

XGI collects pints for life



From left, PSH students Salar Khawaja, behavioral science, Dina Valabh, biology, Doug Baldwin, environmental engineering, and Raba Rizvi, biology, wait to donate blood.

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XGI sponsored a visit from the Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank (CPBB) at Penn State Harrisburg on March 30 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

According to Chris Kramm, former XGI president, approximately 100 pints of blood were drawn, edging out last fall's 94 pints. The slight boost in amount of blood donated could be attributed to various factors, especially the increased number of available beds from four to six and also the addition of one more registration person (from two last fall to three).

The addition of beds and help allowed CPBB to draw more

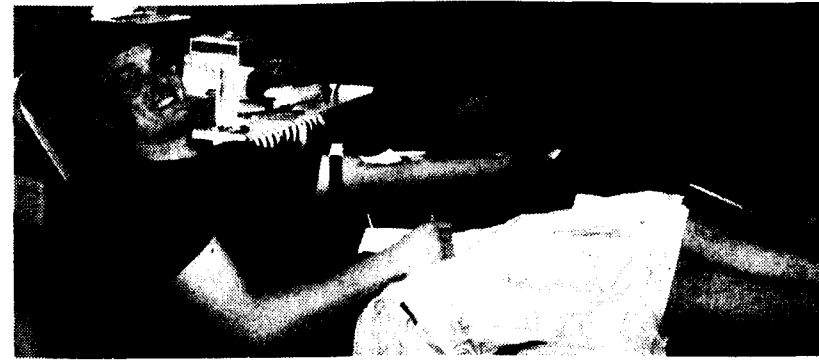
blood and reduced the time spent waiting in line for blood donors that was experienced in October's blood drive.

PSH student Andrew Dale, environmental engineering, said, "I always give blood when

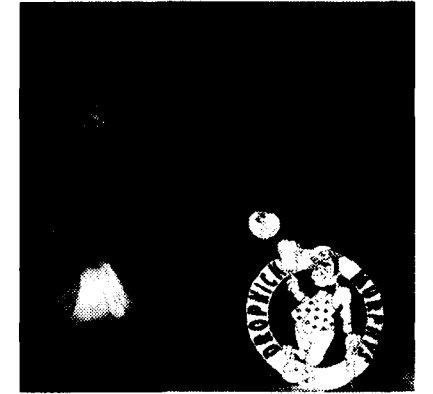
I have the opportunity. My brother's fiance's father had surgery to remove a tumor, and required 10 units of blood during the operation. This is a reason that I donate."

Anticipated results were to

have been 130-150 total pints of blood due to the added staff, which is much higher than the actual results. Donor turnout was much lower than expected, which resulted in the minimal increase in pints drawn.



Freshman Jack Ambler, civil engineering major, 'grins and bears it' as he is prepped to have his blood drawn.



John K. Blouch demonstrates with a strong arm and smile that you are a hero when you donate.

Photos by Kathryn Herr/Capital Times

Paws with a purpose: Seeing Eye dog at PSH

By Karen Finkenbinder
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For the next 16 months, students, staff, and faculty at Penn State Harrisburg will be seeing an adorable, yellow Labrador retriever puppy on campus. His name is Barney and he is in training to be a Seeing Eye dog. Part of Barney's training includes socialization and obedience training. His foster trainer is a Penn State doctoral student in the School of Public Affairs. Until Barney is 6 months old, PSH is allowed to pet and love Barney as they would any other dog. After that time, it is important that the handler is asked prior to petting. Also, do not be offended if the answer is no, for working dogs are not petted by outsiders while working.

A few guidelines need to be put in place for Barney and PSH to happily coexist. A working dog is

performing a job and cannot be distracted by people wanting to pet or play with him or her. Also, never offer a guide dog or dog in training food, as its handler or trainer should only feed these dogs. That way, the dog will not take food from strangers and will not interfere with a very strict diet consisting of a specialized dog food. Barney, unlike Ralph back at home, will never partake in "people food."

When Barney is "working," he will begin to wear a green "Seeing Eye" scarf. That is a clue to ignore him, even though he may want to say hello (and it is hard to ignore that cute little face). The scarf will eventually be replaced by a harness, which the visually impaired person will use to be guided by Barney.

Barney will finish his socialization and basic obedience by 18 months his time. Then he will go back to the Seeing Eye Institute for about four months of intense

training with a special trainer. At the end of this period, he will be matched up with a person who needs a Seeing Eye dog. They will have an intensive training program together so that they can bond and the new handler learns how to work with Barney. He will be almost two years old when he becomes a fully trained guide dog, and he will work until he is around 10 years at which point he will "retire."

PSH has had working service and guide dogs on campus in the past and will continue to have them in the future.

For more information about service dogs, contact Karen Finkenbinder at kxf175@psu.edu.



Photo by Karen Finkenbinder/Capital Times

Barney, a yellow Labrador retriever puppy, can be seen "working" on campus for the next 16 months. He is currently in training to become a Seeing Eye dog.

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