

HEAVYWEIGHTS

By

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FIRST DRAFT

10/17/93

CARAVAN PICTURES

EXT. JR. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

An east coast suburban high school. We hear the sounds of kids cheering somebody on.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

We see a circle of students convened around two boys. Emotions are running hot.

EVERYONE
(chanting)
Gerry! Gerry! Gerry!

JACK (O.S.)
I've been waiting all year to take you down. Let's go, Garner. Let's do it! Right now!

We move into the circle to find an overweight eleven year old, GERRY GARNER, holding a large ice cream pop in his hand.

GERRY
Alright, so the deal is I eat this in one bite, you owe me five bucks.

He is faced off against JACK, a good looking jerk.

JACK
NO! You can't just eat it in one bite, you also have to swallow it in one gulp.

GERRY
You never said that!

JACK
I just did.

GERRY
(playing coy)
I've never done that before...I don't think...okay, but let's make it for ten.

JACK nods. The bet is on. The chanting heats up. GERRY takes a deep breath, then puts the entire ice cream pop in his mouth. A second later he removes a bone dry stick from his mouth. After a pause, he swallows all of the ice cream in one gulp. The crowd goes nuts laughing, and applauding.

BOY
All hail King Fatty!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GERRY takes his bows in acknowledgment of his title.

JACK

Here's your ten bucks. You're a damn hustler, Garner.

GERRY

And you are ten bucks poorer, Richard.

JACK is pissed. His friends usher him away.

JACK

Yeah, you're, uh...just a lard ass. Have a good summer getting fatter...lard ass.

GERRY

I'll do my best.

(turning to the crowd)

Okay. Anyone who wants to share my good fortune. Ice creams on me...

Too late, everyone is disbanding. Only RON, his zit faced friend remains.

RON

I'll take a Nutty Buddy.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL - LATER

All of the students are waiting for their buses. It is the last day of school. Many of the students are having their yearbooks signed. Gerry stands with RON. GERRY eats licorice as he stands with his friend RON..

GERRY

You gonna do A.V. squad again next year?

RON

Hell yeah. I hear we're scrapping the projectors and goin' mostly video.

GERRY

They say that every year..

RON

I know. So, we gonna hang this summer?

GERRY

I don't know. My parents say they have a big surprise for me. I'm pretty sure we're going to Europe.

CONTINUED:

RON
That'd be cool.

A cute blonde girl, MICHELLE, walks by, and waits for her bus.

RON
Hey, there's Michelle. You should ask her out now. Last chance.

GERRY gets very uncomfortable, very quickly.

RON
Now's the time to go for it. If she chills you, you have all summer to get over it.

GERRY
Okay...give me some space.

RON moves away. GERRY takes a long beat alone, working up the courage. He nods to RON, moves over to her.

GERRY
Michelle. How are you doing?

MICHELLE
Oh, hi Gerry.

GERRY
What are you going to do this summer?

MICHELLE
My family rented a house at the beach.

GERRY
Nice. I'm going to Europe.

MICHELLE
Really?

GERRY
Yeah. France, Italy, Greece, maybe Whales.

Pause. He waits for her response. There is none.

GERRY
Brussels.

CONTINUED:

MICHELLE

...Well, bring me back something.

GERRY

I definitely will...definitely...

(A pause)

Like what...?

MICHELLE

I've got to go...

She leaves him abruptly. GERRY exhales. He's snapped out of it by a large orange which hits him squarely in the head. He looks up to see JACK in a bus window laughing.

JACK

Direct hit, King Fatty.

GERRY shakes it off, turns to see his bus pulling away.

GERRY

Wait Up!!!

The kids in the bus see GERRY running. They all start laughing, and yelling. GERRY'S books fall.

RON

Come on fatty, you can make it!

JACK

You forgot your runners bra!

The bus turns the corner leaving GERRY in the dust, sweating and panting, a mess.

CUT TO:

CREDIT SEQUENCE

GERRY walking home. He passes through several different neighborhoods. A dog walks by him. He leans over to pet it. It snaps at him.

He sneaks a drink of water off of a neighbor's hose. An old man comes out and screams at him.

GERRY walks on the sidewalk. Two kids ride up behind him on bicycles. GERRY must dive out of the way to avoid being hit.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - LATER

Breathing a little hard, GERRY trudges towards his house. He notices a strange station wagon parked in his driveway. The side panel bears the sign, "Perkis' Adventure Getaways." He smiles, finally good news.

GERRY

Alright. Europe here I come!

He runs into the house.

CUT TO:

INT. GERRY'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

GERRY enters. The Garner's home is suburban hell.

GERRY

Hello! Who's home?!

MRS. GARNER (V.O.)

We're in here!

GERRY starts walking towards the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

GERRY enters. Sitting in the living room is MRS. GARNER, a hand wringing concerned Mother and MR. GARNER, a hard minded enforcer with a large belly. Social climbers with no footing.

GERRY

What's going on? Why's everyone home?

MRS. GARNER

We're talking to Mr. Johnson.

ROGER JOHNSON stands up to shake GERRY'S hand.

MR. JOHNSON

Hi Gerry, Roger Johnson.

GERRY looks scared. Something is up.

MRS. GARNER

He's here to tell us all about a very special summer camp.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. JOHNSON

A camp designed just for you Gerry.

GERRY is rightfully very suspicious.

GERRY

A camp? Mom, Dad...I thought we were going to Europe.

PHIL JOHNSON

(a laugh)

Our camp is more fun than Europe, and a whole lot better for you.

MRS. GARNER

He's got a video tape of the camp. Why don't we just take a look?

GERRY

Why don't we not?

GERRY huffs, tries to leave. His DAD plants him firmly down on the sofa.

MR. GARNER

Play the tape.

ON THE T.V. - CAMP HOPE PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

EXT. SUMMER CAMP - SUNRISE

Birds chirping, green trees...cabins. We see picture postcard images of a summer camp. Still shots are seen as corny music plays.

INT. LIVING ROOM

MR. GARNER

Well, it looks just like any normal camp.

GERRY

Why wouldn't it, Dad?

BACK TO VIDEO

The Video Camera pans from the tetherball courts over to reveal HARVEY and ALICE BUSKIN standing in front of a CAMP HOPE sign. They are gentle people, in their early sixties.

ALICE BUSKIN

Greetings future campers.

CONTINUED:

HARVEY BUSKIN

And welcome to Camp Hope, where losing
is gaining.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

GERRY cocks his head. "What did that mean?"

BACK TO THE VIDEO - CONTINUOUS

ALICE BUSKIN

I'm Alice Buskin and this is Harvey.
We've been the owners and operators here
for 18 wonderful summers.

HARVEY BUSKIN

Won't you join us for number nineteen.

ALICE BUSKIN

To us, it's more than just a camp. It's
a home.

ON THE VIDEO

We see a mini montage. Quick Cuts: KIDS playing volleyball.
KIDS in canoes. KIDS performing a silly, fun play.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Something is odd. GERRY isn't sure what. MR. GARNER smiles.

ON THE VIDEO

Several PUDGY KIDS race by the camera on GO-CARTS.

INT. LIVING ROOM

GERRY can't hide a small smile. He likes those.

GERRY

How much can you ride the go-carts?

MR. JOHNSON

As much as you want, Gerry. But be
careful, they can be addicting.

ON THE VIDEO - SUMMER CAMP

An extremely overweight boy with braces speaks to camera.

CONTINUED:

BOY

Before I came I was scared because I thought I would be the fattest one, but I'm not. Everyone here has the same problem, so we help each other out. Plus, the Bushkin's are really nice.

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

An overweight counselor, PAT FINLEY stands in the pool. He is surrounded by six campers. All of them are extremely overweight.

PAT

Hi I'm Pat Finley. I love this camp because it's not just about losing weight, it's about gaining friends.

(whispers)

I'm so excited 'cause now that I'm a full fledged counselor I get paid to lose weight. Whoo-hoo!!

All of the kids in the pool jump on PAT and try to push him under the water. He howls like a monster and begins to grab each one of them, pick them up over his head, and throw them across the pool. They are having a great time.

GERRY (V.O.)

No way!!!

The image on the screen freezes.

INT. LIVING - CONTINUOUS

GERRY is now standing up, enraged. The frozen image of PAT throwing a kid appears on the television.

GERRY

I am not going to spend my summer hanging out with a bunch of fat shits!

MR. GARNER

You watch your mouth young man!

GERRY

What happened to Europe?

MRS. GARNER

(sadly)

We were never going to Europe.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GERRY

Why not? Let's go. We can go, and I promise I won't eat anything.

MR. GARNER

Gerry, you're going to go to Camp Hope and that's final.

GERRY

I'm not going to a fat camp, and that's final.

MR. JOHNSON

This reaction is quite common.

(to Gerry)

Gerry, these boys have made a commitment to a better life.

MRS. GARNER

We don't want you to have a heart attack.

GERRY

I'm not going to have a heart attack.

MRS. GARNER

Famous last words.

MR. GARNER

Mr. Johnson, do your children go to the camp?

MR. JOHNSON

No, but this is the camp I'd send my kids to...if they had a weight problem.

GERRY'S slim, fifteen year old brother ROB enters, and stands near the light switch.

ROB

I wish I could go to Camp with Gerry, but I can't 'cause I'm not a fat slob.

GERRY jumps up and runs after ROB to attack him. ROB calmly punches GERRY hard in the right arm. GERRY retreats instantly. ROB exits, laughing.

MR. GARNER

You boys, knock it off. Gerry, sit down.

CONTINUED:

MR. JOHNSON
So, what do you folks say?

GERRY
No way! I am not going!

MR. GARNER
We'll give you a call later with our
decision.

CUT TO:

INT. AIRPLANE

Close up on GERRY sitting on the aisle of a 747 in mid-flight. He looks positively miserable. A CHEERY STEWARDESS bends next to him.

STEWARDESS
Hey there. I've got a little surprise
for you.

GERRY looks over and before you know it she has pinned a pair of Captains Wings on his shirt. GERRY looks down. She is gone before he can respond. He shakes his head. The camera pulls back to reveal a FAT MAN sleeping right next to GERRY. He is invading GERRY'S space in a major way. The Giant snorts and moves uncomfortably close. GERRY glumly finishes his horrible airline meal. Nothing left. The FAT MAN next to him still sleeps. His untouched food tray sits in front of him. GERRY eyes his desert. No. Yes. His hand starts inching over towards the desert.

JOSH
Headed to fat camp?

GERRY turns and sees JOSH LEVY, a thirteen year old boy wearing a Soul Asylum t-shirt. He is overweight, but carries himself with an enormous amount of confidence.

GERRY
No. Why do you say that?

JOSH
'Cause your fat. Is that your dad?

GERRY
No. Why do you say that?

JOSH
'Cause he's fat.

CONTINUED:

GERRY

Yeah, well so are you.

JOSH

I know. That's why I'm going to fat camp. Okay, I'll see ya.

Josh turns to leave.

GERRY

No, wait. I am going.

JOSH

I knew it. I'm Josh.

GERRY

Gerry.

JOSH

And that's your dad too, isn't it?

GERRY

No it really isn't.

JOSH

Oh, sorry.

GERRY

Have you been there before?

JOSH

Yeah, I go every summer.

GERRY

But, you're still...fat.

JOSH

I don't go to the camp to lose weight. I go 'cause it's fun. More fun than hanging out with a bunch of obnoxious jock bean poles.

GERRY

I was forced into this. I thought we were going to Europe.

JOSH

Europe rots. I been tons a time with my Dad and Step-monstor...I mean mother. The chicks are hot there, but I couldn't talk to any of 'em.

CONTINUED:

GERRY
Because you're fat?

JOSH
No. They didn't speak English.

GERRY
Oh, right. Sorry. I'm kinda nervous.

JOSH
Don't be. I'll show you the ropes. I
know all the tricks.

JOSH winks, leans over GERRY and delicately grabs the
dessert off of the SLEEPING MAN'S tray. As soon as he gets
it near his mouth...

FAT MAN
Give me that!

JOSH screams, drops the cake on GERRY'S lap, and runs back
to first class. The MAN takes the piece of cake, starts
eating it, and smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. AIRPORT GIFT SHOP

JOSH is buying up most of the candy in the store. GERRY
looks on.

JOSH
The owners, the Bushkins, are really
mellow. They stay out of my way.
There's lots a fun stuff to do.

GERRY
Like the go-carts.

JOSH
Yeah. Those are awesome. The one bad
part is they don't let you have any
candy.

REGISTER LADY
That will be seventy four dollars and
thirty cents.

JOSH pulls out a huge wad of bills.

CUT TO:

INT. AIRPORT BATHROOM

JOSH and GERRY enter the bathroom. JOSH locks the door behind them. He immediately takes off his shirt, pulls out a roll of duck tape, and rips off a long strip.

GERRY

(alarmed)

What the hell are you doing?

JOSH

Insuring us a fun summer.

JOSH takes several bars of chocolate and tapes them to his chest, a la 'Midnight Express.'

GERRY

Doesn't that hurt when you take it off?

JOSH

Yeah, but it's worth it.

JOSH pulls off another strip.

JOSH

Could you tape those Milky Ways to my back?

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

About a dozen overweight kids stand on the curb with their suitcases, waiting for their bus to camp. A hundred yards down the curb is a group of athletic looking kids waiting to go to a different camp. JOSH says hello to several kids. We see, PHILIP an easily irritated, ultra sensitive KID.

JOSH

Phil, what's goin' on?

PHILIP

My name is Philip. I broke level 57 on Prince of Persia this year.

JOSH

Bullshit.

PHILIP

I knew you'd say that, that's why I videotaped it. I hooked up my VCR to the Nintendo.

CONTINUED:

JOSH
Phil, you're a freak.

PHILIP
Phil is a freak. Too bad I'm Philip.

GERRY tries to be nice.

GERRY
Best I've done is level 14.

PHILIP
What're you, spastic?

PHILIP walks away.

JOSH
Gerry, this is Roy.

ROY is a twelve year old black kid. He wears a Dr. Dre t-shirt.

ROY
Gotta lose the wings Captain.

GERRY looks down notices he still has on the airplane wings. He fumbles to take them off.

ROY
Yo, Josh, you covered?

JOSH
Yeah, man. You?

ROY pulls up his shirt. He is virtually wallpapered with boxes of Milk Duds, and Goobers. Just then a brand new beautiful touring bus marked "CAMP MVP" pulls up to the curb. GERRY grabs his bag, and heads for its door. The door opens. The driver, a too good looking, cocky counselor named CHRIS MILLER, opens the door and sees Gerry.

CHRIS
Oh, I'm sorry. Wrong camp. Lose some weight, and maybe I'll see you next year.

He closes the doors, laughing and pulls away. Gerry is left standing there feeling like a fool.

JOSH
Don't worry about it Captain. Those guys are idiots. 'Oh, I can hit a ball with a stick.' I'm so impressed.

CONTINUED:

GERRY

You guys aren't going to call me Captain all summer, are you?

They all salute GERRY. He grimaces. An old decrepid yellow school bus pulls up to the curb. The door opens. Driving the bus is PAT FINLEY, the man we saw earlier on the videotape. He is in his early twenties, and about sixty pounds overweight.

PAT

Excuse me, I'm looking for several portly adolescents?

JOSH

That's us.

PAT

Great! Get in.

The kids pile on the bus. As they pass PAT he hands them a candy bar. PAT halts GERRY.

PAT

You! You're new! Aren't you?

(GERRY nods, scared)

You get two.

He gives GERRY and extra candy bar, smiles and pulls away.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE CASTLE - DAY

The bus pulls into the parking lot. Stops. The KIDS bolt for the door.

GERRY

What are we doing here? What's going on?

JOSH

Tradition. The last supper. Pat does it every year.

PAT pretends he can't open the bus door. The KIDS yell and laugh. PAT hits the right button, the KIDS almost explode from the bus.

CUT TO:

INT. WHITE CASTLE

ROY, GERRY and JOSH are sitting, waiting for their food.

GERRY
So who pays for this?

JOSH
Pat does.

GERRY
Why?

ROY
He likes to. He saves up all year for this.

PAT walks over with two trays overflowing with food.

PAT
I've got my food. What are you guys going to get?

All the kids groan. He tells that joke every year. The kids grab for their food. PAT smacks their hands.

PAT
Wait. First we have to say a prayer.
(everyone moans)
Everyone, hold hands.
(Pat looks down)
Dear Lord. We thank you for the food we are about to receive. And we thank the White Castle people who make it so delicious. And we pray for strength in the coming two months when we will be deprived of God's great gifts, like hamburgers, and curley fries and chocolate shakes...forgive me Lord, I can't wait any longer!

