the guesswork out of fertilizing fields. His aim: cut costs and reduce harm to the environment.

### Just A Spoonful Of Chemicals

"Why treat an entire field with the same amount of chemicals?" Colvin asks.

His answer is Joint Agricultural Navigation Using Satellites (JANUS), which provides a way "to portion out chemicals" via calculations from computers and the government satellites already in space.

"JANUS uses what we know about the field's past to guide us in its future management," he says. "We use a dossier of data collected on crop yields and soil conditions to map each part of a farm field. Then GPS accurately pinpoints where the tractor or combine is tracking."

Such precision can give farmers on-the-spot data so they can quickly decide on how much animal waste, chemicals and seed to apply and just where to use them.

"A farmer in a field can identify the exact spot—give or take 20 feet—as the tractor passes over and can adjust the amounts of fertilizers, herbicides, pesti-

cides and manure accordingly. The farmer can even alter the number of seeds planted based on soil fertility," Colvin says.

Over large acreages the soil can vary greatly. One area can produce up to 180 bushels of corn, while another will yield just 60 bushels. Yet farmers generally apply chemicals uniformly to sustain yields at the highest level. Such excessive use wastes money and can cause residues to build up and contaminate water supplies.

### The Cost Of Technology

"In five years, as the number of users of the technology increases, JANUS should cost \$10,000 or less," Colvin says. "Some state-of-the-art tractors already have electronics capability of monitoring just what the tractor is doing—like keeping track of slippage so farmers know whether they're wasting fuel," he says. "Some farmers already use two-way radios, so very little is needed for a complete system except a satellite receiver and a computer." ...

Source: Agricultural Research, February 1992

## FFA Members Trap Insects

Sex pheromones are powerful chemical substances that adult insects secrete to lure their mates. Companies such as Tre'ce', Inc., make and market synthetically produced pheromones that trick these insects into a trap. In apple orchards, it only takes two or three traps per acre to estimate insect pressure fairly accurately. Once farmers know how many insects are in their fields, they can often save money by timing the application of insecticides more accurately, and, in some cases, reducing the number of applications needed in a season.

In a pilot program with Tre'ce', Inc., Yakima, Washington, FFA members placed and monitored traps to detect codling moths in apples. The company plans to expand the program to other apple-growing regions in the Northwest to fruit-growing areas in California, and possibly to the Midwest. For more information contact the company at 8-758-0204.



Gary Slagg (center), FFA advisor, Highland High School, Yakima, Washington, prepares a trap for monitoring codling moth. With him are FFA members Tobie Stevens (left) and Steve Ashbrooks.



# Up With Agriculture

## Writing Contest

Your opinion could be worth \$1,000...  
in the *FFA New Horizons*'  
"Up With Agriculture" Writing Contest

For your chance to win prize money  
and to have your entry published in  
the magazine, write 100 words or  
less about the topic below.

*Topic:*

Your high school guidance counselor asks you why you want to enroll in agriculture. **What is your response?**



*Prizes:*

**First, \$1,000**

**Second, \$500**

**Third, \$300**

**Fourth, \$200**

**State winners who aren't in  
the top four nationally receive  
\$50.**

Who Can Enter: Any FFA member.

How To Enter: Type entries on plain white paper.

Include name, age, home address, home telephone number, school telephone number, FFA chapter, FFA advisor's name, high school principal's name, and school address.

Send it to *FFA New Horizons*, "Up With Agriculture" Writing Contest, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.

**ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 15, 1993.**

Judges will pick winners based on creativity, originality, grammar, spelling and how well the entry addresses the topic. All entries are property of *FFA New Horizons*.

This contest is a special project of the FFA Foundation sponsored by ICI Seeds.



# Quest for College Funding

By Kellie Tomita



**F**inding a way to pay for college doesn't have to be a journey into uncharted waters. If you're willing to tackle paperwork and meet deadlines, you'll be able to afford higher education.

This map will help you embark on an adventure that millions of people like yourself have survived. Our first port of call is "Scholarship Shangri-la." It's a paradise for college-bound students. You get money to attend college, and the best part is, you don't have to pay it back. Still, you might have to meet certain requirements for academic achievement, special activities, leadership experience or financial need.

Your guidance counselor is a good resource for all kinds of scholarships. Civic organizations like the Lions Club or Rotary Club and fraternal orders like the Elks or Knights of Columbus may offer scholarships. Don't forget the chamber of commerce, churches, veterans' posts, businesses, local women's clubs and the Parent Teacher's Association (PTA).

