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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

January 16, 1986

Local/HT

HARRY READ, Director of Information and Publications (217) 581-2820

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's Radio/TV Center will serve the area public by producing live 30 minute daily newscasts beginning Monday (January 20).

The programs will be available through WEIU-FM radio, 88.9 on the dial, and telecast through Charleston's cable TV system.

The televised news program, called News Scan 51, will air live at 6 p.m. Monday through Friday via the facilities of Charleston's Liberty TCI, Channel 12, Premium 1. It will replay nightly at 9:30 p.m.

The WEIU radio news program will be broadcast at 4 p.m. each afternoon.

"This is the electronic complement to the Daily Eastern News...from both an academic and application standpoint," said John Beabout, director of the Radio/TV Center.

Beginning July 1 the TV station will commence with over-the-air telecasting allowing non-cable viewers to pick up the signal independently of the cable system. Both the radio and television signal will cover approximately a 32 mile radius around Charleston.

"We will be stressing local news coverage in the Charleston-Mattoon communities, Coles County and, of course, University events," said Beabout.

"Included in the program format will be weekly interview segments with mayors and heads of the chambers of commerce in Mattoon and Charleston."

Each night, segments will be presented on news, sports, an in-depth interview, farm and business report and EIU events.

Two EIU faculty members, Ken Beno of the speech communication department and Max Sharp of journalism, will be the producer/director and news director, respectively.

Radio/TV Center

add 1

About 75-80 students are involved in three areas, reporting/writing, production and on-air talent, according to Beabout.

"All of the students are working as part of internships and/or volunteers. We had enough people express an interest so that everything will be double shifts...therefore, we'll rotate staffs every other week to offer more experience to more people," he explained.

"As we progress we want to produce more on-the-scene actualities. People want to know what's going on in their community.

"Even though this whole idea has been in the planning stage since the inception of the Radio/TV Center five years ago, I want to emphasize that this is just the start...not the finish," Beabout said.

Student co-anchors for the two TV shifts are Brian Tria, junior from Heyworth; Lia Salem, freshman from Granite City (North); Dave Patton, freshman from Decatur (Mt. Zion); and Janet Hardin, junior from Hindsboro (Oakland).

Radio anchors are Mark Hartz, senior from Hoopston (H.-East Lynn) and Mary ann Gustafson, junior from Barrington.