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> January 7 - 11 10-4 • Room 108 EMU

## Group seeks practical jokes from 'wildly funny' students

The Oregon Daily Emerald has been informed that the Natonal Practical Jokes Contest has "carefully selected" the University "on the basis of many qualities: its academic standards, reputation, respected professors, fine student newspaper,...but most of all for...wildly funny, original and outrageous student body."

Whether the compliment was personalized or just a photo-copied press release sent to many colleges throughout the country, it was an invitation for jaded students to share their favorite tricks and be treated with a first prize of \$1,000 or one of two \$100 second place awards.

NPJC is seeking this year's equivalent to the old-fashioned joy buzzer, and entries must be in by Jan. 31.

Categories for this twisted form of wit include practical jokes for classrooms, dormitories, initiations, parties, rival colleges, the administration, roommates and ex-lovers. Also off-campus stunts for restaurants, weddings and offices will be

To enter, type or neatly write out each joke idea and mail to National Practical Jokes, P.O. Box 6198, FDR Station, New

Jokes, P.O. Box 6198, FDR Station, New York, N.Y., 10150.

Entries will be judged on originality, wit, style and comic effect. If a tie exists, winners will be determined by neatness of entry. Submitting a joke to the contest means allowing the sponsor to modify entries and to possibly use them with names and addresses for commercial purposes without additional compensation.

## Help

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study, ranging from pre-health sciences to journalism.

The members of each group registered for two classes

together and agreed to meet regularly outside of class with a peer adviser. Activities outside

of class included studying, going out for pizza, and meeting with professors, Gerdes says.

"First term can be overwhelming for some students, so seeing familiar faces in some of your classes can be comforting and supportive," says Gerdes, who refers to the interest groups as "academically-based social

Approximately 180 students participated in the program, and although the groups were designed to last one term, some of the groups were so successful that they have plans to continue meeting this term, Gerdes says.

Charlotte Rosen, a student in one interest group said, "I've gained so much from it, socially and academically."

Rosen says the group helped her to improve her biology grade from a D to a B. She adds, "I would recommend it to anybody."

Changes in freshman retention statistics suggest these programs are working. In 1979, 79.9 percent of the University freshmen who enrolled fall term successfully completed their first year, while in 1983, this figure rose to 90.8 percent.



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