The National FFA Organization offers excellent scholarship opportunities. More than \$1,000 is available through 713 schools. To get applications, contact the McCombs at the National FFA Center, 32 Mount

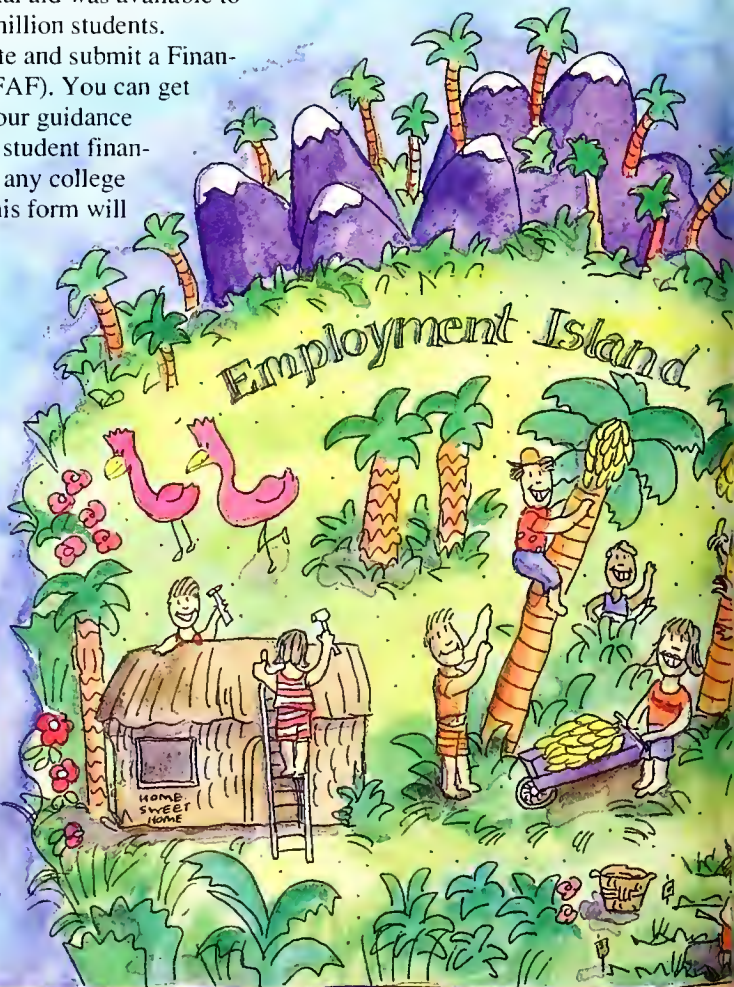
Vernon Memorial Hwy., Alexandria, VA, 22309, 703-360-3600. The deadline for submitting your application is February 15, 1992.

At your request, colleges can send you scholarship information.

You can't stay in Shangri-la forever, so let's head for the Gulf of Financial Aid. In 1991 nearly \$30 billion in financial aid was available to more than five million students.

First, complete and submit a Financial Aid Form (FAF). You can get the form from your guidance counselor or the student financial aid office at any college or university. This form will qualify you for government insured low-interest loans (these must be repaid, usually after you graduate or leave school), scholarships and grants (gifts that don't have to be repaid), and work/study (this involves earning money through a job usually arranged for you by the college).

To be eligible for this fi-





## Work Study Sea

financial aid, you have to show that college costs more than you and your family can afford to pay. Even if you don't think you qualify, still fill out the FAF. It's a requirement for another low interest government loan called Supplemental Loans For Students (SLS) that isn't based on your financial need. To qualify for this loan you must be financially independent from your family.

When you receive your FAF, ask your parents for help. You'll need a completed copy of their federal income tax form and other bank statements to answer FAF questions. Follow the directions in order and if you have questions, call the student financial aid office.

For first priority on receiving money, submit the FAF from January 1, 1993 to May 3, 1993. If you miss the deadline, go ahead and mail your FAF, you may still get assistance.

Another way to pay for college is through a program called Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS). This low-interest loan is not based on financial need. With PLUS, parents can borrow up to \$20,000 towards the cost of their dependent child's education. Ask your school financial aid office for more details.

For now let's set our sights for a chain of islands called the Keys of College Credit. With the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) and the Advanced Placement Program (AP) you can test out of college classes

while you're still in high school. This means you won't have to spend your time or money on those classes when you get to college. To find out more about CLEP, write to the Educational Testing Service, Princeton, N.J. 08540.

Next stop, Employment Island. This is where students either turn their high school agricultural projects into money making ventures or find a job.

Even if you qualify for financial aid, you will probably need a part-time job to help pay for expenses like late night pizza, movie tickets and transportation.

In the interior of the island is a group who have discovered a hidden military treasure. Many schools have Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). With this program, in exchange for either a two-year or four-year scholarship you must agree to serve in the military after graduation. You can get details on military assistance through a local recruiting office or your college's ROTC.

If you'll follow this quest for college map, you're sure to find a way to afford higher education.

