

M/F

a
c
c
o
n
a
i
d
'
s

olly being a sort of letter-substit.

JUNE, 1958

I have, more or less reluctantly, handed over the reins of METROFAN to Jesse Leaf and Andrew Riess: temporarily, at least. Pressure of work prompted me to do this. For a while I will continue to be in the background, lending a helping hand and seeing that nothing goes awry.

I will keep in touch with that nefarious body known as Fandom through a series of letter-substitutes, of which this is the first. If anything, this is an improvement: I never did get around to saying what I wanted to say in METROFAN. It, being a club organ and newszine, wasn't an adequate form for expression. And the projected M/F will only come out four times yearly.

The thing that prompted my bringing this out was an interesting letter I received from Arthur C. Kyle, Dave's father.

"I am attorney for David A. Kyle and in his behalf have started an action against George N. Raybin and Franklin M. Dietz for an abuse of Legal process.

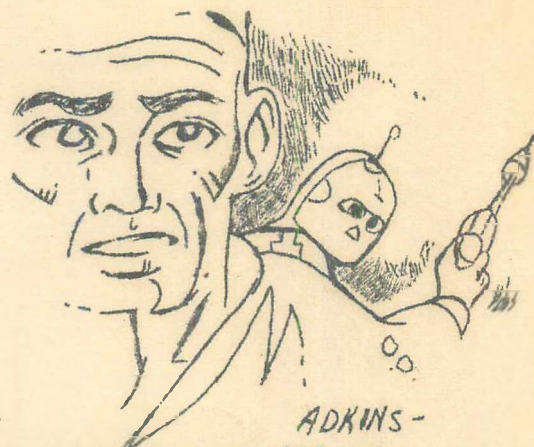
"My attention has been called to the issue of your publication of January 1958 - I note you state Frank and Belle Dietz assisted with the issue. I will appreciate information as to what facts stated in said issue were furnished by Frank Dietz or George Nims Raybin concerning my client.

"On receipt of this information I will ask you to retract the libelous statements and innuendos concerning my client in said issue as well as the subsequent issues of your publication.

"I trust you will realize the importance of giving me a prompt reply."

Up till now I maintained a purely impersonal attitude towards the whole mess concerning D*V* K*L*. My reports of ~~his~~ his activities were, as you recalled, fairly presented. METROFAN will maintain this attitude. However, this letter that Kyle, Sr. sent me, as well as a later letter I received (reproduced elsewhere herein), have forced me to reply on a personal level. I have been, as you will see, accused of libel. I have been threatened with a lawsuit if I do not shut up and take back some supposed libelous statements I made. I still insist that I was in my rights reporting the 'Kyle Story', as editor of METROFAN.

Kyle has been trying everything in his power to squirm out of paying what he in fact owes the WSFS and, therefore, the London Group. His last-ditch attempt is to scare everyone connected with the action into running and hiding. He has sent certain letters to South Gate Convention Committee warning them that if they don't back down, he will do something drastic. He has instituted a "lawsuit" against Frank and George. He has had his 'representative' send me threatening letters. It all sounds very high-hat and legal, but the fact is he hasn't a leg to stand on. "Full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."



being a sort of letter-substitut.



JUNE, 1958

I have, more or less reluctantly, handed over the reins of METROPOL to Jesse and Andrew Riese; temporarily, at least. Pressure of work prompted me to do this. For a while I will continue to be in the background, lending a helping hand and seeing that nothing goes awry.

I will keep in touch with that nefarious body known as London through a series of letter-substitutes, of which this is the first. If anything, this is an improvement; I never did get around to saying what I wanted to say in METROPOL. It, being a club organ and newswire, wasn't an adequate form for expression. And the projected M/F will only come out four times yearly. The thing that prompted my bringing this out was an interesting letter I received from Arthur C. Kyle, Dave's father.

"I am attorney for David A. Kyle and in his behalf have started an action against George M. Raybin and Franklin M. Dietz for an abuse of legal process. My attention has been called to the issue of your publication of January 1958 - I note you state Frank and Belle Dietz assisted with the issue. I will appreciate information as to what facts stated in said issue were furnished by Frank Dietz or George Niman Raybin concerning my client. On receipt of this information I will ask you to retract the libelous statements and innuendos concerning my client in said issue as well as the subsequent issues of your publication. I trust you will realize the importance of giving me a prompt reply."

