

## College Jeopardy challenges students

Online game winners will score free CDs, money and game show appearance

By Emily Pycatt

Staff writer

Wanna score some cash, trips, free CDs, a chance to have your sweet little face on TV for your mama to see and an opportunity for the University of Nebraska to be nationally recognized for something other than its athletic talents?

Betcha didn't think that all you'd have to do is log on to the Internet and play a game to make all these dreams come true.

Sony Online Entertainment is kicking off its College Jeopardy! Online spring 2000 competition, offering both individual prizes and a chance for the University of Nebraska to win an audition for the "real" college Jeopardy! competition.

In order to compete, UNL students have to register at [www.collegejeopardy.com](http://www.collegejeopardy.com) as a student from the University of Nebraska and then simply play the online game. The best part of the college competition — it's free.

Don't be intimidated by the difficult, typical jeopardy questions. Laura Kanter, College Jeopardy! spokeswoman, assures that the online game is going to be a good time.

"The game is stimulating, yet it is still on a college level," she said. "It is definitely targeted for a college audience and is really fun."

The more students play the Jeopardy! Game, the higher the chances of winning prizes and scoring points for UNL.

Because the College Jeopardy! Online competitions began in fall 1997, the guidelines have changed.

"There is a different format that looks not only at the individual person but offers a demonstration of school spirit," said Nicole Opas, spokeswoman for Sony Online Entertainment.

Although students may seem united by their cumulative university

score, participation in the online game actually has increased with the development of programs that promote individual incentives.

Three specific aspects of the College Jeopardy! Online game offer individual prizes.

In "The Magic Game," the ooh-la-la is fueled simply by a counter that awards a CD to every thousandth player.

"It's all about timing and a luck of the draw," Opas said. So there's not too much magic.

This game typically has about 10 winners a day.

In "The Study Break," students can walk away with bigger booty.

Now, this is a serious break that could land players in either New York, Chicago or San Diego. To participate in the Study Break, play the Jeopardy! game from 4-7 p.m.

With each play, contestants will immediately earn an entry into a sweepstakes for one of the three

trips. A lottery will select winners on March 21<sup>st</sup> for the New York trip, on April 18<sup>th</sup> for a trip to Chicago and on May 16<sup>th</sup> for the final trip to San Diego.

The "Weekly Sweepstakes" is another lottery competition that awards \$500 to a student each week.

To qualify for the weekly sweepstakes, your individual cumulative score must reach 50,000 in a period of one week. If the score reaches the 50,000 mark, the student's name is entered immediately in the sweepstakes for the cash.

The Online College Jeopardy! competition officially ends on May 16<sup>th</sup> for the final calculation of the collegiate scores.

The college with the most points will win an audition with College Jeopardy! The audition on campus is a process of mini pre-tests. Top winners will then be chosen for the televised college championship.

Right now, UNL has about 1,100 student participants and its status barely fluctuates in comparison to other universities. The University of Tennessee is sweeping the competition with more than 70 million points.



Scott Eastman/DN

## South By Southwest offers opportunity for Omaha band

■ Prairie Cats rub elbows with big names at festival, may get record deal.

By Jason Hardy

Staff writer

Every year some of the most promising new musical acts from around the globe are invited to make their way to the Lone Star State for something hotter than a Texas wild-fire.

The South By Southwest music conference and festival, held in Austin, Texas, from March 15-19, has evolved over the years to become one of the biggest events of its kind.

In fact, this year's conference not only includes shows by signed and unsigned bands as well as showcases by major labels and independent record labels, it also includes a film conference, film festival, interactive

festival and a music and media conference.

For unsigned bands SXSW is an incredible opportunity, and for the Omaha jump blues and swing outfit the Prairie Cats, this couldn't be more true.

"It's great," said Jason Grotelueschen, trombonist, guitarist and singer for the Prairie Cats. "It was definitely a goal of ours. We're going down to have a good time, but obviously there are a lot of bands that we're looking forward to hanging out with, and obviously there's label stuff going on also."

"But just to have our music heard is going to be great, so we're looking to have a lot of fun with it."

Prairie Cats lead vocalist and guitarist Jeff Koterba said the band's selection to the festival was very welcome news.

"It wasn't something that I really thought we had a shot at getting into, so it was a pleasant surprise," he said.

"It felt great because we put a lot of hard work into this band, and there are a lot of really dedicated people who made a lot of sacrifices, because we all have full-time jobs."

"We're doing original music and if there's a song that I write and SXSW notices it and invites us, that's pretty awesome. It's very, very satisfying."

The group is set to play on Friday, March 17, at midnight at the Caucus Club in downtown Austin.

The performance will be part of a showcase on swing and lounge type music, which means there will be record executives and other label representatives specifically seeking bands such as the Prairie Cats to sign to their labels.

"It'd be great if we caught the eye of a record executive," Koterba said. "Of course any type of exposure is great. The fact that we're playing the festival has already opened up some doors to play other venues."

"I am realistic though, and I know how the music thing is, so I don't have any great expectations. I'm just happy to play and keep playing and getting gigs."

Grotelueschen said he felt the same reserved excitement about the festival but said a lot of his excitement didn't necessarily stem from the opportunities for the Prairie Cats to be signed.

"There are going to be some people there that are going to shop around for our kind of band, but we're just planning to make a bunch of press packets and go around and throw out our stuff," he said.

"It's just going to be fun. There are a lot of great acts that are going to be there, so it's going to be great to go down and catch as many shows as we can."

Koterba said after a little time, the group's inclusion sunk in, and now he's just ready to play the show.

"Unlike sports, when you just

*"It wasn't something that I really thought we had a chance at getting into, so it was a pleasant surprise."*

Jeff Koterba

vocalist, guitarist for Prairie Cats

concentrate on the next game, with a band you have to look ahead and concentrate on getting gigs down the road," he said. "We've got a show tomorrow night and shows when we get back, so we're concentrating on that."