

Supreme Court to resolve custody

United Press International
Six-year-old Melanie Sidoti, the focus of a child custody battle involving a father in Bryan and a mother in Florida, realizes the Supreme Court, rather than someone close, will decide where she lives.

She has become the center of a court battle, between her father, air-conditioning technician Anthony Sidoti, and her mother, Linda Sidoti Palmore,

that has gone to the highest court in the land.

"She knows there's a big fuss," said stepmother Sharon Sidoti. "She knows about the court in Washington and she knows she may have to return to her mother. That's all."

Sharon's 38-year-old natural mother is asking the justices, who heard arguments last week and are expected to rule sometime in July, to overturn a 1982

ruling by Florida District Judge Morison Buck of Tampa.

29-year-old Sidoti and Palmore were divorced in Buck's court in 1980, with the mother initially winning custody.

Buck finally awarded custody to the father, citing "the social stigmatization that is sure to come" for Melanie growing up with a white mother and a black stepfather.

The Florida District Court of

Appeal and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell have declined to overturn that decision.

Solicitor General Rex Lee, representing the Reagan Administration, told the Supreme Court last week that Buck would have decided Melanie's custody differently if Mrs. Palmore had not remarried interracially.

Mrs. Palmore's lawyer, Rob-

ert J. Shapiro, focused on Buck's opinion, which said in part:

"This court feels that despite the strides that have been made in bettering relations between the races in this country, it is inevitable that Melanie will ... suffer from the social stigmatization that is sure to come."

Sidoti said he wished Buck had not mentioned the race in his decision.

Around town

Science students must take exam

Any juniors or seniors in the College of Science who have not previously taken the English Proficiency Exam must plan to take the test this semester unless they have completed English 301 with a minimum grade of C. Students in the College of Science are required to pass either English 301 or the test in order to qualify as a degree candidate at the College of Science.

The English Department will administer the exam to students in the Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics Departments should register for the exam in 151 or Blocker before March 2.

Dorm rooms still available for spring

The deadline for students to move to campus for the Spring semester and be eligible to reserve a room for fall is March 1 at 5 p.m. For more information contact Housing Office, 101 YMCA Building or call 845-4741.

Alpha Lambda Delta to host tea

Alpha Lambda Delta, the Freshmen honor society, is having a Pledge Tea March 1 at 7 p.m. in 302 Ruff. Freshmen with 12 hours or more with a grade point average of 3.5 or better are invited to attend the tea and join the group. Jeff Crofton, head yell leader, will be the guest speaker. Dues are \$15. Those students who cannot attend the tea must turn in their dues to Charlotte Taylor, 2nd floor of the Pavilion by March 1.

Health scholarships available

Applications for the Julia Ball Lee and the H.R. Lee Scholarships are currently available to undergraduate health science majors. The Julia Ball Lee Scholarship is a maximum \$500 scholarship awarded to biological science majors with high achievement and evidence of financial need. The H.R. Lee Scholarship is a minimum \$100 scholarship presented to undergraduate health science majors with high academic achievement.

Applications for the scholarships are available in the Scholarship Office on the second floor of the Pavilion in 313 Biological Sciences. Deadline for applications is March 1.

Leagues to organize for spring

The Bryan Recreation Division will hold an organizational meeting for the upcoming softball season tonight at 7 p.m. in the Medallion Room of the Bryan Utilities Building located at 300 S. Washington. Leagues include men's pitch, men and women's open slow pitch, men's church co-rec.

Registration for the College Station Little League will be Feb. 28 through March 1 at the South Knoll Cafeteria from 6 to 8 p.m. All College Station children between the ages of six and 18 are eligible to play. The season begins April 1. Fees will be \$17 per individual or \$27 per family. Late registration is \$22 and \$37, respectively.

Defensive driving course offered

The Brazos Valley Safety Agency will conduct a defensive driving course today and Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. both evenings at the Ramada Inn. Registration begins at 5 p.m. at the Ramada Inn or students can pre-register by calling 693-8178. Fees for the course are \$20.

English department to show movie

The English department will sponsor a showing of a film each week until May 1. The first play, Three Sisters by Anton Chekhov with Lawrence Olivier, Alan Bates and Joan Plowright will be shown today at 5 and 8 p.m. in Zachry.

Three Sisters is the first of nine plays to be shown. A mission is \$1.50 for students and \$2 for non-students. A subscription to all nine plays can be purchased for \$11.75. A subscription fee can be sent to Ellen McDaniel, English department or can be paid at the door. Checks should be made payable to Language of Film—English.

To submit an item for this column, come by The Battalion office in 216 Reed McDonald.

Dad's mourning eased by donating organs

United Press International
HOUSTON — The father of a young man who died last week in a freak accident said Monday it has been easier to accept his son's death because his heart

and kidneys were donated to three other people.

