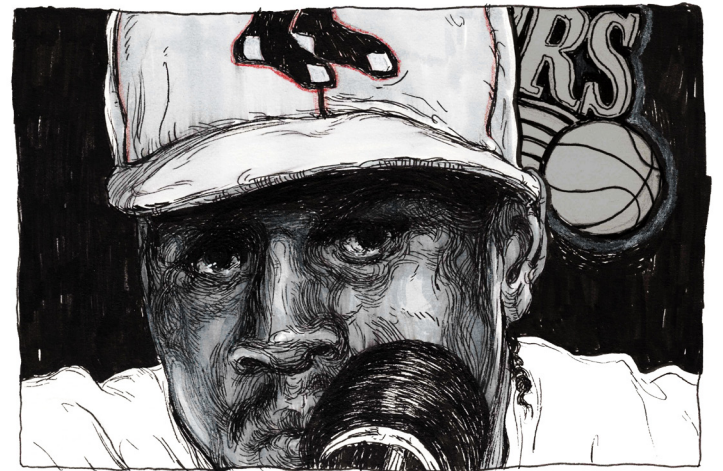


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First Union Center | Philadelphia, PA





[Reporter]

Overall, Allen, tell us how the year ended for you as a team?

[Iverson]

We lost, man. It ain't a whole bunch to that. Simple as that, we lost.

[Reporter]

Allen, what did you and Coach Brown talk about today?

[Iverson]

Everything, you know, just me and him, you know, just let him know that, you know, I'm that, pit-bull in his yard, and if anybody try to intrude, I'ma be the one that's gonna bite and protect this home, you know, same thing I've been saying from day one.

[Reporter]

Were you upset by the comments he made publicly on Saturday?

[Iverson]

No question about it. That's what happens when you lose though, you know. When you lose, there's a whole bunch of room for negativity... and, you know, I don't feed into all this stuff. I don't do no talking. I don't run my mouth. But I mean, Coach got any issues with me...

I believe that there are things that I can control, things I can get a grip on, but I mean, this what happens when you lose, you know, you go to the finals and the next year you're out in the first round. That's what happened, you know, I get it, you know. Everybody take shots at Allen Iverson. It's just, unfortunate that I can't, I can't punch back.

[Reporter]

Are you on the same page with Coach Brown?

[Iverson]

Yeah, we're on the same page. I don't have no problem with Coach. I mean, I love Larry Brown. You people may not believe it, or feel me when I say it, but I do. He's done so much for me in my career, just helping me be the player that I am. If there's no Larry Brown, I don't think... there's no MVP Allen Iverson. He's, he's done a lot for me, helping me far as on the court and off the court.

But I mean, when you lose, this is the type of shit that happens. I mean, this is what goes on when you lose, you know. When you win everything is everything. Everything is cool. But when you lose, talk about Allen Iverson and Larry Brown. When I know, we win, I get the praise and Larry Brown gets the praise. When we lose it's on me, and it's on Larry Brown. That's something that I have to accept and deal with.

Y'all wonder why I don't say that I'm the franchise player... I don't feel like I'm the franchise player because look at this press

conference. I mean, look at what we're talking about. That's why I say I'm not the franchise player around here.

I mean, I'm the best player, I believe that. I feel like I'm the best player in the world. But, franchise players don't go through this. Franchise player's daughters don't have to go to school and hear 'is your Daddy coming back? What's going on with your Daddy and Coach Brown?', and da da da da.

I mean, she's seven years old and that's what she gotta deal with. You know what I'm saying?

It hurts because I know that I'm better than that. I know I do all I can for this city, for this team, for this franchise... for my teammates. I mean, I don't think nobody in the world play harder than me. And, for me, to go through this, it's just tough, and I'm tired, I'm just... I'm tired, you know, I always said, everybody in Philadelphia know, all y'all know that I want to be here. That ain't no secret. Everybody know that I want to be a Sixer, for the rest of my career. But I'm tired, I'm hurt too. I'm hurt too.

