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04/14/1986 - International Discussion On World Issues

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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

April 14, 1986

Local

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, Illinois - Eastern Illinois University students and interested members of the public will have the chance April 26 to join with college students across the country and communicators around the world in an international discussion on world issues and media responsibility.

The International Videoconference, sponsored by the Christian Science Monitor, will provide a forum for seasoned journalists to share their experience with journalists of the future, said Earl Foell, editor in chief of the Monitor.

The videoconference will be broadcast live via satellite and will be picked up by about 150 participating journalism schools across the country. Eastern was asked to join by the Monitor.

David Reed, chairman of Eastern's journalism department and videoconference coordinator, said he is pleased Eastern is joining in this international event.

"It seemed to be an opportunity not only to hear some of the experts about the issues, but to put our students in almost direct contact with them," Reed said.

The conference will feature four panel discussions among leading journalists at sites around the world, including cities in England, Austria, Japan and the United States.

Students at participating schools have already submitted questions to panelists at any of the discussion sites, and they will have the opportunity to submit questions during the conference by direct telephone link-ups.

Discussions at each site will focus on a different topic. In Ditchley Park, England, panelists will discuss small wars and terrorism. Relationships between the superpowers will be explored in Vienna, Austria. Sharing technology and understanding foreign cultures will be the topic in Kyoto, Japan. Boston will serve as the videoconference hub.

Panels at each site will include a U.S. broadcast journalist of renown, a locally prominent journalist, at least one expert on the panel's topic and a senior writer from the Monitor as host. Senior Monitor editors will moderate the discussions from a television studio in Boston.

Reed said students and faculty from the School of Technology and the departments of journalism, political science, speech communications, history, sociology and economics have already notified him that they will be attending the conference. He noted that the conference is open to the public.

"I hope this can be the sort of event--interdisciplinary and international--which can put our students and us in touch for a short time with the world outside Eastern and help us understand and share some of its most serious concerns," Reed said.

Locally, the videoconference will be followed by a panel discussion. Reed is still putting together the panel of area media experts.

The videoconference can be viewed at Eastern from noon to 2:30 p.m. in the Buzzard Auditorium. One large screen monitors will be set up for viewing. The local panel discussion will begin at 2:30 p.m.

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