

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR

ARCHIVE

Columbia Daily Spectator, Volume CXVII, Number 18, 11 February 1993 — BC sponsors blood drive in McIntosh
[ARTICLE+ILLUSTRATION]

BC sponsors blood drive in McIntosh

By Ronen M. Glimer

Contributing Writer

After a successful blood drive this past October, the Barnard Office of Disability Services, in conjunction with the Barnard Student Government Association (SGA) launched a two-day drive this past Tuesday and Wednesday in McIntosh Student Center.

“In our last drive, we came in at 100 percent. Because of the fall success, the student government suggested a February full drive and that’s what we’re doing, and it’s been a success,” said Susan Quinby of Barnard’s Office of Disability Services.

In the past, four blood drives have been held each year, full drives in October and April sponsored with Columbia Health Services for University Blood Weeks, and mini-

drives in July and February sponsored solely by Barnard.

SGA Officer of the Board Maria Ting, BC '93, who co-chaired the event, was responsible for recruiting students while Quinby focused on faculty and staff.

Ting and Quinby said they were trying to reach out to the Barnard community to get first-time donors to participate.

"One thing that makes our drive different is that we ask all interested members [of the Barnard community] to volunteer one hour of time as a donor or as a volunteer for those who have disabilities or medical problems and can't donate. That's what makes ours a community effort," Quinby said.

"I think that even for those afraid of giving blood, people need to recognize the importance of giving time," Ting said.

Blood collected during the drive will be distributed by the New York Blood Service to over 250 hospitals in New York City. Blood is in short supply in New York City and in the United States, forcing hospitals nationwide to import as much as 40 percent of their blood supply from Europe, according to Quinby.

Quinby said hospitals are particularly in need of more African American blood donors.

“We need more African American donors because there are certain factors that are only present in African American blood,” Quinby said.

Cathy Fleary, a nurse from the New York Blood Center, who supervised the drive, said all equipment used was sterile and disposable. She also emphasized that the HIV virus is not transmitted by donating blood.

“We’re not giving them anything. We’re taking from what they have,” she said.

“There are no risks associated with giving blood. There’s no risk of getting the HIV infection. That’s just a myth,” said Polly Wheat of Barnard Health Services.



SPECTATOR/LILIAN LEE

A student donated blood yesterday at a two-day blood drive held in McIntosh Student Center for the New York City Blood Center.