

## State / National

### Surrogate mother case contract a first

PASADENA, Calif. — A woman who contracted with a New York couple to be artificially inseminated and bear a child for them as a surrogate mother is now seeking to keep the infant she nurtured for nine months.

Superior Court Judge Robert Olson has been given the case to decide and he admits that the question of who has legal rights to the baby has left him "in a quandary."

Attorneys for the surrogate mother, Denise Lucy Thrane of Arcadia, Calif., and Mr. and Mrs. James Noyes met in court Friday to argue over custody of the baby.

Judge Olson deferred a decision on the case, which he said may be the first of its kind in the nation.

Olson said the contract between the couple and the surrogate mother itself cannot be ignored, but asked, "Does the process of bearing a child outweigh this little contract situation?"

Miss Thrane, a divorced mother of three in her 20s, was artificially inseminated last June using frozen sperm flown in from New York. She was not paid for the service but her expenses were covered, attorneys said.

The baby was reportedly born Saturday, but the mother's attorney would not confirm it.

Attorney Noel Keane of Dearborn, Mich., who arranged the transaction for the Noyes, said the couple cannot force the woman to give up the baby for adoption but were asking for custody.

### Interferon cancer tests on humans show promise

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Drug companies are producing a much purer form of the promising anti-viral drug interferon and initial tests indicate it works in humans.

Dr. Frank Rauscher, vice president of the American Cancer Society, which has pioneered in the interferon studies, reported Sunday the first batches of the protein made by bacteria "factories" were given to three cancer patients in January.

Initial and very preliminary results indicate the new interferon has a strong anti-viral action. Rauscher said it is too soon to know whether the interferon from bacteria will have anti-

cancer activity.

Up to now, scientists have had to use interferon obtained painstakingly from human blood cells. Although the human material was diluted, studies indicated it had some anti-cancer activity as well as being an effective anti-viral agent.

This prompted drug companies to start making interferon using the new gene-splicing technology on bacteria.

The new form of interferon is 1,000 times more pure, Rauscher said.

He said the earlier studies showed that interferon produced an anti-cancer response in 25 to 40 percent of people with breast cancer and two more rare forms of malignan-

cies. Only 10 to 15 percent of deadly malignant moles had a response.

By response, Rauscher said he meant a stabilization of the disease or a temporary remission. No cures have been reported.

Although 60 percent of cancer patients tested have not responded to interferon, Rauscher said the initial findings are promising.

Rauscher said the interferon produced by bacteria produces the same kind of side effects seen in the kind made from blood — nausea, lethargy, hair loss and suppression of the body's immune defenses.

### Texas ranks last in state art fundings

Texas is one of the top states in the nation in size and wealth. But when it comes to outlays for art, the Lone Star state is in the cellar, according to a study by the American Council for the Arts.

The ACA study ranks Texas 50th of the 50 states in per capita arts funding. Even worse, four of five U.S. territories shell out more money for the arts than Texas, the study said.

Sarah Greene, Texas Commission on the Arts treasurer, said the commission is at the bottom of the appropriations list, even though the amount of money it requests is

terminative what charges any compared to other state agencies.

The Dolph Briscoe appointee of Gilmer, Texas, says TCA's appropriations troubles are complicated because more than a few Texas lawmakers — most of them from rural areas — are quite

convinced that Texas' arts funds to trail the rest of the states.

"We still have a lot of bias to overcome," she said.

TCA spokesmen Michelle Weith said the commission's funding is also threatened by the Reagan Administration's proposed budget cuts for the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Reagan Administration has proposed a 50 percent cut in total funding for the NEA. That

would affect Texas directly," Weith said.

She says the NEA has been funding the TCA to the tune of about \$500,000 a year, and that money would be sorely missed if it is withdrawn. Because the state appropriated a total of \$2.4 million for the arts in the 1980-81 biennium, NEA's contribution made up a sizeable chunk of the TCA's total funding.

"If the dollars are cut back at the national level, we'll have less to give the arts in Texas," she said.

The geographic girth of Texas complicates the problem of low funding, she said.

"We're a very small agency and we're trying to do a very big job," she said. "We're trying to provide arts programs and activities for more than 13 million people with a staff of 19."

The ACA report did have some good news to report. Texas increased its arts appropriations 234 percent in 1980 to \$1,215,198, the report said. However, that increase only hiked the per capita expenditure from 1979's 2.9 cents to 9.3 cents. In comparison, Alaska ranked first in ACA's study with 1980 funding of \$2.52 per person, followed by New York with \$1.87.

The commission disburses the funds to various arts organizations across the state through a grants application program. One of

TCA's programs provides matching grants to community groups sponsoring traveling art performances and exhibits.