[Reporter]

Allen, can you address Coach's concern about your practicing habits, we don't get a chance to see you practice, can you clear the air about all that?

[Iverson]

Anybody tell you that I miss practice, if, if a coach says I miss practice, and y'all hear it, then that's that. I mean, I might've

missed one practice this year, but if somebody say, 'He doesn't come to practice,' it could be one practice, out of all the practices this year, that's enough. That's enough to get a whole lot started. I mean, that's just enough.

I told Coach Brown, you know, I mean, you don't have to give everybody in Philadelphia a reason to why people thinking about trading me or anything like that. If you trade somebody, you trade them to make the team better... simple as that. There is nothing personal or anything like that, and I'm cool with that. I'm all about that. People in Philadelphia deserve to have a winner. You know. It's just simple as that, but... it's, to me, it's just bigger than that, it goes further than that, you know what I mean.

[Reporter]

So you and Coach Brown then settled the issue he brought up on Saturday about practice?

[Iverson]

If I can't practice, I can't practice, man. If I'm hurt, I'm hurt. I mean. Simple as that. It ain't about that. It's not about that, at all. You know what I'm saying. But it's easy to talk about, it's easy to sum it up when you just talk about practice; we sitting here, and I'm supposed to be the franchise player, and we in here talking about practice. I mean, listen, we talking about practice. Not a game. Not a game. Not a game! We talking about practice.

Not a game; not, not the game that I go out there and die for and play every game like it's my last, not the game, we're talking about practice, man. I mean, how silly is that?

We're talking about practice. I know I'm supposed to be there, I know I'm supposed to lead by example, I know that. And I'm not shoving it aside like it don't mean anything. I know it's important. I do. I honestly do. But we talking about practice, man. What are we talking about?

Practice?

We talking about practice, man.

We talking about practice. We talking about practice... We ain't talking about the game. We' talking about practice, man. When you come to the arena, and you see me play... You see me play, don't you?

[Reporter]

Absolutely.

[Iverson]

You see me give everything I got, right?

[Reporter]

Absolutely.

[Iverson]

But we talking about practice right now!

[Reporter]

But it's an issue that your coach continues to raise.

[Iverson]

Look, I hear you. It's funny to me too. It's strange to me too. But we're talking about practice, man. We not even talking about the game, the actual game, when it matters, we talking about practice.

[Reporter]

Allen, is it possible, though, from where he's coming from, if you practiced, not you would be better, but your teammates?

[Iverson]

How the hell can I make my teammates better by practicing?!

[Reporter]

So they can be used to playing with you.

[Iverson]

They supposed to be used to playing with me anyway. That's... those my teammates. So, my game is going to deteriorate if I don't practice with those guys? Is my game is going to get worse?

I'm asking you, I'm talking about me, it ain't about just everybody else, it's about me too right? So what about my game, what about my game?

Is my game going to get better when some people don't practice on my team, I mean, do that hurt me? You think that hurt me? I mean, honestly, people hurt, people are hurt on my team, yeah, but do that hurt me?

Do that hurt me when I go out there for 48 minutes, I mean do that hurt me, do that hurt me as a player?

Cause this person didn't practice or that person didn't practice, because they was hurt, do it hurt me?

[Reporter]

You don't need it as much as they do.

[Iverson]

What do you mean by, I don't need it as much?

[Reporter]

Because you're the superstar.

[Iverson]

What do you mean I'm the superstar?

Why? Why am I the superstar?

[Reporter]

Because you're better than they are. One of the best in the NBA.

[Iverson]

Alright, so why are we talking about me getting traded or leaving or there's a problem with me? No, I'm not. Obviously, I'm not. I'm not, I'm not. You're contradicting the hell out yourself man. If I'm the best in the world, if I'm the best, if I'm the superstar, then why is this happening?