Up till now I maintained a purely impersonal attitude towards the whole mess concerning D*V* K*Y*. My reports of ~~metropolitan~~ his activities were, as you recalled, fairly presented. METROPOL will maintain this attitude. However, this letter that Kyle, Sr. sent me, as well as a later letter I received (reproduced elsewhere herein), have forced me to reply on a personal level. I have been, as you will see, accused of libel. I have been threatened with a lawsuit if I do not shut up and take back some supposed libelous statements I made. I still insist that I was in my rights reporting the 'Kyle Story', as editor of METROPOL.

Kyle has been trying everything in his power to squish out of paying what he is due over the WEBS and, therefore, the London Group. His last ditch attempt is to scare everyone connected with the action into running and hiding. He has sent certain letters to South Gate Convention Committee warning them that if they don't back down, he will do something drastic. He has instituted a 'lawsuit' against Frank and George. He has had his 'reporters' send me threatening letters. It all sounds very high and dry, legal, but the fact is the man's a leg to stand on. 'Full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.'"

##I finished the last issue of METROFAN and heaved a sigh of relief. As far as I could see, the Dave Kyle fracas was over. There was no need to go into it any further. A story had to be told: it was told, and that was that.

It wasn't that simple. Since the last issue of METROFAN, a number of facts and events have come up which necessitate another - lets hope it's the last - article in the series. The things I refer to are: 1) the receipt by myself of H.P. Sanderson's magazine, CLAUSE (#4); 2) The publication of (in my opinion completely ludicrous) THE BELL TOLLS FOR WHOM, Kyles attempt at an answer to all those nasty people who are riding him for no reason at all, and 3) Certain correspondence exchanged between Dave's father (acting as his lawyer) and Dave and members of this conspiracy to discredit him and take his hard earned money from him.

For the information of my readers, I might state that I can be sued for the above paragraph. I can, it seems, be sued for stating the things I did state in previous issues of METROFAN about one David A. Kyle. This surprised me no end, because I was under the impression that I was reporting factual information when I published McCunes article

I will start with the Sanderson article, because I recieved that first. The following, published in CLAUSE, is an attempt to answer the arguments raised by Kyle's supporters in this (as it is now known) feud. At the same time, it presents the case in favor of the WSFS, Inc. as it now stands. Those of you who have seen the Falasca's brainchild, FANDOMS BURDON, will understand what Sanderson is getting at when he refers to the Falascafandom contingent.

The article, EXPLANATION & OPINION, follows. It is preceded in CLAUSE by a reprint of the original McCune article in METROFAN, plus his original answer.

EXPLANATION & OPINION --- --- --- --- --- H P SANDERSON

I have gained some noteriety over the years for being one of those fans who can sit on the fence and laugh at both sides of an argument. No doubt in the past there has been some justification for this. In keeping with many fans (and it must be stated that this applies more to UK fans than to others) I like to keep out of feuds. Arguing with Mrs. Carr is not a feud, it is a pastime. However, to paraphrase slightly, there comes a time in the life of every fan when he has to take a stand on what he believes to be right. The only alternative is for him to spend the rest of his life with his head buried deep in the sand.

What follows is what I feel at this moment. If anyone can show any good, logical reasons as to why I should not think this way then let him speak now or forever hold his peace.

The McCune article on Kyle and the letter from this address to METROFAN give a number of facts about the way Kyle has acted. Most of these facts can be substantiated in black & white and can be seen by any member of the WSFS. A few of them cannot be substantiated since there are no copies of tapes between Carnell and Kyle. It is almost impossible to discover at this late stage what the exact arrangements were between these two. Carnell will not allow himself to be drawn into the matter at all on the basis that he is a friend of Kyle. In this respect I consider that without realising it he has damned Kyle even further. You do not keep quiet when a friend is involved in an argument if you know anything to his advantage.

I have gathered together in one spot as many of the facts as I can, because, as I intend to show later, only facts can show how emotionally biased is the attack now being launched on the WSFS by one section of the fan world, Falascafandom.

The McCune article speaks for itself. It is factual and is written by someone who is against the WSFS as such but sees the necessity to support it when it, and the fans behind it, are being taken advantage of. Kyle is the one taking advantage. The Dietzes and Raybin have tried in their own way to stop him, to defend the interests of fans.

