

First Sept. 11 suspect convicted

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — A Moroccan student was convicted Wednesday of more than 3,000 counts of accessory to murder for helping Mohamed Atta and two other suicide pilots in the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, ending the first trial connected to the suicide hijackings.

Mounir el Motassadeq, 28, was sentenced to the maximum 15 years in prison for helping the Hamburg-based al-Qaida terror cell that included Atta, the lead hijacker and two other suicide pilots.

In addition to the 3,045 counts of accessory to murder, he was convicted of five counts of attempted murder and bodily injury.

El Motassadeq denied the charges during his 3 1/2-month trial, and his lawyers had demanded acquittal.

Judge Albrecht Mentz sided with

prosecutors' argument that a complex mosaic of evidence proved the defendant was "a cog that kept the machinery going."

"The accused belonged to this group since its inception," Mentz said in reading the verdict. "He knew and approved the key elements of the planned attacks."

El Motassadeq has acknowledged knowing six other alleged members of the Hamburg cell — Atta and two other suicide pilots, Ziad Jarrah and Marwan al-Shehhi; and organizers Ramzi Binalshibh, Said Bahaji and Zakariya Essabar. But he says he knew nothing of their plans.

A slight, bearded man, El Motassadeq sat between his lawyers and showed no emotion as the verdict was read.

Prosecutors allege el Motassadeq

used his power of attorney over al-Shehhi's bank account to pay rent, tuition and utility bills, allowing the plotters to keep up the appearance of being normal students in Germany. Prosecutors also pointed to the fact that he signed Atta's will.

Witnesses testified that el Motassadeq was as radical as the rest of the group, talking of jihad and his hatred of Israel and the United States.

El Motassadeq himself admitted training in one of Osama bin Laden's camps in Afghanistan in 2000.

He said he was simply providing an innocent service to friends and that he took weapons training in Afghanistan because he believed all Muslims should learn to shoot.

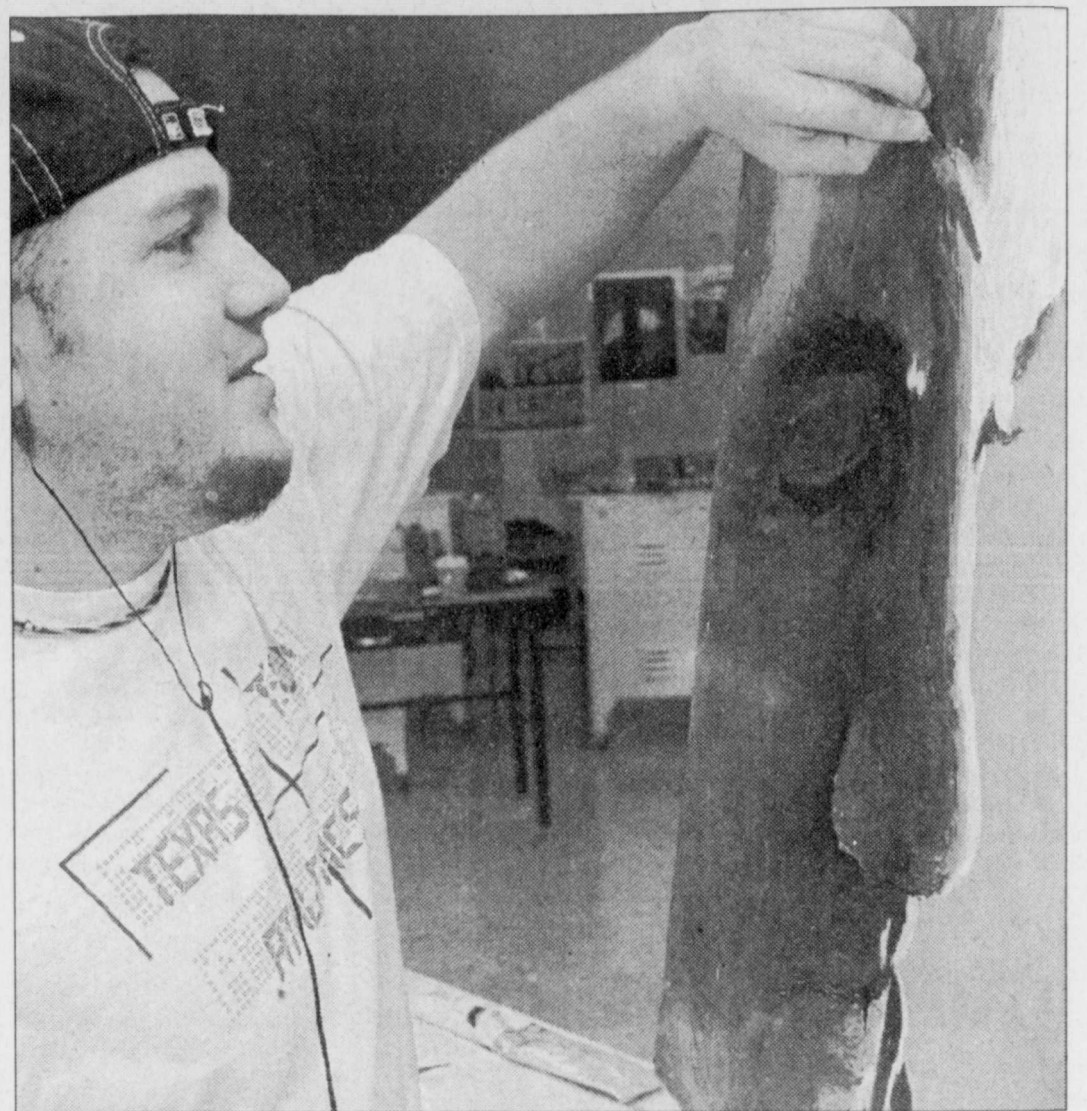
The prospect of el Motassadeq's imprisonment in Germany raised security fears even before the verdict. Terrorists might attempt hijackings or kidnappings to free him, said Bavaria's top security official, Interior Minister Guenter Beckstein.

