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03/14/1983 - Essay Contest

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

March 14, 1983
Select (5)

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Cash prizes will be awarded in an essay contest for Charleston and Mattoon high school students sponsored by Eastern Illinois University's Department of English.

Awards will be \$20, \$15, and \$10, plus certificates, in two divisions--one for juniors and one for seniors. "Honorable mention" certificates will also be given.

Dr. Frank McCormick, English Department faculty member, said the essays must be based on personal experiences. He said the experiences "need not be earth-shaking, such as, scoring a game-winning basket or winning first prize in a baton-twirling contest."

Rather, he said, a less dramatic experience such as "an account of how one overcame a fear of the dark offers an equally promising subject matter."

The essays may be written as part of a formal class assignment or independently and should contain between 500 and 1,500 words.

Deadline for submission of essays to the students' English teachers is April 12.

McCormick said "judges will respond most favorably to essays which bring the writer's experience to life in the mind of the reader and will convey to the reader a clear sense of the significance of the experience being described."