opinion cont.

Blood drive volunteers: No Smoking

To the Editor:

Here's an entry for the nonsmoker's scrapbook of places where you can get smoked at for free. It's the TCA Blood Drive in the Sala de Puerto Rico.

What makes this more impressive, as a collector's item is that it is not the blood donors who are providing such well-known blood additives as carbon monoxide, benzo-pyrene, hydrogen cyanide and phenols, but the nurses and health-care volunteers.

On what would have been my fiftieth (approximately) donation on November 3, there were no less than four blue-informed blood-drive officials making their own donations to the shrivelled indoor air.

Let's have a nonsmoking section in the blood drive. Another suggestion: let the nongimker's blood be labelled. If I'm injured, I'm not sure if I want to have my lost blood replaced with a mixture of benzo-pyrene and cyanide with phenols. I might recover much faster without it.

Yours very sincerely,
David Gordon Wilson

TCA answers a last GASP

To the editor:

I would like to take the space to explain the situation which resulted in David Wilson's letter to The Tech. First of all, smoking is not allowed in the Sala de Puerto Rico during the blood drive. Smoking is allowed in the Sala before the drive starts on the assumption that since the Sala is a large, ventilated room, the air will be clear before the donors arrive.

Professor Wilson arrived early for his Friday appointment, before the drive had started for the day, and saw some of the nurses finishing their cigarettes. He complained, and after the situation was explained to him by Cambridge Red Cross representative, Adelyn Stone, he agreed to stay and donate blood. Some time later, either one of the nurses or the volunteers who apparently did not know the rules lit a cigarette. Professor Wilson quickly left.

As far as a prospective donor felt compelled to leave the drive and we sincerely hope that an isolated incident such as this does not deter David Wilson or anyone else from donating blood at this drive or in the future.

Tom Crowley '79
1978 Fall Blood Drive Chairman

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