

Dog Mushing Now Offered for Credit

With Anchorage the home of the World Championship Sled Dog Race and the University of Alaska, Anchorage, a sponsor of one of the dog mushers, what could be more appropriate than a physical education course in dog mushing?

Such a course will be offered on three consecutive Fridays beginning Dec. 8 by UAA musher Con Bunde and William "Bill" Sturdevant, a student and experienced musher.

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Dog Mushing...

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The course will cover a brief local history, selection of dogs and equipment for mushing, a training program for working dogs, their care and feeding, racing and the rules and procedures as well as practical experiences at mushing a team.

In addition to the techniques of mushing, the one-credit course will cover skijoring and packing dogs, Bunde said. The classes will meet from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Tudor Dog Track on Tudor Road.

Bunde, assistant professor of speech at Anchorage Community College, ran in the Fur Rendezvous race last February for the first time under the university's sponsorship. He plans to race again in the Feb. 17-19 race.

Bunde said that he and Sturdevant are interested in seeing a student team established at the university so that those who sign up for the course "will have someplace to go from there."

Bunde said there's always room for involvement of the students in the Fur Rendezvous race in helping to handle dogs. He said the course would provide students an opportunity to be involved in a unique Alaska sport. "What we're shooting for," he said, "is to get people who have a few dogs and want to use them."