

## Can Do wages war against porn

By Lee Strong  
Senior staff writer

AUBURN — Debra Wayne recalled when, in 1989, she went to the convenience store across the street from her home to get some milk.

But she found more there than she bargained for.

"They had all this pornographic material right next to the candy," recalled Wayne, who at that time had four children. "Candy on one side, porno on the other. It was easily accessible."

The St. Isaac Jogues parishioner complained to the clerk and then to the manager. He responded that he had a legal right to display it. She then went to the Cayuga County district attorney's office, which referred her to the anti-pornography group, "Can Do."

Can Do joined Wayne's efforts to get the store to change its policy, which was in violation of state laws concerning the display of pornographic material. Eventually, the store removed the pornographic items.

"People don't want to speak up because they are afraid people will think you're a prude, or think you can't do anything at all," said Wayne, now the mother of five and past president of Can Do. "Our little organization, Can Do, shows you can make a difference. You just have to be persistent."

Indeed, the organization's very name emphasizes that the fight against pornography can be won, noted Joyce Cavanaugh, Can Do's current director.

When Sharon Dickhaus founded the organization in 1984, Cavanaugh explained, she wanted to give it a positive name. The name subsequently emerged from the basic idea, "Yes, we can do something about pornography," the St. Mary's parishioner said.

"The primary goals of our organization," Cavanaugh continued, "is enforcement of existing obscenity laws, to raise public awareness of the dangers of hard core illegal pornography and to facilitate the passage of new obscenity restrictions when necessary."

In the years since its establishment, Can Do members have successfully removed pornographic magazines and videotapes from many stores throughout Auburn and Cayuga County. The

organization has also been involved with the annual White Ribbon Campaign Against Pornography.

Can Do members distribute literature, speak on radio, TV and radio programs, and address community and church groups to help educate people about pornography's pervasiveness, Cavanaugh noted.

"It used to be porno was just in adult bookstores," Cavanaugh said. "Today, it's everywhere. It's on billboards in big cities. It's on the magazine racks in mom and pop stores. The triple X videos are on the racks in video stores."

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"The minds of our children are being polluted," she continued, "just like the rivers and streams and lakes, and we're letting the pollution go by."

Pornography has been creeping into computers as well, Cavanaugh warned.

"That's the newest way the pedophiles communicate with children," Cavanaugh said.

One of the dangers of even soft core pornography, Cavanaugh continued, is that, like drugs, pornography can be addicting.

"(Addicts) started out with soft core and went on to hard core," she said. "And many men involved with child pornography say they started with soft core."

Cavanaugh herself was unaware of all these trends when she first became involved with the White Ribbon Campaign and Can Do in 1989.

"I didn't realize so much was happening in the world to women and

children," Cavanaugh acknowledged.

Esther Giacalone was also unaware of pornography's extent until she became involved with Can Do.

"I was oblivious to the menace of pornography," said Giacalone, a Sacred Heart Church parishioner and Can Do's secretary/treasurer.

But as she continued to learn more, Giacalone became concerned for her grandchildren living in Connecticut. And even though she could not affect the situation for her grandchildren, she needed to get involved in the fight in Auburn.

"I became motivated, and I hoped that the other grandmothers would become motivated in other states," Giacalone said.

The organization is taking its fight against pornography to Albany next week. Cavanaugh will travel to the state capital this Tuesday, March 28 to lobby for the passage of the Possession of Child Pornography Bill.

In New York, Cavanaugh explained, it is illegal to produce or sell child pornography. But, unlike 39 other states, it is legal to possess it. A law against the possession of such material has been under consideration, she said, but the assembly and senate bills — A2469 and S1638, respectively — have been held up in committee.

And even as she lobbies in Albany, Cavanaugh is urging people to write or call Assemblyman Sheldon Silver, who heads the Assembly Codes Committee, to get the bill moving.

"Once we pass the bill, it will be a great victory," Cavanaugh said. "I pray every moment for it."

Even if the bill passes and joins other laws already regulating pornography, however, Can Do members recognize that the fight against pornography will continue.

"Porno, we can't get rid of it and we know it," Wayne said. "It's going to keep coming back. You have to be persistent."

But the case is not hopeless, she added.

"We found if we continue to be persistent to make sure the laws are enforced, if we educate people about the laws, we can get things done," Wayne concluded.

### Banquet slated to honor pastor, bank president

ROCHESTER — Father Thomas R. Statt, pastor of Our Mother of Sorrows Church in Greece, and Kathleen Redman Wheelahan, president of the Rochester/Southern Region of Marine Midland Bank, will be honored at the third-annual Lumina Lux Awards Dinner Tuesday, April 4.

