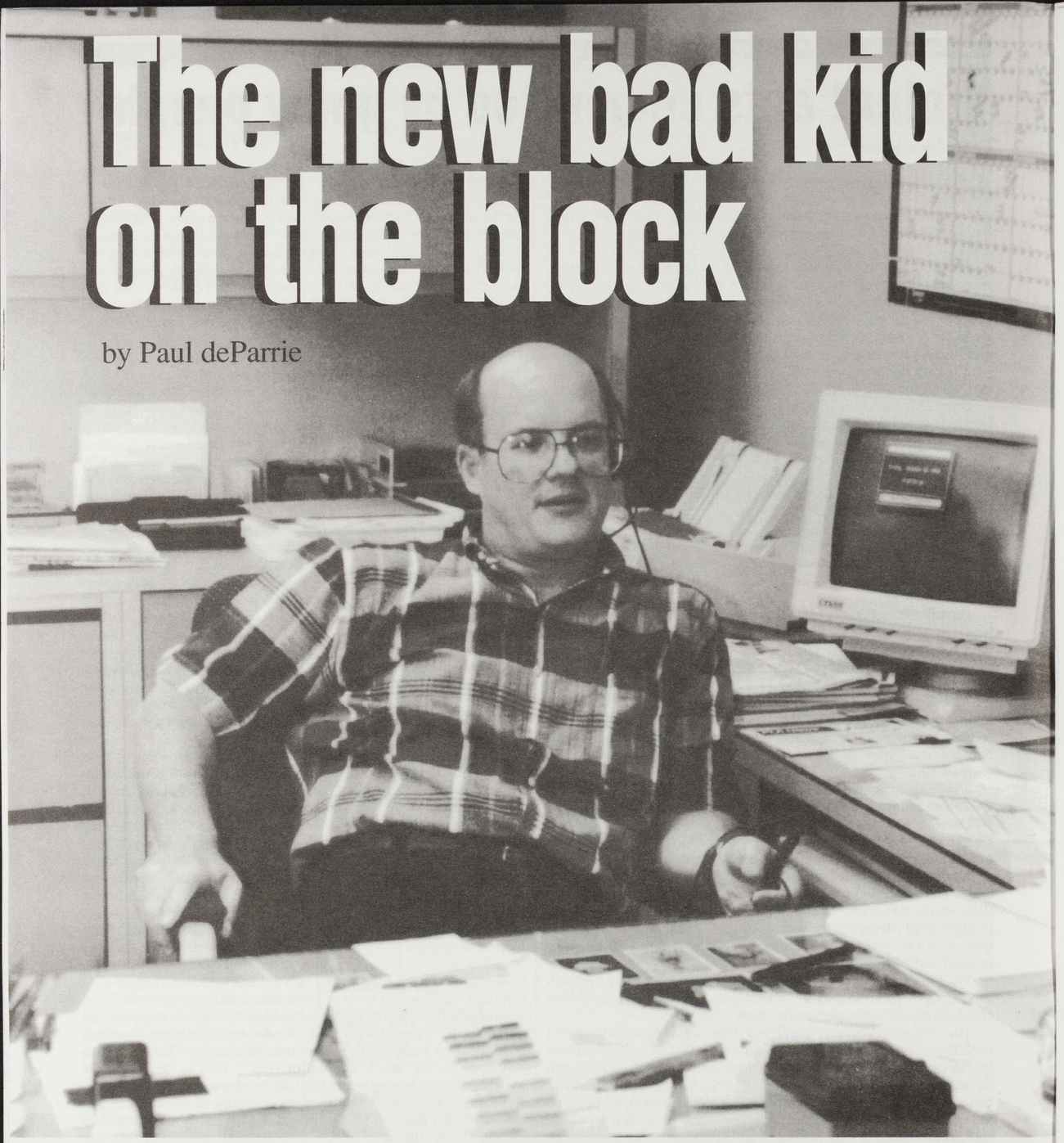
The new bad kid on the block

by Paul deParrie



"The new bad kid on the block" is the way New York *Newsday* describes Life Dynamics Incorporated (LDI). This year's National Abortion Federation (NAF) convention, according to secret LDI tapes supplied by an NAF source, was abuzz with talk about them.

"They're not like other anti-choice groups," they said.

The fear and anger are palpable.

