

Collegian Notes

■ The American Red Cross will sponsor a blood drive from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. today at the State College Presbyterian Church.
 ■ The Latter-day Saint Student Association at Penn State will sponsor worship services at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday in Eisenhower Chapel. For more information call 238-3709.

Spread the word

If any group, organization, or individual has information they would like printed about an upcoming event, please deliver it to The Daily Collegian at least two days prior to the event by 4 p.m. Our address is listed below. Because of space constraints, publication is not guaranteed. Notes will not be taken over the phone.

How to contact us

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 ■ 6 p.m. to midnight Sunday.
 ■ 10 a.m. to midnight Monday through Thursday.
 ■ 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday.

Office hours are in effect while classes are in session during Fall Semester, Spring Semester and Summer Session.

On the World Wide Web:
 The Digital Collegian, an expanded, on-line version of the Collegian, can be accessed via the World Wide Web at <http://www.collegian.psu.edu>

Corrections

If you have a news-related correction or complaint, please contact Managing Editor Amy Brosey or Editor in Chief Rachel Hogan at 865-1828.

Police Log

■ **Simple Assault:** Two 13-year-old boys were involved in a physical altercation Wednesday in the Findlay Commons game room over a video game, University Police Services said.
 One boy, who was attending a wrestling camp, allegedly picked up and threw down the other boy, who was attending a softball camp.
 The other boy was treated for back injuries and released from

Centre Community Hospital, police said.

■ **Theft:** Kyle Foss reported Wednesday someone entered his vehicle early that morning while parked near his residence on the 200 block of Fry Drive and removed a cassette deck and equalizer, the State College Police Department said.
 The estimated value of the items is \$590.

Man executed despite pleas from Catholics

By **BILL BASKERVILL**
 Associated Press Writer

RICHMOND, Va. — Hours after getting married, a death row inmate whose cause was championed by the pope, Mother Teresa and the Italian government was executed Wednesday for a 1985 rape and murder he said he didn't commit.

Joseph Roger O'Dell III, 54, died by injection at 9:16 p.m. after the Supreme Court rejected his last-minute appeal.

Strapped to the gurney, O'Dell said it "was the happiest day of my life because I got married to my wife." He pledged to love his new bride, Lori Urs, "throughout eternity."

Earlier in the day, Gov. George Allen rejected a plea for clemency, and a federal appeals court on Tuesday refused to order newer, more sophisticated DNA tests of semen taken from the victim. O'Dell's lawyers had argued that the tests could prove him innocent in the slaying of Helen Scharter.

In his final statement, O'Dell said he was innocent and asked the governor to preserve evidence for investigators.

"Eddie, I did not kill your mother," O'Dell said to Ms. Scharter's son, who was believed to be witnessing the execution.

Outside the prison, about a dozen opponents of capital punish-

ment staged a candlelight vigil in a light rain as the execution hour approached.

O'Dell had argued that he should have been allowed to tell the jurors at his sentencing in 1986 that if they did not give him the death penalty, he would have to spend the rest of his life in prison.

The case has gotten extraordinary attention in Italy, where opposition to capital punishment runs high and where Ms. Urs, the Boston University law student O'Dell married Wednesday in a cellblock next to the death chamber, has worked the media.

In Rome, a long imposing silence — broken only by a man screaming, "Murder!" — followed the announcement of O'Dell's execution in a public square where hundreds of Italians demonstrated against capital punishment.

About eight hours earlier, O'Dell and Ms. Urs exchanged vows through the bars of his cell as a death row chaplain officiated. Sister Helen Prejean, author of "Dead Man Walking," and prison guards served as official witnesses. For security reasons, the newlyweds were not permitted to touch.

The governor said his decision on clemency would not be influenced by pressure from Mother Teresa, Pope John Paul II and the Italian government.

New Mexican woman faked alleged attack

By **MARTHA MENDOZA**
 Associated Press Writer

PORTALES, N.M. — At first, Miranda Prather told police two men wearing masks grabbed her in her house and wrapped a rope around her neck.

Then she said she was attacked by an acquaintance, a woman who looked a lot like herself.

Now police say Prather, 23, whose name was at the head of an anti-gay "hit list" distributed around town, faked the attack and was herself the source of fliers that urged people to "kill a queer."

"It really doesn't surprise me significantly. In many cases I begin to suspect the victim," police Capt. Lonnie Berry said Wednesday after Prather's arrest.

Prather, a graduate student at Eastern New Mexico University, reported that she was attacked on Monday, the same day police found 13 copies of an anti-gay flier in a laundromat. It listed eight people identified as homo-

sexuals — starting with Prather. The author threatened to "begin executing one queer a week."

A video surveillance camera recorded a woman placing the fliers in the laundromat. According to the affidavit for her arrest, the tape showed Prather.

Berry said a police composite sketch drawn from Prather's description of the female attacker looked "just like the victim."

Prather described a woman who was "the same size as her, the same build as her, looks like her, dresses like her. The only difference is the way she brushes her hair," Berry said.

A 3-inch cut was visible on Prather's cheek as she was led, handcuffed, into the county jail. Authorities earlier said her wounds, including a cut on one leg, were superficial.

"I know the main suspect. I got coerced into doing some things I shouldn't have done," she shouted to reporters.

Berry said Prather showed no sign of mental illness.

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