



Top Stories From the State, Nation and World

IN THE NEWS

Israel Plans to Remove Troops From Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon — The government today hailed as a "victory" Israel's decision to withdraw troops from southern Lebanon, where renewed violence left a Syrian worker killed and an Israeli soldier injured.

"For the first time in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Israel is forced to withdraw from an Arab territory," Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Hoss said.

"Therefore, we say that (the Israeli decision) is a resounding victory for Lebanon and its heroic resistance and its steadfast people. And it is a crushing defeat for Israel," he said.

Hoss' remarks, in a statement issued by his office, came a day after Israel officially informed the United Nations that it plans to implement U.N. Resolutions 425 and 426 and withdraw its forces from Lebanon by July 7.

Drug Could Prevent Some Fatal Infections

WASHINGTON — Doctors are getting an important new weapon in the growing battle against drug-resistant infections. The government on Tuesday approved a long-awaited drug called Zyvox, described as the world's first entirely new type of antibiotic in 35 years.

Zyvox seems to cure some infections impervious to all other antibiotics, even that longtime drug of last resort called vancomycin. Consequently, Zyvox could help prevent hundreds, perhaps even thousands, of life-threatening infections every year.

"It comes at a time when we were literally running out of antibiotics," said Dr. Robert C. Moellering Jr., physician-in-chief of Boston's Beth Israel-Deaconess Hospital.

Plus, it is being made in both oral and intravenous forms — meaning when hospitals discharge infected patients, they might go home with pills instead of a troublesome IV unit, said Dr. Dennis L. Stevens of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Boise, Idaho.

Doctor Says Elian Faces Mental Abuse at Home

MIAMI — As the wait for a court ruling in the Elian Gonzalez case dragged on Tuesday, a pediatrician advising the government said the boy was being psychologically abused by his Miami relatives and should be removed from their care immediately.

"This child ... continues to be horrendously exploited in this bizarre and destructive ambiance," Dr. Irwin Redlener wrote to Attorney General Janet Reno and Doris Meissner, the commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

His comments were the first time someone on the government side has criticized how the 6-year-old Cuban boy is being treated and were quickly attacked by doctors for the Miami relatives.

The government released the letter Monday.

Questions about the boy's mental health intensified as all sides waited for a federal appeals court in Atlanta to decide whether the government should be kept from letting the boy leave the country.

Hackers Tap Web Site Displaying Area 51

RALEIGH — Many Internet surfers ran into roadblocks today when they tried to reach a Web site displaying the first detailed satellite images to be made public of Area 51, the super-secret Air Force test site that UFO buffs think is a repository of alien technology.

Was it hackers, as the company said? Or a case for "The X-Files"?

The photos of the Nevada test site don't show any readily apparent signs of flying saucers or little green men among the Air Force base buildings and roadways.

Raleigh-based Aerial Images Inc. — in collaboration with Kodak, Digital Equipment Corp., Autometric Inc. and the Russian agency Sovinformspunitnik — posted five images of the hush-hush desert proving ground on the Web on Monday. "This is the first glimpse into the most secret training and testing facility for the Air Force," said John Hoffman, president of Aerial Images.

He said there were signs of hackers trying to penetrate the site's firewall, the software designed to prevent unauthorized outsiders from tampering with computer files.

— Associated Press

BY MEGAN BUTLER
Staff Writer

Upon the command of the lifeguard, eight dry bodies stepped up to the edge of the pool and prepared to jump in and prove to the University that

they would not drown if forced to be in a swimming pool for five minutes.

UNC's final swim test of the spring semester, given on Friday, is famous for drawing seniors who had waited until the last minute in hopes that some excuse would exempt them from the

requirement.

Every undergraduate — including the likes of Antawn Jamison, who had to learn how to swim for the test — have to fulfill the graduation requirement before receiving a diploma. Students must swim two lengths of

the pool and then stay afloat or tread water for the remaining five minutes.

Rumors swirl as to exactly why students must take the test. Some say that one of the University's largest donors provided money for a pool with the stipulation that students pass a swim test because one of his children drowned.

But Capt. Ollie Bowler of the Department of Public Safety said he heard that the Navy gave UNC an outdoor pool on the condition that a swim test requirement be implemented. "I've never heard for certain," he said. "We get a couple inquiries every year on why it got started."

Many of the seniors said they waited until Friday because they had just not gotten around to taking the test yet or were putting it off because they simply did not want to do it.

"I've been waiting four years just so I don't have to get in a bathing suit!" said senior Sophia Papadeas from Fayetteville. Although not nervous about the swimming part of it, Papadeas was clearly uncomfortable with lining up with 30 other students wearing her bathing suit.

Yet the swim test is more than just a nuisance for students who do not know how to swim.

Senior Nicole Jeffers said she waited until Friday because she could not swim. She formed her own strategy on how to pass the test. "I can float," Jeffers said.

Although she said she was nervous,

she had been learning with the help of her friends.

Jeffers, a senior from Charlotte, grew up in the Midwest and never learned to swim. And although she said she would eventually like to learn how, she said she did not think it should be a graduation requirement.

But Wes Elden, who took the test Friday, said he believed the requirement was beneficial to students.

"Everybody should know how to swim," the senior from Winterville said. Despite his support for the test, he too waited until the last possible moment. "I'm out of shape, and I'm lazy," he said.

But not everyone was a proponent of swimming for a diploma. In fact, most were against it.

"I think it's a bunch of bull," said senior Beau Talton, a senior from Charlotte. "I've had a pool in my backyard since I was four, so I know how to swim."

The purpose of the swim test seemed to evade people, possibly because it seemed like an easy requirement.

"I don't see the point of five minutes in the pool," said Paige Thompson, a senior from Plainfield, N.J. "I was like, 'Get my hair wet, what?'" she said.

But afterwards, Thompson said the test was tiring. "I haven't been swimming since high school. It's rough!"

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DTH/LAURA GIOVANELLI

Students fill benches waiting to take the swim test. Friday was the last scheduled swim test of the semester, drawing many anxious seniors to the Woolen Gym pool to fulfill one of their final graduation requirements.

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