Why is this going on?

Why does my daughter have to deal with this?

Why does she have to deal with this everyday she go to school?

Why?

I'm the franchise player, right? I'm supposed to be the franchise player? Why am I having this meeting, man? Why am in here, talking to y'all about this, man?

[Reporter]

Allen, you just said that you and coach are on the same page, but it does not sound like it?

[Iverson]

We are, man, we are. We are. We are, man. We are. I'm just, I'm upset, I'm upset, for one reason, man... cause I'm in here. I lost. I lost my best friend. I lost him and I lost this year, everything is

going downhill for me, far as just that, you know, far as my life, and then I'm dealing with this. Right here. I don't want to deal with this man, I don't want to go through this shit. I don't want to deal with this. This is where I want to be.

I love this place, I love my teammates, I don't have no problems with Coach Brown, at all. Coach got... problems with me, as far as lifting... far as, I do not know what this thing is about me coming to practice and all that, because I ain't been missing no practice.

But he has a problem with me, I don't have no problem with Larry Brown, I don't have no problem with this organization, at all. I just don't want to go through this, man. That's my only problem. That's the only reason that I'm upset, because I don't want to go through this, man. I don't want to lose, and then all summer have to go through this, right here. Why? Why?

I mean, I don't, I don't feel, I don't feel that it's right, you know what I'm saying?

I lost. I lost. Me and my teammates and my coaching staff, we lost. This organization, we lost.

But, I mean, I'm the only one going through it, you don't hear nothing about none of my other teammates, you don't hear nothing about that. It's me. I got to deal with it.

When we lose, I gotta deal with it. Me. Me.
And then, now it ain't even about me and Coach Brown. It's about him. It's about Allen Iverson. That's it. The ball is in his corner. I mean, I read the little articles and my friends tell me

everything people say, but it's all on me. It's all on me, I mean, I accept it, but the shit hurt man. I mean, it hurt. Because, I mean, it ain't about just me, it's not just me. Yeah I got some shit I need to take care, that I need to get better in, but everybody do. But you don't talk about nobody but me. But me. That's it. Why?

Because I make some money? Cause I make money?

[Reporter]

You're the reigning MVP.

[Iverson]

Yeah, what that mean?

[Reporter]

That means that's why they talk about you, right?

[Iverson]

Yes... yes. I'm the MVP and I have to worry about trade talk. I'm the MVP, I'm the MVP, of this league. I mean, the best basketball players in the world, in the world, I was honored with the MVP. The MVP. The best basketball player in the world, and when I lose, this is what I gotta go through?

When I lose?

I can't win them all. I'm human. I am just like y'all man, I'm just like you. I'm just like you. You might be a little better than me... in your eyes, or the people that love you in their eyes, you might be a little better than me, but you're human, you're just like me, right?

You just like me. You ain't no different. You just like me. You bleed just like I bleed, you cry just like I cry, you hurt just like I hurt. I ain't no different, than you. I ain't no different but I'm Allen Iverson. I'm a basketball player, you know, I get some money to play basketball.

[Reporter]

That's why you're different, right?

[Iverson]

I ain't different, than you, I ain't different than you. You get paid, you get paid to to get on that mic and talk shit, don't you? Don't you get paid?

You get paid to do your job.

[Reporter]

You want to trade salaries?

[Iverson]

You get paid to do your job, right? But I ain't nowhere near you criticizing you about nothing. Cause I'm not. You're human, man, you do what you do, man, that's your job. That's your job. I'm not here to critique you about what you do. I don't like the way he pronounced that word or, or this, that and the third. I don't do that, I don't do that to you.

[Reporter]

But you accept the fact that is part of your job though?

[Iverson]

What? To be criticized?

I'm going to criticized automatically. I ain't, I don't have a choice. I don't have a choice.

[Reporter]

The question many people have, why you don't think, you keep saying practice, like its only practice?

