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## UNIVERSITY

# Unusual style marks professor

By Heatherle Himes  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Journalism Professor Ken Metzler congratulated his student on her great report and handed her five \$1 bills as a reward.

Debbie Lair will sign a release allowing Metzler to print her interview with a *Register-Guard* reporter in the third edition of *Creative Interviewing*, a textbook Metzler wrote for the seminar.

She told Metzler and her 11 classmates that she planned to use the money to pay for her 8-year-old daughter's school lunches.

Unusual as Metzler's actions may seem, they're typical for his interviewing seminar.

This is the same class where students can earn an A grade for a "magnificent failure."

"I have a basic policy that there is a learning experience in failure," Metzler said. "When you're trying to learn a body of work like calculus, this wouldn't work. I don't know of any other classes where it would work except this class."

The policy evolved out of a student's experience in the class about 15 years ago. A young woman had planned to interview a local artist, but instead spent the interview avoiding his amorous verbal advances.

The student ended the interview and went to Metzler's office and told him that she had not gathered enough biographical information about the artist to complete the assignment and needed a deadline extension.

On the verge of tears, she explained the artist's behavior to Metzler.

In those days sexual harassment was not commonly discussed. Metzler said that he had not realized what female reporters sometimes encoun-



Ken Metzler, a journalism professor, lectures to his interviewing seminar. The class focuses on interviewing for an entire term.

tered. He encouraged the student to lead a class discussion about her experience.

Her failure taught her and the rest of the class more than a success would have, Metzler said. That incident became the basis for the "magnificent failure policy."

"I think you can learn a lot from failure," said Mark Mazurkiewicz, a seminar student. "I think it's great that there are professors that recognize that in some cases failure can teach you more than success could."

Mazurkiewicz and graduate student Michelle Nicolson agree that the class and its policies have helped them improve their interviewing skills.

Nicolson said that the class has enabled a chance to troubleshoot for weaknesses in her interviewing style.

"It's given me a chance to analyze my own techniques, what works for me and doesn't work for me," she said.

The class is intended to help students do just that, said Arnold Ismach, dean of the school of journalism and communications. It's the only class offered at the school that focuses for an entire term on interviewing.

"I think such a course would be valuable to anybody in any of the communications fields," said Ismach. "We get much of the information we want by asking questions of people."

Lair said she feels inspired by the class, and especially by her small monetary reward.

"It makes the real world seem not that far off," she said. "getting paid is something obtainable."

## Ministry Directory

- Eckankar**  
Religion of the Light and Sound of God.  
315-D West 13th Ave. 343-2657. Friday 7:00 p.m. Worship Services open to all, Monday night 6:00-7:50 p.m. and Thursday afternoon 12:00-1:30 p.m. A sharing of spiritual experience & insight.
- Restoration Campus Ministry**  
2880 University St., 726-5480. Bible Roundtables Thursday at 12:00 p.m. & Bible study Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the EMU Century Rooms. Praise Gathering Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. at 809 E. 11th. Exploring world views from the Biblical perspective.
- Christian Science**  
344-0924. Meetings held Fridays at 1:00 p.m. in the EMU, check room listings.
- Fellowship, friendly support and spiritual growth.
- International Student Christian Fellowship**  
1332 Kincaid, 345-5848. Wednesday luncheon 11:30-1:30 p.m. Friday Fellowship 7:00 p.m.
- Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship**  
Suite 5, EMU, 346-0910. Meetings, Monday night 7:00-8:30 p.m. in Esslinger Hall, room 107.
- Muslim Student Association**  
202 EMU, 346-3798  
Rm. 159 Straub, Fridays 4-5pm  
We welcome everybody to our study group for a stimulating hour on the Quran.

## POLICE BEAT

The following incidents were reported to the University Office of Public Safety and the Eugene Police Department Jan. 25 to Feb. 2.

- Two male student were cited for consumption on unlicensed premises on the 1700 block of Hilyard Street Jan. 22.
- A 24-year-old student was cited for prohibited boot removal on the 1800 block of Potter Street Jan. 25.
- A 23-year-old student was arrested Jan. 27 for a burglary that occurred Dec. 30. According to police reports, the suspect had stolen money and compact discs from the 700 block of East 11th Avenue.
- A 18-year-old student reported parts of her bike stolen from the 1300 block of Columbia Street Jan. 28. According to police reports, the victim found the seat, tires and cables removed from her bike, which was placed outside of her residence.
- Criminal mischief was reported on the 1700 block of Agate Street Jan. 28. According to police reports, a passenger window of a University vehicle had been broken, causing \$50 in damage.
- A 19-year-old student reported a theft from his vehicle on East 13th Avenue and Columbia Street Jan. 28. According to police reports, somebody had broken into his car and stolen the face-plate to the stereo, causing \$295 of damage.
- A 28-year-old student reported a theft from Lawrence Hall Jan. 28. According to police reports, the victim left his backpack in the library, and found his camera and walkman stolen shortly after. The loss amounted to \$470.
- A 20-year-old student reported a theft from the 1500 block of Agate Street Jan. 28. According to police reports, the victim found his car broken into, and \$2,800 worth of property stolen, including a snowboard.
- A 35-year-old transient was cited for shoplift-

ing at the University Bookstore Jan. 28. According to police reports, the suspect was observed stealing \$3.49 worth of cookies, which he later stated he took because he was hungry and didn't have money.

- Criminal mischief was reported at Riley Hall Jan. 29. According to police reports, somebody had scratched graffiti into the bathroom wall, causing \$100 worth of damage.
- An 18-year-old student reported parts of his bike stolen from the 1400 block of Columbia Street Jan. 29. The loss amounted to \$350.
- A 21-year-old female student had her car window broken on the 1600 block of East 15th Avenue Jan. 29. According to police reports, a witness saw a male kicking the window of the vehicle outside the University Museum of Natural History. The suspect then ran away, causing \$1,050 worth of damage.
- A 19-year-old student was cited for minor in possession of alcohol on the 1800 block of Harris Street Jan. 30. According to police reports, the suspect went to a party where he received alcohol from a 21-year-old male who later was cited for furnishing the alcohol.
- Sigma Alpha Epsilon and one of its members were cited for furnishing alcohol to minors on the 1400 block of Alder Street Jan. 30. According to police reports, two minors were observed with a bottle of beer on the street, which they had received from one of their friends at the fraternity. The two males were cited for minor in possession of alcohol.
- A 21-year-old female student reported her \$450 bicycle stolen from the 1200 block of East 15th Avenue Jan. 30.
- A \$125 vacuum cleaner was reported stolen from the EMU Feb. 1.

— Compiled by Susanne Steffens

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