

“the day after (the parade)”

[... *simultaneously* ...]

Female Voice: Lot’s of people have WE THE NORTH hats and sweaters and things ... so I see that brand ... [I see] that branded on people’s clothing ... but I’ve also seen some businesses that play upon this idea ... so for example, Nordstrom, say, their slogan right now is “Nord, strong and free,” N.O.R.D., so in French [North], “Nord, strong and free,” and they’re pairing this with images of all sorts of different people ... so, for example, I saw one image of a Sikh man ... or I’m assuming he is Sikh, because he is wearing a turban, and he was ... standing on the bus ... (or Punjabi, yeah) ... he was standing on the bus holding his daughter’s hand, and she’s five or six [years old] and then underneath [the image] it said ... and he was wearing a really stylish jacket and shoes, and she was just smiling and she looked really sweet and it said ... [thinking out loud] ... “True Nord,” so “True Nord” ... so anyways, it’s seeming as if they say ... I think they are trying to show anyone can be part of the [North] ... live in Toronto ... part of the [North] ... no matter where you are from ...

Male Voice: Honestly, I think the number one difference if I was going to compare the two [basketball and hockey], is that it seems like a lot more of the population that watches basketball is ... a bit younger ... like mid-thirties to like, you know, twenties or even younger ... but a lot of the guys I talk hockey with are well over fifty years old ... obviously if you grew up in Toronto you’re bound ... or even in Ontario .. you’re bound to ... or Canada, you’re going to know something about hockey ... it’s rare that you find ... like a born and raised Canadian that doesn’t really play or like know anything about hockey or like even has a favourite player or team or whatever ... but I find then that that’s the biggest difference as well with basketball ... Canadians don’t necessarily have a team ... a favourite team ... “I just cheer for the Raptors because like, that’s the only Canadian team ...” ... other than that, it’s like, you know, you talk to ... a number of Canadians I know are Habs [Montreal Canadiens] fans, Boston fans, Ottawa fans [all hockey teams] ... all over the map ... and obviously there are more teams in Canada ... and there’s more people with a bigger knowledge of, like, hockey in general, but again, in their eyes ...

Northern Voice: The North sounds like nature does when it’s not being exploited ... it sounds like a room where everyone agrees not to talk ... but emotionally the North ... the North sounds are silenced too ... many victims remain mute, making few to no noises at all. With colonial stripes the North has been quieted, muzzled, forced not to speak ... it sounds like a forced disconnection between a people and their land; between people and their past ... its sounds like someone winning, just not the home team. The North sounds like dependence ... like slavery in a way ... and if you listen really carefully, you might be able to hear the gunshot echoes of the past ... RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] kill squads and tied up sled dogs ... the sounds of winning ...

... that disconnection sounds like silence today ... or like crying ... uncontrolled sobbing ... the North today sounds like children and suicide ... it sounds like twelve times the national average ... the North sounds like no one is listening. It sounds like no one listening ... but also sounds like hope ...

Emcee 1: ... “MAKE SOME NOISE!!!!!!”

Northern Voice: ... like the home team is getting louder ...
(... but sounds can be deceiving ...)

Crowd: “DE-FENCE, DE-FENCE, DE-FENCE, DE-FENCE, DE-FENCE ...”
[audible letdown]” ...

Emcee 1: throughout the playoffs we picked, like a favourite Drake track ... and there’s no better than what? ...

Emcee 2: ... “God’s Plan” ...

Emcee 1: ... “God’s Plan” ... so, as we walk-in to the 2018-2019 season, about to beat up on our former arch-nemesis, the Cleveland Cavaliers, let’s all just vibe-out for a moment and appreciate Drake ... right? ... right ... alright DJ Lissa Monet is going to usher us through this one, one time for your minds ... this is “God’s Plan” ...

Drake: ... I want you to know how much these shows mean to us ... you know, all the talking I did tonight, all the videos we played ... I mean it from the bottom of my heart, and I want you to understand that ... you know ... I come from a different time in this city ... I come from a different time, where, where nobody necessarily believed, you know, we could be on stages this big, or have songs this big ... I come from a different time, so I want to thank each and every one of you, for believing and for creating each and every one of us ... all those named that I mentioned before ... anyone from the city ... we got to stick together ... it’s love, and I appreciate ... and I want to let you know something too that’s really important to me every night I go out in America, I perform, you know, and I talk to them about what an important moment this is ... you know, I know it’s a lot of tragedy, a lot of negative things going on in the world ... every time we turn on our TV, it’s a lot of violence going on in our city right now too ... you know, a lot of kids dying ... you know, a lot of families left without the people they love ... and I just want you to look around and understand, if you are ever confused about how the world is supposed to work ... it’s 18,000 people inside this building right now, from all races, from all places ... all we doing is just sitting in here, enjoying our lives, listening to music, drinking, smoking, and having a good time ... so I want you to realize and I want you to know how proud of you I am ... because that’s something I learned from my city: how to co-exist ... and this is how the mother-fuckin’ world is supposed to work right here, so make some noise for yourselves...

[...]

Crowd: “WE THE NORTH, WE THE NORTH, WE THE NORTH ... ” ...

[... *fade out* ...]