

# ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO

## Swiss student finds life in American isn't Hollywood

By Elena Cambio  
Notre Dame

Each year, Notre Dame welcomes foreign exchange students to the senior class. The N.D. class of '86 is proud to have among its numbers Adrian "Ady" Zurfluh, our foreign exchange student from Switzerland.

Ady, who is with the American Field Service, is currently staying with senior Charlie Burke and his family. Ady arrived at the Chemung County Regional Airport from his home in Lake Lucerne on August 9, 1985. Charlie and his family were quite anxious about their visitor.

"Our main concern was that we would be able to communicate with him," remembers Charlie. "But he speaks English very well." The Burkes were looking forward to the knowledge they would gain of Swiss culture, and hoped Ady would benefit as well.

According to Charlie, Ady speaks frequently of his family and even had some slides of his family at home. Charlie says he wouldn't mind going to Switzerland himself some day.

As would be expected, Ady was certainly

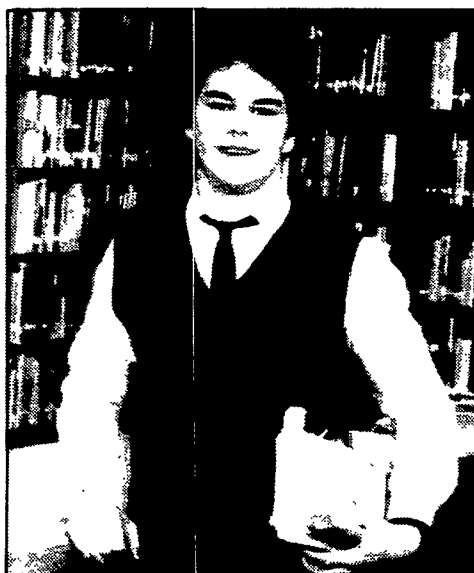
nervous coming to America. He has been to six other countries, but never to America, so he was intent on discovering what the American Dream really is.

"The American Dream viewed by Europeans isn't reality," he said. "Most of what we see is in the movies. It's more of a California image. Here in Elmira, I've learned that American life isn't like Hollywood portrays it."

Although Ady chose the U.S. as his host country, he was not able to choose what city he would be staying in or what school he would attend. However, he is pleased with Notre Dame and pleasantly surprised with similarities between his host family and his family in Lake Lucerne.

Ady really enjoys life at N.D. During the fall sports season, he was involved in football and wrestling. Naturally, Ady is adept at skiing, and has visited Greek Peak as well as the famous slopes of Vermont. He doesn't plan on going out for any spring sports, as he would like a little more time to himself and to concentrate on his studies.

Ady's favorite classes are calculus and



Adrian "Ady" Zurfluh

human biology. In comparing American and Swiss curricula, he feels schooling is more rigid and difficult in Switzerland. For instance, it is only this year that languages are being stressed at N.D., whereas Ady has already taken four years of French in Switzerland. After completing his French

class at Notre Dame, he will have to take still more when he returns to Switzerland.

Ady has three more years of schooling ahead of him before he can go on to a university or technical school. He hopes to study agriculture in Zurich at that point.

Besides keeping up on current events in Switzerland through letters from home, Ady keeps himself up to date on what's happening in the U.S., politically and otherwise. When asked his opinion of President Reagan, Ady declared he liked the President. "He's not like Carter at all; he says what he thinks and isn't overly concerned with diplomacy. He is open to the people, and I like the way he makes other countries aware of the United States' position and what she can do."

Although Ady shared the horror of the Challenger tragedy with the rest of the nation, he feels we shouldn't give up the space program. "In the twenty years of space exploration, it was bound to happen some time," he says, adding that space travel is like riding in an airplane. "The risk is always there, and plane crashes have occurred, but that didn't stop us. I think the U.S. shouldn't give up the space program."

Ady believes the civilian-in-space program was a good idea because it doesn't just emphasize the military aspect of the shuttle

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