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# Bloody lies

## Sorority apologizes after members were urged to lie about health in blood drive

By Scott Charton  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, Mo. — The national office of a sorority whose members were urged to lie about their health to boost turnout in a competitive campus blood drive apologized Tuesday.

In a statement from its national office in Colorado, Gamma Phi Beta said it "regrets the e-mail sent regarding mandatory participation in a campus-wide blood drive and apologizes to the community, the Red Cross and campus."

The American Red Cross tells those who are sick or have recently received tattoos or piercings not to donate blood, both to protect the health of donors and to lessen the risk of transmitting diseases to recipients.

Sorority members at the University of Missouri-Columbia were urged by a fellow member to lie about their health.

In an e-mail sent last Tuesday to about 170 members of Gamma Phi Beta, sophomore Christie Key, the chapter's blood donation coordinator, wrote: "I don't care if you got a tattoo last week LIE. I don't care if you

have a cold. Suck it up. We all do. LIE. Recent piercings? LIE."

She added: "Even if you're going to use the Do Not Use My Blood sticker, GIVE ANYWAY." Donors who have second thoughts at a donation site can discreetly attach a sticker to a health questionnaire indicating their blood shouldn't be used.

Key declined to comment Monday and referred questions to Gamma Phi Beta's chapter president, who did not immediately return a call.

About 3,300 units of blood were collected at the Missouri event. The Red Cross reassured the public that its blood supplies are safe, saying all donations are routinely tested for safety.

Gamma Phi Beta's statement said the message was sent "without the consent or approval of any chapter officer."

Cathy Scroggs, a campus vice chancellor, said the university was investigating.

"I would characterize this time as one student that is overzealous," Scroggs said. "But we have heard that people have felt pressured to donate blood in the past, and this certainly has caused us to want to take a look at the whole process."

**"I don't care if you got a tattoo last week. LIE. I don't care if you have a cold. Suck it up. We all do. LIE. Recent piercings? LIE. Even if you are going to use the Do Not Use My Blood sticker, GIVE ANYWAY."**

— Christie Key  
University of Missouri Gamma Phi Beta blood drive coordinator

### PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

#### CBS wins 'Jefferson Muzzle' award

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — CBS Television, which passed on the miniseries "The Reagans" amid conservative pressure, and the Martha Stewart trial judge are among this year's winners of the dubious Jefferson Muzzle awards for suppression of free speech.

A federal judge and the Secret Service also earned "muzzles" awarded Tuesday.

CBS was cited "for acts of self-censorship demonstrating both hypocrisy and an unwillingness to stand up to public and political pressure," the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression said in a statement.

CBS also refused to air a 30-second commercial from Moveon.org, a group critical of the Bush administration, during the Super Bowl, while it allowed erectile dysfunction commercials and the halftime show featuring Janet Jackson's bared breast, it said.

Other muzzles recipients announced in the 13th annual edition of the awards include Baseball Hall of Fame President Dale Petroskey, who canceled a 15th anniversary showing of "Bull Durham" because of opposition to the Iraq war by its

stars, Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins.

"Although the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, and more recently the war in Iraq have created new pressures on free speech, an examination of this year's and previous Jefferson Muzzle winners reveals that threats to free expression come from all over the political spectrum," said Robert M. O'Neil, director of the center.

The autonomous, not-for-profit center is associated with the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Its trustees include Judith G. Clabes, president of the Scripps Howard Foundation, columnist James J. Kilpatrick, and Evan Thomas, assistant managing editor of Newsweek.

Each year, the muzzle awards are handed out on the birthday of Thomas Jefferson. Recipients receive a T-shirt that depicts the nation's third president and First Amendment advocate with a muzzle.

U.S. District Judge Miriam G. Cedarbaum received a muzzle for barring reporters from jury selection in the Martha Stewart trial. An appeals court later said she erred, but by that time jury selection had been completed.

The Secret Service was cited for investigating whether Pulitzer Prize-winning car-

toonist Michael Ramirez, the Los Angeles Times cartoonist, was charged with "threatening the life" of President Bush in a cartoon depicting a man pointing a gun at Bush.

#### John McCain's wife stable after stroke

PHOENIX (AP) — John McCain, wife of Sen. McCain, suffered a stroke and was hospitalized in stable condition Tuesday.

"According to her physician, the prognosis is cautiously excellent," McCain said in a statement Tuesday.

Cindy McCain, 49, had a small bleed in her brain and her speech is mildly affected, said Robert Spetzler, director of the Barrow Neurological Institute at St. Joseph's Hospital.

He said the bleeding was caused by a rupture of a small blood vessel, possibly from a spike of high blood pressure.

McCain said he expected his wife to be released from hospital within a few days pending test results.

The 67-year-old Arizona Republican was in New York City on a book tour when his wife had the stroke, according to his Washington office.

He was with her at the hospital Tuesday morning.

The McCains have four children, ages 12 to 19.

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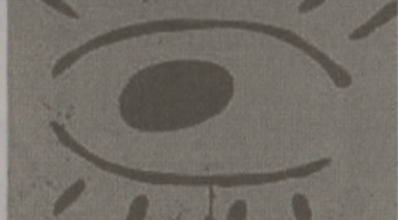


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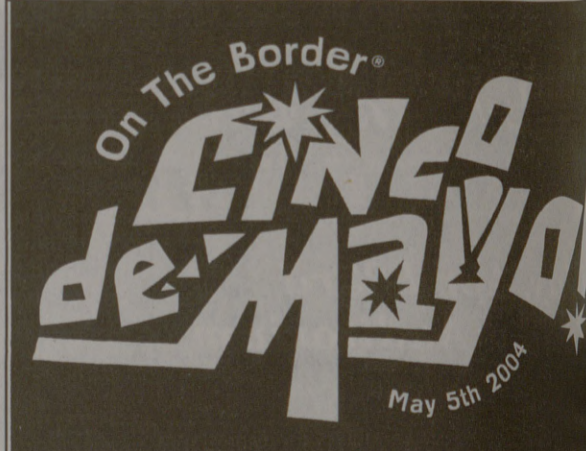
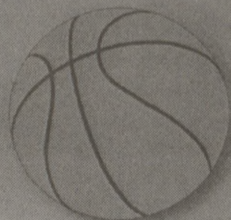
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