PAT dives into the food and starts eating. All of the kids immediately follow. They eat the food ravenously, without speaking.

TWO WHITE CASTLE BUSBOYS

Watch in astonishment, and a little bit of horror. We hear a cacophony of gulps, swallows, chews, chokes, rattles and moans.

EXT. WHITE CASTLE - LATER

Everyone heads for the bus with big smiles. GERRY walks with PAT.

GERRY

That was really nice of you.

PAT

Oh please. It was my pleasure Gerry. You know when I used to be a camper like you there was always Lucien. He used to drive this same old bus. He'd pick us up and take us to a Shakey's Pizza that used to be right where that Shell station is.

(He pauses, reflects)

I always thought he was the greatest guy on Earth. In your life there are always a few people, maybe a teacher, who makes a difference in your life. I want to be one of those people.

GERRY

That's really nice. So you think that by buying us hamburgers you're making a difference in our lives?

PAT

No?

GERRY

Well I think it's nice you paid.

PAT suddenly grabs GERRY'S head, puts him in a headlock then rubs his forearm back and forth against his face.

PAT

Maybe I'd make a difference if I gave the Captain a friction rub.

GERRY

(laughing)

Stop it!

PAT

You know Gerry I don't remember if I used deodorant today. Could you tell me if I did?

He puts GERRY'S face in his arm pit.

CONTINUED:

GERRY

No, no, no!

PAT

No, you want me to stop, or, no I didn't use any deodorant?

GERRY

No, you didn't use any deodorant.

PAT abruptly stops the torture.

PAT

You know what? You're right. I didn't put on deodorant. How crude of me. I apologize.

PAT hands Gerry a napkin to wipe his face with and climbs onto the bus.

GERRY

That was truly disgusting.

PAT

(satisfied)

It's going to be a great summer.

PAT climbs on the bus.

CUT TO:

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

A man of twenty five, good build, traveling light. He walks down the tree lined road. He stops by a fallen log underneath a shady tree. He pulls out some water and takes a thoughtful swig. Then he pulls out a well worn picture from his wallet and stares at it. Is it a lover? A Dead Mother? We can't quite see it. He is lost in reflection. Only nature sounds now. Then just off to his side enters a deer. So delicate. So beautiful. A magic moment. The MAN turns, spotting the animal. He shrieks.

MAN

Holy shit! What the hell is that?!

The deer rockets away. The MAN catches his composure.

MAN

God damn thing scared the shit out of me.

CUT TO:

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - LATER

The bus drives down the road. PAT sees the MAN standing on the side of the road hitch hiking. He pulls up, opens the door.

PAT
Where ya heading?

MAN
A place called Hope. Camp Hope.

PAT
The fat camp?

TIM
Yea, the fat camp.

PAT
Who are you calling fat?

He closes the door. After a second he opens it again, laughing.

PAT
Just kidding. Hop on, I'm Pat.

TIM
Tim Krieger.

As TIM gets on the bus he shakes his head. It's going to be a long summer. The bus pulls away.

INT. BUS - TRAVELLING

PAT
You a new counselor? I didn't see you at orientation.

TIM
I just got a call the other day. I guess there was a last minute opening.

KIDS in the back of the bus start yelling insults at TIM.

KID(O.S.)
Hey chicken legs!

KID#2 (O.S.)
Who's the boney ass?!

CONTINUED:

TIM

What's with them?

PAT

They get beat on all year for being fat,
so whenever they get together they tend
to gang up on skinny people.

(yelling to the kids)

You guys shut up, or I'll stop the bus!

KID (O.S.)

Stop the bus, I'll drive!

All the kids laugh.

PAT

They're just excited because it's the
beginning of camp. They'll settle down.

JOSH and GERRY pop up behind TIM, sizing him up.

JOSH

Why'd you want to work at a camp for fat
kids? You feel sorry for us or something?

TIM

No, not at all. The truth is I killed a
guy, and I need to lay low for a while.

TIM flashes an evil smile.

PAT

(chuckles)

That's funny. Tell them you're kidding,
Tim?

TIM is silent. PAT laughs again, but he looks a little
concerned. The kids are scared.

TIM

I'm kidding.

TIM nods his head 'no', then makes an even more evil face at
the kids.

TIM

Actually I just need the money.
Apparently the University of New
Hampshire is going to shut down unless I
pay my student loans immediately.

Suddenly they are interrupted by sound of a kid throwing up
in the back of the bus. All the kids start screaming.

CONTINUED:

PAT
Somebody hold his forehead!

PAT is viewing with his rear view mirror.

PAT
Come on!
(TO TIM)
Could you go back there and hold his
forehead?

All of the kids are screaming. Several begin opening windows. TIM hesitates.

PAT
Go on, get back there..

TIM reluctantly heads to the back of the bus. We hear the kid wretch some more.

ROY
Hey, his vomit is square just like the
hamburgers!

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP HOPE

A white station wagon pulls into the long dirt driveway, and under a CAMP HOPE sign which is reminiscent of the 'Jurassic Park' sign. The car is being driven by a young, pretty woman. She is JULIE MEADOWS. As she slowly drives the lane, overweight kids appear from out of nowhere. They come from all directions, some appear from out of the woods. Several touch, or hit the car. One quickly runs over the roof. It feels like a Wild Country Safari.

She notices MICHAEL SIMMS, a very odd, bashful, thirteen year old boy who is taller, and more overweight than the other kids. He has blood running down his face, and all over his shirt. He leans his head back as he walks. JULIE stops the car and runs over to him.

JULIE
Are you all right?

MICHAEL
(calmly)
I'm fine.

CONTINUED:

JULIE
Did someone hit you?

A CAMPER yells as he walks by.

KID
He's on crack.

MICHAEL looks at the kid walking away. He doesn't have the courage to say anything.

MICHAEL
My nose just bleeds sometimes.

JULIE
Why does it do that?

MICHAEL
When I get nervous.

JULIE
There's no reason to be nervous. You're going to have a great summer.

His nose bleeds even more.

JULIE
Are you nervous talking to me?

MICHAEL
No.

JULIE
Good, because I'm here to help. If it doesn't clear up, come see me.

MICHAEL nods. JULIE exits. As soon as she is gone he releases his nose, and blood comes pouring out. She made him really nervous. A BUS horn honks loudly. PAT calls out.

PAT
Move it or lose it! Got a busload of trouble here.

JULIE looks at PAT behind the wheel. She waves, heads for her car. PAT stares at her a little too long.

INT. BUS - SAME TIME

Inside the bus TIM leans forward checking her out.

CONTINUED:

TIM
Who is that?

PAT
(Shrugs, leans out the
window, shouts)
Hey, who are you?!

JULIE
(shouting back)
Julie Meadows, the new nurse!

PAT
What happened to the old one?!

JULIE
She died!

PAT
Oh God! How sad!

JULIE
I didn't know her!

PAT
Well, see ya later!

She gets in her car with a wave. PAT honks happily, they follow her in.

TIM
Not a bad addition, huh Pat?

PAT
Uh...I'm sure she'll do a good job.

JOSH
(to TIM)
You might want to wash the puke off your
hands before you try feeling her up.

ROY
She's hot, huh Cappy?

GERRY
Affirmative.

INT. BUNK - LATE AFTERNOON

GERRY, JOSH, ROY enter. A standard wood cabin. One weird thing. It has expensive track lighting. MICHAEL SIMMS, cowers in a corner. PAT helps the kids with their footlockers. They're really heavy. PAT looks around, smiles.

CONTINUED:

PAT

Chimpunk bunk, Gerry. Best bunk in camp. I pulled some strings, got you in.

JOSH

It really is the best bunk.

PAT

Alright. I got lots of unloading. I'll see you all at the dining hall a little later.

GERRY

Wait. Aren't you our counselor?

PAT

Um, no. You're breaking in a new guy...

(looks at list)

Larry. I'm needed elsewhere. But don't worry I'll be around if you need me.

Just call and I'll come right over...just as soon as I'm good, and God damned ready!

He head butts GERRY, then leaves. The KIDS look at each other. JOSH commands SIMMS to watch the door. He smiles at GERRY, stomps his foot, a floorboard pops up.

JOSH

This is why it's the best cabin.

THE KIDS spring into action, downloading candy, setting up systems, removing false panels from their lockers. GERRY looks on and smiles. One kids, NICHOLAS, from England lifts up his shirt to find his candies have melted and are oozing out all over him.

NICHOLAS

Crikey, I knew it was too hot in that car.

He laughs and takes a finger full of goo off of his chest and eats it. All of the kids walk by and do the same.

PHILIP

That's not sanitary.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING HALL - DINNER

GERRY, ROY and JOSH take their seats. The entire camp is in attendance.

CONTINUED:

GERRY
This isn't so bad.

JOSH mimes for GERRY to wipe the chocolate off of his mouth.

JOSH
I told you. It's going to be a great
summer.

GERRY
Where are the Bushkins?

JOSH
I don't know, I haven't seen them yet.

TIM AND PAT

Pat has taken a liking to Tim, who checks the place out.
His gaze stops on JULIE who sits off to the side talking to
some KIDS. Pat leans close to Tim.

PAT
Gonna go for it, Tim.
(Tim nods slyly)
Yeah? You are, you dog, gonna do the
nasty, huh? The wild thing for you two.
Gonna bump your uglies, gonna dip your
stick, give her that all-beef injection
of love? Yes sir, Tim!
(he's really worked up)
Gonna dingle dangle your sex magic?
Gonna...

TIM
Shut up, Pat.

PAT
(backs down immediately)
Okay.

He starts massaging Tim's arm in apology.

TIM
After that display, I'll never get an
erection again.

THE PODIUM

UNCLE BILL, a veteran counselor steps up to a mike and
addresses the camp. He wears a skipper's hat.

CONTINUED:

UNCLE BILL
Greetings campers.

EVERYONE
Hi, hi, hi Uncle Bill!

UNCLE BILL
It's great to have you all back at Camp Hope. We are going to have a...

He begins to lose his composure. He is on the verge of tears. The kids are confused.

UNCLE BILL
...great summer. A lot of you are probably wondering why you haven't seen the Bushkins yet. Well, I am saddened to announce that Harvey and Alice Bushkin are no longer the owners of Camp Hope.

Josh and Roy look very nervous and upset. Gerry is scared.

CAMPERS
What! Why!

UNCLE BILL
Facing impending bankruptcy, and the declining health of Mrs. Bushkin, they were left with no choice but to sell the camp outright. They have relocated to Florida, and send their warm wishes. They would love to visit, but can not afford to do so at this time.

There are moans of outrage and sadness throughout the hall. PAT just shakes his head. GERRY looks upset, but more nervous as to what his future holds. TIM has a look which says, 'what have I gotten myself into?' JOSH is panicking.

JOSH
Pat, how come you didn't tell us?

PAT
They said I couldn't. They were afraid nobody would show up to camp. I'm sorry. I miss the Bushkins so much already.

UNCLE BILL
Now...I'd like to introduce the new owner and operator...
(pulls a prepared statement)
Tony Perkis is a man who believes in
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

UNCLE BILL (cont'd)
you. His life has been devoted to saying things like "Yes" and "You better believe it." An entrepreneur, a philanthropist, a new friend. May I introduce, Tony Perkis.

TONY PERKIS vaults to the stage from a side entrance. He is a cross between TONY ROBBINS AND RICHARD SIMMONS. He's dangerously charismatic. He gets the stage and stares. Just stares with a firm smile on his face.

TONY
I am so proud to be here. I am proud you have decided to let me make a difference in your lives. I am proud of the responsibility you have given me. And I will never forget that responsibility. That is my oath to you.

The KIDS just stare blankly at him. TONY tries to lighten it up now. We notice a VIDEO CAMERAMAN is shooting Tony's speech.

TONY
Those of you who are from Pennsylvania are probably familiar with the Perkis name. My father built the "Pure Perkis" Lighting Fixture Company from nothing into 38 retail outlets. You may notice some new lighting fixtures around campus. My wife spent the last few weeks choosing the fixtures in order to make your summer a little brighter. Let's give her a big round of applause, Evelyn.

EVELYN, a fashionable looking woman with very little interest in kids or camp stands, and gives a half hearted wave. From above, lights come on. The KIDS stare up and see a grotesquely huge Deer Antler, wood and chrome chandelier.

TONY
Say hi, she's leaving tomorrow.

He points to the cameraman.

TONY
This is Kenny the cameraman. If all goes well we are going to turn this summer into the number one infomercial in the country. Kids, I make succeeding my business. Heck I eat it for breakfast every day. And now, you are my

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

TONY (cont'd)
business. I will succeed with each and every one of you. Pounds are gonna fly, fat is outta here Mister. And we are gonna do it together.

He raises his arms in triumph to a very small smattering of applause.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAFETERIA - DUSK

Campers are walking back to their bunks.

GERRY
This is bad.

JOSH
Everything's gonna be fine.

GERRY
Everything's gonna be fine? This guy eats success for breakfast. What the hell does that mean?

JOSH
Relax Captain. We're just hitting a little turbulence. Nothing to worry about.

JOSH notices that towards the left they are dismantling the go-carts, and putting them in storage. He gently steers GERRY to the right so he doesn't see this.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP - CONTINUOUS

PAT and TIM are walking.

PAT
I have a bad feeling about all of this. He's not one of us.

TIM
Why don't you at least give him a chance? He seems sincere about wanting to make a difference.

PAT
He's already made a difference. He didn't assign me a bunk. I should be with the kids but he's got me staying in
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

PAT (cont'd)
the big house with all the kitchen help.
No one baths. No one is nice. It's a
foul, scary hell-hole.

TIM
Come on, Pat. It can't be that bad.

PAT
(annoyed)
Really? Let's take a look...Tim.

They walk up the steps of the building.

INT. BIG HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

A dark and truly scary hallway. Junkies would like it here.
They reach Pat's door. There is loud Cajun music coming from
inside. They can also hear the sounds of two people having
sex.

PAT
Here I am. Home sweet home. Care to
meet my room-mate?

He gently knocks on the door. The music comes to an abrupt
stop. The door opens. It is JEAN-JEAN, a large Cajun man
with a thick moustache. He wears only shorts.

JEAN-JEAN
(in French)
What the hell do you want now?

PAT
Can I come in?

JEAN-JEAN just stares angrily.

PAT
(to Tim)
He doesn't even speak English.
(to Jean-Jean)
May I please come in you enormous
dickhead.

JEAN-JEAN punches Pat in the face, then closes the door.

TIM
I think he knew that word.

CUT TO:

INT. CHIPMUNK BUNK - NIGHT

The KIDS gather around LARS, their new counselor. LARS is Aryan looking, unenthusiastic and completely void of a sense of humor.

JOSH

Pat said our counselor was named Larry.

LARS

I don't know who Pat is. My name is Lars. I am your counselor.

ROY

What kind of name is Lars? Where are you from?

LARS

Far away. Now please return to your bunks until the next activity.

JOSH

We don't have another activity 'til morning.

LARS

Yes. Go to sleep.

The KIDS move to their bunks unhappily.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BUNKS - LATER THAT NIGHT

The KIDS sleep. We hear the whimpers of a homesick kid. We hear snoring. From outside the window a glow permeates the room. GERRY, who sleeps on the top bunk near the window, wakes up, blinks and sees something.

GERRY

Forest fire...something's on fire. Josh wake up.

Josh wakes up, and stares out the window with a Spielbergian smile of wonder and happiness.

JOSH

Midnight CampfireFest. It usually comes later in the summer, but now's cool.

CONTINUED:

NICHOLAS

All the counselors wear costumes, act out stories, there's always cool surprises. We even get smores.

ROY

Alright Midnight Campfirefest! I knew things weren't gonna be so bad.

GERRY

We really get smores?

The KIDS are pumped as they hurry to get dressed.

CUT TO:

EXT. CENTER OF CAMP - NIGHT

A majestic bonfire is burning brightly. The entire camp is gathered, alive with anticipation. Counselors ring the fire, but aren't wearing costumes. TONY PERKIS emerges from the shadows dressed in black. He looks pretty frightening.

TONY

Good evening. When they told me about your Midnight Campfirefest tradition at first I said, okay, no more of that. It's a silly ritual that serves no purpose. Then it hit me. I could make this ritual serve a purpose. Our purpose. This summer you are machines. And food is the fuel. You will only eat to run the machine. Each of you will be given weight loss goals. I have insured your parents that those goals will be met.

ANGLE ON

TIM and PAT run up to the group. PAT is dressed in a skeleton costume, TIM is wearing a dress with a mop as a wig.

PAT

(out of breath)

I've been waiting all year to wear this thing.

