

# Students give professors grades on Web

By ERIC RINEER  
Staff writer

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GWEN FOSTER  
assistant professor of English

Originally a University of Texas exclusive, the World Wide Web page *collegestudents.com* now allows students nationwide the chance to praise or lash out against college professors.

At *collegestudents.com*, students can link to an evaluation page where professors and instructors are given grades from one to 10 based on how they perform in the classroom. A score of one is the lowest, and 10 is the highest.

Besides ranking professors on a numerical scale, many of the site users dish out their opinions in writing.

About 400 colleges, including the University of Nebraska campuses, have faculty members who are listed on the site.

At the NU page, like many of the other colleges' pages, viewers may be amazed at what they read.

One of the excerpts, for example, complains that an NU professor, who is from India, doesn't speak English well.

The excerpt reads: "We are the land of opportunities, but I thought speaking English would be a prerequisite for a college professor."

The professor in the critique received only three points on the 10-point scale.

One student's remarks surprised some University of Nebraska-Lincoln administrators:

The student attacked a professor for his teaching style and sense of fashion.

"First of all he can't teach for shit. He seems like he hates his students....He's one of the biggest dorks I've ever met.

"Blue velcro shoes, shorts jacked up to his chest, and he sweats more than any other human on this planet."

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, paused after seeing the quote on a printout given to him by an office staff member.

"That's kind of ridiculous," said Griesen, referring to the fashion review. "These are totally unstructured comments. There is no effort to encourage this respondent to consider the various dimensions of good teaching."

Despite some of the harsh comments on the site, positive evaluations also decorated the pages.

The positive remarks included encouraging other students to take a class with a particular professor.

Most students who were interviewed by the Daily Nebraskan said they had mixed feelings after learning about the Web site.

Aaron Trimble, a senior advertising major, said the site provided an

open door for biased opinions. He said the site would attract students who either hated or loved their professors. It leaves little room for constructive criticism, he said.

"It's just as if I were to praise my Spanish instructor," he said. "He's such an influential teacher, but my opinion would be biased just like anyone else on that Web site."

Jim Baker, junior psychology major, said he thinks students should stay away from the computer and tell professors face-to-face what they think of their teaching.

Some UNL faculty members also pondered the ups and downs of Internet ratings.

Gwen Foster, assistant professor of English, said she was curious as to the validity of the student-inspired page.

"I'll be curious to see how this evolves," said Foster, who said she felt the site was a good idea. "I just hope it isn't used in any kind of abusive or negligent manner."

One of the benefits of reading the reviews, Foster said, was that it provided a chance for students to seek information on courses before registering.

In any case, Foster said, there was still plenty of room for dishonesty.

"I wouldn't take it as the word of God or anything," she said.

Peter Bleed, anthropology professor, said he was skeptical as to how the ratings were achieved.

"It sounds like the ratings would be easy to manipulate," Bleed said.

"Obviously, people who want to inflate the evaluations could log on and include a series of bogus positives.

"But likewise, somebody really angry could put in a bunch of very negative evaluations."

Kevin Kight, a junior exercise major, said he didn't put much stock into the Web page.

"I don't think it's a good idea because the information might not be aimed towards professors' improving the classes," he said.

"It might just be aimed at bringing the professor down, or making a joke."

# Man arrested on suspicion of copying identification card

By JAKE BLEED  
Senior staff writer

University police arrested the roommate of a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student Friday after he used a copy of the student's university identification card to cash the student's refund check, university police said.

Police also found Anthony Martinez in possession of a 1995 Camaro, which was reported stolen from Omaha this summer, Bushing said. Inside the car, police found hypodermic needles, steroids and an unknown substance believed to be a narcotic.

University police arrested Martinez, 20, at his home on the 1300 block of 19th Street for altering official documents, possession of stolen property,

forgery and possession of a narcotic.

On Sept. 2, Martinez's roommate called the identity card office complaining that his student ID was deactivated. He learned a new card had been issued Aug. 24, said Earl Hawkey, director of registration and records.

Hawkey said a new card was issued to the student and all previous cards deactivated.

On Sept. 8, Martinez's roommate went to the Student Accounts office to ask about a \$724 refund check the university owed him, Bushing said. The accounts office told the student his refund check was issued Aug. 23 and cleared through the bank Sept. 1.

The student contacted university police Thursday, reported the refund check stolen and said he suspected his roommate in the theft, Bushing said.

Martinez apparently used his copy of his roommate's ID to cash the refund check, Bushing said.

Students must prove they are registered for classes, show photo identification and pay \$10 to receive a student ID.

Hawkey said Martinez probably used one of his roommate's identification cards to get the student ID.

Bushing said the Camaro was the third stolen vehicle Martinez had been connected to. He first took a truck on a test drive from an Omaha lot to Greeley, Colo.

Bushing said Martinez then traded the truck in for a jeep, which he then "test drove" back to Omaha and abandoned.

Martinez stole the Camaro in Omaha by asking for a test drive and returned to Lincoln in it, police said.

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