For more details on financing college tuition, write The College Board, 45 Columbus Avenue, New York, NY 10023-6992 or look for resources in your local library.

...





## Partial Listing of Sponsors of FFA Scholarships

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TSC Stores  
Chevy Trucks  
Minority Scholarship Fund  
Viscosity Oil Company, a Division of J.I. Case  
ConAgra, Inc.  
Santa Fe Pacific Foundation  
AGCO  
American Seed Trade Association  
Amoco Foundation, Inc.  
Associated Milk Producers  
Babson Brothers/SURGE  
Biggs/Gilmore Communications  
Business Men's Assurance Company of America  
CARQUEST Corporation  
Creswell, Munsell, Fultz & Zirbel  
DEKALB Genetics Corporation  
Dodge Trucks  
FarmAid  
Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Company of Iowa  
Fermenta Animal Health Company  
FISCO Farm & Home Stores  
Georgia M. Hellberg Memorial Scholarship  
Hydro Agri North America, Inc.  
Jacques Seed Company, a Division of Agrigenetics  
Johnson and Wales University  
Kraft General Foods  
Metropolitan Life Foundation  
Minority Scholarship Fund  
National FFA Alumni  
National Pork Producers Council  
Northrup King Company  
Kenneth & Hazel Olsen Scholarship Fund  
Purina Mills, Inc.  
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Sponsors listed above have contributed at the Gold level or above to the FFA Scholarship Program.

FFA Scholarships are sponsored as special projects of the National FFA Foundation. Several of the sponsoring companies also support other FFA programs.

If you have plans  
for continuing your  
education...



## National FFA Scholarship Opportunities

There are 733 scholarships ranging from \$250 to \$10,000 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 chapter FFA advisor or guidance counselor. You may also contact the FFA Scholarship Office to obtain a copy of the application form.

Scholarship Office  
National FFA Organization  
P.O. Box 15160  
5632 Mt. Vernon Mem. Hwy.  
Alexandria, VA 22309  
(703) 360-3600 ext 255

### IMPORTANT NOTE

**The application deadline has been changed this year to February 15, 1993. Applications postmarked later than February 15 will not be accepted.**



# A Rare Breed

## FFA members make money raising unusual animals

By Lawinna McGary



Llamas are just one of about 25 different kinds of exotic animals Tracy Pursley, left, and Jason raise.

**W**hat is eight to nine feet tall...weighs around 400 pounds, costs \$200 a year to raise...and can be sold for \$7,500? Could it be a skinny draft horse, or a king-sized bull? Wrong answer. It's the world's largest bird...the ostrich.

Although the animal is originally from Australia, they're being raised much closer to home by FFA members Jason and Tracy Pursley, of Ripley, West Virginia.

Their cousins, Jamie and Joe, are also in the exotic animal business. Both families sold their cattle to buy miniature horses. People thought they were crazy for making the livestock switch. "Nobody would buy our animals locally at first. Friends thought we were going to lose our behinds," says Jamie.

The original ten horses Jamie, Joe and their dad bought cost \$500 each. Now, depending on blood lines and the horse farm's reputation, most miniature's sell for \$5,000 to \$10,000. Of course, there are exceptions. The first-place mare at the Ohio State Fair recently went for \$30,000.

Success with horses encouraged the Pursley's to raise miniature donkeys. Soon they were selling all types of animals such as exotic birds, arctic foxes, wild boars and big horn sheep.

To keep up with which breeds are selling the best, the FFA members travel to a couple of shows and sales each month in the winter. Exposure they've gained from showing their animals and from attending these events has spread the word about their farms. People stop by almost daily to see the unusual birds and other

beasts. On weekends they give tours to special education and kindergarden students, church groups and others.

### Unique Pricetags

Many of these visitors just want to look at the animals...not buy. The Pursley's sell most of their animals for breeding stock, although they will sometimes sell to hobbyists who want a unique pet, or to petting zoos. Here are some typical prices for their animals.

Animal	Selling Price
Texas Doll sheep	
ram	\$500-\$2,000
Llama	
female	\$14,000
male	\$2,000
Miniature donkey	
female colt (jenny)	\$1,500
female full-grown	\$5,000
male colt (jack)	\$250-\$500
full-grown	\$500
Emu (small version of ostrich)	
just hatched	\$1,500
full-grown pair	\$12,000-\$20,000

If there's so much money in exotic animals, why aren't more people raising them? "A lot of people are used to old-fashioned farming. With these kind of animals you have to be willing to pick up some books," says Jamie. He adds that it takes a long time to learn what is good quality and what isn't. And depending on what you want to raise, start-up costs can

be expensive.

