



Multicultural Week Center Spread

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Penn State Brandywine Hosts "Be the Match"

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On Friday December 4, 2009, Penn State Brandywine will host a "Be the Match" bone marrow registry drive, in honor of beloved English professor Dr. Arnold Markley. Dr. Markley recently suffered a setback in his fight against Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. As it does with 75% of patients, the disease returned after a period of remission.

The drive will start at 11AM and will wrap up at 3PM. It will be held in the Tomezsko Classroom Building Lounge. Volunteers are needed to help with things from registering potential donors to helping set up tables. Those wishing to process registrants will need to attend a brief training session that morning to walk them through the process. Food and beverage donations are also needed and anyone wishing to help can contact Gail Wray at gw1@psu.edu. Patricia Hillen, the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs, in addition to Gail Wray, is organizing the entire event. According to Professor Hillen, monetary donations are desperately needed. "It costs the lab about \$90.00 to screen potential donors," states Professor Hillen. Potential donors will not give marrow or blood the day of the drive. "Participants will be asked to take four swabs and rub the inside of their cheek" explains Professor Hillen. In addition, registrants must be able to provide contact information and a basic health history.

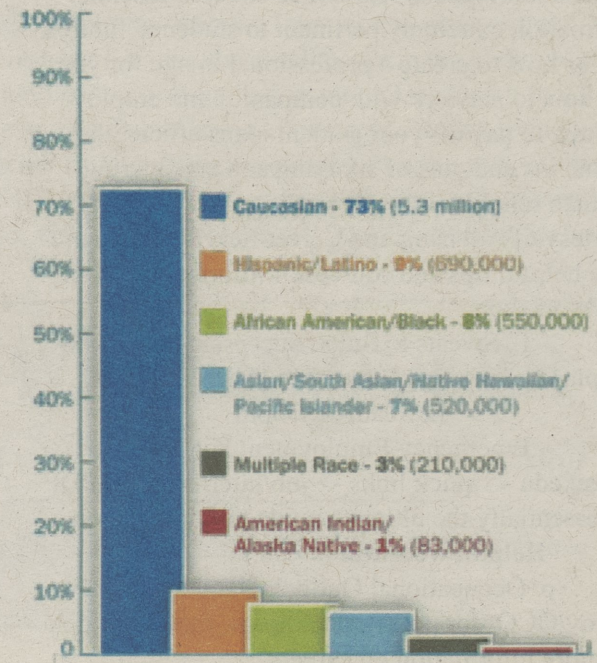
According to the Be the Match Founda-

tion, registry members diseases such as HIV, heart disease, many forms of cancer, diabetes, amongst others, with these conditions could be cured with a donation. If one meets the qualified health guidelines, the donor need only to be between the ages of 18 and 60, and be willing to donate to any patient in need. According to the foundation, registrants of diverse backgrounds are desperately needed. Tissues types are inherited; therefore patients are most likely to find a match in their own race or ethnicity. Registry members of these backgrounds are urgently needed: Black, or African American, American Indian, Asian, South Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, Hispanic or Latino and of multiple races.

If one should receive a call stating they are a possible match for a patient, that person will be asked to give another cheek swab or a blood sample so the foundation can confirm that person is the best possible match. If so, the candidate will then attend an information session, after which they will donate their marrow through a surgical procedure. Follow up support is always available. The donor does not pay for this, and is not reimbursed for donating. Recovery time is usually minimal, so missed work or school should not be significant. A commitment to donate is crucial, as delays for patients can be dangerous. For more information, visit www.BeTheMatch.org.

VITAL STATISTICS

Be The Match RegistrySM
(7 million total)



Numbers, percentages and totals may not coincide due to rounding.

Because tissue types are inherited, patients are most likely to match someone of their own race or ethnicity. Registry members of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds are especially needed, so every patient has the chance for a cure.

Photo courtesy of bw.psu.edu

Multicultural Week's The "N-Word" Forum

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Photo courtesy of http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_VDpqsK9LE60/RedDg8H4A2I/AAAAAAAAAy4/45fgXk-UNjU/s400/nword.bmp

You may have seen the e-mails in your inbox or the flyers around campus. They were brightly colored, used a fun font, and were blunt. There was no confusing what the talk would be about—it would be about the use of the words "nigga" and "nigger."

On Monday, November 16th, in honor of Multicultural Week, Matthew Shupp (Penn State Brandywine's Director of Student Affairs) and Ronika Money (Coordinator of Student Involvement) held what quickly became candidly called the "N-word forum." The closed discussion was held in the Lion's Den room

of the Commons Building on campus, and was limited to roughly thirty students, due to the sensitivity of the subject. Food was served and the atmosphere was generally very positive.

The forum began with the discussion of some ground rules which included the clarification that there were no experts present, that the environment was safe, all thoughts were valid, correct terminology would be used (including distinction between "-er" and "-a" endings), and that participation was expected and anticipated. After the ground rules had been stated, a seven-minute internet clip was played, in which a small boy advocated for the abolishment of the "n-word." In the clip, he discussed the status of the African American community and stated that "according to the definition, an n-word can't be a doctor, or a lawyer, yet many African Americans succeed in these fields." The general reaction to the child's speech was of awe, that a youngster could have such a strong and sensible opinion on an issue that many in the room likely had not even

considered.

The video clip served successfully as a jumping-off point for the discussion. Though only several dozen were admitted, a wide variety of ideas were put forth. One student remarked that "his argument is compelling, but idealistic" and that abolishment of the word "nigger" from social and historical discussion would serve to eliminate the effectiveness of such talks. In response, several students claimed that "nigga" has a new meaning, which does not propagate racism.

When one student disagreed with another, there was no side-stepping the issue. Intellectual expression was not in short supply. Several students expressed strong distaste at the use of the word in most—if not all—contexts while others admitted to using it constantly, even in the presence of family and small children, without regret. One student expressed not only a dislike of the word, but a sincere disappointment in those who used it, saying she was unable to look past the history connected to its use. The legalization of slavery and the violent opposition to the Civil Rights Movement out of which the words harsh connotations flourished were too severe to ignore, in her eyes.

Both Matt Shupp and Ronika Money stated that they felt the forum was a success and were very satisfied with the course and nature of the discussion. Additionally, there was a consensus that another forum may be necessary to fully discuss the scope and nature of the words "nigger" and "nigga." Shupp said that the allotted hour barely gave time "to scratch the surface" and Money remarked that next time a larger room would definitely be necessary, as indicated by the overwhelmingly positive response. Although the vents in the room hummed a little too loud at times, and the hour passed far too quickly, the forum proved to be an important event for two reasons. One; it showed willingness by Penn State to tackle difficult issues in a frank and purposeful manner—the only way in which any sensitive topic should be approached. Second, the students involved illustrated an incredible maturity and an impressive intellectual capability that should be a product of pride for all Penn State students.