

World and Nation

Israeli soldiers gas Arab hospital

From Associated Press reports
RAMALLAH, Occupied West Bank — Israeli troops fired tear gas inside an Arab hospital Wednesday, forcing doctors to don gas masks and sending dozens of choking patients fleeing with their faces covered by Arab headaddresses.
 Soldiers clubbed a Palestinian teenager suspected of throwing rocks at troops from a barricade erected about 10 yards from the hospital's emergency room.
 An Associated Press photographer saw soldiers throw the youth head first down a flight of stairs, then sit on his stomach while beating him with a wooden truncheon.
 Troops detained 20 Arabs suspected of participating in demonstrations in Ramallah, Israeli radio said. President Reagan, meanwhile,

ordered Secretary of State George Shultz to return to the Middle East on Thursday for further talks with Arabs and Israeli leaders.
 In Jerusalem, police detained 27 Israeli students from Bezalel art school after their parade for the Jewish holiday of Purim turned into a protest against the Israeli handling of unrest in the territories.
 Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin defended Israel's policy of using blows to subdue Arab protesters, saying that of several thousand soldiers serving in the occupied territories, only 2 percent to 3 percent had committed excesses, the Itim news agency reported.
 As a matter of policy, the army does not release exact figures on troop deployment.

In Ramallah, eight miles north of Jerusalem, soldiers fired at least six tear gas canisters at Palestinian protesters who used rocks and twisted metal to block a street outside government-run Ramallah Hospital and hurled stones at a dozen soldiers.
 One smoking canister landed in the emergency room reception area and a second landed in a hospital courtyard.
 Two doctors donned gas masks and others held onions to their noses to counter the effects of the gas. About 30 coughing patients, including old men with canes, used Arab headaddresses to cover their faces.
 "Even the doctors couldn't breathe, so imagine the effects on the patients inside, many of whom are seriously ill," said one doctor, who declined to identify himself.

Soldiers detained three youths outside the hospital, dragging away one youth with a gash on his forehead and a blood-drenched shoulder.
 The tear gas attack was the second on the hospital in two days. On Tuesday, three soldiers burst into the hospital with their guns drawn, fired tear gas and struck two doctors with their rifles as they searched for demonstrators, the hospital director said.
 An army spokesman denied that soldiers entered the hospital or beat doctors in Tuesday's incident.
 Palestinian protesters have used hospitals, schools and sacred mosques as hideouts to elude arrest and as staging grounds for anti-Israeli riots, according to Israeli officials and eyewitnesses.

Mecham's lawyer downplays alleged death threat in trial

From Associated Press reports
PHOENIX, Arizona — An alleged death threat against a grand jury witness was "a political matter," not a crime, a defense lawyer suggested Wednesday at Gov. Evan Mecham's impeachment trial.
 One of the "high crimes, misdemeanors or malfeasance in office" charges against Mecham is that he obstructed an investigation into the alleged death threat.
 Department of Public Safety Lt. Charles Johnson and another former member of the governor's DPS security detail have testified that they were told that Mecham's aide, Lee Watkins, threatened the governor's legislative liaison, Donna Carlson. Watkins reportedly said Carlson might "go on a long boat ride" if she didn't stop testifying before a grand jury that was investigating Mecham.

News in Brief

sentences of 30 to 180 days who were convicted of non-violent crimes such as larceny or breaking and entering. In addition, some misdemeanor prisoners who now are in prison will be released earlier to reduce prison crowding.
 State and local officials said the emergency steps could cause further problems because probation and parole officers already have heavy caseloads and would be unable to take on additional inmates who are granted early paroles.

Church denies Swaggart pardon
NEW ORLEANS — Louisiana Assemblies of God church leaders have rejected a request by national church officials that they reconsider their sanction against television evangelist Jimmy Swaggart, a church official confirmed Tuesday.

The official, who asked to remain anonymous, said the 19-member state presbytery decided to send back its original censure barring Swaggart from preaching for three months. That decision came Monday during a nine-hour meeting at district headquarters in Alexandria, La., the source said.