The Kyle letter and One Fan's Reply are intriguing. On their last visit to this house shortly before going to Majorca the Harrisons had heard nothing about a refund of \$55.00 each being made to them.

The quote from MacDonald's Metrofan editorial is an opinion and on this I would simply repeat that we asked the Dietz's and Raybin for assistance having been unable for some time to get information from Kyle and Landis. They pointed out it would be impossible for them to interfere with another person's work without being specifically authorised. We asked for help - they wanted to give it - they knew Kyle - we authorised a committee. It proved to be invaluable to us and there are a number of things that would never have been done without the assistance and kindness of Belle and Frank Dietz and George Nims Raybin.

The letter from this address was composed with some considerable thought, but in the light of more recent events I would make at least one change. It is, mainly, an elaboration of the fact that we first asked for assistance from the Dietzes and Raybin and that they gave it willingly. At all times the London Committee was in charge of the events. We were never 'bossed' or 'policed' or told what to do. We did the telling - they did what we asked on our behalf. They were the most helpful people we contacted in America. This is true. It can't be changed. The part that I would change is the point about the free seat on the plane. It has now been made obvious from enquiries with the airline that there is no such thing as a 'free' seat. It can only be assumed, therefore, that Kyle paid for his seat and that of Landis. However, I can only repeat that the impression given to each member of the London Committee was that the spare money from the trip fund had been swallowed up in some difficulty over seats. Kyle was playing both sides against the middle - God only knows what he expected to gain from it.

It appears that Kyle wanted all the glory of organising a trip to the UK but he didn't want, or wasn't capable of doing, the work involved. He wanted other, non-questioning people to do the work for him.

It is unfortunate for us that - the spare money having been swallowed up as we thought - we never told the Dietzes or Raybin what the arrangements had been. It was therefore our fault that Belle, acting in the interest of the fans concerned, advised them that a refund was due. As far as she was aware the Plane Trip fund was self-contained and had only one purpose, a purpose that was fulfilled when the plane landed in America. As far as we were aware there was no plane trip fund left. This was our mistake - not to bring them fully into the picture.

In actual fact then, since Kyle had collected the money under the authority of the Convention Committee it should have been accounted for in my account. It has been said that the excess should not have been off-set against expenses but it is my contention that a) the money had been paid as the price of a seat on the plane and no refund had been expected; and b) had the money been accounted for by me I would have deducted \$250.00 from the balance of

\$1305.50 leaving \$1055.50 or \$19.19 refund to each passenger out of which those who wished could donate their wedding gift to Kyle. As far as I can see the refund already given can only be \$15.37 after the deduction of the wedding present from ~~everyone~~ regardless of whether they wanted to give it or not. Even to those people who asked for, and received, the extra five dollars, the total refund could only have been \$20.37. Does anyone really begrudge \$1.18?

It has also been said that all of this only illustrates the fact that the WSFS should be done away with. This is quite ridiculous. The one thing that it does prove is that without the WSFS certain portions of fandom could have been taken for one hell of a ride. Luckily the Dietzes and Raybin have been able, up to now, to stop that happening. There is one bad egg in the basket but do we have to throw them all away?

The opposition to the WSFS Inc is on two levels. There are a number of fans who honestly feel that organisations in fandom are bad. I haven't seen any logical arguments in support of this feeling but if there are any they can be replied to logically. Generally speaking I am personally against too much organisation. Fans are a group of individualists very loosely knit together. We tend to be at least a little anarchistic in principle. Unfortunately some sort of organisation is essential - in FAPA or in OMPA for example. Now that World Cons have achieved their present size and started to handle money to the value of \$7000 a year or more, the most essential organisation of all is a legal organisation to back Conventions. This is the WSFS.

Possibly the best article that has appeared on this subject is the one in the first issue of 'Ground Zero' by Sam Moskowitz. He quite rightly points out that with conventions at the present size it is not always as easy to avoid a loss as it once was. A 'Big Name' who let himself be put on a Convention Committee in order to help them from the publicity angle, but who didn't have much to do with the running of the con, might not take kindly to being called upon to make good any loss. This can't happen under the WSFS.

