

**CR News Magazine**  
**by Courtney Hunt-Munther, The Eureka Reporter**  
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The room was already filling up with students by the time Dave Silverbrand entered last Thursday. But instead of the Eureka CBS 6 set — the place most North Coast residents are accustomed to seeing Silverbrand — the room was a lecture hall in College of the Redwoods' Creative Arts building.

This fall, Silverbrand is teaching beginning reporting at CR, a class that is enrolled with the maximum number of students possible for good reason. Students in the reporting class seem particularly enthused to participate in a course that not only teaches introductory reporting techniques, but that also airs its final product on television.

Despite the early schedule — an hour-and-a-half beginning at 8 a.m. two days a week — students have been working diligently to assemble a full-length news magazine show and are currently working on a second one. The first will be aired tonight at 6:30 p.m. on commercial TV, My Network TV (channel 5 cable, 33 broadcast), while the second will air on the same channel on Oct. 22 at 5:30 p.m.

"It's fun and you're learning through experience. You have a finished product," said Ezra Thomas, a second-year student. "It's pretty interesting stuff so I find myself putting more work into it."

Thomas and his classmates are assigned to cover issues relevant to, and events taking place on, the North Coast, and have thus far interviewed a variety of local residents for stories on hitchhiking, Zoe Barnum and the surrounding neighborhood, so-called "dirty jobs" in the area and the coroner's inquest into the death of Cheri Lyn Moore, among others.

While Silverbrand provides initial lessons in interview and writing technique, collecting information and recognizing useful quotes, the students are allowed to brainstorm story ideas, find contacts, go out into the community for interviews and videotape segments for the show.

"I give them free rein to do as much as they are able to do by themselves," Silverbrand said, adding that he only serves as a "safety net" when they need help. "I want to teach them to be storytellers ... how to go into a situation in which they're not familiar, find out what

they can, process the information and then disseminate it to someone.”

On Thursday, the topic-at-hand was Economic Fuel: The Humboldt County Student Business Challenge and a mock news conference was set up in the corner of the room with two of the competition coordinators, Mike Dennis and Elizabeth Chapman. While Dennis and Chapman sat at a table, students posed questions and jotted down notes for what would eventually develop into a segment for the news magazine.

Silverbrand facilitated by suggesting questions and pointing out specific information and quotations that would be useful in the story. As an instructor and longtime journalist, Silverbrand ultimately hopes to instill in the students an eye for good stories and the ability to question what happens locally and elsewhere in a productive way.

“I want them to be enthusiastic about what they do with their lives and where they live,” he said. “I want them to be naturally curious and to be good communicators. Those are the two most important things, the rest of it takes care of itself.”

Student Desiree Cousineau, who plans to move to Chico next semester, believes the experience she has gained from the class will help her land an internship at a newspaper there.

Cousineau is interested in photojournalism, and while that particular subject may not be the focus of this course, having background in other areas of journalism has been beneficial.

“This class has helped a lot. Dave is very willing to help you get a foot in the door. I’m hoping the experience and getting published will help,” she said.