

Harold's Chicken Shack #86

By Nate Marshall

we're trying to eliminate the shack.

— Kristen Pierce, Harold's CEO & daughter of founder Harold Pierce

when i went to summer camp the white kids had a tendency
to shorten names of important institutions. make Northwestern
University into *NU*. international relations into *IR*. everybody
started calling me *Nate*. before this i imagined myself

Nathaniel A. maybe even *N. Armstead* to big up my granddad.
i wrote my whole name on everything. eventually i started
unintentionally introducing myself as *Nate*. it never occurred
to me that they could escape the knowing of my name's
real length. as a shorty

most the kids in my neighborhood couldn't say my name.
Mick-daniel, Nick-thaniel, MacDonnel shot across the courts
like wild heaves toward the basket. the subconscious visual
of a chicken shack seems a poor fit for national expansion.

Harold's Chicken is easier, sounds like Columbus's flag stuck
into a cup of cole slaw. shack sounds too much like home
of poor people, like haven for weary

like building our own.

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