

## “THE ANGRY WORLD: INTERNATIONAL NEWS COVERAGE IN AMERICA”

**What.** “The Angry World: International News Coverage in America” conference and TV program will convene the top U.S. editors of foreign news, the gatekeepers who affect what news the public sees. International news editors from both print and broadcast journalism will participate in a nonpartisan discussion. A 56-minute TV program, which is part of a Peabody Award-winning series produced by the Southern Center for International Studies, will be aired on public broadcasting stations.

The videotape of the program will be distributed to 450 journalism schools. The project will also result in a training videotape for professional development for mid-career journalists and student journalists. Excerpts from the program will be incorporated into the multimedia educational series, *The World in Transition*, produced by the Southern Center, which has been used to train 35,000 educators across the country.

The program is a collaborative effort of *The Anniston (Alabama) Star*, an award-winning daily, The Ayers Family Institute for Community Journalism, and the Southern Center for International Studies, with funding from the Knight Foundation, the Mott Foundation, and the Hewlett Foundation.

**Who.** The panelists confirmed to date are the following foreign news editors: Roger Cohen from *The New York Times*, George de Lama from *The Chicago Tribune*, Simon Li from *The Los Angeles Times*, Loren Jenkins, from NPR, Eason Jordan from CNN International, Lee Cullum from the *Dallas Morning News*, Chris Waddle, *The Anniston Star* and Stuart Loory from the University of Missouri School of Journalism and founder of *CNN World Report*. Terence Smith of PBS will be the moderator.

**Why?** This roundtable discussion will center on the international news editor’s role in presenting international issues in a democratic society. Issues include:

- The American public knows the world is angry—*most just don’t know why*. Why not? As international views of the United States change, are Americans fully aware of changes in world opinion? Does the media have a responsibility to make the public more aware?
- How do news editors handle their tremendous power to shape public opinion and ultimately public policy? What principles guide them in their decision-making on which footage to show and, perhaps more importantly, which to omit?
- With journalists embedded with troops, and with videophones in use around the world, international events become immediate and personal even in the heartland of America. But do Americans realize the impact of international events on their own lives and businesses? How can journalists cover the implications of international news as a local story? How can they increase Americans’ interest in world news?
- How do international news editors deal with questions of ideological bias?
- In light of embedded reporting during the war in Iraq and other technological advances, how is coverage of international news changing?
- Has the media allowed itself to be manipulated? For example, during the scripted White House news conference that took place before the war in Iraq?
- What international event or issue has been the most challenging to the panelists?
- To what extent can we make international news a “local story” so that the general public is more informed about the international environment and the impact of U.S. foreign policy?

Toward the end of the discussion questions will come from the audience.

**When, Where.** This conference will be held on October 22, 2003, at the Jacksonville State University in Anniston, Alabama, with a welcome dinner the night before and a luncheon and press conference afterwards. The location of the program speaks to the importance of bringing international news to the American heartland.