

# Eddie, The Collegiate Senior

## Chapter One A New Chapter

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Taking her Dune Buggy to work on the first day of classes, Kathy drives to the elementary school located behind her parent's house, the same school she attended many years ago. Rolling into the parking lot, Kathy parks her Dune Buggy in the very parking place in which she painted a white circle years ago, making a discus pad where she and Eddie practiced throwing the discus. The paint is now badly faded and worn away. Anyone passing by would likely not even take notice of the discus pad. Looking out into the field, Kathy sees the small row of bleachers next to the pee wee ball field where she and Eddie often stopped when they took the long way home. Not much has changed at the elementary school over the years except for, perhaps, the school's faculty, staff, and the students who attend there.

While Kathy walks through the door of the elementary school, Paula is across town, taking attendance in her home room class. Paula's home room class on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday is an eighth grade gym class of girls. On Tuesday and Thursday, Paula will be teaching health to the same group of girls, and to the boys who are, at the moment, sitting in gym class with Mr. Harris. Seeing Paula's five-foot, eleven-inch, 180-pound physique of solid muscle, many of the girls think gym class is not going to be too easy this year. Perhaps they are right. Only time will tell.

At the high school, tensions are high among the administrators. Mr. Shapiro, the interim principal for the last few years, has returned to his position of assistant principal, and is not the least bit happy. Assuming the role as principal of Northside High School is Dr. Michael Scott, whom the superintendent of schools, Dr. Noreen Brooks, spent one year searching for. Dr. Scott, who was formerly the Dean of Students at a community college, is the antithesis of Mr. Crum. This is very good news to Mr. Zunde and Barbara but, for some reason, bothers Mr. Shapiro deeply.

While Kathy is beginning her first day teaching, Eddie and Bobby B. are just opening up at the service station. In the office, Eddie sits back in his chair talking with Kurt Richter, the Georgia Tech Engineer who modified Kathy's Porsche 914, essentially making it a street-legal racing car. Today, however, the discussion is not about Kathy's Porsche 914. Eddie is discussing with Kurt about putting a Porsche engine in a Volkswagen Bus. Taking a lot of notes, Eddie is assured by Kurt that the project is not only doable but, if done properly, will result in a very high performance vehicle.

Interrupting Eddie's and Bobby B's. workday at the service station is Jimmy O'Brien, who returns to the service station driving his chronically broken down AMC Gremlin. Seeing O'Brien driving up to a service bay, Eddie and Bobby B. figure that O'Brien has more than a fill up on his mind today.

Eddie tells Bobby B., "let's see who gets to help him this time. Rock-paper-scissors. On three. One. Two. Three." Eddie and Bobby B. have continued the tradition that Eddie and Angelo began years ago to decide who gets the pleasure of dealing with a customer who is a pain in the ass. Today, Eddie puts out a rock, and Bobby B. puts out scissors. Eddie smiles, and tells Bobby B., "good luck, bro. He's all yours." But, Bobby B. doesn't seem to care in the least. He has come to enjoy messing with Jimmy O'Brien as much as Eddie has.

Walking out to greet the customer, Bobby B. asks O'Brien, "what's your problem?" O'Brien replies, "I got a flat tire. Can you fix it for me?" Bobby B. examines all four tires, and tells O'Brien, "your left front tire is going flat. But, the good news is that it's only flat on the bottom." Showing a bit of anger, O'Brien tells Bobby B., "I know that! What are you talking about?" Bobby B. advises O'Brien, "just drive it a few feet, and the flat part will be at the top." Figuring that Bobby B. is messing with him, O'Brien exclaims, "what's the matter with you?" Bobby B. calmly replies, "well, you can always have Eddie take a look at it." Realizing that Bobby B. is messing with him, O'Brien replies, "yeah. Get Eddie." Bobby B. tells O'Brien, "let me get him for you."

Bobby B. walks back into the service area, walks up to Eddie and tells him, "O'Brien has a flat tire." Eddie tells Bobby B., "send him to the tire shop. We don't have the time to deal with him today." Bobby B. whispers to Eddie, "I told him that it's only flat on the bottom." Now realizing there is free entertainment waiting outside, Eddie laughs, and tells Bobby B., "let's go see what his problem is."

Walking up to O'Brien, Eddie asks, "what's your problem today?" O'Brien replies, "my tire is going flat." Seeing the problem, just to annoy O'Brien, Eddie asks, "which one?" Pointing to the left front tire, O'Brien replies, "that one." Eddie asks O'Brien, "did you put any air in it?" O'Brien

replies, “yeah. It keeps leaking out.” Eddie replies, “that would usually be the first sign that something’s wrong.” Bobby B. points out to Eddie, “the other three are okay. Three out of four ain’t bad.” Eddie replies, “yeah. Especially since the left front tire is only flat on the bottom.”

As Eddie is filling O’Brien’s tire with air, Eddie whispers to Bobby B., “he’s got a nail in the shoulder. The tire can’t be repaired. It has to be replaced.” Bobby B. asks, whispering, “the shoulder? What’s that?” Eddie replies, “the shoulder is where the tread meets the sidewall. That part of the tire flexes like crazy, so it can’t be repaired.” Learning something new, Bobby B. whispers back, “got it.” A bit on the paranoid side, O’Brien thinks Eddie and Bobby B. are talking about him.

Once Eddie has finished filling O’Brien’s tire with air, Bobby B. announces to O’Brien, “there ya go! It’s as good as new. You’ll probably get about ten miles before it goes flat again. If you’re really lucky, it will go flat on the top next time.” Eddie turns around to conceal his laughter, knowing that he has trained Bobby B. well.

Seeing that he isn’t going to get anywhere and suspecting that he is being made fun of by Eddie and Bobby B., O’Brien angrily tells Eddie, “I’m just going to go to the guy across town!” Eddie replies, “go ahead. I hope you make it.” Your tire needs to be replaced. You may want to try the tire shop down the street.” O’Brien exclaims, “I’m going to do that!” Eddie tells O’Brien, “good luck, junior.” O’Brien drives away, but in the direction of the mall where the department store mechanics will be glad to take his money.

Later that day, Mr. O’Brien walks into the service station, yelling out, “can I get some service here?” Eddie walks into the office, and asks, “can you be helped?” Mr. O’Brien replies, slyly asking, “why wouldn’t you fix Jimmy’s tire for him?” Expecting a sarcastic response from Mr. O’Brien, Eddie replies, “because it can’t be fixed.” Mr. O’Brien replies, “sure it can! What do you think I am, stupid or something?” Eddie does not answer, but rather smiles, irritating Mr. O’Brien even more.

Mr. O’Brien again asks, “so, why didn’t you fix Jimmy’s tire?” Eddie explains, “I told you. The tire can’t be fixed. It has a nail in the shoulder.” Mr. O’Brien exclaims, “they fixed it over at the department store! Why couldn’t you fix it?” Eddie replies, “because we don’t do shoddy work here. If they repaired his tire at the department store, the repair will last about a week, if he’s lucky.” Mr. O’Brien sternly informs Eddie, “well, Jimmy’s tire is just fine now!” Eddie smiles, and replies, “just wait a week. Then, come back and tell me what you think.”

Mr. O’Brien storms out, leaving with doubt whether Jimmy’s tire was fixed correctly at the department store. Eddie, however, knows O’Brien

will be driving his AMC Gremlin into another shop in about a week when the repair fails.

Later that day, Kathy comes home, where Eddie is waiting for her. Eddie runs up to her, gives her a kiss, and asks, "so, how was your first day at work?" Kathy replies, "awesome!" Eddie asks, "so, what did you do?" Kathy explains, "since it was the first day of gym class, no one had their gym clothes. So, I told them what we will be doing this year. Then, I gave them a demonstration with my hoop! And, I did just about everything I know to do with it! You should have seen the kids!" Eddie replies, "wow! I'm sorry I missed that! It sounds like you had fun today!" Kathy continues, "I wanted to show them that exercise can be fun. So, then I got the hoops out of the supply room, and they all tried. Some of the girls were pretty good!" Eddie replies, "so, I take it you like your job?" Kathy replies, "I do!"

Kathy energetically asks, "so, what are we doing before dinner?" Eddie replies, "today's Monday, so I guess we're meeting everyone down at the track." Kathy sighs, and tells Eddie, "oh, yeah. That's right. You're still on the track team." Eddie replies, "you don't sound very excited, Katarina. Don't tell me you're going to sit around and watch television every day after work." Kathy suddenly perks up, and tells Eddie, "nope! I'm going! Someone has to keep you guys in shape!" Kathy loads the training sled into her car, and drives to the track. Eddie, as part of his training, rides his bicycle, trying to beat Kathy to the University.

And, the winner is Eddie. Blowing through stop signs, breaking the speed limit, and taking a shortcut through campus, Eddie beat Kathy to the track. Eddie and Kathy walk up, seeing Mark, Paula, Karen, Dagmar, and Erika already working out. Mark comments, "I'm so glad that you guys could show up today." Eddie replies, "some of us have to work for a living, bro." With a witty comeback, Mark replies, asking, "so, what you do, they call that work?" Eddie replies, "so they say." Eddie drops the training sled into the sand. Dagmar, who is very motivated to excel, is the first one to strap herself in. Eddie then takes a warm-up jog down the sand track with Mark.

Kathy wastes no time asking Paula, "so, how's middle school?" Paula explains, "I think this is going to be a really great year! Not much has changed over there. And, get this! At least three-quarters of the teachers that we had are still there!" Kathy exclaims, "seriously? Do they remember you?" Paula replies, "well, no. I'm now Paula Svoboda now, not Giovanni. And, I look a lot different from what I did when I was in middle school." Kathy laughs, and replies, "ya think?" Paula laughs, and explains, "yeah! That was ten years ago! So, Mr. Harris is the only one who knows my true identity, well, except for the principal. I want to see how long I can keep this going." Kathy asks, "so, how was health class?"

Paula replies, "I think I'll survive. The only problem I see is, in one of the classes, there's this girl named Lillian Black. I think she's the Chuckie's younger sister." Kathy replies, "you poor girl."

Paula asks Kathy, "so, how was your first day?" Kathy explains, "I have five gym classes to teach. And, when the students are in gym, their teachers have their planning period. So, today, I told them what we are going to do this year, and I got a few good workouts in." Paula exclaims, "you what? How did you get workouts in while you were at work?" Kathy smiles, and explains, "I brought my hoop, and showed them what can be done with a hoop. They were kind of amazed. And, in the supply room, there are Hula Hoops. So, they all gave it a try. I think they had fun today."

Paula gets an idea, and replies, "in gym class, on Friday, they're running the mile for time. Guess who's going to be running with them." Kathy smiles, and tells Paula, "see that? You can turn work into a workout." Taking it easy for the day, Kathy and Paula talk about their first day at work while the others take turns on the training sled.

After everyone is finished working out, Eddie tells Kathy, "wow, Katarina! You really worked hard today." Kathy smiles, and replies, "thank you for noticing. I'm hungry. Let's go home and eat." As Eddie loads the training sled into Kathy's car, Kathy tells the group that the plan is to meet up again on Wednesday. With classes at the University starting in about two weeks, the afternoon workouts will soon come to an end and the morning workouts with the team will begin. Eddie and Kathy head home, in search of the normal life Kathy is hoping for.

After the workout, Mark, Paula, and Erika head over to Bobby B. and Erika's lot where Bobby B. is building his and Erika's house. Arriving at the job site, Mark finds Bobby B. pointing to various trees as the tree removal company is hard at work. Mark walks up and tells Bobby B., "it's looking good." Bobby B. smiles, and replies, "thanks," happy to hear that his supervision of the tree crew has Mark's stamp of approval. Mark then comments, "it looks like you're working hard." Bobby B. laughs, and replies, "I am. The other day, I met the surveyor out here. I made sure he did his job right too."

Mark asks, "so, do you guys want a pool?" Erika takes absolutely no time replying, "yeah. One kind of like yours." Mark tells Bobby B., "tell them to clear another quarter acre where you want the pool." Bobby B. asks, "a quarter acre? Why that much?" Mark replies, "because, all those trees are going to shade your pool. And, besides, you don't want all those leaves falling into the water."

Taking control of the situation, Erika tells Mark, "I want the pool right off my back patio. And, I want the tiles like the ones at yours and Eddie's pools, not like the concrete at the county pool." Mark mentions, "that's Travertine tile." Mark jokingly tells Bobby B., "she's expensive." Erika is quick to respond, "and, worth it!" Satisfied that everything is going well, Mark and Paula head out, leaving Bobby B. and Erika to supervise the tree removal.

