

Temperance Union crusades against evils of alcohol

By KEN CORBETT

Students seeking release from the sins of the bottle can end their lives of moral turpitude and reassume their rightful place in society by joining the UNB Temperance Union. The Temperance Union was founded by Bible Bill MacKinnon, this year's president, and a few friends approximately one year ago. Their immediate objective at this time was to restore one of UNB's finest floor hockey teams, Rickard's Raiders, to their former greatness, says MacKinnon. "They were becoming too dependent on alcohol, something had to be done."

This problem has apparently been solved, he said. The attention of the Union will now be focused on reforming the members of the D.O.M. (Dirty Old Men.)

The organization has a highly organized structure, with an authorized executive and a full slate of committee chairmen. Students have been appointed to represent each county of New Brunswick, in order to publicize and promote the objectives of the Union. These students are called "Deacons" and "Deaconesses."

Bible Bill claims that the Union has presently 400 members, and that more are joining in the crusade each day. He attributed the Union's immense popularity by the fact that more and more students were coming around to the truth. "More students are realizing that there's more to university life than just drinking."

The Union holds weekly meetings in the various dens of iniquity frequented by students. Besides the standard discussions on policy and the events of last week, this weekly meeting has another purpose. According to recent convert Sue Miller, the new members "get to know their enemy, and learn to appreciate its many evils."

To assist the new member during those painful yet rewarding first few days of abstinence is the duty of Rev. Janet McBride, the Union's spiritual advisor. Her capacity, stated Bible Bill, satisfies a need present in many modern organizations. "One cannot live by bread alone."

Once a student has been reformed, explained Bible Bill, the Union hopes that he or she will become an active member and help reform others who are in the same position he was in.

Upon being questioned as to his own concept of the evils of alcohol, he commented woefully that "it causes interference with one's everyday performance, be it academic, athletic, sexual or otherwise."

Bible Bill described the Union as a pacifist organization, definitely non-militant. Upon examination of the list of executive members, one notices that the majority of these people are upper classmen in their last year of studies. In order to ensure that the Union will be functioning next year, said Bible Bill, a program will be set on foot to reform errant students from the freshmen and sophomore ranks who would persevere in the crusade against alcohol.

A slogan for the organization has not been finalized as yet. He speculated that T-shirts for members are also a possibility.

The next meeting of the UNB Temperance Union will be held at the College Hill Social Club next Tuesday night. MacKinnon emphasized that anyone wishing to become a member should come to the meeting, or contact the Membership Chairwoman, Heather Horncastle. Bible Bill expressed his hopes for the success of the Union with the words: "I certainly hope the student body will respond to this plea for moral improvement."

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The Union also maintains excellent relations with other groups on campus concerned with moral indiscretions. For example, the Union has contacts with Rickard's Raiders, the Business Student's Moral Improvement League, the Canada Council on Couth, D.O.M. and D.O.W.

The Union also has a faculty representative. Professor Franz Eppert was appointed last year to the position of honorary vice-president. His students know him as a man of solid moral character who never drinks a drop - well almost never.

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