He realizes that nobody is wearing a costume.

PAT

Why isn't anyone dressed up?

CONTINUED:

TIM turns red with embarrassment.

TIM
You are such an idiot.

PAT
I'm sorry...I thought.

TIM
Just get away from me.

TIM walks away. He throws off his mop wig.

ANGLE ON TONY

He paces in front, really working himself up. KENNY the cameraman captures this moment.

TONY
Now we are going to start by making a sacrifice. Tonight we are going to burn all of the illegal candy which you have snuck into camp. Then like skinny Phoenixes you will rise anew from those very ashes.

PERKIS dumps a box of Junk food onto the fire. The KIDS react.

TONY
Who will be first?

No one moves. JOSH stands tough. GERRY looks like he is going to crack.

JOSH
(under his breath)
No way. Don't move, Gerry.

TONY
If you do not put it on the fire voluntarily, I assure you I will find it. Then you will be known as a cheater. I'll know it, you'll know it and worst of all, your parents who paid a lot of money for you to be here will know it too.

GERRY sweats it. Several KIDS walk up to the fire, take candy out of their pockets and put it on the fire.

CONTINUED:

TONY

Is that it? That can't be it. That's all right. I'll find it. Then we'll all rejoice as we make that commitment to the new Camp Hope. You're dismissed.

PAT

What about Midnight CampfireFest?

PERKIS wheels on the protesting PAT.

TONY

You just had it.

CUT TO:

INT. CHIPMUNK BUNK - NIGHT

TONY, LARS, and a counselor in training named DAWSON are searching the bunk. TONY has a German Shepard at his side which sniffs around the bunk for candy. They open a trunk and confiscate several boxes of Oreos and Hostess cakes.

ROY

Nooooo!

TONY

I do not enjoy this part of the job. But it is vital to our success that we remove all temptations from your lives. Soon, you'll thank me. Now give me a hug.

ROY reluctantly walks over and hugs TONY.

TONY

I'm here for you.

As they hug, TONY begins frisking ROY. He turns him around, and frisks him from behind. He pulls up ROY'S pants leg, and finds a candy bar in his sock. He walks over to JOSH.

TONY

You seem very grown up for a young boy. What's that in your pants?

He looks at JOSH'S CROTCH. He has a huge bulge.

JOSH

You better watch what you say or I'll call the cops.

CONTINUED:

TONY

Take it out. (BEAT) I said take it out!!!

JOSH pulls a Three Musketeers Bar out of his pants. He hands it to TONY.

TONY

Don't fight me. You'll lose.

TONY walks through the bunk checking closets, trunks, pockets of clothing. He turns up a few things. He walks past the side wall safe.

TONY

There will be surprise checks periodically, and by periodically I mean every day.

JOSH'S face tightens. TONY is awful close. He's about to walk past when DAWSON, a CIT turned snitch goes to the wall.

DAWSON

Tony, sir. I was a chipmunk last year.

DAWSON hits the wall in the right spot, the secret door opens. PERKIS smiles and cleans it out. JOSH mutters to DAWSON.

JOSH

Traitor.

TONY

Who would like to hone up to this treasure trove? Come on now. Who's wonderful candies are these?

No one steps forward. TONY nods, moves to GERRY.

TONY

You're new. Gerry Garner, 138 Lookout Lane, Chappaqua New York. I know you didn't have anything to do with this. But I bet you know who did?

GERRY

Um...I really...no.

TONY

Anyone who brings candy onto this camp is not a friend. He is a destroyer. Do you hear me Gerry Garner?

CONTINUED:

GERRY might crack. ROY speaks up, softly, honestly.

ROY
I'll tell you whose candy it is, Uncle Tony?

TONY
Tell me.

ROY
It belongs to...Peter Fitz.

TONY
Who's Peter Fitz?

ROY
Anybody's Peter Fitz if you push hard enough!

All the KIDS bust out laughing. They can't believe Roy's nerve.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDE OF THE CABIN - NIGHT

ROY'S face is contorted in pain as he attempts to do sit ups. DAWSON, LARS and TONY stand over him. Other campers lean out windows and doors to watch.

TONY
You can not do one real sit-up. How does that make you feel?

ROY
I'm all busted up. You got the candy, now let me go back to my bunk.

TONY
Sorry, Roy. You've picked the wrong man to mouth off to.

ROY looks concerned.

EXT. BUNK - NIGHT

Tim stands on the deck of his bunk, in thought. He looks out at something we can't see. He nods, looks down at the wood railing, then pulls out a small sliver of wood, holds it up to his forefinger, takes a deep breath and plunges it in. He gives a soft yelp, then looks to see the splinter lodged at a right angle sticking out of his finger. He nods with satisfaction as he moves off his porch.

INT. NURSES INFIRMARY - NIGHT

JULIE unpacking and organizing her medical stuff. She is a little frazzled, trying to set up. She talks to herself a little.

JOSH

Cough syrup?...Should go under upper respiratory, yes.

Now, she carefully but quickly puts a shipment of tongue depressors into a jar. TIM knocks.

TIM

You still open?

Startled. She drops a few tongue depressors on the floor.

JULIE

Damn. I guess those aren't sterile anymore.

TIM

You should just use popsicle sticks.

JULIE

This is a camp for overweight children. I doubt there'll be popsicles here.

TIM

I was just joking.

JULIE

I know, of course. I'm sorry. Come in. I'm Julie Meadows the new nurse.

TIM

Tim Krieger, athletic director.

JULIE

Is there something I can help you with.

TIM holds up his finger to display the splinter. She stares.

TIM

I feel real stupid, but I've got a splinter in my finger and I didn't have a match or a needle...It's a pretty bad one, deep. Can you help me?

JULIE takes his hand, holds it under the porch light. She knows something isn't above the board.

CONTINUED:

JULIE

Ouch. That looks painful.

TIM

It is. I've just got to remember not to drag my hand along those wood railings.

TIM gives her his best look. She knows it's a come on now.

JULIE

(suspiciously)

Yeah.

TIM

So, where are you from?

JULIE

Shhh. Hold on a second.

She takes his finger in one hand, and grabs the protruding end of the splinter with her other hand.

JULIE

Best thing to do in a case like this is large circular movement, opening up the wound to make extraction easier.

TIM winces. That kind of hurts.

TIM

Oww. Can't you just pull out?

JULIE

Hey, who's the nurse here?

TIM

Yowww. Now, that hurt.

JULIE

Well Tim, what do you expect? You have a grade D puncture here.

She continues to work the splinter around, much to TIM'S displeasure.

TIM

D? Is that bad.

JULIE

I've seen worse. Once in nursing school, I treated a guy who sliced the end of his finger open on a soda can. It turned out it was self inflicted. He

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

JULIE (cont'd)
was just looking for an excuse to meet
me so he could ask me out.

TIM
Did it work?

JULIE
Please. How pathetic can you get? Only
a guy who's really hard up would resort
to self mutilation to meet a girl.

She twists the splinter hard. He yelps.

TIM
Pain...so much pain.

JULIE
You know what? I think I actually pushed
it in deeper. I'll have to enlarge the
laceration. Excuse me. I'm going to need
a scalpel. I'll be right back.

She exits. When she returns TIM is gone. She expected as
much.

CUT TO:

INT. BUNK - NEXT MORNING

Everyone is sleeping. The sound of a bad recording of
Revelie is heard. Josh looks at his alarm clock. It reads
6:00 A.M.

JOSH
This is bullshit.

He gets out of bed and stops short. He sees ROY'S mattress
is folded over and his space cleaned out. GERRY wakes up
and joins him sleepy eyed. They stare. It's creepy.

GERRY
Oh, God. What happened to Roy?

JOSH
I don't know. This has never happened
before.

They all look scared now. This PERKIS guy means business.

CUT TO:

EXT. CENTER OF CAMP - LATER

The entire camp is standing in perfectly even rows. Tony Perkis stands at the front, wearing bizarre work out tights/sweats. TIM stands next to him.

TONY

Okay everyone. I wouldn't ask you to do anything I wouldn't do. So...let's start with light stretching and calisthenics. Everyone start by rolling your heads, all the way around. Tim will correct your form. Good form is very important.

Everyone in the camp rolls their heads. TIM walks around and helps several kids do this exercise correctly.

TONY

Now spread your legs, and touch the ground with your fingers. See if you can do it so your palm touches the ground.

None of the kids get beyond their knees.

JOSH

He seems especially good at this one. I wonder why that is?

They all laugh.

TONY

No laughing!! This isn't the time for laughing, this is the time for working out. Our director of athletics, Tim, will show you the the proper form.

TIM

I think they've already got it from you.

TONY moves close to TIM.

TONY

I'm paying you to be an physical role model for these children. Please do your job.

TIM consents and does the palm press to the floor. THE KIDS hoot and holler things like: "What good form." "Firm glutious maximus."

CONTINUED:

TONY

Okay, warm ups complete. Now its time to push the limits of your aerobic abilities. Hit it!

MUSIC UP: "YOU'VE GOT TO BE STARTING SOMETHING" BY MICHAEL JACKSON.

TONY begins doing aerobics at a super advanced rate. TIM reluctantly joins him.

TONY

I don't want to see anyone dogging it. Just follow my lead. And knees up, and up, and up. Let's keep high stepping it, then legs apart, and back, and apart, and back.

All of the kids are instantly exhausted. They are dropping like flies. TIM bounces over to PAT.

PAT

I'm going to die. I'm going to die.

TIM

Don't worry. Pretty soon this won't even tire you out.

PAT starts to hyperventilate.

PAT

When exactly will that happen?

ANGLE ON JOSH, ROY, AND GERRY.

They are trying their best to keep up.

GERRY

Did the Bushkins make everyone do this?

JOSH

No. They thought Jack LaLane was cutting edge.

ANGLE ON TONY

TONY

Come on people. It's not so much fun being fat now is it? Just push it. And push it. The fat you hates me, but the skinny you is saying, "I love you," and "look out 'cause here I come."

CUT TO:

INT. EXAMINING ROOM

A DOZEN CAMPERS are in line waiting to be weighed. LARS does the weighing. JULIE observes. GERRY is on the scale. It says 101 pounds.

LARS
(annoyed)
Gerry.

Gerry takes his right foot off the floor, and puts it on the scale. The scale tilts to 139 pounds. Gerry steps off looking embarrassed. MICHAEL SIMMS steps on. The machine tilts. LARS adds weight. No movement. He slides the weight further. No movement. SIMMS kind of shrugs. LARS slides the largest weight to the farthest point. Still no movement. LARS disappears for a moment, returns with a scale weight which he has to hang on the slide bar. Finally the bar tips towards center. The KIDS, led by JOSH give him a healthy round of applause. SIMMS is the fattest man in camp. He smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. RECREATION ROOM

GERRY, JOSH, PHILIP, NICHOLAS and several other kids are standing in a room waiting to have their pictures taken. They are all wearing nothing but shorts.

JOSH
Anybody seen Roy?

NICHOLAS
I've heard they kicked him out, no refund.

PHILIP
I heard he freaked out and pulled a knife on that traitor Dawson, and now they've got him locked up at a juvenile detention center.

LARS
Gerry Garner.

GERRY walks in front of a photographer's backdrop.

LARS
OK, face forward. One, two...

LARS smiles half-heartedly.

CONTINUED:

LARS

NO! Don't smile. You are fat and you are unhappy. When we take the skinny picture you can smile.

GERRY makes a very sad face. LARS snaps the shot.

LARS

Stop sucking in your gut.

GERRY

I'm not.

DAWSON walks up to GERRY and pokes him in the stomach with a pointer. GERRY lets out his breath, and his gut sticks out. LARS snaps the photo.

LARS

Perfect. Face forward.

GERRY makes a sad face. LARS snaps the shot.

LARS

Perfect. Next.

JOSH walks in front of the backdrop. He turns to the left and makes a male model pose. LARS snaps the picture. Then he turns to face the camera.

LARS

One. Two. Three.

On the count of three, JOSH grins from ear to ear and gives 'the finger' with both hands. The action freezes as a photograph.

CUT TO:

INT. RECREATIONAL CENTER - MOMENTS LATER

JOSH (O.S.)

(half crying)

My legs are on fire!

JOSH is sitting up against the wall as if there is a chair there, but there isn't. He looks like he's in an enormous amount of pain from this exercise. GERRY stands there looking concerned. LARS watches from a distance.

JOSH

It burns, it burns!

CONTINUED:

GERRY

Just hang in there. Only nineteen minutes to go.

JOSH whimpers.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE SIDE - LATER

Close up on NICHOLAS' wide smile.

NICHOLAS

Watch out for Sunami Sam!

Widen out to see NICHOLAS leap off the dock face first into the lake. He belly flops with an enormous splash, and a cry of pain.

ON THE DECK

TIM side-steps the splash, continues jotting down notes on a clipboard. In the water the kids frolic, doing cannonballs, splashing away.

ON THE LAKE

A speedboat with the letters MVP on the side, roars by the dock, pulling an MVP camper. The camper jumps the wake and yells over.

MVP GUY

Oh no, Water Buffaloes!

The KIDS pay little attention. TIM yells back.

TIM

Keep that God damn thing away from my docks!

The boat disappears. TIM looks over to see: JULIE, in a one piece, a book in her hand heading for a lounge chair at the end of the dock. TIM thinks.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOCK - MOMENTS LATER

TIM waddles over, a life preserver trapped between his legs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TIM

Help me, help me. I was just playing around when it got lodged in there. There must be something you can do.

JULIE

Very funny. Do you have any self-respect at all?

TIM

Not when it comes to hitting on really hot women, no.

JULIE

And what kind of woman responds to an approach like this?

TIM

You'd be surprised. You know, junior college educated, teeth a little crooked, likes to drink...

Several KIDS do synchronized cannonballs off the docks.

JULIE

Is this safe letting them horse around so much?

TIM

Don't worry. I've got them on the Buddy system, watch?

(blows the whistle)

Buddy!

THE KIDS stop, find there BUDDY and hold up there hands.

ALL

BUDDY!

TIM blows the whistle they go back to goofing off.

TIM

Pretty cool, huh?

JULIE

Very impressive. You're obviously a very powerful man.

He blows it again. The kids buddy up. TIM smiles.

CONTINUED:

ALL

BUDDY!

TIM

I get a kick out of that every time.

JULIE

I can see they respect the hell out of you. See ya later, Tim.

She leaves TIM who continues to make them buddy and unbuddy at will.

EXT. DOCK HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

She heads for the lounge chair. Off to the side she hears a grunt coming from a small boat house. She leans over to see PAT unhappily painting over graffiti which says, "CAMP HOPELESS" "CAMP NO HOPE" "WHALE WATCH TOURS - LEAVING EVERY HALF HOUR." JULIE is normal around PAT. She has an instant affection for him.

JULIE

Hi, Pat. What happened here?

PAT

Those Camp MVP jerks. At night they sneak over by boat and deface our property. Camp Hopeless. Very witty. I wonder how long it took them to come up with that one?

JULIE

Little pricks. You ever get them back?

PAT

No. Nothing good would come of that.

JULIE

I respect that, Pat. You won't stoop to their level.

PAT

That, and once I flipped them off, they gave me so many noogies I needed a cat-scan.

JULIE laughs. PAT smiles, goes back to painting. She picks up a brush and starts to help.

CONTINUED:

PAT

Up and down. Not side to side. I've done this a lot.

Together they paint out the words.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING HALL

JEAN-JEAN serves a piece of pita bread, a sad looking apple and a scoop of mystery food/compost onto the KIDS' plates.

GERRY

What is that? I don't even know what the hell that is?

JOSH

You've got me El Capitan. Jean, what is...?

JEAN-JEAN grunts and waves for JOSH to move on.

GERRY

Do you recommend the house red or a dry Chablis with this?

JEAN-JEAN grumbles angrily in french. JOSH scoffs.

JOSH

Dickhead.

JEAN-JEAN lunges at JOSH who ducks and scrambles away.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP - LATER

PAT is standing inside a garbage dumpster looking for something. JOSH and GERRY walk by.

GERRY

Hey Pat, what's up?

PAT

One of the kids, actually several kids, threw out their retainers by accident at breakfast. Tony asked me to find them.

JOSH

They got you on all the shit details man. You're getting screwed.

CONTINUED:

PAT

(sarcastic)

Oh, thanks for the update, I wouldn't have known that if you didn't tell me. Am I getting screwed? I'm standing in two feet of half eaten tuna fish. Are you sure I'm getting screwed?!

The kids move away from PAT.

PAT

Sorry I snapped. I'll catch you later.

He looks down, his eyes light. He snatches up a gooey retainer in sad triumph.