Two weeks later, on the first day of track practice for this academic year, the team meets in the indoor arena at 7:00 a.m. Mr. Frazier, who is now the highest paid track coach in the nation, walks into the arena. He is joined by his assistant coach, Provost Leighton, and the team's events coordinator, Dr. Owens.

As he is accustomed to doing, Mr. Frazier silently looks over the athletes sitting on the bleachers as he shuffles a few papers on the lectern. The athletes are also quiet, eager to hear the first words of the season from the now famous coach. The freshmen are particularly interested to hear what Mr. Frazier has to say today. They have heard a lot about him, for he is the sole reason that many of the freshmen have chosen to run at the University.

Mr. Frazier begins his address, "good morning. I am George Frazier. I am one of the coaches of this University's track team. Standing next to me is Coach Leighton, who is the other coach of this team. Standing next to Coach Leighton is Dr. Owens, who is a math professor at this University. Perhaps you will be lucky enough to have her for your math classes. Dr. Owens is our events coordinator, which means she compiles and maintains statistics on your performance. Coach Leighton and myself will use this information to assign your events. Incidentally, every time you are on the track, your performance is being documented." This year, Kathy and Paula are conspicuously missing from the group.

Mr. Frazier begins with some interesting news, stating, "for those of you who were part of this team last year, Dr. Bonamo will not be coaching the field events this year." Silence falls over the arena, to the extent that you can hear the proverbial pin drop. Everyone waits to hear Mr. Frazier's explanation of why Dr. Bonamo is no longer onboard. Following a short pause, Mr. Frazier continues, "Dr. Bonamo has taken a position with another university within the division. While I can't reveal the details of his new arrangement, I can say that I don't blame him for taking the offer. They gave him the deal of a lifetime." Mr. Frazier then raises his voice, exclaiming, "if you are a field athlete, your job is to kick his new team's ass, and kick it hard!" The athletes cheer, clearly sending the message that they are up for the challenge.

Mr. Frazier then announces, “taking Dr. Bonamo’s place as your field events coach this year will be Dr. Gerhard Zunde, whom some of you may already know.” Dr. Zunde walks into the arena, waves, and is warmly greeted by a generous supply of cheering, whistling, and applause.

Once the clapping and cheering subside, Mr. Frazier announces, “Dr. Zunde has agreed to coach the field athletes for a period of one year. In the meantime, the University will be searching for the right individual to occupy the position vacated by Dr. Bonamo on a permanent basis.” Dr. Zunde will be working with the University’s field athletes in the morning, then head over to Northside High School where he is still the athletic director and a physical education instructor.

Mr. Frazier then begins his introductory address, “now, we’re going to get down to business and start with the basics of track. There are only two events that are run in track. Those two races are the 100-meter dash and the 400-meter dash.” As Mr. Frazier continues his address, the tribe sits back, as they have heard this message many times, and can probably repeat it verbatim. But, the new guys on the street have never heard it. Mr. Frazier then explains, “the 200-meter dash is nothing more than a prolonged 100-meter dash. The 60-meter dash, which we run during the indoor track season, is nothing more than a short 100-meter dash. The strategy is the same, which is to run as fast as you can. If you can run any one of those races, you can run the others.”

During Mr. Frazier’s presentation, Eddie, pointing toward the other end of the bleachers, whispers to Mark, “check out who’s back.” Seeing who it is, Mark taps Braden’s shoulder, and points to the athlete whom Eddie was referring to. Braden smiles, and whispers to Mark, “didn’t he get is ass kicked enough last year? He’s back for more?” Mitchell and Akinmola get wind of who has returned, both at a loss to understand why.

The athlete Eddie pointed to is Jeff McCutchen. Jeff McCutchen, the youngest of the McCutchen family, is a walk on, and will be again trying out for a place on the team. Whispering back and forth with McCutchen is Arnold Asbury, another walk on, hoping to make the team. And, behind McCutchen is Harry Dulaney, who made the team two years ago, but failed to make the team last year. Seeing McCutchen, Dulaney, and their new sidekick Asbury, Mark is up for some free entertainment. It’s no secret that a few others will be joining Mark in his mischievous endeavors.

Bobby B., for one, is glad to see that Dr. Zunde will be coaching the field athletes this year. Sitting with Bobby B. is Joe Sepulveda who, hearing that Mr. Zunde will be their coach this year, gives Bobby B. a high-five. Also sitting with Bobby B. is Shawn Greene, a sophomore shot-put and hammer thrower. During Mr. Frazier’s address, Bobby B. whispers to Greene, “Mr. Zunde is back. This is going to be a really good year.”

Greene, referring to Dr. Zunde, whispers back, “do you know that guy?” Bobby B. replies, “yeah. He was my coach in high school. He’s really awesome!” Glad to hear the news, Greene is fired up and ready to impress the new coach.

Once Mr. Frazier is finished with his fifteen-minute introductory address, he announces to the team, “if you are a field athlete, please follow Dr. Zunde out to the field area now.” Once the field athletes have left, Mr. Frazier announces, “unfortunately, today, the rest of us will be staying indoors. As we did last year, we will be running a few time trials. But first, I want the freshmen to meet with Kathy and Paula on the sprinting track. Kathy and Paula will help you to determine your optimal block settings.” Eddie yells out, “Kathy and Paula are teaching school now!” Mr. Frazier laughs, and exclaims, “that’s right! I forgot about that!” Kathy and Paula have been working with Mr. Frazier for nearly a decade. They will be sorely missed.

Provost Leighton steps up, telling Mr. Frazier, “I can take care of that.” Mr. Frazier continues, “okay. Coach Leighton will help you determine your optimal block settings. Do not assume the block settings you were using in high school were correct! If history serves correctly, the block settings you were using in high school were probably all wrong! As for everyone else, you will be running a 400-meter dash for time. For the freshmen, you will be running the 400-meter dash once your optimal block settings have been determined.”

Instructing the team, Mr. Frazier announces, “your heat and lane assignments are on this piece of paper. I will leave it on the lectern. Please check the list, and be warmed up and ready when your heat is called!” Mr. Frazier claps his hands, telling everyone, “okay! Let’s go!” The athletes walk up to the lectern, finding out which heat they are in. Not surprisingly, the first string is in the first heat and will be setting today’s high standard.

Mr. Frazier announces, “the first heat, get behind the blocks!” In the first heat are Braden, Eddie, Mark, Hoffer, Hill, John, and, for some strange reason, Jeff McCutchen and Dulaney. Braden points at McCutchen, and exclaims, “I’m gonna kick your puny little ass, junior! Here we go! Let’s get this ass kicking underway!” Braden then points at Dulaney, and exclaims, “and, what’s your flimsy ass doing here this year? Didn’t I kick your ass enough last year? Are you back for some more?” The freshmen don’t know what to make of Braden. Some of the freshmen have heard that Braden is the world record holder in the 400-meter dash. Others have no clue why Braden is so energetic and vocal. They will soon learn of the interesting dynamics between certain team members.



The Starter announces, “on your marks,” quickly followed by, “set.” The buzzer sounds, and the world record holder in the 400-meter dash takes control of the track. Halfway through the first lap of the two-lap race, Braden takes the lead. Mr. Frazier exclaims, “these guys are fast! Everybody, watch this!” At 200 meters, Eddie and Mark are head to head, chasing down Braden. Halfway through the last lap, as the runners approach the finish line, it is clear that Braden will not be caught. At the finish, Braden crosses first, followed closely by Eddie, then Mark. Hoffer, Hill, and John finish nearly together, with McCutchen, as expected, coming in last place, barely beaten out by Dulaney.

Looking up at the electronic timer on the wall, Braden sees his time of 44.21 seconds as he walks off his run. Pointing to the scoreboard, Mr. Frazier exclaims, “does everybody see that? Look at these times! This is what I expect!” Hearing that times in the 44 to 47-second range is what Mr. Frazier expects have the freshmen very worried. And, Eddie has Braden a bit worried, finishing two-tenths of a second behind the world record holder in the 400-meter dash.

Taking a seat on the bleachers, Eddie whispers to Mark, “McCutchen ran a 54.1, and Dulaney ran a 53.8. They must have been working out over the last year.” Mark whispers back, replying, “shit. They might actually make the team. We need to get rid of them somehow.” Eddie tells Mark, “with any luck, Mr. Frazier will just cut them.” Mark reassures Eddie, “one way or another, they’re out of here.”

Still vivid in Eddie’s and Mark’s memories is how Jeff McCutchen’s brother, Todd, planted steroids in their lockers, attempting to get them thrown off the track team and expelled from school. With the McCutchen family’s history of fixing events, gambling, cheating, and spying on the team, Mr. Frazier will find a way to get rid of Jeff McCutchen. Mark, of course, will be glad to help in any way he can.

Eddie and the tribe sit on the bleachers, and talk among themselves as each heat is run. During the conversation, Eddie mentions, “here it comes! The girl fight!” On the track are Karen, Erika, Tessa, Dagmar, Amanda, Michelle, Leslie, and Allison. Allison King, the lone transfer student from another university, was accepted and offered a full scholarship based upon Kathy’s recommendation. All other requests to transfer were administratively denied by a stroke of Provost Leighton’s pen. Mark comments, “I’d hate to be in this race. None of them like to lose.” Having worked out with many of the team members over the Summer, Eddie predicts, “I think Karen is going to win this one.” Mark replies, “and, Erika will be really ticked off.”

The Starter announces, “on your marks,” followed by, “set.” The buzzer sounds, and the girl fight begins. Karen, the favorite based upon

last year's statistics, takes an early lead. Erika and Tessa will have nothing to do with it, and are right up there with her. At the close of the first lap, today's surprise is Allison, the transfer student, who is in fourth place. On the back straightaway, Karen pulls ahead of her competition, not slowing in the least bit. Into the final curve, Allison unexpectedly passes Tessa, and is working on passing Erika. At the finish line, Karen takes first place. Erika, taking second place, beats out Allison by barely a meter. Tessa, taking fourth place, finishes right behind Allison.

Looking up at the scoreboard, Karen, seeing her time of 49.89 seconds is ecstatic. So is Mr. Frazier, who is screaming like a wild man, "she broke 50 seconds! Did everyone see that? Karen ran 49.89 seconds!" Turning to Dr. Owens, Mr. Frazier excitably asks, "what's the record?" If Kathy were around, she would have the world record time in her head. Looking through her folder, Dr. Owens, finally finding the answer, replies, "the world record is 48.60 seconds<sup>1</sup>." Hearing the news, Mr. Frazier exclaims, "did everyone hear that? These women are fast!" And, they are fast. All eight women in this heat are faster than McCutchen and Dulaney, suggestive that the two clowns that Eddie and Mark want to get rid of will be cut.

Karen walks by the bleachers, receiving a high-five from everyone she passes. The eight women take a seat with the tribe, knowing that, in reality, they've all won this race. Any one of them could be expected to take the gold medal in the divisional meet in the 400-meter dash. What this means to the coaching staff is that they have clenched the gold, silver, and bronze medal in the 400-meter dash in the upcoming divisional meet. What this also means is they will win the women's 4 by 200-meter and the 4 by 400-meter relay. And, with the times that have just been delivered, winning the gold, silver, and bronze medal in the 200-meter dash is a distinct reality.

Next up is the 60-meter dash. While the heats are being run, Provost Leighton asks Mr. Frazier, "are you ready for the meeting tomorrow?" Mr. Frazier sighs, and replies, "I am. I'd like to hear what they have to say about me this year." Provost Leighton assures Mr. Frazier, "George, don't let them bother you. You've already proven yourself. They are the ones who have to prove themselves now." Mr. Frazier assures Provost Leighton, "this year, they're not going to bother me at all."

Mr. Frazier mentions to Provost Leighton, "I just want to hear what Peter Gregory has to say this year." Provost Leighton replies, "he had

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<sup>1</sup> At the time of the storyline, the women's 400-meter dash record was 48.60 seconds, set by Marita Koch of East Germany.

quite a demeaning tone when he introduced both you and I during last year's meeting." Mr. Frazier laughs, repeating Dr. Gregory's introduction from last year, "this year, we have Mister George Frazier, who has moved up to our level from teaching gym class at Northside High School," placing great emphasis on the word 'mister' as Dr. Gregory did during his introduction of Mr. Frazier. Also imitating Dr. Gregory, Provost Leighton repeats her introduction, "and, I'd like to introduce Provost Athena Leighton. I'm guessing that your university hasn't found a suitable replacement for Dr. Braun yet, provost." Provost Leighton recalls, "oh, did that ever make me so angry!" Mr. Frazier assures Provost Leighton, "this year, we'll have the upper hand in the meeting and on the track. After our performance last year, this year's meeting should be interesting." Provost Leighton tells Mr. Frazier, "all of a sudden, George, I'm looking forward to this year's meeting."

Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton watch, as the Timekeepers coordinate the 60-meter dash time trials. As the women begin their heats, Dr. Owens walks over, showing Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton the men's results. Provost Leighton comments, "these are quite impressive performances. Many of them have improved tremendously since last year." Mr. Frazier replies, "from what I can see so far, the men have the gold, silver, and bronze medals wrapped up in every race under 400 meters, and the 4 by 100-meter, the 4 by 200-meter, and the 4 by 400-meter relays. The question of the year is who will replace Johnson." Provost Leighton observes, "James Hoffer has the fourth best time in the 400-meter. Running Bull, who you put in the second heat as the pacesetter, has the fifth best time." Mr. Frazier replies, "well, we'll have until January to decide."

Dr. Zunde returns with the field athletes, and walks over to Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton. Practice comes to a close, and the team hits the locker rooms. Quite pleased with the team's performance this year, Mr. Frazier tells Dr. Zunde and Provost Leighton, "I think we've finally accomplished our goal." Perplexed at Mr. Frazier's comment, Provost Leighton asks, "what goal is that, George?" Mr. Frazier replies, "we can finally tell them to just put one foot in front of the other faster than the other person." Provost Leighton laughs, knowing that it is not quite that simple. The three coaches briefly discuss today's performance, then go about their daily business.

The following day, the team meets in the arena, not knowing what is in store for them today. While they are waiting for the coaches to arrive, Eddie asks Mark, "did you go shopping yesterday?" Mark replies, "yeah. It's all mixed and ready to go." Mark prepared another special bottle of shampoo for McCutchen, in which he mixed in a depilatory. Within two weeks after using Mark's special mixture, McCutchen will be totally bald.

Eddie tells Mark, “good. We’ll see what we can do to distract him so you can switch it.”

Braden walks into the arena, and heads toward the tribe. Passing by McCutchen and Dulaney, Braden points to them, and exclaims, “what’s your two asses doing here? What’s the matter with you? Didn’t you get your ass kicked enough yesterday?” McCutchen knows better than to respond, for he will lose any verbal match with Braden. The freshmen are beginning to understand that McCutchen and Dulaney are not Braden’s favorite characters. All of the freshmen are now keenly aware that Braden is the world record holder in the 400-meter dash, and also part of the 4 by 400-meter relay team that holds the world record. Braden takes a seat with the tribe, ready for today’s ass kicking session.

Mr. Frazier, Provost Leighton, and Dr. Zunde walk into the arena, with the team wondering what today’s agenda is. Mr. Frazier announces, “today, we will be running relay drills. The technique we will be using is a nonvisual-nonverbal exchange with an up sweep delivery, where the baton never changes hands. Some of you may not be familiar with this technique. For the freshmen, Coach Leighton, Erika, Karen, Eddie, and Mark will take you aside and explain the technique to you. You will then join the drill later in today’s session. The field athletes will meet with Dr. Zunde again out on the field. If you are proficient in the hammer or shot-put, please see Dr. Zunde sometime during this week.”

Mark interrupts, telling Mr. Frazier, “I’ll throw the hammer again this year.” Mr. Frazier points at Mark, and replies, “you got it!” Mr. Frazier now knows the team has the gold, silver, and bronze medal locked up in the hammer throw.

Once Mr. Frazier is finished addressing the team, the field athletes head outside with Dr. Zunde. The seasoned runners line up for the relay drill, while Provost Leighton takes the freshmen and Allison over to the sprinting track, where they will learn the exchange technique used by the team. On the way to the track, not at all happy with Braden’s earlier comments, McCutchen tells Dulaney, “those guys seriously have to go.” Dulaney replies, “you ain’t getting rid of them, and you know it. They’re Teflon. Nothing sticks.” McCutchen whispers back, “watch me.” Hearing McCutchen’s bold comment, Dulaney suddenly looks worried.

With the athletes gathered on the track, Mr. Frazier announces, “I want the women lined up on the inside of the track. You will be running in lane one. I want the men to line up on the outside of the track. You will be running in lane two. When Coach Leighton is finished instructing the freshmen, they will then join us in the drill. During the drill, I will be looking at two things. The first is how well you transfer the baton. The second is if there is any break in cadence of either runner during the

transition.” Mr. Frazier tosses one baton to Braden and the other to Leslie, and announces, “the Timekeepers will be timing your every lap. I don’t want anyone slacking off! Okay! Let’s get moving!” The drill gets underway, which is quite an easy one for the seasoned runners.

The drill runs smoothly and, after a half hour, Mr. Frazier blows his whistle, announcing to the athletes, “take a short break. We’ll get back on the track in ten minutes.” Provost Leighton walks over to Mr. Frazier, and informs him, “the freshmen need some practice, but most of them are ready to give it a try.” Mr. Frazier replies, “we’ll just throw them into the deep end. They’ll catch on soon enough.” Provost Leighton comments, “oh, and Allison already knows the technique. She used it in her high school, but the University she previously ran for used a different technique.” Mr. Frazier replies, “Kathy was right about Allison. She fits right in. Dang. I really miss Kathy and Paula.”

After the ten-minute break, Mr. Frazier announces, “we will now be running the drill with four batons. I want the women in lanes one and two, and the men in lanes three and four. Everyone will be waiting on the inside of the track. Part of this drill is to learn not to have a collision on the track!” Mr. Frazier then distributes the batons, and takes a seat with Provost Leighton, observing the athlete’s handoff skills and taking notes.

On the sidelines, Eddie asks Mark, “how’s Bobby B’s. house coming along?” Mark replies, “he want’s a basement, so I’m excavating. And, I wouldn’t call it Bobby B’s. house anymore. Erika is making all the decisions.” Eddie comments, “wow! A basement and a pool. That’s a lot of excavating.” Mark explains, “I’m grading the house and pool a few feet above the average terrain, so the water runs off. They have a lot of hardscape so, by raising the elevation, it will drain better.” Eddie tells Mark, “it looks like it’s my turn,” and gets on the track.

Eddie receives the baton from Hill, who has impeccable handoff skills. As Eddie is on the back straightaway, Mark gets on the track to receive the baton. Eddie approaches the transition zone and the handoff goes smoothly. Eddie leaves the track, and takes his place at the end of the line. After Mark’s lap, he takes his place at the end of the line with Eddie. Eddie, who was studying the logistics of the drill, quickly points out to Mark, “McCutchen is on the back straightaway. He’s going to be handing off to Braden.” Mark replies, “this can’t end very good. It never does.”

Mark watches carefully, as McCutchen comes out of the curve, approaching the transition zone. Braden takes off at the appropriate time and with the appropriate speed. Much to everyone’s surprise, the handoff goes reasonably well, until McCutchen sticks his foot out, and intentionally trips Braden. Braden goes down hard, crashing onto the track and tumbling across the lanes. Going down with Braden is

McCutchen, who makes it look like there was a legitimate collision on the track. Mr. Frazier blows his whistle, stopping the drill. Seeing exactly what happened, Mr. Frazier asks Provost Leighton, "did you see that?" Provost Leighton shakes her head, and replies, "I most certainly did, George."

As Braden begins to stand up, Mr. Frazier blows his whistle again, and yells out, "McCrutchen! Get over here, now!" Eddie and Mark rush over to help Braden, but quickly realize that Braden needs no help. Braden, now standing, lifts McCutchen off the ground, and carries him over to Mr. Frazier. Braden slams McCutchen to the ground, and yells out, "here's his fat ass!" Not wanting to put up with McCutchen for another season, Mr. Frazier yells out, "McCrutchen! You're cut. Head to the locker room, now!"

Braden yells out, "you heard him! Get your fat ass to the locker room, now!" McCutchen lies on the ground, and is slow to move. Braden yells out, "since your fat ass ain't moving too fast, let me help you!" Braden picks up McCutchen a second time, throws him over his shoulder, and carries him to the locker room, intentionally slamming him to the ground one more time on the way. A few of the freshmen whisper among themselves, wondering what just happened.

Not wanting to miss the action, Eddie, Mark, and a few other tribe members follow Braden as he carries McCutchen to the locker room. Joining them is Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton. Braden throws McCutchen into the locker room door, which, unfortunate for McCutchen, opens outward. Braden opens the door, dragging McCutchen into the locker room. Braden lifts McCutchen once again, and hurls him into the benches, yelling out, "clean out your locker, and go home, junior! We ain't got time for people like you!" McCutchen, laying on the floor like a rag doll, yells out to Braden, "I'm going to get you!" Braden replies, "waiting, junior," a highly sarcastic innuendo invented by the tribe back when they were in high school.

Provost Leighton walks into the locker room, and tells McCutchen, "Jeff McCutchen, I expect to see you in my office at ten o'clock tomorrow morning. Am I understood?" McCutchen replies, "did you see what he did?" Provost Leighton raises her voice, asking again, "am I understood?" McCutchen replies, "yeah." Provost Leighton reminds McCutchen, "ten o'clock, in my office, tomorrow morning! No excuses!"

On the way back to the track, Mr. Frazier asks Braden, "are you okay?" Braden replies, "yeah. That asshole tripped me, just like that Goldshit guy did back in high school." Mr. Frazier informs Braden, "I know. I saw it. Coach Leighton saw it. And, I'm sure a lot of the team members saw it too." Braden asks, "so, you both saw it?" Both Mr. Frazier and Provost

Leighton assure Braden that they both saw McCutchen intentionally trip him on the track.

Braden informs Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton, "I'm calling the campus police and having McCutchen arrested." Provost Leighton tells Braden, "go ahead. Be my guest." Taking a detour to the campus emergency telephone, Braden dials the campus police station. Informing the dispatcher what happened on the track, Braden tells her that he wants McCutchen arrested for assault. The dispatcher tells Braden that Officer Levy is on his way. Braden has learned that, in situations as this, it is much better to be on offense rather than defense.

Before the drill resumes, Mr. Frazier has the team assemble on the bleachers. Mr. Frazier tells the team, "I thought I left these problems back at the high school." After a pause, Mr. Frazier raises his voice, exclaiming, "Jeff McCutchen, the guy who was carried out of here, intentionally tripped another runner on the track! He's been cut from the team, and will be placed under arrest for assault! Now, listen to me. If you intentionally trip another runner on the track, and get your ass kicked, don't look to me for help! That is your problem! Now, we're going to get back on that track, and I want you to give it your best!" The team resumes the drill, except for Braden and McCutchen.

Officer Levy arrives, meeting Braden in the hallway. Braden explains what transpired on the track, explaining that Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton saw exactly what happened. McCutchen emerges from the locker room, and is promptly greeted by Officer Levy, who places him under arrest and reads him his rights. McCutchen is then cuffed and escorted into the arena, where he is instructed to sit on the bleachers. Part of Braden and Officer Levy's plan is for the rest of the athletes to see McCutchen in handcuffs.

Officer Levy walks over to Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton, getting their statement of what happened on the track between Braden and McCutchen. Satisfied with what he is hearing, Officer Levy takes McCutchen away to the campus holding cell until it can be figured out what to do with him. Once McCutchen is escorted out of the building, Braden rejoins his teammates in the relay drill.

After practice, the team heads to the locker room. Mr. Frazier tells Provost Leighton, "well, at least one problem got solved today. McCutchen is gone." Provost Leighton responds, "I'm sure we'll be hearing from Mr. McCutchen, or his half-witted attorney, Mr. Stupeck, at some point in the future." Mr. Frazier laughs, and replies, "then, we'll just put him up against the women again, like we did last year. Since I was going to cut McCutchen anyway, I might as well get some fun out of doing it."

Mr. Frazier then asks, “by the way, do you still have his notepad from last year when he was documenting everyone’s times?” Provost Leighton replies, “I do.” Mr. Frazier suggests, “if they raise their ugly heads again this year, we’ll have them explain why McCrutchen was documenting the team’s performance. I want to hear what they have to say.” Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton head to their offices, only to meet up again in a few minutes when they head out to the annual coaches meeting.

Later that morning, Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton attend the annual divisional meeting of track coaches. During the meeting, the topics of discussion are the order of events at the meets, any proposed rule changes, setting the meet dates for the following academic year, and any other issues that may be of concern to the teams in the division. They are joined by Dr. Karakova, who attends the meeting every year. Dr. Karakova is very interested to hear what the committee has to say this year.

The first hour of the meeting is rather boring. During one of the coach’s diatribes on the unfairness of certain schools allocating huge amounts of money for track scholarships, Provost Leighton mentions to Mr. Frazier, “right now, they’re clearly talking about our University.” Mr. Frazier replies, “I’m sure they offer full scholarships too. But, no one takes them. It’s a hard sell if you have a losing team. And, who really wants to be part of a losing team when you can be part of a winning team?” Provost Leighton agrees, telling Mr. Frazier, “that’s a very good point.” Dr. Karakova also mentions, “I totally agree with both of you. Losing is not the goal. Winning is. Iron sharpens iron.”

