

AN OLD PROFESSOR OF MINE, BEN MASSEY, - ONCE POSTULATED THAT OUR LITERATURE WOULD BE IMPROVED A THOUSAND TIMES - IF ALL SCHOLARS WERE LIMITED TO THREE PUBLICATIONS. - I'M REACHING THE STAGE WHERE I'M FEELING THE SAGACITY OF HIS STATEMENT IN THESE NASSH PRESENTATIONS. - I'VE BEEN ON PRACTICALLY ALL OF THE NASSH PROGRAMS SINCE WE STARTED - AND I'M REALLY WONDERING WHETHER I HAVE ANYTHING NEW TO SAY.

I SEE SOME OLD FAMILIAR FACES HERE AND SOME NOT SO OLD. - THE OLD AMONG YOU, FROM WHOM DON AND I COULD LEARN AS MUCH, OR MORE, THAN WE WILL TEACH ABOUT THIS "ART OF TEACHING" - HAVE PROBABLY COME HERE TO CONFIRM WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW - AND IN THE VAGUE HOPE THAT THEY MIGHT PICK UP ONE LITTLE PIECE OF GOLD - SINCE BY NOW THEY HAVE LONG KNOWN - THAT THERE ARE NO MAGIC GIMMICKS THAT CHANGE BAD TEACHING INTO GOOD - AND THEY HAVE NO HOPES OF FINDING THEM HERE.

PERHAPS THE BEST ATTACK STRATEGY IS TO PUT THE "APPLE PIE" STATEMENTS OUT OF THE WAY EARLY.

TO BE A GOOD TEACHER:

YOU MUST BE ENTHUSIASTIC.

YOU MUST CONVINCE CLASS THAT THE STUFF IS REALLY IMP. TO YOU

YOU MUST HAVE SOME HUMOUR

AND - YOU MUST HAVE - AND PASS ON - YOUR LOVE FOR TEACHING

ASSUMING YOU ALREADY HAVE THESE TRAITS IN YOUR TEACHING PERSONALITY, YOU CAN GO ON TEACHING FOREVER AND REMAIN AS GOOD AS YOU ARE NOW.

IF YOU WISH TO IMPROVE - YOU HAVE TO TAKE VERY OVERT MOVES TO DO SO. - ASSUMING YOU DO WISH TO GET BETTER - REMIND YOURSELF ABOUT THIS DECISION AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK - FOR THE REST OF YOUR PROFESSIONAL LIVES. - MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR IF YOU MUST.

YOU'VE HEARD THE OVER-WORKED EXPRESSION - "A PERSON WHO DOES SOMETHING THE SAME WAY FOR TEN YEARS HASN'T HAD TEN YEAR'S EXPERIENCE; BUT RATHER, HAS EXPERIENCED ONE YEAR - TEN TIMES" - THIS THOUGHT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER IF YOU WANT TO IMPROVE.

LET'S ASSUME YOU ALL WANT TO KEEP IMPROVING. - AND LET'S FURTHER ASSUME THAT I'M GOING TO HAVE THE UNMITIGATED GALL TO TELL YOU HOW TO DO JUST THAT.

TO CHANGE - YOU MUST EXPERIMENT - BUT THAT COMES LATER.

FIRST - YOU HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHY YOU DO WHAT YOU DO.

IF YOU DO THIS YOU WON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE A HEALTH EDUCATOR FRIEND OF MINE MADE SEVERAL YEARS AGO WHEN --- OFFENDED - HE WROTE A NOTE TO A STUDENT'S FATHER:

- "DEAR MR. JONES," IT SAID: "YOUR SON STINKS! - HE NEEDS TO BATHE MORE OFTEN"

- MR. JONES WROTE BACK: DEAR TEACHER: "DON'T SMELL HIM - TEACH HIM!"

- DON'T REPEAT HIS MISTAKE -- FIGURE OUT WHO YOU SERVE - AND WHY

STEP TWO - GATHER SOME THINGS WITH WHICH YOU WORK INTO YOUR EXPERIMENTS.

FOR STARTERS - IDENTIFY WHO IS GOOD AT WHAT YOU DO - AND WHO IS NOT.

