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FFA—LEADERSHIP FOR A GROWING PLANET

As we prepare for our 62nd annual State FFA Convention, let us consider what we, as FFA members, can do to provide the leadership needed for a growing planet.

GOALS AND CHALLENGES

In today's world, it is important to plan ahead and set goals for the future. All people need to set their sights on a distant goal or hope. Setting a goal is simply a way of saying, "I have a dream for my future." Zig Ziglar's book, *See You at the Top*, clearly outlines a plan for working towards a goal. Ziglar wrote that one way to achieve a goal is to challenge yourself to the extremities of perfection and always keep that goal in mind.

Life is a challenge, and you must plan to defeat it and not let it defeat you. Challenges are very important in all things. Challenges can lead people to the ability of managing tough decisions and situations with patience, as well as handling defeat. No one person can overcome all of life's challenges without some difficulties. These difficulties are the experiences that build self-confidence and esteem.

We must use these qualities to improve our world and its environment.

ENVIRONMENT

The environment has an effect on us in some way; in the place we live, the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the food we eat. If we continue to let our environment be damaged, these things will become spoiled. FFA members need to take a stand and say "no more" to the useless waste of our environment.

We need to make changes in our lives and encourage other people to make equal changes. We have problems with global warming which will increase the temperature of the earth thus melting the polar ice caps. This warming trend will in turn flood the coastal areas. It will also change the temperate crop zones in the United States.

Acid rain is another problem. Acid rain damages crops and the soil to the point crops cannot be grown until the affects of the acid rain are gone. This process takes several years.

The problems we have been having in the Middle East will play a large part in American agriculture. It will damage our environment greatly, but it will also make the price of crops rise due to the increased cost of petroleum.

Imports and exports will be limited. Many people serving in the Middle East left agricultural-related jobs. The crop production will rise due to the affects of this crisis.

Remember FFA members, if we are not part of the solution—we will be a part of the problem.

TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH

Technology and research have become very efficient in the agricultural world. The main emphasis lately has revolved around biotechnology. Biotechnology involves science and engineering. The advances are astounding in genetic engineering, embryo transfer, plant breeding and energy conservation. Through detailed research, we will soon be able to correct human diseases, develop alternatives for energy, develop cattle and plants which are disease resistant.

Plant research will soon create greater crop production per acre on the American farm. By increasing crop yields, we will be able to achieve more crops on less acreage.

One main goal of our technologists is to create an alternative energy source. The American people are searching for ways of energy conservation.

How can we preserve energy or invent new energy sources? These are just a few of the many technological questions which, as leaders for a growing planet, we will be answering.

ADVENTURE AND OUTERSPACE

What does the future hold for us, the future leaders of this great nation? We must be ready for the changes and adventures that we will encounter and not let them pass us by. No one is certain what the future holds, but as FFA members we have a head start.

We must look into the aspects of agriculture in space. Can we grow crops in space? Will

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LEADERSHIP FOR A GROWING PLANET — State Officers preparing for the 62nd State FFA Convention (l-r) Rebecca Birdsong, Sentinel, Hartford; Stephen Kiser, Secretary, Spring Garden; Michael Reeser, Treasurer, Calera; Marie Rush, President, Lineville; Joe Baxter, Reporter, Fruitdale, and Richard Scott, Vice President, R. C. Hatch.

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SPRING/SUMMER 1991**

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LEADERSHIP FOR A GROWING PLANET

(From page 1)

space support life? We, as FFA members, must invest time in agriculture in space to see that it is a growing process.

We must make sure space does not become polluted. As advances and exchanges occur every day, we think of what can be done to advance the agricultural aspects of space. Maybe through ag in space we can decrease the problem of pollution and the feeding of an expanding population.

EXPANSION AND POPULATION

Due to massive technological advancements in medicine, people, on an average, are living much longer than ever before.

Ten years from now farmers will be asked to feed an extra billion people and three billion more people in 30 years. Farmers in rural America for years have been working long hours to ensure that Americans are not deprived of the essentials needed for a healthy life—stores filled with food, clothing and building materials. If we do not become involved in the problem-solving process, we will soon find the store shelves depleted.

As FFA members, we must do our part to ensure that the needs of the American people can be met. Fellow members I urge you to look to the future.

OPPORTUNITY

The decisions we make today will invariably determine the type of world in which we will reside tomorrow. At the 1987 National FFA Convention, Lee Iacocca posed the question, "What type of America do you want?" This is a question which all Americans must confront. The innovations which are occurring in agriculture have the potential to create new frontiers and elevate agricultural education to new heights. International trade and marketing skills have become vital variables in the balance of America's agricultural dominance. The underlying question remains "what part will you play in agriculture's dynamic future?" These issues can take a toll on American agriculture, if we do not mobilize our abilities as leaders. There is a redeeming aspect to our problems; they have solutions. Agricultural education and the FFA encompass a wealth of knowledge and information.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

As we prepare for the State FFA Convention, you have already accepted the challenge to be leaders. You have won competition at the chapter and district level and face the challenge now at the state level. This has given you a start in **LEADERSHIP FOR A GROWING PLANET**.