The Hamburg case, coupled with a possible Iraq war, has led some German authorities to step up surveillance of likely suspects who might be planning attacks, though there is no evidence of any specific threats for now, Beckstein told ZDF television.

Germany's federal anti-crime agency said no nationwide measures were being taken, but the states were free to increase security.

El Motassadeq's lawyers tried several times unsuccessfully to obtain testimony by two of his friends, Ramzi Binalshibh and Mohammed Haydar Zammar.

FINGER PAINTING



CRAIG SWANSON/Staff Photographer

J. FAGNER, A senior design communications major from Holland, Texas, works a self-portrait on Wednesday afternoon during his painting class.

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The open class lists for first summer and second summer sessions and Fall 2003 will be available Wednesday on the TechSIS Web for students at <http://techsis.tosm.ttu.edu/student>.

Institutional Advancement is hosting a reception to honor SBC scholars at 4 p.m. today in the second-floor foyer of the west wing of the Education building. For more information, contact Sharmila Kirwin at (806) 742-1638.

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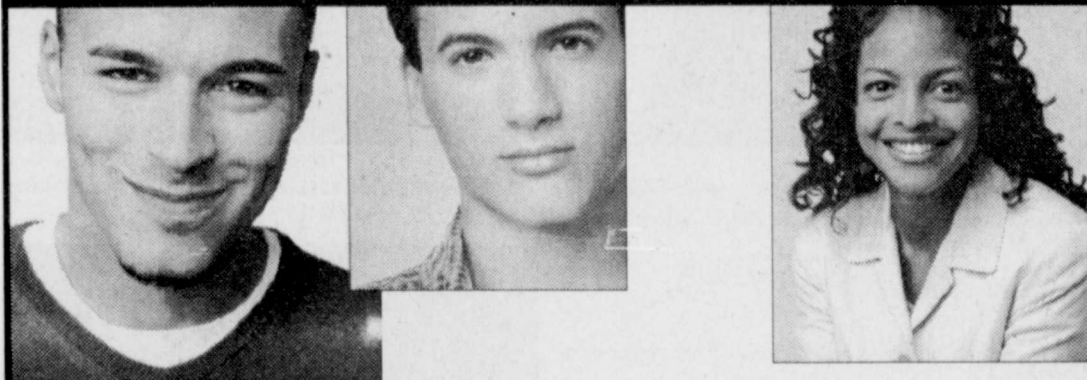
teach-in on the threat to reproductive choice at 6 p.m. today in Room 106 of Holden Hall. For more information, email fmlattu@yahoo.com or visit www.fmlattu.org.

