

NOTE PAGE

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGE OF CHARACTER
NAMES IN SCRIPT:

<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
DAVE BLASE	DAVE STOHLER
MRS. BLASE	MRS. STOHLER
MR. BLASE	MR. STOHLER

BREAKING AWAY
BY
STOHLER TESICH

"BAMBINO"

FADE IN

EXT. QUARRY OUTSKIRTS - DAY

1

A narrow dirt road totally surrounded by thick vegetation. Here and there we see a huge block of stone blocking the road. The sun is shining but it has a hard time making it through the foliage. In the distance we see four guys walking TOWARD the CAMERA. There is a swagger to their walk. MIKE is singing. The others are humming along. The melody of the song of "O Bury Me Not On the Lone Prairie" but it's a loose version.

MIKE

AND WHEN I DIE...WON'T YOU BURY ME
ON THE PARKING LOT OF THE A AND P
BLOW OUT THE CANDLES AND BLOW OUT THE LAMPS
AND LIGHT MY PYRE WITH MY TRADING STAMPS
I HAD TWO BOOKS BUT I NEEDED THREE
TO DELIVER ME FROM THE A AND P.
I HAD THREE BOOKS BUT I NEEDED FOUR
TO GO TO HEAVEN AND REDEEM MY SOUL.

X

By this time the four are in front of the CAMERA. Mike is handsome and well built. CYRIL is tall and skinny. MOOCHER is very short. DAVE, hanging back a little, is carrying a large trophy.

DAVE

Bravo, Mike! Bravo! Bellissimo!

CYRIL

Did you really make all that up?

They pass.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The presence of the quarry is felt much stronger now. More and more blocks of cut stone appear. The guys are dwarfed by them. They have to climb over some.

MIKE

I sent away for this stuff from Wyoming. It'll tell you everything. Since you don't believe me maybe you'll believe it when you see it.

CYRIL

And we'd work on the same ranch and sleep in the bunkhouse together, eh?

Cont.

MOOCHER

That's the whole point.

CYRIL

I always miss the whole point.

MOOCHER

It'd be nice to have a paying job again, that's for sure.

DAVE

Niente laborare. Niente mangiare.

MIKE

What's that mean?

DAVE

You don't work. You don't eat.

CYRIL

That's a terrible thing to say.

MED. SHOT

The quarries are felt even more now. Walls of stone rise up around the guys.

CYRIL

Are you really going to shave your legs?

DAVE

Certo. All the Italians do it.

MIKE

That's some country. The women don't shave theirs.

CYRIL

STOP!

(pauses as if
thunderstruck;
hand on heart)

It was somewhere along here that I lost all interest in life. Ah, right over there. I saw Dolores Reineke and fat Marvin. Why? Why Dolores?

MOOCHER

They're married now.

Cont.

MIKE

You see what I saved you from, Cyril. Had I not told you about the two of them you never would have followed them out here.

CYRIL

Thank you, Mike. You made me lose all interest in life and I'm grateful.

MIKE

My brother says he saw you and Nancy. Moocher.

MOOCHER

When?

MIKE

Last Friday?

MOOCHER

Wasn't me. I'm not seeing her anymore.

ANOTHER ANGLE

They are now standing above a huge pool of water with sheer cliffs on three sides. Abandoned derricks loom in the distance. Dave is now humming softly a Neapolitan song. They begin the descent.

CYRIL

I kind of miss school. You know. This will be the first time nobody's going to ask us to write a theme about how we spent our summer.

MIKE

Remember the Tomb of the Unknown Substitute Teacher.

MOOCHER

She believed us too.

MIKE

(teacher's voice)
Sex spelled backwards x-es.

CYRIL

When you're sixteen they call it sweet sixteen. When you're eighteen you get to drink, see dirty movies and vote. But what the hell do you do when you're nineteen.

MIKE

You leave home.

CYRIL

My dad says Jesus never went further than fifty miles from his home.

Mike is skipping down the rocks toward the water, taking clothes off as he does. The rest follow.

MIKE

And look what happened to him.

Mike jumps into the water. Moocher and Cyril follow. Dave looks on.

FADE THROUGH TO:

DAVE'S P.O.V.

1-A

The guys are swimming. Dave is holding his trophy casually, enjoying the beautiful day. He pulls out a little Italian Phrase Book. Finds what he wants.

DAVE

Oggi fa bello, non e vero?

MIKE

Sure thing, partner.

MOOCHER

C'mon in.

DAVE

I read where this Italian coach said you should never swim after a race.

CYRIL

Who's swimming? I'm taking a leak.

Moocher and Mike splash water at him and swim away.

FADE THROUGH TO:

ROCKS BY THE WATER

1-B

All four guys are sunbathing looking at the water. Deep X
down, at the bottom of the quarry hole we see an old icebox.
Mike is staring at it. The mood is one of total relaxation.

MIKE

Aren't you glad we got fired from
The A and P. Right now we'd be
working. X

MOOCHER

We didn't get fired. You got
fired. We quit.

MIKE

One for all and all for one.

MOOCHER

There aren't many places, you
know, that'll hire all four of
us.

CYRIL

You know what I'd like to be?

MIKE

Smart.

CYRIL

A cartoon of some kind. Man, X
that'd be great. Like when they
get hit on their head with a
frying pan and their head looks
like a frying pan...with a handle
and everything. And then they go
b-r-r-r.

(shakes his head)

And their head comes back to
normal. That'd be great.

MIKE

How come you're so stupid, Cyril.

CYRIL

I don't know. I think I have
a dumb heredity. What's your
excuse, Mike?

Mike hits him hard on the arm. Cyril winces. Mike stands up.

He makes sure they're all watching and dives in. The guys
talk as they follow his progress.

DAVE

You hear from your folks, Moocher?

MOOCHER

Yeah, my Dad called. He says
there's a lot more jobs in Chicago.
He hasn't got anything yet.

Mike has reached the icebox. He opens the door. Goes in.
Shuts the door.

MOOCHER

He wanted to know if the house
was sold. They could use the
money.

DAVE

You can come and live with me
when it's sold. In Italy
everybody lives together.

All three of them are getting concerned about Mike.

MOOCHER

Ever since you won that Italian
bike you've been acting weird. You
really think you are Italian.

X

CYRIL

I wouldn't mind thinking I was
somebody myself.

All three of them stand up.

MOOCHER

Maybe the door is stuck. God
dammit!

Moocher dives in. Dave and Cyril follow. Moocher swims
down to the icebox, forces the door open. They surface.
As soon as they hit the surface we hear:

MIKE

(o.s.)
Yoo-hoo!

THE GUYS' P.O.V.

They see Mike standing on top of the rock above them.

MIKE

It's got no back on it!

He laughs triumphantly. He's ready to dive in again when he
pauses and looks. High above where he stands on the other
side of the quarry hole, we see several figures. The guys
are swimming toward the rocks and looking at the figures too.

CLOSEUP - MIKE

His face has hardened as he looks at the figures.

MIKE

What the hell are they doing here?

X

ANOTHER ANGLE

Dave, Moocher and Cyril are standing on the rocks below Mike. Mike is still on top of the rock. High above him are the College Kids. Three guys and three girls. One of the guys is standing on the ledge above the water. Our guys are looking at the College Kid on the ledge. He seems intent on diving into the water. It's a distance of at least eighty feet. He pushes off and dives in executing a beautiful somersault into a swan dive.

CLOSEUP - OUR GUYS

They are stunned.

CLOSEUP - MIKE

He's obviously envious. He looks from the diver toward the guys and seems to feel his position undermined.

CYRIL

I've never seen anyone dive
off from there.

MIKE

Bastards!
(climbing down
the rock)
They've got indoor pools and
outdoor pools on the campus
but they got to come here.
(joins the guys)
It's my goddamn quarry.

Cyril assumes a very dramatic posture. Sings to the theme from Exodus.

CYRIL

This hole! This quarry hole
is mine!

MIKE

Hey, screw you, Cyril. Let's
get out of here.

EXT. QUARRY - DAY

1-C

They are retracing their steps out of the quarry. Mike is leading. Moocher is behind him. Dave is at the end. He's carrying a huge trophy casually. X

MIKE

(o.s.)

If they're going to come here
then we'll go on the campus.

MED. SHOT - MIKE'S CAR

1-D

A racing bicycle is on top of the car. The guys are in the car and the car is moving fast through the dirt road leading out of the quarries.

EXT. BLOOMINGTON - DAY

2

Mike is speeding through the town. A huge billboard with the Marlboro Man whizzes past us.

INT. MIKE'S CAR

Mike looks angry. He's got an unlit cigarette in his mouth.

EXT. BLOOMINGTON - DAY

3

A car lot is on the right. "CAMPUS CARS."

MOOCHER

(o.s.)

Isn't your dad working today?

-DAVE

(o.s.)

No, the doctor told him to take
it easy. He's taking Sunday's off.

EXT. BLOOMINGTON - CITY HALL - DAY

4

City Hall is on the left.

CYRIL

(o.s.)

That's where you go to get a
marriage license, Mooch.

MOOCHER

(o.s.)

Yeah, so what?

Cyril laughs and then howls as he's hit.

OUT 5 X

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

6

Huge modern structures are looming in the distance in stark contrast to the town we just passed through. Mike's car is speeding toward them. X

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

7

Mike's car turns into a street called Fraternity Row. Most of the fraternities and sororities are located along this stretch. Neat lawns line the area. The houses are enormous: an architectural mixture of old manor house and modern motel. The college kids are outside on the lawns. Some are reading. Girls in bikinis sunbathing. Guys washing their cars. Some other guys passing the football around. Transistor radios playing. Mike drives slowly.

INT. MIKE'S CAR

All the guys are looking out of the windows as if they were in a museum. Mike looks at the expensive cars along the way. Cyril looks at the Girls in bikinis. Moocher looks at the huge well-built guys. Dave just looks.

CYRIL

Going to college must do something to girls' tits. Just look at them. Campussies and sororititties.

(sticks head out;
shouts to a couple
of Girls)

Hi, there. What's your major?

The Girls look up and kind of sneer.

MOOCHER

They sure look like they've got it made.

MIKE

That's because they're rich.

DAVE

Italians are all poor but they're happy.

MIKE

Maybe in Italy.

Cont.

CYRIL

I wonder what it's like to kiss
a coed. I wonder about it a lot.

Ahead of Mike's car we see two Guys and two Girls playing Frisbee. They are standing on the lawns and throwing the Frisbee to each other across the street. Mike's car is moving slowly forward when an ill-thrown Frisbee lands on the street. Mike sees it and speeds up. A Girl is running to get it but Mike gets there first and runs over it. Dave gets a quick look at the Girl as she stops suddenly to keep from getting hit. The two college Guys run out and give Mike the finger. He sees them in the rearview mirror.

MIKE

Hey, those bastards are giving
us the finger.

He slams on the brakes.

MOOCHER

Hey, c'mon, Mike. We're on
their turf.

Dave is looking back at the Girl. The two Guys are challenging Mike, motioning to him to come back. The two Girls are trying to talk them out of it. Mike is gunning the car.

MIKE

They think they own the place.

MOOCHER

They do.

CYRIL

Besides, you've humiliated them
enough. In ancient Japan when
you ran over a samurai's Frisbee
he had to commit suicide.

Just as he laughs Mike shifts the car in reverse. The two Guys and Girls are standing in the middle of the road. The Guys are coming forward thinking Mike's going to stop, but Mike has no intention of stopping. The Girls and the Guys split as Mike's car roars between them. Once again Dave catches a fleeting glimpse of the Girl. Having scattered them, Mike makes a U-turn and drives away in the direction he came from.

Cont.

CLOSEUP - THE COLLEGE KIDS

The girl Dave saw, KATHERINE, is looking after the car holding a cracked Frisbee in her hand. The tall well-built guy next to her, ROD, her boyfriend, looks real upset. He is wearing a Little 500 T-shirt.

ROD

Dumbass cutters. Goddamn
redneck retards.

OUT 8

CUT TO:

CLOSEUP - DAVE

9

riding. A Neapolitan melody plays as Dave rides holding his trophy: a romantic song of the south and not southern Indiana. The small houses could be Italian houses to Dave. The people sitting on porches and steps could be Italians. Dave waves like a returning hero.

DAVE

Buon giorno! Buon giorno!
(spots some
small children)
Hey, bambino.

The people and the kids look at him like he's an oddball, but Dave does not notice. A woman is shaking a rug ahead of him, and she looks so Italian that he can't help but smile. A big blonde GIRL is coming out of the house dressed in a waitress outfit. She sees Dave.

GIRL

Dave...is Moocher home?

But Dave just rides past her in a daydream.

CLOSEUP - A COUPLE ON A PORCH

They're older PEOPLE. The Man is drinking a beer.

WOMAN

Tsk. Tsk. He was as normal
as pumpkin pie and now look
at him.

X

The Man lets out a long beer belch.

WOMAN

His poor parents.

INT. BLASE HOUSE - DAY

MR. BLASE is sitting at a kitchen table. MRS. BLASE is boiling water. Mr. Blase does not look happy. He's got a flyswatter in his hand. He sees a fly. Whack. He hits it. He misses.

MR. BLASE

It's that cologne he wears.

MRS. BLASE

Neapolitan Sunset, it's called.

MR. BLASE

Well, it smells like fruit punch to me and it attracts flies.

Mrs. Blase comes over and pours some hot water into his cup. She takes a package of Sanka from her apron pocket and puts it in the saucer.

MRS. BLASE

There.

Mrs. Blase looks at the table.

MR. BLASE

This is it!

MRS. BLASE

You have to watch your diet.

MR. BLASE

Diet, if anybody found out I was on the diet they'd laugh me out of town. A diet.

MRS. BLASE

You know what the doctor said. At your age...

MR. BLASE

At my age! What the hell do you mean at my age.

MRS. BLASE

He says you have a bad heart.

MR. BLASE

Yeah, but it's got nothing to do with my age. It's our son that's ruining my heart, Evelyn. What's he going to do? He wanted a year with those bums so I gave him a year.

Cont.

MRS. BLASE

It hasn't been a year yet.

MR. BLASE

But, Evelyn. Look what's happened to him. He's turned into a ity. It was funny at first but it's not funny anymore. Ciao, Papa. Ciao, Mama. Arrivaderchi! That's ity talk.

MRS. BLASE

It's just hero worship. He says the Italians are the best bike racers in the world and he...

MR. BLASE

This is America, Evelyn. Only paper boys ride bikes and they earn money doing it.

MRS. BLASE

He did win his bicycle and he was quite sickly 'til he started racing around and in three years he's...

MR. BLASE

(interrupts)

So now his body's fine but his mind is gone. He used to be a smart kid. I thought he was going to go to college.

MRS. BLASE

I thought you didn't want him to go to college.

MR. BLASE

Why should he go to college? I didn't go to college. When I was nineteen I was working in the quarries ten hours a day.

MRS. BLASE

But most of the quarries have shut down.

MR. BLASE

Let him find another job.

MRS. BLASE

But there aren't any jobs.

