

Rate teachers online

Laura Cameron
The Clackamas Print

For those who have always wanted a way to write "fill in the blank" is the best teacher ever!" across the heavens or, conversely, to warn every student living away from a certain professor, your day has come. Or, rather, your website. RateMyProfessors.com is just what it sounds like: a website dedicated to letting college students rate their own teachers. It's pretty much a no-brainer to use; on the opening page, a prompt has one choose one's favorite. A listing of every college and university in the state then comes up. Upon selecting one's college—the college one is interested in attending—one will find the professors listed in alphabetical order by last name. One can rate each professor on one's own, and also read the ratings given by other students. Only professors who have already been rated are listed, but there's a large, friendly button labeled "add professor" at the top, in case one's teacher isn't on the list.

The rating system is also pretty straightforward; smiling, indifferent and sad faces stand for an overall rating of good, average or poor, with an optional red chili icon if you think the teacher is hot. There are also places to rate such attributes as helpfulness and ease of the class on a 1-5 scale and, of course, a space for comments.

The comments, of course, are the most informative part, and occasionally quite entertaining to read. The thing that is noticed almost immediately is that the vast majority of comments for Clackamas professors are positive, such as one student's opinion of Carrie Kyser, math teacher: "She's a good teacher, passionate about what she teaches, and comes across clear most of the time.

I thought I was horrible at math, but this course isn't too hard."

Some students do wax a tad silly in their praise; one comment on writing instructor Andy Mingo states: "This teacher is very hot, he has a fantastic class and I'd take his class again if I could just because he is cute."

Of course, not all comments are professor-friendly; one teacher was described thus: "He's a jerk and looks down at all of his students as if we're not capable of being adults. When I asked if he could slow down a bit on the slides and the guy next to me and myself were having trouble keeping up, he completely offended my intelligence. Don't take his class." Another student, rating another professor, warns: "Bleh. Personal favorites and politics. Do not get on this man's bad side!!!"

And yes, the *Print's* own Linda Vogt is listed. Her comments all run along the positive vein: "She is nice and

friendly, she always gives you candy and I like her voice. She is the best teacher ever."

RateMyProfessors.com also offers a help/FAQ section, forums where students can trade stories and warnings, and the option to become a member; membership allows you to respond to comments made by other students and receive e-mail updates.

So go to it, students; let the whole world know just what you think of your instructors. Don't let such things as tact and courtesy stop you, because the comments are all anonymous. Eager to recommend your favorite teacher? Want to warn people away from the devil-in-fair-seeming you had last term? Your venue has arrived.



Photo illustration by Jeff Sorensen
Clackamas Print

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Concert Calendar

Friday, May 20

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Aladdin Theater
\$15 (All ages)

The Retros
9 p.m.
The Fez Ballroom
\$10, \$12 @ the door (21+)

Dolorean, Holysons
9 p.m.
Doug Fir Lounge
\$8 (21+)

Amanda Richards
9 p.m.
Bossanova
\$5 (21+)

Sunday, May 22

John Prine, Tom Russell
8 p.m.
The Schnizter
\$39-57 (All ages)

Trail of Dead
9 p.m.
Aladdin Theater
\$15 (All ages)

Saturday, May 21

New Monsoon
9 p.m.
Doug Fir Lounge
\$10 (21+)

Juliette and the Licks
10 p.m.
Dante's
\$10 (21+)

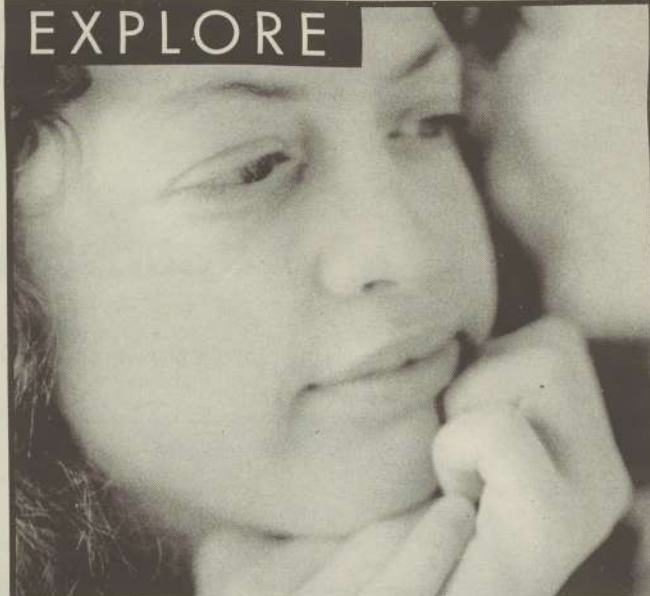
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