In Search of a Better Way to Make Money

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I hate my job with a passion.

I work at one of those depressing, minimum-wage-paying restaurants that makes me want to test out those rumors about free tuition if you get hit by a CyRide each time someone asks for a refill and a side of ranch. Unfortunately, those rumors aren’t true, and even if I were to work a solid forty hours per week, I can barely afford to pay the rent. When I’m not busy with my other activities, I struggle to focus. The remaining time I have is spent on the main reason why I’m even here in the first place – to go to school.

A friend of mine is in this situation, too, and asked me if I knew of any other jobs where he could make more money and still give him the flexibility he needs. All I could come up with was standing on the corner of Lincoln Way and Welch in a skimpy outfit with his belly fat hanging over the side of his Mariah Carey-inspired hot pants for all the drunkies pouring out of Headliner’s after last call to see. I decided it was for the benefit of everyone, including my own, to find other options. I began to make a list of all my ideas, but none of them hit the mark:

- Dining centers.
- Teaching assistant.
- Hooker.
- Drug dealer.
- Parking Division ticket issuer AKA Parking Nazi.

Unable to come up with anything good, I resorted to the Internet to help me with my quest for riches. My first stop: the Student Job Board on AccessPlus and my first potential job.

“Unclothed model for figure drawing class. Perform related tasks as assigned. Imperative that models be dependable, on time, mature and responsible for position. Bring photo ID with birth date and class schedule for availability. Apply in person.” Wait a minute, all I have to do is stand there with my clothes off and get paid $15 an hour? Get me some space heaters and sign me up! But then again, I kind of look like a five-year-old in the photo ID I got when I was a freshman. Could be a problem.

The next best thing I came across: Environmental Service Clean Team; Housekeeping/Custodial: On Campus. “Perform cleaning and pick-up services for events held at Hilton Coliseum and other Athletics Department facilities in accordance with established standards. Respond quickly to clean-up calls during events. Remove trash and soiled linens—” Stop right there! Is this real life? I’m the size of an average player’s leg, it’s bad enough having my self-esteem lowered when I see them working out at the same time I am.

Finally, I moved on to the big leagues. Did you know you can actually sell your laborious talents on Craigslist.com? In all seriousness, this option might be a good one for those who haven’t found a job with the skills they have, because people are always looking for a variety of things to be done for them. You often set your own hours and wages. Thousands of people find work and other things using this site, and it seems to work for both sides successfully.

Another viable temporary career path is selling plasma at centers like Community Bio Resources, Inc. of Ames. You sell your plasma with an average compensation fee of $25 per visit. Don’t forget to drink lots of water so you don’t get dehydrated. But if you’re afraid of that huge two-way needle they stab you oh-so-gently with, this may not be your dream job.

Ever heard of Locks of Love? Well, here are a few details not about donating your hair, but about selling it. Sites like HairTrader.com, Hairwork.com, eBay and Craigslist all offer to buy hair as long as it meets certain requirements, like it must be at least ten inches in length and cannot have been chemically-treated. Although eBay and Craigslist are harder to sell your hair for good money, other sites offer up to $2000 for excellent hair. Most hair that meets the requirements usually sells for $300 to $900.

How about selling your body? Or at least pieces of it. Sites like FertilityBridges.com and FamilyCreations.net give you the most bang (or lack thereof) for your buck if you are willing to sell your, ahem, “lady eggs.” Women with bachelor’s degrees are usually offered $10,000 and those with an associate’s degree get $2,000 less. Be able to travel to get the job done and you’re in business, just as long as you don’t put all your eggs in one basket. Save that part for the doctors.

Men could think about selling sperm at sperm banks on your trips to Omaha or Chicago or at sites like SpermMobile.com. Not so fast, though, post-pubescent boy playing “World of Warcraft” in his mom’s basement. First, you have to be eighteen to thirty-five years old, and basically perfect in every way. Ninety to ninety-five percent of potential no-sperms-attached dads get rejected while the remaining percentage of good men, mostly always in college, get paid approximately $50 to $100 per ejaculation. But that’s just what this world needs: more me’s in thick-framed Ray-Ban glasses running around with chicken legs and a creepy Julia Roberts vein in his forehead.

Until then, I’ll be getting your refill and side of ranch, sir.