

A1/A18. JAN 9, 2011

Bizarre Web posts linked to suspect

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The Washington Post

The man identified by au-
thorities as the gunman in
Saturday's deadly shoot-
ings, which also critically in-
jured Rep. Gabrielle Gif-
fords, D-Ariz., appears to
have left a trail of bizarre
and anti-government mes-
sages on the Internet.

Law-enforcement sources
identified the gunman as Ja-
red Lee Loughner, 22, of
Tucson. Loughner, or some-
one using his name, left a
series of postings and home-
made videos that laid out a
fervent, though largely inco-
herent, set of political views.

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NO HINT OF ATTACK IN BIZARRE WEB POSTS

A short 'Final Thoughts' was published in Dec.

On YouTube, Loughner's profile
listed Karl Marx and Friedrich Eng-
els' "The Communist Manifesto"
and Adolf Hitler's "Mein Kampf"
among his favorite books. He also
included high-school English clas-
sics such as "To Kill a Mockingbird"
and "The Old Man and the Sea,"
plus children's works such as "The
Phantom Tollbooth."

In one video, "America: Your last
memory in a terrorist country," a



Jared Lee
Loughner

figure in dark
clothing and a
smiley-face mask
burns an Ameri-
can flag in the
desert. The
soundtrack is a
2001 song by the
band "Drowning
Pool," in which
the singer repeat-
edly shrieks "Let
the bodies hit the floor!"

Another, posted Dec. 15, begins
with a line of text that read: "My Fi-
nal Thoughts: Jared Lee Loughn-
er!" What follows are seemingly un-
connected thoughts about currency
and dreams, and the words "I can't
trust the current government be-
cause of the ratifications: the gov-
ernment is implying mind control
and brainwashing."

controlling grammar."

Another video attacks police at
Pima Community College, where,
according to Loughner's profile, he
had been a student. He was sus-
pended in late September and he
withdrew from the college Oct. 4.

The videos also say Loughner ap-
plied to join the Army. The Army is-
sued a statement Saturday saying
he attempted to enlist but was re-
jected.

The videos do not mention Gif-
fords by name. They do not de-
scribe any specific actions that
Loughner planned. And they do not
seem to link him explicitly to any
mainstream political group or fig-
ures.

Loughner never had major trou-
ble with the law, although his rec-
ord includes a drug arrest.

His address is in a neighborhood

of ranch houses and ramblers in a
Tucson suburb, a few miles from
the shopping center where Giffords
was shot. By midafternoon, police
had cordoned off an area of several
blocks, as streams of reporters and
other interested people rushed to
the neighborhood.

One of those was Tyler Ramsier,
24, who said he graduated from
Mountain View High School a year
ahead of Loughner. Ramsier said he
did not know Loughner well, but
said he remembered him hanging
out at school with a crowd that
wore Goth-style clothes and spent
time "hating on" other students.
"He never did anything that
stood out that would make us think
he would do something like this,"
Ramsier said.

Material from *The New York Times* is
included in this report.