PAT

Got you, you slippery devil. One down, two to go.

CUT TO:

INT. NURSE'S OFFICE

JOSH, GERRY, NICHOLAS, PHILIP and several other children stand in a line. They are all wearing nothing but underwear.

PHILIP

Get ready to turn left and cough.

GERRY

What are you talking about?

PHILIP

This is the part where the nurse examines your testicles.

GERRY

Get out of here...why? What're they checking for?

JOSH

I think they're counting.

(mimes exam)

One, two. Okay you pass.

GERRY

My doctor does this. It will be fine.

JOSH

Unless you get a boner.

CONTINUED:

GERRY

I'm not going to get a boner.

NICHOLAS

You very well might. It's very common.

GERRY

Shut up.

The nurse enters. It's the beautiful JULIE MEADOWS.

GERRY

Oh no.

JOSH

How are you holding up?

GERRY

Fine.

She moves down the line asking each person to turn left and cough.

JOSH

That's good. I'm sure you'll be okay.
Nick, did you see that movie "Basic
Instinct?"

GERRY

Shut up guys. Don't be jerks.

NICHOLAS

Spectacular film. But you know what was
even better? Madonna in that "Body Of
Evidence" movie.

JOSH

The scene with the candles.

GERRY

I hate you guys.

(to himself)

Nuns. Dead people. Cemeteries. The
'Murder She Wrote' lady.

JOSH

Cindy Crawford. Elle McPherson. The
girl with the big jugs from the
"Guess?" ads.

CONTINUED:

GERRY

My grandmother. My other grandmother
who's dead. Roseanne Arnold. Tom
Arnold. Roseanne and Tom having sex.

JOSH

Sharon Stone. Michelle Pfeiffer.
Claudia Schiffer...

JOSH looks down at himself, and realizes he has excited
himself.

JOSH

Uh-oh.

JOSH runs out of the room. GERRY, PHILIP and NICHOLAS
laugh.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - AFTERNOON

Dirty and beleaguered the kids head towards the showers
after a day of horrible activities.

GERRY

Anybody know what's for dinner?

ALL

Soy vegetable patty, a spoonful of salt-
free cottage cheese, and a pear.

GERRY

(distracted)

Oh no. I need real food, Josh. I need
real food.

PAT

Of course you do. We all do.

They turn to see PAT wearing latex gloves, and carrying a
bucket of round blue urinal cakes. He deposits a fresh one
in each urinal as he speaks.

GERRY

Hey Pat.

PHILIP

I always wondered who did that?

CONTINUED:

PAT

Well it's not the Urinal Fairy.

PHILIP

We're about to take showers, so maybe the Tidy Bowl Man should get back in his boat now.

GERRY

Shut up Philip.

PHILIP

You shut up.

GERRY

I'll kick your ass...

They move to fight, PAT steps in and is easily able to keep them apart with his urine soaked gloves. Everyone backs away.

PAT

Listen, we're very hungry, and I think it's putting us a little on edge. We have to stick together.

GERRY

Pat's right. You hear about Roy?

PAT

No? What?

JOSH

We heard his Mom and Dad flew up to get him and he flipped out so they put him in a mental hospital.

PHILIP

I heard they've got him up in the big house, and he's on a hunger strike, and if he doesn't eat soon he's going to get brain damage.

PAT

Noooo.

GERRY

I'm just telling you what we heard.

They all look at each other. This is serious.

CUT TO:

EXT. BUNK - 2:00 A.M.

JOSH, GERRY, and ROY are on their stomachs underneath the bunk. They are digging with their hands.

GERRY

If we get caught we're dead.

JOSH

Relax you wussy, we're not going to get caught.

ROY

I've got it.

The three frantically dig. They pull an Igloo cooler out of the hole.

JOSH

I hid this here at the end of last summer for just such an occasion.

GERRY

This stuff is a year old. It's going to be all spoiled by now.

JOSH

A Hostess Twinkie will not spoil till the year 1998. Some of this stuff would be good after the apocalypse.

They take the cover off. It is filled with goodies. Suddenly someone shines a flashlight on them.

LARS

What are you doing?

JOSH

Nothing. Just goofing around.

LARS

Bring the candy to me.

GERRY

Damn!

CUT TO:

EXT. BASEBALL DIAMOND - DAY

Tony is speaking to Tim.

CONTINUED:

TONY

I want you to get the children ready for
Camp MVP.

TIM

I don't think that's a good idea.

TONY

Thank you Tim. Thank you for telling me
how to run my camp, that I bought.

TIM

I'm just saying our kids aren't very
athletic.

TONY

We're not going to teach them about
sports, we're going to teach them about
life.

CUT TO:

EXT. BASEBALL DIAMOND - MOMENTS LATER

TIM

Positions. Who wants to play first base?

All of the kids are silent.

TIM (CONT.)

Pitcher?

(silence)

Shortstop?

(more silence)

How about right field?

All of the kids raise their hands frantically.

EVERYONE

Me. Me. Pick me. Let me. I play
right field all the time.

TIM

Everyone can't play right. Philip let me
see your mitt.

PHILIP

Be careful with that. That's my dad's
mitt.

TIM looks at the mitt. It is a very thin old mitt, the type
that was used in the earliest days of baseball.

CONTINUED:

TIM
Jesus Philip, how old is your dad?
(joking)
Seventy?

PHILIP
He's eighty two.

TIM
Oh. Sorry.

Suddenly the beautiful new bus we saw driven by the sports camp at the airport pulls up. Incredibly fit, muscle bound kids begin to get off the bus. They are dressed in the best sports uniforms available. The kids from Camp Hope look scared to death.

GERRY
What are they doing here?

TIM
We are going to have intramurals with
Camp MVP.
(lying badly)
It'll be fun.

EXT. - BUS

The MVP goons de-bus with bad intentions. CHRIS MILLER moves to TIM. They shake.

CHRIS
Chris Miller, Camp MVP.

TIM
Tim Krieger Camp Hope. Welcome.

CHRIS
You got your boys all ready?

TIM
Yeah, listen, Chris. Maybe you want to go a little easy, know what I mean?

CHRIS
No, Tim. I'm afraid I don't. MVP Campers are trained to compete at their highest level at all times.

CUT TO:

A SOFTBALL GAME - IN PROGRESS (MONTAGE)

-JOSH pitches one across the plate and WHACK a CAMP MUPER hits one out to NICHOLAS in CENTER FIELD. He loses the ball in the sun and runs away in fear at the last moment.

-WHACK the ball rockets to GERRY at third base. He dives out of the way. CAMP MVP KIDS laugh.

TIM

You're supposed to get in front of it,
Gerry. Come on.

-WHACK...Another ball heads to GERRY. It hits him hard in the arm.

-Another ground ball takes a bad hop right into his groin. He goes down hard.

TIM

Bad hop. Nothing you can do about that.

IN THE DUGOUT - A KID PULLS ON TIM'S SLEEVE

KID

I got a doctor's note. I don't have to play.

TIM

Okay...I guess you're excused.

KID #2

I have asthma. I'm going to the nurse.

TIM looks at these fakers. KID #3 comes up coughing pointing to his throat.

KID #3

(horse)

Bad...cough, much sickness.

TIM

Okay, okay...

EXT. DIAMOND

High angle shot. POP fly in the infield. FOUR CAMP HOPERS go for it. TIM closes his eyes. We hear the sound of four kids crashing hard, then the single thud of the ball hitting the ground.

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INT. NURSES OFFICE

Four KIDS sit on the bench, JULIE tends to their wounds, scraps and bruises.

QUICK CUTS - OTHER SPORTS

-During a game of volleyball a camp MVPER spikes a volleyball, hitting NICK in the shoulder.

-During a game of dodge ball (murder ball) a CAMP MVPER throws the ball with incredible speed, hitting a fleeing PHILIP in the back of the head.

-During a game of tennis a CAMP MVPER hits an overhead smash into JOSH'S stomach.

-During a game of basketball a camper from the sports camp dunks a basketball, hitting GERRY on the top of the head, leaving him dizzy.

CUT TO:

INT. NURSE'S OFFICE

Filled to near capacity. JULIE runs around like a MASH nurse frantically trying to attend to the throngs of ailing kids. GERRY sits with an ice pack on his head.

CUT TO:

INT. BUNK - NIGHT

Everyone is lying around the bunk, devastated by their humiliating afternoon.

JOSH

That was bullshit sending those guys in here to trounce on us like that.

PHILIP

I went two for four in baseball.

JOSH

Shut up. You got hit by the ball twice.

PHILIP

You struck out four times.
Statistically I had a better game than you.

CONTINUED:

GERRY
I am so hungry.

JOSH
Don't start with that, you'll get me
crazy.

GERRY
I can't help it. I've never been this
hungry. I think I'm going to freak out.

The door opens. The kids look up to see ROY enter slowly.

ALL
ROY! Roy's back. Yeah!

Something is wrong with ROY, he doesn't respond. He shuffles
over to his empty bunk with his head down.

JOSH
Roy, what's wrong. What'd they do to you?

GERRY
Were you in jail, the nut house?

ROY is almost catatonic. He walks over to his bed, and
unrolls the mattress.

GERRY
Roy look at me. It's me, Gerry.
Roy touches Gerry's face like a blind man.

JOSH
(nervous now)
Talk to us. Where were you? What
happened?

ROY looks up with a sleepy, far away look.

ROY
Roy...was...bad.

JOSH
Oh Jesus.

ROY
Roy...now...good.

GERRY
Good? What do you mean?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROY
I mean...must be...
(normally)
good to be seeing my fat black ass again!

ROY smiles. He was goofing on them. They all cheer and laugh.

JOSH
Alright Roy! What really happened man?

ROY
They sent me home without a refund. My
Dad's a lawyer, he called Perkis and
said he'd sue. Perkis caved like the
Buffalo Bills in a Super Bowl.

High fives all around.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - NEXT DAY AT NOON

GERRY, JOSH and ROY in line.

GERRY
(desperately)
What was it like on the outside?

ROY
Unbelievable man, I went to the Sizzler
and got the all you can eat meal. I
stayed for six hours. Then I went to
Baskin Robbins and had seventeen of
their Thirtywonderful flavors.

GERRY
Why'd you come back man?

ROY
I missed you guys.

They share a brief heartfelt moment?

GERRY
You're an idiot. I never would have
come back.

GERRY moves ahead, ROY moves to JOSH.

ROY
How's the Captain holding up? He
doesn't seem too good.

CONTINUED:

JOSH

He's having some trouble. He'll ride it out.

JEAN-JEAN scoops a very small portion of "food" onto GERRY'S plate. GERRY'S face contorts.

GERRY

That's all. That's all I get. I don't even like that shit and that's all I get!

JEAN-JEAN

(FRENCH MUTTERINGS) Shut up! Eat!

GERRY leans over grabs the startled JEAN -JEAN by the apron and pulls him close.

GERRY

Shut up, eat, shut up, eat. You shut up or I'll eat you! You hear me?

JEAN-JEAN sees the loco look in GERRY'S eye and nods. GERRY releases him, puts his hand in the serving tray grabs a handful of goop puts it on his tray and moves off.

DINING TABLE

TIM sits down across from JULIE.

TIM

I'm going in to town for a real dinner tonight, care to join me?

JULIE

No thank you, Tim.

TIM

Have I been dipped in shit and no one told me about it?

JULIE

My that's a pleasant expression. You really do know how to sweet talk the ladies.

PAT sits down next to them. JULIE brightens.

JULIE

Pat, hi. How are you?

CONTINUED:

PAT

Things are going down the tubes in the camp. And as a twelve year veteran, I feel it is my duty to retain the proper traditions.

TIM

Like what, that nobody ever loses weight?

JULIE gives him a stern look. He shuts up.

PAT

No, that overweight children get to have a fun summer in a stress free atmosphere.

TIM

I don't think there's anything wrong with a little exercise, and discipline. A little tough love won't kill them, right Nurse Meadows?

JULIE

Actually, I'm a little concerned about the kids too.

TIM

Well, of course I'm concerned, but I...

JULIE

Sub-par meals and humiliation aren't the answers to these kids' problems.

PAT

That is so true Julie.

TIM

I think Perkis has a plan though.

JULIE

I don't. He's an imbecile.

TIM

Not a major thinker I agree, but...

PAT

Julie, will you help me write a letter outlining our grievances.

JULIE

Pat, I'd be glad to. Let's go into town and have dinner tonight. We can work on it there.

CONTINUED:

PAT nods. TIM can't believe this.

GERRY, JOSH AND ROY

GERRY sits between JOSH and ROY who keep an eye on him. Two buddies. GERRY eats, muttering between bites.

ROY

It's better if you chew slower. It lasts longer.

JOSH

Drink lots of water...it can be filling...

GERRY can't take it anymore. He pushes his tray away, moves to his feet.

GERRY

Thanks guys, but that's it. I'm out! I can't live like this anymore. My father didn't pay four grand for me to be starved to death. He's probably not feeding us decent food so he can make more money. I'm calling my Dad and I'm getting out of here.

Gerry gets up, and storms out.

JOSH

He's gonna catch a beating.

ROY

Definitely.

CUT TO:

INT. TONY PERKIS' OUTER OFFICE

GERRY enters. He walks up to the secretary.

GERRY

I want to talk to Uncle Tony right now.

SECRETARY

I'm afraid he's busy...

TONY comes out of his office.

TONY

What's going on here?

CONTINUED:

GERRY

I want to call my father. I hate this place, and I want to go home.

TONY

Fine. If that's how you feel I'll get him on the phone for you. We do not want anyone here to be unhappy.

GERRY

Good.

TONY

Wait here, I'll get him on the phone for you.

TONY exits, and heads into his office. GERRY sits down awkwardly. He expected a bigger fight.

CUT TO:

INT. TONY PERKIS' OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

TONY is on the phone. He has a big smile on his face.

TONY

Yes Mr. Garner. We've been having some problems with Gerry. He has refused to even give the program a decent try, and you know what, he's already lost weight. I think he's just having a little trouble adjusting to a healthier lifestyle. It's similar to the feelings you have when you first quit smoking.

MR. GARNER (V.O.)

(laughing)

I know that feeling. Put him on, I'll speak to him.

TONY

Great.

TONY opens his door.

TONY

Gerry would you come in here? Your father would like to speak to you.

GERRY enters and takes the phone from TONY confidently..

CONTINUED:

GERRY

Hi Dad. I think you should know...

MR. GARNER

You shut your mouth. I paid a lot of money for you to be there, and I expect you to get something out of it. I do not want to hear from the head of the camp every time you get hungry.

GERRY

Dad, you don't understand what's going on here. They don't even have go-carts!

MR. GARNER (V.O.)

I don't want to hear about go-carts! You are staying for the entire summer, so get used to it. I love you. Bye.

He hangs up. GERRY looks stunned. After a beat, he puts down the phone.

TONY

So what did he say? Is he coming to get you?

GERRY walks out of the room.

TONY

Is that a no?

TONY chuckles.

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

Close on GERRY. He screams out.

GERRY

"No! No! These are my flock, my brood!...From my loins they have sprung and I will not concede..."

We widen out to reveal the KIDS are in rehearsal for the camp play. LARS has them doing Brecht's "Mother Courage." LARS interrupts, leaping to the stage.

LARS

No! Josh, children..You must feel that Gerry is your Mother and they have come for her. Be there in that pain. Gerry, your character represents the sole of Germany in the early 20's. Act it.

CONTINUED:

JOSH

Usually we do a musical for parents day.
Music Man, Oklahoma. That sort a thing.

LARS

I do not know those plays. Now please,
let's try it again.

They reset unhappily to go again.

CUT TO:

INT. BUNK - NIGHT

Stomachs growl. Kids moan in their sleep. GERRY stares out
at the moon. He hears a crinkling familiar sound. He
blinks. No. There it is again.

GERRY

Candy wrapper!

All the kids are instantly awake, alert.

EVERYONE

Where? Where?

GERRY, JOSH and ROY find PHILIP huddled in a corner trying
to hide his stash.

JOSH

Where'd you get that?

PHILIP

I just had it.

GERRY

No you didn't. They took everything.

PHILIP

It was hidden.

ROY

This guy thinks we're stupid.

GERRY

Tell us how you got it. Tell us, or
this is going to get ugly. I don't know
what I'm capable of doing right now.

JOSH

Did you see the movie 'Alive'?

CONTINUED:

They close in on him, threateningly.

PHILIP

Alright, alright, but you have to keep it a secret.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP WOODS - NIGHT

GERRY, ROY, JOSH and PHILIP are sneaking through the woods towards the edge of camp.

GERRY

How'd you find this guy?

