The Mormon Heel

David Walker

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himself the Mormon Giant or otherwise invoking Mormonism. However when Don Leo appealed this directive to the president of the LDS Church himself, David O. McKay told him to ignore his “too zealous” colleagues in the CIS. For, not only was President McKay a wrestling fan himself, it turns out, but—perhaps more importantly—he perceived that even negative publicity could be spun to benefit the Church. And to that end Don Leo agreed to point interested and angry parties alike, following his matches, to local missionaries, for a more authorized and “correlated” depiction of Mormonism.

Thus it was that the LDS Church President sanctioned intentionally negative depictions of Mormonism on a national stage. Or rather it was one such occurrence. For, the history of Mormonism itself might well be written in (and as) a series of precisely such events—events wherein the church opts to sanction its own shadow side and incorporate its own criticism.

And in this case the venue of such ritual activity and (re)creation was the wrestling ring.

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