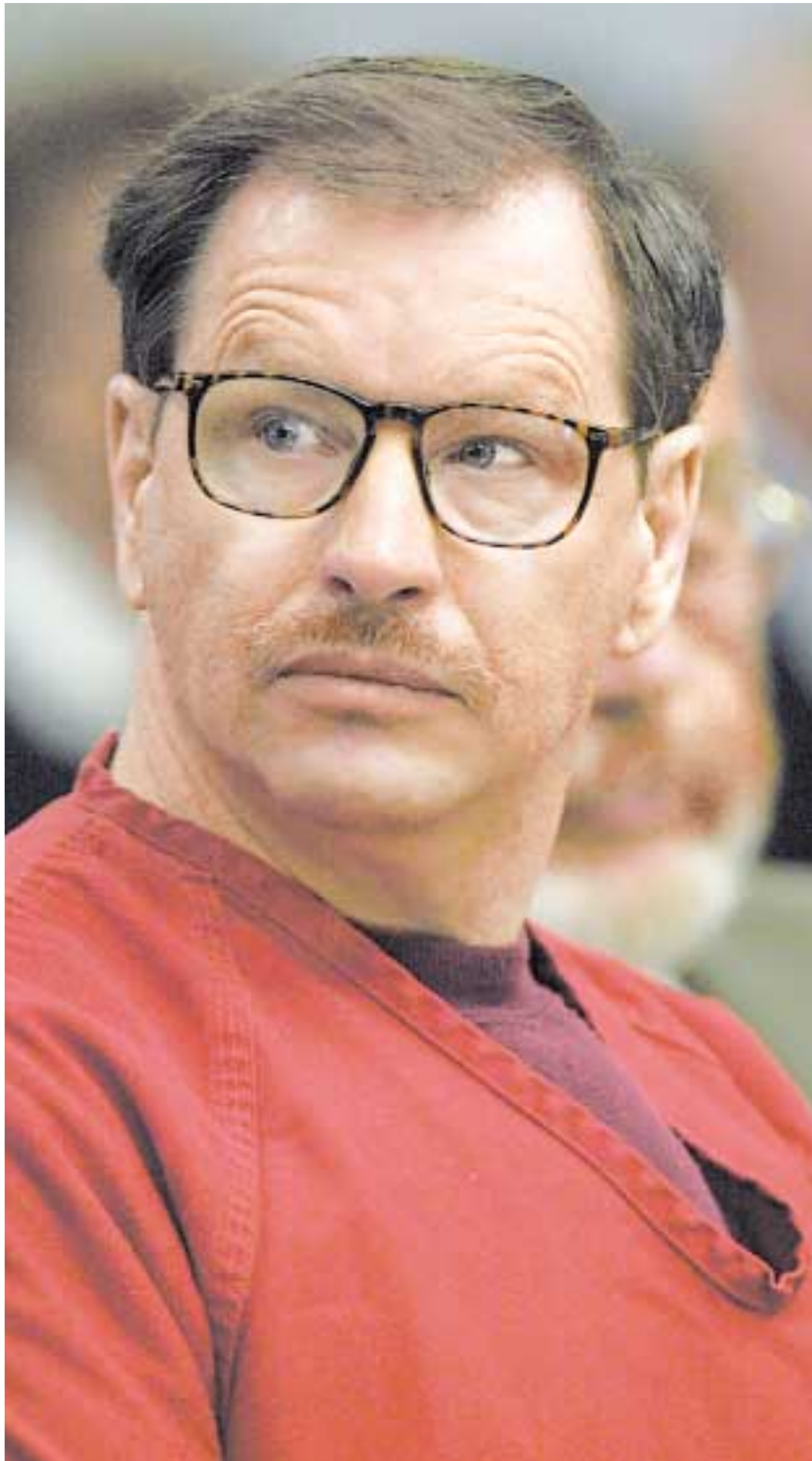


# GUILTY – 48 TIMES

**GREEN RIVER KILLER CALMLY PLEADS "GUILTY," 48 TIMES:** (In alphabetical order, left to right, excluding four unidentified victims represented by blurred images.) **Debbie Abernathy, 26.** Yvonne Antosh, 19. Martina Authorlee, 18. Pammy Avent, 16. Patricia Barczak, 19. Mary Bello, 25. Debra Bonner, 23. Colleen Brockman, 15. April Buttram, 17. Denise Bush, 22. Marcia Chapman, 31. Andrea Childers, 19. Carol Christensen, 21. Wendy Coffield, 16. Debra Estes, 15. Maureen Feeney, 19. Sandra Gabbert, 17. Roberta Hayes, 21. Cynthia Hinds, 17. Gisele Lovvorn, 17. Marie Malvar, 18. Gail Mathews, 24. Mary Meehan, 18. Terry Milligan, 16. Opal Mills, 16. Constance Naon, 21. Kimberly Nelson, 26. Delise Plager, 22. Kimi-Kai Pitsor, 16. Marta Reeves, 37. Carrie Rois, 15. Linda Rule, 16. Shirley Sherrill, 18. Alma Smith, 18. Cindy Smith, 17. Shawnda Summers, 17. Tina Thompson, 22. Kelly Ware, 22. Mary West, 16. Cheryl Wims, 18. Delores Williams, 17. Tracy Winston, 19. Lisa Yates, 26. Patricia Yellow Robe, 38.



**Gary Ridgway** said: 'I killed so many women I have a hard time keeping them straight'

BY VANESSA HO, TRACY JOHNSON  
AND HECTOR CASTRO  
*P-I reporters*

In the end, the case to spare the life of Gary Leon Ridgway, the Green River Killer who haunted the Northwest for 21 years, came down to two forces.

King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng, who once vowed never to bargain with the death penalty, wanted the truth. And Ridgway, an Auburn truck painter who pleaded guilty to committing more murders than any serial killer in the country ever has, wanted to live.

"The mercy provided by today's resolution is directed not at Ridgway, but toward the families who have suffered so much, and to the larger community," Maleng said yesterday.

"The justice we could achieve was to uncover the truth."

Ridgway, 54, avoided the death penalty by pleading guilty yesterday to strangling 48 young women and by helping authorities find four sets of human remains last summer. Now he will be sentenced to 48 consecutive life sentences without the possibility of parole.

SEE RIDGWAY, A14

In a deal that saved his life, Gary Ridgway pleaded guilty yesterday to 48 murders, more than any other serial killer in U.S. history.

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**For seven families, the nightmare continues**

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**Sheriff Dave Reichert waited decades for yesterday**

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**Robert Jamieson says Prosecutor Norm Maleng took the hard road to ease anguish**

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