PHILIP

That's not important. What's important is you can pay. This guy costs.

GERRY

Money is no object.

They reach the fence. The fence is solid, they can not see who is on the other side. PHILIP knocks three times on the fence. Someone on the other side of the fence knocks three times.

VOICE (O.S.)

May I take your order?

GERRY

What do you got?

VOICE (O.S.)

What do you need?

GERRY

McDonald's.

VOICE (O.S.)

That shouldn't be a problem.

GERRY

Thank you lord. I want a Big Mac large fries, and a vanilla shake.

VOICE (O.S.)

That's five bucks for the fries. Seven fifty for the shake, and Ten for the Big Mac.

CONTINUED:

GERRY

What are you crazy?

VOICE (O.S.)

I'm risking my job here, and I've got plenty of customers willing to pay. Goodnight.

GERRY

No!

The others quiet him.

GERRY (CONT.)

No, don't leave. I'll pay it.

He shoves money through the fence.

VOICE (O.S.)

Wise man. What else?

JOSH

KFC. Family bucket. Extra crispy.

VOICE

There isn't one in town. I'd have to drive twenty miles for that.

JOSH

Just do it. Here's a little something for gas.

He puts money through the fence.

ROY

Are you carrying?

VOICE (O.S.)

Yeah. Snickers Bars. Five bucks each.

ROY

I'm a little short. Can you give us a sample? Come on, just a little taste.

VOICE (O.S.)

Alright. Geez, I'm getting soft.

A few mini Snickers bars come flying over the fence. They scramble to pick them up, then gobble them down like junkies.

CONTINUED:

VOICE (O.S.)
See you tomorrow night.

GERRY
Be careful. We need you.

He is gone. GERRY calls softly after him.

GERRY
Vaya con dios, my friend.

The camera goes to the other side of the fence and reveals the voice is that of TIM KRIEGER. Dressed in black, he walks into the woods, disappearing.

SLOW DISSOLVE TO:

INT. WEIGHING ROOM, NURSES OFFICE - TWO WEEKS LATER

The campers are gathered around a standing scale. TONY stands next to the scale. TIM and PAT watches from the side of the room. KENNY, THE VIDEO guy films this. PERKIS plays for the camera. JULIE is standing by with a clipboard recording the numbers.

TONY
We are almost half-way through the summer. Now let's see what the Tony Perkis regimen means in pure poundage. This is the moment that makes it worth while. Michael Simms, step right up.
(Simms mounts the scale)
You've lost nine pounds. Excellent. You've exceeded your weight goal by a pound. Congratulations.

PHILIP
He lost that in blood.

SIMMS turns, a small trickle of blood starts to flow from his nose. JULIE gives him a kleenex. ROY is pushed forward.

TONY
Roy Gaines. Step up, son.

Roy gets on the scale. TONY moves the weights. He looks unhappy as he has to add weight to make the scales balance. He consults JULIE'S clipboard.

TONY
You are the same exact weight as the day you arrived. How could that be? You're not working hard enough. I'll fix that. Josh Tyler.

CONTINUED:

JOSH gets on the scale. TONY has to add a lot of weight to make the scales balance. TONY looks sick.

TONY
You've gained six pounds. Gained six pounds. Are you cheating?

JOSH
No. I swear.

TONY
Shut that video off.

He pushes the VIDEO GUY back and launches a tirade.

TONY
(raging)
You want to die, young man? You want to stay fat, never get a decent woman, never be accepted, and die having never seen your God damn feet?!

(JOSH is a little scared.
PERKIS wheels on the rest)
My plan does not allow for cheaters! How can I do an infomercial with cheaters? Who will buy a video about little fat kids who can't keep their piggy little snouts closed for one fucking minute! Gerry Garner, get on the scale.

GERRY gets on the scale. TONY immediately sees that GERRY has gained even more weight than JOSH.

TONY
Get off the scale!

GERRY jumps off the scale.

TONY
There is illegal food coming into this camp, and I will not stand for it! I will find out who is doing this! Until I do I will be cutting rations. You obviously don't need food from me!

TONY turns to leave, then catches himself.

TONY
Oh, one more thing. Tomorrow evening we are having an inter-camp dance with Camp Magnolia. Enjoy!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

All the kids moan. TONY exits.

TIM
(to PAT)
What's so bad about a dance?

PAT
Camp Magnolia's the hot chick camp.
It's always a nightmare for these kids.

TIM
Oh.

CUT TO:

EXT. MEETING ROOM - SHORTLY LATER

TONY is holding a staff meeting. All the counselors sit around a large table. It's like Hitler's Bunker.

TONY
The kids have someone on the outside.
Tim I want you to lead the charge on
finding this scoundrel. Get close to the
kids, gain their trust. Ms. Meadows,
please present me with an average weight
gain/loss graph on a per cabin basis. I
need to isolate the problem
geographically.

JULIE
I haven't done a graph since high-school.

TONY
Ms. Meadows. If you are not part of the
solution you are part of the problem.
Next order of business, tomorrow's dance.

TIM decides to make a small stand.

TIM
Tony, sir. Why are we having this dance
when we all know it's going to be a
disaster? Can't we just spare the kids
the pain?

TONY
Of course not. That pain is healthy.

CONTINUED:

PAT

I don't think that's true. You're just going to make them feel bad, and then they're going to want to eat more.

TONY

What do you know about all this? Look at you. You're one of them. Oh I better listen to the fat man. He knows how to lose weight.

(yelling to room)

Everyone, come back, be quiet, the fat man is speaking.

PAT

I'm just saying, maybe we should...

TONY

I don't care what you have to say. The only reason you're even working here is because you came with the camp when I bought it. Fat people shouldn't feel good about themselves. It will be easier to mold their minds once we've broken their spirits.

PERKIS has clearly snapped. PAT, TIM and JULIE look at each other.

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

MUSIC:HAMMER "YOU CAN'T TOUCH THIS"

The auditorium is redressed to act as a dance hall. A group of girls from Camp Magnolia stands on one side of the auditorium. The campers from Camp Hope stand as far away as they can get without leaving the auditorium.

GERRY JOSH & ROY are very unhappy.

GERRY

Let's just get the hell out of here.

ROY

Can't. Perkis locked us in.

JOSH

We have to stay the full two hours.

CONTINUED:

GERRY

Oh man.

ACROSS THE ROOM

Several GIRLS are talking.

BETH

How much of this are they going to
subject us to before we can leave?

CINDY

Why don't those guys just lose weight?

JILL

Why don't you show them how to throw up
after meals like you do?

CINDY

Shut up.

INT. PUNCHBOWL - CONTINUOUS

TIM, PAT and JULIE watch from the punch bowl area. THE KIDS
avoid any contact, coming at the bowl from opposite sides.

PAT

Come on guys. Ready to boogie oogie
oogie til you just can't boogie no more?

ROY

Pat, just leave us alone man.

TIM

Hey, Josh. You're the guy with the real
balls here. Be a leader. Ask one of
these girls to dance.

JOSH

You think I have balls?

TIM

They don't come any bigger.

JOSH, chest out, heads over to the girls. GERRY, ROY, PAT
and TIM watch.

ROY

He's a dead man.

JOSH walks up to the girls. He zeroes in on BETH, the
blonde.

CONTINUED:

JOSH

Hi. My name is Josh.
(silence)
What's your name?

BETH

Beth.

JOSH

Hi Beth. Do you want to dance?

BETH

(matter of fact)
No.

JOSH

I see. No. Really?

BETH

Uh, excuse me. I have to go to the bathroom.

She bolts away. JOSH makes the long walk back.

TIM & PAT

They watch from nearby.

PAT

Look, don't encourage them anymore.

TIM

There's no excuse for rudeness. Come on. Let's talk to them.

PAT

(nervously)
The girls? You go ahead.

TIM

Pat, they're kids. There's nothing to be afraid of.

PAT

(lying)
I'm not afraid.

ON THE DANCE FLOOR

JULIE is trying to dance with MICHAEL SIMMS. He is frozen solid.

CONTINUED:

TIM AN PAT - CONTINUOUS

TIM walks over to the girls. PAT stays behind him.

TIM

Hey ladies. What's up? Are you having fun?

RED HEADED GIRL

(snotty)

Please.

TIM

You should give these guys a chance. They are really a good bunch of guys.

BLONDE GIRL

We'd rather give you a chance?

PAT moves out front. He moves nervously, semi-dancing.

PAT

You should dance with these guys. It would be fun. It really would be. Don't you think?

PAT dances at a faster pace as if his moves will inspire them to dance.

PAT

Come on, once you feel the beat, you can't help but dance.

The GIRLS stare at him. He starts doing the Rerun dance from "What's Happening." The GIRLS just stare.

CUT TO:

PUNCH BOWL - LATER

JULIE watches poor PAT from a distance. VICKI a counselor from Magnolia with a great body and slightly crooked teeth moves to the bowl. JULIE pours her some punch.

VICKI

I wish this was an adult dance. I'd spike the punch with pure grain. Then we'd have some fun, huh?

JULIE

Yee haw.

CONTINUED:

VICKI
I love that show.

JULIE gives her a look. TIM and PAT come back. MARVIN GAYE'S "SEXUAL HEALING" comes on.

TIM
Well, we tried. Hey, Julie...

JULIE
Tim, have you meet Vicki?

TIM
Why no. I haven't had the pleasure.

VICKI
Hi. I'm Vicki.

When she smiles TIM notices she has crooked teeth, and is wearing a sweatshirt from a Junior College. TIM gives JULIE the thumbs up sign as he walks away with VICKI. JULIE moves over to PAT.

JULIE
Want to dance?

PAT
That's sweet. You don't have to.

JULIE
I know that. I want to.

PAT
Yes, you're very nice. You should go into politics. You'd make an excellent Mayor.

He exits.

CUT TO:

INT. DANCE FLOOR - LATER

It is empty. Both sets of kids are sitting near the exits. Glancing at their watches. Finally the doors open, the lights come on.

VICKI
All right girls, it's time to go home.

The GIRLS all run out of the auditorium. PERKIS enters from a side door with a smile.

CONTINUED:

TONY

See that wouldn't have happened if you guys weren't fat. Tomorrow you should use the pain you feel right now as your motivation to eat right and exercise hard. Then the skinny you will come out, and those girls will beg to dance with you. Everyone back to your bunks. Time to go to bed.

He exits.

CUT TO:

EXT. DANCE HALL - MOMENTS LATER

JOSH, GERRY & ROY walk together. JOSH turns towards the woods. They follow.

JOSH

It's time to meet our connection.

GERRY

I'm going to eat till I pass out.

ROY

Hey, it's this way Josh.

JOSH

No, I got a note. The fence was getting too hot. We're meeting him at the clearing.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

It's dark. Really dark. The woods sound alive. The KIDS are a little spooked.

ROY

Hope old Cropsie isn't restless tonight.

GERRY

Cropsie? Who's Cropsie?

JOSH

The Cropsie Maniac. He's a psycho farmer who kills a freshman camper every quarter moon.

They look up and see it is a quarter moon.

CONTINUED:

GERRY

Shut up. You guys are idiots.

GERRY looks ahead, sees something, and freezes in fright.

Up ahead we see TIM dressed in black, wearing a ski-mask. He's waiting.

GERRY

(scared)

Who the hell is that?

JOSH

Don't worry. That's our connection.

They reach their connection. They do not know it is TIM.

TIM

You got the money?

GERRY

You got the stuff? You can't have the money till we see the stuff?

TIM

Who are you, Serpico? Lighten up.

Josh hands Tim the money. He counts it.

TIM

Sixty, seventy, one two three four five. The goods are in the bag.

JOSH

Did you get the Tony Roma's?

TIM

Carolina baby back ribs, two corns and a side of fries. Got it.

JOSH

God bless you.

A light appears in the distance.

TONY PERKIS

Hold it right there!

GERRY

Oh God, we're dead.

CONTINUED:

ROY

Move it!

TIM takes off. The boys run in the other direction.

ANGLE ON

TONY reaches the meeting place. He is with his dog. He sees the three kids running away.

TONY

(to the dog)

Ivan, find them!

He releases the dog from its leash. The dog growls, and barks, then runs in the direction of the boys.

ANGLE ON

The boys are running as fast as they can while trying to hold onto the food.

GERRY

Run, run!!!

JOSH

I'm not going to make it. I'm tiring out.

They hear the dog barking, and heading towards them. Everyone's speed increases immediately. ROY passes JOSH and GERRY.

ROY

Drop the food and move your fat asses!!!

ANGLE ON

TIM is running in the other direction as fast as he can, mask still on.

ANGLE ON

The boys are attempting to climb a tree. GERRY, and JOSH are already up. ROY struggles to get a foot hold.

ROY

I'm from the city. I don't know how to climb no stupid tree.

CONTINUED:

GERRY

Just grab on tight, and pull yourself up.

ROY

Screw you.

GERRY

Grab my hand.

ROY grabs GERRY'S hand. GERRY pulls him up, but ROY loses his footing from the tree. ROY is now hanging from GERRY'S arm, eight feet off the ground. The DOG is heading towards them.

ROY

Oh no! I'm going to die!

The DOG runs under ROY, and keeps on going past them.

ROY

Thank God. I'm okay.

GERRY can not hold him any longer. ROY falls to the ground, hard.

GERRY

Sorry.

ANGLE ON

TIM stops running. He pauses to catch his breath.

VOICE (O.S.)

What are you running from?

TIM looks up and sees Pat. PAT looks madder than hell.

PAT

So you're the guy who's been selling these kids all the junk? You're the reason why Tony is starving them? What do you have to say for yourself?

TIM is silent. He does not want to give away his identity.

PAT

You don't want to talk? What a coward. Well let me assure you, you're going to talk.

TIM makes a move to run away, but Pat grabs him from behind, and throws him to the ground.

CONTINUED:

PAT

It's not going to be that easy. I think it's time for you to learn a little lesson.

TIM gets up, and begins walking backwards away from PAT. PAT follows, then lunges, and punches TIM in the face. It's a hard shot, but TIM doesn't fall.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS (BOYS) - CONTINUOUS

The boys jump off the tree, and run in the opposite direction of TONY and the DOG. They run like hell towards camp.

EXT. WOODS (FIGHT) - CONTINUOUS

PAT and TIM are circling each other.

PAT

You're a real man wearing that mask. I'm going to tear that thing off of you, along with half your face.

He dives towards TIM and they wrestle to the ground. It is a full fledged brawl. They trade ferocious punches, and wrestling moves. It is brutal. PAT grabs TIM, lifts him over his head, and drops him on his knee.

PAT

Atomic Back Breaker.

MAN

Ouch, shit.

PAT

I didn't hear you? Did that hurt? It probably didn't hurt as much as the figure four leg lock will.

PAT tries to put TIM in a figure four leg lock, but can't quite get it right. TIM slips out and gets up to run away, but before he can make his escape PAT tackles him, sending them both down a small ravine right into a shallow creek where the fight rages on.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP - CONTINUOUS

The boys make it out of the woods and run frantically towards their bunk. They are all dirty, and scratched up. Just when they think they have made it they are intercepted by JULIE.

JULIE

Slow down. What are you running from?

JOSH

Nothing. We were just going to bed.

JULIE

Don't lie to me. Tell me what's going on. I won't get you in trouble.

GERRY

We were buying candy, and Tony saw us. He's been chasing us with his dog.

ROY

You've got to let us go back to our bunks, or he'll find out it was us.

JULIE

When he sees how you look he'll know it was you. Come with me.

CUT TO:

EXT. RAVINE - CONTINUOUS

Standing in the creek, the fight continues. Exhausted, they fight like Rocky and Apollo Creed in the fourteenth round. The fight climaxes with PAT smashing his fists into both of TIM'S ears simultaneously. TIM goes down.

MAN

Oh my ears. That hurts like a bitch.

PAT gets a look of recognition. Could it be?

PAT

No. No way.

He pulls the mask off, and sees that the man he has just pummeled is TIM. He is shocked.

TIM

My ear is ringing. Who punches someone in the ear? What are you, a weirdo?

CONTINUED:

PAT is instantly apologetic, and scared.

PAT

I am so sorry. If I had known I would never have done that.

TIM

It's too late for that now.

PAT

I'm so sorry. Please don't be mad at me.

(angry)

Wait a second. You're behind the black market. How could you do that?

TIM

I needed the money. Besides, these kids are starving. I was doing them a service.

TIM sits down on a nearby log and nurses his wounds.

PAT

You're hurting them. And to think I considered you my friend.

TIM pulls a crumpled CHARLESTON CHEW from his pocket.

TIM

Come on Pat, don't be mad. Here.

