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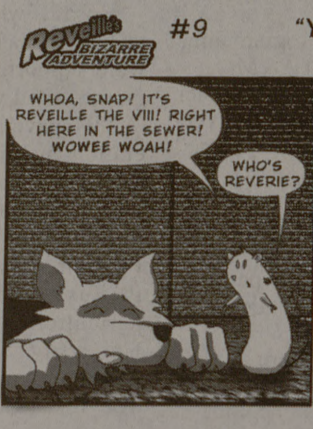
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## Full Moon



## Mideast

Continued from page 1

cases of ticking bombs," a Cabinet official quoted Sharon as saying.

Until now, Sharon had rejected the truce idea out of hand, demanding an immediate crackdown on the militants, including arresting their leaders.

However, Sharon's new comments appeared highly conditional. Until recently, the phrase "ticking bomb" defined a militant about to carry out an attack. Then the Israelis widened the definition after a botched effort to assassinate Hamas leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi last week, calling him a "ticking bomb." That indicated that even if Hamas agrees to a truce, its leaders might not be safe from Israeli strikes that could rekindle violence.

## Lightning

Continued from page 1

campus benefit from the system more than others.

"The Rec Center has been heavily involved with the system's use because of all of the outdoor activities that go on there, such as intramurals and use of the pool," he said.

ThorGuard's system is unique because it does not wait to detect lightning when it hits, but predicts it before the lightning actually strikes, Steiger said. The system measures the ambient electric field in the atmosphere, and when the count gets too high, conditions are ripe for cloud-to-ground lightning, he said.

When danger approaches each of the 11 locations, a 15-second alarm will sound and lights flash. Three 5-second blasts signal that the danger has passed, he said.

At that time, if anyone is outdoors, they need to get inside, he said. If you are unable to get inside, don't stand near water.

"The chances of getting hit are very small," Steiger said. "But if you feel any of your hair standing on end, get low to the ground immediately."

Steiger said he has a photo of two students playing during a thunderstorm and their hair standing on end. Only moments after the photo was taken, they were both hit by lightning.

Students who spend a lot of time outdoors said they admired the new system.

"I'm happy the University decided to implement this type of warning system so we can be aware of the dangers at hand dealing with lightning," said Maggie Wilson, a junior education major.

ThorGuard is also the only stand-alone lightning warning system used by the PGA Tour. It was also used during the Atlanta Olympics, so A&M residents can rest assured that the system has been "tournament tested" and approved, Steiger said.

## I am optimistic that all the Palestinian factions will work together.

— Zakaria al-Agha Fatah leader

towns of Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya. Despite the talks, Israeli forces entered Beit Hanoun early Sunday, setting off a firefight that killed one Palestinian and wounded seven, doctors said.

And U.S. officials, underscoring their nation's commitment to the peace plan, arrived in the region to monitor its implementation.

The two Egyptian mediators, assistants to Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Suleiman, arrived in Gaza City on Sunday for cease-fire talks with Palestinian militants, most importantly with the group Hamas. They held a preliminary meeting with top members of Abbas' mainstream Fatah movement Sunday afternoon; Fatah also has carried out attacks, despite Abbas' call for them to stop.

Zakaria al-Agha, a senior Fatah leader, said a meeting with all Palestinian groups was planned for Monday.

"I am optimistic that all the Palestinian factions will work together," he said after Sunday's meeting.

The mediators then went for talks at Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin's house.

The renewed violence came after a bloody week in which dozens were killed on both sides

## Mecca

Continued from page 1

connected to the May 12 suicide bombings on Western residential compounds in the Riyadh that killed 35 people, including nine Americans and nine Saudi suicide bombers. He did not elaborate.

The official said the suspects were planning to carry out attacks in Mecca, Islam's holiest city, according to information gathered during interrogations Sunday. He did not identify any intended targets.

The official said Saturday's violence started when police manning a checkpoint tried to stop a car carrying the militants, who fired on the police, killing two of them, before fleeing to the al-Khalidiya apartment building.

The holy city of Mecca, located some 450 miles west of Riyadh, welcomes millions of Muslim pilgrims each year. The city is the birthplace of Islam's seventh-century prophet, Muhammad.

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## THE BATTALION

True Brown, Editor in Chief

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