The Native American Student Association will be hosting a free viewing of the film "Atanarjuat" (The Fast Runner) at 8 p.m. Saturday in Room 001 of the English building.

The application deadline for the Health Sciences Center's Summer Pre-medical Academy is March 1. For more information or to access the online application, visit www.ttuhs.c.edu/medicine, or call Linda Prado at (806) 743-2297.

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Perspectives

War not worth more sacrifice

Do you remember when your innocence of the world around you was lost? I can remember back to elementary school and the times when I had no troubles; I am sure it was the same for you.

Do you remember when all you cared about was what snack there was today and if the person you had a slight crush on was going to be there? We didn't care that there was a war going on across the world. I just remember my dad had not been home in a while, but I still got lots of presents from him.

Can you remember back to all those free times of your life? You were truly free because you did not have to worry about where your next meal was coming from and how you were going to pay for it. You didn't have to resort to Raman Noodles to keep your stomach from growling during that quiet moment in class. I can remember my time of innocence clearly because I cherish it dearly.

I also can remember when the world stopped being a perfect place for me.

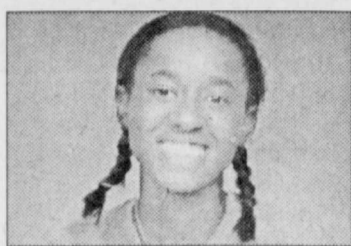
I was in the second grade. I remember playing at the Youth Center on the Air Force Base where my mom had dropped me off to play with my friends. But not more than an hour later, all of our parents showed up. But they were not there to pick us up. They were there to watch the news.

All of the moms were sitting there watching the news. They were just sitting in silence, none of them saying a word. So being the nosy kid that I was, I walked up and asked what was going on. My mom had always been upfront with me when I asked a question, but this time, she did not say a word. So I peeked around her, and there on the television were bright lights going across the sky somewhere in a place I had never heard of. She told me this place was where my dad was.

I then looked more closely at all the women forming this circle and realized there were tears running down their faces. They were all keeping their emotions in because they did not want the kids to know what was happening where our dads were.

After we left, I pestered my mom with questions. She answered them all, and it made me realize maybe the world out there isn't perfect.

After this, I began to look more closely at how people reacted in cer-



Kellie Tolbert
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tain situations. I began to think back on all the things I had seen but never really processed on a semi-adult level. I looked back on funerals I had been to but thought were just really sad parties. I never really saw it all until that moment. I am not saying I became totally knowledgeable of all the bad in the world, but that moment of truth shined a lot of light on my life.

I started thinking back on this moment because of the pending war we have coming upon us. I will admit I don't pay attention to all the news about this situation until they interrupt all broadcasts and say we have bombed Iraq. But I remember how the Gulf War made me realize the bad in the world, and it makes me wonder about the kids now. How will this affect them when their dads or moms go off to another place they have never heard of? Sure, the other parent will try to explain it all to them, but they won't understand until they see the emotional affect the war has on their parents.

At this time, they are beginning to see how the world hurts people for no reason. They don't truly understand why their parents are sent away to fight something called a war. They don't care about wars and the political views that started them. All they care about is where their mommy or daddy went.

Sure, some people notice how upset kids get when their parents leave, but I don't think you realize how much it affects the kids in the long run. The kids left behind grow up fast when the realization of it all hits.

I am not anti-war because I think we are fighting a war to save our president's father's name. But I am anti-war because I believe it is not worth making another generation grow up before they should.

My only hope in writing this column is to shine some light on the children that are being affected by the war, too. It's not just you and your friends; it's also the future generation.

