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FOOD

The Record

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CENTRAL

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

Girl, 15, getting football tryout

By Bradshaw Hovey
Staff Writer

Sometime Monday, 15-year-old Elizabeth Balsley will be on the practice field trying to earn a spot as a wide receiver on the North Hunterdon Regional High School football team.

If she succeeds, she will become the first girl in New Jersey to play high school varsity football.

A state administrative law judge ruled yesterday that Elizabeth, who lives in Clinton Township in Hunterdon County, must receive a tryout despite a school district policy barring girls from playing on the football team.

District agrees to comply

Elizabeth's participation on the team, Judge Daniel P. McKeown said, must be based on her ability, not her sex. The judge's order came in the form of a temporary restraining order allowing Elizabeth to practice until a final ruling is made after a hearing Sept. 9.

School board attorney James Granello said the district would comply with the judge's order to arrange for a physical exam for Elizabeth, allow her to pick up equipment Saturday, and let her participate in the first team workout Monday.

Elizabeth said last night that she was very happy about the judge's decision but that the public attention she had attracted was not particularly welcome.

"It's really kind of distracting me from my main goal," Elizabeth said. "My main goal is to play football."



Staff photo by Rich Gigh

Elizabeth Balsley's case scored points with judge.

Newspaper and television reporters have besieged her home with calls, and many have asked her where and at what time practice will be Monday. Elizabeth said she has refused to tell them.

'Paternalistic, discriminatory'

"I want to concentrate on football," Elizabeth said. And she said she doesn't want video crews hanging around recording her reactions to the rigors of training camp.

"Here's Beth breathing heavy," she mimicked. "Here's Beth throwing up. Here's Beth passing out."

The school board's policy against girls' playing football, Granello said, was not based solely on sex. He said officials considered the physical well-being of the girl, the safety of other players, and that the district provides "comparable" sports for girls.

In arguments before McKeown on See GIRL, Page A-14

S. Africa to lose \$2B in N.J. funds

By Harvey Fisher
The Record's Trenton bureau

TRENTON — Brushing aside warnings from the White House, Governor Kean yesterday said he would sign legislation mandating withdrawal of some \$2 billion in state pension fund investments from companies and banks doing business in South Africa.

Declaring that it's time for New Jersey to stand up and be counted against racial separation and oppression in South Africa, Kean also called on governors and state legislatures across the nation to consider similar actions.

And though he declined to criticize President Reagan's policies toward South Africa, the governor said Washington, too, must take some significant steps with a "moral imperative" to pressure the government in Pretoria into ending apartheid.

The Republican governor, who often points up his close ties with the president, revealed he had been told several weeks ago by White House emissaries that Re-

gan would "not look favorably" upon his signing of divestiture legislation. Kean would not provide any further details.

"We can no longer stand by and watch while a system predicated on racism attempts to subjugate an entire people. The time has come for action to change — and to end once and for all — the oppressive system of apartheid," he said. "Apartheid is anathema to everything we stand for in this country and the State of New Jersey. . . . It's an affront to human decency."

Kean said he is exploring further sanctions, including refusing to award any state contracts to firms that do business in South Africa and also possibly ordering state agencies to boycott products manufactured there.

He said he has directed state Treasurer Michael M. Horn to gather all necessary information before taking such additional measures.

Business organizations in New Jersey have vigorously opposed the divestiture legislation and again voiced

See DIVESTITURE, Page A-2

A scam instead of an infant

By Tom Toolen
Staff Writer

Frustrated by the lack of available American babies, Michelle and Robert Szakacs of Glen Rock turned to Chile to adopt a baby. But they now fear they have been victims of a charming Chilean attorney.

"It was a nightmare for us, something I wouldn't wish on anyone," Mrs. Szakacs said yesterday. She charged that Santiago lawyer Alberto Bronfman Jacober took \$2,500 but never gave them a baby.

Dozens of other couples seeking children also have reported being taken in.

Mrs. Szakacs added that she has a list of 27 other metropolitan area couples who say they were cheated out of thousands of dollars by the attorney, whom she described as a kindly looking gray-haired man in his late fifties who made trips to the United States to "reassure us that we would have our babies soon."

Mrs. Szakacs said that she first contacted Jacober two years ago through a Long Island-based organization called Latin American Parents Association, which matches couples with South American babies. "The organization is a good one and had a fine record of finding ba-

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Partly cloudy and less humid tonight; sunny and warm tomorrow. Detailed forecast, Page C-18.