Swaggart stepped down from the pulpit Feb. 21, confessing to paying a prostitute to pose naked in front of him and trying to make a deal with a minister who confronted him about it.

Doctors join general strike in Panama

From Associated Press reports
PANAMA CITY, Panama — An opposition leader said Wednesday that Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega was purging his army of suspected opponents, and doctors joined businesses in a general strike aimed at ousting the military strongman.
 Guillermo Cochez, a national legislator and vice president of the opposition Christian Democratic Party, told reporters that Noriega apparently had fired two senior colonels and two majors suspected of being disloyal.
 Cochez said they included Col. Marcos Justines, who as chief of staff was No. 2 in the Panamanian defense forces and next in line to succeed

Noriega.
 A spokesman for the Panama Canal Commission said anonymous telephone callers warned them both Tuesday and Wednesday that a bomb had been planted in the commission's headquarters.
 Spokesman Franklin Castrellon told the Associated Press that the building, next to the waterway, was evacuated and searched both days but that no bombs were found.
 In Washington, William Rogers, a lawyer for a Panamanian opposition group, said the State Department was preparing to notify U.S. banks where the Panamanian government had deposits not to conduct any transactions with Noriega's regime.

Cochez said he could not "absolutely confirm" the firings, but several diplomatic sources said they also had heard the reports and tended to believe them.
 Justines was chosen by President Eric Arturo Delvalle Feb. 25 to replace Noriega, but Delvalle's attempt to fire Noriega backfired. Noriega supporters in the National Assembly instead voted to oust Delvalle.
 Justines then joined other ranking officers in pledging their loyalty to Noriega, who is under indictment in the United States on an drug trafficking charge.
 Cochez said Col. Elias Castillo, the army chief and the No. 4 man in the

military hierarchy, was also fired, along with two majors, Moises del Rio and Fernando Quesada.
 "I think the purge is good for the democratic process because it will show the other officers that he (Noriega) is not interested in the institution but only in himself," Cochez said. "Most officers are supporting Noriega because they consider it an institutional problem."
 The armed forces press office said it could not confirm the reported removals of officers. It said any retirements would be announced in a communique. If Noriega has purged officers, their removal would probably be presented as retirements.

Warsaw Pact weapons must be reduced, NATO leaders say

From Associated Press reports
BRUSSELS, Belgium — NATO leaders demanded huge cutbacks in Warsaw Pact tanks and artillery and endorsed President Ronald Reagan's efforts to negotiate strategic arms reductions with the Soviet Union Wednesday.
 Defining strategy for a new set of East-West negotiations, NATO leaders said Soviet conventional forces


pose the threat of a surprise attack and must be slashed to rectify an imbalance in military strength.
 The Soviet cutbacks would entail, for example, "the elimination from Europe of ten of thousands of Warsaw Pact weapons relevant to surprise attack, among them tanks and artillery pieces," a NATO communique said.
 Meeting behind closed doors at

alliance's heavily guarded headquarters, the leaders of the 16 alliance countries attempted to accentuate agreement. They did not want to highlight differences in the pace of modernizing short-range nuclear missiles left in Europe after the elimination of longer-range weapons covered by a new U.S.-Soviet arms treaty.
 According to his spokesman, Reagan quoted Benjamin Franklin, telling the NATO leaders, "If we do not all hang together, we will assuredly hang separately."

