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Wadley versus Red Cross

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(Continued from Page 1.)

"We would not accept those credits because all those credits mean is money," Swanton said. "The students do not owe us any money at all. Wadley wanted us to accept them, and we aren't in that end of the business."

"We didn't want the money. We wanted the blood." She said that you can't transfuse money or paper credits.

Swanton said that the Red Cross presented AABB demands to send blood to commercial blood banks.

"We were designated so many times to send blood there (a commercial bank in Chicago.) This commercial bank was taking our students' blood and selling it for goodness knows, as much as they wanted to," she said.

would take donors away from the Wadley drive because it was scheduled earlier in the semester than Wadley's drive and donors can only give once every 56 days.

Student Government had also been granted the exclusive right to sponsor blood drives on campus by the Concessions Committee.

Rick Allen, president of the Student Engineers Council, questioned the committee's power to grant exclusive rights to the Student Government.

Bea Uvacek, chapter chairman for the Brazos County Red Cross said she thought McClure's rationale was ridiculous. She said the quota for their drive was only 200 units, and she believed a university the size of Texas A&M could handle both drives.

SWANTON DISAGREED with the Senate committee's reasons for choosing Wadley. She said that none of Wadley's blood is used locally. Spokesmen for St. Joseph's and Bryan Hospitals said that all of their blood is supplied by the Red Cross.

Uvacek said that Wadley often does not honor its reimbursement obligations, and is extremely delinquent in honoring the obligations it does fulfill.

Wadley records show that 2,440 A&M credits were released to cover Aggies' blood needs during 1976. Charity patients accounted for 1,704 of these credits. Processing fees eligible for repayment totaled \$1,830 — 61 units used at \$30 each.

Alpha Phi Omega's records show that \$1,470 has been reimbursed since Sept. 1, 1976. Those records do not go back earlier than this. Uvacek claimed that many people do not receive the money they are entitled to after requesting it, and many more people do not know they are eligible for reimbursement.

Donna Ferrebee's premature baby required four units of blood in July and August 1976. The Bryan resident didn't receive her \$84 reimbursement until December; about four months after she contacted Student Government.

Susan Price, former executive director of Student Government, said it usually takes six weeks to process the reimbursements.

Uvacek also said that Wadley often does not fulfill its replacement promises with the local hospitals.

Hill said, "Every time I talk to the APO and Student Government, they say we are taking care of everything they know about. Students are having problems because they

haven't contacted Student Government."

Hank Baker of Alpha Phi Omega agrees that students do not know enough about their blood program and how to apply for reimbursements.

"We're going to put on a big campaign to straighten this out next fall," he said. He said the people who donate know the procedure, but other students don't know anything about the blood program.

Despite the Senate committee's report, there is no difference in the types of blood components and derivatives Wadley and Red Cross produce. Both produce cryoprecipitates, for the treatment of hemophilia; platelets, for leukemia patients; Serum Albumin, to combat shock; Gamma Globulin, for prevention of measles and infectious hepatitis; and others.

Swanton said the right to distribute credits to charity patients through the credit system is questionable because someone pays for the blood product anyway, whether it is Medicaid, Medicare or private assistance. She said that any non-profit organization that could afford to give blood away wasn't non-profit.

Hill said that to be tax-exempt under its non-profit state charter, Wadley must have charity programs. He said that Texas A&M students have brought charity patients to Wadley's attention and "have been very helpful."

A Red Cross spokesman claimed the AABB is so ineffective that some hospitals are accepting direct shipments of blood from the Red Cross. Methodist Hospital in Houston is one of these. Though spokesmen for the hospital deny receiving blood from the Red Cross, blood replacement records show that at least 114 units of blood were shipped to Methodist in 1975-76.

These units fulfilled blood requirements of University President Jack K. Williams, A&M student Terry Miller, and Dr. William M. Scott, employee of the TTI department at A&M.

Dr. Williams used 28 units of blood while undergoing heart surgery at the hospital. Red Cross records show that it replaced 25 of those units and Wadley replaced the remaining three. Dianne McClure, director of Donor Services at Wadley, claims that Wadley replaced the entire 28 units. Rosalyn Guess, in the Methodist's blood donor department, could not locate the hospital's records of Williams'

blood needs. Williams was unavailable for comment.

Guess denied that Methodist received blood shipments from Red Cross.

Pressure had been put on hospitals that received Red Cross blood in violation of the AABB's regulations, a Red Cross spokesman said. One hospital in particular was told they would have to get out of the AABB if they ever accepted another unit of Red Cross blood.

A new national agreement between the AABB and the National Red Cross is being negotiated this week in Washington, D.C. Swanton said she doesn't know exactly what the new agreement will be, but "it won't be like the old one."

"We know that our Red Cross national office has said, under dire threats from all 57 administrators and chapter chairmen, that we will never get into a system again where we ship credits or where there's any indebtedness built up," she said.

Robert Harvey, newly-elected Student Body President, said there's a chance both groups will have blood drives on campus next year. A committee to research that possibility will form in September.

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THE CONTROVERSY on campus arose because Student Government chose to remain with Wadley for their 1976-77 and 1977-78 blood drives. A Student Senate committee had been formed to investigate the two programs.

The committee recommended that Student Government remain with Wadley because:

- Wadley is far from local in scope. Statistics show that two per cent of Texas A&M's donation is used locally, and 98 per cent is used in other areas of Texas and other states.

- Wadley repays the processing fee if the blood is used in Brazos County, but Red Cross does not. Wadley replaces the units on a two-one basis. Red Cross replaces units on a one-for-one basis.

- Wadley can ship parts of blood. It is possible to treat four patients with one pint of blood by using derivatives to help patients with leukemia, hemophilia and cancer. In fact, both Wadley and Red Cross produce the same blood components and derivatives.

- Texas A&M donations can be located. In the past Student Government gave Wadley permission to distribute the credits to charity patients. Red Cross cannot do this. The committee considered this an infringement on students' rights.

They added that, as residents of Brazos County, students were protected automatically under the Red Cross plan. By allowing Wadley to handle the blood drive students are also protected under Wadley's program.

The Red Cross earlier had applied to have a campus blood drive in cooperation with the Student Engineers Council. The request was denied by the Concessions Committee, the University committee that reviews requests to solicit or sell on campus.

The request was denied on a recommendation by Fred McClure, then Student Body President. McClure said the Red Cross drive

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