Cont.

MR. BLASE

Let him look at least. Let him
come home tired from looking.
He's never tired.

MRS. BLASE

He's young.

MR. BLASE

When I was young I was tired.
I had my own place at seventeen.

MRS. BLASE

He says Italian families stay
together.

MR. BLASE

BUT WE ARE NOT ITALIAN!

MRS. BLASE

I know. It's just that I come
from a big family myself...and
it really was kind of nice...

(smiles, half
embarrassed)

He thinks we should have another
kid.

MR. BLASE

What?!

Dave enters carrying his trophy.

DAVE

Ah, buon giorno, Papa.

MR. BLASE

I'm your goddamned father, not
papa.

DAVE

Buon giorno, Mama.

MR. BLASE

She's your goddamn mother.
Whatcha do -- win again?

Dave opens the fridge and takes out a hunk of cheese and a
hunk of salami and starts eating. Mr. Blase looks at him
like a wolf and then he looks at half a grapefruit in front
of him. He finds it unbearable to watch him chew.

Cont.

DAVE

Yes, the victory...she was easy.
But the promoter... 'fondatore'.
...He says the Italian team...it
will come maybe soon...and I will
race with the best...ITALIANO. X
Like the nightingale they sing,
like the eagles they fly.

Mr. Blase can't bear to watch him eat. He's starved.

MR. BLASE

Speaking of flies...there's a
helluva lot of flies following
you into the house.

DAVE

Fly in Italian is 'mosca.'

MR. BLASE

Well in English it's a pest.
And speaking of pests...

Mrs. Blase senses an argument.

MRS. BLASE

It's a nice trophy isn't it,
dear?

MR. BLASE

Yeah, so what. I've lived fifty
years without ever getting a
trophy.

DAVE

You never got trophy, Papa?

MR. BLASE

No, never, and what's more...

Dave interrupts.

DAVE

Here, Papa. I give you. You
are 'Numero Uno.' King Papa.

Dave hands him the trophy. Mr. Blase is stunned. He takes
it. Before he can even think to give it back Dave kisses
him on both cheeks.

Cont.

MR. BLASE

Don't do that! How many times...

DAVE

Now I have to go and take
a shower.

(starts to leave
and pauses)

Such a big house and so few
people. I wish I had plenty
of fratelly and sorelly to greet
me when I come home and to wave
when I go.

Cont.

Dave leaves. Mrs. Blase sighs. She too would like a big family. Mr. Blase is holding the trophy and looking at it. Neapolitan music is heard coming from Dave's room. Mr. Blase has had it.

MR. BLASE

There's that ity music again.
I'm going to have it out with
him now.

X

He goes to Dave's room carrying the trophy with him. Mrs. Blase follows him a few steps and stops. She waits... listening. She is apprehensive. She wants to follow and help Dave out but she stays behind wringing her hands. Mr. Blase reappears looking quite stunned. He's holding the trophy in one hand along his side.

MRS. BLASE

What's the matter?

MR. BLASE

He's shaving!

MRS. BLASE

Well, so what?

MR. BLASE

His legs, Evelyn. He's shaving
his legs. I saw him. His legs.

X

INT. DAVE'S BATHROOM

11

Humming along with the record player Dave is shaving away at his overly-lathered legs.

OUT 12

CUT TO:

INT. DAVE'S ROOM - CLOSEUP - THE STEREO - DAY

13

A record is turning. On top of the dust cover we see an album cover: ENRICO GIMONDI SINGS NEAPOLITAN FAVORITES. X The CAMERA MOVES SLOWLY AROUND his room. There are bicycle trophies everywhere. Posters of Italian racers. Posters of Italian movies. Magazine covers and newspaper clippings from Italian racing magazines. Bicycle parts: Spare wheels...cranks...pedals. Several bicycle jerseys hanging on the doorknob. ENRICO GIMONDI sings during this tour of Dave's room. Dave comes out of the shower humming along. A cat comes to greet him, meowing.

DAVE

Ah, there you are Fellini...
Hungry, eh?

Cont.

He goes to a drawer and takes out a can of "Chef Boy-ar-dee" spaghetti and meatballs. Still humming, he opens the can and dumps the food into a deep ashtray with "CINZANO" written on the sides.

DAVE

Mangiare...mangiare...

He looks at the posters of the bicycle riders. He looks in the mirror. He takes a comb and combs his hair back in the "continental" style. Then he smiles. He picks up a book: "ITALIAN PHRASE BOOK" and lies down on the bed to read it.

EXT. MR. BLASE'S USED CAR LOT - DAY

14

A big sign: "CAMPUS CARS."

The car lot is nowhere near the campus but the sign is considered good business. All around the car lot are other signs: BEST DEAL IN TOWN. CARS WITH A COLLEGE EDUCATION. The cars themselves have signs on them: "GRAD SCHOOL SPECIAL." "ENGLISH MAJOR" "PhD" "HOMECOMING QUEEN" "CUM LAUDE" "MAGNA CUM LAUDE."

CLOSEUP - MR. BLASE AND CUSTOMER

The CUSTOMER is a young college kid. Mr. Blase is showing him the "HOMECOMING QUEEN."

MR. BLASE

It gets thirty miles to a gallon,
of course the mileage you get may
vary. It's a beaut, right? Right.
You sure know how to pick them.
Frankly this is the best car on
the lot. Quality product.

X

DAVE

(o.s.)
Ciao, Papa!

Mr. Blase cringes. Looks up.

CUT TO:

CLOSEUP - DAVE

He's on his bike across the street. He's waving.

DAVE'S P.O.V.

Mr. Blase is looking at his Customer pretending he has no idea who Dave is. He shrugs and turns his back and quickly glances over his shoulder as Dave rides away.

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

Students are everywhere and so are classroom buildings. Tall, new, limestone structures resembling office buildings. Students sit on the steps outside the buildings. They are lying around on the grass and walking to and from classes. All of them have books in hand. The wind is blowing.

CLOSEUP - DAVE

He's sitting next to his bike on the grass and looking around at all of them. In his hands he has his Italian Phrase Book: the book being his admission ticket into this world. It's obvious he's feeling a little out of place, but he enjoys looking at the campus world. A campus Police Car drives by and Dave quickly hides his face in the book. Waits for it to pass and when he looks up he is struck by something.

MED. SHOT - KATHERINE - DAVE'S P.O.V.

She's coming out of a classroom building with a bunch of books and papers in her hands. The wind is blowing her hair back. The CAMERA ZOOMS IN ON her face, isolating her from all the others, just as Dave is doing.

CLOSEUP - DAVE

His mouth is open. He blinks once. He swallows.

DAVE

Mama mia!

CUT TO:

MED. SHOT - KATHERINE

As she's walking, she transfers her books from one hand to the other. A piece of paper escapes her and flies away in the wind.

CUT TO:

CLOSEUP - DAVE

He sees the paper fly away and jumps up.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON KATHERINE

She tries to go after the paper but the traffic keeps her from crossing the street. The paper's flying away. She gives up, and turns toward the parking lot just as we see Dave on his

Cont.

bicycle chasing after the paper. He cuts through the cars, he cuts in front of them. The horns blow. The brakes screech. All Dave sees is the paper. He's on a mission. He cuts through the pedestrians crossing the street maneuvering brilliantly.

CUT TO:

CLOSEUP - A COLLEGE GUY

He's just walking. He sees the piece of paper flying around and grabs it casually. Just as he's ready to read it a hand appears in the FRAME and snatches it away from him. It's Dave, riding away with the piece of paper in his hand. The College Guy just stands and looks after him.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON KATHERINE - ON A MOTOR SCOOTER

16

She's driving home. In her rearview mirror she spots something. A bicycle rider. He seems to be gaining on her. She speeds up almost instinctively.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE - ON THE BIKE

He's got the paper in his mouth and he speeds up too. He shifts his gear.

CUT TO:.

ANGLE ON KATHERINE

She's riding along. She glances in the rearview mirror and sees Dave quite close behind her with the paper in his mouth. She shifts her gears too. She smiles a little.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE

He's close enough to shout. He opens his mouth to shout. The paper flies out but he quickly catches it in mid-air.

DAVE

Signorina...

He has momentarily lost ground on her but he sticks the paper in his mouth and pours it on.

CUT TO:

Cont.

ANGLE ON KATHERINE

She's crossing the street just as the light changes. Dave crosses on the red light. Once again he's nearly hit by several cars. He follows Katherine up the hill leading to Fraternity Row. He overtakes her just as she's about to turn into the drive leading to her sorority. But Dave is there on her right preventing her from turning. She too almost hits him. She slams on her brakes. Dave slams on his. They come to a dead stop.

DAVE

Signorina...You...

He's handing her the paper but then he pauses and pulls it back just as she's about to take it. He wipes the saliva off the paper on his jersey, and then gives it to her.

DAVE

It is yours...no?

She takes the paper and smiles. Then she laughs.

KATHERINE

You mean you've been chasing me with this? Well, that's really something. Thank you very much. Talk about chivalry.

Dave is just looking at her. She's never seen anyone look at her quite like that. She's a bit confused.

KATHERINE

Well, thanks again.

DAVE

Is nothing...niente...signorina.

KATHERINE

What're you...an exchange student or something?

DAVE

Si. I am Italiano. My name is ENRICO GIMONDI.

X

KATHERINE

And mine is Katherine Maxwell.

DAVE

Ah, Katherina!

Cont.

She likes the sound of this. But the way Dave looks at her is unsettling.

KATHERINE

Well, thanks again, again.
'Bye.

DAVE

Ciao, Katherina.

Dave rides away. She looks after him.

OUT 17-
19

EXT. MOOCHER'S HOUSE - DAY

20

There's a big CAMPUS REALTY sign outside the house with a FOR SALE tacked over it. NANCY is walking up to the screen door. She knocks. Mocher appears holding a huge barbell at shoulder height. They smile nervously at each other.

MOOCHER

Nancy!

NANCY

I was just on my way to work...

MOOCHER

Come in.

He pushes the door open with one end of the barbell and lets her in checking the street to make sure nobody saw her. She goes in. Mocher shuts the other door too.

INT. MOOCHER'S HOUSE - DAY

20-A

The two room house is empty except for a sleeping bag and a wooden foot locker -- Mocher resumes working with the barbells.

NANCY

You know what?

MOOCHER

No, what?

NANCY

I'm leaving home that's what.

MOOCHER

What! Where're you going?

Cont.

NANCY

About five blocks south. I found a nice little house to rent. It's so cute I could scream. My folks said I could have some of their furniture from the basement. Maybe you could give me a hand...moving.

MOOCHER

- Sure...if...If I'm not busy. You know. How's the job?

NANCY

You know what! Frank said if I keep up the good work it'll just be a matter of time before I become a head cashier. I should go now.

MOOCHER

Maybe...eh...Maybe I'll walk you to work. I have to go that way anyway.

She smiles, happy at the prospect of a nice walk together.

EXT. BLOOMINGTON - DAY

21

Dave and Cyril are going through the outskirts of the campus. Dave is riding his bike slowly. Cyril is jogging along. They go past the Campus Arts Cinema. Dave looks at the marquee: FELLINI'S AMARCORD. He looks away and then looks back at it.

EXT. BLOOMINGTON - DAY

22

Some kids are playing basketball outside a garage. As Cyril and Dave are ready to go past them Cyril jumps into the game. He steals the ball. He dribbles, fades away and shoots a long jump shot. It goes in. He rejoins Dave but he looks back at the game. It's clear he misses basketball.

EXT. BLOOMINGTON - DAY

23

Dave is riding his bike. Cyril runs.

CYRIL

Are your parents asking you what you're going to do?

DAVE

I think they're getting curious.

Cont.

CYRIL

I sure miss playing basketball. I got depressed as hell when my athlete's foot and jock itch went away. I was sure I'd get a basketball scholarship. My dad was sure I wouldn't. And when I didn't he was real understanding. He loves to do that. Be understanding when I fail. 'That's all right, Cyril, I understand.' He even bought me a guitar because he was sure I'd never learn to play it.

DAVE

I'm supposed to take this college entrance exam.

CYRIL

You going to go to college?

DAVE

Hell no. I'm just curious to see if I can pass.

CYRIL

Maybe I'll take it too and flunk it. My dad's birthday is coming up.

They part. Dave rides off. Cyril looks after him.

EXT. ROAD - CLOSEUP - KATHERINE - DAY

24

She's driving Rod's Mercedes convertible. She seems nervous and is constantly looking from the road to the rearview mirror.

ROD

(o.s.)
Just keep it steady.

Cont.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Rod and five of his Fraternity Brothers are riding their bicycles behind the car.

ROD

Keep your elbows bent. That's right. PICK IT UP KATHY!
Thirty an hour!

EXT. FURTHER UP THE ROAD - DAY

Dave is riding his bicycle. A sudden explosive noise of a tire going flat.

DAVE

Ah! Stroonz!

He puts the brakes on.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Dave is taking the front wheel off. He's peeling the tire off the rim ready to put on a spare. Katherine is driving toward him. He sees her. She sees him. As she goes past him she slows down a little but enough to make Rod almost run into her.

ROD

What the hell you doing, Kathy!

She speeds up and she and the bike riders go past Dave. On the back of the riders' jerseys we see: Little 500.

CLOSEUP - DAVE

He looks after them pumping up his spare.

OUT 25-
31

INT. BLASE HOUSE - NIGHT

32

Mr. Blase is sitting at a table. Mrs. Blase is at the stove putting food on a plate.

MR. BLASE

Those college kids aren't so smart. I sold one of my worst cars to one of them today. They're not so smart. It's a good thing that Dave didn't...

Cont.

Mrs. Blase puts the plate of food in front of him. He looks at it.

MR. BLASE
What's this?

MRS. BLASE
It's sauteed zucchini.

That does it. It reminds him of Dave. It reminds him of the kid at the lot and his contradictory emotions about Dave's future.

MR. BLASE
That's ity food! I don't want no ity food! X

MRS. BLASE
No it's not. I got it at the A and P. It's like squash.

MR. BLASE
I know ity food when I hear it. X
All those -- ini foods. Zucchini
...Fettuccini...I want some American
food. I want French fries, dammit.

The cat jumps up on the table.

MRS. BLASE
Get off, Fellini.

MR. BLASE
THAT'S MY CAT! AND HIS NAME'S
JAKE, NOT FELLINI. I won't have
any -- ini in this house.
(to the cat)
YOUR NAME IS JAKE. DO YOU
UNDERSTAND?

EXT. BLASE HOUSE - NIGHT 32-A

All the lights are turned off. Dave is sneaking home. X
Dave has his bicycle with him. X

INT. BLASE HOUSE - NIGHT 32-B X

Mr. and Mrs. Blase in bed.

MR. BLASE
He's back. X

EXT. BLASE HOUSE - DAY

33

Dave is putting free oil on his bike. Barking is heard o.s. A Mailman appears. He hands Dave the mail and continues X on his way, the dogs barking and snapping at his heels. Dave picks his "SPORTS ILLUSTRATED" magazine out of the packet and walks slowly to the house, leafing through it. He stops suddenly. He drops the other mail as he zeroes in on some article in the magazine.

