

Students roll up their sleeves

by Glee Jesteadt
Collegian Staff

"You've got a special gift up your sleeve.... The gift of life!"--- a pledge drive motto for Erie Community Blood Bank.

Sponsored by Tau Kappa Epsilon and the Behrend Sorority Interest Group, the community blood drive for this semester is being held in the old library.

The blood drive, which began yesterday at 10 a.m., is being held to assist the Community Blood Bank increase its blood supply.

There are many people that need blood everyday. A local hospital uses an average of 40 units of blood every 24 hours, but out of the people who are

eligible to give, only 5 percent do.

"I think that the people who don't give blood and can be being selfish," said Kelly Joseph, a member of BSI. "You don't realize how many lives you save by taking a half an hour out of your day."

When you donate blood you are asked a series of questions about your general health and medical history.

There are some health problems that can stop you from donating your blood; a cold, the flu, and major surgery are some reasons, along with heart disease and diabetes.

According to the Community Blood Bank, a donor cannot contract AIDS or any other infectious disease

from donating blood. Needles are never reused. A new sterile needle is used for each donor and is immediately discarded.

The entire donation process takes approximately 45 minutes.

Drawing a pint of blood takes five to seven minutes.

"I gave blood before," said Marsha McHaddon. "I belong to the Alpha Sigma Tau sorority and this is one of our philanthropy activities."

There may be a pinch when the needle is inserted into a vein near the elbow joint.

"It doesn't bother me, I have been doing this since I was 17," said Pamela Baccus. "It is like a habit."

The blood drive will end today at 4:00 pm.



Jen Calvin/Photo Coordinator

JUST RELAX: Making a fist, a Behrend student rolls up his sleeve and donates blood during the recent blood drive which ran yesterday and will still be going on today until 4:00pm.

Three tier students

by Bridgette Gesek
Collegian Staff

Sheila Tobias came to Behrend on a mission: in order for people to learn, they must feel welcome and that they belong.

The 1994 Spring Feminist Scholars Speaker Series brought Tobias, a noted scholar and author of seven books and more than 150 articles, to Reed Lecture Hall this past Thursday.

Tobias' lecture, "They're Not Dumb They're Different: Stalking the Second Tier," focused on the problem of women being lead away from the math and science fields.

Her lecture included many factors leading into why women and some men feel unwanted or unwelcome in the fields of mathematics and science.

She posed the argument of a plot to keep women out of these fields. This would require to imagine the world as a patriarchy defined as a male governed society designed to keep women in lower class positions.

Tobias believes that math and science are the "paths to power" and making women feel out of place in these environments is a way of holding women back.

"Females are not being attracted into science and math in the number needed to put them into the power positions," Tobias said.

"Any group of people who find themselves in a place where they do not belong or feel welcomed, it will result in them feeling anxiety," Tobias said.

Getting to the actual classroom where anxiety occurs, Tobias has divided students into different tiers or categories.

The first tier of students are the ones that are naturally motivated by the subject and remind the professor of themselves as they were once students.

Professors tend to focus their attention to this group and they often do not cater to the interests of the second tier of students.

This group is quite capable of handling the material but they have it "sold" to them.

In her research with graduate students that were in the fields of history, literature, and anthropology, "the second tier," she had them participate in a physics course.

She found that keeping up and understanding the material was not the problem but the packaging was.

The students commented that they did not find the material relevant in the sense that they could not connect it with their own lives. Take note that these second tier students are generally interested in many different ideas.

Second, they thought that the classroom was very tension producing even though they did outstandingly well.

Third, they found these courses intellectually bearing. This left Tobias to believe that people learn in different ways and in order to interest more women in these fields, we must change the approach to teaching this material.

"Too many students in the second tier are being lead to other fields because of the notion that they're not supposed to do well in this area and also because of the style of teaching," Tobias said. "They're not playing to their strengths."

Dr. Marilyn Livosky, assistant professor of psychology, agreed with many of Tobias' points.


"Anything to identify why women are not active in these fields is a relevant matter," Livosky said.

In the future these stereotypes will hopefully not hamper women in their decision of picking a field in mathematics or science.

Tobias is a former associate provost of Wesleyan University and former associate at the Institute for the Study of Anxiety in Learning at the Washington School of Psychiatry, Washington, D.C.

Tobias is currently involved in evaluating numerous science foundations such as the National Science Foundation.

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