

Wednesday de-
votions tonight
7:00 and 7:30

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
February 25, 1942

Confessions tonight
at Ben. Afterwards
in Dil., How., Cav.

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Youth Gives Up Religion, Turns Rapist.

Recently a Chicago court sentenced to life imprisonment a young man. He was only 18 years old. And he was not a criminal by profession. He came from a fine family and had received a high school education. In football he had been a star. The charge brought against him was the assault of twenty-six women. The court found him sane within the meaning of the law, and declared him guilty.

I.

How It Started.

He gave up God. Until a year ago the young man believed in a Being to whom he was responsible. As soon as he began to read the philosophy of Nietzsche and Schopenhauer, his convictions began to change. In less than a year he was a confirmed atheist. With God out of the picture, there was no need to restrain the cravings of the flesh.

II.

The Judge Said Religion Would Have Prevented It.

"The court tried to analyze the life of this young man; a remarkable student, respectful, quiet, a conscientious attendant at church, a son any parent might well be proud of, until a year ago when he became obsessed with Nietzsche's philosophy. He then abandoned religion and orderly society for a new concept 'that moral consideration presupposes a very low grade of intellect.'"

"His conduct was exemplary as long as he retained his religious views and influences. His criminal tendencies and inclinations are traceable directly to his newly acquired atheistic convictions. Not every atheist is a criminal, but, in this court's experience every criminal is estranged from the church. . ."

III.

Too Much Religion!!

This story of a ruined life is a warning to every young man. It is not smart to examine every philosophy of life - it is dangerous. Catholics, especially you men and women in college, you have an Index of forbidden books given you by Mother Church for your protection. You can dabble in forbidden books and lose your faith and be led into horrible habits of sin. Live by the principles of your Catholic Faith and you won't become a menace to yourself and society, like the Chicago lad.

Try it. Give up living by principles, the laws of religion, and see what happens. For a while you will have fun. Soon your taste for sin will change. You will want to turn over a new leaf, and you will find it impossible. Habit controls you. You have become a menace to yourself. Sin may lead to disease, to broken health, to a terrible fight with conscience. For the high school graduate it brought imprisonment for life.

Young men and women, you will not follow the principles of religion unless you keep God in mind and pray. Evil inclinations, if left unhampered, lead a man to hell on earth. Catholic youths can never follow the doctrines of Christ unless they go to church where they hear the Word of God, where they pray and receive strength through the Sacraments and Mass. Some claim there is too much religion. You never see these complainers at Mass, at Communion. They make no Lent. They may not become rapists, but they will become abominable to God and to themselves unless they stay close to God. They must pray. Everyone must pray.

PRAYERS: (Deceased) grandfather of Joseph Zimmerman (Cav); anniv. father of Don Hummer (Cav). (Ill) father of Prof. Reichle; Jack Warner (Dil), operation. 7 S. I.