

LAW & JUSTICE

Tucson, Ariz. Mass Killer Pleads Guilty

Avoids death penalty in assassination attempt

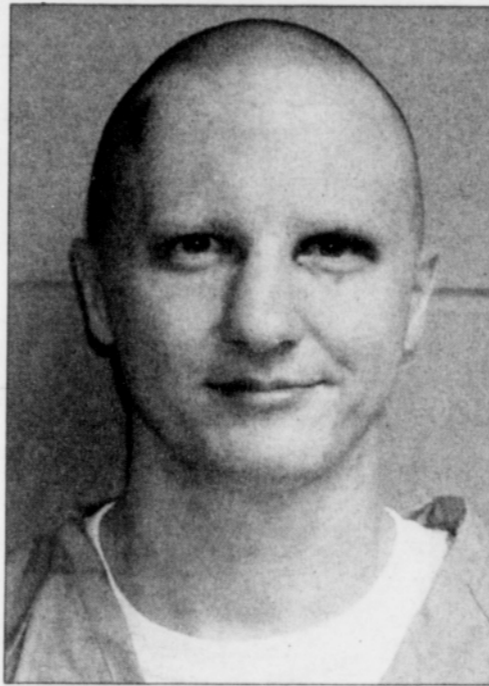
(AP) — Jared Lee Loughner agreed Tuesday to spend the rest of his life in prison, accepting that he went on a deadly shooting rampage at an Arizona political gathering and sparing the victims a lengthy, possibly traumatic death-pen-

alty trial.

His plea came soon after a federal judge found that months of psychiatric treatment for schizophrenia made Loughner a b l e to understand charges that he killed six people and wounded 13 others, including his intended target, then-Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

"I plead guilty," the 23-year-old college dropout said.

His hair closely cropped, Loughner was not the smiling, bald-headed suspect captured



Jared Lee Loughner

in a mugshot soon after the January 2011 shooting.

Wearing khakis, Loughner sat quietly throughout the hearing and smiled at one point when a psychologist testifying about his competence remarked that he had bonded with one of the federal prison guards.

After the hearing, Loughner's parents cried and embraced. The victims mostly just watched without expression.

The outcome was welcomed by some victims, including Giffords herself, as a way to

move on.

"The pain and loss caused by the events of Jan. 8, 2011, are incalculable," Giffords said in a joint statement with her husband, Mark Kelly. "Avoiding a trial will allow us — and we hope the whole Southern Arizona community — to continue with our recovery."

Experts had concluded that Loughner suffers from schizophrenia, and officials at a federal prison have forcibly medicated him with psychotropic drugs for more than a year.

Sikh Temple Shooter Espoused Hate

Shooter was frustrated neo-Nazi, civil rights group says

(AP) — A 40-year-old Army veteran, identified by a civil rights group as the one-time leader of a white supremacist band, was the gunman who killed six people inside a Sikh temple in Wisconsin, officials said Monday.

Wade Michael Page is accused of walking into the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin in suburban Milwaukee and opened fire as several dozen people prepared for Sunday services. When the shooting finally ended, seven people lay dead, including Page,

who was shot to death by police. Three others were critically wounded in what police called an act of domestic terrorism.

Page was a "frustrated neo-Nazi" who led a racist white supremacist band, the Southern Poverty Law Center said Monday. Page told a white supremacist website in an interview in 2010 that he had been part of the white-power music scene since 2000 when he left his native Colorado and started the band, End Apathy, in 2005, the non-

profit civil rights organization said.