[Iverson]

I ain't saying that. I'm not saying that. I'm saying that's why we are in here having this talk because of practice.

[Reporter]

But don't you think great players, MVPs, make their teammates better.

[Iverson]

What you mean great players, MVPs?

That's what I am, that's what I am, so it ain't got nothing to do with no practice.

[Sixers Staff]

OK, guys, um...

[Iverson]

I ain't going nowhere. I'm not going nowhere, I'm not going nowhere, he can talk, let him talk. Let him talk. You can talk. You can talk.

I'm upset, I'm upset because I'm having this... discussion right now. I ain't upset about nothing else but just this. Just me having this conversation, from me being here, that's the only reason I'm upset. I ain't upset with you or nobody else in here, man, this is y'all job, this is what y'all do. I ain't upset with none of y'all. I'm upset with the fact I'm here, man.

That's it.

[Reporter]

One newspaper this morning, there was a quote attributed to you in which you were supposed to have told people around town, quote, 'I'm gone,' unquote. I don't know where the quote--

[Iverson]

Phil, you know me, man. You've been with me for six years. You know me. You think I want to leave here?

[Reporter]

I saw the quote.

[Iverson]

I'm asking you a question.

[Reporter]

No, I don't think you do.

[Iverson]

That's that. I mean, that's that. I mean, it ain't a whole bunch, it ain't a whole bunch to that man. You ain't hearing it from nobody else. You hearing it from me. This is me. Alright. You think I want to go somewhere, you think I want to leave Philadelphia?



Just for one minute,
stick your foot in
my shoes and try to deal
with what I go
through in my life.

My best friend,
dead...

Dead.
And we lost.

[Reporter]

No.

[Iverson]

Alright.

[Reporter]

Do you think you'll be back? Will you be back?

[Iverson]

Hell yeah, I'm coming back.

[Reporter]

Did you ask coach, or, to guarantee...

[Iverson]

Did I ask him? Did I ask him... I gotta ask my coach, can I come back?

[Reporter]

As opposed to being traded?

[Iverson]

I ain't going nowhere. Larry Brown ain't going nowhere.

[Reporter]

Did he tell you that?

[Iverson]

Yeah he told me that.

[Reporter]

Both things?

[Iverson]

Both.

[Reporter]

How come you didn't meet with him on break-up day?

[Iverson]

Cause I didn't.

[Reporter]

Allen, what are some of the things that you think you can do during the summertime, leading into next year--

[Iverson]

What I gotta do?

I'ma come in here, I'm gonna be the biggest, baddest, strongest bodybuilder in the world. And that's gonna make me best player in the world?

That's gonna make me, if I can do that, if build myself up and get a whole lot of muscles and come back in here and look like Arnold Schwarzenegger, are y'all gonna give me the MVP award automatically?

Will you... please do that. If I come here and look swole and big and strong and tough, y'all gonna give me that award, right?

[Reporter]

You gotta to earn it.

[Iverson]

Why not? I mean, I've been the MVP bony as hell. I've been the MVP bony as hell. So what I gotta do?

Y'all tell me what y'all want me to do?

[Reporter]

OK, can, can I respond?

[Iverson]

Yeah.

[Reporter]

There are people who have suggested, me among them, that instead of shooting 40 percent, if you were in...

[Iverson]

What you know about basketball? Have you ever played?

[Reporter]

Yes.

[Iverson]

I don't know Phil, I don't know you as a basketball player. For real. I know you as a columnist. Listen, I don't know of you as no player though. I don't, I don't, I've never heard of you as no player.

[Reporter]

Why is that an issue?

[Iverson]

Why is that an issue? Because we talking about basketball. We talking about basketball.

[Reporter]

Let me ask my question.

[Iverson]

What, what's your question... Phillip...

[Reporter]

Suppose you shot 43 or 44 percent...