With non-domesticated animals such as game birds, deer and foxes you have the challenge of getting a state permit. Joe says they're handing out fewer each year in West Virginia. A United States Department of Agriculture permit is required before you can raise animals such as lions and bears.

If you're still interested, Tracy advises that you "get different books, talk to as many people as you can, make sure your pens are in good shape and make sure you know how to feed and take care of the animal before you buy."

Several publications Tracy recommends reading are:

- *Rare Breeds Journal*  
(for specific tips on how to raise exotic animals)  
HC77 Box 66  
Crawford, NE 69339
- *Llama Banner*  
P.O. Box 1968  
Manhattan, KS 66502
- *Miniature Horse World*  
American Miniature Horse Assoc, Inc.  
2908SE, Loop 820  
Fort Worth, TX 76410
- *Animal Finders Guide*  
P.O. Box 99  
Prairie Creek, IN 47869

...

# The Fast Track

By Lynn Hamilton

## Current and former FFA members are finding ways to fuel the future

**W**ater has no calories, but a team of college students, FFA members, a university professor and alumni know that it holds energy of a different sort—hydrogen. And they have the world speed record for a hydrogen-powered car to prove it.

The vehicle hit 88 mph on the salt flats of Utah this year during the Southern California Time and Association World Finals. "I couldn't resist the challenge to tout the skills of our ag education students against the world's greatest scientific minds in the area of alternative fuels," says Dr. Cliff Ricketts, an agricultural education professor at Middle Tennessee State University, who led the team.

Ashley Smith, a senior from the Beech FFA Chapter in Beech, Tennessee, welded and did sheet metal work on the car. He was part of the team that included John Oden, a former winner of the

national FFA agricultural mechanics contest, and Terry Young, a former Cannon County, Tennessee, FFA member. "I've taken great pride in the fact that we have the prodigies of our FFA program working on this project," says Ricketts. The car and other alternative fuel vehicles were developed in an agricultural mechanics class at the university in Murfreesboro.

Though it's a sharp-looking car, the most notable feature is its fuel source. The modified Lamborghini replica is one of the latest experiments in Dr. Ricketts' 13-year quest to end America's dependence on foreign oil. After successfully building engines that ran on ethanol from corn and methane from cow manure, his group was ready to try the ultimate goal—to build an engine powered by water, or more specifically hydrogen, one of water's components. Hy-



This hydrogen-powered Lamborghini replica (shown at the 1992 Bonneville Speed Week, Wendover, Utah) has a 1990 Nissan engine stripped of all electronics and pollution controls.



drogen is plentiful, has much more power than fossil fuels, and doesn't pollute. "Hydrogen has so many implications in improving world peace, the trade balance and global warming," Ricketts says.

"I think it's pretty important," agrees Smith. "We don't have an endless supply of oil." The FFA member hopes to use his experience on this project to work toward a possible career in agricultural engineering.

But running a car on hydrogen is not as simple as filling up a gas tank with water. The vehicle has water purifying, electrolysis and hydrogen processing systems installed. The 1990 Nissan engine that powers it has only the pistons and block left intact; everything else was re-designed by Terry Young. Though the team bought equipment as cheaply as possible, the car's total bill is around \$50,000, part of which comes from TSC sponsorship and various grants.

Ricketts' team is one of the few in the world to run a car on pure hydrogen, which he attributes to the difficulty involved. He estimates it could be 40 years before hydrogen cars are produced commercially. But that doesn't stop his team's efforts. "We're like a Bo Jackson commercial—we just do it," he says.

Ricketts believes an important benefit of the team's work is to inspire young people. "Maybe someone like Ashley, after seeing this, might take it and run with it. We're breaking down barriers and showing that scientific things can still be invented."



Beech, Tennessee, chapter president Ashley Smith, says he worked 60 to 70 hours on the hydrogen-powered car this summer.



## MAILBAG

### Barnyard Debate

It dismayed me to read another anti-animal rights article in *FFA New Horizons* (October-November, 1991-92 page 10). Your strong focus on agriculture's denial of the cruelty that exists on factory farms and its promotion of hunting show an extreme bias towards animal cruelty and abuse.

I would like to see *FFA New Horizons* explore ways to make animal husbandry more humane.

Chuck Levine  
FFA Advisor

Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

### FFA Across The Nation

On behalf of the Burncoat FFA chapter, I would like to thank your staff for the articles in the FFA magazine. I've noticed the influence it has on many of my classmates. A lot of them are intrigued by seeing kids all over the nation doing the same things as themselves. Thanks again and keep up the good work!