DAVE
MAMA! MAMA! THE ITALIANS ARE
COMING!

He runs in the house just as Mrs. Blase runs out of the house. They run into each other. Dave picks her up and spins her.

MRS. BLASE
What's the matter?

DAVE
The Italians are coming to a
race in Indianapolis. The team
Cinzano!
(lets her go
and crosses
himself)
Grazia tante, Santa Maria.

MRS. BLASE
Oh, Dave, try not to become
Catholic on us. Your father's
quite Protestant.

EXT. BLOOMINGTON - DAY

34

Dave is on his bike beaming with happiness, zooming down the street. He hears the dogs barking. He sees the Mailman. He speeds toward him. Jumps the curb with his bike, and comes to a dead stop in front of the Mailman. Jumps off the bike and hugs the Mailman, kissing him on both cheeks.

DAVE
Grazia, signor, molte grazia!

The stunned Mailman has no time to reply. Dave jumps back on his bike and rides away.

DAVE
Avanti! Avanti!

EXT. BLOOMINGTON - DAY

35

Dave is riding his bike. He's filled with joy and wants to share it with somebody. He spots a flower shop. He smiles and heads for it.

INT. FLOWER SHOP - DAY

The clerk behind the counter is SUZY. She was one of the girls playing Frisbee on page 9.

SUZY

You want the flowers sent to Katherine Maxwell.

DAVE

Yes.

SUZY

What's the address?

DAVE

Ah...She's in a sorority...on Third Street.

SUZY

There's a lot of sororities there: Pi Beta Phi, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Alpha Phi.

Dave is very intimidated by all this.

DAVE

It said on the front of the house...it had...X triangle, triangle.

SUZY

The CHI-DELT house, eh?

DAVE

Ah, yes! CHI-DELT, CHI-DELT.

He is listening to the words.

EXT. FLOWER SHOP - DAY

36-A

Dave is coming out. Mike's car drives past at that moment. Mike stops. Cyril and Moocher are in the car.

MIKE

What were you doing in there?

DAVE

Eh...I...I sent some flowers to the CHI-DELT...my mother. Guess what! The Italians are coming.

MIKE

Guess what? Moocher's going.

CYRIL

Talk to him Dave!

EXT. BLOOMINGTON - DAY

37

Mike's car with Dave riding his bike along as they go through town. X

DAVE

Where you going, Mooch?

CYRIL

He's getting a job! Yes, a job!

EXT. CAMPUS CAR WASH - DAY

38

Moocher is standing outside Mike's car. The guys are inside. Cyril is holding onto Moocher's arm. Moocher is trying to free himself.

MIKE

'Campus' Car Wash. It's campus everything. I feel like some reservation Indian surrounded by Disneyland. I thought we were going to stick together.

MOOCHER

I need a job, Mike.

He frees himself from Cyril and goes.

CYRIL

Don't go, Mooch! They only let you out on weekends and national holidays!

MIKE

Don't forget to write!

INT. CAMPUS STREET CAR WASH - DAY

39

X

A bunch of College Kids are washing cars. The OWNER, a very hefty, tall man, is talking to Moocher.

OWNER

You're a little late, but I guess you won't let it happen again. Here's your sponge and here's your rag and there's your place.

Cont.

Moocher takes the sponge and the rag and heads for the car wash. He goes past the punch clock.

OWNER

Don't forget to punch the clock, shorty.

NEW ANGLE

We see Moocher from the back. He stops suddenly when he hears the word "shorty." He turns around slowly. He looks at the Owner. He wraps the rag around his fist. And then, with a sudden explosive movement, he punches the clock with his fist, knocking it off the wall.

MOOCHER

How's that?

He tosses the sponge aside and walks out shaking the pain from his fist.

EXT. CAR WASH

Moocher walks out. Mike and the guys are gone. He puts his hands in his pockets and starts home. Mike's car suddenly appears.

Everyone is cheering. Mike's blowing his horn.

X

Moocher gets in the car.

OUT 40-
41

INT. STUDENT UNION - EVENING

42

Jukebox is playing. Some kids are dancing. The place is packed. Here and there we see T-shirts with "Little 500" on them. The CAMERA PANS SLOWLY as we hear voices above the din.

Cont.

VOICE ONE

(o.s.)

The S.A.E.'s have their whole team back. They're all swimmers. See that guy there. That's Rod Sommers. He rode seventy laps last year in the Little 5.

VOICE TWO

(o.s.)

We had Mark Spitz in our fraternity but he wouldn't ride. Who's the girl with him?

CLOSEUP - ROD AND KATHERINE

ROD

Suzy says this guy's sent you flowers.

X

KATHERINE

So what? You never sent me flowers.

ROD

Who is he, Kathy?

KATHERINE

Just some crazy guy I met. God, I don't know what's gotten into you.

ROD

And what I want to know is has he gotten into you, Kath?

She slaps him. Rod looks around to see if anyone saw that he got hit. A SHOT of Katherine's girl friend, Suzy. She saw. She smiles at Rod. He looks away from her.

X

She gets up. Leaves a quarter for the coffee and leaves. Rod looks around once again, and once again he sees Suzy smiling at him. He looks away. A new loud song begins on the jukebox.

EXT. BLOOMINGTON - DAY

45

Dave is riding in his church clothes. His trousers, as before, are rolled up to avoid getting dirty from the chain. He's feeling great. It's a nice day. He's been to church. He hears the music of Italy in his soul. As he's crossing an intersection, he sees Mocher and Nancy going down the street. He pauses...as if wondering whether to join them. Decides not to. He rides away in his direction. The CAMERA STAYS ON Mocher and the girl. They are stopping in front of her house.

INT. BLASE KITCHEN - DAY *5:15/1m*

49 *cut*

Mrs. Blase is making some French fries. Mr. Blase is looking very neurotic. He's listening to the music filtering in from Dave's room.

MR. BLASE

I want an answer, Evelyn.
What're we going to do with *dialogue*
him?

MRS. BLASE

I don't know, dear. I suppose
we could strangle him while
he's asleep.

MR. BLASE

That's not funny, Evelyn.

MRS. BLASE

Why don't you talk to him.

MR. BLASE

I'm afraid to talk to him. I'm
afraid to look at him. I'm
afraid if I did, I'd see his
eyes twirling like pinwheels.

Mrs. Blase brings the fries.

MRS. BLASE

The only reason I'm giving you
these French fries is because
you promised to calm down.
Don't expect to get them
again.

Mr. Blase is still annoyed by Dave's music.

MR. BLASE

I can't eat while that noise
is on.

He gets up and heads toward Dave's room. Dave appears dressed for riding. They cross paths. Mrs. Blase goes to wash the pan in the sink. Dave sees the French fries on the table. He sits down and starts eating them. The music stops. Mrs. Blase turns around and sees Dave eating the French fries. She wants to say something. Mr. Blase reappears and sees Dave eating his fries. X

MR. BLASE

STOP! THEM'S MY FRENCH FRIES.

Cont.

But the French fries are gone. Dave looks at his father X
and mother. He suddenly clutches his heart.

DAVE

Oh, Mama...

Mrs. Blase is frightened.

MRS. BLASE

Oh, my God. What's the matter?

DAVE

My heart, Mama. Mio cuoro!

MRS. BLASE

It's his heart. It's those damn
French fries he ate.

MR. BLASE

THEY WERE MY FRENCH FRIES.

DAVE

I am in love, Mama. Papa.

(gets up and
hugs his father;
then walks toward
door)

I have such a pain in my heart.

He walks out. Mr. Blase goes to the empty plate.
Mrs. Blase opens the 'fridge and starts putting all kinds of
food into a bag: cheeses, sausage, the rest of the eggs in
the carton...bacon. Mr. Blase looks at her.

MR. BLASE

What are you doing? Evelyn.

MRS. BLASE

I won't have any heart attack
food in my house. That was
God's warning to us. If anybody
dies around here it won't be on
my conscience.

MR. BLASE

What are you doing, Evelyn?

MRS. BLASE

These are all the food the
doctor said you can't have...
and they're all going out.

Cont.

She is in fact piling them into the trash can. Mr. Blase looks on trying to keep his composure.

MR. BLASE
I'm having a nightmare.

OUT 50

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

51

Dave is combing back his hair in the Italian "style" while riding. In his other hand, he has his Italian Phrase Book. He's not riding very hard. To the right of him, in the fields, we see a few cows and horses. Above him, on the electrical wires, birds are perched like musical notes. He's riding and humming.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The CAMERA SWINGS UP PICKING UP the birds on the wires and Dave seems to be humming a motif created by their pattern. The utility poles whiz by faster and faster.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Dave is facing the opposite way from the way he came. He's at a standstill. He puts the phrase book away. His face changes. He's hyperventilating. A hard competitor's look is in his eyes. He looks at his wristwatch.

OUT 52-
53

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

54

Dave is at a junction of a country road and a highway. He's about to ride onto the highway. He looks at his watch as he does. We see a truck behind him making the same turn. As Dave gets on the highway we see a sign: BLOOMINGTON - 50 miles. The truck follows him.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE HIGHWAY

Dave is building up speed when the truck passes him.

CLOSEUP - DAVE

Big smile.

CLOSEUP - THE TRUCK

We see a big sign on the back: "CINZANO."

ANOTHER ANGLE

Dave speeds up and gets behind the truck to use it as a windbreak.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON THE TRUCK DRIVER

He sees Dave behind him and speeds up, shifting gears.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE

He shifts gears.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON THE TRUCK DRIVER

He looks at his speedometer. He's going forty. He looks in the side mirror. He sees Dave. He sticks out four fingers.

FADE THROUGH TO:

ANGLE ON THE TRUCK DRIVER

55

He looks at the speedometer. He's going fifty. He sticks out five fingers. He can't believe Dave is still there. He shifts again.

CUT TO:

Cont.

ANGLE ON DAVE

He's going all out now. He's in his highest gear.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON THE TRUCK DRIVER

He looks at the speedometer. He's going sixty. He looks at the side mirror and still sees Dave. Suddenly he also sees a red flashing light and hears the siren of a State Trooper.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE

He's still going hard only now there's no truck in front of him. He looks back over his shoulder and sees the truck and the State Trooper at the side of the road. Dave continues.

CLOSEUP - DAVE

Sweat is dripping down his chin. Pain is beginning to distort his face. But his legs move in the same rhythmical motion.

A LONG SHOT

We see Dave and his bicycle disappear down one of the rolling hills and then reappear again on the incline.

A LONGER SHOT

Dave is now a dot on the horizon.

CLOSEUP - DAVE

He shifts gears and starts to sprint. His face is agony now.

CLOSEUP - A HIGHWAY SIGN

"WELCOME TO BLOOMINGTON: HOME OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY."

ANOTHER ANGLE

As Dave goes past the sign, he quickly looks at his watch. He's elated. A huge grin breaks in his salt-covered face, and he reaches for his water bottle and sprays his head with it as if it were victory champagne. Ahead of him we see the Marlboro Man billboard.

CLOSEUP - THE BILLBOARD

We ZERO IN ON a phrase: COME TO WHERE THE FLAVOR IS.

FADE THROUGH TO:

EXT. BLOOMINGTON CAFE - DAY

Mike, Cyril and Moocher are sitting on the sidewalk. Mike is looking at a magazine with the Marlboro Man on the back cover.

MIKE

That's the place to be...Wyoming. Look at that...prairies and mountains and nobody around. All you need is a bedroll and a good horse.

CYRIL

Don't forget your toothbrush. You're still in your cavity-prone years.

A Campus Police Car pulls up.

MOOCHER

Here comes your brother.

Mike puts a cigarette in his mouth as his brother, a Campus COP in his late twenties comes out.

COP

I hear you've been hot-rodding through the campus again.

MIKE

I was just...

COP

I'll take the car back if you keep it up.

MIKE

All right, all right.

The Cop is heading toward the cafe.

COP

How're you doing, guys?

CYRIL

We're a little disturbed by the developments in the Middle East ...but other than that...

The Cop goes into the cafe. As soon as he does Mike acts tough again.

Cont.

MIKE

Camp-pussie cop. Hey, I know what. Let's all drive to Terre Haute tomorrow. There's supposed to be a warehouse there.

MOOCHER

I'm eh...I'm busy tomorrow.

CYRIL

That's funny. Me too.

Both of them feel a little guilty. Mike pretends he doesn't care.

MIKE

Ah. I never pay for it anyway.

EXT. MR. BLASE'S CAR LOT - DAY

57

But it's dark enough to be evening. The sky is black and it's raining. Mr. Blase stands in the doorway of his office. He's looking out. For once he's a little relaxed. Nobody will come in this weather. He's thinking. Maybe he's thinking about his youth. His eyes fall on his potbelly. He sucks it in. But he can't hold it in. Lets it out and goes back to thinking.

EXT. BLOOMINGTON - NANCY'S CARAVAN - DAY

58

X

It's still raining. Moocher is helping the Waitress, NANCY, carry in a huge chest of drawers. Moocher is carrying it solo. Nancy seems worried.

MOOCHER

I'm fine. I'm fine.

NANCY

You're so strong.

One of the drawers falls out of the chest. Nancy's clothes scatter on the sidewalk. Moocher pauses. Nancy puts the clothes back in the drawer and then she, too, pauses as she picks up a long nightgown. She holds it against her body as she folds it slowly looking at Moocher and he at her, still holding the chest of drawers.

X

NANCY

You know what?

X

MOOCHER

No, what?

X

Cont.

NANCY

I'm thinking of getting my hair done.

She puts the nightgown in the drawer. Then she demonstrates, pushing her hair back.

NANCY

I thought maybe, something like this. What do you think?

MOOCHEER'S P.O.V.:

He's looking at Nancy. The new hairdo she's suggesting makes her look lovely.

MOOCHEER

Not bad.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF BLOOMINGTON - DAY

58-A

Mr. Blase is driving one of the "fanciest" cars off his lot. (NOTE: AN OLD LINCOLN OR A CADDY WOULD BE JUST FINE.)

INT. CAR

Mr. Blase is dressed neatly. He's wearing a jacket and a tie although it's hot and he's sweating.

EXT. WOOLRIDGE QUARRY SHOP - DAY

58-B

Mr. Blase pulls into the parking lot and gets out. He looks at the shop. The NOISE of MACHINERY is HEARD from the huge building. The NOISE gets LOUDER as Mr. Blase walks toward it, trying to avoid stepping into the limestone dust with his polished shoes, but the dust is everywhere.

EXT. SHOP ENTRANCE

58-C

Several CUTTERS are having lunch. They are eating heartily right outside the shop. The NOISE is EVEN LOUDER but they don't seem to be bothered by it. One of them looks.

CUTTER ONE

Well, look who's back.

He has to shout to be heard. The others look.

ANGLE ON MR. BLASE

He's glad to be back but he's also trying to keep a little distance as if proud of how far he had come in life. He smiles and waves grandly, his suit and tie sticking out in this surrounding.