[Iverson]

I don't know what I'ma do man. I don't know. That is God, that's in God's hands. I don't know. I don't know what I, I don't know. I don't know. I don't know if that will help me or it won't. I don't know. That's God, man, God do that. God do that.

That's God, man, God. God handles all that. He handles that, man. It ain't up to you to say if Allen Iverson do this, or if he do that, he can be this or he can be that. I mean, it ain't up to you. It ain't up to everybody in here. It ain't even up to me... It's God, God do that. God handles all that.

[Reporter]

You have control over your body?

[Iverson]

He got more control over my body than I do... he got more control over my body. You know that. God got more control over your body. I don't care about how much you eat, and how much you eat well, and many weights you lift and all that—if he say you gone, tomorrow, you gone.

Right?

Right?

Hey, right?

[Reporter]

I think you've confused two issues.

[Iverson]

I've confused two issues. Alright, man, I'm sorry, for talking to you.

[Reporter]

Why are you so hurt by this trade talk?

[Iverson]

Because... why wouldn't I be hurt?

[Reporter]

I'm saying, it seems like you really--

[Iverson]

I'm hurt because, I'm hurt, because it is an issue. I'm just hurt. Cause it's an issue. It ain't got nothing to do with about going to the finals or all that. I'm hurt cause I'm hurt. Cause its an issue. Why are we talking about this?

Why are we talking about this?

Everybody on my team, all of the rest of the soldiers that went to war with me, enjoying their summer. Enjoying it.

But look at me.

Look what I'm going through. I gotta to listen to Phil talk to me about this shit. For what?

It's my summertime. I'm supposed to be with my kids and my wife... chilling.

I gotta go through this. This what I gotta go through. This Allen Iverson's life in a nutshell. I know I don't do everything right. Nah, I do a whole lot of shit that ain't right. Yes I do... I'm just like y'all though. Believe me. Like you.

I am just like you... I am just like you... I might be better, I might not be, but I'm just like you... I'm human just like you, just like you. When you understand that, then that will help you out. That will make you a better person. Like, y'all talk about what will make me a better basketball player?

When you understand that, that people human, just like you, then that will make you a better person.

I'm trying to get better, you need to... also.

You... You... You.

I ain't no different, I'm just like y'all. I bleed like y'all, I cry like y'all, I got feelings, just like y'all. I ain't no different from y'all.

But I'm Allen Iverson. I am sitting up here and y'all back there. That's the only thing different.

[Reporter]

Allen, some folks are saying that your name is constantly brought up in trades is because you're the only valuable commodity this team has.

[Iverson]

Why you gonna get rid of the... valued commodity, why would you get rid of him then?

You called me the MVP. The world called me the MVP. Why you talking about getting rid of the MVP for?

To make the team better?

If it's to make it better, if it's to make the team better, then I'm cool with it. I'm alright. I'ma win wherever I go. Wherever I go, I'ma win. I don't care where I go. I don't give a damn what team I go to, I'ma win... I'ma win regardless. It don't matter. It don't matter. You talk about making my teammates better... I'ma make em better... Wherever I go. I'ma win.

Just like they named me the MVP, that's what I am. That's what I always felt like I was. I've been in this league for six years, I feel like I was the MVP for six years.

It ain't about just Allen Iverson though. I'ma take the punches. I got to. I'ma take all the punches. I'ma take all of em. But it ain't just about Allen Iverson. It's not just about Allen Iverson.

Any of y'all that have a heart, and is real about what y'all see in life, y'all know. All y'all know. You just gotta ask questions. You gotta talk, you gotta do your job. that's your job.

That's my man I love him to death, but sometimes he can't take up for Allen Iverson all the time. He got to do his job. He got to, all the time. I love him to death, when he says something fucked up about me, I still love him, because he doing his damn job. That's his job, that's what he gotta do.