Moskowitz also makes the point that, fans being human, it is not outside the bounds of possibility that one might attempt to embezzle a thousand dollars. The opportunity to do this is again the size of modern conventions. A self-contained Convention Committee might or might not feel itself required to explain what it has done with our money. A convention committee that is part of an incorporated society has to explain, and the explanation in the records of the society can be examined by any member who wishes to do so.

Personally I am in favour of the WSFS. Each fan will have to make up his own mind on the subject. I only ask that each individual considers the matter logically and with reason. If there are any who come to the conclusion that they are against the WSFS I ask that they give consideration to the third point made by Moskowitz, that is, to consider ways of changing and improving it rather than destroying it. I believe it would be a very bad mistake to disband the Society.

The second form of anti-WSFS activity (and unfortunately the most noisy) is on a level with the gutter. It consists basically of a smear attack by Falascafandom on the Dietzes. It is personal and the interests of fandom and the WSFS are merely incidentals. The Falascas have embarked on their propaganda not because they have our interests at heart, not to do anything for fandom, but simply because they hate the Dietzes and desire self-gratification. They are attempting to tear down the WSFS not because they have a logical reason for wanting it to go, but simply because it has become identified in their twisted little minds with the Dietzes and therefore it is bad. These people have so little sincerity in them that one can only consider them to be vacuum Falascas.

Take a look at the letter they had in FANAC 4 dated 17th March 1958, put out by Ron Ellik and Terry Carr. I have never yet seen in all my fannish life such a twisted, lying mass of loaded words and propaganda-type phrases. The Falascas could give lessons to Mrs. Carr, and that is saying something. If it comes to that they could probably beat Wetzlar at his best. Of the W. S. Inc they say "What we're trying to do is take it from the corner where it's been hiding so skillfully these many years and get it out where everyone can see it." The inference is that it has been deliberately hidden because there is something to hide. The truth? Well, there's nothing to hide and like any other incorporated society the records can be seen by any member who wishes. This is the case even supposing that the officials wanted to keep things secret, and poor Frank Dietz must be hoarse thru letting everyone know he has no objections to the records being checked. This is hiding in a corner? We don't know half as much about the Cleveland SF Association as we do about the WSFS. Someone is covering up.....

Of the Dietzes themselves, the Falascas say "All we really want to do is make everyone Science Fiction Society conscious, and make honest men of Dietz and Raybin" The inference is that they are not honest now. Over here this remark would leave the Falascas wide open on a charge of libel but no doubt if the Dietzes were to take legal action there would be an uproar against them because they were being nasty and mean to a couple of fans (if you'll excuse the word) thus proving that they can't win any of the time. Have any enquiries have been made about the honesty of Dietz and Raybin? Has anyone asked the Solacon Committee and Sneary in particular? Has anyone asked the London Committee and myself in particular? We are the people who have had most to do with them in the last 12 to 18 months so why haven't we been questioned on this point? Could it be because Sneary would say "From what I had read I thought Raybin would give us a lot of trouble, but I've exchanged a number of letters with him, and he has been very helpful and done a lot of things I'm very thankful for. The Dietzes have also been of more help to us than anyone out-side of this area" (My underlining.) Or could it be because I'd say "Honest? God, yes, they are the most honest I know. It was the Dietzes and Raybin who first convinced us that convention-attending fans could be as fannish as the rest of us. The Falascas want to know? Well, they have no need to talk. Take a look at my convention account and see who hasn't paid for a 1957 Programme Book ad. yet!"

And talking about that advert, Steve Schultheis is the treasurer of the Cleveland group and he was over here at the convention. He should, therefore, have known better but was presumably under pressure from Falascafandom. When billed for the advert by Dietz acting on our behalf Schultheis took two and a half months to reply and then pointed out that the account should have been closed on November 1st, 1957. Payment was therefore refused until such time as Cleveland was billed by Sneary. (This has since been done and as of March 31st, 1958, payment was thereforerefused until such time as Cleveland was billed by Sneary. (This has since been done and as of March 31st, 1958, payment has not been made. Maybe they can't afford \$6.00?). This is the reason for the appearance of Cleveland as a bad debt in my account.

