

Liquor is Producing a Morality Crisis Among Our Youth

THE LIQUOR CRISIS ON OUR CAMPUSES

Nearly half of the men attending our colleges drink liquor. About a fourth of the women do also.

“Between 40 and 45 percent of male students at Adventist colleges in North America drink beer, wine or spirits,” declared Winton Beaven, assistant to the president of Kettering College of Medical Arts, at the first board meeting of the newly formed Institute of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency at Andrews University. “For female students, my estimate is 20 to 25 percent,” he said.

“Beaven said that after spending much time and talking with many students, he had received adequate basis for the assertion.”—*Adventist Review*, September 17, 1984, 20.

At one of our colleges, 66 percent of the students were drinking liquor.

“A recent survey was made at one of our colleges [Walla Walla] to find out the percentage of students using alcoholic beverages. The results were intended to be published. After the study was completed, however, it was decided not to blaze it abroad since the results revealed that 66 percent of the students at this college used intoxicating beverages.”—*Based on a 1989 study by Walla Walla College.*

About 20 percent of students at Pacific Union College say they drink liquor. But other students say that many who filled out the survey did not tell the truth. (See report on page 3.)

LIQUOR CONSUMPTION LEADS TO ADULTERY AND DISEASE

It is dangerous to drink liquor! It leads to promiscuity, adultery, and sexual disease. Combine liquor consumption on our campuses with sexual activity, and you have a dynamite situation.

“The most artificial drug excitant to sexual excess is alcohol. More instances of gonorrhea and syphilis in youths of both sexes—whose sober good intentions are to avoid extramarital sexual connection—have been due to alcohol than any other cause. Alcohol in moderate amounts suffices commonly to lower self-restraint and self-control in situations of sex temptation so that exposure to the hazards of sexual disease is undertaken thoughtlessly and without care of the consequences.”—*Haven Emmerson, M.D., Everything You Wanted to Know About Alcoholism*, 146.

Eighty-six percent of teenage drug users started on beer and wine. Up to three quarters of those

with serious sexual diseases—were drinking liquor when they contracted those diseases.

One researcher, A. Forel, M.D., found that 76 percent of men and 66 percent of women had become infected with syphilitic, gonorrheal or other venereal infections, while intoxicated. Other investigators place the incidence of alcoholic-conditioned infection, for both sexes at 75 percent (*A. Forel, M.D. research, in op. cit.*, 139).

Alcohol impairs the body’s ability to fight the AIDS virus. This is the conclusion of Omar Bagasra’s research at Thomas Jefferson University, Division of Infections, Department of Medicine. He wrote this:

“Even casual consumption of alcohol stimulates replication of the AIDS virus . . . Alcohol, which generally dampens the body’s immune system, may increase the likelihood of infection in people who drink alcohol as much as 36 hours before exposure to the virus.”—*Omar Bagasra, Journal of Infectious Diseases*, March 1993.

So liquor consumption at our colleges is increasing the venereal disease and AIDS infection rates.

TREATING THE INFECTED AT OUR COLLEGES

The following notice appeared in the student newspaper of one of our North American Adventist colleges:

“Walla Walla College protects students: Student services at Walla Walla College do more than treat the common cold. In addition to treating flu, eye, ear and sinus problems, they treat sexually transmitted diseases. Records are completely confidential.

“Jeanne Vories, office manager, says, ‘We want the students to know that they can come here with any sensitive problem.’ Student services provides condoms to sexually active students. Peggy Miller, head of the department and nurse practitioner, says that ‘while the department does not condone premarital sex, they realize they cannot afford to ignore the problem. Health services deals with routine gynecology care, contraception and sexually transmitted diseases. They also have morning after treatment, in episodes of unprotected sexual intercourse, and referrals for pregnancy detection.’—*Statement by health services department, Walla Walla College.*

GOD IS CALLING US TO UPHOLD THE STANDARDS

Instead of yielding to the temptations of the

devil, our young people should be stalwart defenders of the right.

