A Two Part Adventure Exploring Menominee Culture and Sustainability Through the Lens of the Youth.

RECESSIVE

PART 1
“Start with the rising sun and work toward the setting sun, but take only the mature trees, the sick trees, and the trees that have fallen. When you reach the end of the reservation, turn and cut from the setting sun to the rising sun and the trees will last forever”

- Chief Oshkosh
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
Everything is connected to everything else...

Foam at the mouth, could be dehydration.

What? Y'think I'd call you guys 'cause I forgot to water 'em?

No, I suppose not.

Follow me.
RECESSIVE
PART 1

WRITTEN BY
JUSTIN EAGLE GAUTHIER

ILLUSTRATED BY
NICHOLAS D. SCHWITZER
SOMEBWHERE ON THE EDGE OF THE MENOMINEE RESERVATION...
YOU EVER SEE FIVE DEAD IN A GROUP LIKE THIS?

NEVER.

THINK IT’S A THRILL KILLING?

I DON’T THINK SO.

IT COULD BE CHRONIC WASTING.

THAT’S NO GOOD.

I’LL GRAB THE ROPE.

LET’S GET ONE OUTTA HERE TO THE LAB.

GOOD, I’LL MAKE AN OFFERING.

WE’RE GONNA FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY, BROTHER.

MY RELATIVES SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN...
WHAT IS THAT?

IS IT CWD?

WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S NOTHING I'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE.
Not so long ago, things were thus...

Generations lived undivided.

Existing in isolation can be poisonous...

We forget we are all related...

In one way or another.
COME ON MOSES, I KNOW THIS ISN’T FOR EVERYONE BUT YOU GOTTA PAY ATTENTION.

COME ON BUDD...

UHHHGG~

MR. WRIGHT, I DON’T FEEL SO GOOD...

QUICK, CALL 911!
THIRTY MINUTES LATER...

YOU SAY YOU JUST BRUSHED UP AGAINST IT? THIS PLANT.

YEAH.

JUST THIS MORNING?

YEAH.

HE HAD A BAD REACTION TO POISON OAK A FEW YEARS BACK. COULD THAT BE RELATED TO THIS?

NO. THIS ISN'T AN ALLERGIC REACTION.

I'M GOING TO TAKE A SAMPLE, MOSES. THIS MIGHT STING.

LATER...

YOU FIGURE OUT WHAT'S UP WITH MOSES?

NOT YET. IT'S LIKE A HOGWEED REACTION BUT MUCH MORE VIRULENT.

YIKES. WELL, I'M HEADING OUT. TEXT ME ABOUT SUNDAY?

UH HUH, SUNDAY. I'LL TALK TO JOE.
HONK!

Allergies are the worst, aren’t they?

‘Ain’t allergic to nothin’.

I breathe field dust all day, every day.

Ever used a neti pot? Works wonders for the sinuses.

...  

Right, no small talk. What do you think?

I think that other biotech seed companies made the same kinds of promises to me over the years.
WE GUARANTEE VIGOR AND WELL... LOOKS VIGOROUS TO ME. WHATTYA THINK?

LIKE I SAID WHEN I SIGNED UP, I'M ONLY CONCERNED WITH-

YIELD AND PROFIT.

WE ALSO GUARANTEE COMPENSATION IF YOU DON'T SEE A RETURN.

LET'S HOPE IT DOESN'T COME TO THAT. FOR YOUR SAKE.

WE REALIZE... I REALIZE YOU'VE HAD... LESS THAN POSITIVE EXPERIENCES WITH OTHER COMPANIES IN THE PAST.

THIS STRAIN, IT'S OFF-THE-CHESTS RESISTANT TO PESTS, HAS THE MOST VIGOROUS GROWTH CYCLE WE'VE EVER SEEN, AND THE ROOT SYSTEM... IT'S SOMETHING SPECIAL, THIS ONE.

I'M GIVING YOU MY PERSONAL GUARANTEE. WE WON'T LEAVE YOU IN THE Lurch COME HARVEST TIME.

TRACTORS DON'T RUN ON HANDSHAKES. JUST SEE YOU FOLLOW THROUGH OR YOU CAN SHAKE HANDS ALL YOU WANT...WITH MY NEPHEW. LAWYER... IN COURT.

