My dear friend,

I’m already in White River Junction for several weeks now. Sorry I didn’t take time to write you earlier...

Let me tell you a little bit about my life here at the Center for Cartoon Studies.
As you know, my mother is crazy about books, and as a kid I spent a lot of time in bookshops and libraries... in the comics section of course.

My dad wanted me to study marketing or something "serious" like that... but I went to an Applied Art school in Brussels where they have a comics major.

Drawing comics is an assignment!? Trop génial!

Now here I am in White River Junction (pop.2500), a tiny village in Vermont, to continue my education.

My friend Cédric and I would create our own sequel based on the comics we read.

And he escape on a helicopter

And he goes to a desert island but under it there's a secret base! With secret alley and... traps! yeah! Traps!!!
Being here feels like a comics version of Montmartre. The town lives and breathes comics. Students, alumni, and even instructors are getting together to draw...

I’m sharing a studio with some alumni. It’s in the Tip-Top building. Once an old bakery, now it’s occupied by artists, a printmaking studio, and a restaurant.

and on any given day you can see some great cartoonist walking down the street.

It’s the first time I’m drawing full-time—I was afraid to be lost in front of my pages, but it’s the opposite. Being surrounded by people equally as dedicated is inspiring.
But life isn’t only about working... We’re playing soccer every Sunday, sometimes basketball...

We’ve also been swimming in the White River (but with the winter, it’s not possible anymore).
I know what you’re thinking...
What about her?
Well, that’s the most painful part.
Skype is a poor substitute.
I miss our daily routine together.

But she came to visit me for two weeks
and we had an amazing time here and
in New York!

Seeing her helps me to get confident
about all this.

I MISS HER BADLY
BUT I KNOW THAT IT’S IMPORTANT
FOR ME TO BE HERE!
Every week I learn so much...
And the visiting artists! This
semester alone we had: James
Kochalka, John Porcellino, Seth,
Dash Shaw, Meredith Gran,
Tom De Haven, David Macaulay
and Alison Bechdel...

I really want my
work to be the closest
to reality as possible.
In this drawing of
a pride march in the
’80s, everyone
was really there. I
spent drawing from
various pictures...

I was excited when

JOHN PORCELLINO
came over. He has
been a big influence
on my work...

What Porcellino
is drawing in
my studio with
my pen!

Whaa! I’m drawing on
the same page as
Porcellino!

Your turn.

We are not used to that in Belgium.
It’s more 5 days of snow rather than
5 months! I’ll try to stay warm
and savor my time here. I’ll
come through this stronger than ever.

All the best my friend!
You should consider a
visit to see it with your
own eyes...

Love,

Max
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For info about CCS and Max de Radiguès visit cartoonstudies.org and maxderadigues.com