#27

Subj: **what do you think?**
Date: 12/17/01 3:28:57 PM Central Standard Time
From: JShulman@writersbootcamp.com (Jon Shulman)
Reply-to: JShulman@writersbootcamp.com
To: warshauerp@aol.com

-----Original Message-----
From: Jonathan Shulman [mailto:giantevents.newsletter@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, December 17, 2001 3:49 AM
To: jshulman@writersbootcamp.com
Subject:

My name is Punky...How the hell did that happen?

I was nine years old, the year was 1975, and I was a smart-assed, buck-toothed PUNK. Not that I realized this, at least not until an hour through our trip when it was pointed out to an entire bus of campers going north on Highway 41 headed towards Waupaca, by a person named Larry Levin, whom my family had entrusted me to about an hour earlier in front of some deli in Lincolnwood, or some similar suburb.

I didn't like where this was going... I mean, here I am, nine years old, excited as hell to do all the things I saw in the exciting black and white Super 8 film (or was it a slide-show) that Manny had so expertly displayed in our family room the previous December, and already I was being hassled. Maybe this camp thing was going to suck, and I shouldn't have worked so hard to talk my Mom into it. I could get hassled just as easily at home in Highland Park by my family and friends, AND I had my own air-conditioned room, and enough allowance for as many Wacky-Packs and Slurpees as I could handle. I already had my first letter home planned out...on and on about this stupid camp and this stupid nickname! Thank God I'll only have to be there for four weeks, I thought.

By the time we pulled into beautiful Camp Waupaca and drove past the golf course, just about everyone on the bus had already called me Punky, and I had never even met any of them before. I was happy when we got to the Horseshoe and I saw all the other campers, none of whom knew me, let alone my new nickname. I started meeting some of the guys, and introducing myself as Jon. It was going great, but all of a sudden, I see that Larry Levin guy heading my way. I tried not to make eye contact with him, but it was futile, and he blurted out something like, "So, has everybody met Punky Shulman."

All of a sudden, the questions started coming, like "Why is your nickname Punky?", "What's your real name, Punky?", "How did you get a nickname on the first day of camp?", "Punky, what cabin are you in?". Hmmm...I thought, maybe this nickname, and maybe camp, wasn't so bad.

As I got used to being there at Camp Waupaca, and had a million great times with my new friends, I began to realize that my four weeks were coming to an end, and I just wasn't ready to go. So one day, I went to the office and talked to Manny about it, and he called my Mom to see if I could stay.

Manny handed me the phone, I put it up to my ear, and my I heard my mother's voice from the other end of the line say, "Jonny, do you really want to stay for the whole eight weeks".

I said, "Mom, the name is Punky, and the answer is yes!"

That was the start of five great years at Camp Waupaca! I guess it ain't so bad to be a punk!

---------- Headers ----------
Return-Path: <JShulman@writersbootcamp.com>
Received: from rly-xa03.mx.aol.com (rly-xa03.mail.aol.com [172.20.105.72]) by air-xa02.mail.aol.com (v82.22) with ESMTP id MAILINXA25-1217162857; Mon, 17 Dec 2001 16:28:57 -0500
Received: from imta01a2.registeredsite.com ([64.225.255.10]) by rly-xa03.mx.aol.com (v82.22) with ESMTP id MAILRELAYINXA34-1217162836; Mon, 17 Dec 2001 16:28:36 1900
Received: from crappy ([209.85.131.129]) by imta01a2.registeredsite.com
with SMTP
id <20011217212803.ZBXO16165.imta01a2.registeredsite.com@crappy>
for <warshauerp@aol.com>; Mon, 17 Dec 2001 16:28:03 -0500
Reply-To: <JShulman@writersbootcamp.com>
From: "Jon Shulman" <JShulman@writersbootcamp.com>
To: <warshauerp@aol.com>
Subject: what do you think?
Date: Mon, 17 Dec 2001 13:32:14 -0800
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Importance: Normal
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