CUTTER ONE

Damn if you don't look like
one of them
Government Safety Inspectors.

CUTTER TWO

No, a Union Organizer.

They all laugh and get up to greet him. All except one
younger man who continues sitting and eating. The Cutters
slap Mr. Blase on the back, their dusty hands leaving dusty
imprints on his jacket.

CUTTER THREE

We'll start you as an
apprentice again.

MR. BLASE

Like hell you will. I'm just
visiting. But if I wanted to
come back I could pick up where
I left off.

The entrance to the shop draws him forward. A couple of the
Cutters accompany him. He takes half of a sandwich from one
of them. It's lunch hour at the shop and the old instincts
are coming back.

YOUNG CUTTER

Who's he?

Mr. Blase looks back over his shoulder hurt by this remark.

INT. SHOP - DAY

The NOISE is now DEAFENING. Dust is everywhere and slowly
through the dust we see men working, pausing only long enough
to smile and wave at Mr. Blase. Mr. Blase is finishing off
his sandwich just like the Cutter next to him who walks to
his place leaving Mr. Blase, who has no place here, to wonder.

CUT TO:

THE MACHINERY

Huge blocks of stone are being cut by saws...moving back and
forth and back and forth in an almost hypnotic motion...water
falling down to cool the blades.

CUT TO:

Cont.

A HUGE WOODEN CHAIR

Mr. Blase's coat is draped over it.

CUT TO:

MR. BLASE

He's driving in wooden wedges into the cut block of limestone. Water is falling on him. A toothless old-timer is grinning at him. It's hard to tell which is sweat and which is water on Mr. Blase's body.

CUT TO:

THE MACHINERY

Cranes are moving overhead. Huge blades are spinning huge columns of limestone, chisels indenting grooves.

CUT TO:

MR. BLASE

He's borrowing a cigarette from a Cutter, lighting it. He's tired and out of breath. The man moves on to do his work. Mr. Blase smokes his cigarette looking on...in love with this place and yet out of place. A Man is shouting at him. He can't hear. He finally hears him.

CUTTER ONE

YOUR SON. HOW'S YOUR SON
DOING.

MR. BLASE

FINE. JUST FINE.

CUTTER ONE

THAT'S MINE OVER THERE.

A SHOT of the Cutter who didn't know Mr. Blase. Mr. Blase sits down in the chair where his coat is draped. He has sat in this chair before in the younger days. He feels the notches in the armrest. He picks up a piece of limestone lying along the side of the chair and then he looks the place over one more time.

CLOSEUP - DAVE

He's on a bike. We don't know where he is. It's raining hard around him. The CAMERA PULLS BACK and we SEE that he's riding the "rollers", a stationary device on which his bike is placed. He's outside his house on the porch. He sees Cyril running through the rain towards him. Cyril is wearing a yellow, rubber rain cape and carrying a guitar.

FADE THROUGH TO:

INT. BLASE HOUSE - DAY

60

Mrs. Blase is mopping the kitchen floor. ENRICO GIMONDI is singing in Dave's room. Cyril's GUITAR is HEARD. Mrs. Blase pauses in her mopping. There is a look of romantic yearning in her eyes.

INT. DAVE'S ROOM - DAY

61

The phonograph is off. It's silent. Cyril, his tongue between his teeth, is PLAYING a simple melody of one of ENRICO GIMONDI'S songs. He's gloomy at the start, but gets happier as he continues.

ANGLE ON DAVE

He's smiling too. He's wearing a hairnet.

DAVE

That's it! That's the song,
Cyril I recognize it.

CYRIL

Yeah. Damn right.

DAVE

Only you'll have to make it
louder. Real loud.

CYRIL

Don't you worry. I'll make
this catgut meow.

ANGLE ON THE CAT

It gets up and leaves.

EXT. BLASE HOUSE - EVENING

62

Mr. Blase has pulled in and is getting out of his car. It's still raining, although not as hard. He runs to the house. Opens the door and the cat runs out startling him a bit.

INT. BLASE HOUSE - CLOSEUP MR. BLASE - EVENING

63

He has stopped in his tracks and looks on stunned.

ANGLE ON MRS. BLASE

She has prettied herself up. A different hairdo. A nice dress. Some nice makeup.

MR. BLASE
You...eh...you waxed the floor,
eh? Looks nice.

EXT. CAMPUS - EVENING

64

Dave and Cyril are riding double on the bike. Cyril carries his guitar.

CUT TO:

INT. BLASE HOUSE - EVENING

65

Candles are lit on the kitchen table. Mr. and Mrs. Blase are sitting facing each other. Mr. Blase picks up a carrot stick and chomps on it. Mrs. Blase chomps on hers. Mr. Blase is so unsettled by the way his wife looks that he almost seems to be enjoying the carrot stick.

MRS. BLASE
How about a little music?

CUT TO:

EXT. CHI-DELTA SORORITY - NIGHT

66

Cyril is standing next to the building. He starts PLAYING on his GUITAR. Dave is further out, standing in the parking lot looking up at the windows.

DAVE
KA-THE-RI-NA!

A few lights go on upstairs.

CUT TO:

INT. DAVE'S ROOM - NIGHT

67

Mrs. Blase is putting on the Enrico Gimonde album. A SHOT X of the ALBUM COVER. Enrico looks out at us, smiling. SINGS.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHI-DELTA SORORITY - NIGHT

68

X

Cyril is playing the same song that Enrico is SINGING in X Dave's room. We see several Girls in the window upstairs. One of them is Katherine. Other girls are coming, crowding behind her. Down below Dave is SINGING.

CLOSEUP - DAVE

He's using every gesture of a Neapolitan serenader. Only they don't seem artificial. He's in the spirit of the moment.

CLOSEUP - KATHERINE

She feels obliged because of her girl friends to look upon Dave's performance as something corny and silly, but slowly her face is changing as she is charmed by the song. Her girl friends hush behind her and they too look on as if sorry they weren't the ones being serenaded. In the back Suzy looks on too.

CLOSEUP - CYRIL:

CYRIL

Play it, Cyril!

CUT TO:

INT. BLASE HOUSE

69

Mrs. Blase is standing in the doorway of the kitchen. She's looking at Mr. Blase. Enrico Gimonde is SINGING. X
Mr. Blase is holding a carrot in his hand. He seems ready to bite it, but some other instinct moves within him and despite himself, he gets up.

INT. CHI-DELT SORORITY

70

X

Suzy is on a phone. We HEAR DAVE SINGING o.s.

SUZY

Oh, hi, Rod. I was just wondering if you knew that there was a guy here with a guitar serenading Kath.

CUT TO:

CLOSEUP - DAVE

70-A

He's SINGING.

CLOSEUP - KATHERINE

She's completely won over. Behind her we once again see Suzy.

CUT TO:

INT. MR. BLASE'S BEDROOM

71

Mrs. Blase is in bed. She takes the flower out of her hair and places it on the other side of her. Mr. Blase is pulling off his T-shirt. Enrico is SINGING. X

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

72

Dave's cat is MEOWING.

CUT TO:

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF CAMPUS - NIGHT

73

Rod and several of his Frat Brothers are rushing out toward Rod's Mercedes convertible.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHI-DELTA SORORITY - CLOSEUP OF THE WINDOW

74

X

The Girls are applauding. Katherine is not there.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Katherine is riding away on Dave's bike. Cyril looks on.

EXT. BLASE HOUSE - NIGHT

75

The last light goes out as Enrico Gimonde begins another SONG. X

EXT. CHI-DELTA SORORITY - NIGHT

76

X

Cyril is walking away out of the parking lot still strumming his guitar. A car is coming up the street.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

ROD

That must be him. The
bastard.

He slams on the brakes.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Cyril stops strumming. He sees a bunch of guys rushing out of the car toward him.

CYRIL

Ooops. If I were a cartoon,
I'd go: HELP. And you'd see
my tonsils wiggling in the back.

He starts to run. Rod and his friends run after him.

FADE THROUGH TO:

EXT. CHI-DELT SORORITY - NIGHT

77 X

Dave and Katherine have returned. She's just getting off the bike.

KATHERINE

I have to go in.

DAVE

Buono notte, Katherina.

KATHERINE

I haven't ridden double since I was a small girl and I've never been serenaded. So, it was a lovely evening.
'Molte grazia.'

She's a little embarrassed by her Italian and Dave, the pro, gestures that it wasn't so bad. She leans over. They kiss.

OUT 78

EXT. BLOOMINGTON - CLOSEUP CYRIL - DAY

79

His face is all bruised. He's drinking a bottle of Coke and walking. Mike, Cyril and Dave are with him. They are crossing the railroad tracks.

MIKE

He won't tell me who did it.

CYRIL

It was dark. All I can tell you for sure is that they all wore Brut aftershave and smelled of Lavoris.

X

MIKE

What were you doing there by yourself.

Cyril and Dave exchange looks.

CYRIL

Just walking.

MIKE

What kind of car did they drive?

CYRIL

It was this Mercedes convertible.

Cont.

MIKE

I've seen that car. All right.
They want to fight...we'll give
them a fight.

CYRIL

Chief Mike plenty brave...but
I say this: We rednecks are
few. Paleface college students
are many. I counsel peace.

Mike grabs him.

MIKE

C'mon. Let's find the bastard.

Cyril sees a trash can. He hooks shoots with the coke bottle.
It goes right in, and breaks. He smiles. X

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

80

Mike's car is moving through the campus. They're all looking
at the cars going by.

FADE THROUGH TO:

ANOTHER PART OF THE CAMPUS

81

Mike's car is parked next to a grassy field. They're all
watching cars going by. Cyril shakes his head. On the field
a bunch of College Kids are gathering for a game of football.

FADE THROUGH TO:

ANGLE ON THE FOOTBALL GAME

The College Kids are laughing and playing.

CUT TO:

CLOSEUP - MIKE

He's not looking at cars anymore. He's looking at the game.

FADE THROUGH TO:

ANGLE ON THE FOOTBALL GAME

The game is over. It's getting dark. The College Kids are
splitting up into little groups and going home.

FADE THROUGH TO:

INT. MIKE'S CAR - DUSK

MIKE

I really thought I was a great quarterback in high school. I still think so. I can't even bring myself to light a cigarette 'cause I keep thinking I should stay in shape. And you know what gets me. Living here and reading in the papers how some hotshot kid is the new star on the college team. Every year there'll be a new one and it's never going to be me. I'll just be Mike. Twenty-year-old Mike. Thirty-year-old Mike. Old mean old man Mike. But the college kids will never get old...out of shape...'cause new ones come every year. And they'll keep calling us 'cutters.' To them it's a dirty word but to me it'll just be something else I never got a chance to be.

He falls silent and sticks a cigarette in his mouth. His genuine confession has caught everybody, including himself, off guard. The guys look at him with sympathy and understanding but Mike doesn't like that. He starts the car up.

DAVE

I...I have to go somewhere.

OUT 83-
86

EXT. CAMPUS - DUSK

87

Dave and Katherine are walking together.

KATHERINE

I've never been to Naples, but it sounds lovely.

DAVE

Oh, Napoli. Si, signorina. So beautiful. We live by the sea. My Papa, he has a boat...a fisherman. My Mama, she has ten bambini...and I am eleven. And when I left for America, they all cry big tears... tears big like figs...

Katherine takes out a little book from her bag.

Cont.

KATHERINE

Look what I bought. I figured
I might as well learn a little.

She's holding the exact Italian Phrase Book that Dave has.
Dave gestures that the book is no good.

DAVE

You never learn Italian from
book. I know that book. No
good.

They head toward the Union.

INT. ROD'S MERCEDES - DUSK

88

Rod is with a different GIRL. They are driving through the
campus.

ROD

You haven't pledged any
sorority yet?

GIRL

No.

ROD

You should. Most frat guys
won't go out with dormies.
I'm the exception.

GIRL

You're on the swimming team,
eh?

ROD

Yep. Breaststroke.

He gives her his cool, full of hints, smile.

EXT. CAMPUS - DUSK

89

Rod's car is going one way. Approaching him from the other
direction we see Mike's car.

INT. MIKE'S CAR - DUSK

Mike spots the Mercedes. As it's about to go past him Mike
shifts his car in reverse and winds up going backwards
parallel to Rod's car. Rod is looking at him. Mike is
looking at him.

MIKE

Is that him?

CYRIL

I guess.

Mike shifts the car into first and waits for an opening to make a U-turn.

INT. ROD'S CAR - DUSK

GIRL

Who were they?

ROD

A bunch of cutters.

GIRL

What are cutters?

X

ROD

Townies.

X

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON MIKE'S CAR

89-A

He finds a gap in the traffic and makes a U-turn.

EXT. STUDENT UNION - DUSK

90

Rod pulling in. Stops. Reaches over casually but deliberately and opens the door for the Girl.

INT. STUDENT UNION - NIGHT

91

The Student Union is a large L-shaped affair. Music is playing. A few people are dancing. The rest are seated at tables. The place is packed -- at least in the long part of the L. In the short part of the L, away from all this, and out of view of the hordes, are a few other people. There we see Dave and Katherine. A WAITER is coming up to them.

CLOSEUP - DAVE AND KATHERINE

DAVE

Due capuccino, por favore.

X

The Waiter grunts.

X

EXT. STUDENT UNION - NIGHT

92

Mike's car is parked next to the Mercedes. The guys are looking at the car and then looking at the forbidding entrance to the Student Union.

Cont.

CYRIL
We can't go in there.

MIKE
Oh yeah! Watch this.

All three of them start up the long stairway leading to the fortress-like Union.

INT. STUDENT UNION - NIGHT

93

Rod and his Girl are looking for a place to sit. Seeing no empty spots in the area they head toward the area where Dave and Katherine are sitting. Just as they're about to turn the corner and probably see them somebody gets up and Rod takes the table.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE AND KATHERINE

93-A

They are drinking their coffee.

KATHERINE
It's kind of nice to hear of somebody who misses his parents.

DAVE
Certo, I miss. Just like you miss your Mama and Papa.

KATHERINE
I hardly miss them. I went as far as I could to get away from them.

DAVE
Ah, but they miss you, eh? At home they sit and look at your picture: Ah, they are saying, how we miss our Katherina, our bambina...

Katherine is near tears. The homelife Dave's describing is obviously not hers. Not wanting to cry she takes out a cigarette and a lighter and Dave, being a continental gentleman, takes the lighter from her. He doesn't know what to make of it. He fiddles with it and then strikes and a huge jet of flame shoots out. Dave is frightened. He lets go of the button, but the lighter is stuck and the flame is still burning. He blows on it. He shakes it. Katherine starts laughing. Finally, in desperation Dave pours coffee on the lighter and it goes out.

Cont.

DAVE
 You shouldn't smoke. I go
 bring more coffee.

He takes the cups toward the self-service cafeteria line.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON MIKE, MOOCHER AND CYRIL

94

They are standing in the Union wondering where to go. They look lost and intimidated but trying to look tough. Dave appears in their field of vision at the end of the cafeteria line but they are looking elsewhere. Just as they seem to turn and see him Mike spots a tall BLOND GUY, very much like Rod, going into the bowling alley.