PAT takes the candy bar.

PAT

Thanks. I am so hungry.

(realizing)

No. Now you're doing it to me.

He throws the candy bar down.

TIM

I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I was just trying to help.

PAT

Well that's not the way to do it.

(nicely)

How's your ears?

TIM

It's still ringing you dick. How'd you learn to fight so well?

CONTINUED:

PAT

Practice. I got beat up a lot as a kid.

CUT TO:

INT. NURSE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

ROY, GERRY and JOSH are in bed. JULIE stands next to them.

JULIE

Just relax, I'll do the talking.

TONY, LARS and the dog enter.

TONY

There are the one's I've been looking for.

JULIE

What seems to be the problem?

TONY

I saw several boys buying candy from someone in the woods. I believe it was these three.

JULIE

These three are sick. They've been with me all night.

TONY

What's the matter with them?

JULIE

They have a fever. Probably brought on my malnutrition. Maybe you should consider feeding everyone better.

TONY

If these children, or any other are malnourished, it's because they're eating nothing but candy.

TONY leans over and stares directly at all the boys to see if they are sick. Then he turns to LARS.

TONY

Let's check sector two.

They exit. They all breathe a sigh of relief.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - MORNING MEAL

Tony Perkis is addressing the entire camp.

TONY

Last night I discovered several boys purchasing food from a dealer of sorts. I was not able to locate the perpetrators. Since I do not know who is filling their bodies with this poison, the entire camp will begin a fast effective immediately to cleanse ourselves of the pollutants in our systems. This is a very common practice in the far east and I'm sure you will all benefit from it greatly. This fast will end tomorrow at noon. Until then you will all subsist on water, and juice. Also, don't forget parents day is coming up, and in order to help you meet your weight goals, on Thursday we will be going on a twelve mile hike. Enjoy your fast.

Everyone looks scared. Several kids moan.

JOSH

Did he say no food?

PAT

Yes he did.

The look over at serving area. Only juices. Juices and water everywhere. PAT grabs JOSH'S hand.

PAT

Be strong. It'll be over before you know it.

TIM looks truly discouraged. He caused this mess and he knows it.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP ROAD - NIGHT

TIM is carrying a duffel bag. He's leaving. He walks toward the camp's exit. He thinks he's free when PAT runs up and catches him.

CONTINUED:

PAT

Tim! Where are you going?

TIM

The fasting is the final straw. The pain on those kids faces, it will haunt me forever. I caused it all. I have to go.

PAT

You can't leave. We need you.

TIM

No you don't. I tried, Pat. I tried to make a difference and all I did was make a mess. I should go before someone gets hurt.

PAT

You can't leave. Perkis is dangerous. He has to be stopped.

TIM keeps walking.

PAT

Alright. Go ahead. Walk away. Remember, no matter how far you go, you can't walk away from yourself.

TIM

I can sure try.

PAT

Coward. Lousy quitting coward. I thought you were different, but you're just like all the rest.

TIM swallows, keeps walking.

PAT

Insensitive skinny bastard!

TIM almost stops.

PAT

You treated us like freaks, took our money, you probably even made jokes about us. You're just like the rest. Get outta here! Who needs you?!

TIM stops. We see his eyes are moist with emotion. PAT stares. TIM turns. His shaky hand reaches into his wallet. He removes a picture. The one he stared at when we first met him. He moves to PAT, who is confused. He hands PAT

CONTINUED:

the picture. PAT looks at it. His eyes light up with amazement, then evolve into sympathy.

INSERT - THE PICTURE

It's a picture of TIM about five years ago. He weighs 300 pounds! PAT looks at TIM with true compassion. Tim is emotional.

TIM

You can say a lot of things about me.
But don't you ever say I'm like the
rest. I'm one of you, Pat. I'm one of
them. A Camp Hoper for life. No matter
how much I weigh.

PAT is on the verge of tears. They are about to hug. This moment is interrupted by the sound of a GUN SHOT. TIM turns back to PAT. What horror has just occurred?

PAT

(freaking)
What was that?

TIM

Sounded like a gunshot. Come on!

TIM and PAT race towards the sound of the gun shot.

CUT TO:

EXT. FARM - NIGHT

TIM and PAT reach the scene. There are several kids gathered on the grounds of a farm that is adjacent to the camp. They clear several kids away so they can see what has happened.

PAT

Oh sweet lord.

At the center of the group is JOSH. He carries a rifle. On the ground is a DEAD COW. All of the kids have their pocket knives open and ready.

GERRY

Which part of this thing is the prime
rib?

PAT

Where did you get that gun?

CONTINUED:

JOSH
From the skeet shooting range.

He grabs the gun from JOSH.

PAT
(angrily)
Are you all crazy?! Have you lost your
minds?! Look at yourselves.

They are all embarrassed.

PAT
You've killed a living thing.

GERRY
But this cow was headed for the
slaughterhouse anyway.

PAT
Let the farmer do the killing! We eat
the meat, but we don't kill it! That's
what makes us civilized!!!

PAT, gun in hand, a man with a mission now turns to TIM.

JOSH
(almost in tears)
Perkis is making us crazy.

PAT
I know, Josh. I know. That's why we
have to do something. And we have to do
it now.

TIM
Pat's right. We have to stand up!

PAT looks at TIM. TIM smiles. He's staying.

GERRY
They're right, guys. We have to make a
stand.

GERRY takes a step forward, a new leader. PAT smiles.

GERRY
What can we do?

PAT
You can start by finding some shovels.
We're going to bury this cow.

CONTINUED:

GERRY

Then, we bury Perkis.

The kids run off to get shovels. PAT and GERRY exchange a high five over the dead cow.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. EDGE OF CAMP - MORNING

TONY PERKIS is speaking to a large group of campers.

TONY

Today is the day when we will separate
the men from the boys.

GERRY, JOSH and ROY stand in full hiking gear. PAT too.
JULIE puts white sun block on one campers nose.

JOSH

(under his breath)

We're all boys, you idiot.

TONY

You'll all be hiking twelve miles! We
will not be bringing any food. We will
survive on what we find in nature. We'll
make camp, sleep four hours. Then hike
back. I don't want to see any slackers,
or hear any whiners. Those of you who
make it back will feel like you've
really accomplished something. Something
you'll remember for the rest of your
life. Now let's move out.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Everyone is hiking through the woods. The sun beats down on them as they struggle to walk through dense woods while carrying large backpacks. They all look like the weight of their packs will tip them over.

CUT TO:

EXT. STEEP UP HILL - LATER

They start up a very steep hill consisting of loose dirt and rocks. PHILIP in the front of the pack slips and tumbles down the hill, taking several kids with him.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WOODS - LATER

We see TIM trailing them through the woods. He has a huge backpack on. He sneaks over to the kids. When GERRY spots him, he goes to say something, but TIM gives him the quiet sign. He quickly hands out power bars and bottled water. Then he hands GERRY a mystery bag and whispers something in his ear.

PHILIP

Got any candy?

TIM

No.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SWAMPY AREA - LATER

PERKIS leads the KIDS straight through it. Mosquitoes and nats buzz around their heads mercilessly. PERKIS puts down his mosquito netting from this hat. He looks back at PAT and the kids who are slapping their faces, necks and arms.

TONY

A.B.P. Always be prepared. Don't we have any boy scouts here?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. STEEP DOWN HILL - LATER

Now they are walking down hill. PHILIP is at the back of the line. He slips forward and tumbles down, again taking everyone with him. PERKIS keeps walking.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CLIFF - LATER

PERKIS stands on a rock over-looking a stream. He's pretty high up. He takes off his shirt, breathes in and out, does some stupid yoga-martial arts moves, Tai-Chi like. The boys, collapsed on their back-packs, watch from a distance.

TONY

Balance gentlemen. Balance and harmony. Unlike you boys, I respect what God has given me. My body is a temple.

CONTINUED:

JOSH

Beth Shalom's a temple. You're an idiot.

ROY

I say we push him. No jury in the world would convict us.

PAT

Patience fellas, patience.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. STREAM

They come to a wide stream. One by one they balance their way across, stepping on rocks strategically. MICHAEL SIMMS slips and falls in. He sinks like a stone until PAT'S large arm reaches down and pulls him right up.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PATH IN THE WOODS

NICHOLAS at the end of the line swoons and almost passes out. He falls. Everyone stops. Some kids try to help him up.

TONY

Don't stop! Stragglers will be left behind! We wait for no one!

The other kids ignore TONY and carry NICHOLAS above their shoulders as they walk.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BASE CAMP - NIGHT

They all sit around the campfire.

TONY

As a special treat, I'm gonna give you all one marshmallow to roast. So everyone get a stick and you'll get your reward.

Everyone runs into the woods and grabs the first stick they see. TONY hands them each a marshmallow. They immediately shove them in their mouths without roasting them.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CAMPFIRE - LATER

LARS plays an Austrian folk song on the guitar. Everyone looks depressed.

LARS
(singing)
C'mon. Everybody now. Roostin,
floostin, grambar boostin...

No one even attempts to sing. LARS continues by himself. TONY approaches from the perimeter and Lars stops playing.

TONY
(to Lars)
Thank you Lars. Your devotion to your
culture is an inspiration to us all.
(to everyone)
Now everyone go to bed

NICK
(shyly)
Aren't you going to tell us a ghost
story?

TONY
I don't approve of stories. They lead
you to believe that a fantasy world
exists. We live in reality. And that
reality is that you're all fat.

SIMMS
Come on, please sir.

TONY
All right. Here is your story. Let me
see if I remember it correctly. Now
there was this couple driving in their
car. They heard a report on the radio
that a man with a hook on his hand
killed a lot of people. Well, they got
out to take a walk and when they got
back to their car, there was a hook on
the doorknob. So I guess they were
pretty scared. But I think they were
all right. The End.

GERRY
That's not scary.

CONTINUED:

PAT

I've got one. It's not a story though.
It's a more of a history lesson about
the land we're on right now.

He stands up and walks to the center of the circle. The
light from the fire creates scary shadows on his face.

PAT

In the nineteen twenties this land was a
farm owned by a man named Benjamin
Cropsie. One day he was plowing the
field with his trusty ox Frida when he
fell, and the plow ran over his right
leg. He was trapped. He screamed for
help but there was nobody around for
miles. When they found his body they
could tell that he had tried to cut his
leg off in order to free himself, but he
died before he could finish the job.
Since that day people say you can hear
the ghost of Benjamin Cropsie dragging
his mangled leg across this land,
enraged that nobody came to help him.

PAT drags his leg across the ground and howls like a ghostly
Cropsie.

PAT

Damn you! Damn you!
(normal voice)

Thirty years later a man bought the land
and built a summer camp. One night a
bunch of campers were hanging out in the
woods surrounding the camp, and they
heard the sound of something scraping
the ground. They laughed. "It's
probably old Cropsie." They continued
to joke and laugh until suddenly a
decomposed corpse appeared before them,
and said...

(like Cropsie)

...Why didn't you help me?!! Why?!!
(normally)

The campers ran, but he caught them all.
One by one he killed them by cutting off
their legs with the blade of his old
plow. Anyway, the camp closed down, and
nobody would buy it for twenty years.
But as always, enough time passes, and
people think everything will be all
right. Then in nineteen seventy the
Buskin's bought the land and built Camp

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

PAT (cont'd)

Hope. Legend has it they made a deal with Cropsie so he would leave the kids alone. But the Buskins are gone, so we can only hope the new owner has made a deal or Cropsie must strike again.

(everyone turns to Tony)

You made the deal, didn't you?

(Tony shifts a little)

Oh please god, tell me you made a deal?...You didn't make the deal!?

PAT is right in his face.

TONY

No. I didn't make any deal.

PAT screams in horror, all the kids join in. PERKIS jumps a little, before laughing very nervously.

TONY

Very amusing. Enough of this silliness.
It is time for bed. Everyone to sleep.

Everyone heads to bed. As PAT passes TONY he adds:

PAT

Foolish, foolish man.

TONY shoots him a look.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BASE CAMP - DEAD OF NIGHT

Everyone is sleeping. Clouds pass before a quarter moon.

INT. TONY'S TENT - NIGHT

TONY sleeps fitfully. We hear a soft scraping sound on the ground. TONY pops up from his sleep. He looks disoriented. He pops his head through the tent flap.

TONY

You kids keep it down out there!

He lies down again, but the noise picks up again. Tony gets out of his tent. He is wearing plaid pajamas with feet. He takes out a flashlight and walks slowly towards where the sound is coming from. The sound is getting louder, although it seems to originate from a different place each time it occurs. He is drawn deeper and deeper into the woods as he follows the sound.

CONTINUED:

TONY

You kids better not be sneaking candy.

Suddenly a strong moan, almost a "mooo" is heard. TONY whirls to come face to face with Frieda. It's a cows head, eyes open staring right at TONY.

COW VOICE

MOOOOOVE THE PLOW!

PERKIS is genuinely scared. He falls back, gets up and runs...right into BENJAMIN CROPSIE, a decomposed farmer with a mangled leg. He holds a large rusty blade over his head.

CROPSIE

Where were you!? Where!?

TONY

Cut it out. This is ridiculous.

CROPSIE

Why didn't you help me?! Damn You!

He brings the blade down hard. It cuts into a tree. PERKIS scrambles away in fear.

CAMERA pushes in to CROPSIE and we see it is TIM. JULIE emerges from the shadows.

TIM

I was pretty good, huh? That really seemed to work.

JULIE

I don't think the codine/valium cocktail we slipped him hurt either.

TIM shrugs, adjusts his detachable leg and limps off after TONY.

EXT. BASE CAMP - CONTINUOUS

TONY stumbles back to camp wiggled out.

TONY

Garner, Josh. I know you're behind this!

He opens the flap to GERRY'S tent, and flashes his light in.

TONY

Just as I thought. Not here!

CONTINUED:

But as he takes a closer look, in the corner of the tent he sees GERRY and JOSH slumped over, blood everywhere, their legs cut off. TONY screams and runs off. GERRY smiles, it's fake blood.

INT. LARS TENT - CONTINUOUS

LARS is awoken by PAT who is dressed like a zombie.

PAT

You believe in ghosts, Lars.

LARS

No, I do not.

PAT

Good. But I know you believe in the department of immigration and naturalization?

(Lars panics)

We called them on you. It seems you don't have a valid work permit. You could be deported. Run now...it's your only chance.

LARS bolts up, grabs some things.

PAT

No time for that. Run Lars, run.

LARS races from the tent, into the night.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

TONY runs with the fear of God in him. He comes upon two campers with their mangled body parts intertwined. Their eyes are hanging out of their skulls. Each has an axe in the chest. Tony runs in another direction and sees a pile of five kids, all chopped up and covered in blood. TONY runs away, when from behind the tree, TIM dressed as Cropsy appears. TONY walks backwards slowly. Suddenly he is surrounded by a dozen zombie like campers. They all move in for the kill. TONY screams.

TONY

This isn't funny!!! Stop this at once!

The gang closes in on him. His eyes flutter and he passes out. The "zombies" stare.

CONTINUED:

NICK

Is he dead? Did we kill him?

PHILIP

Let's cut off his leg...for real.

TIM

You're sick.

CUT TO:

EXT. BASE CAMP - MORNING

All the campers are now cleaned up and are packing up their gear for the trek home. TONY is tied to a tree.

TONY

You will never get away with this.

PAT

Away with what? You're finished, Perkis.

TIM and JULIE approach. Tapes in hand. TIM flashes his ski mask at TONY.

TIM

Want some candy?

TONY

You!

TIM

Yes, and I made just enough money to buy your video tapes from Kenny the cameraman. He got some interesting stuff, you ordering fasts, threatening kids. I got a friend at "Hard Copy" said he'd love to see it.

PAT

(Announcer voice)

What happens when a happy camp turns into a chamber of horrors? We'll show you all the shocking details, next on "Hard Copy."

JULIE

And I've got some friends at the Child Welfare Department who love that show.

CONTINUED:

TONY

You can't do this. This is my camp.

PAT

Actually we just found out your Daddy owns it. So you're going to call him, and tell him that for the rest of the summer you're friends are going to run the camp.

TONY

I won't do it.

TIM

That's your choice.

TIM takes a pin off of TONY which says "CAMP DIRECTOR." He pins it on PAT, who is overcome with emotion.

PAT

Let's move out!

JOSH is holding a paint brush and a jar of honey. GERRY stands next to him. He slaps some on TONY'S chest.

JOSH

All right Uncle Tony. We'll see you.
Have fun enjoying nature.

(to Gerry)

Bears like honey, right?

GERRY

Oh yeah. They love it.

TONY

You're not gonna get away with this!
You're all in big trouble.

