Madison abortion industry feeling increased pressure

Madison, WI — Although Madison pro-life activists say they don't know who has been behind some recent actions at the city's two abortion mills, they quickly point out that the pro-life pressure against the local abortion industry hasn't been this strong in years.

Since early June, Madison Abortion Clinic's waiting room has been the scene of three "truth teams", while the clinic's abortionist, Dennis Christensen, had his neighborhood picketed once again on Father's Day, this time by 40 local pro-lifers. Christensen's home was also targeted by a group of unknown pro-lifers who scattered postcards of aborted babies on his law.

Pro-life pressure has especially increased at Madison's west side abortion clinic, Women's Medical Center. This particular clinic has been the site of daily picketing and sidewalk counseling, prayer vigils, and rescues. In June, another unknown group glued the building's locks shut and affixed dozens of postcards of dead babies to Women's Medical abortionist Elizabeth Karlin's jeep, while parked at her home. Women's Medical's waiting room was also the site of a "truth team" in June when four women entered the waiting room, counseled the abortion-bound mothers and left after taking the clinic's pro-abortion literature and supply of condoms, which Karlin often tries to force upon teenagers who picket her clinic.

Pro-Life Network sponsored a "Turn the Hearts" prayer vigil at Women's Medical July 9 which drew 125 pro-lifers and a news crew from CBS's "48 hours", which was in Wisconsin to profile a Milwaukee Christian media outlet, WVCY. This prayer vigil has sparked increased picketing at Women's Medical, including weekly prayer vigils which have been drawing between 20-40 pro-lifers each week. On July 23, a baby was saved by sidewalk counselors at Women's Medical.

"If Christians in Madison had not been there, that little child would have died without ever having experienced human love on this earth," Francis Darr, of Pro-Life Network, said. "When we are faithful to God and stand for His children, He rewards us by letting us see the fruits of our actions."

The pro-abortion response to this increased effectiveness of pro-lifers at Women's Medical was to leaflet the neighborhoods of four dedicated pro-lifers who regularly picket or sidewalk counsel at the abortion clinic. The leaflet warned the pro-lifers' neighbors of the "harassment and intimidation" their neighbor supposedly inflicts upon "women seeking reproductive health care." The targeted pro-lifers, three young mothers and a father with small children, received only two responses after the pro-abortion literature drop — both of them positive.

The pressure increased on either August 3 or 4 when an unknown person painted slogans such as "Mommy, Don't Hurt Me" and "I Love You, Mom" on the building housing Women's Medical as well as on the parking lot. Within 48 hours, a local "Christian" man, who claims to be pro-life and had heard of the paint job" on the local Christian radio station, volunteered his services to remove the painted slogans, claiming his actions were for the "Glory of God." He asked the dozen picketers at the clinic t join him; however, all refused. Although no Madison pro-life organization or regular local activist knew about this incident, most have stopped short of condemning the act.

"We don't even know if this was a pro-life group or individual who painted these slogans," Sheri Johansson, a local activist, said. "However, it is time for people to become as concerned about the dozens of defenseless babies whom Liz Karlin tears apart each week as they are about the bricks and blacktop that were painted."

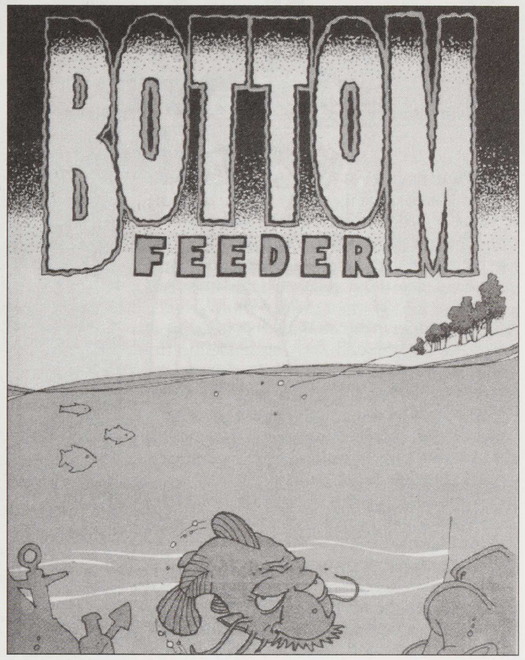
All these events have put added pressure on the building's landlord and other doctors in the complex. Sources inside the building say the other tenants have held meetings to discuss the recent activities and the possibility of asking the landlord to not renew the abortion clinic's lease.

Pro-Life Network leaders say they are not slowing down their actions. Two days of pro-life activism, including a rally with Joseph foreman of Missionaries to the Preborn, are planned for September 17 and 18. ■

Picketers gather in front of Madison's Women's Medical Center on July 9 for the "Turn the Hearts" prayer vigil in Wisconsin. 125 pro-lifers participated in the prayer vigil, and weekly prayer vigils continue to take place at this abortion site.

