

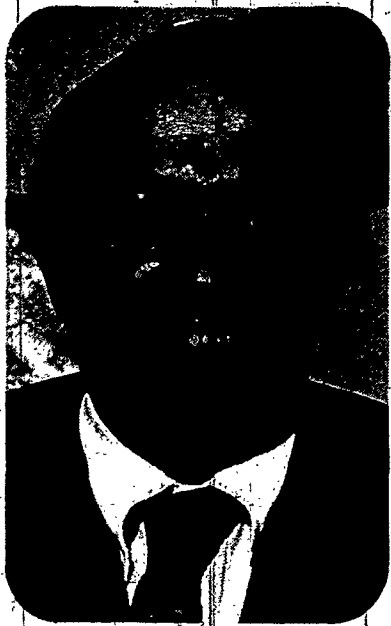
Charities Directors Select New Executive

Albany — A 39-year old lawyer with a strong background in all hospital service organizations and funding has been named executive secretary of the New York State Council of Catholic Charities Directors.

James A. Cashen, of Rockville Centre, took on his new duties in Albany last week. He will head the office which serves the Charities Directors and their organizations in the eight dioceses of the state.

Cashen is the second executive to serve the council replacing John Szulgit of Rochester, who accepted a position in the graduate department of social work at the State University of New York last August.

For the past eight years Cashen has been on the staff of the United Hospital Fund of New York. He was its assistant executive director when he left to take on his new responsibilities in Albany.



CASHEN



ON THE LINE Bob Considine

Every once in a while somebody finds an answer to that most defeatist of questions, "I know it's awful, but what can I — one person — do about it?"

So meet Stephen E. Shapiro, a 31-year-old New York stockbroker. He lives on the Upper East Side in a fine apartment with a terrace. He's got it made, doesn't have to worry much, needn't get involved in anything that might cause him extra work or embarrassment.

So, he was having breakfast with his wife a while ago and reading the morning paper when suddenly he threw it down in disgust. He had just read an advertisement announcing that the vilest pornographic film ever to be countenanced by filmland's smut-works, "Deep Throat,"

Chapter Set Up For Retired in Southwest Area

The new southwest area chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons will meet on Wednesday, March 28, at 1:30 p.m. at the Community Christian Church, 2647 Chili Ave. near Westside Drive at the Route 204 exit off the Western Expressway.

At this meeting, new officers will be installed by J. Leonard Johnson, state director for Western New York. The officers are: president, Reynolds B. Dove; 1st vice president, Ernest F. Schramm; 2nd vice president, Theodore Tregea; recording secretary, Dorothy O. DeVoe; corresponding secretary, Ruth M. Pellitier; treasurer, Sterling Peckham; assistant treasurer, Nina Catteau.

This will be the third meeting of the new chapter which was organized on Jan. 24. Already 171 people have signed up and the charter membership will close at the end of the March meeting. Anyone interested in becoming a charter member may sign up and pay their dues at the meeting on the 28th or they may call the treasurer, Peckham, at 594-9119.

The purpose of the chapter is provide service to the community and to retired persons through legislative action, life insurance programs, health insurance, automobile insurance, prescription services, organized tours. Anyone over 55 is invited to the March 28 meeting.

would open the next day at the neighborhood theater.

Shapiro called the theater to protest to the manager. He was laughed at. So he phoned the releasing company, and the voice on the other end indicated its owner thought he was some kind of a nut. He called the Assemblyman of his district and the pd's office told him, "We're not interested in this sort of thing."

Knowing that there were four schools (three Catholic and one public) in the neighborhood, he took his indignation to the offices of the Archdiocese. He was asked to tell his story to Rev. Morton A. Hill, S.J., head of Morality in Media, an organization formed to combat the deluge of pornography that is evident today on the screen, stage, bookstores and magazine stands.