MIKE
 There he is.

Our trio heads for the bowling alley.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON THE CAFETERIA LINE

95

Dave is standing directly behind Rod. In front of Rod are several hero-worshipping Guys listening to Rod.

ROD
 The only way to train for
 bike racing is what we do in
 swimming: Interval training.

DAVE
 The Germans...they use interval
 training and the Italians...they
 don't. The Italians...they beat
 the pants off Germans.

Dave thinks this is funny and laughs. Rod turns around and gives him a scornful look. Dave recognizes him. Rod doesn't recognize Dave.

CUT TO:

INT. THE BOWLING ALLEY

96

Mike, Cyril and Mocher are standing behind the Blond Guy they followed. Cyril is goofing around with a bowling ball. He sticks his finger in the hole. The Blond Guy turns around. He sees the three guys staring at him.

BLOND
 (very gay)
 Hi there, want to roll some balls?

CUT TO:

INT. STUDENT UNION CORRIDOR

98

Mike, Moocher and Cyril are leaving the bowling alley. Cyril is trying to hide the ball he's carrying. His finger is stuck in the hole.

CYRIL

I can't get it out.

College Kids are looking at them. It's obvious who they are. Mike is leading the way but even he's feeling out of place.

CYRIL

My finger can't breathe!

As some busty Coeds go past him:

CYRIL

Hi, what's your major?

They enter the long part of the L-shaped room.

MIKE

Looks like he left.

The trio starts heading toward the revolving door. They pass Rod's GIRL. She's sitting alone. Cyril stops.

CYRIL

And what's your major?

GIRL

Sosh.

Rod shows up carrying a tray of drinks. Cyril looks up. Mike sees him. It's clear he wishes he didn't. Moocher resigns himself to the inevitable. Starts wrapping a handkerchief around his fist. Cyril is cringing.

Cont.

CYRIL

That's a nice major...Sosh.

ROD

What're you cutters doing here?
Did you get lost.

MIKE

No.

ROD

Then why don't you get lost now.

CYRIL

Oops. I feel like that cartoon
again.

A bunch of Rod's cronies sitting nearby laughs. They crowd in around the cutters. Cyril and Moocher look at Mike for guidance. Mike is on the spot. It's not that he's afraid of a fight, it's just that he's on a foreign turf.

MIKE

Is...is that him, Cyril?

Cyril gets the cue.

CYRIL

I...I don't think so.

MOOCHER

Let's get out of here.

ROD

Smart move, shorty.

This is all Moocher needs. He hits Rod right in the tray spilling the drinks all over him. Rod falls back knocking the table down. His friends jump up to his aid. Our guys are surrounded. The only opening is the cafeteria line. Mike is hit and falls back knocking down a tall row of plates, saucers, cups. Cyril is swinging the bowling ball around himself for protection. More rows of plates fall as the ball hits them. The College Guys, led by Rod are trying to advance but our guys are throwing plates and maybe even food at them. The College Guys are throwing back what they can. Cyril's ball flies off and hits somebody in the stomach. By now it's a free-for-all.

CUT TO:

Cont.

ANGLE ON DAVE AND KATHERINE

They are all alone now. Everybody on their side has left to see the fight. They get up too to have a look.

CUT TO:

DAVE'S P.O.V.

He sees his friends surrounded and battling back. He wants to help but Katherine is right there.

KATHERINE'S P.O.V.

She sees Rod.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The fight is going at full blast.

KATHERINE

What's going on.

GIRL

Just some cutters making trouble.

Dave is stung by this remark. He plows into the fight. Katherine grabs him and tries to pull him away. She can not tell which side he is on. Through the revolving doors the Campus Police arrive led by Mike's brother.

KATHERINE

We go now.

Katherine takes Dave by the arm.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON THE CAMPUS POLICE

They are breaking up the fight. Mike's brother looks angrily at Mike and the guys as he pulls Rod away.

ROD

The cutters started it!

CLOSEUP - MIKE'S BROTHER

His anger changes direction as he looks back at Rod.

ESTABLISHING SHOT - THE DOOR OF THE PRESIDENT OF
THE UNIVERSITY 99

INT. PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - CLOSEUP - ROD - DAY

He's well-dressed. Jacket and tie. The CAMERA PULLS BACK.
A dozen other student "leaders" are there. One of them is
black. The PRESIDENT is at his desk. On his far right we
see Mike's brother sitting alone.

PRESIDENT

Most of you will only spend four
years here but to a lot of us
Bloomington is our home and I
don't like the way you are behaving
in my home. These needless
hostilities have happened before.
They will not happen again. If
you feel compelled to compete with
the kids from the town then you
will do it in a different arena.
I am looking at a plan to open
our intramural program to them.
And as a starting point, in
consultation with Mr. Armstrong,
we have decided to expand the
field of this year's Little 500
to include a team from the town.

A loud protest is heard from everybody.

ROD

But, sir, they're not good enough...
Having them in the race...

BLACK GUY

(interrupts)

The whole thing reeks of
tokenism.

Everybody, even Rod, looks at him. It's sort of like: What
are you talking about.

EXT. DAVE'S HOUSE - DAY

100

Dave is on the bike. Cyril is walking.

CYRIL

The funniest part is that
tough-guy Mike didn't get a
punch in. You should've
been there.

DAVE

I have to go.

X

CYRIL

Are you going to see Katherine.

DAVE

I...I have to go train. The
Italians will be here soon. Ciao,
Cyril.

He rides away.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

101

Moocher and Nancy are standing outside. Moocher is fishing
through his pockets for money.

NANCY

I'll pay for it.

MOOCHEER

What do you mean...I've got money.

NANCY

We can go Dutch.

MOOCHEER

On a marriage license!

NANCY

You know what?

MOOCHEER

What?

NANCY

I'm scared.
(giggles)
But I like it.

Dave rides past them.

DAVE'S P.O.V.:

He looks at them just as they go inside.

EXT. INTERSECTION - DAY

102

Dave is riding. The light is turning yellow. He speeds up
to make the light. A car going at a right angle to him has
to come to a screeching halt to avoid hitting him. It's
Mr. Blase with a CUSTOMER and his Family. The car stalls.
Dave looks back over his shoulder. Sees his father and waves.

Cont.

INT. MR. BLASE'S CAR

He's beginning to cringe, but tries to be confident. He tries to start the car up. He's blocking traffic and horns are blowing. The car won't start.

MR. BLASE

Oh, damn. You know what? I put premium gas in this baby by mistake. It hates expensive gas.

He tries to laugh about this, but nobody in the car is buying the story.

EXT. BLOOMINGTON - CLOSE UP - A CAMPUS TOWING TRUCK - DAY 103

The CAMERA MOVES BACK and we SEE Mr. Blase and the Family sitting in the car getting towed.

INT. MR. BLASE'S CAR

Mr. Blase is draped over the wheel, his head down. The kids are crying.

MR. YORK

Will you please stop crying. The car didn't really die. It's just an expression.

INT. BLASE HOUSE - NIGHT 104

Mr. Blase is shaking with hostility. He's trying to drink a glass of milk but it's spilling.

MR. BLASE

I should have hit him when I had my chance. He'd be dead now. No more worries.

MRS. BLASE

I'll talk to him, dear. I'll tell him he'll either have to get a job or go to college.

MR. BLASE

College! So he can thumb his diploma at me.

INT. DAVE'S ROOM - NIGHT 105

He's lying on the bed exhausted but listening.

Cont.

MRS. BLASE

(o.s.)
Dave's never thumbed anything at anybody.

MR. BLASE

(o.s.)
That's because he hasn't been to college! Besides he's probably too stupid to get in.

MRS. BLASE

(o.s.)
Don't say that. He'll hear you.

MR. BLASE

I don't care. It's my house. He doesn't understand English anyway. X

MRS. BLASE

I'm sure he'll find a job somewhere. X

MR. BLASE

He couldn't get a job to save his life. He's worthless, Evelyn. I could die of shame everytime I see him, goddamn lazy freeloader. X

OUT 106-
109

EXT. QUARRIES - DAY

110

Similar SHOT as the opening of the film. Voices and laughter o.s.

MED. SHOT

Rod, Katherine, Rod's teammates and their Girls are walking through the quarries.

ROD

I discovered this place. It's really something. Wait 'til you see it.

EXT. QUARRY HOLE - DAY

111 X

Mike, Cyril, Moocher and Dave are sitting on the rocks above the water. The mood is quite different from the last time they were here. There is physical and emotional distance between them.

MIKE

And why not?

DAVE
I just...eh...don't want to be in
the Little 500.

MIKE
Christ, I thought you'd jump at
the chance.

DAVE
Well, I just...

He looks at Cyril. Cyril knows why he doesn't want to be in
it.

DAVE
Don't want to be seen with all
those College Kids.

MIKE
That's the whole point. They all
be there we can beat those
shitheads in front of everybody.

MOOCHER
It takes four guys to have a team.

MIKE
We got four. We all enter just to
get in and Dave rides the whole
thing and we win.

DAVE
Sure...it's just that...eh...I'll
be working that day.

MIKE
Working!

Dave has said it and now feels he has to stick with it.

DAVE
Yes, I'm getting a job.

MIKE
By yourself.

DAVE
Yeah, I need the money.

MIKE
Oh, that's just great. You're a
real pal, Dave.

MOOCHER
Look, the time comes when we all...

MIKE
(interrupts)
I wasn't talking to you.

MOOCHER
I don't give a damn. You're not
a quarterback here, you know.

MIKE
At least I was once! Which is one
helluva lot better than being a
midget all my life.

Moocher is stung by the remark. But he controls his normal
reaction with difficulty.

DAVE
Hey, c'mon.
Cyril is very upset by all this. He's starting to cry.

DAVE
Hey, bambini, che cosa, eh?

MIKE
Just drop that Italian shit, eh?
I'm so sick of that shit.

A pall falls over the group. Moocher and Cyril feel bad for
Dave.. Dave's smile vanishes. He feels a little foolish
himself. Mike is almost sorry he said what he did but having
said it he feels compelled to continue.

MIKE
Driving you to bike races. What the
hell am I your private chauffeur or
something. I don't ever remember
you paying for the gas. Sure, it's
fun to win. Get all the glory for
yourself but when it comes time to
do something for the rest of us...
Shit. I think you're just afraid
of those college guys.

MOOCHER
And you're not?

MIKE
The only thing I'm afraid of is
wasting the rest of my life with
you guys.

CYRIL
(through tears)
I thought that was the plan. We'd
waste the rest of our lives
together.

Mike stands up. He's ready to walk away. He pauses suddenly. On the other side of the quarry he sees Rod and his group. Dave sees Katherine and without making it obvious to the others leans back behind a rock.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Mike is looking at Rod. Rod sees him and just stands there. His friends, Katherine included, seem to be trying to get him to leave. But he doesn't. Mike feels the eyes of his gang on him. He gestures to Rod to come in the water. Mike runs up his rock and dives in. Rod dives off his side.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The two of them are swimming toward each other.

CLOSEUP - THE CUTTERS

CYRIL

They're going to race.

DAVE

What the hell's he doing.
That guy...

Cont.

CLOSEUP - ROD AND MIKE

They are side-by-side. Rod is smiling. Mike takes off toward one end of the quarry swimming as fast as he can. Rod lets him go. Looks up at his friends and takes off after him. Mike is splashing clumsily but going as hard as he can. Rod is smooth and powerful. He catches up to Mike. He changes from breaststroke to backstroke. It's all so easy for him.

CLOSEUP - DAVE

He's staying out of sight of Katherine. He's feeling quite badly for having to hide.

CLOSEUP - THE RACE

Rod has reached the wall of the quarry and is waiting. Mike reaches the wall...exhausted and starts back again. Rod seems amused. He thought the race was over. He takes off after Mike imitating the way Mike is swimming. His friends laugh.

CLOSEUP - THE CUTTERS

All three of our guys are feeling badly for Mike.

CLOSEUP - THE RACE

Once again Rod is waiting by the wall. Mike shows up. He can't see the edge. He hits it with his head and starts bleeding. But he pushes off and starts going back again. Even Rod is getting to feel a little bad.

CLOSEUP - THE CUTTERS

MOOCHER

How long is he going to keep going?

CYRIL

Not much longer. There won't be any water left the way he's splashing.

ANGLE ON THE RACE

Mike seems to be half-drowning. He can't see where he's going. He's no longer swimming in a straight line. His head is bleeding and he's running into the edges of the quarry. Hitting them with his hands. His hands are bleeding too.

Cont.

But he continues, splashing pathetically and yet defiantly through the water.

CLOSEUP - ROD

He's no longer swimming. He's quite perplexed that Mike keeps going. Isn't it clear he lost?

FADE THROUGH TO:

ANGLE ON ROD AND HIS GROUP

They are leaving the quarry.

CLOSEUP - DAVE

He watches Katherine disappear. He's angry with himself. He jumps out of his hiding place into the water.

CLOSEUP - MIKE

He's swimming in a total daze. Blood is dripping down his face. Dave is swimming toward him. Moocher and Cyril are behind Dave.

Mike's arms go around Dave's neck. He's smiling a little through his pain. As he relaxes he lets his weight sink on Dave and Dave sinks under water.

OUT 112-
 114

INT. NICK'S BAR AND GRILL - NIGHT

115

Mr. Blase is sitting at the bar.

MR. BLASE

One more. And make it a double.

NANCY

Haven't you had enough, Mr. Blase?

MR. BLASE

I've had enough of your lip, that's for sure. I said I want a double and I want a double 'on the double.'

Nancy looks at the OWNER of the place. He nods to her to do as he says. Nancy then goes and picks up the phone. X
Dials.

Cont.

NANCY
Mrs. Stohler. This is Nancy
down at Nick's. I think you
better come down.

X

FADE THROUGH TO:

ANGLE ON MRS. BLASE

She is rushing in through the door of the Bar and Grill.
Mr. Blase is still at the counter. Nancy greets her as
she comes in.

MRS. BLASE
How much did he have?

NANCY
Well, he started off with a
single order of French fries.
Then he had some onion rings.
And then he ordered a double
order of each. Right now he's
on a cheeseburger deluxe.

She's heard enough. She rushes to Mr. Blase.

MRS. BLASE
C'mon dear. You've had enough.

Mr. Blase has a mouthful. He speaks through it.

MR. BLASE
Leave me alone.

MRS. BLASE
Oh, you've got catsup all over
your shirt. C'mon. Let's go
home.

EXT. BLOOMINGTON - NIGHT

116

Mr. and Mrs. Blase are walking.

MR. BLASE
I'm just tired of it, Evelyn.
I'm tired of worrying about him.
Who'd hire a guy like that? He'll
wind up a bum. An Italian bum.

MRS. BLASE
You could use some help. What
if you gave him a job?

Cont.

MR. BLASE
I don't want him selling used cars.

MRS. BLASE
Why not? If it's good enough for you...

