

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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**free for all
Friday**

Brian Priesman

Nice guys like chance at romance



I am single. I just thought I'd mention that, in case any beautiful, smart and funny young ladies are single, too.

Somehow I doubt that this pitiful plea for companionship will get me anywhere. Why? Because I am a nice guy.

It's a proven fact — nice guys don't get laid. At least not until they are over 30. I developed this theory after years (well months ... OK, yesterday at lunch) of careful research and testing. I've asked countless girls out on dates and been turned down by a large majority of them. Okay, it was only two. But I can dream, can't I?

And after all of my studies, I can offer scientific proof that women are only interested in nice guys as friends. Let me explain myself. Men can be put into three categories: Mr. Nice Guy, Mr. Average and Mr. Jerkwad. Actually, there's another category — Mr. Spineless-Guppy-Mamma's Boy. But there's no hope for the fourth type, so I won't mention him again.

I've even developed a handy little test to determine which category you fit in. But unfortunately, there's not enough space to print it here. Maybe another time.

Most women — not all, but most — have this deep, burning need to "change their man." You see, all women want a nice guy, but they want to make him themselves. Women will follow Mr. Jerkwad like little puppy dogs for months on end. They'll put up with being stood up, ignored and used for their bodies and their pocketbooks. And why? Because they feel that they can change these guys.

The only thing a woman wants from a nice guy is his friendship. We're the ones they turn to when Mr. Jerkwad has stood them up. We're the ones that become the trusted confidant. And you know what? We're tired of it!

Nice guys have feelings too! We have needs just like everyone else. But no one ever thinks that a nice guy could be attracted to anyone else. No, we're just the trusted male friend.

So nice guys of the world unite! Now is the time to put up or shut up. We must band together and either show the women of the world what we have to offer, or change into what all women really want!

Now is the time to become Mr. Jerkwad! Leave your houses and apartments messy! Cheat on your date and say you did it because you love her! Stop footing the bill for everything! Start scratching your ass in front of your date and hitting on the waitress at dinner! Only then will we become attractive to women!

Maybe there's hope, though. Maybe the tide is turning in favor of the nice guy. Maybe we nice guys can get lucky and find happiness in life. After all, if my roommate, a wannabe Mr. Nice Guy if there ever was one, can be dating, anyone can be dating!

Priesman is a freshman news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan staff reporter.

Spooked

Volunteers help to haunt the Heartland

By **Gerry Beltz and Jeff Randall**
Senior Reporters

When Halloween rolls around, images of pumpkins, candy, trick or treating, the Charlie Brown TV special, and getting scared to death are conjured up.

Although most of these are available at home, scaring oneself often requires a trip to one of the many haunted houses that seem to spring up everywhere this time of year.

And while getting frightened beyond belief, it may please people to know that most of these sites of terror are created for a good cause.

Charity groups, community service organizations, businesses and concerned citizens all contribute energy, money and physical labor.

Habitat for Humanity is one of these groups. The organization, which helps build homes for low-income families, has been sponsoring the Never Ending Nightmare house in Omaha.

DaNae Keys, VISTA volunteer coordinator at Habitat for Humanity, helped gather volunteers for the Never Ending Nightmare. Recruiting began in September, and Keys said the effort from the volunteers had been tremendous.

From 25 and 40 children have been present each night of the event to help out, as well as 10 to 12 adult volunteers.

"People seem very happy to come out and give a hand to the project," Keys said.

Pete Picard has been working with the Sertoma Club's 12-year-old Ride of Terror (2601 Saltillo Road) for the past decade, and he said a majority of the club's members help with the attraction.

"We have a grand time putting it on," Picard said. "We have some folks you just can't keep away."

What separates a good haunted house from a great haunted house may be debatable.

John Chism, this year's project chairman for the Lincoln Jaycees' Chamber of Terror (1023 O St.), said the well-being of haunted house visitors was important.

"The ideal haunted house is a safe haunted house," Chism said. "In any amusement like this where you disorient and scare people, safety is the first priority."

Others said shock and surprise were important qualities in a haunted house.

"We have six to ten people roaming around causing general mayhem," Picard said.

"It's all in good fun. We're really trying to scare the people — and not do any harm — because that's what they came out for."

The perennial appeal of haunted houses is a mystery that Keys said wasn't very difficult to solve.

"I think that people just get a thrill out of the unexpected, and that's what haunted houses provide. It's a good release."

"It's just like why people go to the movies," Chism said. "It's an escape from daily life."

"At haunted houses, you're in the movie."



Bret Gottschall/DN

Other Halloween Events

- **Boo at the Zoo** - family affair stuff at the Folsom Children's Zoo, 26th and B streets. Through Monday. \$1, general public, free to zoo members, 50 cents for each train ride, and \$1.50 for an official treat bag.
- **Mystery Manor** - Omaha's oldest haunted house is at 716 N. 18th St. Cost is \$6, and runs 7 to 10 p.m. on weekdays and until midnight on Friday and Saturday through Halloween night.
- **Halloween Spooktacular** - back-to-nature meets Halloween at the Chet Ager Nature Center (located in Pioneers Park). Cost is \$3 for children (three years and under are free). Through tomorrow.
- **Alien Harvest** - mixes "Alien" and "Invasion of the Body Snatchers" at the old Burlington Station at 10th and Pacific streets in Omaha. \$6 per person, and runs through Halloween.
- **Fear Asylum Haunted House** - Sponsored by the Waverly Jaycees at 10951 N. 142nd Street in Waverly, runs through Halloween from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$4 for adults, \$3 for children.
- **The Dead Zone** - a haunted barn at Grampa Johns Pumpkin Patch, NW 48th Street and Highway 34 (two miles west of the Kawaski Plant). Through Halloween. \$5 each.

Swick's second story collection published

By **Jeff Randall**
Senior Reporter

Marly Swick writes about loss and disappointment, about relationships gone wrong and the effects they have on the people in them.

But she doesn't want to be all that depressing. "Hopefully, I can convey some sense of humor about the characters and their situations," Swick said.

And readers have a chance to find out in her newest book, "The Summer Before the Summer of Love," published by Harper Collins. It is Swick's second published collection of short stories.

For Swick, an associate professor of English, writing has been a calling since childhood.

"My mother was always an avid reader, so I always read. And since I was reading so much it just seemed natural for me to start writing."

And others have been reading Swick's work for more than a decade now. Her writing's first public exposure came in 1982, when she had a short story published in Redbook.

And ever since then, Swick has had her



Jeff Haller/DN

Marly Swick, an associate professor of English, has recently had her second book published. "The Summer Before the Summer of Love" is a collection of short stories.

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