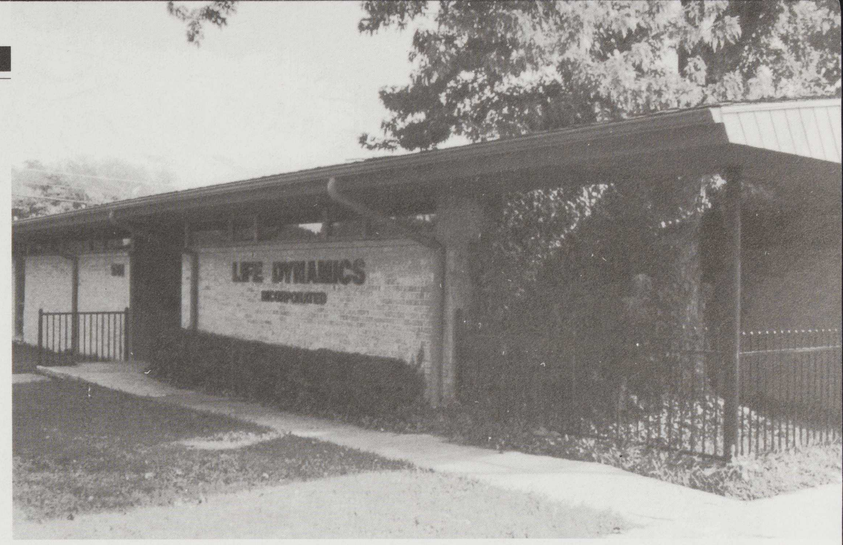
But pro-lifers don't always like LDI either. Their tactics are indirect, unorthodox, subversive — though evidently effective.

"I didn't get into this to be popular," says Mark Crutcher, the 46-year-old founder and director of the group.

Tucked away in a well-maintained but otherwise unremarkable building in Denton, Texas, Crutcher and his staff quietly labor at their unique brand of pro-life activism — battering away at unshielded areas of the abortion industry.

Facing Page: Mark Crutcher answers attorney's questions after the news of the abortion/breast cancer link was widely reported in late October.

Right: Life Dynamics' new office is unremarkable in appearance but what goes on inside has shaken the abortion industry.



by Paul deParrie

Using his skills as a marketing consultant, Crutcher seeks out the weak points of the *business* of abortion and applies selective pressure to its most vulnerable spots. Because of LDI's success, NARRAL Vice-President James Wagoner said, "These people are scary."

Court jousters

Probably the single most consuming passion at LDI is to make it a legal hell for abortionists and abortions clinics. Crutcher, like Virgil in Dante's *Inferno*, leads them down through ever-worsening circles of punishment in Hades, but with one difference — there is *no exit* at the end.

Like several others in the pro-life movement, Crutcher believed that lawsuits were an effective way to cripple the abortion business. Unlike others, Crutcher approached it like a business. Careful legal research pointed out weaknesses in earlier attempts to sue abortionists and yielded a deadly serious packet of materials for aggressive personal injury and malpractice attorneys to use to win cases with devastating effect. LDI calls their lawsuit program AbMal — for abortion malpractice.

"We have caught some flack from even pro-lifers over using the world's means to fight," says Crutcher. "But our theory is that we have to live in the world and, in our society, the way to resolve disputes is through the courts. We approach the abortion struggle the way it is, not the way we wish it were."

LDI has developed comprehensive analysis of the legal theories — including assault and battery and civil rights violations — from current case law for interested attorneys, a booklet called *Case Notes* listing all the necessary questions an attorney needs answered by an abortion-injured client, and even a professionally produced, $25,000, MTV-style television ad for attorneys to use by only paying to have their firm's name added. Other support materials include questionnaires — with the law firm's name attached — to be left at crisis pregnancy centers for the post-abortive mother to determine if she may have an actionable case against her abortionist.

LDI has also recruited more than 400 medical experts to testify about abortion damage — 38 of whom are practicing abortionists.

"The reason we do that is simple. If you have an expert witness who is on your side — pro-life — the defense can successfully discredit him as politically biased. But they lose that advantage if the expert is an abortionist — or at least 'pro-choice,'" says Crutcher.

With over 40 ongoing cases that LDI is assisting, it is small wonder that the NAF is fearful of LDI's activities.

Currently there are almost 600 personal injury and malpractice attorneys in the LDI network. LDI collects data on abortionists and clinics — from news clippings to health department reports to copies of lawsuit complaints — and supplies them to lawyers across the country who have begun to network with them handling these cases. One Washington, D.C. firm, Swendsen, Amshoff, Maroney, Strahan, Smith & McIrney, was formed specifically to handle AbMal suits and works very closely with Crutcher and LDI because of the accuracy and completeness of their work.

An AbMal training conference for lawyers was held in March of this year. The 125 attendance slots were filled four weeks in advance.

"We could have had 300," said Crutcher, "but we couldn't get a larger facility on such short notice."

The course instructed attorney's on identifying AbMal injuries, litigating post-traumatic stress disorder, and other issues — and the attorneys could get continuing education credits for the three-day conference.

Crutcher sends the videotapes of the conference to any new attorneys on the AbMal network.

LDI also has facilities to train both plaintiffs and expert witnesses on how to most effectively give testimony. In the offing is a $100,000 video computer-animation project to produce a three-dimensional video showing the female reproductive system and pregnancy to more clearly describe to jurors the abortion procedure and how it was botched.

Almost providentially, LDI had, over a year ago, researched and written a book called *Connections* for the AbMal project concerning the probable link between abortion and breast cancer. One was sent to all the AbMal network as well as to every oncologist and cancer research organization in the U.S. While in the midst of producing *Connections II*, Crutcher found himself immersed in phone calls from interested class-action attorneys

LIFE DYNAMICS INCORPORATED