CALL TO CONVENTION

Attention! Fellow members, it's state convention time again. The State Officer Team is excited. We want this to be the best state convention that Alabama has ever had, and to do this, we need your attendance. The more members that attend—the more successful the convention will be. As State President, I encourage you to come to the 62nd State FFA Convention in Montgomery, June 11-13, and participate in the activities. We'll be looking forward to seeing you in June.

Marie Rush
President



PROGRAM
62nd Annual Convention
June 11, 12, 13, 1991
Montgomery Civic Center

Monday, June 10

A.M.

11:00
 Livestock Judging Contest (Livestock Arena, Auburn)
 Dairy Judging Contest (E. V. Smith Research Center, Milstead)

P.M.

1:00
 Forestry Judging Contest (Auburn)
 Land Judging Contest (Montgomery)
 Agricultural Mechanics Contest (Auburn)
 Small Engines Contest (Montgomery)
 Agricultural Construction & Maintenance Contest (Montgomery)
 Nursery/Landscape Contest (Civic Center)
 Floriculture Contest (Civic Center)
 7:30
 Final Interview of Officer Candidates (Civic Center)

Tuesday, June 11

A.M.

8:00 - 12:00
 Registration (Civic Center)
 9:00
 Public Speaking Contest Preliminary (Civic Center)
 String Band Contest Preliminary (Civic Center)
 Quartet Contest Preliminary (Civic Center)
 11:30
 Courtesy Corps Meeting (Civic Center)

P.M.

1:00
 Delegate Orientation
 1:30
 Opening Ceremony
 National Anthem
 Invocation
 Official Seating of Delegates
 Greetings—Ben Nessmith, National Vice President
 Business Session
 Public Speaking Contest - 1st Speaker
 Proficiency Awards—Horse Proficiency, Beef Production
 Public Speaking Contest - 2nd Speaker
 Proficiency Awards—Poultry Production, Soil & Water Management, Diversified Crop Production
 Public Speaking Contest - 3rd Speaker
 Proficiency Awards—Dairy Production, Swine Production, Nursery Operations

Public Speaking Contest - 4th Speaker
 Proficiency Awards—Agricultural Mechanics, Agricultural Electrification, Turf & Landscape Management
 Safety Awards Line-up
 Retiring Address
 Safety Awards
 Awards—Public Speaking
 Closing Ceremony
 Meeting - All Local Advisors (Civic Center)

Tuesday Evening

P.M.

7:30
FIRST GENERAL SESSION
 Opening Ceremony
 Address—Ben Nessmith, National Vice President
 Honor Parents and Advisors
 Future Farmer/Agribusinessman of the Year Award
 Mindy Stringer Memorial Scholarship Award
 String Band Contest Finals
 Proficiency Awards—Home & Farmstead Improvement, Wildlife Management, Forest Management, Fruit and/or Vegetable Production, Floriculture
 Awards—String Band
 Closing Ceremony

Wednesday, June 12

A.M.

8:30
 Music—Convention Musician
 9:00
SECOND GENERAL SESSION
 Opening Ceremony
 Star Farmer Ceremony
 Awards—Dairy Judging, Livestock Judging, M. K. Heath Award, Forestry Judging, Land Judging, Nursery/Landscape, Floriculture
 Proficiency Awards—Sheep Production, Placement in Agricultural Production, Agricultural Sales and/or Services, Specialty Animal Production, Special Proficiency Awards
 Chapter Awards Line-up
 State Officers Annual Report
 Retiring Address
 Chapter Awards
 Crime Prevention Awards
 Awards—Agricultural Mechanics, Agricultural

Construction & Maintenance, Small Engines
 100% Membership Recognition
 Retiring Address
 Computers in Agriculture Awards
 Activity Program
 Closing Ceremony

P.M.