Security was so strict that a NATO guard attempted to eject a reporter who asked Reagan a question as the leaders posed for a "family photo."
 Emphasizing alliance unity, Reagan said, "There are no great fundamental differences there. I have never seen such harmony and togetherness as we have."
 Reagan mixed NATO negotiations with Middle East peace efforts. He ordered Secretary of State George Shultz to make a whirlwind return to the Middle East after the summit

windup Thursday night to continue his efforts to set up Arab-Israeli peace talks.
 Shultz will stop first in London to see Jordan's King Hussein, and on Friday will visit Israel, Egypt and Syria, returning to Washington early Saturday morning.
 The NATO meeting is the alliance's first summit since 1982. Accompanied by their foreign ministers, the leaders gathered at a long, walnut-brown oval table in a conference room shortly after noon to hear an

opening statement by Lord Carrington, NATO's secretary general.
 He said Reagan's effort to secure a 50 percent cut in U.S. and Soviet long-range missiles "has the alliance's full support."
 He spoke of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as a man "who is ready to reduce some tensions" but expressed concern about the Kremlin's military might and "the denial of basic human rights and freedom to the peoples of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union."

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Robertson to drop suit against McCloskey

From Associated Press reports
WASHINGTON — Pat Robertson's lawyer said Wednesday the GOP presidential candidate is ready to "pay a substantial amount of court costs" in dropping his libel suit against a former congressman who accused Robertson of avoiding combat duty in the Korean War.
 Former Rep. Paul McCloskey, R-Calif., said Robertson's effort to drop the case meant "he's chickening out of the trial just like he chickened out 37 years ago."
 As recently as last Thursday, the former television evangelist declared he was "ready to go to court" and "wouldn't pay a nickel to somebody who is a patent liar."
 Robertson said Wednesday in South Carolina that he wanted to

press ahead with the suit but couldn't be in court and out campaigning for the Republican presidential nomination at the same time.
 The suit is scheduled to go to trial next Tuesday — the delegate-rich Super Tuesday of the primary season. But in Washington, Robertson's attorney, Douglas Rigler, said the court will be formally asked for dismissal.
 Under rules of civil procedure, a plaintiff cannot drop a case without the defendant's consent once the lawsuit has been answered.
 "I think the truth ought to be told. I don't know any better place to get the truth than in the courtroom. He invoked the process, he ought to go through with it," McCloskey said Wednesday on CBS-TV.

The lawsuit was filed in 1986 following publication of McCloskey's allegations that Robertson used the influence of his late father, Sen. Willis Robertson, D-Va., to avoid combat duty in the Korean War.
Hyman
 to work with Honor Court members on making unbiased decisions by overlooking personal prejudices.
 "I do not want anything to interfere with court members making just and fair decisions," he said.
 Finally, Hyman said he wants to decrease the "Greek dominance" of the Honor Court. Although he said he is a member of a fraternity, the large number of Greeks on the court

take on the commies anywhere they are, anywhere in the world," McCloskey said. "(It's) a little dangerous to have a man like that in the White House."
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 contribute to the elitist view that many students have of the court. The majority of UNC students are not members of fraternities and sororities so the court needs to have a fair representation of everyone.
 The most important skills of an Honor Court chair are organization, writing and verbal communication, objective decision-making and receptiveness to member input, Hyman said.
 Hyman said he hopes to build the confidence that students and the faculty have in the Honor Court system by working to keep decisions and sanctions consistent. He also said that he wants to keep communication open with the faculty.
 Sophie Sartain, the outgoing Honor Court chair, said she is very excited about the new Honor Court positions.
 "It's good to know I'm leaving it in his hands," she said.
 Sartain said she knows how much time Hyman has contributed to the BSM and that he has gained valuable experience that will aid him in leading the Honor Court.
 "It is very important that the leaders of the Honor Court are visible on campus because awareness is always a concern and area in which the Judicial System can improve," Sartain said. She also said that Hyman will get ideas and support from his vice chairs.
 Kevin Martin, student body president, said Hyman will be presented to Student Congress for approval after Spring Break.

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For the Record
 In Wednesday's article, "Minister accuses education faculty of racism," Rev. Lorenzo Lynch was incorrectly referred to as "Lorenzo."
 Also, in Wednesday's article, "School of Business appoints professionals to advisory board," Margaret Matrone, the director of communications in the business school, was incorrectly identified.
 The Daily Tar Heel regrets the errors.