Letter to the Editor

Burden should not be placed on families

In Sunday's *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*, Gov. Rick Perry said, "Recent proposals to cut state funding to higher education and deregulate tuition will not shift the financial burden to students and families." A headline in *The UD* on Monday read, "Tuition, fees could increase by 19 percent."

Perry also suggests that deregulation will entice students by lowering tuition in certain fields that have a higher need and increasing tuition in fields with high demand.

Who will decide which degrees are to have lower tuition or higher tuition?

Texas Tech officials also have expressed concern regarding increases in tuition and fees, and how this may affect students and their families and the increased burden.

Well, let me tell you exactly how the economy has affected my family of five with two working parents

(both at Tech) this past year:

- No. 1: property taxes increased more than \$300
- No. 2: house insurance \$250
- No. 3: car insurance \$600
- No. 4: gasoline, still going up
- No. 5: tuition and fees \$200
- No. 6: Salary increases \$0

Just how are the families and students expected to continue to pay for increases in services across the board, much less increases in their tuition?

Yes, maybe Tech is trying to recruit students from the University of Texas and Texas A&M when their tuition is increased. But what about

pricing Lubbock families out of Tech, as well as those in surrounding communities?

I believe my son will NOT be able to attend Tech in the fall 2003 semester, given the rise in tuition, since he does not qualify for any student aid or scholarships, which are awarded as need-based, and according to many, we are not "needy."

My son has a part-time job and lives at home in order to cut expenses. I can't imagine living more "within our means," as we don't take vacations, don't eat in restaurants or go to the movies. We simply live pay-

check to paycheck, as so many others do, and now we are being forced to cutback even more to accommodate the slump in the economy.

I don't mind not going to the movies or even eating out, but to pay an additional \$400 in tuition costs on top of all the other increases we have had to cope with this year just may be the last straw. I imagine he will be one of many enrolling at South Plains College in the fall and, in turn, helping them with their budget crunch.

-Liz Hildebrand, an academic program assistant.

BAD COLLEGE IDEAS ...



SGA needs input, not apathy

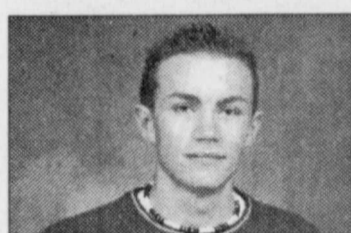
In less than a week, Texas Tech will be holding its annual Student Government Association election. And in typical fashion, I'm here to play cheerleader to civic virtue and tell you your vote does count, and yes, you should use it.

The argument I want to make is that contrary to frequent premature diagnoses, the SGA isn't dead yet. It still matters. Therefore, your vote does too. Unfortunately, if you're like nine out of every 10 Tech students, you haven't been using it.

A lot of pundits are dissatisfied with the SGA. Some argue it has been transformed into a mere rubber stamp for every administrative decision, every fee increase and so on. Boo hoo.

The SGA isn't the problem; student apathy is. The SGA should be the solution. How many people even bother to contact their senators about an issue?

The Student Senate has dealt with a number of important issues this year, including the student regent proposal, anti-discrimination protections for homosexuals, the SGA's own election code and that weird optional transportation fee. While I've been less than satisfied with how some of these issues have been resolved, I have been impressed by the leadership exhibited



Joe G. Biles
www.joebiles.com

Ask yourself: Have you studied the issues? Do you know where the candidates stand? Which ones are more style than substance?

by a number of senators. And none of these issues has been as explosive or divisive as last year's debate over the student athletics fee.

All of these issues directly affect the entire student body, and they all merit our attention. That attention hasn't been forthcoming.

Unfortunately, voter turnout has hovered at about 10 percent since the SGA went to electronic voting three years ago. As I argued Jan. 23, not only has electronic voting depressed voter turnout, but it also has led to quite a bit of alleged voter fraud. So in es-

sence, one-tenth of the student population is picking 100 percent of our leaders and representatives—when that choice isn't being subverted by illegalities.

Of the 10 percent that actually votes, how many really bother to consider the issues and the candidates? How many actually attended the executive candidate forum Tuesday? (If you didn't, I hope you read the account published here in *The UD*.) How many carefully scrutinized what was said? The fact is, a lot of times, you can't trust what you hear in a stump speech.

