

# Professors upset about site

By ERIC RINEER  
Staff writer

While some students say it's encouraging to view critiques of their professors on the Internet, a number of faculty members are beginning to take it personally.

The student critiques, which can be found on sites such as TeacherReview.com and collegestudent.com, include information about professors that other students can check out before registering for classes.

The critiques rate professors on a one to 10 scale or give them a grade from A to F.

Some of the comments made on TeacherReview have prompted an English professor at the City College of San Francisco to file suit for emotional distress and damages for defamation.

Daniel Curzon-Brown, a tenured professor at the college, said he wanted to put an end to students' posting of false information about professors' teaching skills and personal lives on the Web.

TeacherReview, which was created by a student, allows students from the City College of San Francisco and San Francisco State University to voice opinions about professors.

Collegestudent.com has links to universities including the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Curzon-Brown, who said he was

gay, said he was probably being unfairly targeted by the students because of his sexual orientation.

One of the excerpts that can be found on TeacherReview says the following about Curzon-Brown:

"I would just like to say this man is a complete disaster. I have never taken his class, but I can tell from the other comments. Only a complete egomaniacal idiot would announce to his students on the first day of class that he's a superfag, and if they don't like it, get out!"

The Internet postings are submitted anonymously.

Curzon-Brown said he took these comments to heart.

"I'm a gay writer, and I believe in free speech," he said. "It does not give anyone the right to tell vicious lies about people."

Collegestudent.com representatives said evaluations are edited, but a UNL professor said the site was disturbing.

Jitender Deogun, a UNL computer science and engineering professor rated negatively and positively on collegestudent.com, said he thought more lawsuits would follow San Francisco's.

"I think that's what will happen," he said. "I think this is going too far."

"I don't think anybody has the right to look at my evaluations except for my department administration."

Griffin Davis, vice president of marketing at collegestudent.com, said employees would edit comments if they

found them to be too offensive.

"If it's anything that's not going to add value, we will either strip it down or edit out the offensive comments," he said.

Curzon-Brown and his lawyer, Geoffrey Kors, gave examples of excerpts they said they had read on TeacherReview.

The comments they said they had seen on the site referred to sexual acts and some threatened professors' lives.

Kors said the lawsuit would send a message to students to stop posting defamatory statements.

"There's no problem with students putting up reviews of teachers," Kors said. "There is a problem when outright lies are posted."

Robert Denicola, an NU law professor, said a case such as Curzon-Brown's could succeed.

"Assuming the statements were false, they do seem to be defamatory," Denicola said. "So I do think there would be a likelihood of it succeeding in a defamation action."

Students at UNL said they supported sites that evaluated professors.

Christi Walters, a freshman undeclared major, said evaluations should be taken as constructive criticism.

Walters said Curzon-Brown was probably putting too much stock into the issue.

"I think it's ridiculous," she said. "I think he's just embarrassed that he sucks as a teacher."

## Urinals, Halloween celebrated

URINALS from page 1

Architecture Hall West.

No one was really sure as to how the Halloween celebration of the urinals originated. Sophomore architecture major Dena Wangberg said she thinks it may be related to the date of the traditional Hinsdale celebration.

Within the architectural community on campus, the celebrations of the Hinsdales have been inconsistently held. The date of the urinals' patent was Nov. 1, 1901.

Wangberg thinks that because this date is so close to Halloween, the two celebrations overlapped and became one.

This year's celebration included a costume contest and the crowning of Hinsdale royalty.

The winner of the costume contest for both best costume and most original costume went to senior architecture major Josh Baker.

For Baker's Halloween costume, he shaved part of his head to resemble one of his professors.

This brave act was rewarded with his being crowned king of the celebration. His queen was fellow senior architecture major Scott Sawyers, who came dressed as Ginger from "Gilligan's Island."

The cost for admittance to the party was one roll of toilet paper and one can of food. The toilet paper, an item loosely related to the urinals, was used to decorate the link and will remain there during the weekend.

At the celebration, costume-clad students also bobbed for apples.

For many, the event was just a way to get out and have a good time. Billy Brice, a sophomore architecture major, said: "We're all kinda crazy. We don't get out often."

Everyone seemed to be having a good time.

For B.J. Woehler, another senior architecture major, it was a chance to do something different.

"I've celebrated with the Hinsdales, but never at a party," Woehler said with a grin.

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