

Therapist worked with schools, clergy

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — If Gerry Pashby has learned anything after spending 32 years talking to his psychotherapy patients, it's when *not* to talk.

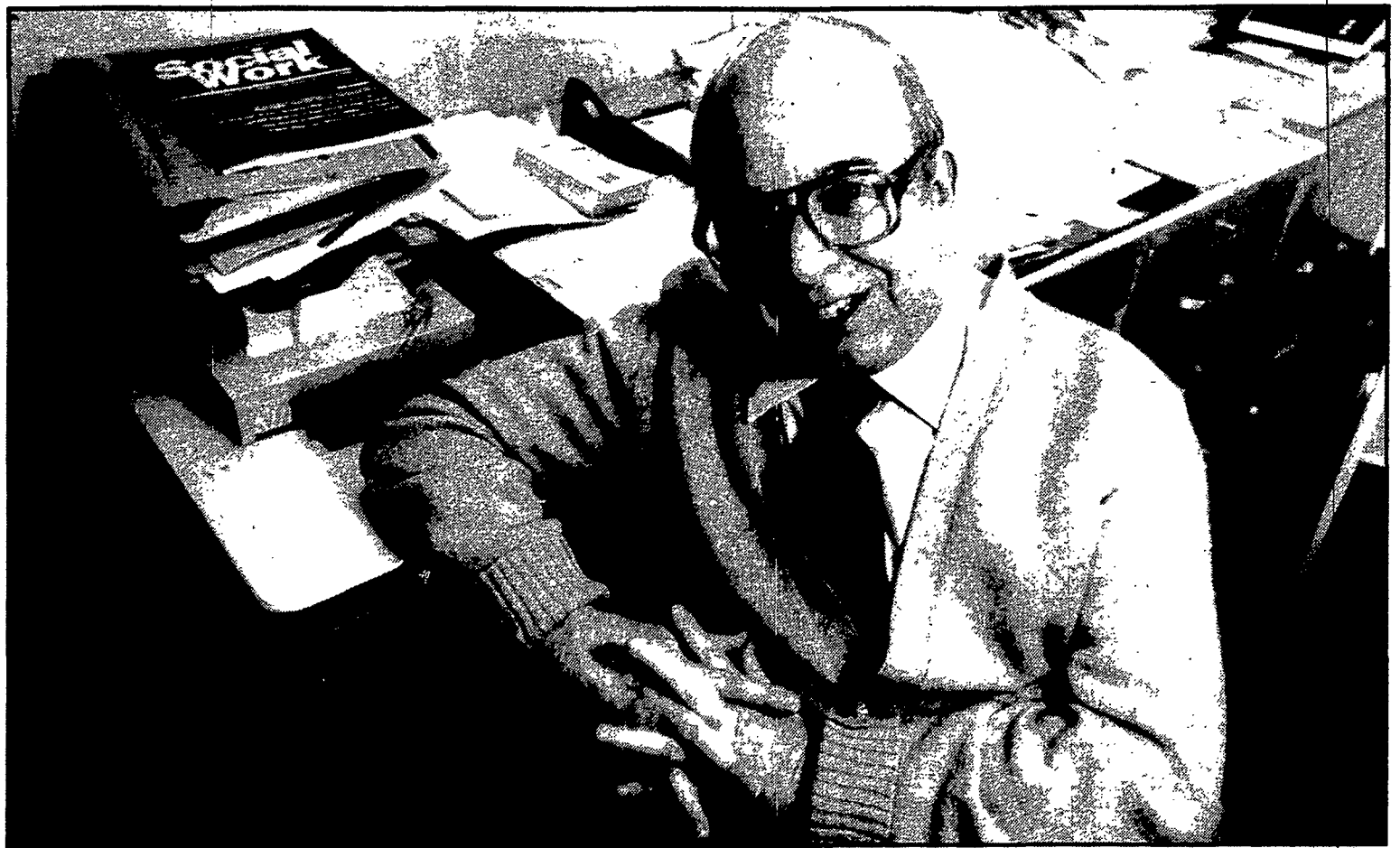
"I've learned to shut my big mouth and listen," said Pashby, a 67-year-old parishioner at St. Helen's Church, 310 Hinchey Road, Gates. Pashby is also director of social work at St. Mary's Hospital Mental Health Center, formerly DePaul Mental Health Services. DePaul's ambulatory services merged with the hospital Jan. 1.

Listening has enabled Pashby to break ground with a number of different clients — troubled teenagers, stressed-out parents, abused children and burnt-out priests.

In his more than three decades of service, Pashby has — at various times — juggled duties as a psychotherapist for DePaul, St. Mary's, the Diocese of Rochester, and three Catholic high schools: McQuaid Jesuit, Bishop Kearney and Aquinas Institute.