On the subject of money allocated for scholarships, Mr. Frazier is addressed and asked by Dr. Peter Gregory, the chairman of the meeting, “Mr. Frazier. Would you please share with the committee exactly how many of the track athletes on your university’s team are on full scholarship?” Not liking the question in the least bit, Provost Leighton, officially speaking for the University, quickly replies for Mr. Frazier, “unfortunately, sir, Mr. Frazier cannot share that information with you, nor anyone else for that matter. The information you are requesting is highly confidential, and will not be revealed under any circumstances.”

Trying to act diplomatic, yet stumbling over his words, Dr. Gregory contests, “with all due respect, Doctor Leighton, admission into the division requires that any team participating must adhere to strict guidelines regarding their university’s athletic budget.” Provost Leighton replies, “I am very well aware of that, sir. Admission to the division entails the University’s entire athletic program, not just one specific team. I’m sure you are aware of the yearly consolidated financial statement that is presented by each member of the division to the auditors. I can assure you, sir, the University I represent has passed this year’s audit. If you



have any questions, please request a copy of our last financial statement, which is in the possession of the auditors. I'm sure they will be glad to clarify any issues that you may have."

Realizing Provost Leighton has him cornered, Dr. Gregory then asks, "can you, then, please give us an explanation as to how your university's team manages to have at least a half-dozen athletes who are running world class times? You have to admit that it is quite unusual to have that many athletes of that caliber randomly landing on one team. It simply defies probability." Mr. Frazier smiles, and replies, "the last time I checked, we have 22 athletes running world class times, not a half dozen. And, we have the potential to break a few more world records during this year, including one or two in the field events. But, to answer your question, the athletes run world class times because the athletes train hard." Provost Leighton, trying not to laugh at Mr. Frazier's intentional evasion of the question, smiles, liking Mr. Frazier's answer.

It is clear that no one in the room is satisfied with Mr. Frazier's vague answer. Truth be told, no one in the room likes their team's ass getting kicked by the University's team either. And, certainly no one in the room likes the fact that the University's team walked away with nearly all the medals in last year's Spring divisional meet.

Dr. Gregory tells Mr. Frazier in a slightly demeaning tone, "I think we were all expecting a better explanation than 'the athletes train hard.'" Dr. Gregory would be correct, as Mr. Frazier's explanation is obvious to the most casual observer. But, Mr. Frazier is under no obligation to provide a detailed answer.

Knowing the character of Dr. Gregory quite well, Dr. Karakova asks, "may I have the floor, sir?" Dr. Gregory, hoping for a much better answer than the one Mr. Frazier provided, replies, "very well, sir. Please, go ahead." Dr. Karakova stands up, walks to the front of the room, and explains, "three years ago, our University was fortunate enough to offer track scholarships to several athletes who attended Northside High School, where Mr. Frazier was their track coach. Today, many athletes on our University's track team originated from that particular high school. Barbara Wyngate and Eric Johnson, who went to Northside High School and subsequently ran for our University, are now the coaches at Northside High. Miss Wyngate and Mr. Johnson have worked with Mr. Frazier for years, and understand his training protocols quite well. At the district's middle school, Mr. Harris, the track coach, begins employing Mr. Frazier's training protocols when the students are in as early as the sixth grade. And Paula Svoboda, who you may know as Paula Giovani, worked with Mr. Frazier for nearly ten years. She is now the assistant track coach at the district's middle school." Finally getting some definitive answers of where

the talent on the University's team came from, Dr. Gregory is eager to hear more.

Dr. Karakova asks Dr. Gregory, "shall I continue sir, or does that satisfy your curiosity?" Dr. Gregory, wanting to hear the rest of the story, as are the other coaches, replies, "please, please continue." Explaining the caliber of the University's coaching staff, Dr. Karakova continues, "our entering freshmen who have attended Northside High School have undergone seven years of training using the training protocols of an athlete who was once an alternate to the 100-meter dash in the Olympics. That person is Mr. George Frazier. And, also at Northside high school, Dr. Gerhard Zunde, whom I believe most of you have heard of, is the field events coach. I'm sure many of you remember when Dr. Zunde competed in the Olympics. As some of you are aware, Provost Leighton is no stranger to track and field herself. And, for those of you who may not know, Mr. Harris once held the divisional records in the 100-yard and 220-yard dash right here in our division. His daughter, Michelle, by the way, now runs for our University."

Putting the other teams on notice that the University is quite aware of the clandestine operations currently being employed by some of the other teams in the division, Dr. Karakova reveals, "now, some of the high schools in Northside High's division have even sent spies to study Mr. Frazier's workouts. I cannot think of a better endorsement of the training methods of a competitor than studying their workouts. And, our University has evidence that at least one team represented here today has been spying on not only our University's team, but the Northside High School's track team as well. We know who the spies are, and specifically which team here today they represent." Mr. Frazier stares at the Dogpatch University representatives, letting the coach of that university, Dr. Nicholson, know that he has been found out.

Going beyond the scope of the original discussion, Dr. Karakova explains, "now, here's what you don't know. When he was coaching high school, Mr. Frazier met with Mr. Harris at the middle school several times a year. During those meetings, Mr. Frazier shared with Mr. Harris any new training protocols and methods he may have come across. And, from what I hear, Mr. Harris even monitors the lunch room, making sure the track athletes get proper nutrition. So, many of the athletes on our University's team began their serious training in the sixth grade. And, I'm not talking about running a few sprints, then taking a lap or two around the track. I'm talking very serious training here."

Citing a recent example, Dr. Karakova explains, "when Edward Bogenskaya broke the world record in the 100-meter dash, when Axel Braden broke the world record in the 400-meter dash, and when the 4 by 400-meter relay team of Edward Bogenskaya, Mark Svoboda, Eric Johnson,

and Axel Braden broke the world record in that event, they all had ten years of vigorous world class training behind them. These guys are not weekend athletes. Track and field is their life. And, the great majority of our University's team has trained in this way."

Dr. Karakova tells the other coaches, "let me tell you a story, if I may. I'm sure you've all heard of my daughter, Kathy, who ran for our University. She won the gold medal in the short sprints for four years in a row. When Kathy, was in high school, she threw the discus during her senior year. She had quite the following of elementary and middle school girls who were enamored seeing a girl win the discus in a high school track meet. The girls came down from the stands after every meet to meet Kathy. One of those girls in Kathy's fan club, as she called it, is now in high school, throwing the discus. From what I understand, she is quite good at it, and will likely go to State this year. Many of you know Dr. Gerhard Zunde. He is her coach." Dr. Karakova then raises his voice, exclaiming, "if that girl chooses to pursue track and field in college, where do you think she will go?" The room is silenced, for everyone present knows the answer.

Not wanting the group of coaches to think that all of the University's talent came from one high school, Dr. Karakova relates, "now, our University has recruited athletes from other high schools as well. A case in point is Karen Corey. Two years ago, in her freshman year, Karen was what I would call a reasonably good sprinter. She could have gone to any university in the division, and you would have been glad to have her. In the span of two years, Karen's performance level went from reasonably good to world class. Scholarship money did not cause her increase in performance. Training did. More specifically, the training program at our University is largely responsible for Karen's dramatic performance improvement."

Catching the eye of the University's former field events coach, Dr. Karakova looks over at Dr. Bonamo. Addressing him specifically, Dr. Karakova smiles, and announces, "by the way, Dr. Bonamo, the University has hired Dr. Zunde as your replacement. He said to tell you 'hello'. He looks forward to seeing you during the divisional meet." Hearing the news of his replacement, a pleasant look of surprise comes over Dr. Bonamo's face. The other teams have just been put on notice that they will likely not win any field events this year at the divisional meet. They already know that the odds of winning a track event at the divisional meet this year are slim to none.

Getting back on track, Dr. Karakova postulates, "many of the exemplary athletes graduating from Northside High School have been running together for years. If they want to continue running with their former teammates, they would naturally choose to come to our University,

since that's where many of their former teammates are now. I can assure every single one of you that the camaraderie among the track team members at Northside High School is unequalled by any other high school in their division. I would venture to guess that none of the athletes graduating from Northside High School would look forward to running against Eddie Bogenskaya, Mark Svoboda, or Axel Braden. Now, let me ask you this. Why would they choose to go to your university? What have you done in order to attract the talent that would give you a winning team? And, most important, what do you have to offer them that we don't?" The other coaches are silenced, for they all have no answer to Dr. Karakova's questions.

On the subject of research, Dr. Karakova reveals, "in our exercise science lab, for example, we have been researching the effect of intensive interval training and its causative relationship to angiogenesis in muscle tissue undergoing a periodic shift from aerobic to anaerobic metabolism, and back again, and the associated neuroplasticity of the efferent peripheral nerves under such conditions. We've been applying our research to Mr. Frazier's track and field training methods, optimizing training in a way to ameliorate the physical body that is responsible for the superior performance you are complaining about here today. And, I might add, this research makes its way to Miss Wyngate and Mr. Harris, who implements our findings at the high school and middle school level." Many of the coaches look at each other, not understanding a word of what Dr. Karakova just explained. If they had understood, they would realize that the neuroplasticity and angiogenesis to which Dr. Karakova referred takes years to occur. This is exactly why it is important to start training early in life if one wants to be a world class athlete.

Knowing that he is talking way over most of the coach's heads, Dr. Karakova adds, "I'm sure all of you fully understand and comprehend the significance of what I just said." Dr. Karakova then observes, "just looking around this room, I see only two other universities that offer a degree in exercise science, and then only at the baccalaureate level. Please be reminded that our University offers degrees at the doctorate level in exercise science and many of its related fields. Our University would be glad to entertain the opportunity to conduct research on your behalf should you obtain an appropriate grant." Dr. Karakova's offer will never be accepted by any other university in the division for the mere fact that Mr. Frazier will have access to the contracted research.

Dr. Karakova concludes, "let me conclude by saying this. A lot of work has gone into building our University's track team, both at the research level and at the training level. Any scholarship money offered to any individual athlete is, quite frankly, Dr. Gregory, none of your business. And, as Provost Leighton has already pointed out, our University has successfully passed its audit. But, it should be quite evident that research

and training, not scholarship money, is the issue at hand.” Dr. Karakova walks back to his seat, hoping that his dissertation put the issue to rest.

Dr. Gregory thanks Dr. Karakova for his insight, and opens the floor to discussion. Truth be told, everything Dr. Karakova said has everyone in the room very worried. Mr. Crumpler, Nachlobrocklin’s former coach, angrily exclaims, “I believe we are missing the point! Does anyone really think it’s fair that one team totally dominates the division?” A lot of chatter then arises among the coaches.

Joining in with the chatter, Provost Leighton whispers to Dr. Karakova, “I don’t think he heard a word you said, Alexander.” Dr. Karakova whispers back, “I don’t think Crumpler has heard a word anyone has ever said. That guy can make a moron look like a genius.” Some of these coaches and administrators apparently know each other very well.

Once order is restored, another coach, Dr. Larry Gable, offers the opinion, “the time often comes in the life of a university when that university has outgrown the level of competition on the sports field offered within the division in which they are a member. This, my friends, is the reason why there are different divisions, to keep the level of competition fair, not allowing one university to dominate any one particular sport. If the current situation is allowed to continue, it will ultimately spell the demise of track and field in our division. So, with that said, does anyone who is sitting here today honestly think that your university stands even a remote chance of winning any event in our upcoming divisional meet in January?” Much chatter and discussion arises but, this time, the chairman, Dr. Gregory, is able to maintain order. Apparently, the University’s dominance in the sport has struck a nerve with the other universities.

During the discussion, Provost Leighton whispers to Dr. Karakova and Mr. Frazier, “Dr. Gable apparently orates very eloquently, however, he is spewing out nothing but intellectual and emotional vomit.” Mr. Frazier comments, “he sounds a bit like Dean Grimsby to me.” Provost Leighton tries to conceal her laughter, but is not very successful, leaving those in the neighboring seats wondering what could possibly be so funny. After several minutes of discussion among the other coaches, Dr. Karakova asks Provost Leighton, “do you want me to put an end to this discussion, or would you like the honor?” Provost Leighton replies, “please, sir. Be my guest.”

