

Donors needed: Plasma challenge 2000 comes to UPEI

UPEI faculty, staff, and students will be rolling up their sleeves this week to donate plasma at the PEI Plasma Centre.

Organizers have set a goal of forty students and forty faculty and staff donors for the week of March 6th to March 10th. As an incentive to encourage campus community members to participate, the university is offering staff one and a half hours of paid time off to allow them to donate during work hours, or the equivalent time off if staff choose to donate on their own time. To encourage residence students to participate,

students will be competing for prizes.

Transportation to and from the centre will be provided. A donor's first visit to the plasma centre will take approximately two and a half hours, followed by subsequent visits of only one hour.

Student, faculty and staff need not worry about donating plasma.

"This procedure is completely safe," says Trina Smith, of the PEI Plasma Centre. "Donors describe the experience as both satisfying and rewarding. Besides, where else can you save up to four lives in an hour?"

Important Donor Information

- must be between the ages of 17 & 70
- wait 56 days from last whole blood donation
- wait one year from date of last tattoo or body piercing
- eat a low-fat diet 24 hours prior to donating
- wait three days after dental appointment
- weigh at least 110lbs
- bring a picture ID & the name/s of any medications that you are presently taking
- if you have spent six months CUMULATIVE in the UK since January 1, 1980, you are not eligible to donate plasma

Students enraged by police racial profiling

By Asha Tomlinson

Source: *The Lance*

WINDSOR, ON (CUP) - As the Windsor police van drove from the road onto the field of grass, Jason Gooding and his four friends became apprehensive.

They knew they had done nothing wrong, but the white police officer thought they looked suspicious.

He asked the five black males if they were concealing liquor to bring to the party. They said they had none.

"Do you want things to be done the hard way or the easy way?" the officer asked.

The men continued to deny the alleged charges until the unsatisfied officer searched the men and found nothing.

Four New York City police officers were looking for a rapist when they saw Amadou Diallo, a West African immigrant, in front of the entrance of his apartment.

According to the officers, he looked suspicious and as he removed a dark object from his right side the officers assumed it was a gun and shot at Diallo 41 times. In trial they

claimed it was a case of mistaken identity.

The recent acquittal of these four officers in the fatal shooting has raised questions about the safety of black men in the hands of police. Many say Diallo was killed because he fit police's typical description of a suspect: he was black.

Gooding, a third-year University of Windsor student, recalls times he has been stopped by police and says he can relate to the Diallo case. He says racial profiling has been in existence for a long time.

"This 'mistake' has happened too many times before to black men," he said. "These guys on the police force have the same type of mentality towards blacks. It doesn't only happen in New York, it's a universal thing."

Gooding says the incident has him fearful for his own life.

"[As a black man it] makes you scared, you could be next and for doing nothing, for being in the wrong place at the wrong time. You could die over a routine traffic stop."

Michael Graham, a second-year criminology student, says he has to be cautious of his actions when stopped by police.

"I feel like I have to make sure my moves are slow and deliberate," he said. "If you do anything quickly you become fearful that they will get violent with you."

Rose Voyvodic, a human rights officer at the University of Windsor, has no doubt about the racial undertones behind Diallo's death.

She says it is not possible to overlook the race issue when dealing with black culture.

"A black male in this society is a suspect," said Voyvodic. "There are many cultural studies that have indicated that people tend to suspect a visible minority."

The Street Crime Unit (SCU) in New York consists of nearly 400 officers and they prowl the streets at night looking for criminals. They are given the freedom to harass, search and make arrests.

Since the SCU has been implemented the city's murder rate has decreased and the gun arrests have increased. All four officers had fairly clean and commendable records before the Diallo trial.

Some feel they were just doing their job. Others believe it was murder.

"They were shooting to kill," said Marsha Robinson, a fourth-year communication studies student. "It was murder and it was based on race. It boggles my mind that they got off, but then again it doesn't surprise me."

Naomi Owusu-Ampong, co-president for the African Students Association at the

continued on next page