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# ‘Creepy,’ ‘Very Hostile’: A College Recorded Its Fears

By **MARC LACEY** and **SERGE F. KOVALESKI**

TUCSON — Officials at Pima Community College, where [Jared L. Loughner](#) was a student, believed that he might be mentally ill or under the influence of drugs after a series of bizarre classroom disruptions in which he unnerved instructors and fellow students, including one occasion when he insisted that the number 6 was actually the number 18, according to internal reports from the college.

In 51 pages of confidential police documents released by the college on Wednesday, various instructors, students and others described Mr. Loughner as “creepy,” “very hostile,” “suspicious” and someone who had a “dark personality.”

He sang to himself in the library. He spoke out of turn. And in an act the college finally decided merited his suspension, he made a bizarre posting on YouTube linking the college to genocide and the torture of students.

“This is my genocide school,” the narrator on the video said, describing the college as “one of the biggest scams in America.” “We are examining the torture of students,” the narrator said.

The documents offer vivid firsthand accounts of Mr. Loughner’s contacts with law enforcement officials in the months leading up to the shootings, and will inevitably be studied closely for answers to whether the college did everything it could have, and should have, with him.

The college overhauled its procedures for dealing with disruptive students last year. As part of a revision to the code of conduct, it introduced a Student Behavior Assessment Committee, a three-member team that includes the assistant vice chancellor for student development, the chief or deputy chief of the campus police and a clinical psychologist from outside the college.

The team meets as needed to respond to students who have acted violently or violence, or who may pose a threat to themselves or others. It came into existence in September, the same month Mr. Loughner was suspended following the five days of incidents reported to campus police.



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A campus official involved in setting up the behavior committee, Charlotte Fugett, president of one of the college's five campuses, would not say whether the committee heard Mr. Loughner's case.

Many acquaintances and friends and fellow students at the college have talked about his outbursts and inappropriate behavior. The reports describe how Mr. Loughner behaved when confronted or questioned about his actions, and the images and perceptions that officers from the college's Department of Public Safety recorded show a mixture of behaviors, by turns odd, belligerent or silent and removed, sometimes all in the same encounter.

A campus officer wrote in one report in September, six days before Mr. Loughner was suspended, that he and a fellow officer thought "there might be a mental health concern involved with Loughner."

In October, the college has said, it sent Mr. Loughner a letter stating that before he could return to class, he would need to present a letter from a mental health professional certifying he was not a threat.

One report offers details of the evening of Sept. 29, when two officers drove to the Loughner home to deliver the letter about Mr. Loughner's suspension. A friend of Mr. Loughner's said this week that he thought leaving Pima might have been a serious psychological blow to Mr. Loughner, and the security report suggests a clear apprehension by the officers as well — they requested that two backup officers be posted in the neighborhood.

The officers were invited into the garage by Randy Loughner, the student's father.

"While inside the garage I spoke with Jared who held a constant trance of staring as I narrated the past events that had transpired," the reporting officer wrote.

After almost an hour, Jared Loughner broke his silence.

"I realize now that this is all a scam," he said, according to the report.

Aubrey Conover, advanced program manager for Pima Community College Northwest, in a report prepared the day he was suspended, recounted a conversation with Mr. Loughner after the police were called to deal with him when he disrupted a biology class on Sept. 23. He had been repeatedly asking for full credit on an assignment he turned in late.

At one point, Mr. Loughner said he had paid for his classes illegally, according to Mr. Conover, and when pressed he said, "I did not pay with gold and silver." Mr. Conover said that throughout the meeting, "Jared held himself very rigidly and smiled overtly at inappropriate

times.”

After an incident in February 2010 in which Mr. Loughner blurted out in a poetry class that dynamite ought to be attached to babies, a campus police officer wrote, “I suggested they keep an eye on him and call us if anything else developed that concerned them.”

Mr. Loughner explained the remark matter-of-factly. “He said that the class had been talking about abortion, which made him think of death, which made him think of suicide bombers, which made him think of babies as suicide bombers,” wrote Mr. Conover.

After a discussion, Mr. Conover said, Mr. Loughner said he would not say anything in class. Mr. Conover said that he continued to act bizarre but that there had been no further interruptions.

On another occasion, Mr. Loughner told a biology teacher that it did not matter what he put down on his test because the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the First Amendment enabled him to write whatever he wanted.

As for his remark that he did not have to go along with his instructor’s view that the number 6 was actually the number 6, a counselor, Delisa Sidall, wrote: “I reminded him that a complaint was made that he was disruptive in class and he said, ‘I was not disruptive, I was only asking questions that related to math.’

“I asked him to tell me the question he asked? He said, ‘My instructor said he called a number 6 and I said I call it 18.’ He also asked the instructor to explain, ‘How can you deny math instead of accept it?’ ”

Over all, there were seven contacts between Mr. Loughner and campus police in seven months, including two in one week. He clearly was on the radar screen of the authorities, though the documents suggest that they were uncertain how much of a threat he might be, or unclear on how to respond to him.

Mr. Loughner’s grades were redacted in the reports released by the college but they showed that he took a wide array of coursework, including public speaking, sign language, Bible studies and [yoga](#).

Even in his gym classes, there were problems. In May, the police were called by Mr. Loughner’s Pilates instructor, Patricia Curry, who said she felt intimidated after a confrontation over the B grade she wanted to give him. She said he had become “very hostile” upon learning about her intention. “She spoke with him outside the classroom and felt it might become physical,” the police report said.

Ms. Curry told the police she would not feel comfortable teaching Mr. Loughner without an officer in the area, and the officers stayed to keep watch over the Pilates class until the class ended.

The documents show that the campus police served him with a notice of suspension after officers discovered the YouTube video. Although the narrator's face was obscured in the video, officers said that based on their previous encounters with Mr. Loughner they recognized his voice.

In a sign of how seriously the college took the video, the campus police sought a county grand jury subpoena for the YouTube records of someone identified as "2PLOY."

*Marc Lacey reported from Tucson, and Serge F. Kovalski from New York. Contributing reporting were Trip Gabriel in New York, and Adam Nagourney, Sam Dolnick, Kirk Johnson, Jo Becker and Rich Oppel in Tucson.*