But believe me, it's not about just Allen Iverson. It's not. I'ma go to war for Philadelphia, man. Every time you throw that ball up. I'ma go to war... I'ma fight. I'ma do some shit that's wrong and I'ma do some shit that's right. I ain't gonna do it all right all the time. Michael Jordan, the greatest player in the world. He ain't do it right all the time. He ain't do it right all the time, but he tried, he gave his effort. That's all you can ask for.

[Reporter]

Allen, you said before you love Larry Brown.

[Iverson]

Yeah I love him.

[Reporter]

What, what do you love about him?

[Iverson]

Him. As a man. That's what I care about Larry Brown. The man... the coach, that's totally different. But him, the man, that's what I care about, Larry Brown.

[Reporter]

Do you like him as a coach?

[Iverson]

Yeah, I like him as a coach, man. He the best coach in the world. I've told y'all a million times. He the best. I told y'all, I said that, I can't say it enough. He the best, in the world. I ain't never met another coach better than Larry Brown. Never, in my life. That don't have nothing to do with why I'm in here right now.

[Reporter]

Allen, what can you do different this year?

[Iverson]

I don't know, man.

[Reporter]

To prevent yourself from being in this spot next year?

[Iverson]

I don't know, man. I don't know. All I can do is live. That's all I can do. That's all I can do. I got to deal with this all summer. I don't have no problem with Larry Brown. I love Larry Brown. That's my man. That's my man. But in this situation right here, me and him, you know, we ain't tight as I though we was, by this shit happening, right now.

You know, I mean, I don't talk to y'all. I don't talk to y'all. I don't say nothing man. I don't say nothing about Larry Brown. I don't talk to y'all. When, all I, all I, I mean, the shit that hurt me cause when y'all asked him about me, there shouldn't be no comment. Ain't nothing. It don't matter. I mean, if, if you gonna rid of Allen Iverson, then get rid of Allen Iverson. Just get rid of him. Do the trade, you ain't got to assassinate him. You ain't got to assassinate his character. Just get rid of him. Simple as that. Cause you doing it to make the team better. Right?

You doing it to make the team better. If Allen Iverson leaves Philadelphia, it's to make the team better. So, I don't have no problem with that. Why would I have a problem with that?

I don't have no problem with it. Nobody here should have a problem with it. All the Philly fans, all the Allen Iverson fans, shouldn't have a problem with it. Why would you have a problem with it. Cause you doing it to make the team better, right?

That's why you making the move, right?

But to assassinate me, on the way, to try to make everybody else say, okay this why we doing it... this why, because he don't come to practice, he don't show up on time, he don't lead by example, all that.

[Reporter]

Is it possible that Coach Brown is trying, not to assassinate you, but motivate you?

[Iverson]

Motivate me? How you going to motivate me?

I wanna win, man. That's all I care about. I've been in the league six years, I got no title, a bunch of individual awards that don't mean nothing. They don't mean nothing, scoring titles. They don't mean nothing, all-star games. That don't mean nothing. Yeah, I can tell my son, yeah I was an all-star, back in such-an-such but I ain't never won no championship. That's all I care about man. That's all I care about. I don't have no selfish bone in my body, man. I've accomplished stuff, I've done things man, I've won scoring titles, I've been MVP, you know, I've been First Team all-NBA... First Team all-NBA that means you the best in the world. Out of five players you one of the best. I've done all that, I just want to win. That's all I want to do... That's all I want, I don't have a selfish bone in my body, man.

[Sixers Staff]

One more please.

[Reporter]

Allen, do you hope having gone through this, do you think this is finally resolved, behind you over, or do you think you will go through this again?

[Iverson]

Do I hope that?

Man, I don't know... Yeah I hope that. I don't want to go through this. It ain't even about really me. I am selfish to the fact that my daughter has to go through it. My daughter is seven years old man. All y'all ask yourself, you know, just think about that. If y'all had a kid, that understand what's going on, and somebody talk badly about their Daddy or their Mother, everyday... about a damn game. About a game. How would y'all feel? I mean, for real, honestly?

