

'Nice guy next door' might be living as normal neighbor with secret life

By Mark Baldridge
Divisions Editor

It's always the guy no one suspects.

"He was a quiet fella. Kept to himself," his neighbors will say of him afterward — when the television reporters show up with cameras and mikes.

"Seemed like a nice enough guy." But all along, the "nice guy" has been selling military secrets, dealing in heroin, living a separate existence.

We all have secret selves, other lives that we keep apart from our daily routines.

If you doubt it, think about this: Your father and your mother are lovers, or once were.

Most of the time we don't think about it, but everyone we meet has fantasies, desires. And many of them are actively seeking out means to fulfill those needs.

Your loan officer, your English teacher, your wacky neighbor are all on trajectories unknown, and largely unknowable to you.



They are looking for something, trying to keep what they have worked so hard to get, trying to keep from going under:

And our secret identities must be protected. We feel vulnerable, exposed, when people get too close to the secret self.

None of this is bad. It's necessary, otherwise we wouldn't need bathroom doors.

But when too much pressure builds up — when the differences

between our private inner lives and our outer personae grows too great — bad things can happen. It becomes difficult to reconcile all the various facets of our personalities; we fracture and break.

That's why we need to talk about these things. Why we need to recognize that the dark desires of our own hearts, while unique to us individually, are not too terribly far removed from the secret wishes of others.

If everyone saw suddenly into the hearts of everyone else, the final result would be recognition. We would each see our own "terrible secrets" mirrored infinitely in our contemporaries. And there would finally be understanding.

There is evil in the world; there is wrong. But most of the things we are afraid of in ourselves are common to humanity.

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Mooshtash Joe Polka Band

Live and in Concert!! This band from Fremont will perform a wonderful evening of champagne music with 2 local band opening.

Friday, Nov. 13
7:00 to 1:00
UNL City Union
Students \$3,
Non-students \$4

14th Annual Arts & Crafts Fair

Local community vendors will be selling various crafts.

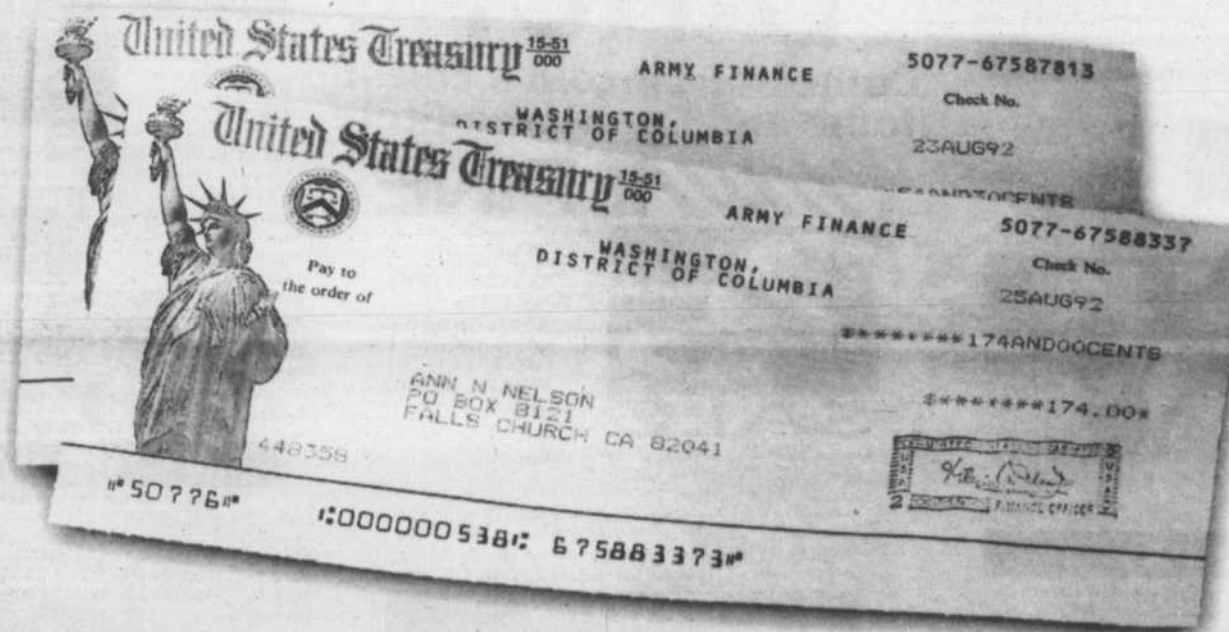
Nov. 18th, 19th, 10:00 am - 6 pm
UNL East Union, Great Plains Room
FREE!!

Paula Poundstone

You've seen this nationally known female comedian on the Tonight Show and Evening at the Improv now see her live!

Nov. 16, 8:00 pm
Lied Center
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Public \$15

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