Lori D'Antonino  
Worcester, Massachusetts

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# PICKING UP THE PIECES

## FFA Members travel 500 miles to help hurricane victims

By Karen Lunny

**H**urricane Andrew hit the coast of Florida on Monday, August 24, and continued on its path of destruction to Louisiana on Wednesday, August 26. Only a few days later on September 11, Hurricane Iniki devastated the western islands of Hawaii. FFA chapters in all three states were paralyzed. The hurricanes leveled greenhouses, lifted roofs off classrooms, dumped rain on equipment, swept crops away, and destroyed homes of FFA members.

In response to this disaster, Advisor Wayne Walker and his Leadership Development class in Gallatin, Tennessee, organized a relief trip to one of the hardest hit areas of Louisiana, St. Mary's Parish.

"It was done on a whim really," says Dannette Haile, sophomore. "We were in class and Mr. Walker said, 'We should do something about that,' and our class went from there." FFA member Ray McClanahan organized community donations. Clothing, mattresses, cash, even 1,000 loaves of bread donated by a local bakery, poured in. On Saturday, September 12, at 9:00 a.m., Walker and about 20 leadership members and alumni FFA members left for Patterson, Louisiana, with truckloads of donated materials and began distributing them the next day.

"The kids from Tennessee were really



Photo by Dunn LeDoux

FFA members Reymone Carey and Amanda Charlton unload supplies.

helpful," says Francis Breaux, a Patterson FFA member who lost his home in the storm. He and other members at Patterson were surprised at not only the quantity of items the Tennessee chapter brought, but also the quality.

"They brought down really good things; things we could use now," says sophomore Chico Taylor.

By the time the Tennessee chapter arrived and distributed the food and sup-

plies, the Louisiana FFA members, along with many local groups, had already cleared trees, collected debris and patched roofs. "The day we got back to our house, we started cleaning up," says Kiley Sinitiere from Franklin Junior High. Since much of the heavy work had already been done, Patterson agriculture teacher Luke Bienvenu held a party at his house.

After a traditional Cajun meal of rice, vegetables, and spices called Jambalaya, the Gallatin students took a tour of a local sugar cane operation.

What began as a trip to assist a devastated community turned out to be a special learning experience for the Tennessee members. The two groups even talked about starting an exchange program.

"You get a good feeling when you help others. We learned what leadership meant by doing it. I also learned anyone can become a leader and make a difference," says Crystal Sims, junior at Gallatin.

...

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Bobby Goronto, Education Specialist for the South Dade County Florida area says many chapters from all over the U.S. have offered help: Indiana, Virginia, Wisconsin and Ohio just to name a few. In South Carolina, 23 FFA chapters and the state association worked to conduct a "Band A Can" drive at supermarkets. Customers were asked to put a rubber band around the products they would like to send to hurricane victims. Members also collected non-perishable food items, building materials, batteries and money at high school football games. In all they gathered more than \$10,000 worth of food, and supplies.

Ken Kajihara, the Vocational-Technical Education Specialist in Hawaii says, "The interest in the Waimea, Kauai, and Kapaa chapters is so gratifying, we want the thank everyone for their offers of assistance."

All three states have been busy replacing basic classroom needs like roofs, furniture and electricity. After the Thanksgiving holiday, officials from the three states should be able to identify more specific needs of their FFA programs. If you would like to make a difference, contact

### Florida:

Bobby Goronto, Educational Specialist,  
Dade Co.  
(305)995-1834

### Louisiana:

Robert Simmons, Chief, Vocational Ag/  
Agribusiness Section  
(504)342-3435

### Hawaii:

Ken Kajihara, Vocational-Technical Edu-  
cation Specialist  
(808)586-3561



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# FFA IN ACTION



Maine  
**Eastern Stars**

The Eastern States Exposition named Alvin Winslow, left, of Presque Isle, Maine, star agribusiness person and Steven Smith, third from left, of Cobleskill, New York, star farmer. Mr. Wayne McCary, president of the Eastern States Exposition and Wesley Barefoot, 1991-92 national FFA vice president for the eastern region, were present for the ceremony.

California  
**Make 'Em Look Like New**

Escalon FFA Chapter members in California were first place winners in a Case tractor restoration project involving eight other chapters in the state.

The tractor they restored was a 1946 Case DC and was showcased in the observance of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the J.I. Case Company during celebrations in May at the University of California—Davis.

Escalon advisor Louie Blodgett operated the contest and the tractor restored by Escalon will become part of the agricultural machinery collection.

The tractor was featured on the back cover of the 1993

Classic Farm Tractors calendar produced by Du Pont Agricultural Products. Also featured in the calendar for January is a 1929 Case L owned by David Erb in Vinton, Ohio, who said, "FFA members Don Pierce and Ray Bragg took the Case down to the lowest common denominator and did all the work themselves, with help only in painting." ...



**Escalon advisor Louie Blodgett with the 1946 Case DC and the two key members who worked on the project, Gary Kelechenyi and Jeffrey Serpa.**



The Sapulpa, Oklahoma, FFA horticulture students challenged 70 faculty members to a grow the longest plant contest.

