

# Rumors

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fee, the lowest processing fee in the state, and does not charge a replacement fee.

Hill said Wadley must charge more because it must pay its own expenses, while the Red Cross receives some funding from the United Way.

Funding is not the only difference between the two organizations.

A spokesman with the American Association of Blood Banks, which both Wadley and the American Red Cross belong to, said there are two different philosophies of blood donations.

Wadley uses the "individual concept" while the Red Cross uses the "community concept."

The Association spokesman said the concept of individual responsibility means . . . the only way we can provide the blood is if individual people donate — there isn't any substitute."

Blood banks using this concept recruit individuals to donate and provide credits for this blood.

The spokesman said this is a good way to get people to donate blood.

Because Wadley uses this concept, it gives credits to individuals and groups who donate to Wadley.

Blood donated to Wadley on campus is credited to the Aggie Blood Club. This is a paper transaction. The actual blood is airlifted by AirLifeLine to the Wadley Blood Center in Dallas for use at hospitals supplied by Wadley.

AirLifeLine is a non-profit organization of pilots, who volunteer

*"The concept of individual responsibility means . . . the only way we can provide the blood is if individual people donate — there isn't any substitute."*

— American Association of Blood Banks spokesman

their time and planes at no charge, to transport blood, medical supplies, patients and organs. The flights are necessary because the blood collected at the A&M blood drive must be transported to the Wadley Blood Center in Dallas for processing within six hours.

The Aggie Blood Club provides replacement coverage to A&M students, former students, faculty, staff and families of anyone associated with A&M. The credits earned during a blood drive stay in the account for one year. The credits are used to cancel some of the cost hospitals charge for replacing the blood used.

Hill said John Stone, a former A&M student who has had three liver transplants, has used 704 units of whole blood and blood components. Because Stone is a former student, the Aggie Blood Club donated the necessary credits to cover the replacement cost, she said. This saved Stone about \$7,000, Hill said.

The Association spokesman said the "community responsibility theory," used by the Red Cross, is a theory that individuals should donate not to build up "credits" but so the blood will be available for those in need.

Blood banks using this concept recruit individuals to donate but do

not provide credits for this blood; instead, they provide the blood to everyone in their service areas at the same cost. Most banks using this concept do not charge a replacement fee.

The Red Cross operates with this concept and does not charge a replacement fee.

Falkenburg said Brazos County always has used more Red Cross-provided blood than it supplied through donations until the Red Cross was allowed on campus last year.

Because the Red Cross is now able to recruit donors on campus several times each year, Brazos County now donates more blood to the Red Cross than it uses, Falkenburg said.

Both local hospitals use the Red Cross to supply their blood needs, and blood collected by the Red Cross on campus will be used in local hospitals, Falkenburg said. Any blood donations above the local needs will be sent to areas not supplying as much blood as they use, she said.

Kathryn Lescher, director of the blood laboratory at Humana Hospital in College Station, said she would rather see students donate to the Red Cross than Wadley because "we never see that blood back in this town again, period."

However, Wadley's Hall said this does not have to be the case. Hall provided *The Battalion* with a letter to Dr. Carolyn Adair, A&M's director of Student Activities, stating that if any A&M student or faculty member uses blood, Wadley "will replace the blood used with a shipment of blood to the hospital."

Hill also said Wadley will ship blood to local hospitals.

During a Red Cross-announced shortage of O-positive blood in the local area, Wadley offered to ship O-positive blood to area hospitals, Hill said.

She said the Red Cross turned down the offer and told Wadley there was no shortage.

Falkenburg, of the Red Cross, said she was not aware of any such offer and would be "shocked if it were true."

Stitler said she had not heard of this offer and would be "shocked and surprised if it were true."

Both sides agree it is important for individuals to give blood, because giving blood can save a life.

The Red Cross and Wadley will meet together to work out their differences on Mar. 28 and also will meet with Student Government officials at that time.

Wadley's blood drive will continue until Friday and the Red Cross will have a campus blood drive in April. Individuals who give at the Wadley blood drive will be able to donate again to the Red Cross, because the time period needed for the body to recover between blood donations will have elapsed.

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# English

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and they generally only test people they feel have borderline language scores, or they have odd testing scores, or no testing scores or some strange reason.

"Then we screen those people with tests we've made within the last year or so."

Briggs estimates that only one-third of Michigan's incoming foreign graduate students are retested.

The University of Texas at Austin tests even fewer students. Margaret Kidd, director of international studies at UT, says the vast majority of incoming international students are not retested; their TOEFL scores are taken at face value.

But she says the students' English skills are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

"When a student arrives on the campus, he receives an individual evaluation, and that consists of an oral interview, an examination of the kind of English training he has had, and could possibly also include a writing sample," Kidd says. "But they are not retested in most cases."

Kidd says only one or two students per semester are sent into an intensive English program like A&M's ELI. She says, however, that there are classes set up within the regular curriculum that students can take to improve their English skills.

