The Battalion

Campus

Scholar discusses plight of Muslims

By Anas Ben-Musa The Battalion

Politics are a fact of life and as essential to Muslims as air, a prominent Islamic scholar said.

Invited by the Islamic African Relief Agency to lecture in the United States, an Islamic scholar, Dr. Ahmed Nofel spoke to the Islamic community in Bryan-Col-lege Station last Wednesday. Dr. Hosame Abu-Amara, assistant professor of electrical engineering at Texas A&M translated Nofel's lecture.

Nofel is a Muslim scholar working as a professor in Islamic Sharia, jurisprudence, at the Jordanian University in Amman, Jordan.

Nofel discussed the problems and plight of many Muslim nations dealing with the changing political views and influence of western countries. His lecture expressed the feelings of many Muslims in relation to the United States and European countries.

Ironically, Islam is one of the fastest-growing religions in the United States. Many studies re-

ported in newspapers and maga-zines, such as the Wall Street Journal and Newsweek, predict Islam to become the second largest religion in the U.S. by the end of the decade, surpassing the Jewish religion.

There is an opportunity for the Islamic movement to gain political power

Yet Nofel was cautious in his outlook about the Islamic movement in the United States.

"There is a big difference between Islam and Judaism in America," Nofel said. "America treats the Jews with great generositv

All Muslims are treated as if they are terrorists, Nofel said. In fact, Nofel witnessed several Americans converting to Islam.

"Muslims have no qualms with the American people," Nofel said. 'We only have a problem with the American government."

However, Nofel denounced the use of violence against the U.S.

"We have nothing to fight them with even if we wanted to fight,' Nofel said. "We are only advo-

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Walnut boxes play war hymn

Wednesday, July 29,1992

By Tanya Williams The Battalion

Aggieland students are used to hearing the familiar tune of the Aggie War Hymn blared with meticulous perfection by the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band at Aggie sporting events. Now, students and former students can listen to the soft chiming of the war hymn in a music box designed by Robert Brooks of San

Angelo. The music boxes, made of walnut, are hand-produced by Brooks and his wife, Karen, under their company name, Designs in Wood. Brooks, who did not attend Texas A&M, has a son, Marc, who is a member of the Aggie Band.

Brooks said he got the idea before his son began attending A&M.

"We came down to A&M in December of 1988 for the Texas game and bought the War Hymn music at the campus bookstore, and it gave me the idea to make a

music box,"Brooks said. In 1989, Brooks got a collegiate license on campus to pro-duce A&M paraphernalia. The rest is history. He sells the boxes for \$77.50. Now, Brooks orders his music through an importer in Japan. He and his wife make the boxes and finish them by hand.

"We produce about 20 to 25 a week," said Brooks. "And they're all personalized."

The box that Brooks had with him Tuesday was personalized for his son, but he said he has made many for both current and former students. This week he was in town to give the Brazos County A&M Club a box for their silent auction. He has previously given personalized music boxes to seniors in the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band as well as to

coaches on campus. "These music boxes are gifts to give to someone important to you," Brooks said. You're not going to find these in retail stores

"If someone cannot find something to fit their bill, this is it."



Robert Brooks poses with one of his handmade jewelry boxes

SUMMER FUN KEEPS YOUNGSTER ON HIS TOES



Schizophrenia explained Expert details mental illness

By Robin Roach The Battalion

Contrary to what many people may believe, people who suffer from schizophrenia do not suffer from split or multiple personalities.

Schizophrenia is a biological disorder which involves a chemical imbalance in the brain. It is characterized by drastic changes in one's usual pattern of living and personality traits.

"It's a thought disorder that af-fects someone's behavior and causes them to behave in unpredictable ways and it can cause their emotions to change," Byron Cargill, staff psychologist at Men-tal Health Mental Retardation (MHMR) Authority of Brazos Valley, said.

They may experience what's usually known as more psychotic features – hallucinations and

"It's a cross-cultural phene non found all around the w which is not true for a lot of m tal disorders.

Schizophrenia is equally mon in males and females. tend to develop the illness in late teens to early twenties females develop the illness slightly older age - in their m dle-to-late-twenties

Medication can be used to the symptoms of the mental dis der in many cases

Early treatment is the best ention of permanent menta bilitation.

'Medication is not effective 100 percent of the schizoph population," Cargill said. " third of the population will rem completely, one-third will exp ence minor episodes through their life, and one-third will h severe symptoms through

their life. The MHMR Authority of Bra group for families who are copi with a schizophrenic relative. Each Thursday for the net three weeks, the MHMR suppo group will meet from 7:00 pr 8:00 pm MHMR Authority of Brazo Valley offers services for the mat ic depressed, major depresse mentally retarded, schizophre and substance abusers. The family education and support group, "Understanding as Coping with Schizophrenia," free of charge and open to the public. For more information 822-MHMR.

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Four-year-old Christopher Contrez eagerly awaits the softball Christopher says that he likes to play softball with his friends to be thrown home while playing ball at Fairview Park. during the afternoon.

MICHAEL MARSHALL/The Battalion

delusions.

Although the causes of schizophrenia are not known for sure, it is believed to have a biological or genetic connection.

Although one's chances of suffering from schizophrenia in-crease if a person is a child of schizophrenics, the illness is usually caused by a stressful or tragic event in one's life.

"It (schizophrenia) tends to be more common in large urban areas and low SES (socioeconomic status) areas," Cargill said. "But there is certainly a substantial number of people in this area who suffer from schizophrenia."

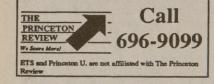
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