MR. BLASE
Who says it's good enough for me?

MRS. BLASE
You do.

MR. BLASE
Damn right it's good enough for me. But...I don't need help. Besides...he'd ruin me if I hired him. A weirdo like that...

It's clear that Mr. Blase has higher hopes for Dave which he has difficulty admitting even to himself.

INT. DAVE'S ROOM - NIGHT 117

Dave is sitting in his room and looking around. The room looks empty and lonely. Dave is looking at his SPORTS ILLUSTRATED magazine.

CLOSEUP - THE PICTURE OF THE ITALIAN TEAM

We see four smiling riders with their arms around each other. There's a caption underneath the picture: TEAM CINZANO TO RACE INDIANAPOLIS.

A car is heard pulling up into the drive. Dave looks up.

INT. BLASE KITCHEN - NIGHT 118

Mr. and Mrs. Blase are walking in. Dave is waiting for them.

MR. BLASE
I want to talk to you!

DAVE
Yes, Papa. I want to talk to you too.

MR. BLASE
You know what you're going to do!

DAVE
I'm going to get a job.

This was the very thing that Mr. Blase wanted to say. He feels robbed of not getting a chance to say it.

MRS. BLASE

You see.

MR. BLASE

I see nothing. Where're you going to get a job.

DAVE

This car wash place is still hiring.

MR. BLASE

Car wash! Car wash! You should've died when you had the German Measles. No son of mine is going to wash cars.

EXT. MR. BLASE'S CAR LOT - DAY

119

Dave is washing one of Mr. Blase's cars on the lot. He's whistling a Neapolitan song as he does. Mr. Blase looks on. He's unhappy to see Dave there. And he's unhappy because Dave seems happy.

MR. BLASE

Hey, no whistling. You're a shag boy, so shag. If I wanted whistling, I'd get a bird.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE

He's washing cars. He stops whistling and washes eagerly. The sun's reflected in the car's windows.

FADE THROUGH TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE

119-A

washing another car. In the windows we see a reflection of Mr. Blase's neon signs. It's evening. Mr. Blase shuts the sign off.

MR. BLASE

How're you feeling?

DAVE

Tired, Papa.

Cont.

MR. BLASE
Exhausted?

DAVE
Yes.

MR. BLASE
Good. You might as well get used to it. From now on it's more of the same. Let's go home.

DAVE
I have to train.

EXT. BLOOMINGTON - NIGHT 120

Dave is riding his bike. A car comes toward him with its headlights on and as they go past him:

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE AT WORK 121

He's scrubbing a hubcap. We see his face reflected in it.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE TRAINING - NIGHT 122

Once again as the approaching car lights go past him we:

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE AT WORK 123

He's waxing a car. He sees Mike, Cyril and Mocher driving past in theirs, waving at him. He waves back. We FOLLOW the car as it disappears and then:

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE AT WORK

He's hosing down a car. A group of Fraternity Guys go past the lot on their bikes. Rod's at the head. They're all wearing Little 500 T-shirts. Dave looks after them.

CUT TO:

EXT. BLASE CAR LOT - DAY 124

It's raining. Mr. Blase is standing in the doorway of his office looking out. Dave is riding the "rollers" and eating his lunch. There's nowhere to hide from the rain so he's getting wet. He looks tired. He's thinking of the Italians. As he turns his legs we see: THE PICTURE OF THE ITALIANS FROM THE COMPETITIVE CYCLING MAGAZINE: FOUR OF THEM, ARMS AROUND EACH OTHER, SMILING. Then we see another picture, Dave is in the middle of the Italians. He has his arms around them. He's smiling just like they are.

Cont.

CLOSEUP - DAVE ON THE ROLLERS

He's smiling at the image he sees. His eyes are closing.
He loses his balance and falls off the rollers on the ground.

(The above sequences should be accompanied by music from
Dave's Italian recordings. The music stops when he falls
off.)

INT. CAMPUS CAFE - NIGHT

125

Dave and Katherine are having coffee. Dave looks exhausted.
He's ready to fall asleep.

KATHERINE

Are you all right?

DAVE

Si...I just study too hard.
I have big exam tomorrow.

KATHERINE

Are you going back to Italy
in the summer?

DAVE

Si...My papa needs help.

KATHERINE

Well, I called up my parents.
I'm getting a graduation present.
We can go to Italy together.

Dave suddenly seems to wake up.

DAVE

Maybe I have to go to summer
school.

EXT. MR. BLASE'S CAR LOT - DAY

126

DAVE

Papa...can I have this Saturday
off?

MR. BLASE

Hell no.

DAVE

Just this once. You see the
Italians are coming Saturday.

Cont.

MR. BLASE
I don't care if the second
coming's coming.

DAVE
But I've waited so long.

MR. BLASE
No. N-double 'o' NO-O.
(looks)
Oh.

MR. BLASE'S P.O.V.

We see one of Mr. Blase's cars. The Homecoming Queen. A bunch of College Kids are pushing it into the lot.

MR. BLASE
You stay out of this.

OUT 127-
128

FADE THROUGH TO:

EXT. MR. BLASE CAR LOT - DAY

129

Mr. Blase is standing in front of the Homecoming Queen. He's got his hands on the hood and is pushing. The KID who bought it is at the other end with his friends. They are pushing the other way.

MR. BLASE
What guarantee?

KID
You gave me your word.

MR. BLASE
On paper? Can I see it on
paper?

KID
There was no paper. You gave
me your word.

MR. BLASE
I don't remember giving my word.
(pushes on the car)
Now get this car out of here.

Dave appears next to him.

Cont.

DAVE

You did, Papa. You gave him
your word. I heard you. We
are poor, but we're honest.

Mr. Blase is stunned.

MR. BLASE

What? Who're you?

He starts to push real hard.

KID

All I want is a refund.

MR. BLASE

REFUND! Refund!
(really starts
pushing hard)
Are you crazy? Refund!

He's getting very red in the face. He's pushing for all he's worth. The Kids are pushing the other way. Mr. Blase becomes a fanatic. His veins are swelling on his neck. The world becomes all blurred through his eyes, but he pushes.

MR. BLASE

Re-fund! Re-fund!

Suddenly the world starts to spin for him. He clutches his chest. He's ready to fall backwards, but with the last gasp of willpower, he gets himself to collapse forward on top of the hood.

INT. MR. BLASE'S BEDROOM - DAY

130

A DOCTOR is listening to his heart with a stethoscope. Mr. Blase is in a coma of sorts. He's muttering something. It sounds very much like "Refund...no refund." The Doctor prepares an injection.

CUT TO:

INT. THE KITCHEN

131

Mrs. Blase and Dave are sitting at the table. The Doctor comes out of the bedroom. Dave and Mrs. Blase stand up.

DOCTOR

Well, it's not a stroke, and
he won't creak, as we say.

Cont.

DOCTOR (Cont.)

(laughs at his own
epigram, and lights
a cigarette)

Seriously, Evelyn. He's in
terrible shape. He's a Mack
truck with Rabbit engine.
Once he's up on his feet he
better start using them...
walking...exercising...something.
Otherwise it's taps city for
him. Well, I got to go.

He exits. Dave looks guilty.

DAVE

I ruined everything.

MRS. BLASE

No, you didn't. He needed a
rest and now he's getting one.

DAVE

I don't think I'll go to the
race. I should be here when
Papa wakes up.

MRS. BLASE

No, I don't think you should.
Here, did I ever show you this.

She takes a passport out of her purse on the table.

DAVE

It's a passport.

MRS. BLASE

They're quite cheap, you know.
A real bargain. I keep carrying
it with me. One of these days
there'll be a new girl at the
IGA and when I want to cash a
check she'll ask me for some
indentification and I'll take
out my passport and say: Here.
Won't that be something.

Dave is moved by this gesture: By the spirit of yearning for
travel that it implies and by the knowledge that she will
probably not go anywhere.

DAVE

Oh, Mama...

Cont.

But she will not let him give her any sympathy.

MRS. BLASE

So, I think you should go. You should come home singing with a trophy. You should do all that while you can.

DAVE

I win this one for you, Mama.

MRS. BLASE

Now that would be nice.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

132

We see Mike's car with Dave's bike on top.

EXT. STARTING LINE - CLOSEUP - THE ITALIAN TEAM
- DAY

133

They are posing just like in the picture. People are taking pictures of them. They smile and wave making sure not to obscure the "Cinzano" on their jerseys as they do.

Cont.

ANNOUNCER

(o.s.)
 We are proud to have with us today the famous Team Cinzano from Italy. They are touring America and so far are undefeated. Later on they have been kind enough to agree to hold a racing clinic which none of you should miss.

CLOSEUP - DAVE

He's in the crowd of other racers and like all of them, his eyes are glued on the Italians.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Dave is putting a banana and an apple in the back pocket of his jersey. Other riders are doing likewise. Almost all of them are taking bananas.

ANNOUNCER

(o.s.)
 Everybody please move to the starting line.

A MONTAGE OF LEGS

We see all kinds of legs. Some are milky white. Others are tanned. Some are long and skinny. Others short and bulging with muscles.

MONTAGE OF POSTERIORIS

One after another, we see, the riders' rears meet the saddles of their bicycles.

CLOSEUP - DAVE

He's in the middle of the pack. He looks over his shoulder and waves to Mike, Cyril and Moocher on the sideline.

CLOSEUP - THE ITALIANS

They are in the front. They are looking straight ahead.

ANNOUNCER

(o.s.)
 Riders ready! Timers ready!

A gun is fired. The Italians take off.

Cont.

ANOTHER ANGLE

We see the pack from the back as it moves forward slowly and then faster, and faster, the riders in the back working their way up.

LONG SHOT

The huge pack of riders is now disappearing around a bend in the road.

TRUCKING SHOT

134

We PICK UP the last rider in the field and MOVE PAST him. There are stragglers already: individuals and little groups, and then a large group. We MOVE PAST them TOWARD:

ANGLE ON THE LEAD GROUP

The Italians, Dave and half a dozen other riders are in the lead group. They are separated from the rest by about half a mile. Some riders in the group are eating their bananas. Others are drinking water. They are approaching a hill. The Italians shift their gears and like clockwork the rest of the riders do the same. The Italians start sprinting up the hill. The others pursue. Strain is showing on everybody.

LONG SHOT

We see the pack climbing the hill.

ANGLE ON CREST OF THE HILL

The Italians appear first. They look back over their shoulders and see nobody there. They nod to each other and continue over the crest, shifting into a higher gear for the descent. Dave and three riders appear over the crest. Dave is in the lead. As he goes over the crest, he shifts gears and starts to sprint. The other riders cannot match him.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON ITALIANS

They are bent over their frames in their descent positions. Their knees and elbows are tucked in and they are coasting down the hill.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE

He's in the similar position only he's not coasting. He's pumping as hard as he can.

CUT TO:

Cont.

ANGLE ON THE ITALIANS

They are still in their descent. The hill is steep and they are going very fast. Suddenly, Dave, bent over and breathing hard appears in the FRAME. He tries to appear that he's not tired. He smiles.

DAVE

Buon giorno. Come sta?

The Italians look stunned. The 1ST ITALIAN is annoyed. The 4TH ITALIAN seems amused.

CUT TO:

FRONT SHOT - THE FLATS

135

The Italians are riding hard. The effort is showing on their faces. Dave is behind them. He too is tired. But when the 1st Italian looks back to see how Dave is doing Dave manages to smile. This seems to "psyche" the 1st Italian out. He gestures angrily to Dave to take his turn up front. Dave is thrilled at the command. He moves to the front. The following conversations will have to be subtitled.

DAVE

Oggi fa caldo, none vero?
(It's hot today isn't it?)

1ST ITALIAN

Roba da chiodi!
(You don't say!)

FADE THROUGH TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE "PULLING"

He's up front breaking wind for the others. He's working hard and he's tired. The Italians behind him are likewise. Dave swings off to let another rider pull in front. As he does Dave once again smiles. He doesn't do this to fool them. He's just thrilled to be in their company.

DAVE

Che tempo fara piovera?
(Do you think it'll rain?)

1ST ITALIAN

Filare!
(Scram!)

The 4th Italian tries to calm him down.

Cont.

4TH ITALIAN

Not te la prendere!
(Don't get yourself worked up!)

But the 1st Italian is upset. He wants to drop Dave. But he doesn't want to kill himself doing it. He's thinking.

FADE THROUGH TO:

ANGLE ON THE HILL

136

The Italians are switching off as they begin another ascent. It's Dave's turn to take the lead. As he goes up front the 1st Italian reaches in and pushes Dave's lever all the way forward. This suddenly shifts Dave into a very high gear. He can hardly turn the cranks. The 1st Italian smiles at him.

1ST ITALIAN

Mi scusi!
(Excuse me!)

He takes off. The other three follow him while Dave fumbles around to get back in the right gear.

FADE THROUGH TO:

CLOSEUP - THE 1ST ITALIAN

He does not look happy. The CAMERA MOVES BACK and we SEE Dave at the front again.

CLOSEUP - DAVE

He's getting a little more serious. He sees a huge pothole in front of him. He rides right toward it and then at the last second he jerks his bike aside. The 1st Italian goes right over the pothole. He's jarred and angry. Dave looks back. Smiles.

DAVE

Mi scusi!

The 4th Italian appreciates this little reversal. The 1st Italian is getting a brutal look in his face.

OUT 137

FADE THROUGH TO:

ANGLE ON THE FLATS

138

All five of them are continually taking turns being up front. They are approaching a small hill. The 1st Italian points to the hill. Dave is too exhausted now to fake any smiles. The pace is as hard as it's been.

FADE THROUGH TO:

ANGLE ON THE CREST OF THE HILL

139

Dave is up front.

Behind him we see the 2ND ITALIAN taking out his pump. Dave pulls off to let him take the lead but as he does the 1st Italian pulls up behind him to block his way back. The 3RD ITALIAN sprints up front to block his way forward. Dave is trapped. The 3rd Italian puts on his brakes. Dave puts on his to avoid running into him. As his speed slows down the 2nd Italian sticks his pump into Dave's rear wheel. Dave sees all this. In the split second that it takes, he sees it all. His wheel collapses and Dave tumbles off the road falling down the steep grade. The Italians ride off. The 4th Italian slows down a little to look at Dave. He seems genuinely sorry about what happened but he too continues. He shouts after his teammates. He's a little angry.

4TH ITALIAN

Bravo! Bravo! Bella roba!
(Congratulations! Nice work!)

CLOSEUP - DAVE

His left leg is hurt but more than that his dream seems shattered.

EXT. RACE FINISH

140

The four Italians are sprinting toward the finish line. A large "FINISH" sign flutters in the breeze. The 4th Italian wins and as he does he turns and gives the "Italian finger" to his three buddies. He's still angry at them. Cyril, Mike and Mocher look for Dave. The crowd is cheering.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

140-A

All the guys are riding in silence. Dave is crushed by his shattered Italian dream. Mendelsohn's Italian Symphony is playing: the second movement. They drive past the finish line of the race. The big cloth sign "FINISH" is still up fluttering in the wind. A man is taking it down. Everybody else is gone. Dave looks on heartbroken.

