

Warning signs of attacks overlooked

By Lenny Savino
Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON (KRT) — In hindsight, the warning signals were obvious.

Law enforcement officials knew that in 1995, two associates of suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden had talked about crashing a plane into CIA headquarters outside Washington. Egypt and Italy had warned the CIA that bin Laden was plotting to fly an airplane into last June's economic summit in Genoa, Italy.

The FBI knew that bin Laden

associates were taking flying lessons at U.S. schools. One school in Minnesota warned that one of its Arab students was interested only in learning to steer a commercial airliner, not in how to take off or land. French authorities identified the man, Zacarias Moussaoui, as a terrorist weeks before the Sept. 11 attacks.

Finally, bin Laden's al-Qaida organization tried and failed to blow up the World Trade Center. His associates have a pattern of learning from their mistakes and trying

again, as they did after a failed attempt to blow up the U.S. Navy destroyer The Sullivans. Armed with better explosives and training, they hit another destroyer, the USS Cole.

Two weeks after the attacks on the Trade Center and the Pentagon which killed more than 6,000 people, intelligence and law enforcement officials are asking themselves why no one connected the dots.

"Somehow, it fell between the cracks," said one U.S. intelligence official familiar with the Pentagon and World Trade Center investiga-

tions, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "We had red flags all over the place."

Officials say they never had enough intelligence to predict or pre-empt the Sept. 11 attacks, but concede they had enough pieces of the puzzle to be more alarmed about whether bin Laden was planning to use some kind of airplane as a bomb.

"We've had indications this was coming for some years," said Rusty Capps, a retired FBI counterterrorism chief.

Greek Life events

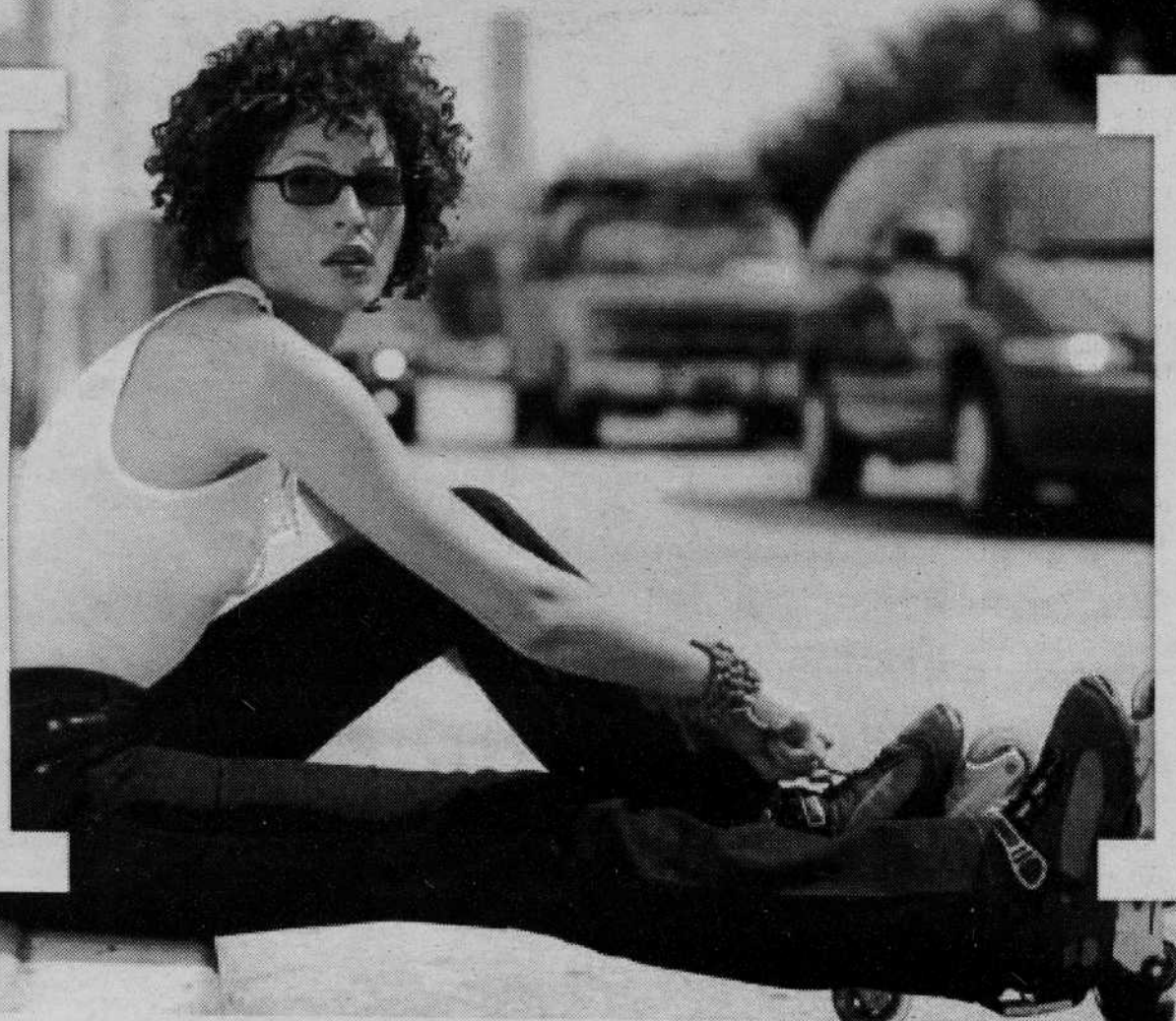
Thursday, Sept. 27

Fraternity recruitment:

Sporting events will be held, including basketball, floor hockey, tennis, indoor soccer and more. 9-11 p.m. Recreation Center, EMU ground floor. Free.

The Emerald will soon offer a full calendar of events online at www.dailyemerald.com. Send information regarding campus events to calendar@dailyemerald.com.

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Fee rally

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Students at schools across the state are showing their opposition to the energy surcharge in various ways, OSA Communication Director Julie Suchanek-Ritchie said.

At PSU and SOU, where administrators decided against adding the fee, students are not holding events on campus, she said. But they are sending out press releases today to support eliminating the fee at other OUS schools.

At Eastern Oregon University, students plan to host a radio show about the fee, and Western Oregon University student government leaders are also holding a media event. Oregon State University will also bring a representative from a power company to speak about energy conservation.

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Red Cross

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figure includes both cash and the value of donated goods and materials.

Some University students are also trying to raise money to help with the disaster. The Theta Chi fraternity is planning on doing a fundraiser sometime in the next few weeks. Fraternity member Nick Kucha said Theta Chi will hand out ribbons at the Valley River Center and ask for contributions to aid the disaster victims.

Blood donations around the country have also greatly increased since the tragedy. Doug Engle, the executive director of the Lane Memorial Blood Bank, said that the bank's blood donations increased 35 percent in the week following the attacks. However, no blood from Lane County was sent to the disaster sites.

"We were preparing to send blood to New Jersey by military air, but we got the word (the day after the attacks) that it wasn't necessary," said.

In fact, only a handful of states outside the disaster states were asked to send any blood, Engle said.

"[Most of] the casualties that were encountered were not the type that needed blood," Engle said. He added that when blood is donated, it is mostly in preparation for the future. "The blood that was transferred [to the disaster sites] was collected the previous days and months," Engle said.

Regardless of when and where the blood is used, the national disaster has inspired many more people than usual to give blood.

The Lane Memorial Blood Bank is having a blood drive Oct. 16 and 17 in the Fir Room of the EMU.

Alahan Sivam is a freelance reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald.