

JIMMY WEINSTEIN'S OLD COUNSELOR SPEECH, GIVEN AT THE BANQUET, 1983

THE CHICKAWAH EXPERIENCE

I'm very flattered that the Senior House has chosen me to give the old counselor speech.

Rather than try and describe my emotions and feelings for Chickawah, which are obviously very deep, I'd like to analyse what it is that makes Chickawah special.

I'd like to start with three questions that apply to me specifically, but to all of you in general:

What has kept me coming back for 11 years and I hope, 12?

Why do I feel as good about this place as I did in 1972 even though the only people who remain are Betty and Moe, Mickey and Susan, Johnny B. and Scott Saltman? (I forgot Paul!)

Why did I choose to come back this summer instead of working for a relatively good wage at home? (everyone laughed, I ad libbed "I didn't mean it to come out like that")

The answer to all three questions is very simple, The Chickawah Experience.

Although the faces and names change, Chickawah remains. To me, it embodies three essential qualities: Stability, Family, and Learning. That Chickawah does not change, and should not, is stability.

Chickawah, its concept, and its application was great for my father and for me. The stability that transcends generations is something

I hope will remain when I eventually am married, have a son, and send him here. But the stability is due to a variety of factors....

One is the backbone of the camp... Betty and Moe, Mickey and Susan. As people there when I have needed them, they are surrogate parents. Because of them, I have never felt lonely at Chickawah. It is the structure of the camp and the role they play that makes them parental figures, roles which are a major part of camp.

Yet there is more to the Chickawah family than merely those who sit at the head table. The family is made up of each and every one of you, and while few of us are related, we have the same experiences as a family--fights and conflicts, but more often harmony and love.

Chickawah, like family is a microcosm of society, (that means it is like the real world, but much smaller.

In this manner, it is a learning experience. It was here that I learned how to deal with other human beings. Chickawah, like College, is where I had to make it on my own, yet in a friendly atmosphere. My feelings when I have succeeded here are the same as at school.

Whenever my boat won a regatta... especially when we upset Navy, it felt exactly the same as winning Blue and Gray. My exhilaration at winning elective office at school equalled my thrill at being elected a Tribe and Blue and Gray captain. Chickawah has allowed me the whole range of experiences, in a smaller, closer atmosphere.

In closing, I'd like to tell a story... During the winter and spring Uncle Moe and I had some correspondance. At the end of one of his

letters, he said, " for all you have given Chickawah, Chickawah has given you that much, and more."

Moe, you're right.

Thank you.