Joining the discussion, Dr. Karakova takes the floor at the next opportunity and explains, “when a university is granted admission to our division, or any other division for that matter, acceptance is based upon three primary criteria. The first criteria, as you probably know, is the total number of students enrolled in that university. The second criteria is the

geographical location of that university with respect to others in the division. The third criteria is the university's budget. And, yes, I am well aware of the secondary criteria of whether that university has the venues to support those sports in which they participate, and so on. I can assure all of you sitting here today that our University meets all the primary and secondary criteria in every sport we participate. And, I might add, based upon the generally accepted criteria, there is no division more appropriate than the one we are currently in."

Silencing the room with facts and sound logic, Dr. Karakova's stance cannot be disputed. Dr. Gregory, although he doesn't like Dr. Karakova's stance, has no choice but to agree. Cornered again by sound reasoning, Dr. Gregory announces, "unless there is any further discussion on the matter, it's time we move on to the next topic on the agenda."

Not letting the subject matter be put to rest, Mr. Crumpler, sounding a bit like an idiot at this point, comments, "what? So you're telling me that there's no other division that seems more appropriate for that University?" Dr. Gregory consults one of the other coaches regarding Mr. Crumpler's question, causing a lot of chatter to arise.

During a brief interlude, Provost Leighton informs Dr. Gregory, "I can answer that question, if you'd like, sir." Tired of fielding questions on the subject, Dr. Gregory replies, "please, please, feel free, Dr. Leighton." Provost Leighton explains, "as Dr. Karakova stated, our University fully meets all the criteria to participate in the division. If our University is removed from the division based upon superior athletic performance, what's to stop anyone from removing Mr. Crumpler's or Dr. Nicholson's university from the division based upon inferior performance? Or, how about your university, Dr. Gable? If I am not mistaken, your team hasn't placed in any event in a divisional meet for five years." Provost Leighton's statements of fact draw a small degree of hissing, fussing, and laughing, but she neither cares nor is she finished.

Drawing a parallel, Provost Leighton points out, "I want you to consider this. If the issue at hand were academics versus athletics, would we be having the same debate here today? Of course we wouldn't! What some of you are essentially asking for, in a comparable situation, is that a university's accreditation be revoked because the graduates of that university receive better job offers or have better acceptance rates into graduate or post graduate programs than other equally accredited schools. That makes absolutely no sense at all, and neither does what some of you are attempting to do here today. So, unless there is any hard objective evidence indicating that the University that I represent is ineligible to participate in the division, I strongly suggest we move on."

Silence follows Provost Leighton's comments, prompting Dr. Gregory to announce, "unless there is any further discussion on the matter, I would like to close this topic and move on to the next item on the agenda." No objection is heard over the rattling of papers being shuffled, so Dr. Gregory announces, "before we move on to the next item, let's take a well-deserved fifteen-minute break."

During the break, Provost Leighton tells Mr. Frazier, "George, you were right! Last year, before our University's Christmas party, you said that they're going to want us removed from the division. I think we clearly saw an attempt to do that here today." Mr. Frazier replies, "it doesn't surprise me. And, do you know what they'll be up to next?" Provost Leighton asks, "what's that?" Mr. Frazier explains, "next year, they'll be scrutinizing our academic program, reviewing the athlete's grades, and any other technical issues they can get their hands on." Provost Leighton replies, "well, the good news is that Eddie, Mark, and Bobby B. will have graduated." By special arrangement, Eddie, Mark, and Bobby B. do not attend formal classes.

Dr. Karakova tells Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton, "consider what just happened in there your midterm examination as coaches. You guys aced the test, and the rest of the class failed miserably. Not even a curve would help them. We all see this in the classroom every day." Provost Leighton laughs, and replies to Dr. Karakova, "Alexander, I really wish you had said that in the meeting!" Dr. Karakova replies, "believe me. I was thinking about it. If that childish brat, Crumpler, had anything else to say, I probably would have." Mr. Frazier comments, "I really wish the team was here to see what is happening at this meeting today." Provost Leighton agrees, stating, "I can only imagine how hearing what we heard today would get them fired up."

Mr. Frazier says to his coworkers, "and, I can only imagine if Braden was here. He'd be telling the other coaches, 'your problem is that you sit on your fat ass all day long when you're supposed to be coaching your team! And, your team falls asleep during practice after you give them a boring pep talk! Then, you get to a meet, and you get your ass kicked and come in last place. And then, you say to yourself, 'I wonder why we lost.' You lost because your team sat on their ass all year long! And, when they finally get their ass on the track, their out of shape flimsy asses get kicked! Some of your guys run like they've never been on a track before! How do you expect to win if you don't make your team work?'" Provost Leighton and Dr. Karakova laugh, and Provost Leighton comments, "that about sums it up."

Seeing everyone walking into the meeting room, Dr. Karakova mentions, "it looks like they're ready to get started again. Let's go in."

Truth is, Dr. Karakova and Provost Leighton were enjoying Mr. Frazier's imitation of Braden, and are sad that it was cut short.

The meeting goes on for another two hours, when a few things are finally accomplished. One change made is the order of events during the Spring meets, primarily to provide for a longer time separation between events that would likely have the same athletes competing in them. The 4 by 800-meter relay, and the 1,500-meter run is one example. The 400-meter dash and 4 by 400-meter relay is another.

During other breaks and after the meeting, not surprisingly, some of the coaches discuss what changes they are going to make in order to beat the University's team. But, Dr. Karakova has given them insight of how to solve that problem. Whether they listen or not, as Dr. Zunde would say, would be their problem. The meeting is adjourned, and Provost Leighton tells Mr. Frazier and Dr. Karakova to take the rest of the day off.

Back at the service station, Eddie has a new project going on. Kathy has purchased a brand-new Volkswagen Bus. Eddie has found a suitable engine from a Porsche 930 to replace the comparatively anemic stock four-cylinder engine in the Bus. Kurt Richter has assured Eddie that the conversion is possible, and will be helping Eddie with the project. Knowing Kurt and Eddie, the Volkswagen bus will handle more like a sports car.

At Northside High School, Barbara has discovered that Mr. O'Brien is a registered member of the Communist Party. Given Mr. O'Brien's past behavior, this is not surprising news. What spurred Barbara's interest in investigating Mr. O'Brien is that certain teachers have been assigning large time-consuming projects, which are due on the day of a significant sporting event. Specifically, Mr. O'Brien and a few other teachers have assigned numerous time-consuming assignments, which suspiciously seem to coincide with each other, right before a football game or cross country meet. Barbara has been investigating, attempting to find out what other teachers may also be members of the Communist Party.

Since the weather has been beautiful, Mr. Frazier has been having the team work out on the outdoor track. One reason for the outdoor workouts is so that Mr. Frazier and Dr. Zunde can assemble an unbeatable field team long before the Spring. After all, Dr. Karakova did drop a hint to the other coaches that, with Dr. Zunde now on board, they have again raised the bar, this time in the field events. Learning that Dr. Zunde is now in the picture was the last thing the other teams wanted to hear. The other reason for the outdoor workouts is to take advantage of the pleasant weather.



Over in the field area, a few of the seasoned track athletes try their hand at the various field events. Mark, taking the gold medal in the hammer during last year's Spring divisional meet, looks strong. Shawn Greene, now a sophomore, also looks strong in the hammer and the shot-put. Today, Greene, along with a few others, is trying his hand at the javelin. And today, Eddie decides to give Mark some competition in the hammer.

Eddie takes hold of the hammer, and gets on the pad. Mark tells Greene, "you'd better watch out. The last time Eddie threw the hammer a few years ago, it landed in the stands." Mark is, of course, pulling Greene's leg. Greene asks, "really? Were there people in the stands?" Not missing a beat, Mark replies, "yeah. It was during a meet. Fortunately, nobody got hurt."

Eddie lets go of the hammer, with a perfect shot into the center of the landing zone. Mark wipes his forehead, and exclaims, "wow! Good shot! We all lucked out!" Overhearing Mark and Greene's conversation is Bobby B., who tells Greene, "he's messing with you. Don't listen to him." Mark tells Bobby B., "yeah, right. And, now that Mr. Zunde is back, I'm sure you'll be taking much better care of the shot-put." Bobby B. suddenly looks worried, remembering the ongoing shot-put saga from his high school years.

Courtney, a team assistant driving the golf cart today, in charge of retrieving the field implements, retrieves the hammer. Returning the hammer to the launching area, Courtney delivers the measurement to another team assistant in charge of record keeping.

Courtney then walks over to Dr. Zunde, telling him, "I think you should know this. There are two guys hanging out in the East tunnel watching us. One guy has binoculars, and the other guy has one of those big parabolic microphones." Dr. Zunde turns around, facing away from where the potential spies are, and whispers to Courtney, "do me a favor. Go and get either Coach Frazier or Coach Leighton, and tell them to come here. Whatever you do, don't mention what this is about. With that microphone, they'll be able to hear you." Courtney replies, whispering, "okay," and heads over to inform one of the other coaches to see Dr. Zunde.

Mr. Frazier walks over to Dr. Zunde, asking, "what's up?" Dr. Zunde replies, "follow me." Dr. Zunde leads Mr. Frazier toward the West tunnel, where they cannot be heard. While they are walking, Mr. Frazier is getting concerned at Dr. Zunde's silence. Mr. Frazier again asks, "so, what's going on?" Evading the real issue at hand, Dr. Zunde replies, "with Bobby B., Mark, and Greene in the hammer, we should sweep that event this year. They have all turned in exemplary performances. And, Eddie is not

too bad at the shot-put. I suspect he could take the silver medal at the divisional meet.” Mr. Frazier is now keenly aware that there is definitely a problem. What Dr. Zunde verbalized is not news to Mr. Frazier.

As they enter the West tunnel where their conversation cannot be intercepted, Dr. Zunde explains, “Courtney tells me there are two guys in the East tunnel with binoculars and a parabolic microphone.” Hearing the news, Mr. Frazier replies, “the spies are back. How much do you want to bet one of them is Brad Evans?” Dr. Zunde replies, “you’re probably right. Evans has been quite the pain in the ass over at the high school. Barbara caught him spying on the team a few times last year.” Mr. Frazier tells Dr. Zunde, “well, we need to take care of this right now, otherwise it will never stop.”

From the West tunnel, Mr. Frazier blows his whistle, and yells out, “Coach Leighton! Eddie! Braden! Mark! Bobby B.! Please see me now!” Provost Leighton and the four trusted veterans of the track jog over to see Mr. Frazier. Dr. Zunde smiles, and comments, “you obviously have a plan, George.” Mr. Frazier replies, “yes. I am going to have those guys arrested for trespassing, and physically removed from the stadium. And, when they see who they’re up against, I believe they’ll think twice about coming back. And besides, Mark always looks forward to messing with people.”

Provost Leighton and the four athletes arrive in the West tunnel. Mr. Frazier and Dr. Zunde explain the situation, which makes Provost Leighton quite furious. Mr. Frazier then explains, “here’s what we’re going to do, that is if you guys are up to it.” Addressing Eddie and Mark, Mr. Frazier explains, “Eddie and Mark will take a lap around the track. When you guys approach the other tunnel, you’ll take a sudden detour, and sprint toward the tunnel.” Addressing Bobby B. and Braden, Mr. Frazier explains, “Bobby B. and Braden, you’ll enter the tunnel from the other side, preventing them from escaping. Then, they’ll be trapped.” Mr. Frazier then explains, “when Eddie and Mark are approaching the tunnel, I will blow my whistle. That’s when I want Braden and Bobby B. to move in. I want these two guys apprehended.” Mr. Frazier then asks, “is everyone good with this?” Everyone wholeheartedly agrees, especially Provost Leighton, who has had enough of the spies spying on the team.

Mr. Frazier tells Bobby B. and Braden, “okay. You guys get into position. I’ll give you three minutes,” which is more than enough time. Braden and Bobby B. head out of the other end of the tunnel, and Mr. Frazier starts his stopwatch. Once they are outside the stadium, Braden and Bobby B. head toward the other tunnel.

Mr. Frazier tells Dr. Zunde, “head back to the field area for the time being, so we don’t arouse too much suspicion.” Dr. Zunde heads back to the field area where he will get a bird’s eye view of the events as they

unfold, interested to see how Mr. Frazier's plan works. Wanting a front row seat, Provost Leighton walks up into the stands where she cannot be seen from the tunnel, inconspicuously making her way to the other side of the stadium where the spies are situated.

Three minutes later, Mr. Frazier tells Eddie and Mark, "go ahead and run down the track. When you get to the curve, head to the tunnel, and apprehend these guys." Eddie and Mark take off, as Mr. Frazier exits the tunnel. Watching as Eddie and Mark jog down the track, Mr. Frazier blows his whistle as the runners approach the curve, and jogs over to the other tunnel where he will join the party.