"Bottom Feeder" humor upsets abortionists

by Jeff Swenson



"Bottom Feeder" comic book.

Lewisville, TX — Guerrilla warfare tactics are being employed by the pro-life organization Life Dynamics in the form of a joke book called Bottom Feeder that was sent out to approximately 34,000 medical students and a survey, called Project Choice, on the lives of abortionists.

The joke book entitled "Bottom Feeder" has caused an array of outrage by pro-abort medical journals and papers who say Mark Crutcher, president of Life Dynamics, is embarrassing the American Medical Association (AMA) as well as promoting offensive material degrading abortionists.

What prompted Life Dynamics to create the material for Bottom Feeder were the intentions of pro-abort organizations to made the profession of abortion respectable.

Says Mark Crutcher, "Abortionists are on the lowest rung of the medical ladder."

By putting out a human book that has its aim at tearing down the respectability of the Abortion profession, Crutcher claims it will help thwart efforts on the opposing side to do just the opposite.

In a telephone interview, Crutcher gives an example of the media's attacks on Dan Quayle in the form of humor. In summarized form, he basically stated that although Dan Quayle is a fine, intelligent man, they have made it hard for people to take him seriously by tearing down his character and poking fun at his every move.

In the same way Bottom Feeder, more than tearing down the character of abortionists, seems to reaffirm the medical community's lowly opinion of the profession.

An article in Skin and Allergy News quotes Leah Karliner, a first year medical student at the University of California, commenting on the joke book and saying that it felt like hate mail and was what she perceived as having a homophobic, racist, and anti-Semitic mood. Interestingly enough, she didn't mention it had an anti-abortion mood.

USA Today made an accusation going so far as to suggest that Bottom Feeder was responsible for the shooting of David Gun by Michael Griffin.

In response to the accusation that he was sending hate mail that might promote violence, Mark Crutcher gave the following example:

"You make a joke about a lawyer within a group of attorneys and the majority of the time they will laugh because they know the joke is an exaggeration and is not true.

"You make the same joke replacing lawyer with abortionists and tell it to a group of abortionists and instead of laughing, they will become defensively angry because of the underlying shame of the profession."

A further analogy was also given by Crutcher, "If you have a friend who's decently handsome and you call him ugly in jest, he will laugh. If you have an ugly friend and call him ugly in jest, he will not laugh because the word hits home and offends him."

How did Life Dynamics get a hold of half of the AMA's medical student mailing list?

An AMA lawsuit charges that Crutcher obtained the list through the result of a flat misrepresentation, but Crutcher himself said this is an outright lie.

The company that sold the mailing list to Life Dynamics was BMI, one of the seven companies licensed by the AMA to sell its lists.

Crutcher maintains that they knew who he was and what Life Dynamics represented and BMI didn't even bother to ask what he was going to use the list for. He did not misrepresent himself, he says, rather if it was anyone's fault, it was the person who sold the list who was only concerned about receiving a commission.

The AMA also brought an injunction against Life Dynamics saying that they could not use the list again. Crutcher said he could care less about the injunction because he specifically bought the list on a one-time use basis. The original list itself was cut up and pasted on the envelopes used to send Bottom Feeder so Life Dynamics no longer has the list making it impossible for another mailing.

Project Choice also caused quite a controversy when it was found out to be a product of the pro-life group and not pro-choice as it had been assumed.

The data from the survey itself was published in major newspapers and Mark Crutcher claims would not even have been considered for print had they known it was not a result of a pro-choice survey. (See Life Advocate, July 1993).

Pro-abort journals contend that this tactic was deceptive and blatant lying, yet the same could be said for investigative journalists.

Crutcher remembered an example of this when 20/20 did a report on crisis pregnancy centers by having women pose as persons wanting care for their unborn children. He said they should be held accountable for the same tactic he used to get information.

Another point made by Crutcher is that Life Dynamics was not "caught in the act," so to speak, but confessed and admitted much of the information reported in the medical papers.

Project Choice was also criticized for wording questions that could only be answered in the favor of Life Dynamics as analyzed by Stanley Henshaw, deputy director of research for the Alan Guttmacher Institute in New York. Mark Crutcher noted that any survey could have that accusation made against it and that while the Project Choice survey may not be perfect, it still provided valuable information.

The bottom line in all of this is why did Life Dynamics have to go to such extremes in the first place? Crutcher says it's because the majority of the media will not publish any pro-life information, because it has a pro-death stance.

A copy of Bottom Feeder and/or the Project Choice survey brochure can be obtained from Life Dynamics, P.O. Box 185, Lewisville, TX 75067. Please note that there is a $1.95 charge for a sample copy of Bottom Feeder. ■