

Sunday is deadline for
Easter Communion. Encourage
those who are delinquent.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
May 23, 1945

Night confessions at 6:30
in Basement Chapel and after
7:00 in Sorin and Cavanaugh.

Three Booby Traps.

Our enemies have used every possible device to take human life. The most vicious of these is the booby trap. Perhaps the most atrocious case to come to public notice was that of a severely wounded Yank. Enemy forces captured him and attached dynamite charges to his body so that when the American medics came and touched the injury an explosion would take place killing all. Innocent things are often booby traps, a pump handle for a thirsty G.I., the latch of the front door of what looks like a friendly shelter in an abandoned cottage. A few boys may have missed death from these traps, but not without the loss of an eye, a leg or an arm.

Our Blessed Lord never used the phrase "booby trap," but He did use the word "scandal," its Scriptural equivalent. A booby trap is calculated to entice, first of all, and then to destroy life. Scandal does just that; it draws one into sin. Scandal can wear clothes, for it can be a boy or a girl. It can change itself into liquid form and dress up in a bottle. It often puts itself on paper as an alluring picture or a suggestive story. The Scandals of 1945 have already been staged and have made a smashing hit. Here are three we want you to meet - in print, but never in reality, because to associate with scandal is sin; many times its mortal.

The first of modern scandals is the pickup. She comes from a popular family of girls. Her little sister is a bar fly, and her big sister is a grass widow, temporarily while her husband is in Europe and her wedding ring is in the dresser drawer. God has warned men against these girls, not by name, but by speaking vehemently about the results of association with them, immodesty, fornication and adultery. That's God's way of telling every young man that a pickup is a booby trap that can blow him into hell.

Second on the list of 1945 booby traps is the drinking companion. He is the brother of the Pickup sisters. He violently denies any relationship with them. But once an old missionary put him in his place by stating a bald truth, namely that "three drinks make a fellow tight and four make him loose" Drinking often leads to immorality, and when it does, it must be avoided.

All the devils are not fallen angels. Some of them are fallen men. And he who teaches the young to sin, whether boy or girl, either by liquor or impurity, or any other way, has one of Christ's strongest remarks levied against him: "He that shall scandalize one of these little ones that believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone be hanged about his neck, and that he should be drowned in the depths of the sea."

The evils of drink are widespread. It is wise for a young man to consult his confessor before he begins to seek refreshment and recreation enlivened by alcohol. He may be too young or too weak-willed to drink. A reputation and a soul is at stake. Both can be lost even at a Catholic school.

A cousin of the drinking companion is late hours. There would be fewer souls in hell if nightlife stopped at midnight. It is a matter of plain fact, that the will is less strong when the body is fatigued. Dissipation mixed with night life often ends not only with impurity, but with the missing of Sunday Mass. Would you tell the story of your week's ends to your mother?

Maybe you are a prodigal who wants to come home. Don't delay. Repent and come back. Your heavenly Father is waiting for you with open arms.

PRAYERS: (deceased) James T. Keefe, PhB '07 (North Platte, Neb.); grandmother of Jack Titus (OC); grandmother of John Stevning (Cav). (Ill) Robert O'Callaghan Jr., ex. '45 (Hines Hospital, Chicago); Major Jim Whelan, '26; nephew of Bob Lewis (Sor).