CUT TO:

EXT. BASE CAMP - MORNING

All the campers begin their hike back home.

PAT

Are you sure he's gonna be okay?

TIM

He'll be fine. He'll catch some rays, maybe a few bee stings. Let's let him think things over. We'll have someone go get him later.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FIELD - LATER

They have started their hike home. They are about five minutes into their hike home. Suddenly, they hear a blood curdling scream.

PAT
(panicing)
Oh my God. He'll be fine my ass.

They run back to where TONY is tied up. When they get there, they see that TONY is screaming because a BABY DEER is licking the honey off his stomach.

TONY
Let me go you sons of bitches! This thing could give me rabies!

All the campers laugh. They just turn around and leave him again.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP HOPE PERIMETER - MID DAY

The KIDS emerge from the brush, tired, weary but victorious. They look at each other. Smile, high-fives, cheer and hugs.

ALL
We made it. We're home. Yea!

Everyone looks to the parking lot and sees station wagons, family cars galore. Sets of parents, some overweight, some not, socialize with each other. It's parents day.

PAT
(to everyone)
Look, your folks are here. Go say hi!
(most move, GERRY doesn't)
What's wrong, Gerry?

GERRY
Mine aren't coming

PAT
Really? That would be odd considering I called them a few days ago to make sure they had the right directions.

PAT points. GERRY sees his folks waving. He runs over. PAT smiles. All the kids drop their packs and run to their parents.

CONTINUED:

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT - REUNION MONTAGE

JOSH hugs his MOM, high fives his DAD. They are both skinny and rich.

ROY greets his MOM and DAD. His DAD wears a White Sox Hat and a huge smile. They have brought him new clothes in smaller sizes.

PHILIP's parents are as strange and annoying as he is. They are instantly fighting.

MICHAEL SIMMS parents are small, diminutive people. He engulfs them both with his huge arms.

GERRY hugs his MOM. Looks at his DAD, who's hard exterior melts into a warm smile. They hug.

DAD

You look a little thinner.

GERRY

(proudly)

I haven't lost a pound Dad, but I'm feeling good.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DINNER

The locks come off the cupboards. PAT walks the KITCHEN approving food. Huge fresh vegetables, fruits. TIM drops off a large box. He opens it, it is filled with fresh fish. JULIE inspects them, nods.

INT. DINING HALL - LATER

A happy JEAN-JEAN is serving everyone a Cajun feast. We see the parents go through the line with their kids.

ROY'S DAD

This food is just great. You guys have been living like Kings here.

ROY

(under his breath)

Rodney Kings.

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - LATER

Parents are sitting with their kids. The lights go down. PAT takes the stage. He is wearing a tuxedo.

PAT

Welcome Parents. Welcome friends. I know the newsletter told you we'd be performing Bertolt Brecht's "Mother Courage," but there's been a last minute change.

Pat points at MICHAEL SIMMS who is sitting at a piano. SIMMS plays the first few bars of "One" from "A Chorus Line."

PAT

So sit back, relax and enjoy Camp Hope's greatest hits from summers past!

PAT shuffles off the stage to the music. A moment later the lights come up. TIM walks out dressed as a hippie. He wears a long haired wig.

TIM

(sings-slow tempo)

"She asked me why, I'm just a hairy guy. I'm hairy noon and night, hair that's a fright. I'm hairy high and low, don't ask me why, don't know. It's not for lack of bread, like the Grateful Dead. Dar-ling..."

Fast paced music kicks in. Stage lights start flashing as six campers dressed as hippies dance out onto the stage, and sing backup to Tim. They dance a badly choreographed hippie dance.

TIM

Give me a head with hair, long beautiful hair. Shining, gleaming, streaming, flaxing, waxing. Give me it down to there hair, shoulder length or longer. Here baby, there momma, everywhere daddy daddy, hair..."

They all kick in. In the pit we see MICHAEL SIMMS banging away on piano. He's good. Other CAMPERS fill in the makeshift orchestra.

CONTINUED:

ALL

(fast)

"Hair, hair, hair, hair, hair, hair..."

TIM

"Showing, flowing, long, it's got to go with my hair."

ROY dances to the front of the stage. He is wearing a large afro wig with a bandana on it.

ROY

"Let it fly in the breeze and get caught in the trees. Give a home to the fleas in my hair. A home for the fleas, a hive for the buzzing bees. A nest for the birds, there ain't no words for the beauty, the splendor, the wonder of my, ha-ir."

ALL

"Hair, hair, hair, hair, hair."

TIM

"Showing, flowing, long, it's got to go with my HAIIR!"

The hippies quickly exit the stage. The music makes a badly composed transition to 'Memory' from the play CATS. GERRY and three other boys crawl out onto the stage. They are dressed like cats. A cardboard moon comes down from out of the rafters. GERRY begins to sing.

GERRY

"Memory, all alone in the moonlight, I can smile at the old days, life was beautiful then. I remember the time I knew what happiness was. Let the memory live again."

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS - SAME TIME NIGHT

A REAL MOON bright and big shines on TONY PERKIS still tied to the tree. He is delirious. He hears a voice.

TONY

Who's there? Over here. Help me.

A young local SHERIFF shows up, shines a flashlight on him.

CONTINUED:

SHERIFF

Are you Tony Perkis Jr.?

TONY

Yes, yes I am.

SHERIFF

Your father called us. He said it's time to go home.

TONY

(crying-delirious)

Daddy called. We're going home.

CUT TO:

INT. STAGE - JOSH

Close on JOSH'S sly smile. DA, DA DAAA! He snaps his fingers to the beat. Widen out to reveal he is in fifties clothes. It's "West Side Story." JOSH does his own interpretive tough guy dance as he calls out for his gang. One by one they appear and form the JETS!

JOSH

"When you're a Jet, you're a Jet all the way from you're first cigarette, 'til you're last dyin' day. When you're a jet and the shit hits the fan you got brothers around, you're a family man."

ALL

"You're never alone. You're never unprotected. You're not on you're own, you're well connected."

JOSH

"When your a jet you die a JE-ET!"

A siren is heard, the KIDS scatter. As punctuation on the number, PHILIP runs out on stage yelling...

PHILIP

Mariaaa....Mariaaaa!

The audience applauds. It's dark, creepy now. The stage fills with smoke. PAT, dressed as the PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, complete with half mask and cape, paddles a boat onto the stage. When a patch of fog clears, we see the boat is on wheels and two campers are pushing him. Someone blows more fog onto the stage and the stagehands disappear. We see JULIE looking awesome, sitting at a vanity, "unaware" of the lurking PHANTOM.

CONTINUED:

PAT

(overly dramatic)

"Slowly, gently, night unfurls its splendors. Grasp it, sense it, tremulous and tender. Turn your face away from the garish light of day. Turn your thoughts away from the cold unfeeling light. And listen to the music of the night."

JULIE turns to him. She seems startled. The PHANTOM reels back. But no. JULIE holds out her hand. The PHANTOM takes it. She pushes aside the mask and gives him a long passionate kiss. PAT is beat red. That wasn't in the script.

OFFSTAGE - The KIDS sees this and whoop and hollar. TIM shakes his head.

ONSTAGE - JULIE finishes her kiss, leaving the PHANTOM dizzy and in need of oxygen.

THE CROWD - CONTINUOUS

Leaps to its feet to give the show a well deserved standing ovation. The cast members come on stage for a curtain call. In various costumes, they bow, beaming with pride. GERRY'S PARENTS are going nuts applauding him. An encore starts up. "Ease On Down The Road" from the WIZ. They all sing, the parents clap along, it's great.

MUSIC CROSSES OVER INTO MONTAGE - GOOD TIMES

EXT. CAMP - DAY

The PARENTS caravan of cars leaves. The KIDS wave good-bye. PAT turns to the KIDS.

PAT

As you know Tony Perkis Sr. has put me in charge of the camp, so things are going to change. The locks are off of the cupboards, campers. Plus we are opening a canteen from which you can purchase whatever you like, because from now on you are on your honor.

The CAMPERS go nuts. They run towards their bunks, and the cafeteria to get food.

JULIE

Should you make it this easy for them?

CONTINUED:

PAT

Don't worry. It's all part of the plan.

CUT TO:

CANTEEN - CANDY SHELF

Rows of candy, sodas, assorted goodies. Dozens of chubby hands rake in the goodies at lightening speed.

The swarm moves to a freezer now. Ice cream bars, quarts, and cones are fly from the freezer.

CUT TO:

LATER - The shelves are stripped bare, except for several boxes of healthy granola bars. The FREEZER is gutted, the open door still swinging.

CUT TO:

EXT. BONFIRE - NIGHT

"The End" by The Doors starts, and we find ourselves in the middle of a full fledged food orgy. It's a little surreal. Huge marshmallow sticks burn like torches. Campers' faces are painted with war paint? No. Just smeared with food.

Some CAMPERS dance around the fire, cans of whipped cream in their hands, spraying, then eating. Soon food is flying, it turns into a joyous food fight. We see Sam Peckinpah slow mo shots. M&M's fly like colorful bullets. Cupcakes explode on impact after being thrown. Warm ice cream flows like blood. Everyone is happy.

CUT TO:

EXT. BIG HOUSE - LATER THAT NIGHT

PAT and JULIE look out into the distance. They hear the screams of madness and joy from the bonfire.

JULIE

We should be there. They need some supervision.

PAT

No. Leave them alone. Believe me, Julie.

PAT gets a weird look, takes a breath, reaches over and takes her hand. She gives it, gladly. He leads her towards the porch swing/love seat. It might not fit both of them,

CONTINUED:

but just before they sit, TIM comes stumbling in, covered in food. Out of breath. A soldier from the front.

TIM
They're out of control! Savages.
Advanced sugar shock, we must...

TIM pauses, looks at them.

TIM
Were you two just holding hands?

PAT is scared for some reason. JULIE isn't. She nods.

TIM
That's nice. I gotta go. I can only
handle so much in one night.

He disappears into the night. JULIE and PAT hear louder whoops and screams in the distance.

JULIE
You heard Tim. They're out of control.
What are we going to do now?

PAT
(confident)
We wait. Come here sit down.

They sit in the love seat. It buckles a little. PAT looks up. The chain will hold. They smile at each other, holding hands.

CUT TO:

INT. GERRY'S BUNK - MORNING

MUSIC:RAP MUSIC

GERRY, and his roommates wake up. They are incredibly sick from last night's binge. They are regretting it now. ROY jumps up and runs to the bathroom. We hear him throw up. NICHOLAS is covered in scones.

JOSH
I feel so sick.

GERRY
I'm never going to do that again.

CONTINUED:

JOSH
Where's the Pepto Bismal?

JOSH looks around, but all he sees are empty candy wrappers, and pizza boxes.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP - CONTINUOUS

The entire camp is strewn with garbage. It looks like the day after Woodstock. Sick kids from each bunk walk slowly towards the center of camp. PAT stands next to the weakened bonfire, waiting for their arrival.

PAT
(happily)
How's everyone feeling this morning?
(everyone moans)
I thought so. That's what happens when you have no self control. Who wants to tell us the lesson we have learned here?

JOSH raises his hand.

JOSH
Don't eat a lot of food in a short amount of time. It's better to eat a little food, constantly over a longer period.

PAT
No! The point of this was for everyone to learn personal responsibility. Each of you is in charge of your own diets. Each of you has to learn self control. I will not always be there to make sure you eat right. It's time for all of you to do it for yourselves.

Suddenly a boat from CAMP MVP flies across the lake. A water-skier yells as he passes.

WATER-SKIER
Hey look, it's The Fat Day Parade!!

Everyone looks hurt. PAT turns to the campers.

PAT
Did that bother you? Who cares? What do you want to be, his best friend? We have to learn that we need to lose weight and get healthy for ourselves.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

PAT (cont'd)

Not because of what other people think.
Screw him. Screw CAMP MVP. Now who's
with me? Who wants to learn how to eat
correctly? Who wants to do this right?

A camper walks over to the fire, removes several candy bars from his pocket and throws them on the fire. Another boy walks over to the fire, and throws a pizza on it. One by one all of the campers walk over to the fire and throw something they shouldn't be eating on it; candy, cheeseburgers, heroes, ice cream. A six foot hero. PAT smiles. JULIE pats him on the back.

MONTAGE - GOOD TIMES AT CAMP HOPE

EXT. RACE TRACK - DAY

TIM, PAT, GERRY, ROY, JOSH, PHILIP, NICHOLAS and several other campers stand at the starting line.

TIM

Ready? Let's go.

TIM leads the group in the goofiest looking POWER WALK you've ever seen.

CUT TO:

EXT. GO-CART SHACK - DAY

The pile of car parts is gone. The lighting fixtures take their place. We see PHILIP leading JOSH and GERRY in the reconstruction of the go-carts. They cannibalize the obstacle course, and Perkis' old golf cart for parts.

CUT TO:

INT. NUTRITION CLASS - DAY

JULIE stands at the front of the class behind a mini kitchen unit. All of the students have frying pans, cutting boards and hot plates in front of them. JULIE cuts up some tomatoes. All of the students copy what she does.

CUT TO:

INT. TIM'S RAP SESSION - DAY

TIM holds up a tray with healthy food on it. Salads, fruit etc. He puts it down in front of a blow up picture of himself on an easel. A sign says "AFTER" He smiles at his own likeness. He pats his firm stomach.

CONTINUED:

Then he moves to a tray of really bad food. Ribs, Pizza, Ice Cream, French Fries, Candy. He puts the tray in front of an easel. A large mounted picture is covered by a sheet. He ceremoniously pulls it off to reveal a blow-up of the TIM at 300 pounds picture. The word "BEFORE" beneath it. The kids gasp. They didn't know. They burst into cheers and applause. They run up and embrace a happy TIM.

CUT TO:

EXT. TRACK

TIM AND PAT Lead the kids in another fast power walk.

PAT
I'm sorry about Julie.

TIM
You cockblocked me, you bastard.

PAT
(proudly)
I did, didn't I?

TIM
Good for you. Besides, she was too smart for me. You're my friend. I'm not mad. I'm happy for you man.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - DINNER

The KIDS eat sensible, well portioned meals. MICHAEL SIMMS plays dinner music at the piano. JULIE and PAT sit at the head counselor table, like the KING and QUEEN. GERRY, JOSH and ROY stare over.

JOSH
I can't believe he snagged her.

GERRY
We should be happy for the him.

ROY
She's got to be using him for something.

GERRY
Like what?

Everyone considers this.

CONTINUED:

JOSH
(a revelation)
Maybe she really likes him.

They all agree. They smile. Maybe there is hope for them too.

CUT TO:

INT. CAMP MVP BOAT HOUSE - NIGHT

Three MVP CAMPERS and CHRIS MILLER sneak to their boat holding buckets of paint brushes. They are up to no good. They jump in the boat. CHRIS turns the key in the boat ignition. Nothing. He tries again. Nothing. He turns back to check the outboard motor. Nothing. It's gone. In its place are two paddles set like crossbones, a pumpkin with a carved frown, and a note which says "Don't Mess With Fatty."

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP - NIGHT

Camp Hope is having a SQUARE DANCE with Camp Magnolia. We see all of the kids actually dancing. When we get a closer look we see that the boys have spurned the most beautiful girls from Camp Magnolia, and are dancing with everyone else. They are having a great time. TIM calls the square dance as the annoyed pretty girls look on.

TIM
Grab your partner spin her round, make
sure she don't rip her pretty new gown.
Walk her left now walk her right. Look
both ways like your at a red light.
Alright! Freestyle! Now put your hands
all up and down her back, until she says
to take them back. Now lie on the
ground and wiggle around, and invite
that missy right on down.

The BOYS drop to the ground. Most of the GIRLS do not.

TIM
If she's not budging do not distress.
Just have a look right up her dress.

The GIRLS squeal and hit the ground. All of them are now wiggling around, having a great time.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CAMP HOPE'S LAKE - LATER

Several groups of people are making out by the lake. The camera pans, and we see the first couple is TIM with VICKI. The next couple is PAT and JULIE. The third couple is a mystery. They make out passionately. When they end their embrace we see that it is a beautiful camper making out with...PHILIP. It's the first time we've ever seen him smile.

Suddenly a group of campers from CAMP MVP led by CHRIS MILLER paddle their motor boat to Camp Hope's dock.

CHRIS MILLER

Hey shit for brains! Get over here!

Everyone stops kissing. TIM, PAT and JULIE walk over to the dock.

TIM

Is there a problem.

CHRIS MILLER

You guys stole the engine to our boat, we want it back.

TIM

We didn't touch your engine, frat boy.