Ask yourself: Have you studied the issues? Do you know where the candidates stand? Which ones are more style than substance?

Now go vote. And make sure your friends do too. Because I guarantee you candidates are doing the same. And if voter turnout is low, that support will mean a lot.

Come Feb. 25 and 26, everyone running is going to make sure their church group, film club, honor society and 200 closest fraternity brothers are getting online and voting. If you're one of the silent 90 percent, you're letting those groups pick the winner for you.

Please, do your civic duty. Log on to www.sga.ttu.edu. Vote your conscience. Let's make 2003-2004 the most successful year yet for your Student Government Association.



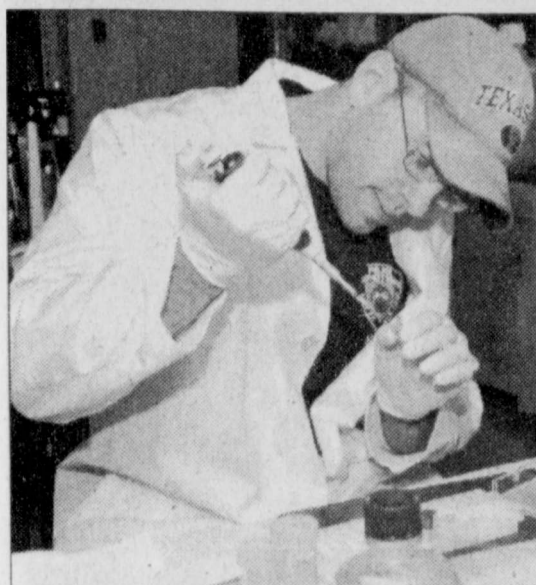
LETTERS: The *UD* welcomes letters from readers. Letters must be no longer than 300 words and must include the author's name, signature, phone number, social security number and a description of university affiliation. Letters selected for publication have the right to be edited. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. All letters are subject to verification. Letters can be e-mailed to opinions@universitydaily.net or brought to 211 Student Media.

GUEST COLUMNS: The *UD* accepts submissions of unsolicited guest columns. While we cannot acknowledge receipt of all columns, the authors of those selected for publication will be notified. Guest columns should be no longer than 750 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community.

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Grad school hosts research competition; abstracts due Friday

By Angela Timmons/Staff Reporter



HEATHER DOUGHERTY/Staff Photographer
ADAM BROWN, A graduate student studying biology from Grand Prairie, makes gel samples Friday afternoon in the Biology building. He and other campus graduate students will compete in the annual graduate research competition on March 28.

Texas Tech's graduate school will host its second annual research competition March 28 in the Library's Teaching Learning Technology Center. The competition will be held in conjunction with undergraduate research. Those interested in participating must turn in abstracts on Friday.

Abstracts may be submitted to chad.s.davis@ttu.edu by 5 p.m. Friday. Entry forms and information may be found at www.orgs.ttu.edu/gpsga.

The research competition provides an opportunity for graduate students to present and discuss their research, Graduate and Professional Student Government Association President Deidre Parish said.

"I think it's a great opportunity for graduate students to promote research," said Parish, a graduate student studying biology from Lubbock.

Many graduate students have never had the chance to cross paths or know what others are doing in their individual research labs, Parish said.

She said the competition should include at least 50 presenters. Presenters will put together a poster displaying their research and findings so attendees may observe and ask questions.

Chad Davis, a doctoral student studying agriculture education from Slaton, said the competition is treated more as a poster competition to present research in a more visual form.

"Posters are more conducive for people outside of the discipline to benefit," Davis said.

Davis said what sets this competition apart is the interdisciplinary format. The competition includes several divisions, such as sciences, social sciences and visual and performing arts.

"Trying to hold one competition in several different disciplines is very unusual,"

Davis said. "It's very unique to bring all of the different disciplines and different academic areas together."

Davis said deans from the different disciplines helped the graduate students select judges for each particular division. Judging criterion will be left up to the judges, Davis said, and will probably stay as close to whatever discipline the judge is representing.

