

# PSH Club presents polygamy issues

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It's time for dinner. You've set the table, and started putting the food on the table, when your husband enters the room. He's not alone. He's with his other wife.

But there is no divorce to clear up your confusion. He's legally married to both of you at the same time. It's called polygamy.

Alice Ogwal, a junior accounting major from Uganda, and Suwareh Jabai, a senior public policy major from Gambia, explained the intricacies of polygamy to about 20 people at a Citizen of the World Club meeting on Feb. 27 in W-205.

Modern polygamy evolved during the changes in today's society, Ogwal said.

"Now, there are double-standard husbands," Ogwal said. "They have one wife but keep several mistresses and their children. It's supposed to be a secret.

Sincerely, how long can one keep a secret?"

Ancient polygamy had a more functional value, Jabai said. If a couple could not have children, or they only had daughters, the woman was scorned for not producing a son.

"To have children or sons," Jabai said, "the man would just try another wife."

According to Ogwal, a second wife could also be inherited. If a man died, his widow could choose to remarry one of her brothers-in-law. If she did, the family would take care of her and help keep her with the children.

"If a woman remarried out of the family, she left her children and started fresh," Jabai said.

Ogwal also said that sometimes a man will take a second wife because the first wife has grown tired and old.

"In Uganda, women accept aging," she said. "A wife will tell her husband she is tired and can't carry the water as far--on her

head--or work as fast. She will say, 'Why don't you get a younger wife to do the work?'"

The living arrangements for these families can vary according to the man and the relationship between the wives. Jabai said often the women will live in separate houses and work on a rotation schedule.

"One wife will cook and clean for the husband for two days, while the other wife takes care of her children and fields," he said.

Ogwal's husband, Bishop Ben Ogwal, grew up in a polygamous home. He said the problems the family experienced as a result of the situation were immense.

"They (the wives) would argue about how many days were spent at the other wife's house, how many days were spent plowing her fields," Bishop Ogwal said.

Sometimes the husband would ask his wife what her feelings were before he took a second wife. She could disagree, or even

refuse to participate in a polygamous relationship, but it really wouldn't matter. The man would do it anyway.

In other instances, a man may take additional wives when problems begin to plague his first marriage. Since divorce is very difficult to obtain in Africa, the man sees taking new wives as a solution to a problematic situation.

"A man will take a second wife to see if that will make the first one straighten out," Jabai said.

According to Bishop Ogwal, as country's society and its religious beliefs continue to change, polygamy is less frequent among new generations. For example, Jabai is married and has only one wife.

"Let me have misunderstandings with just one wife, please," he said.

Ogwal said reverse polygamy, a woman marrying more than one man, "does not occur, not yet."

# Engineers get tips on interview strategies

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Tech recruiters from area firms gave Penn State engineering students tips on interviewing with prospective employers.

The 50 students who attended the session on Feb. 10 learned the importance of preparation, beginning with the resume.

"Make it picture-perfect," said Deb Strickland, of Frank Electric.

"An error-free resume stresses patience and it shows that the interviewee cares enough to make it look presentable," said Tony Tessitore of Amp, Inc.

When reviewing resumes, employers look at what courses are listed, interests of the interviewee, their club and activity

participation, and past jobs.

In preparation for the job interview it is important to know who you are interviewing with. Attending information sessions and learning about the company beforehand is beneficial.

"This shows more interest on the behalf of the interviewee," said Tessitore.

During the interview, be relaxed and prove to the interviewer that you are comfortable.

"Show that you are a multifaceted person by being able to juggle many things, and still are able to be personable," said Joe Milligan of Factory Mutual.

"Emphasize that you are the product and are selling yourself," added Rick Bullock of Johnson Controls.

Questions asked during the interview give the interviewer an insight as to the goals, objectives, skills, and values of the person applying for the job.

Always be prepared for nontechnical questions--they are a way to find out your strengths and weaknesses.

Common interview questions include:

- Why did you choose this profession?
- What did you like best or least about past jobs?
- What is your greatest achievement?

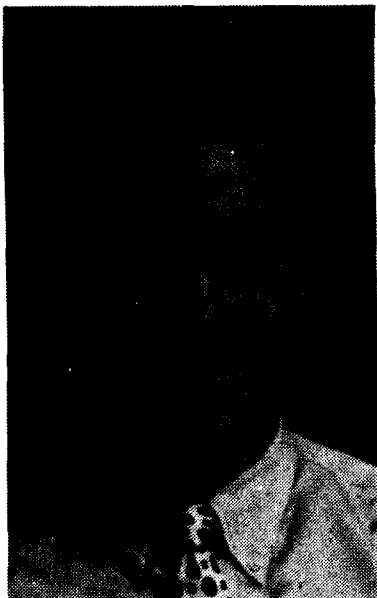
Responding quickly and showing confidence during the interview makes a good impression. Also, have your own questions to ask the interviewer about the company or a specific job.

"Asking questions really makes a difference," said Tessitore.

## Tips on interview etiquette

- Be prepared.
- Dress well.
- Find out about the company beforehand.
- Be honest.
- Practice.
- Send a thank-you letter.
- Do not be late.
- Do not be overly aggressive.

## United Parcel Service Promotes Chris Lucas



Chris Lucas, a part-time loader/unloader for United Parcel Service, has been promoted to part-time supervisor.

Chris has been a UPS employee for almost 1 1/2 years. During that time, he has served as a loader, unloader and puller in the Harrisburg facility.

His new responsibilities will include being a part-time supervisor at the Harrisburg facility. Chris is a behavioral science major at Penn State Harrisburg. He came to UPS for the money to pay for his schooling, and also because of the benefits package. The hours also fit well with his school schedule.

Best of luck to Chris.

## Health problems common in blacks

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Despite Earvin "Magic" Johnson's disclosure that he has tested positive for the HIV virus, and the possible positive effect that Johnson's disclosure might have on others, it is still difficult to convince many black youths of the danger, according to Barbara Davenport, a public health educator with the South Central District Office of the State Health Department.

Though many people are worried about the spread of AIDS, Davenport said, "with young people, there is not a change in attitude."

Bob McAlister, director of the Cardiovascular Risk Reduction Program for the State Department of Health, and Davenport spoke at a Black Student

Union-sponsored seminar in the Gallery Lounge on Feb. 10.

AIDS, however, is not the only threat to the African-American community. The pair also discussed heart disease and high blood pressure as major problems.

Davenport attributed lifestyle as one factor contributing to high blood pressure.

"We eat a lot of salt, and different kinds of foods that have sodium in them," she said, adding many African-Americans do little or no exercise.

The State Health Department is trying to spread the word about African-American health risks by attending as many seminars as possible.

Davenport said the only way people can avoid being at risk is to have the proper information and make suitable lifestyle changes.