Cont.

CYRIL

I feel like one of those dwarfs
...you know...when they think
that Snow White's dead.

Mike turns to Dave.

MIKE

So I guess you're just a cutter
again like the rest of us.

DAVE

I guess.

EXT. MOOCHER'S HOUSE - DAY

141

Mike's car stops and lets Mocher out. Car drives o.s.
Mocher is walking toward his house. He stops.

MOOCHER'S P.O.V.

He sees a big "SOLD" sign tacked over the FOR SALE sign.

INT. BLASE HOUSE - DAY

142

Mr. and Mrs. Blase are sitting in the kitchen.

MR. BLASE

No, I don't feel lucky to be
alive. I feel lucky I'm not
dead. There's a difference.

The door opens and Dave limps inside. He looks terrible.
Blood is still caked up on his left leg.

MRS. BLASE

What happened to you?

DAVE

It's nothing. How're you
feeling, Dad?

Mr. Blase can't believe he's being called "Dad."

MR. BLASE

Dad. I'll tell you how I'm feeling.
I've had nightmares all night that
everybody I ever sold a car to is
going to come in and ask for a
refund. And you'll be there
handing out the checks. One for
you...and one for you...

Cont.

DAVE

I'm sorry I gave him back his money. I really am. Everybody cheats, Dad. I just didn't know.

Mr. Blase is a little taken aback by this. He doesn't feel quite right about it. He's a tiny bit ashamed.

MR. BLASE

Well, now you know. So, where's the trophy?

DAVE

Oh, Dad...

He can't help himself anymore. He bursts into tears and hugs his father. Mr. Blase doesn't know what to do. His arms are out as if he doesn't know how to embrace.

MR. BLASE

What? What is this? Look...you don't have to be this miserable. A little is all I asked for.

(finally embraces him)

What're you crying for? You'd think you lost your wallet or something.

(even strokes his hair a bit)

Talk to him, Evelyn.

X

He looks up at her and she's so touched by this show of affections that she too is crying.

MR. BLASE

And what're you doing?

Mrs. Blase shakes her head, but she shakes it in a certain way that makes Mr. Blase a little troubled. He looks at her again.

CLOSEUP - MRS. BLASE

Through her tears there's a little trace of a smile appearing.

FADE THROUGH TO:

INT. DAVE'S ROOM - NIGHT

143

He's taking down the last Italian poster and crumpling it up. The cat meows.

DAVE

You hungry, Jake, is that it?

ANOTHER ANGLE

We SEE Mr. Blase standing in the doorway looking at him.

MR. BLASE

Dave.

DAVE

Yes, Dad.

OUT 144-
145

EXT. MR. BLASE'S CAR - NIGHT

146

Mr. Blase is driving. Dave is next to him.

X

EXT. CAMPUS - NIGHT

146-A

The campus is deserted. Dave and Mr. Blase are walking slowly outside a huge classroom building. Mr. Blase lights a cigarette.

MR. BLASE

Just one. Don't tell mother.
(looking at the
building)

You know, I do this every now
and then. Come here at night
and...I cut the stone for that
building over there...

DAVE

Yes, I know, Dad.

MR. BLASE

I was one fine stonecutter...
Mike's dad...Moocher's, Cyril's
...we all were. Well, Cyril's
dad...Ah, never mind. The thing
is. I loved it. I was young,
slim and strong and damn proud
of my work...and the buildings
went up...and when they were
finished...damnest thing happened.
It was like the buildings were
too good for us. Nobody told us
that. But we just felt uncomfortable.
Even now. I'd like to be able
to stroll through the campus and
look at the limestone but I feel
out of place. I suppose you
guys still go swimming in the
quarries.

X

DAVE

Sure.

MR. BLASE

So, all you get from my twenty years of work is the holes we left behind.

DAVE

I don't mind.

MR. BLASE

I didn't either when I was your age. But...Eh, Cyril's Dad says he took that college exam.

DAVE

Yeah, both of us did.

MR. BLASE

So, how did...how did both of you do?

DAVE

Well, I think, eh, one of us did all right. But neither of us...eh...I won't go, Dad. The hell with them. I'm not ashamed of being a cutter. I don't want you feeling bad.

MR. BLASE

Don't do me any favors, eh. What, you afraid.

DAVE

Yeah, a little. And then, there's the rest of the guys.

MR. BLASE

Well, you took the exam. You did all right, eh?

DAVE

Yeah.

MR. BLASE

Well, that's...that's good. Your mom..

(pauses, wants to say something, can't)

She's a fine woman.

Cont.

Both of them smile. Both are a little confused. Mr. Blase puts out the cigarette. Puts arm around Dave and heads back to the car.

INT. DAVE'S ROOM - NIGHT

147

Dave is on the telephone.

DAVE

Yes, can I speak to Ka...
Kathy, please.

A doorbell is heard.

MOOCHER

(o.s.)

They sold my house and Dave
said I could stay here for a
bit.

Dave hangs up the phone as Cyril and Moocher enter carrying Moocher's barbell set and a suitcase.

CYRIL

Can I sleep over too.

MOOCHER

THE UNIVERSITY bought my dad's
house. X

MR. BLASE

(o.s.)

There goes the neighborhood.

FADE THROUGH TO:

EXT. BLASE HOUSE - NIGHT

148

Mike is sitting in the car looking at Dave's room. He's got an unlit cigarette in his mouth and seems to be debating whether he should join the rest of the guys.

INT. DAVE'S ROOM - NIGHT

149

All three guys are sleeping on the floor. Cyril is in the middle. All are awake and silent.

CYRIL

Our year's almost up...and...
well...if anybody's got plans
that don't include me...that's
all right. I've got plans
myself that don't include me.

Cont.

He tries to laugh but doesn't. Puts one arm around Moocher another one around Dave and closes his eyes.

OUT 150

EXT. BLOOMINGTON - DAY

151

Dave and Moocher are walking.

DAVE

I tried calling her on the phone to tell her but I...I just couldn't.

MOOCHER

When she sees you in the race she'll find out. Maybe if she really likes you she won't care. You know Nancy and I...

DAVE

(cutting in)

What a mess. You're a Catholic, Moocher. You ever go to confession?

MOOCHER

Twice.

DAVE

Did it make you feel any better?

MOOCHER

Once.

OUT 152

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH - DAY

153

Dave is in a confession booth.

DAVE

Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned.

INT. PRIEST'S BOOTH

PRIEST

What have you done, my son?

Cont.

DAVE

I have lied and cheated. I told this real nice girl that I'm Italian.

PRIEST

Why did you do that?

DAVE

I guess...well...I wanted to be Italian. I guess I still do.

PRIEST

Me too. Ah, Roma! Believe me, son, it's hard as hell to make it up the ladder of the church hierarchy if you're not Italian. You ever hear of an Irish Pope? You take St. Mary, now. In Italian it's Santa Maria. Ah, 'Santa Maria.' Do you know Silent Night in Italian? Fan-tastic. Even secular words like watermelon. 'Concomero.'

DAVE

What should I do, Father?

PRIEST

Call me Padre, per favore. You see the difference? 'Padre.'

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

154

Dave is waiting outside a classroom building. His hair is combed in an American style now. Students are coming out. Katherine among them. She sees him and is stunned.

KATHERINE

God. What did you do to your hair?

DAVE

I...well...I just...

KATHERINE

I liked it better before. You look like everybody else now.

She starts to mess it up with her hands in order to comb it back into its original shape. The results are not flattering.

DAVE

I am everybody else. I mean...

She laughs.

KATHERINE

You look funny.

DAVE

You see, Katherine...

KATHERINE

Katherine!

DAVE

I feel terrible.

His Italian accent is no longer in use and it makes Katherine just a tiny bit nervous.

KATHERINE

You sound real funny tonight.
Che cosa, Franco?

DAVE

My name is Dave Blase.

KATHERINE

What's that supposed to mean?

DAVE

Nothing. It's just a name. I made it all up. I was born in Bloomington. I went to Bloomington High. I was the treasurer of the Latin Club and head of the Ushers for our assembly programs...I...

KATHERINE

Stop kidding around.

DAVE

I'm what you call 'a cutter.'
Only I'm not really a cutter either, so I don't know what I am.

X

KATHERINE

And Napoli...and the big family...

Dave just nods that they were all lies.

KATHERINE

Well, it was a good act. You certainly fooled me.

Cont.

DAVE
I just didn't know how else...

KATHERINE
Do you know what you are?

DAVE
No, I haven't a clue.

KATHERINE
I'll tell you what you are.
(starts crying)
I'll tell you. You...You...

But she's too upset to tell him anything. She runs inside the classroom. The doors close. Dave stands still. The door opens. Dave smiles as Katherine reappears. She runs up to him and slaps him on the face and then runs back inside.

CLOSEUP - DAVE

His face changes from a guilt-ridden sinner to one of almost anger. Not quite. But there is a hint there of: The hell with her then!

EXT. DAVE'S HOUSE - DAY

155

Mike is holding the Little 500 bike. It's heavy and ungainly in comparison to Dave's Italian racer. Dave looks at the bike. Mike, Cyril and Mocher look at him.

DAVE
Can't I even add some toe-clips?

MIKE
No, it's official issue. They said you can't add or change a thing.

DAVE
It's a piece of junk!

CYRIL
But it's got a nice personality. And it's had its rabies shots already.

MOOCHER
I don't think it looks so bad.

DAVE
That's because you don't have to ride it.

Cont.

MOOCHER

You don't have to either, Dave.
We're not going to beg you.

CYRIL

Plead perhaps, but beg...never.
We have our pride.

MIKE

The hell with it. At least we
got invited. That's something.
I'll take it back.

He starts to take the bike away.

DAVE

You actually seem relieved, Mike.

Mike pauses.

DAVE

You don't think we can win
anymore, do you?

Mike is silent.

DAVE

Why not?

MIKE

Well, maybe they are better.

DAVE

I've never heard you say that
before.

MIKE

That's because I never felt it
before.

CYRIL

My dad would be proud of you.
Our family motto is: It can't
be done.

DAVE

We'll see about that.

He takes the bike from Mike and starts wheeling it away.
He gets on it and rides it into the garage. The guys look
at each other. NOISE is HEARD coming from the garage.

INT. MR. BLASE'S GARAGE - DAY

156

The entire bike is dismantled. The wheels are off. The bearings on the wheels are out. The cranks are off and the crankshaft has been removed. Dave is holding the saddle in his hand. He's pushing down on it. It's very hard.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE - KITCHEN

pouring olive oil into a large pan. The pan is on a hotplate. He puts the saddle into the pan and covers it. Mrs. Blase in the kitchen.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE - GARAGE

truing one of the wheels. It's in the truing stand and he's tightening the spokes with a spoke wrench. He spins the wheel. It spins fine.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE - GARAGE

X

reassembling the rear wheel. Putting grease on the ball bearings.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE - KITCHEN

X

taking the saddle out of pot of olive oil. He feels the saddle.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE - GARAGE

assembling the crankshaft and putting on the cranks. He spins the cranks. They spin rapidly on their own.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE - GARAGE

taking the chain out of a kerosene bath.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE - GARAGE

oiling the chain.

CUT TO:

Cont.

ANGLE ON ENTIRE BIKE

assembled. Dave is finishing the job by putting on handlebar tape.

CUT TO:

CLOSEUP - DAVE

He's all dirty. The bike is clean. He looks at it. It's much better now but his face suggests that it's still what it is.

OUT 157

EXT. BLOOMINGTON - DAY

158

Dave is riding his Little 500 bike. He's testing the bike as well as himself and trying to get used to the new machine. He tries sprinting and in mid-spring he stops pedaling. His hand grasps his left leg. He's in pain. He drops his foot off the pedal and shakes his leg as if trying to shake out a cramp.

EXT. DOWNTOWN BLOOMINGTON - DUSK

158-A

Katherine is walking slowly through the deserted town. She turns the corner and sees Dave sitting on the curb. His Little 500 bike is leaning against the parking meter. She looks at him. Wonders whether to say anything.

KATHERINE

Hello.

Dave looks. He stands up quickly. He's stunned to see her here.

DAVE

What're you doing here?

Katherine shrugs. They both half smile at each other.

KATHERINE

Guess what?

Now Dave shrugs.

DAVE

I don't know.

KATHERINE

I got a job in Chicago.

Cont.

DAVE

Moocher's dad in Chicago.
He's...

He waves this remark away.

KATHERINE

And I'm going to Italy after all.
With my parents.

Dave almost slips into an Italian gesture.

DAVE

I wish...I wish you a nice trip.

KATHERINE

You too.

DAVE

I'm not going anywhere.

KATHERINE

I don't know about that.

X
X

She walks away.

INT. BLASE HOUSE - NIGHT

159

It's dinnertime. Dave and Moocher are having meat and potatoes. Mr. Blase is contemplating half a head of lettuce and some crackers. Mrs. Blase is at the stove.

MR. BLASE

If you eat so much, Moocher, how come you're so damn small?

MOOCHER

It's my metabolism, Mr. Blase.
I eat three times a day, but my metabolism eats five times a day.

MR. BLASE

Well, I go back to work tomorrow.

DAVE

Aren't you going to come and see us race, Dad?

MRS. BLASE

He's afraid he'll bring you bad luck if he comes.

Cont.

MR. BLASE

I've got work to do. That's all.
Besides, there might be another
metabolism feed around here.

DAVE

You mean you might be a father.

MR. BLASE

Yes, I might, and your mom might be
a mother and you might be a brother.
That way I keep it all in the family.

MOOCHER

I didn't think people your age...

Mr. Blase interrupts.

MR. BLASE

The next word might be your last,
kid.

Dave looks at him. Then he looks at his mother. She smiles.
Dave looks back at his father.

Dave jumps up and hugs his mother.

MOOCHER

You must be very happy, Mr. Blase.

MR. BLASE

Of course I must. You think I have
any choice?

MRS. BLASE

You said you were going to give them
a pep talk.

MR. BLASE

They don't need pep. I need pep.
Go ahead...Give it to them.

Mrs. Blase opens a kitchen drawer and takes out some folded
T-shirts.

MRS. BLASE

We thought...

MR. BLASE

(interrupts)

Since you're going to be out there
you might as well tell them who
you are.

He looks at Dave.

OUT 160

INT. LITTLE 500 STADIUM 161

The crowd is cheering as various teams enter to take their designated pit areas. A triumphal march is playing.

CLOSEUP - OUR GUYS

They are entering the stadium. Dave is pushing his bike along.

ANOTHER ANGLE

We see them from the back. The word "CUTTERS" is stamped on the back of their T-shirts. There is something comical about this team. They are so uneven. Cyril is very tall. Moocher is very short. They are walking out of step. All the other teams are matched in height to accommodate the use of a bike with a set saddle position.

CLOSEUP - OUR GUYS

They seem very nervous. The roar of the crowd. The other teams. The foreign turf once again. Mike seems the most nervous of all. They walk past Rod's team. Rod is smiling and staring at Mike. Mike looks away. Cyril doesn't.

