

## LAW IN THE NEWS

### Are 'Exposes' Libel? Courts Must Decide

By PHIL YEAGER and JOHN STARK

A certain segment of the reading population has been made increasingly aware of Confidential and other expose-type magazines which purport to give the "inside dope" on the private lives of movie stars, prize fighters, society playboys, Government bigwigs, and divers other persons whose names are familiar to the public.

Now, according to news reports, Confidential has run into a number of libel suits, including those brought by Hollywood star James Mason, heiress Doris Duke and others.

This situation has created a lot of curiosity about legal remedies which may be available to personalities in the limelight who feel they have been falsely branded, with attendant loss of public esteem.

Traditionally, the civil action of libel was designed to cover this is the thirteenth of a series. The next will appear on Sunday.

cases where false statements, in writing, hold a person up to public contempt or ridicule. Damages won in libel suits may include not only compensation for financial loss suffered by the libeled person, but punitive damages as well—an extra jolt to the offender's pocketbook intended to discourage future transgressions.

Injured parties may also seek an injunction if the damage being done them is of a continuous nature, with the offender refusing to stop whatever he's doing. This sort of thing, however, would not be of much help to someone who felt maligned on the basis of a single magazine article.

Where the trouble is alleged to stem from publications employing the second-class mails, a Government action might be induced on the basis of using the mails to defraud or to circulate obscene literature. In this case the publication charged would have to violate directly the provisions of the statute.

Truth, of course, is a good defense to a libel charge. But even if the printed story is true, there are areas of personal privacy which the law will protect. This area is smaller in the case of a "celebrity" than it is for most people; but it still exists, and it may be grounds for a suit.

### Area Group Formed to Push Training of Future Scientists

A group of Washington-area scientists has been formed to try to stimulate the training of more future scientists and engineers.

Formation of the group, known as the Joint Board on Science Education for the Greater Washington Area, has been announced by the Washington Academy of Sciences and the District of Columbia Council of Engineering and Architectural Societies. Raymond J. Seegar, physicist of the National Science Foundation, has been designated chairman.

Dr. Margaret Pittman, academy president, said the new board plans to seek enlargement of such activities as the school science fairs held annually in the area under academy auspices.

A contact committee which establishes a liaison between scientists and schools is one of the activities which have been made part of the new program, Dr. Pittman said.

The new board will work closely with schools in seeking to improve teaching and attract more students to science study. Board members, besides Dr. Seegar, are Henry H. Armsby,

Department of Health, Education and Welfare; James F. Fox, Bureau of Ordnance, Navy Department; W. S. Higginson, Geological Survey; Keith C. Johnson, District public schools; Walter H. McCarthy, General Services Administration; Dean Martin A. Mason, School of Engineering, George Washington University; W. T. Reed, Defense Department; and Arnold H. Scott and John K. Taylor, Bureau of Standards.

### Fiji Hospital Adopts Pay-as-You-Go Rule

Pay-as-you-enter is the new rule for patients at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital of Suva, Fiji. If no deposit is forthcoming the patient goes to the non-paying general ward.

Reason for the change is that the hospital's accommodations are being taxed to the limit and the cost of medical services is soaring. Heretofore, Europeans have been the only ones who had to pay and it is claimed that many well-to-do Indians, as well as Fijians, have "had a free ride at the expense of the public."

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<b>'41 BUICK</b> \$95 4-door. No. 9070.	<b>'47 FORD</b> \$75 Tudor. No. 9238.

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