“Are our young men [and women] prepared to lift up their voices in the cause of temperance showing its bearing on Christianity? Will they engage in the holy war against appetite and lust?”—*Temperance*, 236.

The judgments of God are going to fall upon the earth. We must do all in our power to warn those around us to return to God and live clean lives.

“Because of the wickedness that follows largely as the result of using liquor, the judgments of God are falling upon the earth today. Have we not a solemn responsibility to put forth earnest efforts in opposition to this great evil?”—*Counsels on Health*, 432.

“The conditions prevailing in society, and especially in the great cities of the nations, proclaim in thunder tones that the hour of God’s judgment is come and the end of all things earthly is at hand. We are standing on the threshold of the crisis of the ages.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 278.

We plead with our youth to wake up, before it is eternally too late!

“Youth is the sowing time. It determines the character of the harvest for this life and the life to come . . . In preparing the way for Christ’s first advent, he [John the Baptist] was a representative of those who are to prepare a people for our Lord’s second coming. The world is given to self-indulgence. Errors and fables abound. Satan’s snares for destroying souls are multiplied. All who would perfect holiness in the fear of God must learn the lessons of temperance and self-control. The appetites and passions must be held in subjection to the higher powers of the mind. This self-discipline is essential to that mental strength and spiritual insight which will enable us to understand and practice the sacred truths of God’s Word.

“For this reason, temperance finds its place in the work of preparation for Christ’s second coming.”—*Desire of Ages*, 101.

It is no time to tone down our message or slacken our warnings. We have work to do, for the final crisis is rapidly nearing.

“The tame way in which the temperance message is being handled by our people is not in harmony with the necessity of the times . . . As we near the close of time, we must rise higher and still higher on the subject of health reform and Christian temperance, presenting it in a more positive and decided manner.”—*Call to Medical Evangelism*, 37, 41.

It is too late for smooth talk.

“In this fearful time just before Christ is to come the second time, God’s faithful preachers will have to bear a still more pointed testimony than was borne by John the Baptist . . . Those who speak

smooth things, God will not acknowledge as His shepherds.”—*1 Testimonies*, 321.

Oh, my people! How much longer will God wait for us to prepare; how long do we have to warn others to prepare!

“God does not send judgments upon His people without first warning them to repent. He uses every means to bring them back to obedience, and does not visit their iniquity with judgments until He has given them ample opportunity to repent.”—*4 Testimonies*, 179.

It is not time now to commit sin on the banks of the Jordan! We must prepare to go across to the holy land!

“They profess to be standing upon the elevated platform of eternal truth, keeping all of God’s commandments; therefore, if they indulge in sin, if they commit fornication and adultery, their crime is of tenfold greater magnitude than is that of the classes I have named, who do not acknowledge the law of God as binding upon them.”—*2 Testimonies*, 451.

How much longer will God wait, before the judgments fall?

“There is a limit beyond which the judgments of Jehovah can not longer be delayed. The desolation of Jerusalem in the days of Jeremiah is a solemn warning to modern Israel, that the counsels and admonitions given them through chosen instrumentalities cannot be disregarded with impunity.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 417.

The decisions of every day, every moment, are solemn ones.

“We need to inquire at every step, ‘Is this the way of the Lord?’ So long as life shall last, there will be need of guarding the affections and passions with a firm purpose. Not one moment can we be sure except as we rely on God, the life hidden with Christ. Watchfulness and prayer are the safeguards of purity.”—*Prophets and Kings*, 84.

What does it mean to prepare for the Loud Cry?

“God’s people are not prepared for the Loud Cry of the Third Angel. They have a work to do for themselves which they should not leave for God to do for them . . . Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God . . .

“Lustful appetite makes slaves of men and women, beclouds the intellect and stupefies their moral sensibilities to such a degree that the sacred elevated truths of God’s Word are not appreciated. The lower propensities have ruled men and women.

“In order to prepare for translation, the people of God . . . should ever have the appetite in subjection to the moral and intellectual organs. The body should be the servant of the mind, and not the mind to the body.”—*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 32-33.

