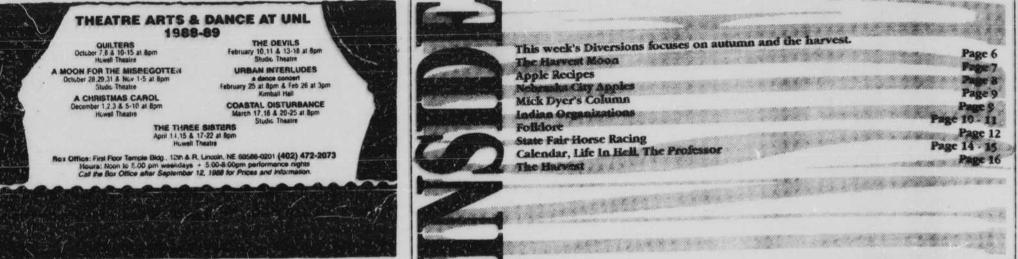
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Joan Bruce/ Daily Nebraskan

## First weekend of autumn welcomes harvest moon

## From Staff Reports

The full moon hangs orange and heavy on the eastern horizon as the sun sets, and farmers labor to bring their harvest in on time.

September is the month of the Harvest Moon.

According to Ed Schmidt, professor of physics and astronomy and director of the Behlen Observa-tory, the full moon at the fall equi-nox is called the Harvest Moon.

Because of the paths of the earth and the moon, the lunar orb seems to be hanging in the sky for several nights in a row, he said. Typically the moon moves eastward and tends to disappear rapidly.

The moon attracts attention because it looks huge --- an optical illusion that Schmidt attributes to the fact that the moon is so close to the horizon.

Pamela Maurer, a student assistant at the Mueller Planetarium, said that because the full moon rises as the sun sets, farmers can work late into the night with the light of the harvest moon.

A special fact about the Harvest Moon is that its markings look like a jack-o-lantern's face when the moon is low and orange on the horizon, Maurer said.

When there are two moons in September, the one closest to the equinox is the Harvest Moon. The other is called a Blue Moon. Schmidt said this only happens every three or four years

This year, the Harvest Moon is on Sunday. The equinox is today. According to the National Weather Service in Lincoln at press time, Sunday night will be fair and mild. The temperature will be in the mid-70s, dropping to a low in the mid-50s.



