Magazine targets conservative black audience with pro-life message

Selma, OR — It wasn't until recently that the mainstream press acknowledged black conservatives existed.

From U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas to Republican presidential candidate, Alan Keyes (see related story), the old liberal-black mold has been shattered.

But Emanuel McLittle knew better all along than to accept that old characterization. With the abandoned masses of black conservatives in mind, McLittle launched *Destiny* magazine to fill the void.

The magazine goes where other black publications fear to tread — that is, outside the scope of "traditional" black concerns. Second Amendment rights, home schooling, and other current topics appear in its pages.

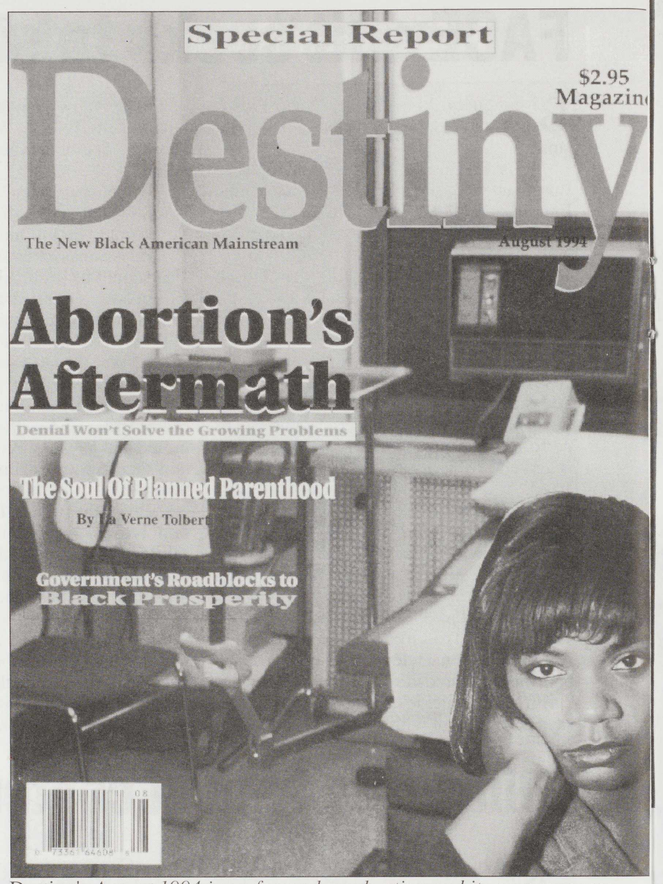
The August 1994 issue was a special report which devoted a significant portion of the magazine to abortion.

The report, called Abortion's Aftermath, presents a picture of American denial of the ever-increasing tragedy of abortion because of Post Abortion Syndrome (PAS). But the issues of the high percentage of abortions among black women and personal responsibility are not avoided either.

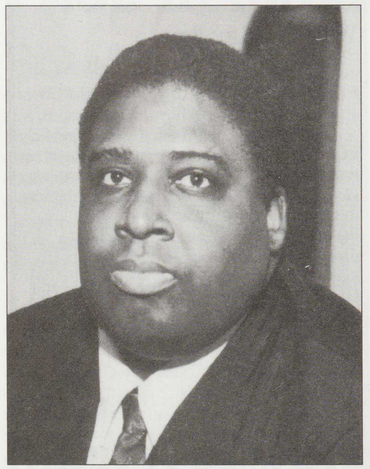
McLittle's philosophy of "no more blaming the other guy" is evident here.

One segment is devoted to the infamous connection between racist/eugenicist Margaret Sanger and her Planned Parenthood organization and the evident, deliberate attempt to reduce the black population.

An editorial by Jeff Brown denounces the verbal "sleight of hand" used by abortion enthusiasts.



Destiny's *August 1994 issue focused on abortion and its consequences.*



Emanuel McLittle took the leap to found the Selma, Oregon-based publication, Destiny, to reach the conservative black audience.

"In pro-abortion circles, the word 'rights' seems to naturally slip behind the word 'abortion.'" he writes. "Perhaps they have a different dictionary from mine (a Webster's) which defines a right as that which is 'in accordance with justice, law or morality.' I'm not sure what sort of justice is being served through abortion."

The magazine also contains an examination by Dr. Joel Brind of the connection between abortion and breast cancer.

Back issues are available for $3.50 and subscriptions to the full-color, bi-monthly, glossy magazine are $19.95 for one year and $39.50 for two years. The magazine is nationally distributed and has a circulation of about 35,000.

Founder and editor-in-chief, McLittle began the magazine in his home state of Michigan, but left the state when he found it impossible to homeschool his children there. He was raised in the Detroit ghetto and is a self-described former pot-smoking, do-nothing, Detroit high-school dropout, who was one of 15 children in a poor family; who married his pregnant girlfriend, devoted himself to his fancy car; followed Malcom X, and stewed in resentment for white people.

One day: an epiphany. Standing on his porch on 12th Street, he realized his life was a dead end. He sold his car and moved his young family away from the "whores and dope dealers", got a job, a diploma, and college degrees — in the process, becoming a conservative.

Now, from the tiny town of Selma, McLittle strives to spread that gospel of conservatism and educate already-conservatives to issues like abortion. And it is conservatism with an attitude.