STEP THREE - TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHAT MAKES THEM BETTER - THIS APPEARS HARDER THAN IT IS. - YOU WILL FIND THAT MANY OF THE THINGS THAT MAKE ONE PROFESSIONAL BETTER THAN ANOTHER ARE VERY GENERALIZABLE:

- YEAR AFTER YEAR WHEN I ASK STUDENTS WHAT THEY WANT IN A GOOD PROFESSOR THEY DESCRIBE SOMEONE WHO IS: HARD WORKING - KNOWLEDGEABLE - PERSONABLE - ENTHUSIASTIC - HAS A SENSE OF HUMOUR - IS ORGANIZED - IS COMPASSIONATE - WELL PREPARED - POSITIVE -

- I WRITE THESE TRAITS ON THE BOARD - THEN I SAY "OKAY - YOU WHO WERE BORN TO DEMAND SO MUCH - WHAT DO YOU THINK WE - YOUR PROFESSORS - WANT IN A STUDENT?" [HARD WORKING - KNOWLEDGEABLE . . .]

- THERE ARE SOME REALLY DIFFERENT THINGS ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE THE VERY BEST AT TEACHING - BUT GENERALLY - GUESS - WHAT TRAITS ARE MOST OBVIOUS IN A GOOD PROFESSIONAL? . . . - YOU WANT TO HEAR THEM AGAIN?

THE TRULY EXCEPTIONAL PROFESSIONAL - AS WELL AS BEING ALL THESE THINGS - IS ALSO CREATIVE AND INNOVATIVE.

ONCE YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED WHO IS EXCELLENT AND WHY - THE NEXT STEP IS TO STEAL EVERY THING YOU CAN FROM THEM - AND MAKE "THESE" ADMIRABLE TRAITS PART OF YOUR PROFESSIONAL PERSONALITY.

YOU NOT ONLY STEAL FROM THOSE IN YOUR OWN PROFESSION - YOU REMAIN CONSTANTLY ALERT SO YOU CAN STEAL ALL YOU CAN - FROM ALL YOU SEE, FEEL, HEAR, READ, OR SENSE . . .

CREATING YOUR OWN CREATIVITY IS NOT SO SIMPLE - I RE-READ THE CLASSIC DOOLEY / HINNESSY DISCUSSION EVERY YEAR. - THE ONE IN WHICH DOOLEY TELLS HINNESSEY THAT HISTORY WASN'T TRUE - BECAUSE IT WASN'T LIKE

WHAT HE SAW OUT ON THE STREET. THE ONE WHERE HE TOLD HINNESSEY THAT IF SOMEONE COULD SHOW HIM A HISTORY OF GREECE OR ROME WITH PEOPLE FIGHTIN', GETTIN' DRUNK, MAKIN'

LOVE, GETTIN' MARRIED, OWIN' THE GROCERY MAN AN BEIN' WITHOUT HARD COAL, THEN, AND ONLY THEN, WOULD HE BELIEVE THERE WAS A GREECE OR ROME.

IF YOU'VE HEARD THE STORY, YOU KNOW THAT DOOLEY GOES ON TO TELL HINNESSEY HOW HISTORY SHOWS WHAT A COUNTRY DIED OF - AND WHAT DOOLEY WAS REALLY INTERESTED IN WAS WHAT IT HAD LIVED OF.

I TRY TO REMEMBER THIS EVERYTIME I PREPARE A LECTURE.

MY AIM WAS NOT TO TELL THEM WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO FIGHT THE SPARTANS, BUT RATHER TO HAVE THEM FEEL IT. - HOW YOU CHOOSE TO DO THIS WILL BE DIFFERENT THAN MINE.

THE SUREST WAY TO CREATIVITY - IS TO GIVE SOME SORT OF OPEN-END ASSIGNMENT

- WHICH DEMANDS A PRESENTATION. - SOME OF THEM ARE ALWAYS LOUSY - BUT THEIR ARE ALWAYS SOME OF THEM - THAT BRING LAUGHTER AND TEARS - AND FAR SURPASS ANYTHING YOU'VE DONE TO DATE.

