

## I Met Pauly Shore at Fort Jackson

We knew they were filming a movie, so we lined up like cattle hoping that the stars would be strategically placed in our platoon, in our row, and the close-ups would catch a glimpse of us, blurry, but recognizable, so when we made it through basic & AIT, we could see the movie with our friends back home, on leave and nonchalantly say, that's me, I met Encino Man, and he stayed in character the whole time, and we got to do a Q&A with the actors before the filming and the Puerto Rican girl, named Rodriguez, asked if Pauly had a girlfriend despite the fact that we all looked rough & like we hadn't slept in eight weeks, but he laughed and played along and she blushed and then we went to Victory Tower even though we had all proved that we could climb and repel with the boys, this time we had to help Pauly because he was woozy looking over the side & it was a steep drop, but there were the drill sergeants calling us crack heads and yard birds & I enjoyed Victory Tower so I was asked to lead by example, so Pauly watched as I took the leap of faith over the side with my clips fastened and trust in Sergeant Green Eyes From Trinidad and walked perpendicularly down the 100 foot wall and I would have loved to offer Pauly reassurance, but I was just a private first class and offering advice was left to the officers & eventually Pauly made the descent and we called it an early day and I was grateful because we had been training eighteen hours a day and I was starting to grit my teeth and my Haitian friend, the tri-lingual girl with a French name, had lent me *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.