FADE THROUGH TO:

CLOSEUP - THE STARTER 162

The crowd is hushed.

STARTER

Gentlemen, mount your bicycles!

A great roar is heard.

MED. SHOT

A pace car is leading the field around the track for one lap. Dignitaries from the campus sit in the pace car: Mr. Armstrong.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The pace car is going faster.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The starter waves the flag as they go past him. The car speeds up and gets off the track. The race is on.

CUT TO:

Cont.

CLOSEUP - THE RACE

The riders begin their mad scramble for positions. The entire width of the track is taken up by them. Rod is in first place. Dave is dead last but trying to move up.

CLOSEUP - DAVE

He's riding and looking for openings. Whenever a little space offers itself, he shoots through it and moves up. As everyone goes wide on the first turn, he takes it on the inside and moves up some more.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON PIT AREA NUMBER 34

Cyril, Moocher and Mike are beating on each other in their excitement.

CYRIL

He's moving up. Look at that
Dago go!

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON LAP CHART

A big board with flip numbers shows: 200 laps to go. A man is reaching out to change the number. As the riders come around, he flips it to: 199 laps to go.

EXT. MR. BLASE CAR LOT - DAY

163

Mr. Blase is sitting inside a car. The radio is on. The local station is announcing the race.

INT. MR. BLASE'S CAR

Mr. Blase has a huge NOBLE ROMAN bag stuffed with French X
fries and pizza. He's stuffing himself and listening.

ANNOUNCER

(o.s.; on radio)

And so after twenty-five laps,
the perennial favorites are up
front. Sigma Nu, Phi Kappa Psi,
Sigma Alpha Epsilon...and here
comes...It's the Cutters.

Mr. Blase hits the car horn.

CUT TO:

MED. SHOT - THE RACE

164

Dave is moving up to catch the leaders. Behind him is a black rider. They catch the leaders and there are now five teams up front. As they come around to the pit areas, we see three riders from the fraternities swinging off for an exchange. As they enter their pit area, they slam on their brakes, and while the bike is still moving, they jump off while a fresh rider jumps on. Dave is in the lead for a while, but the fresh riders catch up.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON PIT AREA NUMBER 1

Rod is sitting and resting. He's breathing hard. His fellow riders are slightly out of breath too.

ROD

He won't last.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON PIT AREA NUMBER 34

MIKE

He'll last. Won't he? He'll last.

CYRIL

Stop saying 'last'!

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON KATHERINE

Almost despite herself, she's getting caught up in Dave's progress. She's trying not to.

CUT TO:

CLOSEUP - DAVE

He's beginning to hurt. His left leg is bothering him. As he goes around the turn, his left foot slips off the pedal. He almost loses his balance, but recovers.

ANNOUNCER

(o.s.; on radio)

It's amazing. After twenty-five miles, that's one hundred laps, folks...

OUT

165

X

CUT TO:

INT. MR. BLASE'S CAR - CAR LOT

166

X

ANNOUNCER

(o.s.; on radio)

The lead rider for the Cutter team is still on his bike without an exchange. His name is Dave Blase...

MR. BLASE

Thassa my boy!

His car is running and he floors it while it idles and hits the horn again, grabbing the wheel as if he were in a race himself.

ANNOUNCER

(o.s.; on radio)

And he's pulling ahead. He's... He's actually pulling ahead. There he goes!

X

OUT 167

X

CUT TO:

INT. THE STADIUM - ANGLE ON KATHERINE

168

She jumps to her feet. Wants to yell, but can't bring herself to do it. Sits down.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE

He's going all out. He's in terrible pain, but he's about fifty yards ahead of his pursuers. As he approaches his pit area, he waves for help and raises a single finger.

CUT TO:

Cont.

ANGLE ON PIT AREA NUMBER 34

MIKE

We're number one!

MOOCHER

No, he wants off. That's the signal. He's going to go one more lap.

CYRIL

Ooops!

MIKE

You mean one of us...

CYRIL

Once again I say oops!

Mike looks frightened.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE

He's really pouring it on now.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON REVIEWING STAND

The president of the university is looking through binoculars.

PRESIDENT

Well, I had no idea.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON PIT AREA NUMBER 4

BLACK RIDER

That's the fastest white boy I've ever seen.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE

He's coming around the turn and he swings off and heads to his pit area.

Cont.

DAVE'S P.O.V. - PIT AREA NUMBER 34

We see Moocher, Cyril and Mike. All of them are panicking. They seem to be pushing each other forward. Nobody wants to be the one to get on the bike. Into this panic Dave roars in with his bike. He slams on the brakes. Jumps off. His left leg gives way and he falls. Moocher and Cyril run to help him up. Mike is left holding the bike.

DAVE

Go, Mike!

Mike is frozen.

MOOCHER

We've got a lead, dammit. Get going.

But the crowd, the other riders staring at him, the pressure of the moment is too much for Mike. He just stands there. The lead that they had is evaporating. The other riders are catching up. They are coming around the curve. Moocher runs up to Mike, pushes him away and gets on the bike. His intentions are great, but his legs are short. He can't sit in the saddle and reach the pedals. So he stands and rides just as the other teams come around.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON PIT AREA NUMBER 1

Rod is smiling toward Dave.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON MOOCHER

He's standing up and going for all he's got. But the other teams are pulling away.

INT. MR. BLASE'S CAR

169

He's driving at full speed and listening to the radio.

ANNOUNCER

(o.s.; on radio)

It's Sigma Nu, Phi Kappa Psi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon...the Cutters are fading, but it was some try. Dave Blase seems to be hurt. The first aid team has reached him...

EXT. MR. BLASE'S HOUSE

Mr. Blase drives past the house. He slows down as if wondering whether to pick up his wife but then he speeds up again.

EXT. LITTLE 500 STADIUM

170-A

Mr. Blase is entering the stadium through a turnstile. Mrs. Blase is standing not far away looking at him. He doesn't see her right away. As he turns: They look at each other. He is surprised to see her there.

MR. BLASE

Ev...He sure tried. Even the
announcer said so.

He is genuinely proud.

MRS. BLASE

Too bad he...

He interrupts.

MR. BLASE

Too bad nothing.

ANGLE ON PIT AREA NUMBER 34

171

The lead riders pass. Lagging behind them Moocher comes in for an exchange. Cyril takes the bike. His legs are so long his knees just about hit his chin but he takes off in pursuit. Moocher is exhausted. Mike looks on.

MOOCHER

Where's Dave.

Mike points across the track. Dave is in the center of the field applying medication from a first-aid station.

MIKE

It's all over.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON CRYIL

Bent over his bike like some human stork he's doing the best he can. He goes past Pit Area 34.

Cont.

CYRIL

HELP!

Some of the people in the crowd laugh.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Dave is with Mike and Moocher now. He's got adhesive tape in his hands and is contemplating bandaging up his leg. Rod rides past them in the lead. Mike looks at him. Rod looks at Mike.

Cont.

ANGLE ON PIT AREA NUMBER 4

Three black guys are planning strategy. They see Rod getting off the bike.

1ST BLACK RIDER

Looks like they're going to save Rod for the sprint. You get on when he does. Stay behind him until the last turn...

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON PIT AREA 34

Moocher is exhausted. Dave is depressed as hell. He's got adhesive tape in his hand but he doesn't feel like putting it on his leg. The race seems lost. Cyril comes in for an exchange. Mike is the only one who can take the bike. He grabs it. Hesitates. Jumps on. Cyril collapses near Dave. Cyril seems quite happy.

CYRIL

We're doing better than I thought we would.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON MIKE

He's riding like a bull. He goes too hard and drifts out in the turns. He almost runs into pit ONE where Rod is resting and watching him. He gets back in the groove.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON PIT AREA 34

Moocher and Cyril are sitting together looking quite satisfied. Dave looks at them.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON MIKE'S BROTHER

172

He's standing on the infield and waving his cap at Mike as he goes by.

MIKE'S BROTHER

C'mon, you cutter!

CUT TO:

DAVE'S P.O.V. - PIT AREA 34

He sees his parents on the infield opposite their pit area. They are waving to him, proud of what he's done. Nancy has come into the pit area and is congratulating them.

NANCY

I've never seen anyone try so hard. I'm so proud of you.

CYRIL

We showed them, huh?

Dave jumps up. His frustration almost makes him look angry.

DAVE

Anybody can try!

ANGLE ON MIKE

172-B

MIKE'S P.O.V.

He sees Dave waving to him to come in. Mike looks nearly spent.

ANGLE ON PIT AREA NUMBER 34

173

Dave is waving at Mike to come in. Mike is coming in too fast but manages to break. He is totally spent as he gets off the bike. Dave gets on the bike. Moocher runs up and holds Dave in place. Cyril starts putting the adhesive tape around his feet, taping them to the pedal.

MIKE

What's going on.

CYRIL

It's like Charlton Heston in El Cid.

MIKE

They're going to lap us.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON PIT AREA NUMBER 4

The black riders look up astonished. Dave rides past their pit.

ANGLE ON PIT AREA NUMBER 1

Rod sees Dave go past him. The rider for his team is not far behind him.

ROD

C'mon! C'mon! You got him!

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE TRACK

174

Mr. Blase and Mrs. Blase are standing on the track. Both look stunned to see him back on the bike.

X

MRS. BLASE

Go, son, go damn you!

Mr. Blase looks at her surprised by her outburst. Dave rides past them.

X

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON PIT AREA NUMBER 34

175

Moocher, Cyril and Mike are jumping up and down.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE

He's coming around. He is gaining and making up lost ground.

CUT TO:

DAVE'S P.O.V. - HIS PARENTS

176

They too are shouting something, but Dave no longer hears them. The Italian music is playing through his head. It's irresistible and he gives himself over to it for one last time. He no longer hears the crowd shouting, nor anything else except the music, and music seems to be carrying him forward. His face registers the emotion of hearing it...of giving himself over to it...and of a kind of farewell to it.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON PIT AREA NUMBER 4

177

The three black riders look at each other. They need a new plan, they seem to be thinking.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON PIT AREA NUMBER 1

Rod and his teammates are watching Dave's progress. They shake their heads. He can't possibly catch up.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON THE LAP CHART

It shows 5 laps to go.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON THE LEAD PACK

Now all three riders are looking back over their shoulders. They see Dave coming on.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON PIT AREA NUMBER 1

Rod is getting ready to take an exchange for his final sprint.

ANOTHER ANGLE

We see the black sprinter in Pit area 4 getting ready to take an exchange too. He and Rod look at each other.

MED. SHOT

Rod and the black sprinter get their bikes at the same time and start to accelerate.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE

He passes the third rider from the lead group. Ahead of him he sees Rod and the black rider.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON THE LAP CHART

It shows one lap to go. A man is waving a flag signaling the last lap. Rod and the black guy go past him. Dave is behind them and gaining.

CUT TO:

Cont.

ANGLE ON THE BACKSTRETCH

Rod and the black rider are riding abreast now.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE

He sees them right in front of him. The Italian music is still playing as he catches up to them and pulls up behind Rod who's riding on the inside. They are going around the curve. Rod drifts out a bit and that's all the room that Dave needs. He takes the inside edge as they come around for the final stretch. All three of them stand up and begin their final sprint. It looks dead even as they're approaching the finish line. A man is waving the checkered flag. Then, with about forty yards to go, Dave suddenly explodes ahead and wins by an inch or so. He raises his arms in the air.

CUT TO:

NEW ANGLE

Cyril, Moocher and Mike are running toward Dave. They are jubilant. They jump on Dave knocking him down. Mike's brother runs up and...

CLOSEUP - THE BROTHERS

There's a look of family pride as they embrace.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Nancy runs up to Moocher. She's still wearing her waitress uniform. She practically lifts him off the ground. Dave's parents rush past them. Everybody is shouting. The crowd is cheering. Confetti is falling.

CLOSEUP - CYRIL

He's happy but he feels left out. Everybody is hugging and getting hugged except for him.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Katherine is watching the celebration. She looks at Dave and then she looks at Rod not far away. Then she turns slowly and leaves bidding a farewell, in a way, to a portion of her life.

Cont.

CLOSEUP - THE CUTTERS

Dave and his parents are walking off. Mike and his brother are arm in arm. Moocher and Nancy are holding hands and going their way.

CLOSEUP - CYRIL

He's holding the four trophies they won. He is trying to swagger but he doesn't know where to go. The guys seem to be going in separate directions and he doesn't know whom to follow. The CAMERA PULLS BACK FROM him. Confetti is falling everywhere. Wind is blowing it around the stadium.

FADE THROUGH TO:

ANGLE ON TREES

178

The branches are swaying in the wind. Leaves are golden yellow and falling off, swirling through the air, falling on the road. Mike's car goes through the leaves as he drives up an entrance ramp onto a throughway.

INT. MIKE'S CAR - DAY

178-A

He's wearing a cowboy hat. Cigarette is in his mouth. He looks back at a sign: "YOU ARE NOW LEAVING BLOOMINGTON." He lights his cigarette. A highway stretches in front of him.

EXT. MR. BLASE'S CAR LOT - DAY

It's been retitled "CUTTER CARS LTD." Mrs. Blase, quite pregnant now, is sweeping the leaves. Mr. Blase is getting on the bike ready to leave.

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

179

The leaves are falling off here too and blowing in the wind. Students are going to and from classes. We see Dave among them pushing his bike along. He's wearing a Phi Kappa Psi jacket.

CLOSEUP - DAVE

He looks quite collegiate and he seems to know it. But it's fall and fall makes you think of other days and Dave seems to be doing just that. A GIRL walks up to him. She seems quite lost. She speaks with a definite French accent.

GIRL

Pardon...do you know where is
the office of the Pursar.

Dave looks at her. Some of his collegiate exterior fades as he smiles at her.

He's struck. French music begins to play.

DAVE

Pursar? Oh, you mean the
Bursar's office.

GIRL

Ouf, Bursar.

DAVE

You're...eh...you're French, eh?

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON MR. BLASE ON A BICYCLE

180

He's riding through the campus, looking around. His son goes to school and he looks and feels that he has a right to be there.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON DAVE AND THE GIRL

They're riding double on Dave's bicycle. She's carrying his books. The book on top is Beginning French.

DAVE

French is my major. It's just my first year, of course. Have you ever seen Le Tour de France?

He gives it his best French accent.

GIRL

No.

DAVE

No! Oh, mon Dieu. But the French riders...they are the best! Pouladoir! Anquetill!

Not only his accent, but his gestures are becoming French. Riding toward him on his bike is Mr. Blase. He sees Dave and waves.

MR. BLASE

Hello there, big shot.

DAVE

Bon jour, Papa.

They pass.

Mr. Blase turns and looks back. His face registers mixed emotions, but the overriding one is one of acceptance. Dave turns to the girl.

DAVE

Je m'appelle...

We FREEZE ON his French gesture.

FINIS