SPEND YOUR LIFE EXPERIMENTING - PERMANENT CHANGE COMES WHEN YOU:

- KEEP THE GOOD AND THROW OUT THE BAD

THE LAST STEP GETS TOUGHER AND TOUGHER THE OLDER YOU GET . . . AND THAT IS

- TO FORCE THE STUFF INTO YOUR PROFESSIONAL PERSONALITY

DO THIS - AND STAY POSITIVE!!! - AND YOU'LL GET BETTER . . . AND BETTER . . . AND BETTER.

WHENEVER I'M ASKED TO DESCRIBE AN A STUDENT - I REMEMBER AN ITEM I HEARD ON CBC SEVERAL YEARS AGO - THE STORY DESCRIBED AN ENGINEERING STUDENT WHOSE TERM PROJECT WAS TO MAKE A MACHINE WHICH WOULD CLIMB THE STAIRS IN THE THEATRE TYPE CLASSROOM. - HIS ROBOT CLIMBED THE STAIRS WHILE PLAYING "DEUTSCHLAND - MIEN DEUTSCHLAND" - WHEN IT GOT TO THE TOP OF THE STAIRS - IT DID AN ABOUT-FACE - ITS ARM FLEW UP - IT HOLLERED "HEIL HITLER" - AND IT BLEW ITSELF TO PIECES.

SOME OF US HAVE TO LEARN TO LISTEN LIKE PROFESSIONALS - FROM NOW ON - EVERY TIME YOU FIND YOURSELVES SITTING AND LISTENING TO ANYONE EXPOUNDING ON ANYTHING - REMEMBER:

- YOU'RE THERE ANYWAY - SO YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO GAIN BY PAYING NO ATTENTION.

- WHY NOT DO THE FOLLOWING: - CRITICALLY ANALIZE WHAT'S BEING SAID - AND RATHER THAN SIT THERE CONVINCED THAT THE STUFF ISN'T RELATIVE TO YOUR SITUATION - PLAY WITH IT - AND SHAPE THE IDEAS INTO SOMETHING YOU CAN USE. - REMEMBER - THERE ARE VERY FEW EXPERIENCES IN LIFE FROM WHICH YOU CAN'T LEARN.

BE ASSURED THAT WE DON'T HAVE - AND YOU WILL NOT FIND - JOBS IN IDEAL ENVIRONMENTS - YOU CAN COMPLAIN ALL DAY - GO HOME AND GRIPE TO WHOMEVER WILL LISTEN EACH NIGHT ABOUT THE SITUATION - OR - YOU CAN EVOKE CHANGE - BY BEING BETTER THAN THOSE AROUND YOU.

STAYING POSITIVE AND FRESH BECOMES HARDER AS THE JOB BEATS YOU DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS - - MOST OF US HAVE BEEN THROUGH SEVERAL PROFESSIONAL CRISES - CHANCES ARE - YOU'LL HAVE TO ADD A FEW OF THESE TO THE THINGS WITH WHICH YOU'LL HAVE TO COPE - DURING THE REST OF YOUR PROFESSIONAL LIVES.

FOR THAT MATTER - WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT OF BEING POSITIVE AND
REWARDING - DON'T BE AFRAID TO COMPLEMENT ANYONE AROUND YOU WHO
DOES A GOOD JOB. - IF YOU WANT TO TELL THEM THEY'RE LOUSY - YOU'D
BETTER BE THEIR OFFICIAL SUPERVISOR -

PERMIT ME TO READ A SHORT POEM WHICH I HAVE ALWAYS FOUND
INSPIRATIONAL:

PROUDLY TEACH

BY CLARE TREE MAJOR

ADAPTED BY A.J."SANDY" YOUNG, CROOK

WOULD YOU SET YOUR NAME AMONG THE STARS?
THEN WRITE IT LARGE UPON THE HEARTS OF STUDENTS
- THEY WILL REMEMBER

HAVE YOU VISIONS OF A NOBLER, HAPPIER WORLD?
TELL THE STUDENTS
- THEY WILL BUILD IT FOR YOU

HAVE YOU A WORD FOR POOR STUMBLING HUMANKIND?
THEN GIVE IT NOT TO ADULTS LONG ESTABLISHED IN THEIR WAYS GIVE IT TO
THE STUDENTS

IN THEIR CLEAR, UNTROUBLED MINDS
IT WILL REFLECT ITSELF A THOUSAND FOLD

AND SOMEDAY PAINT ITSELF UPON THE MOUNTAINTOP