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Sikh leader slain at rally

By Nilova Roy
Washington Post News Service

NEW DELHI, India — Sikh gunmen assassinated mainstream Sikh political leader Harchand Singh Longowal in Punjab yesterday, less than a month after he signed an agreement with the central government in New Delhi that granted a measure of autonomy to the strategic northern state where sectarian turmoil has taken more than 2,000 lives in the past three years.

Longowal, 53, leader of the moderate Akali Dal party, died of his injuries several hours later after undergoing emergency surgery in the town of Sangrur. One of his supporters also was killed and three others were injured in the attack by four gunmen, two of whom were captured, police said.

The July 24 agreement paved the way for state assembly elections and balloting for the federal parliament,

seen as a major bid to return normalcy to the violence-racked state.

Militant Sikhs seeking an independent Punjab dismissed the pact as a "sellout," however, and threats were renewed against Longowal. He also encountered some opposition to the accord among party rivals.

Other political violence struck yesterday in the Punjab town of Jullunder, where two gunmen shot and killed a local leader of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress I Party and wounded Gurdial Saini, a district party official, in the attack at Saini's home.

Yesterday's attacks marked a renewal of terrorist activity, which had fallen off after the July pact. Army troops in Punjab were placed on alert last night to guard against fresh outbreaks of violence. It was not clear last night whether there would be any change in the Sept. 22 election date.

See SIKH, Page A-2



Staff photo by Peter Byron

Mordechai Levy in Paterson yesterday.

Militant Jew, Paterson clash

By Lu Stanton Leon
and Patricia Alex
Staff Writers

At a heavily guarded but sparsely attended appearance in Paterson yesterday, the leader of a militant Jewish group vowed to take the city to court for denying a permit to picket the home of Yscherim Soobzokov.

"Freedom of speech is given for everyone, not just the people the mayor likes," said Mordechai Levy, leader of the Manhattan-based Jewish Defense Organization (JDO). "We will bring him [the mayor] to his knees in court."

He said he will seek legal assistance from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of New Jersey. An ACLU spokesman said yesterday that he'd have to review the case before deciding on getting involved.

"If it does raise a constitutional issue, as it appears it might, we would attempt to provide legal representation," said Ed Martone, assistant director of the ACLU's Newark office.

Mayor Frank X. Graves Jr. said he ordered denial of the permit to "protect the health, welfare, and safety of the city's residents. The constitutional issue will have to be decided by the courts."

Soobzokov was injured when a bomb exploded on his front porch

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U.S. to test air-launched satellite-killer rocket

By David Hess
Knight-Ridder News Service

LOS ANGELES — The White House says it soon will start testing an air-launched rocket designed to shoot down satellites.

In what could add a new dimension to the arms race between the United States and Soviet Union, the testing of the antisatellite weapon (ASAT) was described yesterday by White House spokesman Larry Speakes as intended "to avert clear and irrevocable harm to the national security."

Congressional critics, who earlier had

sought in vain to bar ASAT testing, have charged that the development and testing of such weapons would harm efforts at the U.S.-Soviet arms-control talks in Geneva.

Speakes said President Reagan decided Monday to go ahead with the ASAT testing and notified Congress yesterday by issuing a required certification. In the certification, Reagan said the tests were necessary on national security grounds but that they would not impair ongoing "good faith" negotiations with the Soviets to ban ASAT's.

At a news briefing in Santa Barbara shortly before leaving with Reagan for a three-

day visit in Los Angeles, Speakes declined to say exactly when the testing would begin. But administration sources said that "things are in place to start very soon" after a 15-day waiting period required by Congress.

Speakes said the ASAT device will be launched at a high altitude, probably at 60,000 feet or more, from an F-15 fighter plane. It is supposed to home in on and destroy its target by impact, without explosives. Because the Air Force has had technical problems with a low-orbit target satellite, the first test will be aimed at an old, drifting U.S. satellite, Speakes said.

In announcing the start of the testing program, Speakes said the Soviet Union already has an ASAT system in place.

"The United States must develop its own ASAT capability in order to deter Soviet threats to U.S. and allied space systems, to deny any adversary advantages arising from the offensive use of space-based systems which could undermine deterrence," Speakes said.

The decision drew a predictably mixed reaction from members of Congress. Sen. John W. Warner, R-Va., a member of the Armed

Services Committee, said the United States "will be well-advised to prove to the Soviet Union" that it has a working ASAT system, echoing Speakes' contention that the tests would provide "more incentive" for the Soviets to negotiate seriously on banning ASAT's.

