



THE PASQUANEY ANNUAL

VOL. XLXXVIII 1966 Supplement to THE WHITE BIRCH

Published by and for the members
Of Camp Pasquaney

THE ANNUAL BOARD

Chairman Robert R. Thompson

EDITORIAL

(This Editorial consists of excerpts from a Tree Talk delivered by Bob Bulkeley on August 21, 1966)

Boys, there must reside today in each of us an inescapable sense of obligation — obligation to fulfill during the winter the promise of the summer a duty to Pasquaney's tradition of excellence and its devotion to the ideal of the Christian gentleman — an obligation to ourselves to grow in the manner we have known best here. Equally pressing is a sense of determination to fulfill this obligation. Mr. Charlie's sermon on Loyalty urged a mature commitment to the ideals, values, and standards we have learned to respect at Pasquaney. Yet idealism can be double-edged. It can lead to blind, unrealistic, naive belief in endless possibility and endless goodness, and hence it can deceive; or it can be the mature, realistic basis for a solid character which will mold rather than follow the times. The cynical present too often scoffs at ideals, perhaps because so few people are able to experience or even observe effective idealism. Also, idealism has been intellectually debunked by the pragmatists and analytic thinkers. But here at Camp we have been exposed to the sort of ideals that direct a man to the fulfillment of the total man — especially to the fulfillment of the innermost need for Christian love, fidelity, and dedication of the self to a meaningful purpose or way of life. This sort of idealism, when pursued, produces an elegance and grace that elevate our lives from the mundane and help to establish true stature.

Hopefully all of us here are charged with great faith in the validity of our ideals. We must never stint this faith; yet we must always be honest in our understanding of idealism. Conditions elsewhere are often less favorable for the practice of the principled life. Indeed much of the culture we live amidst is hostile to any sort of commitment to excellence, to altruistic principles of service, or even to such basic human necessities as a sense of honor.

In fact, the world outside will only rarely provide proof that the essential values we have learned here are really to be valued at all. Thus we must recognize elsewhere, as we have here, that the best values are timeless. The good, as we have learned it, is permanent; it can give our lives meaningful direction. Ideals still exist in the midst of moral and spiritual devastation.

If we believe in the intellectual integrity of idealism, and if we have learned from our experiences here that striving toward ideals leads to both fulfillment and excellence, what more do we need to make our resolve strong? First, we must recognize that man is inevitably composed of good and evil. The devil resides in each of us and will constantly tempt us; we must honestly face the fact that sometimes we will fail. But we must not let failure shake our faith in the worth of our ideals. Second, we must have faith; we

must learn that the spiritual and religious in life cannot be understood wholly rationally: much that is contradictory, paradoxical, and irrational is meaningful.

Yes, boys, here we have started to learn permanent values, true purpose, and high ideals. Those with the highest hopes and expectations for mankind will get socked square in the nose with disappointment and disillusionment unless they realize that life is a difficult challenge for all, that we all fail, and that the risk of commitment takes an open-eyed courage that is willing to accept what it sees and to face what it doesn't like. So let us experience the hazards and joys of commitment. Let us cultivate the elegance of the good life here and carry it home with an honest, humble pride. I pray that we shall all have the strength to do this.