

Editorial Notes

Recently a medical school faculty member passed me in the hall. Though we serve on a community committee together, it stunned me when he invited me to his office for a cup of coffee. After pleasantries, he said. "By the time medical students get to me, I know they have the brains to be doctors, but I don't know whether they have the guts for it." His question was not a matter of desire, but of character. And so the beat of one person's soul asks the question how do we know whether someone has the heart for it.

While this issue of *The Campus Minister* does not pretend to answer that question, we do look at three or more facets of it. Jim Green's application of Covey's book to student work demonstrates several features of the practical application of leadership skills within our own lives as students workers. The same ideas should provide assistance to our students -- especially those who seem lost in the campus world. Covey argues essentially for an implementation of the character ethic -- something he claims has been lost throughout the years. Covey also does a unique shift through his work. In years past, business placed high regard on efficiency with companies even hiring efficiency experts. Covey believes, however, that efficiency reflects an inappropriate value. Today, we should be effective. And thus Covey initiates his own paradigm shift. The practicalities of Covey's work which Jim Greene highlights in this first of a three part series deserve our attention. I never shall forget my junior year in college when my BSU director began a discipleship group on campus with very basic -- and perhaps by today's standards primitive -- ideas on discipleship, leadership and discipline. Following some of these simple suggestions, various facets of my life were transformed. It appears to me that Covey's book contains enough simple, straightforward stuff on life that our students would certainly all benefit from it. Campus ministers will find help for their own journeys as well.

Robert Guffey's piece holds several gems for us. Bobby -- as those of us in Shreveport know him -- has participated in a leadership program for civic leaders. This program, directed by the Shreveport

Chamber of Commerce, fascinates me at several levels, but most importantly, I was intrigued when Bobby said that he was concentrating on the spiritual dimensions of leadership as his unique niche in this program. Sections in his work reflect on hindrances to servant leadership as well as stories of character from those who found themselves in leadership positions without their consent. The delight and surprise of Bobby's paper lies along the edges where the business community discovers issues of character, compassion and the validity of a servant style of leadership. It seems that BSU has lived on that edge for quite a while. The winds of the Spirit moves where it will. You will also be grateful to Bobby, for his bibliography and resources for leadership development. These items appear in the three appendices.

As many of you know, the Baptist General Convention of Texas commissioned a study of student work some time ago. You may have heard George Louthback's presentation of his finding. He has graciously allowed ASBCM to print this condensation of the report he made to the BGCT. Pay attention to the things George sees on the horizon and prepare for their inevitable arrival. As the proverb says "a word to the wise is sufficient"

The day in which we live contains the language of cost-benefit analysis, downsizing, bottom line as well as perks, growth, restructuring and profit. In years past, other language and other disciplines have provided the lens through which we view reality. Law, medicine, psychology and yes even theology have enjoy time in the spotlight. But now there is a new sheriff in town. While the word paradigm may be a bit overused these days, what you see in this language shift is in fact the proof of a not so subtle paradigm shift. All does not come easy for the new holder of the paradigm. Inevitably, the discipline in power has to answer the eternal tough questions: What is the meaning of life? Why are we here? What is right? What is good? Business is in the driver's seat now. Whether they discover better answers that did law or psychology remains to be seem.

In the mean time, what should we do as theologians and educators? Learn all the good things we can from the new business hermeneutic, reevaluate our own perspective, continue to give honest

attention to the big questions in life and where permitted, speak gentle corrective words into the business scheme of things. With the MBA as one of the more sought after degrees today, it remains clear that many of our students are fascinated with the prospects of life in the business world. Salaries of corporate executive surpass even the most talented athletic superstars. What better opportunity do we have than to prepare students to enter this new business frame of reference with a unique blend of the best of our heritage as Baptists and the solid moral base of our Christian faith. Above all, make sure your students have the heart to live in this world.