



Friday, October 12, 2001

OU's fall blood drive runs Oct. 15-17

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

Blood donations have increased dramatically since last month's terrorist attacks on the United States, but the **American Red Cross** says more blood is still needed. The Oakland University community can do its part by giving blood at the annual Fall Blood Drive, which runs Monday, Oct. 15, through Wednesday, Oct. 17, from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. in the Oakland Center Gold Rooms.

"In the aftermath of our recent national tragedy, it is more important than ever for the Oakland University community to support this year's blood drive. The need for blood was critical prior to the events of September 11, and becomes even more critical now," OU President Gary Russi said in a letter to the OU community.

"The demand for blood is always high," said Amy Neal, public relations specialist for the American Red Cross' southeastern Michigan chapter. "In the past, we've had to import about 20 percent of our daily blood supply from other Red Cross regions like Ohio and Illinois. We have an excess now and will be freezing a few thousand units of blood for the national reserve. But it's like money in the bank - when you withdraw every day you have to keep putting something back."

Other factors affecting the nation's blood supply, and New York City in particular, are the restrictions placed on blood received from Europe and those who have visited Europe, due to "mad cow" disease, Neal said. Effective Oct. 15, people who have lived in the United Kingdom for a cumulative total of three months since 1980, or those who have lived in any European country or countries for a cumulative total of six months since 1980, or anyone who has received a blood transfusion in the U.K. since 1980 may not donate blood to the Red Cross.

"This is another reason why we need all the donors we can get," Neal said. "Oakland University is wonderful for the Red Cross and very dedicated. We know how important OU is to the southeast Michigan region and can always depend on them. With recent events, the turnout will be more impressive than usual. But people should know that every unit donated will be used. Blood is a hot commodity. We need it every day."

Donors at OU's drive will receive one ticket to the **Trilogy of Terror** Halloween attractions in Rochester Hills. To make an appointment, visit the **American Red Cross** Web site (access code: OUBLOOD) or contact the **Center for Student Activities**, 49 Oakland Center, (248) 370-2400, csa@oakland.edu. Walk-ins also are welcome.

SUMMARY

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