But Rep. George E. Brown Jr., D-Calif., ridiculed that justification, telling reporters in Washington that "anybody that believes this administration is seriously trying to

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Couples seeking babies run into adoption scam

FROM PAGE A-1

bies to adopt," she said, "It's only this one bad attorney who hurt."
Jacobson is known to the U.S. State Department. A spokesman said yesterday that he had received at least 43 complaints about Jacobson over the last few years.

Fled to Israel

"They started to come in about two years ago," James Callahan, a spokesman for the State Department, said yesterday, "and they all accused Mr. Jacobson of not delivering babies that he promised after taking an up-front fee, usually of \$2,500."

Jacobson's fee usually was \$5,000 to \$6,000 per adoption, Callahan said.

Officials at the U.S. Embassy in Santiago yesterday said that Jacobson and his girlfriend, former Chilean judge Yvonne Gutierrez Pava, have fled to Israel.

Chilean authorities have notified Interpol, the international police agency, to be on the lookout for Ms. Pava, whom they charge with "malfeasance in office in connection with endangering minors."

U.S. and Chilean officials alleged yesterday that Ms. Pava forged court papers for children that Jacobson bought from impoverished parents. Ms. Pava allegedly forged the papers while she was a judge in a rural province 50 miles from Santiago.

However, there are no charges against Jacobson, because American victims would have to travel to Santiago to sign complaints in person, a Chilean official said yesterday.

'A good record'

"We ran several checks on Mr. Jacobson and notified our embassy in Santiago to look into his dealings, but he fled the country before we could confront him with any of the couples who said they were victimized," Callahan said yesterday.

Callahan said that Jacobson had for many years dealt with legitimate adoption agencies in the United States and Canada "and had a good record of securing children for many couples, but something happened to him over the past two years."

What happened, American and Chilean officials in Santiago said, was that he overextended himself and couldn't deliver all the babies and children that he promised to American, Canadian, and Australian couples.

A Chilean justice official, who wouldn't give his name, said yesterday that Jacobson "for many years had built up a good reputation as an adoption attorney, but he went crazy the last few years. I think he promised too many babies to too many people, and he panicked when he couldn't deliver."

If Jacobson and Ms. Pava are in Israel, "the chances are that he will never face any charges on the adoption scheme," said Jane Koblitska, the U.S. consul general in Santiago.

She added that extradition proceedings wouldn't be instituted against Ms. Pava because the "na-

Rules vary on foreign adoptions

A total of 7,314 foreign children were adopted by Americans in 1983, up 1,378 from the year before, says the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

But the majority of the children, who are 16 and younger, come from only a handful of nations, Cathy Boothe, an INS spokeswoman, said yesterday.

Figures from 1983 were the most recent available, she said.

"While most nations allow foreigners to adopt children, a great majority of them have stringent rules as well as very few available children," Ms. Boothe said.

She said Colombia led the list of nations sending children to U.S. families in 1983, with 1,019. Korea followed, with 548, and India was next at 388.

Only 172 Chilean children were adopted by Americans in 1983, she said, adding that a couple trying to obtain a Chilean child "might face more frustrations than in other countries."

Ms. Boothe stressed that any couples seeking to adopt a child in a foreign country should contact the U.S. Embassy and U.S. officials there for the names of reputable go-betweens who could assist in the process, which can be complicated.

"Depending on the country, it could take months or even years for an American to adopt a baby," Ms. Boothe said. She added that "the best place to start is with reputable U.S. agencies such as the U.S. Catholic Conference or various adoption agencies who have expertise in those countries."

TOM TOOLEN

ture of the charges against her are civil, not criminal, so extradition is very difficult."

A spokeswoman for the Israeli consulate in New York said yesterday that she had no knowledge of the case, because extradition has not been sought.

It is thought that Jacobson, who is Jewish, is seeking citizenship in Israel. Ms. Pava's religion is not known.

"It's a shame that so many people were hurt, but I wouldn't want this experience to turn people off from adopting foreign-born children," Mrs. Szakacs said.

The Szakacses since have adopted three children, 22-month-old twins Dana and Alison from El Salvador and 6-month-old Nicole from a Chilean family.

"This time we didn't put any money up front, and we thoroughly checked out the lawyer," said Mrs.

Szakacs.

"The United States has so few children for couples to adopt that going overseas is the only choice for many people who can't have their own children," she said.