"It's more of an evaluation to use for advising students as to which English, speech and/or communication classes they ought to go into their first semester," Kidd says. "Very seldom are they advised to go into the

intensive English program. Only if . . . it appears they're going to have a great deal of difficulty with English do they go into the intensive English program."

The Council of Principal Investigators, an organization of research faculty at A&M that is not recognized by the University, has been investigating A&M's English proficiency system for more than a year. In its January newsletter, the CPI calls A&M's system "disturbing," especially when it is compared to UT's English proficiency system.

"The CPI opposes the current system and urges a careful study of the system employed at UT, which seems much more realistic given the

present and future reliance of our graduate research programs on foreign students," the newsletter read.

But Dr. Duwayne Anderson, associate provost for research and graduate studies at A&M, says that just because UT's system has met with general success does not mean it would work at A&M.

"My attitude and view of this is that there are really many, many ways that an institution could establish procedures to deal with the needs of foreign graduate students for assistance in improving their English," Anderson says. "There is no one single best way, in my opinion. I think they must be tailored to the needs of each institution."



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# ELI

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factor in a foreign student's admission. Seventy-six percent of the students responding to the survey said they didn't realize what score was required to pass the ELPE.

ELI Coordinator Deanna Wormuth questioned the validity of the graduate students' survey.

"Their sample was rather small, and their questions were somewhat skewed to come up with a certain kind of answer," Wormuth said.

But Colegrove said the graduate students worked with A&M's Measurement and Research Services to develop the questionnaire in as objective a manner as possible.

Colegrove and Wormuth both say the advertising problem is being re-examined and that the Office of Admissions sends a concise estimate of expenses to foreign graduate students including information on the ELI.

Before a foreign student is admitted to the University, he or she is sent a flier from the Office of Admissions that estimates ELI costs at \$3,000 for one semester of full-time enrollment. This estimate includes housing costs.

Foreign students also receive a table that estimates their probability of having to do ELI coursework based on their scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language. But that information comes only after the student has been accepted to the University.

The table shows that a student who scores in the 89th percentile on the TOEFL has at least a 75 percent

*"That (price list of ELI courses) is the first thing a student in China gets, and I think that's a real negative factor in terms of us getting good graduate students," he says.*

— Dr. Ry Young, professor of biochemistry

chance of required enrollment in one or two courses at the ELI.

Dr. Ry Young, a tenured professor of biochemistry who is opposed to the ELI system, says this is not the kind of advertisement the University needs.

"That (price list of ELI courses) is the first thing a student in China gets, and I think that's a real negative factor in terms of us getting good graduate students," he says.

"They'll get that, and my feeling is a lot of students will just throw our application away."

Young says that other universities don't have such costly systems and that top international graduate students are scared away by the cost of A&M's program. He says A&M is becoming more dependent on foreign graduate students as the pool of top American graduate students diminishes.

Colegrove says many foreign students responding to the survey weren't aware of A&M's system before admission. Of those, half said they wouldn't have come here if they had known about the ELPE and the ELI, Colegrove said.

Jae Lee is a case in point. He was

highly recruited by A&M and was the first student in the new cell and molecular biology program. Lee spent his first two years in the United States doing research at the University of Alabama-Birmingham while working toward a Ph.D.

When his major professor moved to Oxford in England, Lee looked into A&M's program. He had made a perfect score on the quantitative section of the GRE, and scored in the 80th percentile on the verbal section. He already had published three papers in leading scientific journals. So when he discovered that A&M would require him to take the ELPE, he refused.

After a two-month battle, two professors in the biochemistry department were able to get the ELPE requirement waived for Lee. But he considers himself extremely lucky and says he is the only foreign student he knows who has gotten around the requirement.

Colegrove also addressed this problem at a recent Faculty Senate meeting.

"It is true that this University may be scaring away students from other countries because they have to go through the ELI," he said. "But (at) this University, in its desire to train

scientists and train students, are we missing something by asking these students to be able to be proficient in the English language?"

"I cannot answer that question. My gut reaction is, this University does not require foreign languages from me. But I somehow think that we'd be missing the boat if we didn't require a certain level of proficiency for students who came in."

Wormuth says that all schools have requirements for admission, and the ELPE just happens to be one of A&M's requirements right now. Students should not be scared off by the proficiency requirements if they read the admission information carefully, she says.

"I would think that in many cases a student who is so intimidated by having to have adequate language proficiency as a concern may not be evaluating the information carefully enough," Wormuth says. "Because if a student reads very carefully what information is given to him or her, he will discover that very few (foreign students) take that much with us. They take one or two courses."

But nevertheless, Gysung Jeong, a Ph.D. student in aerospace engineering and president of the Korean Student Association, confirmed Professor Young's fear that A&M's requirements are scaring off top foreign graduate students.

Jeong said that A&M's English language proficiency program is "notorious" in Korea and Taiwan, and that many of the top foreign students there are afraid to come here.

Thursday's story discusses complaints about A&M's English Language Proficiency exams.

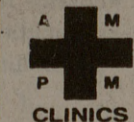
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