

Letters to the Editor

Beards or Not, Blood is Blood

ON MAY 7 while the Red Cross Bloodmobile was on campus at VPI a Times reporter approached Red Cross staff members with the question: "Have any hippies given blood?" Apparently this was his only interest in the operation, which netted 374 pints of blood, one of the finest on-campus bloodmobile visits the Appalachian Red Cross Blood Center has had in its 19-year history.

Yes, there were several 'hippies' who gave blood, if those who choose to wear long hair, beards and beads are to be called 'hippies.' But they by no means accounted for all 374 pints.

There were also clean-shaven men and men with short hair; men with long sideburns, men with short; men in ties, men without; men in civilian clothes, men in the uniform of the Corps of Cadets; girls in mini-skirts, in Indian blouses, in slacks; housewives and businessmen from town; faculty members, both sexes. Gals from the Air Force-sponsored Angel Flight acted as donor escorts, one of their many community projects.

IN SHORT, those 374 pints of blood came from people, regardless of their political persuasion, their religion, their race, their taste in clothing, their

reactions to Vietnam, and we think this is the important point: not how many "hippies" contributed, but how many people did. And many of them waited two hours to do so before they went back to the rock rally, to class, to drill, to the ball game, or whatever. And there were about 100 more who wanted to donate but could not be taken.

If they could, the ill and injured whose lives will be saved by those 374 pints of blood would thank Tom Louthan and the men of Zeta Beta Chapter of Alpha Phi Omega, and all the others who assisted, for encouraging that many people to help other people.

NURSING STAFF
Red Cross Bloodmobile

Editor's Note: In its news stories, The Times did not attempt to characterize the Blacksburg blood donors either as "hippies" or non-hippies. In fact, the 374 were identified only as "students." Because student demonstrators were being urged to give blood as a means of registering dissent, the reporter did ask if any donors had long hair. He did not use the word "hippies."

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