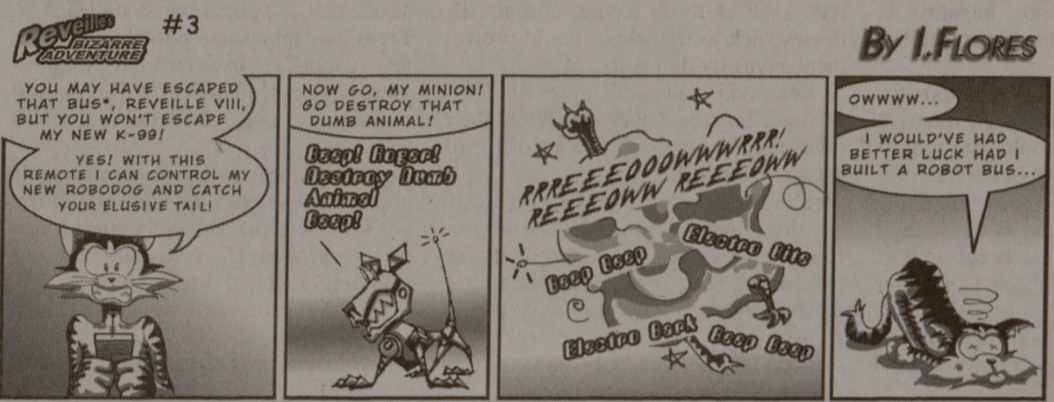


Full Moon

by **R.DeLuna** Peace

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Israel releases prisoners before summit

By **Ravi Nessman**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AL KHADER, West Bank — Israel freed about 100 Palestinian prisoners Tuesday in a goodwill gesture ahead of a Mideast peace summit with President Bush. The oldest, convicted of killing 13 Israelis, was greeted upon his release with clasped hands by Yasser Arafat.

Ahmad Jubarah, 68, was welcomed by Arafat in a televised meeting clearly meant to send a message that the Palestinian leader — despite being banished from the summit — was still in charge.

The summit Wednesday in the Jordanian resort of Aqaba marks the official launch of the "road map," a three-year plan that aims to end 32 months of violence and lead to the creation of a Palestinian state by 2005.

At the meeting, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon will issue a statement accepting the principle of a Palestinian state, an Israeli official said. His Palestinian counterpart, Mahmoud Abbas, will recognize Israel's right to exist side by side with a Palestinian state, Palestinian officials said.

In the run-up to the meeting, Israel eased some travel restrictions on Palestinians, expanded fishing rights in the Gaza Strip and agreed to release a few of the estimated 7,000 Palestinians in Israeli custody. The Israelis did not give exact numbers.

As the two sides prepared for the summit, violence persisted. Israeli troops killed a Palestinian policeman in the northern Gaza town of Beit Hanoun. Palestinian doctors said. The army said soldiers fired at armed Palestinians in a prohibited zone.

In the village of Al Khader near Bethlehem, about a dozen

released prisoners, some of whom had been jailed for weeks and others for months or years, jumped off a bus, knelt on the ground and prayed.

Excited relatives ran past unguarded concrete barriers to greet the prisoners, all but one of whom had been held without charges or trial at the Ketziot, Ofer and Megiddo military prisons, according to the army.

The exception was Jubarah, who was released from the Ashkelon prison in southern Israel, where he had been held for nearly three decades for his role in a 1975 Jerusalem bomb attack that killed 13 people.

Many Israelis, including some Cabinet ministers, objected to Jubarah's release, saying it violated Israel's principle of not freeing prisoners directly involved in terror attacks.

A crowd of cheering Palestinians hoisted Jubarah on their shoulders, and he was driven to a hotel to relax before meeting with Arafat. He clasped hands

with the Palestinian leader as photographers took their picture.

Arafat has not been invited to the Jordan summit, part of U.S. and Israeli efforts to isolate the Palestinian leader, who Israel blames for militant attacks. Abbas said Tuesday that he complained to U.S. officials about their boycott of Arafat.

"Arafat should not be isolated, he should not be treated in this way, Yasser Arafat remains a symbol for the Palestinian people," he told ABC's Peter Jennings in an interview in Sharm el-Sheik after the summit there.

Earlier Abbas said he would not visit the United States until Arafat is granted freedom of movement. Israel has held him under virtual house arrest in his

Where peace plan disagreements lie

When President Bush formally presents the "road map" peace plan to Israeli and Palestinian leaders at Wednesday's summit in Aqaba, Jordan, long-standing issues of contention will once again be the focus of negotiations.

	Israel	Palestinians	Road map
Settlements	Does not want to dismantle all of the roughly 100 outposts	All must go	All must go
Militants	Must be disarmed and demands arrests	Trying to persuade groups to stop terror attacks	Calls for "sustained, targeted and effective operations against all those engaged in terror and dismantlement of terrorist capabilities and infrastructure"
Refugees	Wants Palestinians to renounce claims of a "right of return" for refugees, and recognize Israel's right to exist as a "Jewish state"	Refuse	Calls only for a statement on "Israel's right to exist in peace and security"
Progress	Says other measures must come after a crackdown on militants	Say all steps should be concurrent	Says "parties are expected to perform their obligations in parallel, unless otherwise indicated"

SOURCE: Associated Press

AP

Ramallah headquarters for more than a year.

