

Campus bleeds to save lives

Abby Neet

The Clackamas Print

The Red Cross hosted the biggest blood drive in history for Clackamas Community College, with a two-day time slot on Jan. 27 and 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Gregory Forum.

"This event is one of the most important ones we do," ASG activities senator Cassandra Richards.

ASG promotion officer Bailee Sanders said the reason for the two-day long event was the positive response to the last blood drive, which had 60 donors when the average blood drive is around 50. They wanted to open it up for students who only are at CCC on Monday, Wednesday or Friday, while also making it available for students only taking Tuesday and Thursday classes.

Sanders said the goal for registered donors was 104.

"Red Cross is great with being flexible," Sanders said, implying the willingness to accommodate walk-in donors.

Sanders believed a lot of people would be returning from last term.

The overall goal of the two-day event is 84 units according to Red Cross team supervisor Shannon McFadden. The goal for registration is higher than the number of units expected, to account for people who don't show up or are deferred in the health history booth. They came close to their goal with a total of 73 units donated.

Several people did not make

it through the health history booth. Some reasons included: travel to regions that increased health risks, medications or attempting to give blood too soon after previously donating.

There are many other reasons people could be deferred, but for the most part people know if they can give or not from reading the pre-donation reading packet while signing in.

Donate Life Northwest also had a volunteer, Charlotte Payne, at the event to encourage people to become organ donors, and create awareness about the importance of doing so. People can sign up to become organ donors at the blood drive on paper, at the Department of Motor Vehicles or online at donatelifenw.org. When signing up on the Web site people are able to specify certain body parts they want to donate.

Payne said that she "highly encourages people to become donors, it saves so many lives."

McFadden said the first day's drive went well. The goal was 42 units and the day ended with 41. Things were right on schedule, people showed up for their appointments on time and it was overall well organized.

"We have a good staff. Sometimes when people call in sick we get behind, but today we have all the staff needed," said McFadden.

The blood is tested and separated into three different components: red blood cells, platelets and plasma. One person's blood could be used to help three different people.

Everyone seemed to have positive things to say about

the experience. Most donors were repeat givers and did so because, "somebody has to," second-year student Jeff Weber said or because it, "saves lives," Taunya Stiglbauer said.

Kyle Ellis, another second-year student, expressed his feelings about giving blood on his T-shirt which said, "Give blood, you are full of it." He said he has given 16 or 17 times and has consistently had good experiences.

"There was a couple times where I got some dizziness, but everyone does," said Ellis.

Ellis also explained how important it is to take it easy during the day and make sure donors are staying hydrated by drinking lots of water and, as McFadden said, avoiding caffeinated beverages which make you dehydrated.

Ellis said the reason he is a blood donor is because he is unable to be in the military but still wants to contribute and make a difference. He believes giving blood is a good way to improve others' lives.

English Department chair Kate Gray recommends donating because it is, "just about the easiest community service you can do."

Gray is a repeat giver whose donation, "went so smoothly, and the Oreos were fresh," and seemed to enjoy her experience.

People enjoyed the supplied juice and snacks, all of which were pretty healthy and sat down and relaxed. Some talked to ASG volunteers who were there to make sure everyone was doing well and help if people needed anything.



Photos by Jessica Foster Clackamas

Above: Narci Carsel elevates her arm after donating blood on Jan. 28.

Left: A Red Cross worker prepares to insert the needle into Matt Brause's arm to extract his blood.



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

The headline in the Arts & Culture section of the Jan. 28, 2009 edition of *The Clackamas Print* grabbed my attention: "Sea pirate joins Clackamas." And when I read Sarah Cook's comment that, "Fiction is fine and sometimes entertaining, but pay attention to that stuff for too long, I feel like I'm wasting time that could be used learning new things," I was hooked. Argh. I'm curious if she considered how pirates entered popular culture: through news reports about Somalia? Possibly, but about "Treasure Island," "The Count of Monte Cristo," "The Pan" and "Pirates of Penzance?" Definitely. Maybe it's the type of fiction she's reading. If she likes sea stories, how about "Old Man and the Sea," "The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World" or "Billy Budd?" In these stories she can travel, experience international cultures and test her metal. What more can a pirate desire? Reading good fiction is never a waste of time.

-Kate Gray
Chair of English Department

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