Eddie and Mark get to the curve and make a hard right, sprinting to the tunnel, where they blitz the two spies. Seeing that they have been caught, the two spies attempt to make a run for it, thinking that they will escape through the other side of the tunnel. Seeing Bobby B. and Braden rushing from the other direction, the spies turn around, quickly realizing they are cornered. As the four athletes approach, one of the spies tries to evade the reception and make a run for it. He is quickly apprehended by Braden. Seeing that he has no way out, the other spy wisely gives himself up.

Brad Evans, who was apprehended by Braden, exclaims, "let me go!" Putting Evans into an arm lock, Braden bluntly replies, "no. There's someone who wants to talk to you." Mark places the other spy into an arm lock, who is none other than Todd McCutchen. McCutchen exclaims, "let me go! You're hurting me!" Mark tightens the arm lock, and replies, "hurting you? I haven't even started to hurt you, junior!" Eddie grabs the parabolic microphone and tape recorder from Evans, prompting Bobby B. to confiscate McCutchen's binoculars, camera, and notepad. Evans and McCutchen are escorted to the end of the tunnel, where Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton are waiting for them.

Delivering the perpetrators, Mark announces, "look what we found!" Braden adds, "it looks like we got some trash to take out." Mr. Frazier smiles, and tells Evans and McCutchen, "I've got to hear this one. What are you two clowns doing here? Start talking. I'm listening." Evans replies, "we're not telling you anything! Tell them to let us go!" Mr. Frazier laughs, and exclaims, "let you go? You've got to be kidding me! I'm going to ask one more time. What are you two guys doing here?" Evans insists, "we're not telling you anything." Mr. Frazier smiles, and replies, "fine, then. Have it your way."

Mr. Frazier turns to Braden, winks, and asks, "Officer Braden, does this microphone and these binoculars match the description of the ones that were stolen from the team over the Summer?" Catching on, Braden replies, "yes, sir! I believe they do!" Mr. Frazier nods his head, and

replies, “wow! We have a bigger problem here than I thought.” Evans exclaims, “we didn’t steal anything! These belong to,” then catches himself, being careful not to reveal whom he is working for. Mr. Frazier smiles, and concludes, “so, someone else stole this equipment. This is getting more interesting all the time!” Evans insists, “no one stole anything. These aren’t yours!” Braden replies, “yeah, right. Ain’t nobody gonna believe that shit. How many times have I busted your asses already? And, if I remember correctly, I already busted your ass for breaking into the arena and stealing a bunch of shit. There ain’t nobody out there who’s gonna believe you two.”

Mr. Frazier asks Provost Leighton, “do you have any suggestions of what we should do with these two clowns?” Provost Leighton replies, “nothing for right now. We have practice to conduct.” Provost Leighton then instructs Braden, “Officer Braden, would it be too much trouble for you to meet with the officer on duty, and have these two trespassers transported to the campus jail?” Braden replies, “no, ma’am. That would be no trouble at all! I’d be glad to!” Leaving great uncertainty as to how much time Evans and McCutchen will be spending in the campus jail, Provost Leighton announces to everyone, “I’ll deal with this problem later. We all have a training session to get back to.”

Provost Leighton tells Eddie, “Edward, will you please run over to the arena and call the campus police. Please explain to them that there are two trespassers who need to be detained until I can decide what to do with them. Tell them the trespassers can be picked up at the service entrance to the outdoor stadium where Officer Braden, Mark, and Bobby B. have them detained.” Eddie replies, “got it.” Handing Bobby B. the microphone and tape recorder, Eddie runs over to the arena to contact the police.

Seeing that he is in big trouble, Evans exclaims, “we’re not trespassing!” Braden tells Evans, “yeah, right. You keep telling yourself that, junior.”

Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton get back to practice. Braden and Mark escort Evans out of the tunnel, over to the service entrance about 100 feet away. They are joined by Bobby B., who will serve as a backup.

At the service entrance, Mark asks McCutchen, “so, junior, what are you doing spying on our team?” McCutchen replies, “we weren’t spying on your team!” Braden tells McCutchen, “ain’t nobody gonna believe that shit. You got a microphone, binoculars, and a camera! Now, who’s gonna believe your ass?”

Bobby B. suggests, “while we’re waiting, maybe we can try them out as hammers. That might make them talk.” Mark replies, “that’s a good idea,

bro! I bet I can throw McCutchen farther than you can throw Evans.” Bobby B. quickly replies, “twenty dollars.” Mark replies, “you got it.” Evans and McCutchen, who have already been used as hammers in the hammer throw, suddenly look very worried.

As Mark is getting ready for the hammer throw, planning to use McCutchen as the hammer, McCutchen yells out, “okay, okay! Nicholson sent us over here!” Evans yells at McCutchen, “now you did it! Shut up, already! We’re really going to get in trouble now!” Braden laughs, and exclaims, “what are you talking about? Your ass is already in trouble, junior!”

Braden asks McCutchen, “who’s Nicholson?” Evans yells out to McCutchen, “shut up, you idiot! Don’t say anything else!” Bobby B. tells Mark, “let’s just get it over with, and see how far you can throw him.” Mark replies, “yeah. I should do that.” Bobby B. suggests, “we could throw them into the red zone. Maybe they’ll run into a stray javelin or discus.”

Fortunately, for McCutchen and Evans, Officer Kevin Morrison drives up and, with two guys in an arm lock, the officer clearly sees the problem. Unlocking and walking through the service entrance, Officer Morrison asks Braden, “what do we got here?” Braden explains, “Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton caught these two guys spying on our team. Provost Leighton wants to talk to them later, but she’s busy with the team right now. She wants them put in the tank. She said she’s gonna deal with them later.” Officer Morrison looks over the perpetrators, and replies, “got it.”

Officer Morrison asks Braden, “are there any charges?” Braden replies, “yes, sir. The only charge right now is trespassing.” Evans interjects, “we weren’t trespassing! It’s State property!” Officer Morrison looks sternly at Evans, and informs him, “while the University is State property, there are ‘No Trespassing’ signs every twenty-five feet on the fence surrounding this stadium. Those signs are not a suggestion. They are the law. If you were inside that fence, you were trespassing.” Evans is silenced, quickly realizing he is not talking his way out of this one.

Out of the blue, Evans exclaims, “I want my equipment back!” Officer Morrison asks Braden, “what is this equipment he’s talking about?” Braden explains, “they had a microphone, tape recorder, a notebook, camera, and binoculars. It’s all sitting on the ground, near the tunnel.” Officer Morrison replies, “I’ll be back for that later.” Braden offers, “I’m on duty after practice. If you want, I can take care of the equipment.” Officer Morrison replies, “sure. That would be a big help.”

Officer Morrison arrests Evans and McCutchen for trespassing, and reads them their rights. Evans and McCutchen are placed in handcuffs, and taken to the campus police station. Braden, Mark, and Bobby B. return to practice, where they continue their workout.

After practice, Evans and McCutchen's equipment is moved into the coach's room adjoining the indoor arena. Provost Leighton and Mr. Frazier listen to the tape, hearing Mr. Frazier discussing strategy, orating his desire to assemble an unbeatable field team, and explaining today's agenda.

Provost Leighton hypothetically asks, "I wonder how long this has been going on, George." Mr. Frazier replies, "Evans has been spying on the high school team on and off for a while. When Ruff got arrested, he laid low for a while. But, he's back. And, Braden did mention that McCutchen confessed that he's working for Dr. Nicholson, the coach over at Dogpatch University." Provost Leighton laughs, and tells Mr. Frazier, "everyone's calling it Dogpatch University now."

Examining the confiscated camera, Provost Leighton tells Mr. Frazier, "this is a pretty nice camera. A Nikon F3. It's quite expensive, especially with this zoom lens. I'm fairly certain that this camera is far beyond the budget of either Evans or McCutchen. I can assure you that, whoever owns this camera, will want it back." Mr. Frazier smiles, and replies, "that makes it easy. We won't have to chase them down. They'll come to us." Apparently quite familiar with photography, Provost Leighton rewinds the film and unloads the camera, telling Mr. Frazier, "in the mean time, I'm going to have this roll of film developed."

Looking over at the confiscated parabolic microphone, Mr. Frazier mentions, "I think you're right, Athena. Whoever is behind this, they are apparently well funded. This microphone is not cheap." Mr. Frazier picks up the confiscated Zeiss binoculars, and looks through the window into the arena, mentioning, "these binoculars aren't cheap either."

Provost Leighton informs Mr. Frazier, "whoever owns this equipment, I am going to make them jump through a lot of hoops to get it back." Mr. Frazier smiles and laughs, and asks, "how are you going to do that?" Provost Leighton explains, "when whoever it is that owns this equipment contacts us, I'm going to make them produce the receipts and documentation bearing the serial numbers of the equipment. Then, they'll be informed that the campus police has impounded the equipment as evidence against Evans and McCutchen. With any luck, Evans and McCutchen will be fired by whoever hired them to spy on our team." With Mr. Frazier's boldness and daringness during confrontation, and Provost Leighton's bullet proof logic, it's not likely whoever is behind spying on

the University's team stands a chance of getting their equipment back anytime soon.

Later that day, Officer Braden enters the administration building, and heads to Provost Leighton's office. Escorted in immediately, Officer Braden tells Provost Leighton, "I know you're probably busy. Do you have a few minutes?" Provost Leighton tells Officer Braden, "please, come in, and have a seat." Quite surprised to see Officer Braden during the day, Provost Leighton asks, "what's up?" Officer Braden replies, "I have some news about Evans and McCrutchen."

Surprised that any news can come so fast, Provost Leighton sits back, and replies, "I can't wait to hear this." Officer Braden explains, "Evans and McCrutchen are demanding to be released. And, they demanded that they get their one phone call. So, Chief Toledo allowed them to make one phone call each." Braden then laughs, and finishes, "Chief Toledo wrote down the numbers that Evans and McCrutchen dialed."

Handing Provost Leighton a piece of paper with the phone numbers Evans and McCrutchen dialed, Braden continues, "the number that Evans dialed comes back to Dr. Nicholson, the coach over there at Dogpatch University. And, you'll never guess who the phone number McCrutchen dialed comes back to." Provost Leighton replies, "hopefully, not the coach of another team in the division." Officer Braden smiles, and explains, "the number McCrutchen dialed comes back to Mayor Bradford Jamieson's office. He's the guy that we've seen hanging around at the Dogpatch University bench. Provost Leighton replies, "can this get any worse? This obviously goes a whole lot deeper than I originally thought."

Provost Leighton curiously asks Braden, "who started calling them 'Dogpatch University anyway?" Officer Braden replies, "that was Mark." Provost Leighton laughs, and comments, "I should have known." Braden also informs Provost Leighton, "Mark and Eddie started calling McCrutchen McCrutchen in eighth grade. I don't know which one of them made up that name. If somebody's making up a name for someone, it's probably Mark or Eddie."

Provost Leighton sighs in frustration, and asks, "does anyone else know about this?" Officer Braden replies, "no, ma'am. No one outside the force." Provost Leighton instructs Officer Braden, "I'll let Mr. Frazier and Dr. Zunde know. I'm sure they'll find this information interesting."

Officer Braden informs Provost Leighton, "since Mayor Jamieson is involved, Officer Hayes is definitely gonna want to hear about this one. Eddie would be the best way to let Officer Hayes know. He comes into Eddie's Service Station all the time. They talk a lot." Provost Leighton tells Braden, "okay. Let Eddie know and have him tell Officer Hayes."

Provost Leighton laughs, then comments, “this is getting more interesting every day. I can only imagine where this path will lead.”

Officer Braden then asks, “we’re transferring Evans to the county, and McCrutchen to the hospital. Did you want to talk to either of those guys before we transfer them?” Provost Leighton asks, “what’s this about taking McCutchen to the hospital?” Braden explains, “somewhere between when we busted them and Officer Morrison took them to the tank, McCrutchen must have taken some sort of drugs. When I stopped by the station, McCrutchen was in the tank, chanting, ‘

Mark and no Johnson,  
Eddie is ahead.  
Mark with the Johnson,  
Eddie got no head.”

Provost Leighton shakes her head, and replies, “let’s do this. Let the county determine whether McCutchen should go to the hospital. If we’re lucky, the county can add a drug charge to the trespassing charges. Go ahead and file the trespassing charges with the county, and have them transferred there. The trespassing charges will tie their equipment up as evidence for a long time, which is my intention. If they lose several thousands of dollars of equipment every time they get caught spying on our team, it might just give them an incentive to stop.” Officer Braden gets back on patrol, and is glad to hear of Provost Leighton’s esoteric strategy of dealing with Evans and McCutchen.