When they first sought a baby, Mrs. Szakacs and her husband, who is a police officer with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, were told by the Spence-Chapin agency in New York that only 35 infants were available for 5,000 couples.

"That's when we turned to Chile," she said.

Ms. Koblitska had a word of warning for couples seeking to adopt in any foreign country:

"Please tell people to check with the American embassy in any country across the world; all embassies have a list of reputable attorneys who can help in the adoption process."



Staff photo by Klaus-Peter Steitz

Robert and Michelle Szakacs with Nicole, 6 months, and twins Alison and Dana, nearly 2.

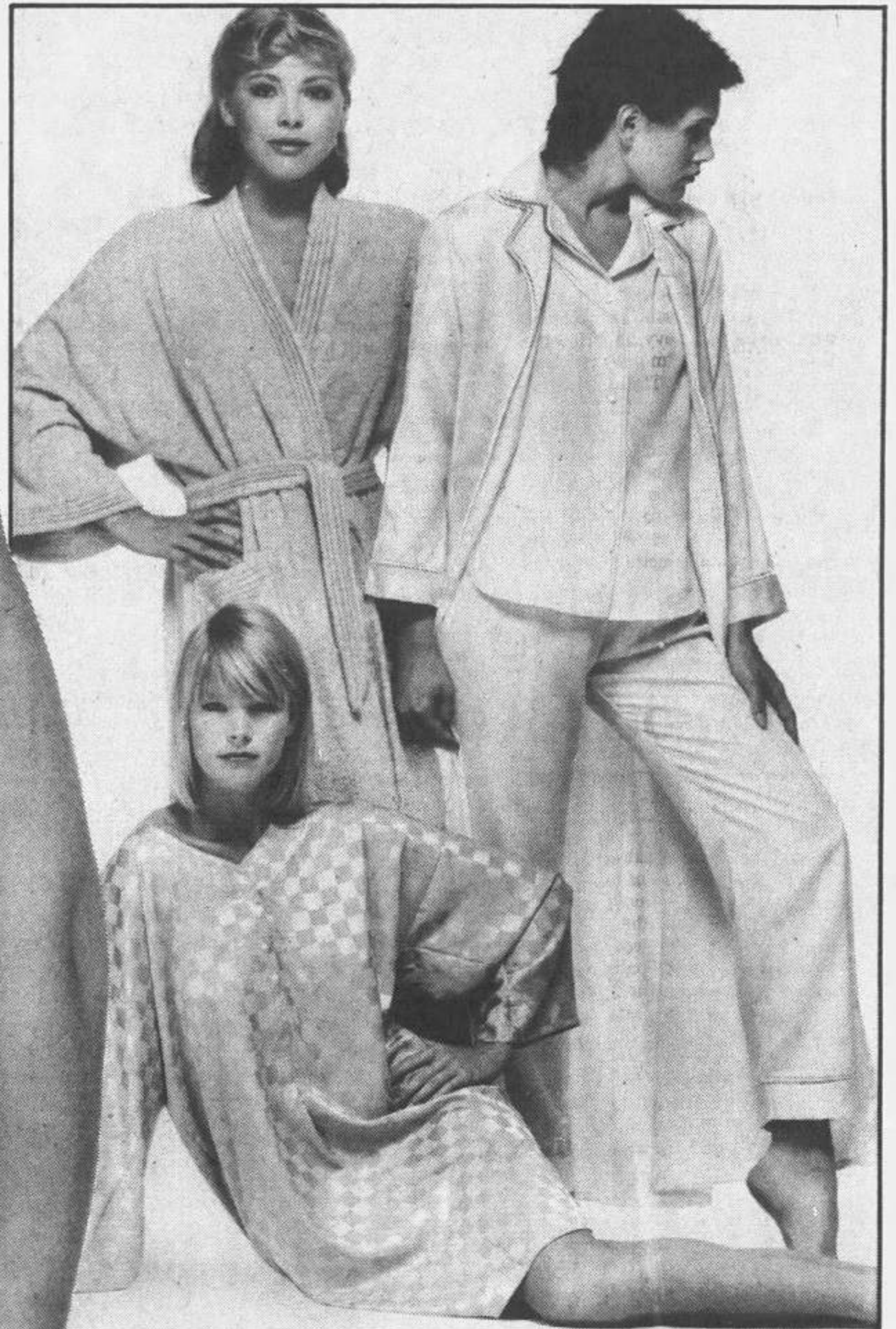
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