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ON CAMPUS

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## Polish professor gives impressions

By JOYCE BOLES  
Of the Emerald

"Polack jokes. Americans know about Poland only Polack jokes. That makes me sick. It is impossible to understand if you are Polish citizen. I am not nationalistic, but how can you make these stupid jokes about a country that is the center of Europe?"

Jan S. Wieczorek, a chemistry professor from the Politechnika Wroclawska in Wroclaw, Poland, expressed his feelings about America and the American people in an interview with the Emerald. Wieczorek said he has visited many countries — the U.S.S.R., England, Denmark, France, and others — and that nowhere but in the United States do Polack jokes enjoy a vogue. Wieczorek believes the jokes are born of ignorance about Poland, and he hopes the exchange program of which he is a part will do something to further understanding between the United States and Poland, and that then perhaps these racist jokes will disappear.

Wieczorek is visiting the Oregon campus as part of an exchange program which has two University faculty at Wroclaw this year and next. Other University faculty also visit Wroclaw regularly to help establish a research program there in physical organic chemistry. The exchange program began in 1971 and was the first to be financed through counterpart funds — Polish non-monetary payments to the United States for agricultural commodities. The program is sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

Wieczorek studied in the United States for 16 months in 1966 and 1967, and when he returned to Poland he began plans for the exchange. He was then vice president for international relations at Wroclaw.

Wieczorek says chemistry in the United States is the "best in the world, better in some respects than in the Soviet Union." He says most people at the University here do not realize the reputation the University has in Europe, and the international renown of some University chemistry professors. Wieczorek is working with a photoelectron spectroscope, and hopes to obtain a similar piece of equipment for his laboratory in Poland.

Asked what he sees as the differences between Polish and American students, Wieczorek said there is a "big difference. Students in Poland know much more about other countries." He went on to say that in Poland education is free, and further that the children of blue collar workers and farmers are given special advantages in their competition with students from the families of the intelligentsia.

He was also surprised to see the way American students dress and the way they behave. There is no smoking or drinking Cokes in Polish university classrooms.

Wieczorek has been a member of the Communist Party in Poland since 1955 because "I think their idea is the best." He went on to say "we are doing many mistakes, but anyway we have progress." He said that under capitalism in Poland before World War II, his father was unemployed for eight years. His mother, who is living in Poland, is a member of the Catholic church, which is very strong in Poland. Hitler's Germany killed all the rest of his family.

Wieczorek told the Emerald that he saw his first American in 1943 when he saw American pilots who had been captured by the Nazis. Also during the war he found an old biography of Abraham Lincoln, written in Polish, and that he promised himself that "maybe someday I will go this country" of this "great man."

Asked how he would compare the United States and the Soviet Union, Wieczorek said many people don't realize how similar the two countries are. "Russians are beautiful people. They treat you like me here." He said Poland also has exchange programs with the Soviet Union.

In response to a question about the attitude of Americans toward communism, Wieczorek said, "Sometimes people are too sensitive about communism. There is nothing wrong with it."

At the suggestion that Americans might be "sensitive" about communism because of Soviet excesses in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968, Wieczorek said, "What about the United States in Vietnam? What about in Latin America?" He believes governments everywhere have made mistakes, and he quoted Lenin:

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