

# 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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