

AMENDED ANSWER<sup>A47</sup> RESPONDENT - NEWS  
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK [A47-A50]

-----x  
GEORGE SASSOWER, :  
 :  
 Plaintiff, :  
 : Index No. 17671/78  
 -against- :  
 :  
 ERNEST L. SIGNORELLI, ANTHONY : AMENDED ANSWER  
 MASTROIANNI, VINCENT G. BERGER, JR., :  
 JOHN P. FINNERTY, ALLAN CROCE, :  
 ANTHONY GRZYMALSKI, CHARLES BROWN, :  
 HARRY E. SEIDELL, NEW YORK NEWS, INC., :  
 and VIRGINIA D. MATHIAS, :  
 :  
 Defendants. :  
 :  
-----x

Defendant New York News Inc., by its attorneys,  
Townley & Updike, for its Amended Answer to the Amended  
Complaint:

AS TO THE SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

FIRST: Denies each and every allegation of paragraph  
"2" of the Amended Complaint as realleged in paragraph "18."

SECOND: Denies each and every allegation of paragraphs  
"19", "20", and "21" of the Amended Complaint, except admits that  
it published the articles annexed to the Amended Complaint as  
"Exhibit 1" and "Exhibit 2", and denies knowledge or information  
sufficient to form a belief with respect to the truth of the  
allegations pertaining to the effect of the articles.

THIRD: Denies each and every allegation of paragraphs "22" and "23" of the Amended Complaint.

FOURTH: Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief with respect to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraphs "24" and "25" of the Amended Complaint.

FIFTH: Denies each and every allegation of paragraph "26" of the Amended Complaint.

AS TO THE THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

SIXTH: Repeats its response to the allegations of paragraph "2" as realleged in paragraph "27" of the Amended Complaint.

SEVENTH: Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief with respect to the allegations of paragraphs "28", "29", "30", "31" and "32" of the Amended Complaint.

AS A FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

EIGHTH: Plaintiff was ordered to appear in Supreme Court, Suffolk County on June 27, 1977, to explain why he should not be jailed for contempt of court.

NINTH: The article of June 27, 1977 was true in substance and in fact.

TENTH: Plaintiff was accused of contempt of court in proceedings before Judge Oscar Murov in Suffolk County Surrogate's Court.

ELEVENTH: The article of August 17, 1977 was true in substance and in fact.

AS A SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

TWELFTH: The articles complained of were fair and true reports of judicial proceedings and were therefore privileged.

AS A THIRD, PARTIAL, AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE IN MITIGATION OF DAMAGES

THIRTEENTH: The matter published was received by defendant from reliable sources and published without malice toward plaintiff.

AS A FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

FOURTEENTH: The publication complained of dealt with matters arguably within the sphere of public concern, and reasonably related to matters warranting public exposition, and is therefore privileged.

WHEREFORE, defendant New York News Inc. demands judgment dismissing the complaint and the costs and disbursements of this action.

TOWNLEY & UPDIKE  
Attorneys for Defendant  
New York News Inc.  
220 East 42nd Street  
New York, New York 10017  
(212) 682-4567

VERIFICATION


STATE OF NEW YORK )  
                              : ss.:  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK )

JAMES G. WIEGHART, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

He is the Editor and Executive Vice President of New York News Inc., a defendant in the within action which is a corporation created under and by virtue of the laws of the State of New York; that he has read the foregoing amended answer which was served in Sassower v. Signorelli et al. (Index No. 17671/78) by the News' former attorneys Townley & Updike and knows the contents thereof; the same is true to deponent's own knowledge except as to matters therein stated to be alleged on information and belief, and as to those matters deponent believes them to be true.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JAMES G. WIEGHART

Sworn to before me this  
30th day of August, 1982.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

CARMEN G. MICICH  
Notary Public, State of New York  
No. 41-2690800 - Queens County  
Certificate filed in New York County  
Commission Expires March 30, 1983