Among the other prisoners released Tuesday was Amjad Azzeh, 24, who said Israeli soldiers arrested him six months ago, accusing him of being an agent of Fatah, whose armed wing has carried out numerous terror attacks. Tears welled in his eyes when a childhood friend enveloped him in an energetic embrace for nearly a minute.

Ayman Azzeh said seeing his brother made him optimistic the coming summit could achieve real results.

"It gives us hope that something good will happen this time," he said.

Other prisoners were less sanguine.

"I was going to be released anyway next week," Ala Iwewi said as he greeted his family in Hebron. "This is merely public relations for Israel to show that they are implementing the agreement with the Palestinians."

Tayseer Khaled, a hard-line PLO official arrested in February,

was freed late Monday. Khaled and Jubarah were mentioned in an Israeli government statement listing goodwill gestures, following a meeting Thursday between Sharon and Abbas.

Sharon has told his Cabinet he would likely make a declaration at the summit committing Israel to dismantling settlement outposts set up in violation of Israeli law. Stopping all settlement construction is a key element of the peace plan.

Abbas is supposed to reiterate that the Palestinian Authority opposes all acts of violence and will work to stop the "military intefadah," a reference to attacks that have killed more than 750 Israelis in the latest round of violence.

Abbas has been working to secure a cease-fire with militant groups. Israeli officials have said they would probably accept a cease-fire for now, as long as the groups are disarmed soon after and their leaders arrested.

Dean

Continued from page 1

the College of Geosciences, we feel as though we have just the best faculty going," she said. "To be able to acknowledge them with an endowed chair is a real honor."

A new professorship will also be announced within the next month, Richardson said.

"We're hiring the best, and we want to keep the best because we want to be the best," she said. "But that means that we are subject, just like the other colleges are, to being rated. And that has been happening over the past couple of years because our faculty salaries are not always at the level of our peer institutions."

Richardson said that the loss

of faculty to chaired positions at top institutions is to be expected, but the University doesn't want to lose people due to low salaries.

Richardson said two new degree programs, environmental studies and environmental geosciences, became available to undergraduates in the fall of 2002 and looks forward to their success.

"We are strongly committed to the education of our undergrads and education of our grad students," she said.

Richardson has worked at A&M since 1985 as a professor of oceanography, geology and geophysics. She received her doctorate in oceanography from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Qatar

Continued from page 1

50 students a year for the first five years and 100 students per year thereafter, Prior said.

The campus will have a research center for the use of natural resources and a research center for sustainable development.

"Sustainable development is one of the main areas of research here on campus. They would have a parallel program in Qatar that would be similar to the sustainable coastal margins program that we're running here on campus," said Dr. Mahlon Kennicutt, professor of oceanography and team leader of the Sustainable Coastal Margins Program.

The Qatar Foundation has also proposed a third research center that would focus on cultural studies that is currently under discussion, Prior said. Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, has been cultivating relations with the United States since becoming head of the state of Qatar in 1995.

In 2002, the United States began transferring military facilities from Saudi Arabia to Qatar. Qatar served as a critical command center for the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Hamad began his plans for "Education City," a goal for several universities to be established in Qatar, after becoming the Emir of Qatar. Weill Medical College of Cornell University and Virginia Commonwealth University's Design School are already established in Qatar.

Chilifest

Continued from page 1

MADD hopes to receive additional funds to present the program in the seven counties the Brazos Valley chapter serves.

Gilmore said Chilifest has donated more than a half a million dollars to local charities in the last four years, and remains dedicated to helping the Brazos Valley community.

Immunization

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not have the required vaccinations, there is a grace period of one semester but foreign born students must comply immediately.

For more information about these diseases and their vaccinations, go to <http://shs.tamu.edu> or contact Student Health Services at 979-845-1549.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Toronto SARS cases rise

TORONTO (AP) — Increasing SARS cases in Canada's largest city is worrying the World Health Organization, which discussed the possibility of re-imposing a travel advisory on Toronto, a spokeswoman said Tuesday. Health officials have reported 62 probable cases of severe acute respiratory

syndrome in a new cluster of cases that became known after the initial outbreak in March and April was believed under control.

The biggest outbreak of SARS outside of Asia has killed 32 people in the Toronto area, including a 60-year-old man who died May 20 and had his case reported Monday.

"We've been concerned by the

increasing number of cases in Toronto," said Maria Cheng, a spokeswoman for the WHO communicable diseases division.

She said the Toronto situation was discussed at a meeting Tuesday to review travel advisories that have been issued. No change was made because the new SARS cluster in the city appeared limited to hospitals.

Afghan fighting continues

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — Forces of two regional Afghan army commanders, both loyal to President Hamid Karzai, clashed in southern Afghanistan, leaving three soldiers dead and wounding two others, a senior official said Tuesday.

The fighting between the soldiers of

commanders Abdul Raziq and Qud Fahida erupted Monday near a U.S. base at Spinboldak, about 75 miles southwest of the southern city of Kandahar, district chief Fazaluddin Agha told The Associated Press.

One of the Afghan soldier's killed, Sakhi Dad, was also a part-time translator for the U.S. army, Agha said.

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THE BATTALION

True Brown, Editor in Chief

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