

Blood donors get a great big bear hug

The American Red Cross, Four Bears Water Park and WNIC-FM 100.3 are teaming up Saturday for a bear of a blood drive.

Four Bears Water Park will give the first 500 people that try to donate blood at a Red Cross donor center an admission ticket good for unlimited use of almost all park rides. Four Bears Water Park is at 3000 Auburn Road in Utica. Donor center hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"When it comes to our community blood supply, the Fourth of July weekend really is a bear," said Dr. A. William Shafer, senior principal officer of the Southeastern Michigan Blood Services Region of the American Red Cross. "The amount of blood Red Cross is able to collect during the extended weekend is very limited. Donors go on vacation or are busy with holiday activities and organizations that usually sponsor blood drives are closed. Special blood drives like this help ensure an adequate blood supply for our community."

Red Cross provides blood for patients at 58 hospitals located throughout Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and St. Clair counties.

A participating area donor center is at 2388 Franklin Road (corner of Square Lake Road) in Bloomfield Hills.

OU president's remark sparks request for apology

BY RALPH R. ECHTINAW
STAFF WRITER

The leader of Oakland University's teachers union has written an angry letter to university President Sandra Packard over a remark she made in the June 21-27 edition of Crain's Detroit Business.

In an article about strategic planning for universities, Packard is quoted as saying that being president of a university is like being director of a cemetery. "You have a lot of people under you, but you can't get them to do anything."

Ron Cramer, the OU president of the American Association of University Professors, wrote a

June 23 letter to Packard requesting an apology.

"This odious comparison perpetuates a stereotype of university personnel as a group of shiftless drones," Cramer wrote. "I am certain that you do not share this view. If you were misquoted, please say so publicly."

"I have been at Oakland for 27 years, and it has been my experience that most Oakland people do indeed work hard. And, compared to the business world, they do it for damn modest compensation, too."

Packard agrees that she was quoted accurately, but the remark was taken out of context and did

not refer to OU personnel, she said.

The joke, Packard said, was meant to illustrate the point that top down management doesn't work well, "that presidents should not give orders. Presidents are not effective when they direct people. It was a bad analogy, obviously."

"I told the reporter that this is no comment on our employees. I wouldn't have come (to Oakland) if I didn't think this was an excellent campus and the people here were superb."

Packard said she would meet with Cramer Wednesday and issue a letter of explanation to staff and faculty.

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WKBD-TV, Channel 50, in Southfield is looking for area residents to be part of a television studio audience for a discussion on "Adoption & Foster Care: Should color lines be crossed?"

The issue is the subject for the station's "Straight Talk" program hosted by Amyre Makupson, 10 o'clock news anchorwoman. Taping is 5 p.m. July 9 at the Southfield studios, 26905 W. 11

Mile Road. The show will air at 7 a.m. July 10.

For reservations, call Madrice Rahi, public affairs, at 355-7089 any time.

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