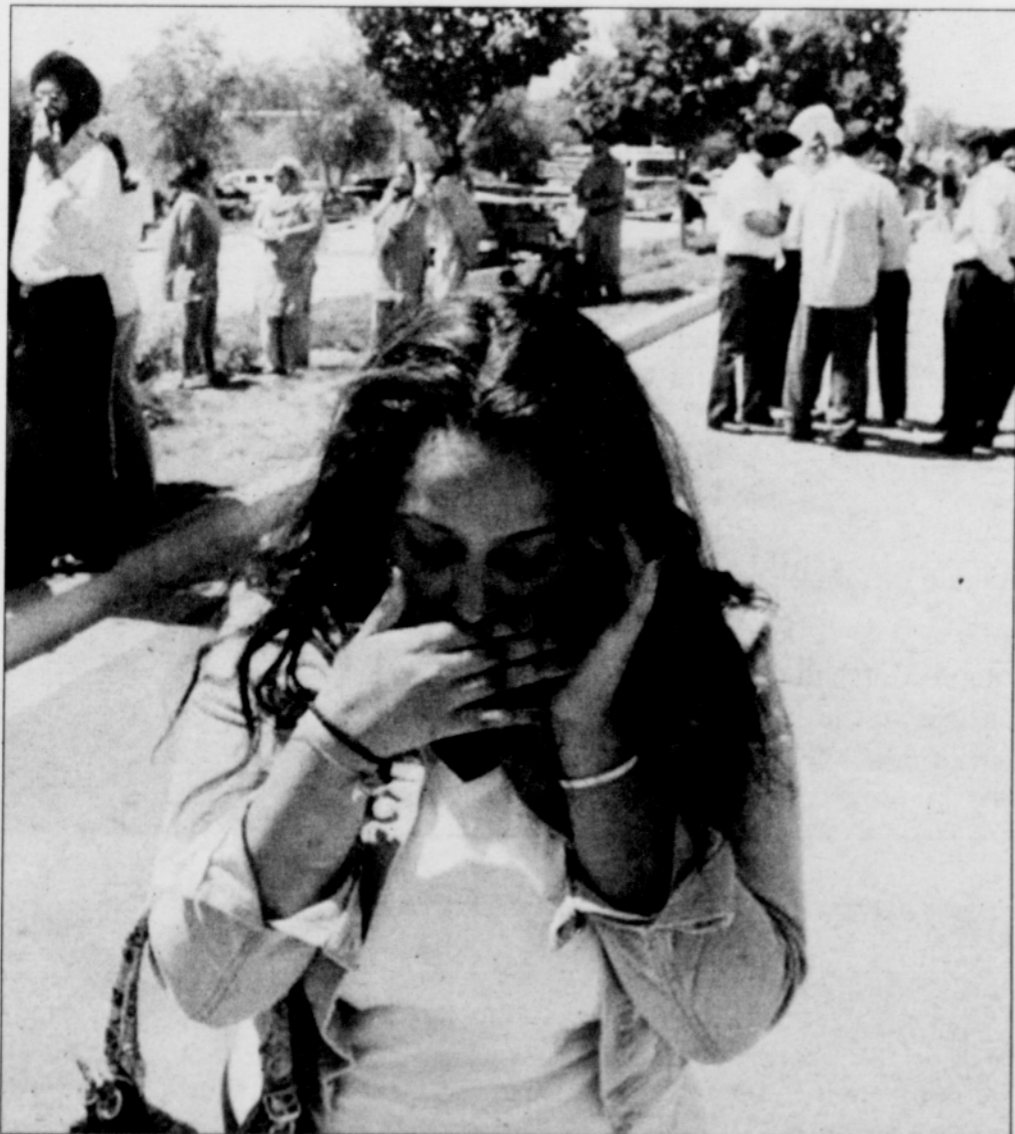
He told the website his "inspiration was based on frustration that we have the potential to accomplish so much more as individuals and a society in whole," according to the SPLC.

He did not mention violence in the website interview.

Page joined the military in Milwaukee in 1992 and was a repairman for the Hawk missile system before switching jobs to become one of the Army's psychological operations specialists, according to the defense official.

So-called "Psy-Ops" specialists are responsible for the analysis, development and distribution of intelligence used for information and psychological effect; they research and analyze methods of influencing foreign populations.

Fort Bragg, N.C., was among the bases where Page served.



A woman reacts with others as they await word on a shooting Sunday at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wis. (AP Photo)

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