Any of y'all that got kids, I know y'all understand. This is what my daughter gotta deal with when she go to school. Everyday. 'Tell your Daddy, come home.' 'Daddy, my teacher said, don't leave.' 'Daddy, um, um, the girl in my class says you're getting traded.' Daddy this, that, and the third.

I mean... for a game?

A damn game?

A game?

I mean, just put yourself, I mean, a lot of y'all, I don't care what you say, you can try to put your feet in my shoes, they won't, they won't never fit. Cause you can't go through what I go through in my life. But just try. Just try to stick your foot in my shoes. Just for one, it don't even gotta be a damn day, just try for a minute. Just for one minute, stick your foot in my shoes and try to deal with what I go through in my life.

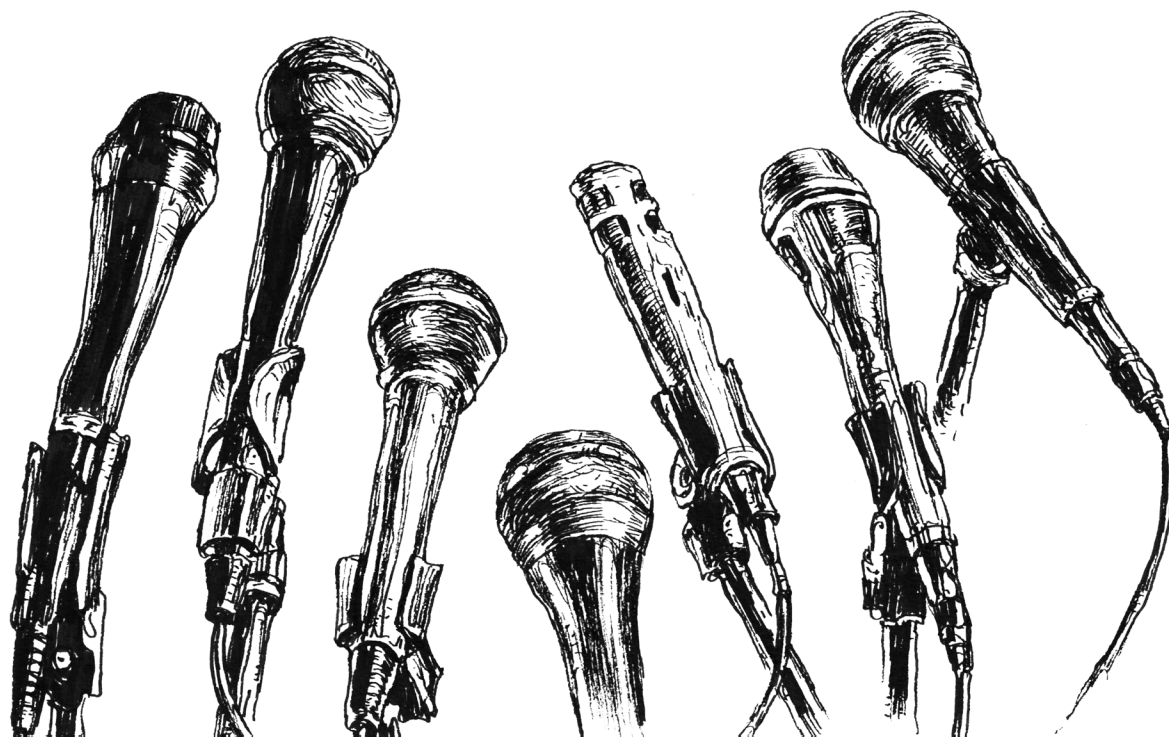
My best friend, dead...

Dead.

And we lost.

And this is what I gotta go through for the rest of the summer until the season start all over again. This is what I got to go through... this is my life, in a nutshell.

Y'all go home and have y'all lovely life, man, live it up, to the fullest.



LOST
[in translation]

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