

TEENAGE DRINKING: IT'S SERIOUS

Phoenix, Ariz.—The growing seriousness of teenage drinking was spotlighted here recently in a statement by a Methodist minister and president of the Arizona Alcohol-Narcotic Education Association.

The Rev. Stanley C. Brown, associate minister of Central Methodist Church and association president, called for more public awareness and action on the problem which he believes is on the increase.

To back his claim Mr. Brown offered results from an anonymous survey among a cross section of 156 Phoenix high school students. According to this poll, he said, the beverage alcohol industry is having a high degree of success in making customers out of youth.

Among respondents:

104 said they drink occasionally, 19 drink often.

28 said they purchased alcoholic beverage at a package liquor store, and 25 said they made purchases at a grocery store.

51 ordered and drank alcoholic beverage in a tavern or restaurant.

112 attended "beer busts" or teenage drinking parties.

70 said they observed immoral activity among drinking friends.

54 admitted driving a car after drinking.

120 said they had ridden in a car with a teenage driver who had been drinking.

Contrast these statements from the teenagers with official denial that there is any teen drinking problem, Mr. Brown said. One national survey, he pointed out, says teenage drinking is up 270 percent in the last five years.

Mr. Brown attributed the increase to the home, insufficient education, lax enforcement of existing laws relating to minors and beverage alcohol, and community apathy.

He placed the home first, and cited these results from the poll. Among the 156 who responded, 104 said that their mothers drink, and 112 said their fathers drink. In 85 instances the youth said their parents allow them to drink at home.

Mr. Brown termed Arizona textbooks "extremely inadequate" on basic scientific facts about alcohol. Furthermore, he noted, "the teachers are not required to pass any examination showing that they have any knowledge of the subject. Our observation is that a majority of teachers do not consider the matter seriously. Many are too prejudiced in favor of drinking to teach the facts objectively."

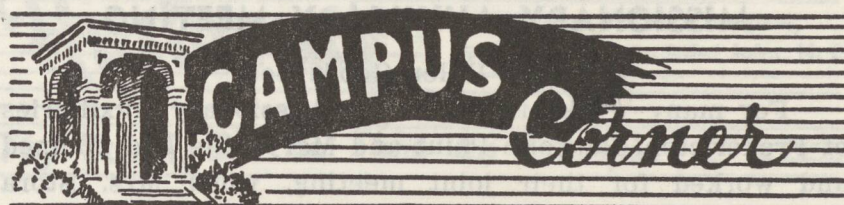
He sharply criticized lax enforcement on the part of John Duncan, state superintendent of liquor control. "In all his years in this office he has not revoked one liquor license (for selling to minors) except an isolated case last spring, which was restored later," he said.

Mr. Brown gave several illustrations of community willingness to condone the beverage alcohol industry: 1) appointment of a beer company president to the Phoenix City Council; 2) saturation of homes and streets with beer and liquor advertising, much of it aimed specifically and subtly at teenagers; 3) abuse of the term "public convenience" in the liquor code in such a way that apparently as many liquor outlets are licensed as will pay the price; 4) the inconsistency of forbidding youth to do what adults make acceptable and glamorous.

"What right has any group of moneymakers to foist this crime against human welfare upon our communities and then call their business legitimate? It is high time we called a spade a spade and put some pressure where it will be felt."

—Methodist News

The King's Highway



- Bible Instruction Class
- Music Appreciation Class
- Training in Social Graces

Recently Bethany Bible College made announcements of special interest to prospective high school students and their parents. Beginning next fall, all high school students will be given weekly periods of instruction in the Bible and in music appreciation (one period in each). Further, high school students will benefit along with others in a new program of training in the social graces. These courses in addition to the regular curriculum will add new spiritual and cultural dimensions to the high school student's life. There will be no charge for these additional benefits.

The school has intentions to follow the year of Bible instruction by a year of instruction in Christian living and the work of the Church in the world. Thus in a two-year stay a high school student will have the opportunity to become a well-informed Christian.

As previously, Bethany will continue to provide a well-rounded program of social recreational, and spiritual activities. In the year just completed the students have enjoyed one of the most satisfying and successful school programs in many years.

EXAMS AHEAD

All Bethany students will face examinations in late May or early June. But the grade-eleven graduates will have to go through a second ordeal in writing "Provincials" the third week of June.

We trust that this year's group of students will do as well as last year's group. School authorities considered that the results on Provincials last year were good in the light of the students' abilities and academic records. There were some students with complete passes and some who had passes on four of five required subjects. All in all, the record was satisfactory.

QUARTERLY MEETING REPORT

The District Meeting of the St. Croix District was held over the week-end of April 30th - May 3rd at our Church on Beals Island, Maine. A very good delegation from Grand Manan and the Mainland attended. But most of all we were grateful for the presence of the Lord which we sensed in every service.

During the business session on Saturday afternoon, a discussion arose as to whether we thought the district Meetings were profitable or not. That is, if we felt it was worth the effort for our pastors to leave their local Churches to go to district meetings. After some discussion, both laymen and pastors thought that it was too bad that we had to drop two of our district meetings as it was, without discontinuing them altogether. Thus, the following motion was passed, "We the delegates of the St. Croix district feel that pastors and people have an obligation to attend the full district meeting unless in the case of an emergency."

At the close of the district meeting on Sunday night, we were thoroughly blessed with the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on His people. The definite victories around the altars of prayer convinced us that district meetings are very profitable.

Yours for District Meetings,
S. W. Steeves, Secretary