On Thursday, Feb. 4, Pashby will be honored at a retirement dinner at the Party House on Beahan Road.

When asked about his life's work and its relation to his faith, Pashby was philosophical. The couple that speaks to one another; the student who stops



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor

Psychotherapist Gerry Pashby has helped a variety of people for the past 32 years.

cutting class; the family that uses reason rather than rage to settle disputes; these are signs of God's presence in his work, he said.

"If I succeed, personally I like to think that the Almighty occasionally smiles on me," he concluded.

But Pashby won't act as if he is almighty when dealing with his clients, he stressed. He puts a priority on finding whatever route will best lead him to the essence of his client's concerns.

For example, the psychotherapist developed the use of a pool table at the mental health center for younger clients. Using such a device can soften the hard edges a troubled young person referred to him might bring to a session.

"Over a game of pool, they don't feel as bad that they are there," he said. "Especially shy people can relate to it."

Pashby gracefully loses most of the

games he shoots, he noted, though it's not for lack of trying.

"I don't expect to beat many of these kids," he said with a laugh. "They're pretty sharp."

Pashby has applied the same philosophy he uses with teens to his work with children. Over the years, he has helped pioneer the use of play therapy with youngsters who aren't necessarily equipped to articulate the concerns they have.

"Kids live in a world of play," he said. "They tell you in their play what's happening in their lives."

And what's happened in the years since he started his career is that children live in a far more aggressive and unstructured world, Pashby said. Single-parent families have become the norm in the lives of millions of youngsters, and even two-parent families are faced with economic and social pressures, he said.

"I think kids today are very bright," he observed. "They're affected by many things. There's a tremendous amount of pressure on teachers and parents because of TV. Little kids sitting in front of the TV learn all kinds of stuff, some good, some not so good."

The vast cultural changes that have altered the upbringing of children and teens has also put added pressures on clergy, Pashby said. The psychotherapist pointed out that the diocese enlisted his consultative services about two decades ago for its priests' formation program, a process which led to the formation of a clergy health board.

"There's a tremendous amount of stress on the life of a priest," Pashby said, noting that fewer priests are now burdened with more duties. "Priests can get depressed and lonely and upset and bored ... They have families that they left. I found many remarkable priests that have handled a lot of stress."

EDITORS' NOTE: Pashby's retirement dinner at the Party House, 677 Beahan Road, Rochester, on Feb. 4 is open to all friends, former co-workers and associates. A cash bar will begin at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person.

Call Joan Tannous, 716/436-8020, for information. Reservations must be made by Friday, Jan. 29.

Which Home Care Agency Should I Choose?



This One!

COMMUNITY CARE OF ROCHESTER

■ AIDES ■ NURSING VISITS ■ PRIVATE DUTY NURSING

"I feel I have been so lucky to have had your care, everyone has been so kind and helpful, I don't know how I could have survived without you. When one gets my age, you realize how wonderful it is to find people, that you can think of as friends, who care and give of themselves and time. Love to you all"

Coverage can begin within 24 hours of your call. You can depend on us for the best of care, comfort and personal attention.

Do you have other questions? For more information, Call 288-7560

15 WEST AVE.
SPENCERPORT,
NY 14459



21 S. MAIN ST.
CHURCHVILLE,
NY 14428

Professional Pre-Need Counseling
Out of Area Arrangements

JOSEPH J. PEWORCHIK 352-1500 DANIEL J. GRIFFITH



The Shire at Culverton

ADULT HOME

- SUITES, PRIVATE AND SEMI PRIVATE ROOMS
- 24 HOUR MEDICAL SUPERVISION
- COMPLETE DIETETIC SERVICES
- TRANSPORTATION
- SOCIAL ACTIVITIES
- UNIQUE TEMPORARY STAY

"A TRADITION OF LOVE AND CARING"

467-4544
2515 Culver Rd.

(Just South of Keeler Expressway)



ONEIDA INDIAN NATION BINGO

B	I	N	G	O
11	16	31	55	67
1	17	45	52	71
15	28	46	66	
12	18	37	54	75
2	25	44	53	62

BINGO!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13th
VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL

Party on bus with favors
"BIG JACKPOTS"

\$55⁰⁰p.p. for HIGH ROLLER PKG.

All regular games pay \$1000

\$15.00 deposit required with reservations no later than February 6th.

Pickup in Rochester, 12:30p.m. at the Holiday Inn Downtown. Other pickups in Canandaigua, Geneva, Waterloo and Lyons.

For More Information, call or write today:

MILDRED MATHIS

P.O. Box 243, Geneva, New York 14456

Phone (315) 789-5612 or

Bonnie Flagg (716) 424-3470 or

Beverly Hadee (after 7pm)

(716) 288-2877