

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-College 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 magazines, 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 generosity."

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-

See Scholar/Page 6

Walnut boxes play war hymn

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 produce 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



MICHAEL MARSHALL/The Battalion

Four-year-old Christopher Contrez eagerly awaits the softball to be thrown home while playing ball at Fairview Park.

Christopher says that he likes to play softball with his friends during the afternoon.

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 affects someone's behavior and causes them to behave in unpredictable ways and it can cause their emotions to change," Byron Cargill, staff psychologist at Mental Health Mental Retardation (MHMR) Authority of Brazos Valley, said.

"They may experience what's usually known as more psychotic features - hallucinations and 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 increase 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."

"It's a cross-cultural phenomenon found all around the world which is not true for a lot of mental disorders."

Schizophrenia is equally common in males and females. Males tend to develop the illness in the late teens to early twenties while females develop the illness at slightly older age - in their middle-to-late-twenties.

Medication can be used to treat the symptoms of the mental disorder in many cases.

Early treatment is the best prevention of permanent mental debilitation.

"Medication is not effective in 100 percent of the schizophrenic population," Cargill said. "One-third of the population will remain completely, one-third will experience minor episodes throughout their life, and one-third will have severe symptoms throughout their life."

The MHMR Authority of Brazos Valley is sponsoring a support group for families who are coping with a schizophrenic relative.

Each Thursday for the next three weeks, the MHMR support group will meet from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

MHMR Authority of Brazos Valley offers services for the manic depressed, major depressed, mentally retarded, schizophrenic and substance abusers.

The family education and support group, "Understanding and Coping with Schizophrenia," is free of charge and open to the public. For more information call 822-MHMR.

Taking the GMAT?

The Princeton Review offers the most successful prep courses available anywhere!

Our courses feature:

- Small classes: 8-15 students.
- Expert, quality instruction.
- Computerized diagnostic testing.
- Comprehensive feedback.
- Average score improvement: 85pts.

We are currently enrolling students in our fall classes, so call now to reserve your space.

Call 696-9099

ETS and Princeton U. are not affiliated with The Princeton Review

The Battalion

TODD STONE, Editor-in-Chief

MACK HARRISON, Opinion Editor
JAYME BLASCHKE, Lifestyles Editor
MEREDITH HARRISON, News Editor
HEIDI SAUER, News Editor

GARY CARROLL, City Editor
MARK EVANS, Asst. City Editor
DOUG FOSTER, Sports Editor
ROBERT REED, Photo Editor

Staff Members

Reporters - Robin Roach, Chris Carroll, Robin Goodpaster, Juli Phillips, Christi Ray, Tanya Williams, Julie Chelkowski, Susan Westmoreland, Ursula Simms, and Erin Bradley.

Copy editors - Kyle Burnett, Kenneth McWatters, Ali Steere, David Thomas and Lauri Reysa.

Photographers - Darrin Hill, Sandra Alvarado, Nick Pena, Michael Marshall, and Huy Nguyen.

Lifestyles writers - Anas Ben-Musa, Tricia Martinez and Kim McGuire.

Sports writers - Michael Plumer and Don Norwood.

Columnists - Anthony LoBaido, Stacy Feducia, John Deshazo, and Paul Greco.

Assistant to the Editor - Darra Dees

Editorial Cartoonist - William Harrison

Graphic Artist - Jennifer Maxwell

Clerks - Allison Lewis, Shelley Rowton and Carrie Miura.

The Battalion (USPS 045-380) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer session (except university holidays and exam periods), at Texas A&M University. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77840.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77840.

News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Publications, a unit of the Department of Journalism. Editorial offices are in 013 Reed McDonald Building. Newsroom phone number is 845-3316. Fax: 845-2647.

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editorial board or the contributor and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Texas A&M student body, administration, faculty or staff.

Advertising: For campus, local and national display advertising, call 845-2696. For classified advertising, call 845-0569. Advertising offices are in 015 Reed McDonald Building. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fax: 845-3408.

Subscriptions: Mail subscriptions are \$20 per semester, \$40 per school year and \$50 per full year. To charge by VISA or MasterCard, call 845-2611.

MSC Dinner Theatre & The Aggie Players
present
Alan Bailey's
Smoke On The Mountain

July 23, 24, 25, 30, 31, & August 1
Dinner 6:30 - 7:30
Rudder Exhibit Hall
Performance at 8:00 Rudder Forum

Dinner & Show \$15 - \$18
July 23 & 30 TAMU Student Nights-Only \$10
Menus Ranging From
a New York Deli to an Italian Buffet

For More Information,
Please Call The MSC Box Office at 845-1234