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## Affiliate hosts discussion on reactions to miniseries

By Scott Maben  
 Of the Emerald

Eugene ABC affiliate KEZI-TV will air a half-hour panel discussion tonight about the network's controversial "Amerika" miniseries.

Guest panelists will include four representatives from community organizations concerned with the seven-part miniseries depicting life in a Soviet-dominated United States. KEZI reporter Tracy Barry will host the program, called "Amerikan Issues," at 8:30 p.m. on Channel 9.

KEZI directors are airing the program to examine issues brought to their attention by station viewers, according to Sally Knowlton, director of promotions and public relations.

In addition, Knowlton said KEZI has received more than 50 phone calls from viewers expressing various reactions to the miniseries.

"Some people said they feel 'Amerika' doesn't portray the Soviets as they really are," Knowlton said.

For the pro-defense position are E.G. Ernie Ross of Doctors for Defense Preparedness and Bob Bennett of the Defense Education Committee.

Pro-disarmament guests include Guy Burton, representing Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC), and Manuel Pacheco, director of the University's High School Equivalency Program and also involved with CALC.

Barry stressed, however, that the discussion isn't intended to pit opposing opinions but rather explore broader perceptions raised by "Amerika's" plotline.

"The series is so complex that I don't know if it clearly breaks down into sides," Barry said. "We hope the panel discussion will bring out the various complexities suggested by the show."

Ross said the premise in "Amerika" is a far-fetched one, but he also believes people

need to discuss the idea of Soviet domination.

"I see it as a...science fiction show," Ross said. "I've done extensive research on the character of the Soviet Union, and I really believe the Soviet's brutality is understated in 'Amerika.'"

Ross said he has relatives living behind the Iron Curtain who have witnessed brutality much worse than anything dramatized in the miniseries.

"On the other hand, I think it's factually inaccurate from the standpoint that Americans wouldn't be as placid at they are in the show. From what I've seen of the series, it's taking them an awfully long time to wake up, and I don't think people in this country would take that long to react," Ross said.

He added that he supports President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative "because I accept the premise that the Soviet Union is an aggressive regime. I feel any defense system complicates an enemy's ability to pursue aggression."

While Ross said he feels "Amerika" is art-work, Pacheco said he sees it as "the old Cold War anti-Communism propaganda."

"What it looks like is an argument for Reagan's intervention in Third World countries and also for SDI," Pacheco said.

The premise of the miniseries, Pacheco continued, is "if America doesn't safeguard democracy from the Communists, before we know it the Russians could take over the country and suddenly we're living under totalitarianism. Now that's a clear endorsement for Star Wars."

"And it's racist as hell on top of that, too," he added, explaining that while the "white" Soviet officials linger in the background engaging in affairs with American women, blacks, Asians and Hispanics from Third World countries are brought in to "do the dirty work."

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**Et al.**

**MEETINGS**

The Eugene Natural History Society meets tonight at 8 p.m. in Room 123 Science I. Dr. Glenn Miller of the State Department of Agriculture will speak on the biological control of weeds.

The Foreign Student Organization meets tonight at 5 p.m. in Century Room C, EMU to discuss the organization of Europe Day.

The International Studies Association meets today at 4 p.m. in Room 100 Hendricks Hall.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Cafe Internationale will be held today from 4 to 6 p.m. in the International Lounge of the EMU.

A benefit concert for Costa Rican rain forests will be held tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Latin American Cultural Center, 1236 Kincaid St. The concert features local musician Bob Seawick.

Deadline for submitting Et als to the Emerald front desk, 300 EMU, is noon the day before publication. Et als are run only once. Events with a donation or admission charge will not be considered.

## MAC COURT PAC 10 BASKETBALL

**MEN'S GAMES**

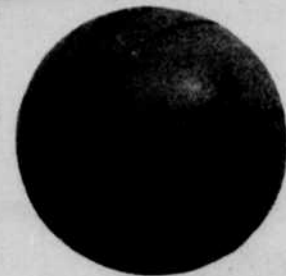
- Sunday, February 22  
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- Friday, February 20, 7:30 P.M.  
 OREGON VS. USC
- Saturday, February 21, 7:30 P.M.  
 OREGON VS. UCLA
- Thursday, February 26, 7:30 P.M.  
 OREGON VS. WASHINGTON
- Saturday, February 28, 7:30 P.M.  
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