

Mormon group seeks to dispel misconceptions

By Kristin Stoller
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

In a world without caffeine, alcohol and polygamy, the Latter-Day Saints are on a mission to break the misconceptions about their religion.

Three members of the Latter-Day Saints Student Association spoke about their religion from 2 to 3 p.m. Wednesday in the Foster Auditorium at Paterno Library. The event was sponsored by the University Libraries Diversity Committee as part of its ongoing Religion and Culture Speaker Series.

Though the members of the panel provided background information on themselves, the main

purpose of the panel was to provide general information about Mormonism and abolish any misconceptions, panelist and LDSSA President Bobby Marion said.

"We've been in the news on Proposition 8 a lot," Marion (graduate-law) said. "I just want to make sure they understand our position."

Marion, along with fellow panelists Megan Huet (sophomore-integrative arts) and Jenny Smith (graduate-communications sciences and disorders), encouraged the audience to ask about controversial topics. Marion said that it was "practically impossible" to offend them.

The panel discussed a variety of issues, such as polygamy, genealogy,

"What it comes down to is the Lord told us to do it and then he told us to stop, so we did,"

Bobby Marion
president of the Latter-Day Saints Student Association

Proposition 8 and their own beliefs about Mormonism.

Contrary to popular belief, the Latter-Day Saints do not practice polygamy, Marion said, and have not for more than 100 years. If one does practice it, that person is excommunicated from the church.

"What it comes down to is the Lord told us to do it and then he told us to stop, so we did," Marion said.

The panelists also expressed

their strong beliefs in genealogy. The Latter-Day Saints believe in life before one is born and life after one dies, Marion said.

Though she has not been a Mormon even a year, Huet described her unusual beginnings with the church.

"I was raised Roman Catholic," she said. "About my senior year in high school, my parents found out that I was learning more about this church and they didn't like it. They tried to prevent me from

learning more. At first they weren't supportive, but they are becoming more and more. They still support me and continue to love me."

About 30 people attended the event, including Latter-Day Saints missionaries and members of the LDSSA.

"I came to support the panel," LDSSA member Jesse Mowry (graduate-wood products) said. "I know everyone on it really well. If I have any questions about my faith, I ask Bobby."

The panelists and LDSSA members were all in agreement that Penn State provided them with a welcoming and accepting community to practice their faith.

ESPN to recruit for jobs, internships in Heritage Hall

By Mike Hrick
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For the third year in a row, ESPN will partner with Penn State to recruit students for a variety of jobs and internships.

Students from all disciplines are invited to the event, said Bob Martin, College of Communications assistant dean for internships and career services.

The first hour of the presentation will consist of ESPN department panels including representatives from web, sales, creative services/design, production,

statistics and information and commercial operations. Martin said.

During the second hour, panelists will join students for "break out sessions," or meet-and-greets to network, he said.

ESPN receives more than 10,000 internship applications per year, Martin said.

However, he said the sports channel's history with the university should put students at ease.

"There's opportunity for students and we've had a great track record with internships. We're pleased to be partnered with

[ESPN] right now," Martin said.

Daphne Yeh, Class of 1995, will represent ESPN production management, he said.

Penn State freshman Alex Gilliland aspires to work as a sportscaster on radio or television covering college basketball.

He said he hopes to find out what ESPN is looking for in internship candidates.

"I just want to get a taste of what it's like to get a prime-time internship," Gilliland (freshman-broadcast journalism) said.

Gilliland said he looks forward to presentations from the different ESPN staffs to decide what type of

internship he might like to apply for in the future.

Penn State student Matt Trabold works for both ComRadio and PSNtv.

"I like how the clubs here really train you for both mediums," Trabold said (sophomore-broadcast journalism).

He said despite the slim chance he will gain an internship as an underclassman, he remains confident that his education as a student in the Penn State College of Communications will help his chances.

Martin said students interested in ESPN internship opportunities

should come prepared with resumes and specific goals in mind.

To e-mail reporter: mjh5507@psu.edu

If you go

What: ESPN recruiting for internships and jobs

Where: Paul Robeson Cultural Center's Heritage Hall

When: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Details: All students are invited; dress business casual

Pa. collar bomb defendant says she wasn't involved

By Joe Mandak
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ERIE, Pa. — A woman accused of helping to plan a bizarre bank robbery plot that ended with the death of a man forced to wear a bomb collar told jurors Wednesday that she couldn't have been involved because she was angry at one of the plotters and suspected he had stolen money from her.

Marjorie Diehl-Armstrong, 61, testified her house was robbed in May 2003 by a knife-wielding man who stole \$133,000 she kept in a bag.

She said she is convinced the robber knew where to look for the money thanks to information provided by Kenneth Barnes, a co-defendant and key witness against her in the bank case.

Diehl-Armstrong and her attorney, Douglas Sughrue, contend she knew Barnes and others who

planned the Aug. 28, 2003, robbery but wasn't a part of the plot herself.

To bolster that assertion, she testified that she was so angry with Barnes about the robbery at her home that there was no way she would have worked along side him to plot the collar-bomb heist three months later.

In expletive-filled testimony that U.S. District Judge Sean McLaughlin had to interrupt several times because she spoke too fast or went on wild tangents, Diehl-Armstrong said the knife-wielding robber she claimed attacked her about 3:45 a.m. that May morning "knew right were the money was. That's how I knew it was an inside job."

Nobody was ever charged in the robbery of her house, though Diehl-Armstrong filed a private 25-page complaint with police.

At the time, Diehl-Armstrong was living with her boyfriend, 45-

year-old James Roden. She's now serving seven to 20 years in state prison after pleading guilty but mentally ill to killing him a couple weeks before the collar bomb heist.

Prosecutors claim she killed Roden because he was supposed to be the getaway driver for the bank robbery and had threatened to go to the police, but she said she killed him in a fight they had because he wasn't doing enough to find out who robbed her.

Diehl-Armstrong said she sent the hard-drinking Roden to various taverns to find a drunken "spending money like a dronke sailor" thinking that might lead to clues about who robbed her.

Barnes, 57, has pleaded guilty and is serving 45 years for his role in the collar bomb heist. He has testified that Diehl-Armstrong wanted to use the proceeds from the bank robbery to pay him to kill her father.

Barnes said another man, William Rothstein, also was involved and built the bomb collar that killed pizza delivery driver Brian Wells.

Wells was allegedly a plotter, too, but nonetheless forced to wear the bomb collar against his will before it exploded, killing him, after he had been arrested and handcuffed by state police, prosecutors said.

Rothstein, who has since died of cancer, came to the authorities' attention when he called police in September 2003 to turn in Diehl-Armstrong for killing Roden. He said Diehl-Armstrong gave him \$75,000 to get rid of the body. Rothstein put the body in a freezer at his home, telling police that was Diehl-Armstrong's idea but that she eventually proposed chopping up his body and feeding it through and ice crusher to get rid of it.

She disputed that on the stand, acknowledging she asked

Rothstein to get Roden's body out of her house but that she didn't know what he did with it.

She said the ice crusher Rothstein mentioned was a small device used to make mixed drinks, not something that could have been used to grind up a body. She also said she was livid when she found out Roden's body was in the freezer.

"Who do you think you are, Jeffery Dahmer?" she said she told Rothstein.

Diehl-Armstrong's testimony was going slower than expected because her bipolar disorder causes her to speak incessantly, prompting the judge to admonish her and her attorney.

Meanwhile, the defendant turned on her attorney during a brief recess because she apparently believes he's not questioning her in enough detail.

Her testimony was expected to continue for much of the day.

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