'Peace be on those who follow guidance'

Former Nation of Islam member preaches against Muslim stereotypes

By Chris Martin Staff writer

nagine a man living deep inside a crime-rid-len, drug-infested New York City neighborood. Through leadership, social work and , the man helps take back the community. imagine what this man can inspire in the s A&M community.

iraj Wahaj, a Muslim imam (leader of prayers) n Brooklyn, N.Y., will address the issue of neg-Muslim stereotypes Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. udder Theatre for Islamic Awareness Week.

ounoos Latheef, president of the Muslim Stu-Association and a senior computer science or, said Wahaj is a religious leader for main-

Siraj Wahaj was initially attracted to the Nation iscol fislam," Latheef said. "He later learned about hainstream Islam and went overseas to study Isformally in Saudi Arabia."

n 1991, Wahaj became the first Muslim in his- ℓw or to open a session of the U.S. House of Repre-entatives with a prayer and a reading from the Kothe sacred book of Islam.

papers as the Wahaj voiced his support for active community

involvement of Muslims in a press release from the tray the truth." Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).

"Everybody in America participates in politics," Wahaj said. "The question is whether we are going

We feel unfortunate that the media portrays Islam as the next evil empire. It puts up artificial barriers and prevents people from learning."

> Faisal Chaudhry Computer science graduate student

to do it actively or passively.

"When you pay taxes, you are involved in politics. Every Muslim in America must be actively involved in politics.

Latheef said the purpose of Islamic Awareness Week is to educate the campus about Muslim culture, practices and international and local issues.

'I hope Wahaj addresses the struggles Muslims face and how they are portrayed in a bad manner by the media," Latheef said. "Hopefully he will por-

Latheef said Muslim students face special challenges at A&M because they are different from the majority.

'Muslim students at Northgate have had problems, and [Muslim] students riding bikes have been driven off the road," Latheef said.

The Islamic dress for women has also received harassment and derogatory words. I hope that A&M students will come out and learn about Islam — find out who the people really are and not depend on the media and other negative portrayals."

Faisal Chaudhry, a computer science graduate student, said that the theme of Wahaj's lecture, "The Islamic Threat - Myth or Reality," will address the distorted and false images people adopt of Islam.

"We feel unfortunate that the media portrays Islam as the next evil empire," Chaudhry said. "It puts up artificial barriers and prevents people from learning."

Chaudhry said the objective of Islamic Awareness Week is to increase the harmony and understanding of the various cultures at A&M and to eliminate the misconceptions and animosities directed toward Muslims.

caster Walter Winchell, "an evil

man." One day, he said, Winchell

writes that he has discovered "the

young fellow that will chase Jack

Paar off the air, he is the best there

ever was — his name was Regis

Philbin. That was the first time I

Award to recognize

ever heard about Regis.

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postedats Elton John trades ales law winsults with Richards



YORK (AP)— Elton John nothing against the Rolling Stones, except that the band hasn't jettisoned Keith Richards, a "monkey with arthritis."

Richards ce it easier The Daily News exchangepareported Tuesday that John dispard the Interraged his fellow aging rocker in an inerview with foreign journalists in Atlestions and anta, captured on tape Sept. 30.

John made clear that he was getyou bing ting back at Richards for a crack lay, it challed about John's rewritten version of his t," he said." it, "Candle in the Wind," which he ng at Princess Diana's funeral last ed. There are onth. Richards said John's main es that are of m to fame was "writing songs for

The Daily News reported that John says Richards has held back the

على من إنبع الهدى ال

"He's so pathetic, poor thing," John added. "It's like a monkey with arthritis, trying to go onstage and look young.

The paper said Richards' people had no response.

The Stones, who are in their 50s, have been touring in the Midwest, performing both oldies and cuts off their new Bridges to Baby-Ion album.

Mandela attends Jackson's concert

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) -Getting tickets to a Michael Jackson concert at the last minute isn't easy, unless you're Nelson Mandela.

Attie van Wyk, promoter of Jackson's current five-concert tour of South Africa, said the presidential secretary called at 5 p.m. Monday to say Mandela, his companion, Graca Machel, and her three children would like to attend that night's concert.

"I arranged for him to meet Michael Jackson and he had snacks with the star and then we took him to his seat," Van Wyk said. "He sat through the entire show and loved it."

More than 70,000 people attended two shows in Cape Town on Saturday and Monday. Jackson will perform twice in Johannesburg and once in Durban before flying to Paris.

Jack Paar recalls friend's beginnings



500th episode CNBC's of "Charles Grodin" was a talk-show host reunion, with

Jack Paar and Regis Philbin re-Philbin counting how they all came to

know each other. Paar said he was having a feud with the late columnist and broad-

Vietnam journalist WATERVILLE, Maine (AP) - David Halberstam will receive the Elijah Parish Lovejoy award, which Colby NEW YORK College presents each year to an out-

> standing journalist. The author, who will accept the award at a ceremony Nov. 13, won the Pulitzer Prize in 1964 for his reporting on the Vietnam War for The New York Times. His books include The Powers That

> Be, a critical analysis of the American news media, and The Making of A Quagmire, Ho and The Best and the Brightest, which probe America's involvement in Vietnam.

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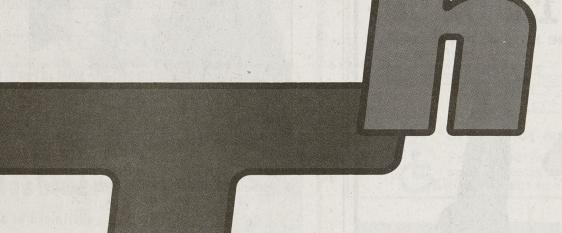
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