The 44-year-old man, the father of a 17-year-old Cypress High School student, said it has been easier to accept his son's death because his heart and kidneys were donated to three other people.

The man, a manager at Shell Oil Co., asked for his name to be withheld except as Bob, to protect his privacy.

Bob said he and Robert were very close. They once talked about donating their organs and Robert indicated that he would be willing to donate organs upon Bob's death.

"I used to tell him I'd go to hell before I'd give part of me," said Bob.

course, that was when he was going fishing and he was going to bury me."

In time, the father came to agree with the idea which his wife Susan supported from the beginning.

The father's decision, Robert's wishes be followed part of a relationship perhaps closer to that of soul mates than father and son.

The two were best friends.

Robert's heart was given to a 42-year-old Florida driver, who was reported in excellent condition. A 38-year-old woman and a Port Arthur man with chronic renal disease received Robert's kidneys. They were both listed in general.

Issues for women highlighted by club

By ROBIN BLACK
Staff Writer

Issues concerning women will be highlighted this week at Women's Week, a week-long seminar sponsored by the Women's Student Organization.

WSO member Cathy Girard said that although abortion and equal rights are popular topics in similar seminars, the campus organization has chosen instead to discuss such issues as women's professional roles and women's self image.

The organization, which Girard says has about 11 members, will be sponsoring the daily speeches and also will be in the Memorial Student Center surveying women about current attitudes and needs.

"Women's Week is the biggest thing we've ever done," Girard said.

The WSO is only a few years old, and Girard said that one

purpose of the seminar will be to increase the organization's membership.

Girard said that the group is trying to change its image from that of a feminist organization to that of a women's service organization.

The schedule for the week:

- Today — Jane Warren holds a workshop titled "Women and Their Self Image" in a brown bag seminar at noon at Rudder fountain.
- Wednesday — The film "Rosie the Riveter" will be shown at 8:30 p.m. in 510 Rudder.
- Thursday — Judge Carolyn Ruffino speaks about "Texas Women, Where are we?" at 7 p.m. in 205 MSC. Reception follows.
- Friday — Penny Haws speaks about careers for women in a brown bag seminar at noon (location tentative).

Teens lose fight to keep \$500,000 they found

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Two Texas teenagers lost a legal battle Monday to keep \$500,000 they found in a buried ice chest.

The Supreme Court rejected requests from James Dean Bridges and Percy Garcia to review a ruling that forced them to give up money they uncovered in January 1977 buried on an Alice ranch owned by Bridges' father.

Bridges, then 15, and Garcia, then 16, used some of the money to buy bus tickets to Dallas, where they paid a man \$1,000 to buy them a car. He got a car for them and the boys took off for Waco.

They were pulled over by a policeman in Waco for running a red light and were arrested because neither had a driver's license. Police searched the car and discovered the money.

The boys gave varying stories on how they got the cash — on some occasions saying they

found it and at other times saying they stole it.

Not long after their arrest, the Internal Revenue Service got wind of the windfall and told young Bridges he would have to pay taxes on it.

But the city of Waco and McLennan County had a different idea. They went to court arguing that the boys had no legal right to the money.

Usually a person who finds money gets to keep it if no one else comes forward to claim it, but in this case there was reason to believe the money belonged to someone — whoever buried it.

Officials argued that, because no legal owner came forward, the cash should go into the city and county coffers.

Seeing the money about to slip through their fingers, the boys argued that police illegally searched their car without a warrant.

The boys' lawyers argued the money was subject to the exclusionary rule and could not be used as evidence at the trial of the county's civil suit seeking possession of the cash.

Because the money could not be used in trial, they argued, the judge could not rule who owned it.

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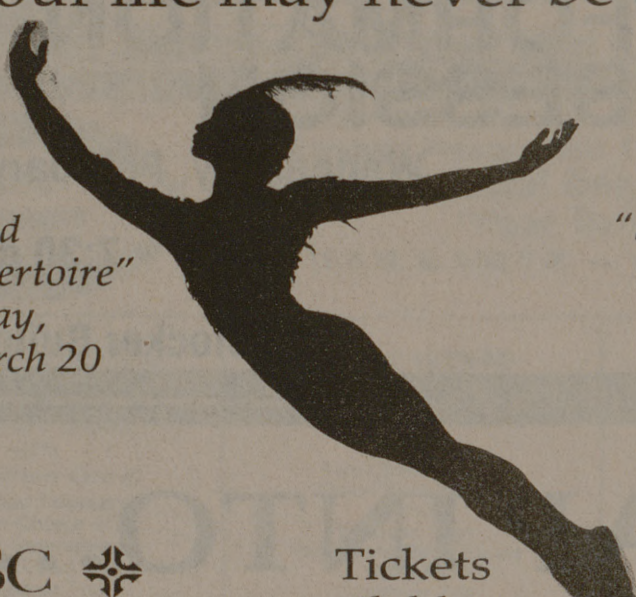
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