The event honors outstanding alumni from Nazareth Academy and Nazareth Hall, and will be held in the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 125 E. Main St., beginning at 6 p.m.

Father Statt, a graduate of Nazareth Hall, will receive the Lux Award. Wheelahan, a Nazareth Academy alumna, will be presented with the Lumina Award.

Tickets are \$40, with Patron Level tickets available for \$50. For details, call 716/647-8728.

### SBI plans day to explore school, ministry options

St. Bernard's Institute has scheduled a "Discovery Conference" for Wednesday, April 5, from 4:30-9 p.m., for individuals interested in learning more about the school and ministry opportunities.

The conference at SBI, 1100 S. Goodman St., will include meetings with faculty and current students; a chance to attend class; and information about admissions and financial aid.

The registration fee for the program is \$15, which includes dinner. Registration is due by March 29.

For information, please call SBI at 716/271-1320, ext. 290.

### Fresh Air Fund requests families to host children

ROCHESTER — Families are invited to open up their homes to youths this summer as part of the Fresh Air Fund program.

The Fresh Air Fund, a non-profit organization, provides New York City children the opportunity to experience life away from the city for two-week periods.

Eight Fresh Air Fund "Friendly Towns," are located in the Rochester area. This year's dates are July 3-17 and July 19-Aug. 2.

Those families interested in becoming hosts should call Kimberly Hawkins at 716/621-3227. Tax-deductible donations may also be mailed to the Fresh Air Fund, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y., 10018.

### Workshop on grief set for April 6 in Tier area

PAINTED POST — Therese Rando, a nationally recognized psychologist specializing in grief therapy, will serve as guest speaker for a professional workshop to be held on Thursday, April 6. This event, titled "The Living Dying Period," will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Lodge On The Green, Routes 15 and 417.

The workshop is aimed at professionals such as nurses, physicians, social workers, clergy, hospice workers, teachers and funeral directors who wish to learn specific techniques in coping with grief issues.

Cost is \$40 per person. To register, call Pat Wheeler at the Southern Tier Hospice, 607/734-1570.

## Holocaust

Continued from page 3

the issue, Povero discovered Zundel and his program.

In addition to distributing neo-Nazi publications and other periodicals denying the Holocaust, Zundel runs a publishing house that also disburses such items as tapes of Hitler's speeches; copies of Nazi-sponsored movies; and cassettes of music from the Third Reich. He has also written two books: "The Hitler We Loved and Why," and "UFOs:

Nazi Secret Weapons."

Povero said Zundel has three main points: he claims that there was no Nazi master plan to exterminate Jews; the figure of six million Jewish people killed by the Nazis is a gross exaggeration; and there were no gas chambers in the concentration camps.

Povero contends that much of the Holocaust's proof is fabricated. As for the Catholic Church's acknowledgement that the Holocaust took place, Povero claims that church leaders have "bought into the Jewish lobby."

Moreover, she alleges, Pope John Paul II's mother was a Jewish woman by the name of Katz. (In reality, the pope's mother was actually a Polish Catholic of

Lithuanian descent whose maiden name was Kaczorowska.)

"The traditional Catholic Church was silent because there was no Holocaust itself," Povero argued. "The position of the Catholic Church at the time of the war was no different than Hitler's."

Although she asserts, "I do not hate the Jews," Povero does nevertheless believe that Zundel's antisemitic views should be aired.

"All anyone has to do to exercise the right of free speech is to change the channel," Povero said.

"If (Zundel's) wrong, fine," Povero concluded. "But it's a debate that needs to be aired."

### Leviticus 25:33 Fund gives credit letter to center

GENEVA — Leviticus 25:33 Alternative Fund, a not-for-profit community development loan fund based in Yonkers and supported by churches, religious orders and individuals, has provided the Worker Ownership Resource Center with a letter of credit for \$25,000.

WORC provides training and technical assistance to poor or otherwise disadvantaged people seeking to create their own businesses and employment opportunities. WORC, funded by the U.S. bishops' Campaign for Human Development and the Diocese of Rochester, operates in

10 counties throughout the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions.

Kevin Hennessy, WORC's director, said the letter of credit, combined with \$50,000 from the diocese, will enable WORC to obtain up to \$75,000 in loans for its clients from Chemung Canal Trust Company. Such loans are used to help WORC's clients start their own businesses, he said.

For information on WORC, please call 315/789-5091. For information on the Leviticus fund, please call 914/237-3306.

— Rob Cullivan

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