Let us personally live right, and let us do all we can to plead with those about us to maintain

their standards on a high plain. Time is too short to do otherwise.

“Let not those who have the truth as it is in Jesus give sanction, even by their silence, to the work of the mystery of iniquity. Let them never cease to

A recent publication of ours, *A Week at Pacific Union College*, included a comment on an article on page 2 of the Thursday, February 29, 1996, issue of their student newspaper, the *Campus Chronicle*:

On this page we find the feature article in this issue. Entitled, “*Is PUC the Adventist Party School?*” It is an eye-opener. **The title subhead indicates the contents of the article: “Results of a recent survey indicate that only 17% of PUC students use alcohol regularly. Some doubt the validity of these results.”**

Such a statistic is astounding! The alcoholics problem among students at Pacific Union College has gotten so bad, that the administration is breathing a sigh of relief that only one student in every five is regularly drinking liquor! But others, closer to the situation than the rest of us, question that figure as too low.

“The rumor that PUC is ‘a party school’ is based on misinformation according to [John] Collins [vice president for student affairs]. The rumor is being spread, he added, by a minority who are worried about such ‘standards’ issues as jewelry, competitive sports, modern music and drama on campus.”

Wherever Adventists congregate, there will always be a few who will appeal to the others to adhere to our historic standards. Such are generally called “troublemakers” or “the minority.” The above quotation is revealing, for it details some of the wrongdoing at Pacific Union College. It also implies that such things as wearing jewelry, competitive sports, and wild music have nothing to do with “standards.”

In addition to rampant alcoholism in nearly 20% of the student body, hard drugs are also being used. But the article said it really was not so bad, because a larger number of students do not indulge. We really are doing pretty good, aren't we? Only 20 percent are laying around drunk.

“A recent study of alcohol and drug use on campus, Collins said, showed that 83 percent of PUC students are not regular alcohol users. Fully 62 percent of the students surveyed had never used alcohol, according to the survey. ‘How many faculty members can say that?’ Collins asked, jokingly.”

—Only a little over one half of the students attending PUC have never drunk liquor! But,

sound a note of alarm!”—2 *Selected Messages*, 369.

“We should never give sanction to sin by our words, or our deeds, our silence, or our presence.”—*Desire of Ages*, 152.

Collins adds, we can laugh it off, for the faculty probably do not have as good a record. He ought to know; he is on the faculty.

Whenever a college administration does not care about standards, you can know most of the students soon will not either. That attitude is reflected in a comment by one of the faculty members:

“In a panel discussion which followed Collins’ talk, faculty members offered alternate perspectives. Trivett said he was not interested in the jewelry issue . . . His concerns about student life dealt with basic integrity and responsibility—not issues like ‘worldly’ music.

So over 200 students at PUC regularly drink liquor. But the attitude is that we’re doing better than the worldly colleges; however **the warning is sounded that we need to keep the parents from learning the facts.**

“‘Collins’ statistics are intriguing,’ commented another faculty member. ‘Clearly, PUC does not have the kind of drinking problem that plagues secular schools. At the same time, many of PUC’s supporters would be shocked to learn that 17 percent of our students are, in essence, social drinkers.’ Doing some quick arithmetic, this teacher continued, ‘What is that? Two or three hundred students?’ ”

But when students themselves were queried about these estimates, they considered them too low! Living in the dormitories, they believe far more are regularly drinking. Apparently, the poll was taken while the students sat close together in assembly—and they feared that others would see what they wrote down. Because of this, the truth was not fully told.

“Several students felt that the figures quoted were inaccurate and expressed a lack of confidence in the survey results. ‘I felt a bit intimidated because everyone was so close together and could easily see your response,’ said Edward Ponamarov. He also said he knew of several people who put down false information for fear of observation.”

An accompanying graph provides more information: How frequently do you drink alcohol? 5% - every day / 15% - 3 times a week / 21% - once a week / 15% - twice a month / 12% - once a month.

A footnote declares that the survey was taken of 391 students in October 1995.

—*The newsclip on page four was originally reprinted in “Our Alcohol Problem” [WM-101].*