

NEWS BRIEF

Amendment to ban gay marriage fails in senate

WASHINGTON — The Senate scuttled a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage on Wednesday, handing a defeat to President Bush yet assuring the issue renewed prominence in the fall campaign for the White House and control of Congress.

Forty-eight senators voted to advance the measure — 12 short of the 60 needed — and 50 voted to block it. Defeat came at the hands of dozens of Democrats joined by six Republicans.

Bush issued a statement saying he was "deeply disappointed" with the vote, but casting it as a temporary setback. "Activist judges and local officials in some parts of the country are not letting up in their efforts to redefine marriage for the rest of America — and neither should defenders of traditional marriage flag in their efforts," he said.

Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle said there was no urgent need to amend the Constitution.

The amendment provided that marriage within the United States "shall consist only of a man and a woman." It also required that neither the U.S. Constitution nor any state constitution "shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman."

The Senate acted as House Republicans began advancing legislation that would bar federal courts from ordering states to recognize same-sex marriages sanctioned in other states. The measure cleared committee on a vote of 21-13 and is expected on the House floor next week.

GOP leaders also have discussed granting Bush his wish to have the entire House vote on the proposed constitutional amendment in the fall, even though the Senate's rejection effectively killed any chance it could be submitted to the states for ratification this year.

— David Espo
AP Special Correspondent

BLOOD DRIVE

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most of the students are gone, said American Red Cross spokeswoman Katie Miller Paul.

The Lane Memorial Blood Bank plans to hold two-day blood drives on campus every other month — instead of one-day sessions every month — from now until May to recruit donors from the younger generation.

Henderson said the switch from the previous schedule of one donation day per month was made because frequently students want to donate, but have class during the donation period. Also, some students are turned away because they have not eaten properly, which makes them ineligible to donate. This new system will allow students to prepare and come back the next day to give blood.

Henderson said previous campus blood drives have been quite successful, bringing in an average of 50 pints a visit.

"We've been doing very well this last couple of months," she said.

Henderson encourages those who

want to give blood but cannot come to today's drive to visit the Lane Memorial Blood Bank main center at 2211 Willamette St. Donors must be 17 years old or older and weigh more than 110 pounds. Donating takes 45 to 50 minutes.

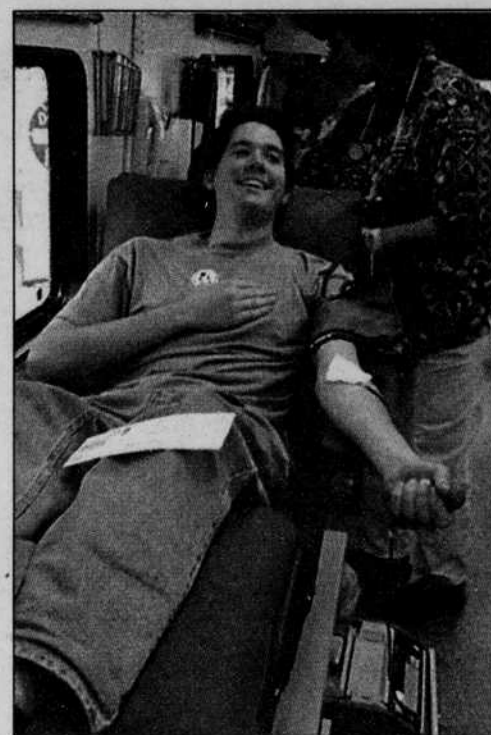
Students can either schedule an appointment or drop in when the blood bank is open. Hours of operation vary and can be found on the Lane Memorial Blood Bank Web site at www.lmbb.org/indexright.cfm.

Current blood needs, separated by type, can also be found on the Web site and are updated every morning. As of Wednesday, the most needed blood types were A and O positive.

Henderson encourages those students who give blood today to become lifetime donors, adding that an eligible person is allowed to donate every 56 days.

"There's always a need for blood," she said.

benbrown@dailyemerald.com



Lauren Wimer Freelance Photographer

With the assistance of medical technician Pamela Fulber (background), Brandon Kilgore donates blood in the mobile Bloodmobile outside the EMU.

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