TRACTORS DON'T RUN ON HANDSHAKES...
Of All Beings... HUMANS Have The Longest Lasting Impact - And The Shortest Vision
Moses? Isn’t that Josaeh’s little buddy?

Yeah he’s been over quite a lot this summer.

Josaeh, supper!

Hmm...

Time to put the homework away hun.

No.

You seem pretty worried over a rash.

I’ve never seen it before is all.

Heh, that’s the second time I’ve heard that today.

What do you mean?

We took a deer in for a brain tissue sample today. The tech said he’d never seen anything like it.

I got a picture of it on my phone.
WHAT IS THIS, WHAT AM I LOOKING AT?

WAIT A MINUTE-

THE NEXT DAY... AFTERNOON

THEY LOOK LIKE STITCHES.

DOES IT HURT? IT LOOKS LIKE IT HURTS.

NO BUT IT ITCHES LIKE CRAZY!

DUNNO, WHENEVER I FEEL BETTER I GUESS.

WHEN DO YOU GET TO COME BACK TO THE SUMMER PROGRAM?
EMMA! STOP DANCING WITH THAT SKELETON!
YOU GUYS! I'M IN CHARGE UNTIL GWEN ARRIVES HOME!

HE CALLED YOUR MOM, GWEN!
THAT'S HER NAME!

PLEASE REFER TO HER AS "JOSAEH'S MOM."

CRASH!

YOUR MOM PUT ME IN CHARGE.

OH GOD, IS THAT THING BROKEN?! I TOLD YOU TO STOP. I WASN'T JOKING!

I'M AFRAID THIS IS NO TIME FOR JOKES. IT'S THE Humerus Bone. It's been fractured.

THAT'S NOT FUNNY MIMIKWE.

I KNEW SOMETHING WAS GONNA HAPPEN!

OH MAN, GWEN'S GONNA BE SO MAD AT YOU JACOB.

ME?!

YEAH, YOU'RE IN CHARGE, RIGHT?

EMMA, YOU BETTER HOPE YOU CAN FIX THAT.

DON'T WORRY, THERE'S A TRUNK WITH REPLACEMENT BONES DOWNSTAIRS. FOLLOW ME!

TRUNK OF BONES IN THE BASEMENT? YEAH, THAT'S NOT AT ALL..

Say's you! I'm hilarious!
I THINK THAT’S A FEMUR.

LET’S SEE... HUMERUS... HUMERUS... UM...

CHECK IT OUT! A HALCYON PEREGRIN XC-1!

IT’S LIKE ONE OF THE FIRST TABLETS.

IT’S LIKE ONE OF THE FIRST TABLETS.

I THINK WE’RE IN BUSINESS.

THERE MUST BE A POWER CORD IN HERE SOMEWHERE.

CHECK THIS OUT.
FROM THE TECHNOLOGY WE UTILIZE IN OUR FORESTRY PRACTICES, TO OUR OWN HUMAN PERCEPTIONS, ACTIVITIES & BEHAVIORS.

ALL OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS ARE IMPORTANT AND NONE SO MUCH AS OUR OWN NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PAYING RESPECT TO OUR LAND & SOVEREIGNTY.

THIS MODEL ACCOUNTS FOR MANY ASPECTS OF SOCIETY, INCLUDING INSTITUTIONS.

WITHOUT IGNORING THE REALITIES OF OUR COMMUNITY'S DEPENDENCE ON ECONOMICS.
NOTICE WE FOLLOWED A FOOTPATH IN HERE? I DIDN'T BLAZE THAT TRAIL. IT LED ME TO THIS PLOT.

QUESTION. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING ON THIS PLOT?

UH, I'VE BEEN MONITORING HERE FOR SIX YEARS.

THIS TRAIL SYSTEM SERVED AS A SORT OF HIGHWAY SYSTEM IN PRE-CONTACT DAYS.

IT'S ALONG THESE TRAILS WE FIND SOME INTERESTING DIVERSITY WITHIN THE FOREST.

JOSAEH, WHAT DID YOU FIND OVER HERE?

THIS PLANT EMERGED THIS SEASON. IT'S INTEGRATING INTO THE COMMUNITY BUT HAS REPLACED THE BLACKBERRIES THAT USUALLY GROW HERE. THOUGHTS?
MAYBE A SOIL TEST?
SMART THINKIN’, EMMA. ANYONE ELSE?
A TISSUE CULTURE?
BOTH ARE GREAT IDEAS. WHAT’S THE BEST APPROACH TO DO THAT?

