



University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
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Booby Traps

Maybe you need this Bulletin before you go home, maybe not. But if past weekends and previous vacation periods have been blemished by sin, then you need to do some straight thinking before you leave the campus.

The modern mind, especially of youth, is well portrayed by an Eastern motorist who was held up and robbed of all his money. Somehow the victim managed to conceal his watch. But he was irked by the loss of his wallet. So he drove around the block hurriedly hoping to catch the crook before he got away. The two met at an intersection. This time the motorist lost his watch. The fellow asked for trouble, so does every person who enters an unnecessary occasion of sin.

You might examine your conscience to see if you are not a member of that group of modern youths who are not convinced that the following are occasions of sin: the parked car, cheap magazines, liquor, "Pickups," picture magazines, and dates that last until early morning.

Unless one is convinced that there must not be so much as the shadow of venial sin about his dating, drinking or reading, he is surely to run into trouble. One must think straight before he will act straight. The sincere man will confer with his confessor if he is doubtful about the dangerous element in any of his actions.

Alcoholism

"Indulgence in alcoholic drinks, which started as a habit and which could have been cured by a combination of divine grace and free will, can become a disease. One of my correspondents compares alcoholism with cancer, which gives no premonitions. The same writer quotes a Paulist Press pamphlet which compares alcoholism with diabetes. The second comparison is better.

"Diabetes comes from over-indulgence in starches and sugars. The danger can be recognized early, and the incipient or prospective diabetic, if he heeds the first warnings, can escape the disease. So, I think, can the one who becomes an alcoholic. I said in the article (and I speak from observation of thousands of cases) that the future alcoholic is disdainful of warnings, entreaties, horrible examples. He did not become a hopeless victim instantaneously. I have seen quite too many who rejected all warnings and entreaties and who became in consequence confirmed alcoholics. It was with them in mind that I said, 'to refer to them as "sick" as if that word covered the entire situation, is a denial of two Christian doctrines, free will and divine grace.'

"One of my correspondents (an alcoholic) says, 'Anyone can become an alcoholic at any time.' That is what I have preached for almost five decades. That is what impels me to recommend total abstinence...I am afraid of the stuff. I think anyone and everyone should be afraid of it."

(Father Gillis, CSP, in his column Sursum Corda)

A television set and a radio will be raffled off in the Huddle Tuesday night at 8:00 o'clock. The proceeds will be given to Father Curran's needy Health Clinic for his mission in Texas. Chances are ten cents each; three for a quarter. Buy them at the Huddle.