



## Students earn cash, help others by donating at plasma centers

By Pat Higgins

Giving plasma is a way to help yourself and to help other people, said University Plasma Center Manager Jim Rose. There are five University Plasma Centers in the country aimed specifically at college students. Rose said the vast majority of donors at the Lincoln location, 1442 O St., are students.

"Since students have to spend a certain amount of time studying, donating plasma is a way that you can get paid for studying for two hours," Rose said.

The pay is \$10 per donation with a maximum of two donations in a seven-day period. First-time student donors get a bonus — donors who are not students do not. Also, a bonus of \$5 is provided to students who give plasma eight times in a calendar month.

"Since these are trying economic times for everyone, students are feeling the pinch as much as anyone else," Rose said.

Lincoln Plasma Corp at 2021 O St., also pays \$10 a donation, and they pay a bonus of an additional \$5 on the second visit. They also pay an extra \$5 to those who refer other people to the Lincoln Plasma Corp. Donors are limited to twice-a-week visits.

"We get businessmen, unemployed people and lots of students," reception supervisor Ava Liedtke said.

The plasma withdrawn from a donor's blood is used to manufacture "factor eight," used to treat hemophiliacs. Plasma also is used to make albumin, a protein extract used to treat shock and burn patients.

Rose has been a plasma donor himself for more than 10 years and said he

has complete confidence in the donating procedure.

"I wouldn't do it myself if it wasn't safe," Rose said.

The plasma donating procedure starts with a screening process beginning with a physical examination. After the physical, potential donors are treated for the amounts of protein and glucose in their urine and of protein in the blood.

"The vast majority of people are accepted, but there is a certain percentage that do get rejected. Anybody who can donate whole blood can donate plasma," Rose said.

The actual procedure, called a double plasmapheresis, begins by cleaning the site where the plasma will be extracted. A puncture is then made in the site, and a unit of whole blood is withdrawn. Depending on the donor's body weight, the unit of blood will be either 500 or 600 milliliters.

Then, plasma is separated from the blood cells by a centrifuge. The cells are replaced in the donor, a second unit of blood is drawn and the procedure is repeated. An intravenous solution of normal saline solution is maintained during the procedure to keep open the IV and partially replace the volume of plasma.

Rose said most people experience no side effects from the plasma withdrawal procedure.

Being a donor requires common sense, Rose said. Cramming all night before donating or having a poor diet usually will prevent the potential donor from being accepted, Rose said.

"The safety of the donor is our utmost concern from the moment they walk into here till the time that they leave," he said.

## Shorts

The Arts and Science Student Advisory Board is taking nominations for the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award. Nomination forms may be obtained in all department offices and in Oldfather Hall 1223. Nominations are due March 5.

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David Forsythe, professor of political science, will lead a discussion of the film *Breaker Morant* Wednesday and Thursday at noon in Oldfather Hall 507.

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The Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for today has been canceled. The next meeting will be March 2 at 8:30 a.m. in the City-County Building.

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A UNL group opposing U.S. involvement in El Salvador will march to the Nebraska Capitol Saturday. The march will begin at 1:30 p.m. on the north side of the Nebraska Union.

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Alton Frye, head of the Washington Office on Foreign Relations, will lecture about the U.S. defense policy at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday in Brace Physics Laboratory 201. The free lecture is open to the public.

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