All this in itself wouldn't have been too bad - hell, if they didn't want to be helpful over the problem of exchange then let them go sulk in the corner - but the Falascas used it as another attack on the Dietzes by spreading the story that they were trying to control Convention funds. I have controlled the funds of the 1957 Con. Nobody else. Just little me on my own, Sneary controls the 1958 funds. Frank Dietz held some money for me because I wanted him to do so. Another case of him being helpful - which seems to

squate in the Falascan mind with being bad. Look - if I had put part of the funds in the Post Office Savings Bank could it be claimed that the Post Office Savings bank was controlling them?! Right up to the bitter end I had hopes of passing on to the Solacon the balance I'd received from NewYork. There are difficulties to be overcome in transferring money from England to the States, as any fan editor knows. Why not just have someone in the States collect money that is due and hold it? Saves all the exchange problems.

Incidentally, this Falasca letter in Fanac was headed "If you can't lick 'em, gang up on 'em. It should have been "If you can't lick 'em, SMEAR 'em."

The Falascas also remark about their plans having leaked out and say "...it's quite alright. We've been having enough correspondence with Dietz to transmit our ideas pretty well." Oh yes. But they first approached Belle and Frank with a letter saying the Society wasn't publicised enough and they therefore felt it would be a good idea for them to put out three issues of a fanzine to tell everyone its scope and aims and just like that. They finished off with a string of questions to be answered so that they could get to work on the first issue. Not exactly what one would call an honest approach. No doubt if and when this fanzine appears we will see the Falascas in the role of Champions of Fandom. The thought makes me laugh.

There's more, but what can one say about loaded phrases such as "...we don't believe that fans need police"? Neither do I. Neither do the Dietzes or Raybin or any other fans I know. How the devil did police ~~war~~ get into this?

The trouble is that when someone as rotten as the Falascas start on a thing like this there's always someone else who will come along and shout for them. McCarthy never lacked followers, and in the same issue of FANAC there's a letter from Dick Lupoff that takes you right back into the McCarthy Age... "...somebody decides to take over fandom and make it a personal tool for self-gratification..." and so on and so on for tub-thumping line after tub-thumping line with nothing said at the end of it all! Nothing but an outright appeal to the emotions. I don't know which fandom he is thinking about but I do know that in the one I'm in nobody would even dream of trying to take it over because everyone knows it just can't be done.

If anyone has a real, honest, straightforward reason for thinking that the World Science Fiction Society Inc. is a bad thing then I'll be pleased to hear it. I warn you now that I'll try to get you to change your mind but I promise not to beat you over the head or drown you in a flood of emotional words in order to do this.

If, on the other hand, your reason is connected in any way with the lousy underhanded smear attack of Falascafandom against Belle and Frank Dietz and George Nins Raybin, then don't bother. I know these people. They don't come any finer."

So ends Sandy Sanderson's article in Clause # 4. It presents the facts much better than I could. I'll get back to my snarling at Kyle &c in a minute. But since this letter-substitute is being put together in a half-ass manner, this is the last stencil I'm typing. Before I slap it on the machine, I'd like to say a few final words.

I'm not sure at this writing what the fate of METROFAN will be. I hate to throw in the towel so soon. Even if I stop pubbing METROFAN, though, you people will hear from me in later letter/substitute type fanzines... not as sardon, I hope. I recieved two 'zines in the mail yesterday, one boosting Chicago, and one boosting Dallas. Neither are good sites, in my opinion, for a convention in '59. Chicago---rather, the people on the committee--- have had a con before. As for the Dallas group... from what I've seen of their work, they are a bunch of idiots. Nothing personal, understand. Besides, DETROIT is a City of Faaans. Marty Jukovsky will review the fine points of the two missives in DOWN AMONG THE DEAD MEN, his review column in either M/F or METROFAN. Travel-together-to-South-Gate committee on the East Coast has made plans and such like. For dope write Frank Dietz, 1721 Grand Ave., Bronx 53.

