

N I L I . F 2 3

Well, gang, it looks like we have a live one in the ranks. It looks like G. W----- wasn't the only menace to our tranquility. Dig:

Stanley Seitel
Counselor at Law

1875 Lexington Ave.
New York 35, N.Y.

SA. 2-3706

November 24, 1961

Mr. Theodore White
107 Christopher St.
New York 14, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that I have been retained to represent Dr. Christine Haycock (Mrs. Sam Moskowitz) in legal action contemplated by her based upon libelous statements contained in your publication, "null--f," issue numbered 22, for November, 1961.

The statements referred to appeared as follows:

"## Christine Moskowitz, I fear, is another story. As she has proved in the past (with her highly inaccurate articles on medical subjects), she is no respecter of truth."

"## I will overlook Sam's 'clever' 'surmises' about my inferiority to Christine, since it has given him an opportunity to brag about her masculinity, and I'm sure I wouldn't wish to deny him that. Indeed, I'm pleased to provide the impetus for this introduction to the Real Christine Moskowitz. I think we all want to know the woman a little better, and perhaps a few softball scores would be just the thing! ##"

These malicious and vicious defamatory remarks constitute a libel and defamation of character highly injurious to the reputation, community standing and professional standing and reputation of my client and were obviously calculated so to damage her. A number of the readers of your aforesaid publication were and are patients of Dr. Haycock and virtually all of your readers know her and her husband.

Libel is an extremely serious matter particularly when it

concerns a physician and surgeon with the professional reputation that Dr. Haycock has. My client intends to hold you fully accountable in law for the consequences of your violations of her legal rights.

I demand an immediate retraction of the crude remarks quoted hereinbefore. If such a retraction, together with a public apology to Mr. and Mrs. Moskowitz, is not printed and sent to your subscribers (with a copy to me) in the form of a postmailing within thirty days of the receipt of this letter, I shall have no alternative but to institute immediate legal action against you to hold you legally, morally and financially liable for your vulgar and base libels of my client.

Furthermore, you shall be held responsible for any repetition or recurrence of the aforementioned banalities, whatever form they may take, be it verbal gossip or direct or indirect written reference.

Very truly yours,


STANLEY SEITEL

SS:ww

Upon receipt of this letter, on Saturday, the 25th of November, I attempted to phone Mr. Seitel to ascertain the seriousness of this charge (since no sum had been mentioned), and the reason for including the second quotation. Mr. Seitel spoke rudely to me when I identified myself, and hung up on me shortly thereafter. When I rang him back and asked, "Now, can I talk to you?" he hung up immediately.

I shall overlook the misstatements of fact and verbal abuse contained in this communication (NULL-F has no subscribers; is circulated to geographically removed areas and not--to my knowledge--to any of Christine's patients; is not circulated among either the Moskowitz's community, nor the medical profession; and indeed is sent to a closed group of 64 other individuals none of whom have any interest in Christine's professional or community standing or reputation)--and I shall simply point out in reference to the two passages lifted out of context that:

1. The first statement is in reference to an article written by Christine Moskowitz (in PEALS, published by her friend, Belle Dietz) on the subject of mescaline and peyote which contained a number of errors of fact. References proving this point have been cited by a number of Christine's critics since this time, and the point is not debatable. Later Christine called me a liar for quoting a statement which others have heard her make and which is equally proven. On the grounds that Mrs. Moskowitz distorted facts twice expressly to my knowledge, twice in print and once in an attempt to impugn my own veracity, I made the above quoted statement. I had no intention of criticising her professional standing or competence, and I retract and apologize for any libelous reflection upon her in such case.

2. The second statement quoted of me does not seem actionable to me, and unfortunately Mr. Seitel did not see fit to remain in contact with

me long enough to point out its libelous nature. I can only surmise that when Mr. Seitel was retained, he was not fully appraised of the context of my statements, nor of the article submitted to the same audience by Christine's husband the quarter earlier in which he attempted to prove Christine's superiority to me and to prove an attitude upon my part of inferiority to her. He did this by citing Christine's ability to excel in masculine endeavors, one of which was softball. If, in quoting back Sam's own description of his wife, I have "maliciously and viciously defamed" her, I certainly apologize. Such was not my intention.

I am amazed that when I privately express to a group of 64 friends and acquaintances my honest dislike for a person and my valid objections to the factual nature of that person's statements (statements expressing opinions of my honesty, in part), I am considered to have created "malicious and vicious defamatory remarks," and thus subject to legal harassment and abuse.

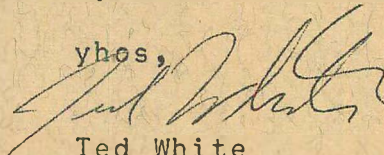
Therefore:

I completely recant and retract any and all "crude remarks, ... vulgar and base libels, (and any other) of the aforementioned banalities" which I may have at any time uttered in regard to Dr. Christine Moskowitz and/or her husband Sam Moskowitz, and I completely and abjectly apologize for them.

And I offer the foregoing pages as my indictment, explanation, and resultant action.

I certainly don't wish to cause the Moskowitzes any trouble whatsoever.

yhos,



Ted White

this has been NULL-F #23, late November final, published for FAPA as
a postmailing to the 97th Mailing, by Ted White, 107 Christopher St.,
New York 14, N.Y. mimeo by QWERTYUIOPress

Eppur, si muove

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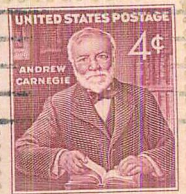
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from TED WHITE
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