Members of the East Clinton, Ohio, FFA volunteered as actors and timekeepers for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Workshop. The event was designed to give nurses practice in reacting to PTO accidents, chemical poisoning or spills and tractor safety.

(Continued on Page 28)



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# FFA IN ACTION

(Continued from Page 26)



Members from Lexington School District One in South Carolina worked for six weeks to gather supplies. Here advisor Tommy Harmon, center, helps load supplies. Midway FFA in North Carolina, got their school and community involved helping victims of Hurricane Andrew by sending food and supplies. Mercer County, Kentucky, FFA sponsored a school food drive then took what they collected to a shopping mall to combine with other local contributions. Ysleta, Texas, FFA delivered 20 parcels of clothes and food to collection points.

*Bird houses built by members of the Killingly FFA in Danielson, Connecticut, were put out at a local elderly housing complex and at the intermediate school.*



To develop teamwork at a district workshop, members of the St. Johnsville, **New York**, Chapter were given sheets of paper, a long piece of masking tape, an egg and instructions to package the egg so it would not break when dropped.

.....

Northwestern Regional FFA Chapter in **Connecticut** made apple crisp desserts, apple cider and maple syrup to sell at the local fair. Willard, **Ohio**, FFA pressed apples and made cider to sell at their homecoming game.

.....

Northwest Cabarrus FFA in Concord, **North Carolina**, landscaped two houses for Habitat for Humanities, a group that builds homes for those in need in all parts of the nation.

.....

Challis, **Idaho**, members volunteered their time helping the Forest Service and Soil Conservation Service planting willows along streams to stabilize the banks. The FFA also assisted the Fish and Game Department in their study the fish movement in the Salmon River by tagging steelhead.

.....

When Glencoe, **Oklahoma**, FFA started work on the community park, they posted signs about the new layout around the community so everyone could feel a part of the action. Many citizens turned out to erect a pavilion and clean up the park.

.....

Elk Grove, **California**, members were chosen to be courtesy corps at the National Beef Cook-Off.

.....

Tri-Point FFA in Cullom, **Illinois**, hosted producers, members and other guests for a tour of the chapter's test plots. Dealers from seed, fertilizer and chemical firms made presentations. Afterwards the FFA served a meal.

.....

To get new members involved in FFA, each chapter farmer in San Marcos, **California**, adopts a Greenhand.

.....

If you want a hunting license in Liberty, **Ohio**, you must take a hunter's safety course taught by the Liberty-Benton FFA in conjunction with the department of natural resources.

.....

Pahrnagat Valley FFA Greenhands in Alamo, **Nevada**, organized a Christmas yard decorating contest last year. The event boosted community spirit.





# FFA IN ACTION

Oklahoma

## Oklahoma FFA Members Visit Japan

"They rolled out the red carpet and helped in any way they could," says Tracy Lee in describing her experience with her host family during an exchange program in Japan.

Arranged between the Japanese Agricultural Exchange Program, the Oklahoma Farmers Union and the state of Oklahoma, the program gave eight Oklahoma FFA students a chance to sample farm life in Kyoto, Japan.

The FFA members say they appreciate the way they were welcomed during their visit to the Japan College of Agriculture.

Lee, of the Stratford FFA Chapter, says her host family were generous with their time and money as they toured Kyoto. "They treated me as one of their kids. It was the greatest experience of my life."

Justin Rogers, a member of the Hennessey FFA chapter, says the people were nice and would "break their backs for you." During his home stay, he realized that Japanese are much like Americans. "They were really a hard working, friendly and down-to-earth people."

After observing the different approaches to agriculture, Rogers says, "We're on a big-

geragricultural scale, but the Japanese use their land better. There is no wasted land."

He adds, "I think the Japanese are succeeding in the world because their priorities are right. First on their list is a great emphasis on education—that with hard work seems to define their lives." ...

Stratford, Oklahoma, FFA member Tracy Lee, right, and Kingfisher, Oklahoma, student Lori Garrett visited several Japanese high schools. "They acted like they were really proud we came to their country," says Garrett.



*(Continued on Page 30)*

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# FFA IN ACTION

(Continued from Page 29)

Ohio

## Gearing Up For Recycling

Members of the Ben Logan, Ohio, FFA were challenged in a contest to design and construct the best operating can crusher. The contest helped sharpen their welding and design skills and promoted community awareness for recycling.



The best can crusher was designed by Kenneth Lehman, third from right. With him, left to right, are sponsors Dick Groves and Dave Kritzer; other student winners Scott Lyon and Jeff Ricketts; and sponsor Jerry Ross.