Working on Kathy’s Volkswagen Bus, Eddie has removed the original drive train. The frame, now reinforced as recommended by Kurt Richter, is ready to receive the Porsche 930 turbocharged six-cylinder engine. Bobby B., wanting to try his hand at some unconventional mechanical work, is helping Eddie with the project. Being thrown in at the deep end, Bobby B. is learning more than he ever expected.

As they are installing the engine, Bobby B. asks Eddie, “is replacing the engine going to void the warranty?” Eddie laughs, and replies, “I’m sure it will. But, you just gave me an idea. When I get this finished, someday I’m going to take it to the Volkswagen Porsche Audi dealership, and get them to do an oil change. I want to see the look on their faces.” Bobby B. comments, “that would be really funny.”

Officer Richard Hayes rolls into the service station and, seeing him walk back to the service area, Eddie asks, “what’s up?” Officer Hayes replies, “what’s up?” Eddie replies, “I’m putting a Porsche 930 engine into this Bus. I’m guessing that it will perform a little better.” Richard replies, “yeah! I’d say!” Eddie jokingly tells Richard, “with the 930 engine, it will be a whole lot easier to evade the police.” Richard laughs, and replies, “in



all my years on the force, I've never pulled over anyone in a Volkswagen Bus. We leave that to the officers on foot."

Eddie then tells Richard, "there's some news over at the University. You're not going to believe this one." Richard replies, "believe me. Nothing surprises me anymore." Eddie explains, "one of the team assistants caught Brad Evans and Todd McCutchen spying on the team. So, we detained them, and Provost Leighton had them arrested for trespassing." Now quite interested, Richard asks, "can we go into the office and talk? It sounds like I'm going to need to take some notes." Eddie replies, "sure," and they all head into the office where Officer Hayes obtains more pieces of the puzzle.

After Eddie and Bobby B. explain the entire situation, Officer Hayes taps his pen onto the desk, and comments, "every time one of these McCutchen characters is involved, it turns out to be a big piece of the puzzle. And, this Mayor Jamieson character, I'm telling you. This guy is deeply involved with something, but his involvement is so many levels deep, it is difficult to pin him down. But, I have a few leads. Now, I need to figure out where this Nicholson character fits in. His involvement is apparently more than just being a track coach." Eddie comments, "it sounds like they all cover their tracks really well." Officer Hayes replies, "they do. They're not as smart as they think they are. All these characters will make a mistake. That's when I'll catch them."

On his way out, Officer Hayes asks Eddie and Bobby B., "by the way, do you guys remember that time when this Todd McCutchen character took a high dose of codeine, caffeine, and used an asthma inhaler before that distance race during last year's meet?" Eddie replies, "yeah. He thought he would have a better run, or something." Officer Hayes then explains, "this Evans character, during a meet last year, had one of his runners over there at Centerville High School land in the hospital for the exact same reason. The runner had used the same combination of drugs. Can you even believe it?" Eddie laughs and replies, "now, I'm beginning to understand why Evans thought I beat him up at the beach last Summer." Officer Hayes replies, "he obviously has ties to a supplier. I have my eyes on him." Officer Hayes then gets back on the road, with a few more pieces to the puzzle. Eddie and Bobby B. get back to working on Kathy's high performance Volkswagen Bus.

Right before Eddie closes for the day, Jimmy O'Brien drives into Eddie's service station, wanting his tank filled. O'Brien gets pleasure from seeing Eddie or Bobby B. fill his gas tank and cleaning his windshield. Seeing O'Brien behind the wheel, Eddie takes a break and goes out to the pumps, hoping for some free entertainment.

Walking up to O'Brien, who is sitting in his car, Eddie asks, "fill it up?" O'Brien replies, "yeah. And, can you check the oil while you're at it?" Eddie replies, "sure. No problem." While O'Brien's tank is being filled, Eddie opens O'Brien's hood and checks the oil. Eddie also incidentally notices that O'Brien's front left tire has been replaced and that the rim is all scuffed up.

Seeing damage to the front end of O'Brien's vehicle, Eddie asks O'Brien, "what happened to your car? Did you hit something?" O'Brien replies, "my tire blew out, and I ran off the road." Acting surprised, Eddie asks, "oh, really? When did that happen?" O'Brien replies, "about a week ago." Eddie asks, "did you end up getting your flat tire fixed?" O'Brien replies, "they fixed it over at the department store, but it didn't last. So, I went to the tire shop and they told me the tire has to be replaced." Eddie replies, "really? I can't imagine why."

O'Brien pays Eddie for the gas and two quarts of oil. As O'Brien drives off, Eddie wonders why O'Brien didn't get the other three tires replaced, as their useful life is just about over.

When Eddie gets home that afternoon, Kathy asks, "so, how's my Bus coming?" Eddie replies, "it's coming along good, but the labor charges are beginning to add up." Kathy asks, "oh, really? How much am I up to?" Eddie replies, "with all the grueling work I put in today, you're up to one pizza." Kathy gives Eddie a high-five and a kiss, and tells him, "deal!" But, Kathy already knew she and Eddie were getting pizza tonight. They will be joining Mark and Paula at the pizzeria later in the evening.

At the pizzeria, Eddie and Kathy meet up with Mark and Paula. Joe, behind the counter, is glad to see the group still frequently comes in. Now that Kathy and Paula have both graduated, they don't see each other quite as much. But, tonight they have the opportunity to catch up on what is going on in each other's lives.

As they are waiting for the pizzas, Kathy asks Paula, "so, how's life over at the middle school?" Paula replies, "wow, girl! You're not going to believe this! It's the same old shit, but I see it from the other side now! The same stuff happens as when we were there!" Now seriously wondering, Kathy asks, "really? Like what?" Eddie and Mark are also interested to hear Paula's stories.

Paula explains, "at lunchtime, there are guys out on the field playing Kill the Man with the Ball every day. Some kids sit on the lawn and talk, like we used to do. And, the really studious ones go to the library after they eat lunch. And, every day, there seems to be a fight that breaks out somewhere. And, just like when we were there, if the right person is

winning the fight, the teachers are really slow to break it up.” Kathy replies, “it sounds like nothing much has changed.”

Moving on to more pertinent information, Paula energetically explains, “oh! And, there are a few students out there running laps on the track during one lunch period, and Mr. Harris is timing them. They’re part of the track team. So, they train during the first half of lunch period, then they go in and eat. And, get this! During study hall, Mr. Harris has the track team members go to gym class instead of going to the library. And, while they’re in gym class, they’re out on the track running the interval drill while the other kids are playing football.” Mark comments, “we used to sneak into gym class during study hall when we were there. After a while, all the teachers thought we were supposed to be in gym class when we should have been in study hall.” Paula replies, “yeah. But, the rules have changed. Now they’re actually allowed to do that.”

Paula smiles, and tells everyone, “so, the girls on the track team show up in my gym class too during their study hall.” Kathy comments, “wow! The team is getting a lot of training in during the day, and the track season doesn’t even start until Spring.” Paula replies, “I know, right? Oh, and get this! Mr. Harris told me that, last year, they won all the events in every meet!” Mark comments, “that sounds vaguely familiar.”

Eddie replies, “wow! It sounds just like when we were there. I wonder if the middle school has a Chuckie.” Paula laughs, and continues, “it’s worse.” Paula asks Kathy, “do you remember when I told you that there’s this girl, Lillian Black, who I thought might have been the Chuckie’s sister?” Kathy replies, “yeah.” Paula explains to everyone, “well, it turns out that she is the Chuckie’s sister. And, she has the same endomorphic build and shitty attitude, just like the Chuckie. But, get this. She’s in my gym class and health class, and she hasn’t participated in gym class all year.”

Eddie interrupts Paula and asks, “why not?” Paula replies, “it’s because she’s always got a doctors’ note. First, it’s asthma. Then, it’s a sprained ankle. Oh, and what else? Strained muscles. Headaches. Digestive problems. Sleep problems. The list never ends.” Mark comments, “well, that hasn’t changed either. The Chuckie was always trying to get out of gym class.” Eddie laughs, and mentions, “that really makes no sense. The Chuckie always tried to get out of gym class and then tried out for track.” Paula replies, “the Chuckie always was a conundrum of sorts.”

Joe brings the pizzas to the table, and tells the group, “you guys are just as happy as ever! You always bring a smile to my face!” Kathy replies, “thank you, Joe! You are so sweet.” Joe asks, “is there anything else I can get for you guys?” Kathy looks around and, seeing everyone is okay for now, replies, “I think we’re good for now.” Joe asks, “what? No

drill bits?” The group laughs, as Joe tells them, “I’ll never forget that! And, the shot-puts and discus!” Joe gets back to work, and the group digs in.

During dinner, Paula asks Kathy, “so, how are things over at the elementary school?” Kathy replies, “I really like my job. I love working with the kids. I think they all like gym class.” Paula asks, “really? It’s usually pretty divided between those who like gym class, and those who totally hate it.” Kathy explains, “yeah, I know. But, for the girls who aren’t as athletic, instead of forcing them to do something that they can’t do, I give them something that they can do. Otherwise, they’ll just be embarrassed in front of the class, and hate gym class forever.” Mark comments, “that’s a good idea.”

Now curious, Paula asks Kathy, “how do you do that?” Kathy explains, “during gym class, I give them a choice of what they can do. Since it’s been nice out, we’ve been going outside for gym class. I told them they can play soccer, bring out a Hula Hoop, or jump rope. So, some of the less athletic girls have really been getting into hooping. One of them can even now keep the hoop spinning around her waist, get it up to her chest, back down to her ankles, and up to her waist again.” Paula exclaims, “wow! That’s really awesome!”

Kathy continues, “but, wait! Get this. When it was raining out the other day, we all stayed inside and hooped and jumped rope. The less athletic girls who have been practicing hooping and jumping rope really showed up the more athletic ones! So, I keep telling them, ‘some of you are really great at some sports, and some of you are really great at other sports.’ So, next week, when we go outside, I am going to make the girls who have been hooping and jumping rope play soccer. And, while they’re playing soccer, I’m going to make the soccer players hoop and jump rope.” Mark comments, “that’s a really good idea. Not everyone is at the same level.” Paula mentions, “yeah, seriously! I’m going to try that in my classes.”

Kathy then explains, “then, during class one day, I walked out with my hoop and a baton.” Mark asks, “they’re running relay races in elementary school?” Kathy laughs, and replies, “no! Like, in baton twirling. Majorettes! That kind of baton!” As Kathy continues to laugh, Paula asks, “what do they call them today? ‘Throwers?’” Kathy replies, “yeah, I think so. They keep changing the title of the cool-looking girl with the baton.”

Kathy continues, “okay, so back to my story. I told them to sit on the bleachers, and watch me. So, I spun the baton, and then I threw the baton up into the air and, as it was spinning, I caught it behind my back. They all yelled out, ‘wow!’ Then, I continued my routine. When I was done, I told them, ‘if you can do that, you can get a free college education

to any university that has a football team. That is one of the reasons that gym class is so important.' Then, after that, they all wanted to learn how to twirl the baton."

Eddie tells Kathy, "tell them about your mom." Quite curious, Paula asks, "your mom? What's up with your mom?" Kathy smiles, and replies, "do you know how my parent's house backs onto the schoolyard?" Paula replies, "yeah." Kathy explains, "one day, I looked over at their house, and I caught my mom watching me through the fence as I was teaching gym class." Paula softly exclaims, "that is so sweet! She was watching her daughter teach gym class. It must have made her so happy to see that." Kathy mentions, "she doesn't know that I saw her watching me." For as long as she could remember, Kathy always wanted to be an elementary school gym teacher. Today, she is glad she has chosen that profession.

Mark asks, "has anyone heard anything about the high school?" Paula mentions, "on my way home this week, I saw Johnson and Barbara out on the track with the team. So, I stopped by and talked with them. Karen and Amber are still working with them. Barbara says the team is looking good this year. She also said that things seem to be better now that a new principal has been hired. But, she said that Mr. O'Brien and a few other teachers are causing trouble again. And, Barbara really doesn't like Mr. Shapiro. She called him an ass." Mark comments, "that would be a dead giveaway that she doesn't like him."

Kathy reminisces, commenting, "well, nothing could be as bad as that old Crum, and everything he did to keep all our teams from winning." Paula agrees, telling Kathy, "yeah. By keeping the women off the team." Kathy comments, "yeah, seriously! And, if you wore cutoff shirts to school, or drove a car onto school grounds, he suspended you. You can't get too much worse than that old Crum." Eddie replies, "well, there is that asshole, Dean Grimsby. He's not too much better." Kathy replies, "ain't that the truth."

