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WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Cat makes litter of building

By Emily Estes
Amy Marie Velthuisen
Daily Evergreen Staff

A 75,000 pound Caterpillar front-end loader crashed into a downtown office building, demolishing one corner late Thursday afternoon.

The loader, heading east down Main Street from Sunnyside Elementary School, crossed South Grand Avenue and crashed into the office of John W. Hinrichs State Farm Insurance Company. The company is housed in the Flatiron Building at 105 E. Main.

Although there were three people in the building when the crash occurred, there were no injuries.

The loader apparently lost its brakes, patrol officer Mike Carlton of the Pullman Police said.

Jerry Motley of Motley & Motley Inc. said a chunk of ice might have been wedged in the brakes.

"This kind of weather's great for it," Motley said.

The driver, Charles Craigen of Pullman, apparently realized he did not have brakes and decided to shift into reverse, killing the motor, Carlton said. Craigen left the scene shortly after the collision and could not be reached for comment.

"The driver rode it out," Motley said.

Motley did not know for sure how fast the tractor

was heading down the hill, but he estimated the speed at 20 mph.

Jean Hinderer, an office manager at State Farm, was in the building at the time of the crash.

She and another State Farm employee were discussing a claim when she glanced out the window and spotted the 980 Cat front end loader just about to crash into the front window.

"I didn't know if it was an earthquake or what."

— Selene Santucci
Resident of the demolished building

"I just ran," Hinderer said, huddled in pink a blanket provided by rescue workers. She didn't even have time to let her life flash before her eyes, she said.

Hinderer said she didn't get rattled until she got outside the office and saw the loader, obscured in dust and embedded in the front of the building. "It was hard to breathe," she said.

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Surveying the scene



Staff photo by Scott Garred

Remains of the Flatiron building after a front-end loader hit Thursday afternoon.



Staff photo by Mark Plampin

Streets around the building will be closed off due to structural damage to the building.

Accused killer's friends 'shocked'

By Mike Warren
Contributing Writer

The murder of a Seattle teacher on Jan. 31 has stirred feelings of shock for many students at WSU who grew up with the alleged perpetrator.

"The first night the news story came on everyone from my hall was watching," John Nolz, a sophomore who knew accused murderer Darrell Cloud, said. "There were more than 15 people walking around in complete shock — and that was just on my floor."

Nolz, who last saw Cloud when he was home for the weekend before the killing, said, "it looked like he was having the time of his life" at a party the two attended a few days before the murder.

Cloud allegedly shot and killed Marcus Whitman Middle School teacher Neal Summers at 6:20 a.m. The 24-year-old Cloud was charged with the crime on Feb. 2.

Additionally, Cloud is known on the Palouse for having attended WSU for a short time in 1988. He pledged Sigma Phi Epsilon — but was summarily dismissed from the fraternity in his first semester for hitting the former chapter president, Tate Rogers, a friend of Cloud, said.

After living at the house for only a few weeks, he attended a party with house members. Cloud exchanged "angry words" with President Rolan Jones, eventually striking Jones, who asked him to leave the

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Student association to sponsor 'Jeans Day'

By Chris Mulick
Daily Evergreen Staff

A new organization for homosexuals is beginning to emerge, giving members an opportunity to develop a sense of "community."

"The organization is just designed to promote awareness, to show support for homosexual rights," David McGrath, President of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Association, said. "We're really not a public group. No one hears about us."

Part of the reason is the group is still getting its feet wet. The first-year organization is still developing activities, including one for Valentine's Day. "Jeans day" encourages students and faculty to wear

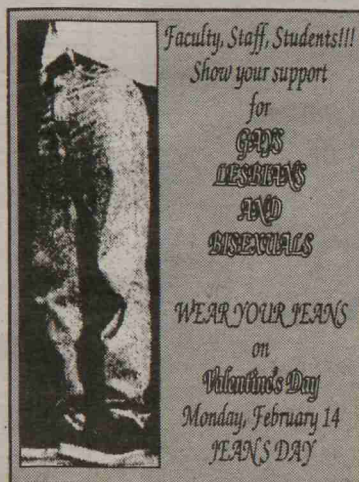
jeans to support homosexual rights.

"Our group hasn't really done a lot," McGrath said. "This is one of the things we came up with to do."

McGrath said the idea came from a student who was involved with a similar group at the University of California at San Diego. The promotion was so successful the group thought it would be popular at WSU, as well.

McGrath admits it might be difficult to tell which students are really supporting gay rights because so many students wear jeans anyway.

"I personally wear jeans every day," McGrath said. "It's not going to be 'Oh look, they're wearing jeans.' Mainly a lot of support we'll get is from the faculty."



He also explained because the organization is so new, it is taking small steps toward becoming more visual.

"This isn't the most visual of demonstrations," McGrath said. "I can't expect everyone to be aware."

One of the most encouraging things for the group's president is the number of new faces continuing to show up at functions. He says there are eight or ten people comprising the core of the organization who attend everything, and a number of others have shown interest as well at various times.

"It's hard to put a finger on the size of the organization," he said.

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