Kenneth

Lehman built the champion automatic, electrically powered can crusher. He received a cut-

ting torch outfit, plaque and \$250. Other finalists received welding gear and \$150. ...

Ohio

## Future Farmers of Japan in Ohio

Wauseon, Ohio, FFA hosted a two-week international exchange with 27 members of the Future Farmers of Japan. The FFJ members were presidents or vice presidents from chapters throughout Japan.

During their stay in the Wauseon area, FFJ members toured agricultural businesses and farms to see the diversity of Ohio agriculture. The FFA chapter and the local alumni affiliate hosted a pig roast and family potluck dinner during exchange. ...



One highlight of the FFJ members visit to Ohio was a ropes/obstacle course technically termed "self esteem co-initiative." The course creates a situation that requires team work and communication to solve problems. Secured by safety cords and nets, the higher level challenges students at about 25 feet above a valley.

Georgia & Washington

## FFA Chapters Gain National Publicity

The Morgan County FFA in Madison, Georgia, and the Cathlamet, Washington, FFA were honored in Washington, DC, as national winners in the Take Pride In America Awards program.

"The FFA members have set a shining example of the spirit of American volunteerism and civic responsibility," said Secretary of the Interior Manual Jujan, head of the panel of judges.

The Morgan County Chapter was nominated by Barbara McWhorter, USDA Soil Conservation Service in Madison. The chapter's project helped organize a county-wide recycling center on the school campus. The center has significantly reduced the amount of solid waste sent to the county

landfill and funds generated have gone to an environmental study laboratory for the school.

The Cathlamet Chapter constructed a dam and a salmon rearing raceway in conjunction with the town's waterfront park project. ...



Actress Linda Evans, national spokesperson for Take Pride in America, presented the youth award to national FFA president, Lee Thurber, on behalf of the Morgan County, Georgia, FFA.

## Do you promote National FFA Week?

1991-92 National FFA President Lee Thurber says his chapter planned an activity every day of FFA Week. Several of his favorite events were picking up the Saturday morning coffee tab in local restaurants for farmers and having a window decorating contest in town. Members also sponsored a breakfast for high school teachers.



Lee Thurber

Let us know what your chapter does during National FFA Week. For your chance to get published, send us photos, and details about your activities to: FFA New Horizons, National FFA Week, 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309. Be sure to have your information in to us by December 20.





# Sports Champion

By Chris Feaver

**H**ow do those Reebok ads go? Who's the best athlete, Dan or Dave? Well the answer was settled in Barcelona, and the best athlete is neither Dan nor Dave. It's Jackie.

Jackie Joyner-Kersey that is. In Barcelona last August, the 30-year-old Californian won her second straight gold medal in the heptathlon, a grueling two day, seven-event track-and-field competition that is the women's equivalent to the decathlon. It was her second straight Olympic gold medal in the heptathlon, something no other woman has accomplished.

"She is the greatest multi-event athlete ever, man or woman," said Bruce Jenner, a 1976 gold-medal-winning decathlete himself.

It is hard to dispute Jenner's claim. Joyner-Kersey has so dominated heptathlon competition over the past eight years that her only true competition is herself. Each heptathlon is an attempt to break her own world record. Unless injured during competition, Joyner-Kersey has won every heptathlon she has entered since settling for a silver medal by the narrowest of margins during the 1984 Olympics at Los Angeles.

At Barcelona, she scored 7,044 points in the heptathlon—which features the 100-meter hurdles, the shot put, the javelin, the long jump, the 200-meter dash, the high jump and the 800-meter run—the sixth highest point total in event history. The five higher marks were also performed by Joyner-Kersey.

To achieve these athletic feats, one must be incredibly driven and dedicated. Joyner-Kersey's training regimens are legendary for their intensity, and are helped by the motivation and coaching of her husband, Bob Kersey. Kersey, who also coaches other Olympic track stars such

as gold-medal winner Gail Devers, is famous for putting his pupils through punishing workouts.

"For me, it's a challenge. A challenge of trying to beat myself," Joyner Kersey said. "People see me as invincible, but it's been tough." But just being the world's best heptathlete isn't challenging enough for Joyner-Kersey. She also participates in the long jump, winning a gold medal in the 1988 Olympics as well as world titles in 1987 and 1991. Tired after her heptathlon performance, she won a bronze medal at Barcelona. In addition, Joyner Kersey was an All-American basket ball player at UCLA.

While Joyner-Kersey and her husband sometimes think about starting a family, she doesn't seem to have any desire to quit her training. Joyner-Kersey has her sights set on an unprecedented third gold medal in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. "To try and finish my career on American soil would be a dream come true for me," Joyner-Kersey said. "I think that's where the motivation is going to come from."



