Job seniority safe on childbirth leave

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that employers may not take away women's job seniority while they are absent for childbirth, but that denial of sick pay during that period is not necessarily illegal.

The opinion by Justice William Rehnquist came in a case filed by Nora Satty against the Nashvill (Tenn.) Gas Co., which placed her on maternity leave in 1972 without sick pay.

When she returned she was at the bottom of the seniority list.

Another case involving the Richmond, Calif., school district was returned to the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for further proceedings.

Under Nashville Gas policy, an employee with a different type of non-occupational sickness or injury would have been allowed leave with pay and would have retained job-bidding seniority, which affects an employee's entire future.

Rehnquist said the situation is different from the 1976 General Electric case, where the court held that pregnancy may be excluded from a private employer's disability insurance program.

The opinion Tuesday said there was no showing in that case that GE afforded men more benefits than women.

"Here, by comparison," Rehnquist said, the company "has not merely refused to extend to women a benefit that men cannot and do not receive but has imposed on women a substantial burden that men need not suffer."

Rehnquist said the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which forbids job discrimination on the basis of sex, does not "permit an employer to burden female employees in such a way as to deprive them of employment opportunities because of their different role."

But he said businesses may find it necessary to adopt sick leave policies applying to all employees in a particular group, including denial of pregnancy leave, and this does not violate the law even though women employees may suffer from it.

As for sick leave pay, Rehnquist said the general situation cannot be distinguished from that in the GE case.

But he noted Satty's contention that even in the GE case, the court held that distinctions involving pregnancy cannot be mere pretexts designed to produce an invidious discrimination against members of one sex or the other.

Rehnquist said the trial court never made such a finding in Satty's case and it is up to lower courts to say whether she is in a legal position to pursue this argument further.

The court was unanimous on the seniority issue. On sick pay, Justices Lewis Powell, William Brennan and Thurgood Marshall said Satty should be given a chance to show that the combined policy yielded less net compensation for female employees, as a class, than for males.

Speeding car kills one, injures twelve

United Press International

NEW YORK — One pedestrian was killed and a dozen others were injured by a speeding car driven down a sidewalk in Times Square Monday night, police reported. The driver, 19-year-old Harvey Collins of Manhattan, stole the car from a honeymooning Vermont couple.

Witnesses said the auto reached speeds of 60 miles per hour as it meandered down West 42nd Street from Eighth to Seventh Avenues, along the south sidewalk — past a row of X-rated movie theaters and massage parlors — striking unsuspecting pedestrians in its path.

Police arrested Collins as he tried to escape from a vengeful crowd of 100 persons who gathered around the car once it came to rest against a fire hydrant.

Officials said he would be charged with grand larceny and vehicular homicide.

The dead man was identified as R.A. Whitmore, 70. Six men and six women were injured.

Among the injured taken to St. Clare's Hospital were four teenage girls from Lodi, N.J., who had come into Manhattan to see the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree lighting.

Police identified the Vermont couple as 26-year-old Jerry Jenkins and his bride of about 12 hours, Marlene, 21, of Burlington.

The couple had come to Manhattan after their wedding at 8 a.m. in Vermont, and Jenkins left his wife in the car while he went to see if they could get a room for the night at the New York Sheraton Hotel.

Collins walked up to the car, a 1970 green-blue Buick, drew a gun, and told the woman to get out, police said.

She did as she was told, and Collins drove off, authorities said.

The car jumped the sidewalk at 42nd Street near Eighth Avenue, and began hitting pedestrains, police said.

St. Clare's Hospital said seven persons were taken there while Roosevelt Hospital had three victims and Bellevue Hospital two others. Whitmore's body was taken to Bellevue.

One pedestrian in the busy street, Stephen Brown of Brooklyn said, "This guy takes off up the street. He goes up on the sidewalk doing 60, maybe 70 miles an hour. He hit people at one end and when he gets near Seventh Avenue, he hit a lady who flew up in the air and he hit her again when she came down."

Sandor Maraczi, who was working at a newsstand at the corner of 42nd and Seventh said, "I heard screaming and I heard the car hit the hydrant. If it hadn't hit the hydrant it would have run right into our newsstand."

Campus Yule service slated for Thursday

Texas A&M University's Student Y community Christmas service is planned for Thursday at the University Center Fountain.

The 8 p.m. service will feature caroling with the Century Singers, season's greetings from President Jarvis Miller and the Christmas message by the Rev. Bob Waters of the A&M United Methodist Church.

"Hopefully the community as well as our campus family will join in the service," said Logan Weston, campus religious life coordinator. "Community churches have participated in the past and we would welcome them."

In case of inclement weather, the service will be moved into the Memorial Student Center lounge.

Local magazine procures grant

Quartet literary magazine, edited and printed at Texas A&M University, has received a $930 matching grant from the Coordinating Council of Literary Magazines.

English professor and editor-publisher Dr. Richard Costa said the award is as large as any given this year but is nearly $500 less than a year ago.

Funds will go toward the next issue of Quartet, a 1977 summer-fall double issue that will be out in late January.

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20 00	880	9 318 to 1	717 to 1	[illegible]
5 00	2 800	2 929 to 1	225 to 1	[illegible]
2 00	8 500	959 to 1	74 to 1	[illegible]
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