Hill suggested that Shapiro call a meeting of a dozen or so representative people from his neighborhood to act in concert against the offensive film. Shapiro telephoned a cross-section composed of rabbis, ministers, priests, businessmen, school principals and PTA officials and invited them to his home the next day. To make sure the film was as bad as he had heard it was, he saw it in a sordid Times Square grind house. It was, he was able to tell his neighbors when they arrived. They agreed to back him in whatever he felt he could do.

Next day, a Saturday, he called the nearest police precinct and got permission to set up a table outside the theater and tack a sign on the nearest pole, a sign that read, "Keep 'Deep Throat' Out of Our Neighborhood." Passers-by began signing the petitions Shapiro had placed on his table. Other petitions, handed out at synagogues and churches in the area, piled in. By the end of the weekend, 7,000 had signed their names protesting the film.

There was at least one confrontation.

"Who are you to determine what people can see or not see in this theater?" a patron demanded of him.

Shapiro had an answer for that. "A community has a right to say what it wants and what it doesn't want," he said. "This neighborhood does not want this film playing here."

It was pulled out the following Wednesday.

God 'Took Care' of POWs, Baptist Chaplain Says

Valley Forge, Pa. [RNS] — An American Baptist Naval chaplain says that God sustained the U.S. prisoners of war in Vietnam during their most difficult, darkest, painful hours and "enabled them to get through."

"The key to their survival and to their mental and emotional health was a deep, abiding and growing relationship to God," Chaplain (Lt. Cdr.) Alex B. Aronis said in a letter to American Baptist chaplaincy headquarters here from the Sub Bay Naval Air Station in the Philippines.

He said the "story of the religious experiences of these men is inspiring beyond words." One returnee told him:

"The moment my feet touched down on North Vietnamese soil, God was standing next to me. He was three buildings tall, and the tip of his shoes came to my forehead and he said to me, 'I'm going to be with you and I'm going to take care of you.'"

"The stories just kept coming," the Navy chaplain wrote, "not because I was pumping but because they just had to be told. It was the kind of spontaneous sharing of Good News that is apparent in the New Testament."

Chaplain Aronis' letter to Chaplain Charles F. Wills, director of American Baptist Chaplaincy Services here, was reported by the American Baptist News Service.

Another returning POW told the chaplain, "Without God I would not have been able to survive."

"In other words, God really helped you," Chaplain Aronis replied.

"No," the returnee corrected, "not merely helped. I mean it when I say I could not have made it without God pulling me through."

Chaplain Aronis said POWs told him of worship services, choirs, and scripture studies which occurred in most of the POW camps. Their favorite hymns had been, "In the Garden," "You'll Never Walk Alone," "What a Friend We Have in Jesus, and "Holy, Holy, Holy."

The 23rd Psalm, which begins "The Lord is My Shepherd, I shall not want," was cited by the POWs as their favorite Scripture.

"Everyone should know the 23rd Psalm," one POW told Chaplain Aronis. The men also memorized and shared the Beatitudes, Romans 12 and 1 Cor. 13. They reconstructed whole sections of Scriptures out

of their memory because Bibles were not available.

Their by-word was "God bless you," Chaplain Aronis wrote. He said the greeting was addressed freely to one another, even to those who professed to be agnostics or atheists.

One POW said after his release: "You know, now that we are back we" have to remember Philippians 4:13 all over again, and instead of, 'I can do all things,' it should be 'We can do all things, through Christ, who strengthens us.'"

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KofC Schedules Dinner-Dance

The second annual Knights of Columbus Brotherhood Week will close with a dinner dance Saturday April 19 at the Towne House Motor Inn.

The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of an official proclamation of Brotherhood Week by Steven May, Mayor of Rochester and Joseph N. Ferrari, president of the County Legislature.

The presentation will be made to the Knight's state officers Anthony B. Caraméle, and Philip J. Spiro.

Guest of honor for the evening will be Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty. Others at the head table will include Father Andrew Kalafsky, associate pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Father Joseph Dorsey CSB, from St. John Fisher College and Sisters Seraphine SJ, and Maria Concetta SJ, from the School of the Holy Childhood.