Dave Kyle (You've all heard of him) finally showed up at the recent Disclave held in Arlington, W. Va., by the Washington SFS. For reasons best beknownst to himself, Kyle had not been heard of since October 15th, 1957... over a half a year before the Disclave. Kyle had prepared an answer to the attacks made on him. 'Curthouser and curiouser', Alice would put it. Why is it that Kyle did not speak up before this? A judgement was entered against him. He was given ample time to answer it. He did not. Both issues of METROFAN were sent him. He did not reply, although Hans Steffan Santesson sent him a copy of his letter published in the second issue asking him to answer. Anyway, Sandy Cutrell (we were in his car) drove up to the Motel the morning of May Tenth, and there, in front of the Falasca's room, was Bill Donaho with a smirk on his face. I don't blame him for smiling. He handed me a copy of THE BELL TOLLS FOR WHOM, remarking that "as soon as Frank and Belle got their copy, they went off to inspect it carefully- with George. They're probably in a huddle right now." It was then that I saw Kyle and Ruth walking outside. My jaw dropped a few more inches, and Donaho laughed again. He told me that this would probab y be an interesting convention, what with Kyle, the Dietz's, Me, the Falascas, and Ellington (who hadn't shown up yet), not forgetting George Nims Raybin, all there at once. Oddly enough, the clashes were few (the only one I personally recall was when I wandered-or should I say ventured- over to a table in the cafeteria where Dave Kyle, Ruth, Bill Merrill, the Falasca's, and George Young (I believe) were seated, hoping that Kyle would break the silence and we could talk things over. Ruth Haughtily and in a very cold voice said to me, "Would you mind moving somewhere else?"

I sat down with Doris, Marty, and Fred Prophet, ordered coffee, and began to read THE BELL TOLLS FOR WHOM. Those of you who have read this (I don't know how wide distribution it recieved) know what I'm talking about. I'll try and clarify things for the others, but I would suggest you send for a copy to Dave Kyle, Station WPDW, Potsdam, New York.

I was surprised when I read it to find, when I had finished it, that it hadn't said a damn thing. It starts out by Stating what a grand fellow David A. Kyle is, and how active he's been and for how long. He then reprints a letter from Harry Harrison dated Feb. 27. This letter states a) that Kyle did 990/o of the work on the plane trip before the committee came into existance. (Italics my own) I don't know how much work Kyle did do on the plane trip, but even if it were 100 o/o, it still could not hold a candle to the amount Frank, George, and Belle did. it goes on to say that b) The wedding present was his (Harrison) own idea, and everyone thought it was a grand idea. c) that a few people, a pitiful percentage of those on the flight (note: Kyle & Company were an equally small percentage. Read sometime HOW TO LIE WITH STATISTICS- it's a great little book) want just to make trouble. Their reasons are personal, spiteful, and vindictive. I don't need to answer that. I know this is not the case, but you must be your own judge of whether it is true or not. If you knew the Dietz's as well as I do, I think you'd agree with me. Finally, Harry says that he urges Kyle to more or less put up his dukes and fight. This was the end of February. It wasn't untill May that he did do so.

The rest of the issue consists of Kyle maintaining that he done right and the Dietz's done wrong.

* "Heres an answer to your scurrilous rag" was Donahos remark as he passed me the BELL TOLLS

There were any number of ~~other~~ discrepancies in THE BELL TOLLS FOR WHOM, but I'm not going to go into them. They are self-evident: anyhow, the time is long gone for petty arguments about little details. I cannot take the time to ~~enumerate~~ the many things in McCUNE SPEAKS OUT that Kyle failed to answer. I just hope that if anyone is interested, he or she will return to those pages of the January METROFAN and find them.

The point is that, all-told, Kyle did make several mistakes in handling the Plane Trip: He did fail to answer correspondence: he did take a long time to make refunds (as of this writing, several have yet to be retrieved): he did charge a number of people for a European Trip and fail to perform those services (I know of one case where a fan incurred great difficulty because of this): He did send out several similar letters saying that he was withholding the 'award' money. I have seen two of these, identical in every respect except the name. I understand Bob Madle has another (he was startled when he saw it in METROFAN), and that now he knows of two others - but, as a friend of Kyles, he won't reveal the names of the recipients.

The issue is finished by several letters, contracts, etc., supposedly proving something or other, I'm still not sure what.

Then comes the Easter Egg.

Kyle publishes an affidavit stating, it would seem, that he does not owe the money that the society sued him for. On closer inspection, all it says is that he did not authorize the financial report published (although he was asked prior to publication to submit such a report - which he did not); and that, since he didn't authorize this report, the Society cannot prove he owes the money. He also says that he never refused to furnish records or papers belonging to the WSFS. Of course, he never bothered to answer anyone who asked him--- but, you can't say he refused, now can you?

