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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

January 31, 1986

Local

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--An Eastern Illinois University campuswide campaign to "Bust MS" kicked off a month long drive to raise money to support the National Multiple Sclerosis society.

Senior Angelyn Richardson, Eastern coordinator, said 25 percent of the \$10,000 goal has already been obtained. "We have \$2500 now and we haven't really even started."

Contributions include \$1050 from fraternities and sororities, \$870 from the estate of a Charleston woman and \$600-700 from miscellaneous cash donations, according to Richardson. Collection canisters are located in "a number of Charleston businesses."

Richardson said 140 universities nationwide are participating in the MS campaign. The school that raises the most money will receive a free MTV concert.

"We may not be the winner in the nation but we'll probably top everyone in the state," she said. There are eight other Illinois universities participating in the drive.

Richardson explained that her strategy includes "spending no money but making a lot...we get someone to donate or we don't spend."

She spoke to the Illinois House of Representatives in early January hoping to encourage legislative support for a statewide "Bust MS" proclamation.

State Representative Mike Weaver and businessman Eli Sidwell, both from Charleston, serve as honorary co-chairmen for the campus drive.

Future fund raising events include airband contests in Charleston establishments. Thus far 13 groups have paid the \$250 entrance fee to participate.

Bust MS

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The bands will perform and the audience will pay \$1 per vote to choose its favorite band with proceeds going to the MS drive.

The winning airband will advance to regional competition which will be taped and broadcast by MTV. Winners from the regionals will continue to the national level.

"I'm really excited about what's happening," Richardson said. "Everybody is coming together and working."

Dr. Daniel E. Thornburgh, director of University Relations and advisor to the local MS Drive, said, "I'm very impressed with the hard work by this dedicated group which is doing things for the contribution of their fellow man.

"Multiple Sclerosis is a serious disease with no cure and deserves all the financial support that can be garnered for it," Thornburgh said.