Winners will receive a small monetary award, a plaque and recognition for their work, Davis said.

Davis and Parish commented that recognition and presentation is probably the most important aspect of research.

"It allows a graduate students the opportunity to present, and that's important for a graduate student," Parish said. "We need to be able to explain to people what we're doing, and it builds a resume and enhances research."

Parish said research is why graduate students are here.

"Our research is instrumental in the

chancellor's Student First initiative," she said. "Because part of the Student First initiative is to recruit and retain not only students but faculty ... by presenting research here on campus it allows students to practice with research and to promote Texas Tech."

Parish said presenting research also allows professors to have their name recognized.

Biology professor Robert Baker said a tremendous amount of research is done by graduate students, and those students augment research done by the professors they work for.

"The way the system works, typically a graduate student works for a professor; a long-term contact that maybe worked 20, 30 years on a project," Baker said. "The graduate student comes in and takes it to another level."

Baker said the biggest part of research in his lab is the actual hands-on work done by graduate students, commenting the compe-

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Style show joins organizations, cultures

Students demonstrate their past and present in fashion

By Harvey A. Mireles/Staff Reporter

When people think of fashion shows, extravagant venues such as London, Paris and New York may come to mind. Tech organizations showed Wednesday evening that Lubbock is just as rich in fashion as it is in culture.

The Second Annual African-American Style Show, sponsored by the African Student Association, the Black Student Association and several area clothing stores, showed styles common in Africa that have been adapted in modern American fashion. The event had an attendance of more than 100 spectators.

The style show, themed "From Africa to America," started with a focus on African style and culture, including some history and music. Members of the African Student Association performed a traditional African dance rou-

tine, followed by a reading of a West African folktale by Eric Strong, a member of the African-American History Month steering committee.

Several African countries, including Nigeria, Tanzania and Kenya, were represented in the clothing portion of the show. The segment covered casual, formal and most popular styles from the countries.

Selegna Daukou, a junior mechanical engineering major from Nigeria, said the event was a great opportunity to provide cultural awareness and enrichment.

"Tech does not always get the opportunity to host something like this," Daukou said. "It gives people a chance to break into African-American fashion sense. It is a wonderful and unique opportunity to showcase African culture as well as African-American culture."

Marie Alford, assistant director of

admissions and co-chairwoman of the event, said she is excited to see different student associations involved and working together.

"This is a significant collaboration of student organizations," Alford said. "It's been a good exercise in unity and collaboration."

She said an important aspect of the style show is the student involvement in putting the show together.

"The clothes came from mostly the students' own collections," Alford said. "The cross-cultural sharing as they get together is something those involved get from participating."

Alford said planning for the event began almost a year ago.

"We started thinking about doing the style show again just after the first one," she said. "Planning sessions began last spring for this one, and we just started having meetings more and more frequently as the time got close."

She said the audience received exposure to cultures and styles they may not be familiar with and will hopefully leave with a sense of appreciation for the African culture in general.

"Simply by exposure to different cultural communities and cultures' dress, it will foster awareness of unique qualities each culture has," Alford said. "Some people believe that you need to be the same to get along, but it is very important to celebrate our uniquenesses."

Martin Dorsey, a sophomore cell and molecular biology major from Terrell, is the president of the Black Student Association. He said models from the association wore clothes commonly worn in America or Africa.

"This will bring us together as a Black community," Dorsey said. "This was the first time we have actually worked with African Student Association, and I think this has brought us closer together."



TYSON JEFFREYS/Staff Photographer
LORRAINE SOBERS, A graduate student studying petroleum engineering from Trinidad and Tobago, models her dress from the islands.

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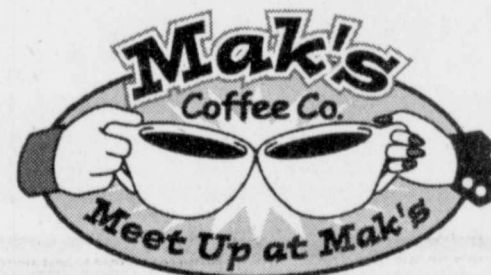
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