It's very odd that Kyle didn't bother to answer the suit that was entered against him... yet he had time to write out and sign the affidavit before the suit against him was defaulted. There is no doubt that he owes the money. Yet he has sent threatening letters to South Gate, informing the Committee that all sorts of Dire Things will happen if they don't back down. I quote the following from Belle Dietz's letter to Anna Moffatt: "... If Dave Kyle had a good defense to the action of the WSFS against him, he could have, prior to the entry of judgement, appeared in the action and made an answer. Even now, if he wishes, he can make a motion in court to set aside the judgement so he can put in his answer... However, in order to sustain such a motion, he would have to show that he does not owe the money... The very fact that Dave Kyle has not made such a motion to the court indicates to me that he has no good defense to the action."

Which brings us back to the letter I received from Arthur C. Kyle, reprinted on the first page of this, MacDonalds/Folly. My answer to Mr. Kyle ran about as follows:

"In answer to your letter of May 16th, 1958, the information supplied me by Mr. Dietz is fully outlined in the article "Edsle McCune speaks out", in the January, 1958 issue of METROFAN. I am enclosing a copy of that issue. In fact, all of the information in the article was made available by Mr. Dietz in his capacity as Recorder-Historian of the WSFS. These records are on file at 1721 Grand Avenue in the Bronx, New York, and are, of course, open to any member of the WSFS or his representative. I, having seen the

records on question, can personally vouch for the veracity of Mr. McCune's Article.

"METROFAN is a news magazine, and as such published the story surrounding David A. Kyles handling of the plane trip. I have several letters on hand, as well as articles published in other such magazines lending weight to the contention that Mr. Kyle erred somewhat in his judgement as to the running of the plane trip.

"I do not understand your objections to the article published in the January, 1958 issue of METROFAN. As far as I can see, the news article(s) published concerning your client were in no way libelous, nor did they contain any so-called innuendos. Any intelligent person, especially a member of the bar versed in such matters, should realise that the article(s) were not aimed in such a direction; rather, they were intended to present certain unquestionable facts. I believe they served that purpose.

"I would be more than willing to published a retraction of any statements I made that could in any way be construed as being libelous... if you would be so kind as to furnish me with a detailed account of such statements. The article(s) were published in good faith. I meant no harm to Mr. Kyle personally, nor to any other person, and the next issue of METROFAN will contain a statement to that effect.

"The only assistance rendered by Frank and Belle Dietz was limited to use of their electric typewriter and mimeograph facilities which I lack. I included there names in the issue as a gesture of curtesy - a common practice among publishers of 'fanzines' such as mine.

"I hope I have been of assistance and if you have any further questions, I trust you will write me and I will give you my fullest co-operation."

I recieved the following answer:

"I wish to thank you for your letter of the 20th in refference to your publications.

"I am sorry I have not the intelligence to agree with your beliefs, and I never try to convince a layman, when the issue arises, that I know more law than he. I have known of statements based upon ignorance that have triggered lawsuits.

"The entire article (italics mine) 'Edsle McCune Speaks Out' is libelous and with the trimmings supplied in your two issues it is criminal libel (again, italics my own). If you will consult with any well informed attorney on libel law, you will be so advised.

"Some of the trimmings are: ## Dave Kyle, Confidential ## Edsle McCune Speaks Out - Dave Kyle ## Why did Kyle get so generous with other peoples money ## He recieved a total of \$51.00 . No services preformed. ## \$107.10 has been withheld by Dave Kyle ## The material about Kyles crooked dealings was totally uninteresting to me ## They knew about our boy Kyle's chicanery" ## This misappropriation of convention funds by Kyle ## despite Kyle's misappropriation there still remained a credit ## money collected for the trip was a part of the convention funds ##

"In conclusion I might say that it is not wise to rely on the creditability of self serving records."