CHRIS

That's bullshit. A prank is a prank. Now, give it back.

PAT

We don't have it, but if we happen to find it, we'll run it right over, so you can get back to vandalizing our camp. What brilliant thing were you going to paint on our sign this time? Camp "Hope We Get Thirds." Camp "Hope a Chocolate Truck Breaks Down in Our Driveway."

CHRIS MILLER

Hey, let me tell you something, if you don't...

PAT

No, no, I'm going to do the talking here. The days of you abusing and humiliating us are over. Over as of right now. Listen up, friend. A new day is dawning on Camp Hope!!!

CUT TO:

CLOSE - PAT'S FACE

PAT wears an almost stunned expression. Then JULIE'S lips come in to frame for a final kiss. Widen out to reveal they are in:

INT. PAT'S ROOM - NIGHT

Bed. She moves off of him. PAT is on another planet.

PAT
So that's what sex is like.

JULIE
Are you serious? Was that your first time?

PAT
No, of course not.

He's obviously lying. JULIE smiles.

PAT
I've never been so happy.

There is a knock at the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. PAT'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

We see that it is JEAN-JEAN. Muttering in angry French, he bangs the door.

CUT TO:

INT. PAT'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

PAT
Hit the road Frenchy! Don't make me come out there!

We hear JEAN-JEAN muttering in French, then walk off.

JULIE
I was so proud of you at the dock tonight.

PAT
It's all about standing up for yourself Julie.

CONTINUED:

JULIE

I totally agree.

PAT

I'm glad, cause before they left I told Miller that we'd take them on in the Apache relay.

JULIE

(uneasy)

I thought we decided not to do that this year.

PAT

Well, yes. But I really think it'll be healthy for the kids. They need to realize that they are as good as those guys.

JULIE

They're not. They aren't in as good a shape as those kids yet. They haven't beaten them in twenty three years.

PAT

I think we have a shot this year. Hey, if I can get a woman like you, then surely anything is possible.

JULIE

You're running the risk of destroying all the confidence we've built in them. You've got to know where to draw the line.

PAT

I'm sick of drawing lines. My whole life has been one big drawn line. Well no more!

She moves away from him. He's a little possessed.

JULIE

This isn't about you. You can't let your ego get in the way here.

PAT

My ego? Julie, everything I do is for them.

CONTINUED:

JULIE

Yeah, right.

She moves for her clothes. She is out of there.

PAT

Hey, where you going?

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP HOPE - NIGHT

TIM and PAT walk towards the cafeteria.

PAT

...Julie thinks I've set the kids up for disaster. I'm screwed. This has got to work.

TIM

Listen. The Apache relay is made up of thirty events. Whoever finishes all of them first wins. We just have to negotiate for as many Camp Hope friendly events as possible.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - NIGHT

TIM, PAT, CHRIS MILLER, and DAVE RICHARDS, a squirrely jock, are greeting each other.

TIM

Alright, let's do it.

CHRIS MILLER

You guys don't think you can actually win, do you?

TIM

Of course not. But it'll be fun seeing these fat kids running around doing all this goofy shit. No offense Pat.

PAT

None taken. Who's up for a bit of the hootch?

CONTINUED:

DAVE

Right here. Can't write an Apache relay sober.

PAT pours JACK DANIELS in glasses for them.

PAT

Ain't that the truth.

TIM

Okay, let's get to work.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - A LITTLE LATER

Everyone is drunk, and laughing. TIM is writing on a yellow legal pad.

TIM

Oh, that would be hilarious because these kids can't put a ball in the hoop, much less do a trick shot.

CHRIS MILLER

So after that the next kid has to run to the baseball diamonds.

PAT

He should run backwards.

DAVE

(crazy drunk)

Backwards man. You're cruel.

PAT

No pain, no gain. Let me give you guys a refill.

PAT fills their glasses. TIM drinks from his own flask.

TIM

(kidding around)

The good stuff, can't waste that on you losers.

DAVE

Easy, or I'll chase your ass all around this camp...backwards.

They all laugh really loud. PAT and TIM look at each other. We can tell they are just acting drunk.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

They are just about done. DAVE and CHRIS MILLER are sloppy drunk. Slurring and susceptible.

TIM

Okay, then I'll switch that to shaving a balloon, and then the other event is clearing off a pool table.

CHRIS MILLER

Alright then. You know what? You guys are alright.

PAT

We should hang out more often. Okay, we'll see you guys Saturday.

They all shake, and high five good-bye. CHRIS and DAVE exit.

TIM

(completely sober)

See, that wasn't so tough. I think we made out okay.

PAT

(drunk for real)

I totally agree. We kicked ass.

TIM

You're drunk.

PAT

Yes I am, senor.

TIM

I drank the apple juice out of the flask and you were supposed to pour your drinks under the table.

PAT

Pour them under the table, I thought you said drink them under the table.

TIM

No, Senor. I did not.

TIM puts an arm around PAT as they exit.

CUT TO:

EXT. CENTER OF CAMP - STARTING LINE

Everyone from both camps is gathered around two Campers holding batons, who will start the Apache relay. CHRIS MILLER, DOUG and a contingent from CAMP MAGNOLIA are there. THE MVPERS are in uniform and are raring to go. TIM and PAT try to pump up their kids, who are nervous.

PAT

Are you guys ready to kick some butt!

ROY

Are you kidding? Those kids could play Apache relay professionally if there was such a God damn thing.

GERRY

Things were going good, Pat. Why'd you have to push it?

PAT

I'm sorry, Gerry. Just do what you can do, and don't worry about them. This relay is a chain. It's not about finishing first. It's about being an effective part of that chain.

PAT and GERRY exchange looks. Did he get through?

GERRY

...Whatever.

UNCLE BILL

Let the games begin.

GERRY leaves to get in his place. PAT looks nervous.

UNCLE BILL fires a starting gun into the air. We think the campers are going to start running. But instead they turn to a table, take two crackers, eat them and attempt to whistle the "Star Spangled Banner." The kid from Camp MVP finishes first, then hands the baton to another camper who jumps in a potato sack and hops towards the soccer field. The kid from Camp Hope, follows close behind.

PAT & TIM follow their team in a golf cart. CHRIS & DOUG do the same.

CUT TO:

EXT. SOCCER FIELD

The kid from Camp MVP hands his baton to an athletic camper who kicks six soccer balls into the goal from thirty yards out in rapid succession. He then hands the baton to another kid. A second camper jumps on that kid's shoulders, and they run off. A camper from Camp Hope, hands the baton to the camper who is supposed to kick the soccer balls. The kid kicks the first ball over the goal. Then he kicks the second ball off the side of the goal.

TIM

C'mon. You don't have to hit it that hard. Just get it in the goal.

The kid kicks it pathetically soft and it slowly rolls into the goal. He repeats this several times.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWIMMING POOLS

A kid from Camp MVP skips over to a boy in swimming trunks who stands at the edge of the pool. The boy dives into the water and swims the backstroke to the other side of the pool. When he reaches the other side, he hands the baton to another kid who dives in and does the breaststroke. In the distance, we see a Camp Hope KID skipping towards the pools. PAT yells encouragement.

PAT

C'mon! Hustle! You can do it!

The kid who is skipping cannot seem to get the rhythm of skipping down. His feet get tangled and he takes a header face first into the dirt. He pauses like he's not gonna get up.

PAT

C'mon, suck it up. They're not that far ahead.

The kid gets up and hops towards the pool. He hands the baton to an incredibly overweight camper who jumps into the water with a very painful looking bellyflop. It soaks everyone in sight. He surfaces and swims very slowly to the other side of the pool. TIM shakes his head in disbelief.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE

A canoe with four MVPERS race out sure and swift around a far buoy.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD

A kid from Camp MVP kicks a field goal. Then hands his baton to another camper who runs off.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE

The CAMP HOPE canoeing team, jumps in. The boat sinks pretty low in the water. They all start paddling with considerable trouble. TIM moves along the dock shouting encouragement.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD

A moment later, a kid from CAMP HOPE runs onto the football field and attempts to kick a field goal. Instead he whacks his foot directly into the tee, sending the tee directly between the goal posts.

PAT

That counts right?

CHRIS MILLER

No way. I wasn't that drunk.

CUT TO:

EXT. OBSTACLE COURSE

A kid from Camp MVP runs through the tires, jumps over a small pool of water, then climbs over a wall in record time.

CUT TO:

EXT. ARCHERY

Another MVP guy pulls three arrows like ROBIN hood right into a target. He smiles moves on.

CUT TO:

EXT. OBSTACLE COURSE - LATER

A CAMP HOPER runs through the tires. Misses one, runs back and does it right. Then attempts to jump over the water, but lands with one foot in it. He runs to the wall and attempts to climb over it, using the rope. He climbs up a few feet, flailing his legs to try to reach over the top. He spins upside down and falls on his butt. He grabs the rope and keeps trying, but we see it's gonna take a while. CAMP MVP campers, girls and fans laugh.

EXT. FIELD

A tire is hanging from a tree. A kid from CAMP MVP throws it perfectly through the tire, hands the baton off.

EXT. ARCHERY

MICHAEL SIMMS bends the bow back so far it breaks in his hands. JULIE hands him a new one. He loads an arrow, let's it go...we hear screams. MICHAEL'S nose starts to trickle.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD

JOSH reaches the tire, completely winded.

TIM

C'mon Josh. Just sail it through. The second half is when we'll pull ahead. We're almost there.

JOSH takes a deep breath, throws the football and it hits the side of the tire.

TIM

Don't worry. Just relax. You can do it.

He throws another football and misses the tire completely. He quickly throws another football and hits the rope. JOSH gets a panicked look on his face. He's choking. PAT moves to him.

PAT

Get that look off your face. There's absolutely no pressure here.

An announcement comes over the speakers.

CONTINUED:

ANNOUNCER(V.O.)

Camp MVP has clocked in with a new inter-camp record for the first half of the race.

In the background we see JULIE move into frame. She watches PAT with JOSH.

JOSH

We're gonna lose and it's all my fault.

PAT

If we do...who cares? Let me tell you something. In the real world, you're never gonna have to throw a football through a tire. This is a completely pointless activity. Sure two of those kids are going to be professional athletes that make 7 million a year. But the rest will end up working at a gas station where they will be robbed periodically, until they're finally replaced by machines. So don't make a big deal out of this. Just relax and put it in the hole.

JOSH throws the football through the tire. He gives PAT a huge grin, then hands the baton to a kid, who runs backwards out of frame.

JOSH

(to Pat)

Thanks. Is that true? What you just said.

PAT

No. Most of those kids will probably wind up being rich lawyers. But they'll probably never really be happy.

JOSH exits. JULIE walks over to PAT and puts her arm around him.

PAT

Julie, honey...you're back.

JULIE

I never left.

They kiss. TIM honks the horn on the golf cart for them to move it.

CUT TO:

EXT. TABLE AREA - DAY

A kid from Camp MVP is attempting to shave the whipped cream off of a balloon. He concentrates very hard, but each time the balloon pops. He is getting very frustrated.

MVP KID

Who thought of this dumb ass event?

CHRIS MILLER

They get to pick half of the events.
Just be gentle.

He tries another balloon and it pops, getting whipped cream all over his face.

MVP KID

I'm gonna kill those guys.

CUT TO:

EXT. "BUNNY TRAIL" PATH - DAY

ROY hops like a bunny frantically towards the next event. He stops for a second. PAT is on him.

PAT

No stopping Roy. Hang in there, keep hoping. Keep hoping.

He reluctantly keeps going.

CUT TO:

EXT. CENTER OF CAMP - SHAVING BALLOON

ROY gets to the table. Many popped balloons, lots of cream.

JULIE

Looks like they had a little trouble.
Show 'em your nerves of steel.

ROY smiles, they hand him a balloon and razor. He makes a smooth stroke without hesitating.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD

A BIG CAMP MVP gets to a table with six back of diet coke. He sits down to drink.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD

A kid from Camp Hope runs over to a table. There is a six pack of diet coke. One by one he drinks the entire six pack.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD

There is a pool table in the middle of the field. PHILIP from Camp Hope is clearing all the balls off the table. He has one more left, the eight ball. He looks up and sees his GIRL from the dance watching him.

PHILIP

How far ahead are they?

OFFICIAL

Sink this one and you can catch 'em.

He smiles. Winks at his girl, then sinks it with ease.

EXT. FIELD

There is a small stage built in the middle of the field. A kid from Camp MVP stands there looking uncomfortable. There is a sign that says, "Name Five American Vice Presidents"

MVP KID

...Quayle...

OFFICIAL

You already said that.

MVP GUY

This is so stupid. These kids are such faggots. What does this have to do with sports?

CHRIS MILLER

C'mon. You studied, you can do it.

The camper exhales, tries again. Suddenly NICK appears. They have caught up..

NICHOLAS

We've caught you.

MVP GUY

Eat shit.

CONTINUED:

NICHOLAS

Ahem...John Adams, Ulysses S. Grant,
Richard Milhouse Nixon, James W.
Buchanan, and J. Danforth Quayle.

The official nods. NICK smiles at his opponent.

NICHOLAS

You Americans have no sense of history.

He hands the baton to Gerry.

NICHOLAS

Take 'em down Captain.

Everyone yells a supportive version of his nickname.

ALL

Go Captain Kirk. Mr. C. Captain
Courageous. Captain America. Captain
Crunch.

GERRY side steps away as fast as he can to the go-cart track.

CUT TO:

EXT. GO CART TRACK

CAMP MVP unveils their BLACK GO CART OF DEATH. JACK the biggest jerk MVP jumps behind the wheel. A pit crew starts him up. He takes off on the mini Indy 500. GERRY runs to his machine. TIM pulls off the cover. It's a really cool Mad Max sort of rig. It has sponsor stickers from NUTRA-SYSTEM and JENNY CRAIG. On the back it has a very strange adapted engine. PAT pulls the cord...it sounds like an outboard boat engine. GERRY is strapped in by ROY and JOSH his crew. They nod, he gives them the big thumbs up, they roll him out. HE ZOOMS away. CHRIS MILLER and DOUG look over.

CHRIS

What kind of engine is that?

TIM

4839 posy track, overhead fly cam with a
reversible strut 233 cycindrical
balast...inboard/outboard.

CHRIS

That's our engine!

CONTINUED:

TIM

Really? You can have it back after the race.

CUT TO:

EXT. GO-CART TRACK

The go-cart track circles the entire camp. The starting line is also the finish line. GERRY goes into the first turn a little too fast and spins out. He quickly drives back onto the track, but he has lost more ground.

He floors it as fast as he can when he goes into the second turn. He negotiates the turn at a fast speed and makes up a lot of ground. The track heads into the woods where it curves in and out of trees. GERRY drives very fast and comes very close to crashing into trees several times.

When the go-carts reach the next straightaway, GERRY is right on his opponents tail. He finally gets right next to him but his opponent bangs his car into GERRY'S. GERRY looks scared. GERRY attempts to pass him on the left side, but his opponent blocks him. GERRY attempts to pass him on the right side, but his opponent blocks him again. As they head into the final turn, GERRY fakes left, then guns it toward the right and passes his opponent. He puts the pedal to the medal and crosses the finish line - clearly the winner. THE CAMP MVP'S look on in shock.

All of the campers from CAMP HOPE are there to congratulate GERRY. They grab him and do a giant pile on, the likes of which has never been seen before. When all of his friends get off of GERRY, he is in pain, but happy. TIM comes over.

TIM

We did it! We did it!

He jumps on GERRY and knocks him to the ground. Everyone dog piles again. The last person to jump on is PAT, who jumps high and lands hard on top of the pile. Everyone celebrates like mad. Bedlam and Triumph! It's a time none of them will ever forget.

CUT TO:

PHOTOGRAPH

We see a group photograph of the entire camp including TONY PERKIS taken on the first day of camp. Everyone looks unhealthy, and miserable. The word "BEFORE" is written under it.

CUT TO:

PHOTOGRAPH

We see a group photograph of the entire camp taken on the last day of camp. Everyone is happy, and healthy.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GERRY'S SCHOOL - TWO WEEKS LATER

Like in the beginning of the story, GERRY is standing at the school's curb waiting for his bus. He sees MICHELLE, the girl he was scared to ask out. He confidently walks up to her.

GERRY

Michelle, hey, how are you doing?

MICHELLE

Hi Gerry. How was your summer? You go to Europe.

GERRY

Nah, better. Listen, I want to ask you something?

MICHELLE

What?

GERRY

Do you want to go out one night, to a movie or something?

MICHELLE

No.

Her answer doesn't bother him at all.

GERRY

Okay...Your loss.

His bus pulls up, and he jumps on happily.

THE END