

PSU, Temple try to fight shortage with blood drive

University needs 217 pints to reach goal in competition

By TANYA DRAHUS
Collegian Staff Writer

Two hundred seventeen — that's how many pints of blood the American Red Cross needs today to reach its goal in the Penn State-Temple Life Saver Cup.

In response to a critical blood shortage announced in early January, officials from Penn State and Temple organized the first blood drive competition between the schools, said Connie Schroeder, campus coordinator for the American Red Cross.

The blood drive began Jan. 21, and today is the last day for donations. Anyone interested can go to White Building between 12 and 5 to donate.

Schroeder said Penn State's pre-stated goal is 1,000 pints. But with one day of the drive left, only 783 pints have been donated. Commonwealth Campuses will hopefully bring another 200 pints, which will help bring the goal to 1,200 pints, she said.

Organized in response to the

shortage, Schroeder admits that the drive was thrown together quickly and is smaller than the Pitt/Penn State Blood Challenge that takes place in the fall. But she also said it takes time to get a campaign off the ground, and the Pitt/Penn State Blood Challenge started nine years ago with the same 1,000-pint goal.

Because this will become an annual competition, a silver trophy cup will be traded between the two schools. Primarily because Penn State is a much larger school, the winner will be determined by the percentage of the pre-stated goal that is reached.

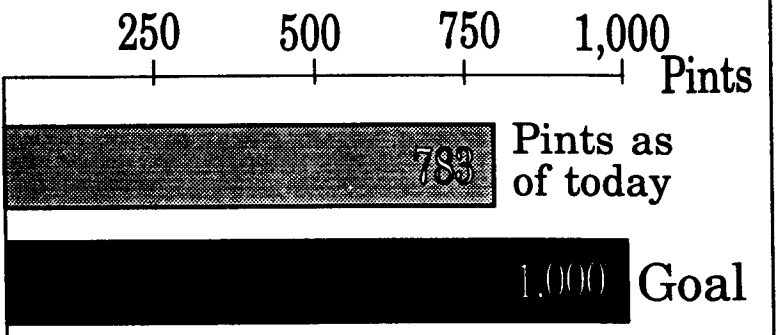
But Schroeder said the campaign goes beyond competition.

"It is much more about finding the blood for inventory," Schroeder said.

Giving blood is a safe and relatively easy process, Schroeder said. Donating takes less than 10 minutes and the whole process takes about an hour. A single

Donate Blood

The Red Cross needs 217 pints of blood today.



Collegian Graphic/David Petke



Collegian Photo/Kerrie Hagy

Late night

Fred Randolph sorts mail at 1 a.m. Saturday in the United States Postal Office, 237 S. Fraser St. Randolph has been working at the post office for 26 years.

donation can save up to three lives.

Tony Johnson (freshman-engineering), who has given blood five times, said taking the time to give blood doesn't bother him.

"It doesn't hurt me, and it helps other people," he said.

Many students don't know that Penn State is part of the Centre Community Chapter of the American Red Cross, which is part of the Johnstown region, encompassing central and western Pennsylvania and extending into surrounding states.

The region serves 81 hospitals that need 700 pints of blood a day under normal conditions. Penn State's goal for the drive will give

only a supply of about a day and a half.

Currently, there is no medical substitute for blood, which means that patients rely on a "gift from a stranger," Schroeder said. She added that there is a 96 percent chance that each person will need blood sometime in his or her life.

Christine Zachai (freshman-division of undergraduate studies) said, "I have a choice about giving blood. People who need it don't have a choice."

People who can't make the drive today can donate every Tuesday at the American Red Cross, 121 1/2 E. Beaver Ave., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The next blood drive on campus will begin March 26.

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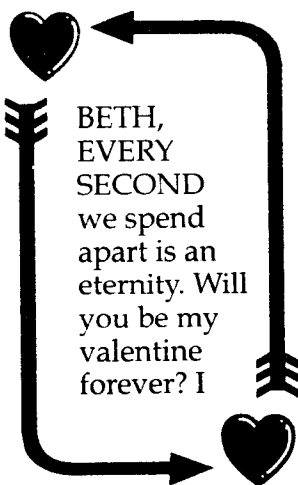
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SNOOKUMS, I HOPE you know how much you mean to me. Afterall, I did share my jelly beans. Love always, Muffin.

The **Collegian Office** is located at 123 S. Burrowes St. *Lovelines* will be on sale **TODAY ONLY** from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

the daily **Collegian**