In an effort to shove the Lone Star state up in the rankings for

arts appropriations, Weith said the TCA is asking the Legislative Budget Board for \$9.66 million for 1982-83. Both Weith and Greene say legislators have frequently been unaware of the economic boon which the arts give a town.

"Arts are just good for business," Greene said.

For instance, the Pompeii exhibit brought millions of dollars into Dallas coffers as people flocked to the metropolis to see the display.

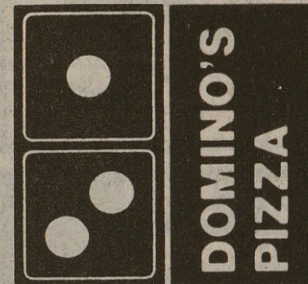
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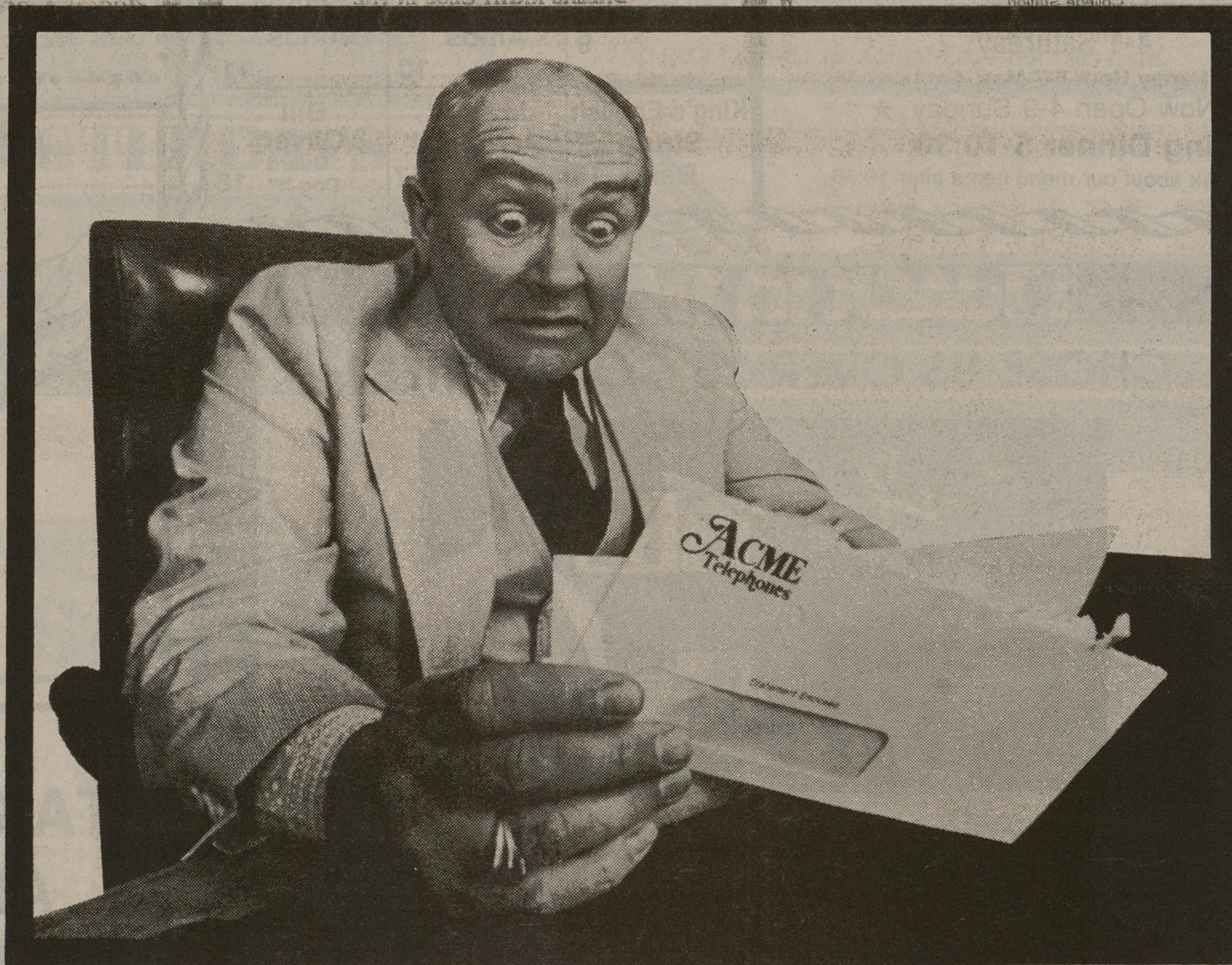
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