1:00
EDUCATIONAL TOURS
Wednesday Evening

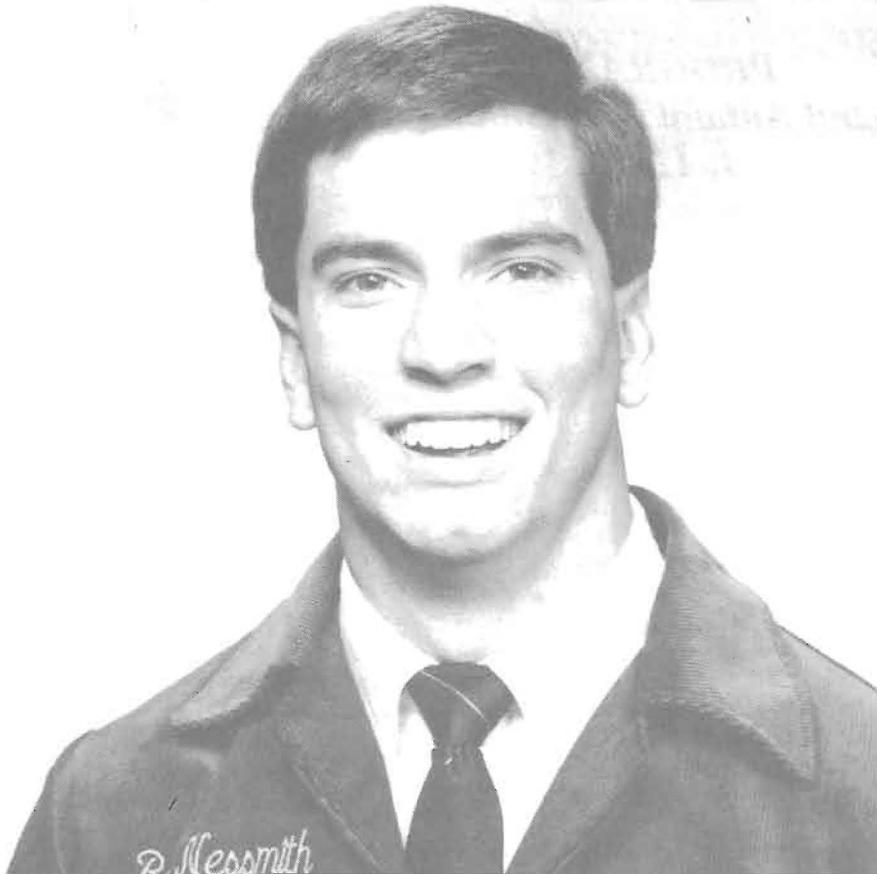
P.M.

7:30
THIRD GENERAL SESSION
 Opening Ceremony
 Retiring Address
 Conferring of Honorary State FFA Degrees
 BOAC Awards Line-up
 Corn Growing Awards
 BOAC Awards
 Quartet Contest Finals
 Retiring Address
 Awards—Quartet Contest
 Closing Ceremony

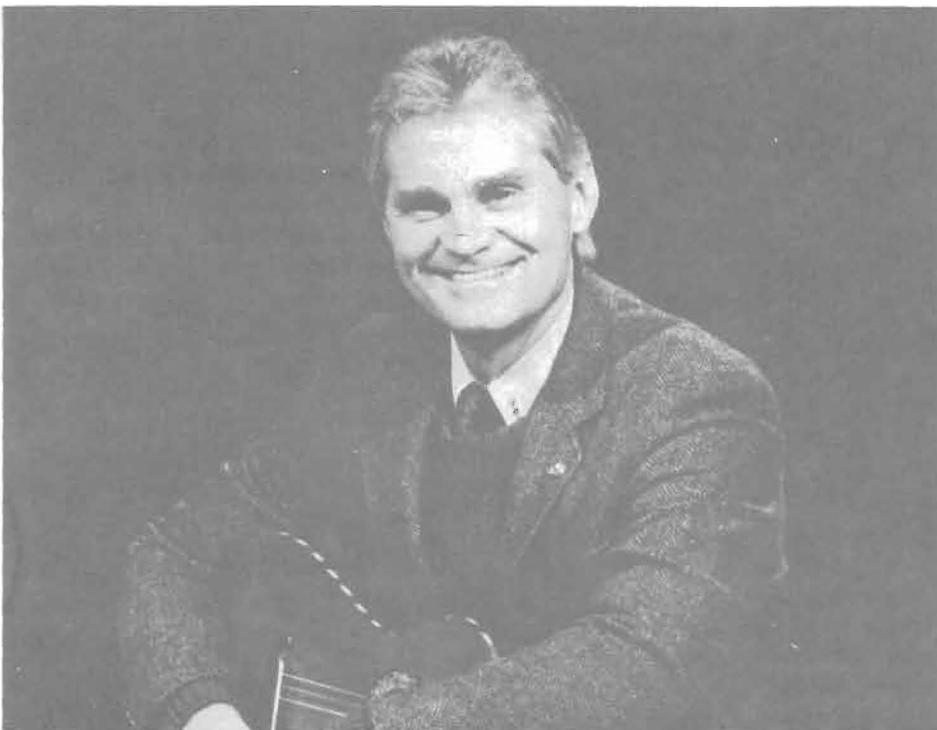
Thursday, June 13

A.M.

9:00
LAST GENERAL SESSION
 Opening Ceremony
 Retiring Address
 Speaker - Paul Ott
 State FFA Degree Ceremony
 Installation of New State Officers
 Presentation of Past Officer Pins
 Presentation of Gavel to Past President
 Closing Ceremony
 New Officers, Parents, and Advisors Meeting (Civic Center)



Ben Nessmith, National FFA Vice President, from Statesboro, Georgia, will address the convention on Tuesday evening. His SAEP includes a purebred swine operation and farm placement. He has won many awards for his top-quality swine herd. Ben is a sophomore at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College majoring in animal science. Ben served as State Vice President in Georgia and participated in livestock judging and public speaking contests. He was elected president of his local chapter three consecutive years.



Paul Ott will entertain you, he'll make you laugh; but most of all, he'll make you feel that special warmth down deep inside that comes from sharing and from loving. Paul shares lots of patriotism, love of God, family and the South with his audience. His Thursday morning appearance is sponsored by First South Production Credit Association.



Today's FFA members are taking an active responsibility for their environment—providing leadership for a growing planet.