MAKE AN OFFERING.

THAT’S RIGHT. WE FEEL IF IT’S RIGHT TO BE DOING THIS, THEN WE MAKE AN OFFERING TO THE PLANT, WE RESPECT THE PLANT.

SNAP!

LATER, AT THE LAB...

WHAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA....

THIS CAN’T BE RIGHT.
**ELSEWHERE...**

**Fumon Levels: High**

**Results:** Dangerous consumed

**Hey Doc!**

**The plant looks really good in the field. How’re the roots?**

**Excuse me?**

**This can’t be— it didn’t do this in lab trials, an anomaly?**

**How’re the roots doing?**

**The roots. Yes, everything looks good.**

**Great. This means you can finish the report.**

**There are still iterations to run.**

**It’ll be done when it’s done.**

**We’re happy to not pay if you miss the deliver—by dates. Not to mention the bonuses you’re jeopardizing by dragging your feet.**

**How many more? When will it be done?**

**It’s fine, no hurry—**
GET ME THE REPORT ASAP, CLIVE. YOU'RE HOLDING UP THE SHOW.

TO BE CONCLUDED...
Justin Eagle Gauthier

From days of long ago, from uncharted regions of the universe, comes a legend....
The legend of Jud, Defender of the Universe. A mighty artist, loved by good, feared by evil. Cinefile, chanteur, warrior-poet, raconteur, enabler, bon vivant, dramatist, sporadic user of French, Justin ‘Jud’ Gauthier isn’t really a grown up, he just convincingly portrays one when he needs to. As a Ronin and accomplished pizza-eater, Jud has seen every form of combustion known to man and is reportedly the last of the Meketrex supplicants. Appraised at worth a million in prizes this strider of the boards was recently recruited by the Star League to defend the frontier against Xur and the Ko-Dan armada.

Jud would like to thank:

About the Creators

Nicholas D. Schwitzer

has been drawing ever since he could hold something to scribble with. As a child, he loved to tell stories and match them with artwork, so it’s no surprise that Nicholas decided to become a comic artist. Nick graduated from the University of Wisconsin: Stout with his degree in Entertainment Design - Comics and Sequential Art. It was here that he made his senior project comic “The Hero of Paecékota”.

Being a first-descendant Menominee, Nicholas has always been eager to learn more about his culture. Tied with an interest in film-making, this led him to join the College of Menominee Nation Sustainable Development Institute’s high school program, “The Sustainability Leadership Cohort”. This is where he first met Justin Gauthier, who mentored him and the other students in writing multiple films, including ‘Kāęyas Mesek Oskéken (It’s Old and it’s New)’. The rest is history.

Nick would like to thank:

His parents, Steven and Lela Schwitzer, his brothers, Jacob and Matthew Schwitzer, his grandparents and the rest of his family members; proof he comes from good people. His friends who helped and supported him along the way including, but not limited to, Kyle Easter, Evan Siahaan, and Hannah “Kat” Abel. The American Indian College Fund for funding this project through their “Community Based Native Arts Learning and Sharing” grant. The College of Menominee Nation; including President Chris Caldwell who recommended this grant and Bethany Huse for leading PI on the grant’s continuation. CMN’s Sustainable Development Institute Team and Alumni, the champions of the Menominee Theoretical Model of Sustainability who supported and influenced this work; Thomas Kenote Jr., Rebecca Edler (who lead the original grant as PI), Dulce Moeller, Tatjana Farjadi, Sara Smith, Megan Smith, Dr. Frank Kutka, Dr. Kate Flick, Dolly Potts, Jasmine Neosh, Manih Boyd, Desirae Wilber, Cynthia Norton, and Emma Ardington (who wrote the original grant). His mentors and collaborators; Dr. Ursula Murray Husted, who taught him everything about comics, Dr. Reynaldo Morales, a leading voice in indigenous media, Dr. Lee Francis IV, for publishing the piece and championing indigenous pop culture, and of course Justin Gauthier, the greatest partner in crime for a project like this. Maec Waewaenen
Why wait?

EXPLORE YOUR FUTURE

5 TECHNICAL DIPLOMAS
10 ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS
6 BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS

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Waewaenenen (Thank you) for understanding.