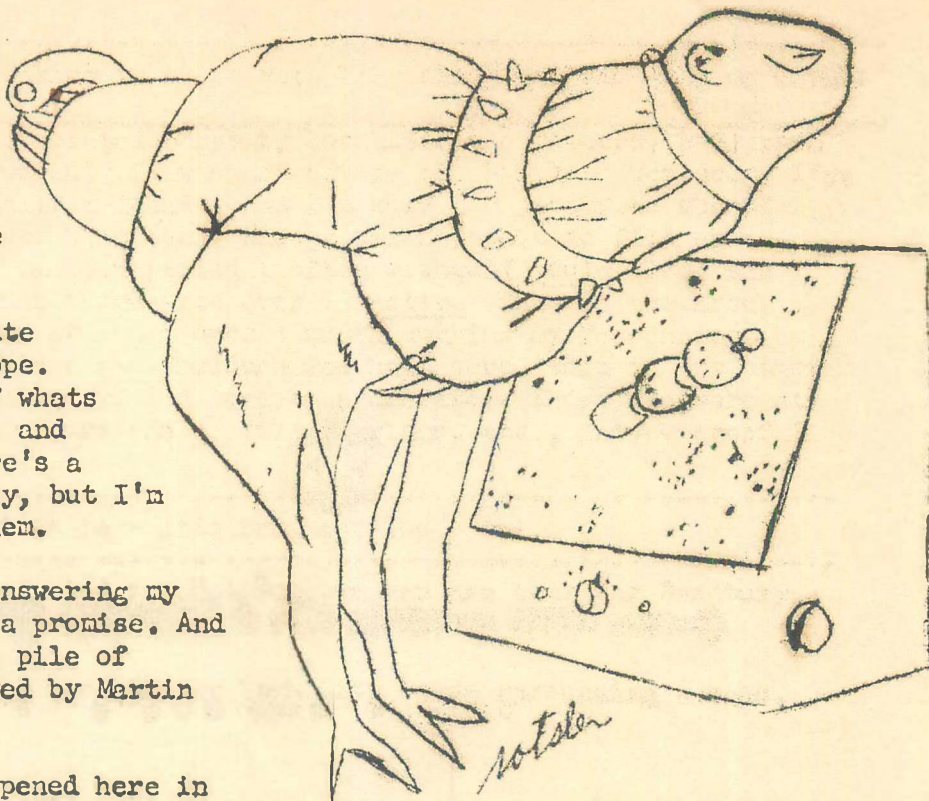
This letter, loaded with scare terms, is completely groundless. As for the first three 'trimmings', a title of an article is not libelous. Numbers three to six are facts, as the context of the article will prove. I needent repeat myself here. The rest were taken from letters I published that were clearly opinion.

That would seem to be that. I have avenged my sacred honor. I hope I will hear nothing more of this buisness for a while to come.

My next letter-substitute will not be so serious, I hope. I will dwell more on news of whats going on in New York fandom, and the East coast Bohemia. There's a hell of a lot I wanted to say, but I'm too damn tired to go into them.

I will get arround to answering my pile of letters soon, thats a promise. And when M/F comes out, I have a pile of fanzines that will be reviewed by Martin Jukovsky.

THE HORROR OF DRACULA opened here in New York at the Mayfair Theater, and midnight night before last was the premier. It was a damn good picture, Ken Beale should have a review of it in METROFAN, or in his regular Spaceships & Celluloid column in M/F.



"People keep breaking in on me when I'm asleep and stealing my covers"

New York Fandom, dispite pointed barbs by localites & outsiders, has grown a hell of a lot since it supposedly flew apart after the New York Worldcon. I've been fairly active for over half a decade, and I'm sure I'm justified when I say that fanac here is stronger than ever. Enough has happened to fill up a METROFAN a month, and during my lean period I often wished I could issue the mag to show this. At last count there were over 75 active fans in the area: that is to say, people I'd see at least once a month durring my faaaaaning. More has happened, I'd say, since the Worldcon was held here, than in any other two year period in New York history. I'd love to enumerate - those who were at any of the parties of Circle excursions or Film showings, etc., know whereof I speak.

"I don't know what it is - it's Army surplus"

Len Moffatt writes; Scheduled for Solacon program are thus far Bradbury, Boucher, Bloch, VavVogt, Sneary, Bjo, Karen & Poul Anderson, Fritz Leiber, Ed Clinton...

The H-Bomb air raid drill here in New York City was a resounding sucess. Nine pacifists were seized and sentenced to thirty days in jail for refusing to take cover when the sirens blew.

Dan Adkins & Bill Pearson are in town. One wouldhardly know it: they've been avoid fans and fan gatherings and all like that.

Humbug Magazine will be delayed about a month, as the editors had to seek new quarters when their lease expired. The Libertarian Leauge here also had the same trouble, and also is moving.

Enough for now...

DAVID MacDONALD

RON BENNETT FOR TAFT!

DETROIT IN '59! SUMMERFIELD FOR HELL!