Jackie Joyner-Kersey



# GET TO KNOW

*Chad O. Luthro*



Chad Luthro

**M**y brother was my world. Day to day he taught me everything...about sports...girls..." From the time Chad Luthro was born, until his freshman year in high school, he says it was tough to compete with big brother Scott. "He was an all-American guy—a perfect athlete."

"Sometimes it seemed like there was no use even trying to compete," says Chad. "But my brother always found some way to keep me going. He would let me win, or compliment me. We were absolute best friends because of that. And since I knew I couldn't be better in sports or other things, I went with the flow and was a little more easy going."

Then, the summer after his freshman year in high school, Chad's brother committed suicide.

"I remember thinking about all of the things I should have done and should have said... The last time we talked we were probably fighting. The only thing I could think about was that I was never going to be able to talk to him or play basketball again."

"Until that time I was in the shadow of my brother. After his death, I tended to be very serious. I can remember feeling like I was the only one in the world going through this kind of hurt, but later I realized that wasn't true. None of us is protected from this kind of pain. Whether it be the death of a loved one, a divorce, a medical emergency... We all have to face tragedies in life. But no matter what the situation, we all have what it takes to get through."

## **Serious Business**

"I always wanted to make a difference. And as a freshman, I was already beginning to make a name for myself and be-

come my own person. But the tragedy put a focus on things. It made me want to get my life in order sooner than I would have otherwise. I realized that being the class funny person was socially great, but in the end did I really make a big enough differ-



**Here's 7-year-old Chad after fishing with his 10-year-old brother Scott.**

ence for enough people? I thought I could do more by being in other positions."

Chad went from making A's and B's in school, to all A's.

## **On A Blue And Gold Streak**

Though he had already won the state creed speaking contest when his brother was alive, Chad later competed at the national level in several proficiency contests, the agriscience student recognition program and the computers in agriculture contest. He became the Iowa FFA Association's secretary, American Star In Agribusiness and the National FFA Organi-

zation's central region vice president.

Even in business Chad became a superachiever. As a 16-year-old he began Agri-Tech Products Company for computer sales, service and training.

Now, as a college student just finishing a term as national officer, Chad thinks of his brother often. "I still sometimes dream that we're playing basketball together, or laughing over something that happened in school. It still hurts so much from missing him...sometimes it feels like my heart stops for a moment."

Chad says his brother's death has had a profound impact on how he views life. "My attitude changed from my younger days when I thought everything in life would always be alright to believing things will be alright, only if you're willing to work to make it that way. It doesn't come free or easy. It comes just by digging in... by finding something deep inside, grabbing hold of it and not letting go." ...

- 22-year-old Chad was the youngest of three children; his sister Chris Thompson, now 28 and a mother of four; and Scott, who would have been 25 this year. His father, Nathaniel, grows corn and soybeans and raises Charolaise cattle, while his mom, Janet, is a retired nurse.
- Chad is engaged to Melissa Memmer, 19, a sophomore at Michigan State University.

# J O K E P A G E

Q: What do you call a cattle truck with no cattle?

A: A Cattle-lack.

*Bobby Beck  
Lexington, North Carolina*



Larry missed the championship game when someone sabotaged his air sneakers with helium.

A minister put an advertisement in the paper for a handyman. The next morning a well-dressed young man came to the door.

"Can you start a fire and have breakfast ready to eat by 7:00?" the minister asked. The young man said he could.

"Can you polish the silver, wash the dishes, keep the house picked up and the lawn mowed?" the minister asked.

"Look," said the young man, "I came to make arrangements for my wedding, but if it's going to be anything like this, I have decided to forget the whole thing."

*Pat Juenemann  
Clements, Minnesota*

Son: "Dad, is this water healthy for you?"

Dad: "Of course! It's well water."

*Cara White  
Blacksmith, Virginia*

Two snakes were slithering along together across the desert. All of a sudden, one of the snakes stopped in its tracks and looked at the other.

"Wow!, I'm glad I'm not poisonous," the snake said.

"Why is that?" asked the other.

The first snake answered, "I just bit my tongue!"

*Joseph Blair  
Harmony, West Virginia*

Q: What is the best time to go to the dentist?

A: Tooth-hurty.

*Zack Heern  
Cave Junction, Oregon*

Q: How are some baseball teams like an opossum?

A: They play dead at home and get killed on the road!

*Amy Howerton  
Murrayville, Illinois*

First person: "I have to get back home as soon as I can to take care of my livestock."

Second person: "Livestock? I didn't know you had any livestock!"

First person: "Sure. Every day I have to let the cat out of the bag, take the bull by the horns, keep the wolf from the door and count my chickens before they hatch."

*John Long  
Snyder, Texas*

## Charlie, the Greenhand



"Why didn't you tell me a \$1 card isn't equal to a bouquet of flowers!"

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