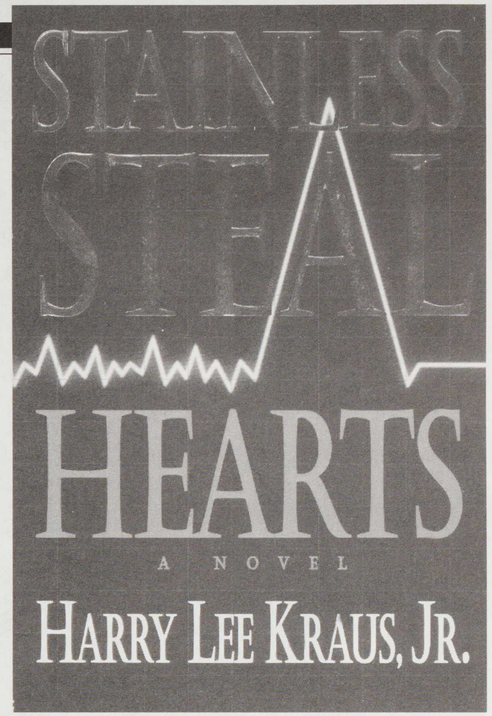
"I hope this magazine sits on news racks next to *Ebony* and rivals all their fluff, fashion, and bull—," he says. "They write how many pairs of shoes Magic Johnson has in his closet. Who the hell cares?"

Destiny, PO Box 1000, Selma, OR 97538 ■

Stainless Steal Hearts

by Harry Lee Krause, Jr.
Crossway Books
412 pages
$10.99

Review by Paul deParrie



Matt Stone is a surgical resident who gets entangled in a web of politics, abortion, fetal experimentation, and power plays. He and two friends have discovered a vicious little circle between a gubernatorial candidate, the ever-popular Layton Redman, an abortionist, an arrogant cardiac surgeon/researcher, and a young woman student at a local Christian college. Thrown into the mix is a secondary plot about an infertile Christian couple's attempts to have a child.

All of these people's little secrets vector in the Kentucky abortion clinic owned and operated by the despicable — and nearly always inebriated because of his constant nightmares — Dr. Adam Richards. Richards is also a huge financial supporter of Redman's and has discovered a unique way to exceed legal contribution limits by laundering the money through the names of his abortion patients.

The young student, Samantha, has slipped and become pregnant by her political hero, Redman. Redman now urges abortion, dangling the prospect of a "future" to their relationship if she does.

But Sam can't seem to go through with the process and it is weighing on the politician's mind. What would happen if the word got out.

Meanwhile, the research cardiologist, Dr. Michael Simons, has taken up a little clandestine research at the abortorium using late second-trimester abortions as fodder for his hoped-for experimental use of late aborted babies' hearts as a transplant source for infants with congenital heart problems. This, of course, requires deliberate live births of the "aborted" babies.

The whole interlocking set of schemes begins to unravel when Sam, on her way to meet with Redman to talk over the abortion, is killed in an auto accident. Life-flighted to the local hospital, Stone does an emergency Cesarean-section and saves the child. He becomes aware of the father's identity and the other facts, but Dr. Simons is an irresistible power in the hospital and he could be kicked out of the residency program by Simons if he gets involved. This would end his life-long dream of being a general surgeon just as he was approaching the end of his training.

Overall, the story is good. It is well told and interesting, though some elements are predictable. The medical scenes in the emergency room are real enough since the author, Harry Lee Krause, Jr., is himself a general surgeon. I learned a lot about emergency room procedures and some medical issues, but it was not dry. Krause incorporated the technical into the action very well.

But, unfortunately, I have certain criticisms of this novel from the standpoint of a pro-life activist. It is obvious that Krause has not had as thorough an education on the life issues as most adamant pro-lifers. This is understandable, since most people don't have much detailed knowledge.

My first concern was the infertile couple in the book. Much of the story with them revolves around their attempts to get pregnant through in vitro fertilization (IVF). There initially appeared to be no mention of the fact that IVF is a procedure that involves implanting one to three of the fertilized eggs and that the rest of the conceived are simply destroyed — aborted. After a discussion with the author, however, he pointed out a single line (p. 71) where the point was obliquely made. Krause says that he had discussed the issue with the editors at Crossway and all felt that an extended address to the IVF issue would have interfered with the story. I, as a writer, understand the predicament. I'll give Krause the benefit of the doubt. Perhaps he could write a sequel where people become aware of the abortifacient process in IVF.

One factual issue was particularly glaring — even though it appeared only once — was that a novice pro-life activist spoke of people having abortions at "two or three weeks along." Possibly an honest mistake for a new pro-lifer, but one that shouldn't have passed by the doctor she was talking to. Perhaps Dr. Stone could have corrected her.

Another irritation to the pro-lifer was the reference on several occasions after Sam's baby was saved that the politician, Redman, was *now* a father. What was he while the baby was unborn? This would not have been a problem had these references come from the mouths of the pro-aborts in the story, but this attitude was being expressed by the pro-life Christians in the story. This may be a normal mode of conversation with most people, but the issue could have been at least raised.

The reason I bring up these seemingly petty points is that I know the average Christian will read this novel and probably never notice these things — or worse, see it as validation of the idea that people become fathers or mothers once the baby is *outside*. The last thing we need is more misinformation in the largely apathetic Church about the life issues.

But despite these picky items, I thought the story was an enjoyable read. Like most "Christian" fiction (including my own) there was some "info-dumping" or "coat-racking" — hanging all our pet messages onto a single story. But Krause did a good job of keeping it to a minimum.

Buy it. Read it with forgiveness, ye pro-lifers, and use it as a springboard to discuss critical issues with your friends at church. It's a good place to start.

Krause is currently working on a novel involving genetic engineering and gene therapy. I look foreward to such a challenging subject in fiction. ■