



The Next Generation

Preservation Of Idealism

by Quixote

"Some people see things as they are and ask why? I dream things as they never were and ask why not?" Robert Kennedy, '68.

Probably the greatest natural resource this or any other country has today is its people, particularly its next generation. And the resource is not so much the hands these people have with which they can become productive members of the economic structure. Nor is it so much their physical selves that will determine that they will be consumers and exchangers of goods for services and vice-versa. The resource lies in their minds and especially their hearts. It is their dreams and loves, their faith and hope, in essence it is their idealism that is the world's greatest natural resource.

For it is idealism, especially the unique brand that the young have percolating within them, that prods people to believe in things that seem unbelievable, to reach out for things that seem far distant, and to dream things that never were and ask why not? It is the intangible food for our inner selves that can change our perception of reality so that we see beauty where

others would sight ordinariness, so that we sense the sublime where others would feel the mundane, so that we garner the energy to strive for goals that the older, jaded refugees from earlier periods would consul us that are unrealistic or laughable. Idealism is an inspirational energy that fuels the forces of change and if once lost is rarely recaptured.

And so it must be preserved in the same sense that people feel compelled to preserve the wilderness, or certain species of creatures endangered by the imbalance in the ecosystem that we the humans have triggered. Indeed perhaps the mission of preserving idealism within our deepest inner selves should be the starting point for all other preservation efforts as we face a world of diminishing resources and material crises. For if we preserve the ideal then the armies necessary to preserve the real will be filled with idealistic zealots who may not surrender as easily as other combatants in the struggle for survival and the preservation of what is truly meaningful and beautiful.

Could it begin here in as unlikely a place as Brevard College? Can any good come

from Bethlehem? To be sure the struggle for the preservation and strengthening of idealism should be a national endeavor. But perhaps the most appropriate battle ground is and will continue to be the college campuses. For it is on the college campus where there is a unique convergence of people dedicated to the proposition that education is enlightening and productive of greater societal change and people seeking that education who, in their tender years, have not lost that youthful exuberance nor that hunger to believe in something bigger than themselves, something as vast as life itself. The convergence of the two creates the possibility of a supercharged environment — a hot house if you will — for the growth and strengthening of idealism and its preservation. Brevard can and should be such a place.

But what would it take? It would take a consistent commitment on the part of the college and its administration to seek to understand the nature of idealism and realize its potential as a positive force in the affairs of men and this world. Basically, most truly dedicated educators have a vague faith and feeling of the above proposition. What is woefully lacking in the mainstream of American educators is that very few scholars or researchers take seriously the nature of idealism as appropriate for research and investigation to learn how better to stimulate it and to develop it. Teachers here and elsewhere seem to feel that idealism is something like natural athletic ability, one either has it or doesn't; and even those who have it will have it dissipated with time as inevitably the athlete loses his quickness and agility. But does it have to be that way? Those who would answer yes have already lost their battles and are divorced from the world that those of us who would answer no still see as a possibility and indeed a necessity.

What else would it take? It would take a student body
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A Happy Thanksgiving To All!

More Brains Added To The Bunch

by DeAnna Johnson

Tuesday, November 11th, marked the day that Phi Theta Kappa inducted nine new sophomore members. The formal induction was held in the Weaver Room. Our own Dr. Wood spoke for the occasion, challenging PTK members to excellence.

PTK sets high standards for their members. After two semesters, a 3.2 average is required. However, to become a member after only one semester, a 3.5 average is required. That is without a grade of D or below for any class. Members must be of good character and citizenship. Before a person is asked to join, he must also be approved by the faculty.

The members inducted November 11 were Amy Adams, Sue Combs, Chuck Doughton, David Hauser, Cheryl Hyden, Tomoko Nikimoto, Hongsian Oen, Gina Starling, and Debbi Townsend.

January will be the time for the next induction, until then the

provisional freshmen members anticipate whether they will meet all requirements. The active provisionals are as follows: Karen Capps, Michael Cook, Missi Ellison, Rafael Gasti, DeAnna Johnson, Evelyn Lewis, Sarah McNeil, Beth Parker, and Paige Peterson.

The following are sophomores who are already PTK members: Anna Barden, Pamela Blalock, Kirk Davis, Amy Garrou, Clark Johnson, Joyce Keenum, Terri Kitchen, Debbie Moseman, Marty Nichols, Joan Smith, and Tim Watson.

Congratulations are extended to the new members and best wishes to the provisionals.

PTK Coming Events:

November 18, the PTK program will be the film "Break on Through." It is a story of an athlete's desire to win and his need to compete. A discussion on competition and its role in life will follow the movie. December 2 is the Sports College Bowl.

Student Financial Aid for 1981-82

All Freshmen Students who are currently receiving Financial Aid, based on need, for the 1980-81 academic year will receive the 1981-82 Financial Aid Form (FAF) in their campus mail box on or about December 10th. This form must be filed with the College Scholarship Service after January 1, 1981, and before March 1, 1981.

All Sophomore Students planning to continue their higher education in another school should stop at the Financial Aid Office (Room 205, Beam Administration Building) and pick up the new 1981-82 FAF.

ANY STUDENT who does not receive the new FAF in the campus mail, may pick one up at the Financial Aid Office.