Paula asks, "by the way, whatever happened to Dean Grimsby?" Eddie replies, "Richard said he's out on bail, and that his attorneys are doing everything they can to delay the trial." Paula comments, "yeah! So he can flee the country." Eddie reveals, "he can't, because his bank accounts have been locked down." With a stroke of genius, Paula exclaims, "that's it! He's delaying his trial, so he can get the gambling operation going again! Then, he'll get enough money to flee the country." Kathy tells Paula, "you might be on to something here!" Paula tells everyone, "we need to let Richard know!" Everyone agrees to inform Officer Hayes the next time anyone sees him.

After dinner, Eddie and Kathy head home, as do Mark and Paula. On the way home, Kathy asks Eddie, "hey, can we stop by and see my Bus on

the way?" Eddie replies, "sure." All excited, Kathy exclaims, "this is like when I got my 914! I remember that day! It was the first day of Summer break." Eddie takes a detour and heads to the service station so Kathy can see the work in progress.

A few weeks later, right before the Thanksgiving holiday, Eddie is working on Kathy's Volkswagen Bus. With only a few minor issues remaining to be addressed, the Bus is almost ready for its road test. But, progress is slow because customers come into the shop, expecting service. Today, Eddie is installing wider aluminum wheels on the Bus that will allow for better traction and handling.

Interrupting Eddie's progress today is Jimmy O'Brien, who returns to the service station with his AMC Gremlin. Seeing O'Brien driving up to a service bay, Eddie and Bobby B. figure that O'Brien has more than a fill up on his mind.

Eddie tells Bobby B., "let's see who gets to help him. Rock-paper-scissors. On three. One. Two. Three." Eddie and Bobby B. have continued the tradition that Eddie and Angelo began years ago to decide who gets the pleasure of dealing with a customer who is a pain in the ass. Today, Eddie puts out paper, and Bobby B. puts out a rock. Eddie tells Bobby B., "good luck, bro." But, Bobby B. doesn't care in the least. He has come to enjoy messing with Jimmy O'Brien.

Walking out to greet the customer, Bobby B. asks O'Brien, "what's your problem today?" O'Brien replies, "I'm ready to get my car fixed." Knowing exactly what is wrong with O'Brien's car, Bobby B. asks, "oh yeah? What's wrong with it?" O'Brien explains, "it's leaking oil bad. And, the headlights stopped working. Oh yeah, and there is a bad squeak in the back now." Bobby B. pushes down on the rear bumper, not hearing a squeak. O'Brien explains, "it squeaks when I go over a bump." Bobby B. lifts the rear end of O'Brien's car off the ground and drops it, replicating the squeak. O'Brien exclaims, "hey! Don't drop my car!" Bobby B. smiles, telling O'Brien, "hey! Stop worrying! Dropping it probably fixed something!" Realizing O'Brien's car needs a significant amount of work, Bobby B. walks into the service area, and gets Eddie. Bobby B. warns Eddie that O'Brien's car is in significant disrepair, but Eddie already knows that.

Eddie walks out, and asks O'Brien, "what's the problem?" O'Brien explains, "it leaks oil bad, the headlights stopped working, and there is a bad squeak in the back. And, it just doesn't run well." Eddie advises O'Brien, "sell it for scrap metal." Suddenly getting miffed, O'Brien exclaims, "why does everyone keep telling me that?" Eddie explains, "because you'll spend several thousand dollars to repair that rust bucket and, once it's repaired, it won't even be worth five-hundred dollars. You

can spend the money on repairs, but you'd be better off buying something else."

Not liking Eddie's advice, O'Brien asks, "well, can you give me an estimate?" Eddie replies, "no." O'Brien asks, "why not?" Eddie replies, "because I'm not going to fix it." O'Brien tells Eddie, "I'll just get someone else to fix it then." Eddie replies, "go ahead. You'll find someone to fix it, but you're making a big mistake." O'Brien drives off, thinking that Eddie might just be right. And, Bobby B., knowing what a mess O'Brien's car is, is relieved.

Later, in the afternoon, Lynn Berson drives into the service station, and walks into the office. Admiring Eddie's wall of photographs of happy customers as she is waiting, Lynn recalls that, years ago, Eddie asked her what kind of camera to buy. Eddie walks into the office, and exclaims, "Lynn! How have you been?" Lynn replies, "really good." Referring to the wall, Lynn tells Eddie, "it looks like you have a lot of happy customers!" Eddie replies, "yeah. And, thanks for the advice on the camera." Lynn asks, "what did you end up getting?" Eddie replies, "I bought a Nikon F2, just like yours. I just keep it on the 'automatic' setting, and I get perfect photographs." Lynn comments, "your photos look really good."

Looking over the numerous photographs, seeing one in particular, Lynn exclaims, "wow! What happened to that guy?" Eddie explains, "that's Andy Goldshit. He tried to attack me with a pipe one day last year. I had to kick the shit out of him. Then, I snuck a photograph when the paramedics were working on him." Lynn exclaims, "I remember that guy from our senior year! That day, during the physics test, really took the cake. He was a real jerk!" Eddie replies, "he still is."

Eddie asks, "so, what's up today?" Lynn explains, "I'm going to Florida over Thanksgiving. Can you check over my car before I leave?" Eddie replies, "sure. No problem." Eddie has serviced Lynn's Ford Mustang since she bought it four years ago. It's not likely there is much wrong with it. Eddie drives Lynn's Mustang into an empty bay, and looks it over, finding that it is time for a tune-up and new tires. Lynn approves the work, and Eddie gets busy.

As Lynn is waiting in the office, Eddie asks Bobby B., "hey! Do you remember Lynn Berson?" Bobby B. replies, "yeah. She was in our class. She was one of the nice girls." Eddie tells Bobby B., "she's in the office. Take a break and go and say 'hi' to her."

Bobby B. walks into the office and, seeing Lynn, exclaims, "wow! It's Lynn Berson! How have you been?" Lynn replies, "Bobby B! Wow! Are you working here now with Eddie?" Bobby B. replies, "yeah. And, I'm also doing some work with Mark." Bobby B. asks, "what have you been up to?"

Lynn explains, “photography. I worked for our local newspaper for a while, but now I’m doing weddings, prom photos, baby pictures, and that sort of thing.” Bobby B. and Lynn talk for a while, catching up on the last few years, as Eddie works on Lynn’s car.

Bobby B. and Lynn’s conversation is suddenly interrupted by an irate customer storming into the office, demanding service. The customer yells out, “what do I have to do in order to get a car serviced around here?” Bobby B. looks at the customer, and calmly asks, “what’s your problem?” Lynn turns around, and tells the customer, “oooooh. It’s Mr. O’Brien and Jimmy. So, how have you guys been?” Not that it’s any of his business, Mr. O’Brien rudely exclaims, “what are you doing here?” Bobby B. replies, “she’s getting her car serviced.” Mr. O’Brien then demands to know of Bobby B., “and, are you getting your car serviced too?” Bobby B. sarcastically replies, “no. I work here. The fact that I’m wearing a mechanic’s uniform might just give it away.” Originally walking into the service station quite irate, Mr. O’Brien is now even more angry.

Mr. O’Brien angrily asks Bobby B., “so, why won’t Eddie service Jimmy’s car? I demand an explanation!” Bobby B. calmly replies, “I don’t know. Why don’t you ask Eddie?” Mr. O’Brien replies, “I think I’ll do that!” As Mr. O’Brien is headed to the door to the service area, Bobby B. tells Mr. O’Brien, “customers are not allowed in the service area.” Mr. O’Brien angrily exclaims, “then, get Eddie for me!” Bobby B. slowly stands up, and whispers to Lynn, “follow me.” Bobby B. and Lynn enter the service area, ticking Mr. O’Brien off even more since Lynn is a customer, and is walking into the service area.

Bobby B. tells Eddie, “Mr. O’Brien is in the office. He wants to know why you won’t fix Jimmy’s car.” Eddie smiles, and replies, “because I don’t want to. But, that’s not going to fly with him. This should get interesting. I’ll be there in a minute.” Eddie tells Lynn, “after the tune-up and with the new Pirelli tires, your car should run really well. You’ll even notice a difference in how it handles.” Bobby B. and Lynn hang out in the service area with Eddie, avoiding Mr. O’Brien for the moment.

When Lynn was working for the local newspaper, she took a photograph of Mr. O’Brien getting out of his Mercedes at the high school. Lynn was accompanying a reporter who wanted to interview Mr. O’Brien about his involvement with the gambling ring. Mr. O’Brien declined to speak with the reporter, vehemently maintaining that he is innocent of any wrongdoing. In the photograph that Lynn took, Mr. O’Brien had a dramatic look of fright on his face. The picture, landing on the front page of the newspaper, did not make Mr. O’Brien very happy. Neither did seeing Lynn at Eddie’s Service Station today.



Eddie walks into the office, followed by Bobby B. and Lynn. Seeing Mr. O'Brien, Eddie asks, "can you be helped?" Mr. O'Brien replies, "no, but Jimmy needs help." Lynn giggles, amused at Mr. O'Brien's answer to Eddie's interestingly worded question. Eddie replies, "that's obvious." Now beyond irate, Mr. O'Brien asks Eddie, "and, just what is that supposed to mean?" Making Mr. O'Brien look like a fool, Eddie replies, "he was in here this morning. It's obvious that he needs some sort of help."

In quite a sarcastic tone, Mr. O'Brien asks Eddie, "so, why won't you fix Jimmy's car?" Eddie bluntly replies, "because I don't want to." Mr. O'Brien exclaims, "because you don't want to?" Hitting Mr. O'Brien with a reality stick, Eddie replies, "exactly. It's not worth repairing. To properly repair Jimmy's car would cost somewhere around five-thousand dollars. When I'm finished with the work, the car would be worth around five-hundred dollars. He'd be better off selling it and buying something else. I'm doing him a favor by not repairing it! So, deal with it." Mr. O'Brien, now looking quite stupid, is silenced by Eddie's logic. Eddie, not caring about what more Mr. O'Brien may have to say, walks back into the service area, finishing the work on Lynn's car.

Breaking the silence in the room, Mr. O'Brien tells Jimmy, "he might have a point. We'll see what the other shop has to say." Bobby B. tells Mr. O'Brien, "regardless of what the other shops have to say, you might want to consider Eddie's advice. He's trying to save you a lot of money." Mr. O'Brien and Jimmy walk out, as Bobby B. tells them, "have a nice day." As the door closes, Bobby B. tells Lynn, "those two guys are really morons." Lynn replies, "yeah. Tell me about it." Bobby B. and Lynn continue their conversation, which was rudely interrupted by Mr. O'Brien.

A while later, Eddie walks into the office, telling Lynn, "I'm finished. I think you'll notice a big difference." Lynn replies, "thank you so much. I can't wait to get to Florida!" Lynn pays for her service, and thanks Eddie and Bobby B. again for their work. Lynn happily drives away, and looking forward to spending the Thanksgiving holiday in Florida.

The semester comes to a close, and the University's track team is well prepared for the upcoming season. Mr. Frazier has again cut Dulaney, who was not quite up to par when compared with the other runners. Mark is disappointed that he never got to switch Jeff McCutchen's shampoo bottle with the special formula he made up. But, the goal was to get McCutchen and Dulaney off the team, which was accomplished.

Jeff McCutchen has negotiated with the university, and has agreed to be put on disciplinary probation. McCutchen has agreed to transfer to another university by next semester in exchange for Braden dropping the assault charges. If McCutchen fails to follow through, the assault charges will stand. Truth be told, Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton just wanted

McCutchen out of the University for good. And, Braden did not care about the assault charges either. He, like the rest of the track team, simply wants McCutchen gone.

Brad Evans and Todd McCutchen have been bailed out of jail, and are back on the streets. Neither Evans nor McCutchen has been seen at Northside High School nor at the University since being arrested for trespassing. Provost Leighton is in no rush to return the confiscated equipment, which now sits in the campus police department's evidence room. At the University, it is now standard procedure for whoever is driving the golf cart and retrieving the field implements, to periodically drive through the tunnels and along the perimeter of the stadium to ensure no one is spying on the team during practice.

As the student athletes look forward to a well-deserved break, Mr. Frazier, Provost Leighton, Dr. Zunde, and Dr. Owens believe they can win all the medals in the upcoming divisional meet, sans the relay events where each university traditionally has only one entry. But, to Mr. Frazier, the gold medals are the only ones that really matter.

After attending the divisional coach's meeting early in the semester, Dr. Karakova is interested to see whether Mr. Frazier can pull off winning all the medals. And, finally, the coaches of the other teams now clearly understand how and why the University is so successful. The wild card in the upcoming meet is how drastically the other teams have changed their training protocols to meet the higher standard of competition. Chances are that the other coaches have done little to improve their team's performance.