

Students use scientific method to earn extra cash

By John Fulwider
Staff Reporter

Roommates Brian Gudgel and Josh Woodward have achieved college student nirvana. They make money without working or writing humiliating letters to their parents.

(OK, they do a little of that, too. Josh works about 15 hours a week and Brian is, shall we say, between jobs.)

But much of their income comes from their amazing scrounging abilities and their courage before needles.

Needy students — such as Josh and Brian — can make quick clams if they don't mind selling bodily fluids or lending their bodies to science for a few days.

Frequent places students go are the University Plasma Center, 1442 O St.; NABI Bio-Medical Center, 300 S. 17th St.; and Harris Laboratories, all places that will draw your blood and pay you for it.

Brian, a freshman child psychology major, donates plasma twice a week. He spends about two hours donating and recommended that donors show up early in the morning to avoid lines.

To guarantee you will be accepted for donation, Brian advised: "Don't have any potent drugs or alcohol within 12 hours of donation."

Josh, a sophomore architecture

major, who also regularly donates plasma, said plasma donation wasn't for the weak of vein. He said if the needle went through the vein and punctured it on the other side, your arm would swell for a week.

Plasma donation is best if you need small amounts of cash, they said.

"I spend it on beer mostly," Josh said of the money he gets from donating plasma. "Or to pay the electric bill."

But the real money comes from participating in studies at Harris Laboratories, 624 Peach St.

It's more difficult to get into a Harris study because subjects must meet certain requirements. The screening process at Harris is quite stringent, Brian said, and includes a urine test. But Brian said he had successfully substituted someone else's urine sample — Josh's — to get into one study when his bloodstream included more than just blood.

Brian once participated in a 31-day antidepressant study, for which he earned \$3,700. The study gave him new appreciation for antidepressants, he said.

"Antidepressants make you unable to concentrate on one thing or idea," he said. "You think about stuff like bread

BRIAN'S TOP 10 Money-savin' tips

- 1. Drink beer at home before you go to the bar. Brian: "Get a good buzz goin' before you leave."
- 2. Thrift stores. You can furnish an entire house with six \$12 Goodwill couches. Then cover them with nice, king-size bedsheets.
- 3. When buying a keg, try Mike's on West O Street because they don't require a deposit.
- 4. On Thursdays, go to J. Ryan's for 25-cent tacos.
- 5. On Fridays, go to P.O. Pear's. They have chicken wings and little sandwiches for less than a quarter.
- 6. On Sundays, potluck!
- 7. When your roommate goes to Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha for his U.S. Navy Reserve weekend, give him your laundry. Offutt has free laundry services.
- 8. Ride a bike.
- 9. Set the air conditioning at 81 or 82 degrees. It will run less, but you'll stay cool. There will be no humidity.
- 10. Read instead of watching cable.



Tanna Kinnaman/DN

Brian Gudgel, left, and Josh Woodward flash some cash from their second-floor balcony. Gudgel and Woodward have used some bloody and offbeat methods to raise money.

See MONEY on 15

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