Celebrating the Good Times

By Noelle Selb
Staff Writer

Though “Remember When” and “Forever Young” sound like perfect Prom songs, they have also been the themes of past EMU Homecomings. But, this year’s idea of “Fete, Fest, Fiesta” will spice up the campus for an entire year.

EMU is nationally known for its high student participation in cross-cultural activities. In order to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the cross-cultural program, EMU has planned a year full of seminars, programs and meals to reflect the ongoing theme.

Krista Martin, assistant for the Undergraduate Dean’s Office of Cross-Cultural Programs, and part of the planning committee, said that Homecoming will only be, “the kickoff event of celebrating for an entire year.” She went on to say that planning started in 2000 and planners have been “working on it little by little.”

Martin remembers the beginning of the project when they felt EMU should be “recognized for our efforts [in cross cultural programs] and to celebrate it. Out of that came a committee of people over campus” and past cross-cultural participants.

Martin believes the highlight of the weekend will be the Festival Dinner and Cross-Cultural reunions held Saturday night in the University Commons. Janet Stutzman, director of Alumni and Parent Relations, agrees. “I think the dinner will be a special time when people can relax and visit and renew friendships from former cross-cultural programs, because the cross-cultural that students take while at EMU is usually a highlight of their studies,” said Stutzman.

Stutzman added, “Some other events are planned in keeping cross-cultural factors in mind, the Homecoming Concert on Friday and Saturday night which will be ‘Traveling Music and Dance From Around The World’ certainly would reflect our theme.”

An art exhibit by Dennis Muast will reflect his Mennonite culture experience. At the Haverfine Breakfast Senior Matt Kraybill, who has extensive cross-cultural experience will be sharing, along with his father, their perspectives on living and learning in cross-cultural missions.

The “Fete, Fest, Fiesta” theme was suggested by Orv Gingrich, the former director of cross-cultural programs.

“Before he left, he called to our attention the fact that the anniversary celebrations were coming up, and he wanted us to probably do some sort of special event at Homecoming,” said Stutzman. “But, as we talked about it, we decided because there’s no clear exact date that we could point to as, ‘this was the beginning of...’ they decided to do a yearlong celebration from 2002 to 2003.”

The committee felt it would do the anniversary more justice because they also would be able to include special speakers throughout the year. “We can make it all more comprehensive and inclusive,” said Stutzman.

Stutzman is excited about this year’s theme because she believes, “every Homecoming becomes a very special event. For me, it would be hard to say which was really the best.”

N E W S B R I E F S

According to a memorandum obtained by Rep. William D. Delahunt (D-Mass) the FBI illegally videotaped and intercepted e-mails in more than a dozen secret terrorism and intelligence investigations, said The Washington Post today.

President Bush became the first president to successfully invoke the Taft-Hartley Act on Tuesday, since Richard Nixon in 1971, as he intervened to break a strike by California Longshoremen. The Taft-Hartley Act, passed in 1947 gives the president the authority to intervene in strikes or lockouts that “impair national health or safety.” According to The New York Times Bush argued that the operation of the ports is “vital to our economy and to our military.”

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Rachel Swartzendruber, Shannon Terranova, Rachel Shrock, Rebekah Miller, Emily Troyer and Rachel Bowman on the set of 12 Angry Jurors.

12 Angry Jurors Hits the Stage

By Sharon Kauss
Contributing Writer

Violent scenes, marked by rabid accusations, name-calling, and full-blown shouting matches, fill the fall mainstage production 12 Angry Jurors. Scenes like these are rare on a campus accustomed to University Accom-facilitated discussions as a method of dealing with tough issues, but are exactly what audiences found in the fall mainstage production 12 Angry Jurors, which opened last weekend. The show will also run this weekend.

Full of humor, wit and passion, the play has officially opened to a roaring start. Setting: a corkboard, a water cooler, two windows with a city skyline, and a seemingly open-and-shut murder case into a violent debate.

The initial vote: 11-1. A single courageous voice stands alone in favor of aquittal, driving a seemingly open-and-shut murder case into a violent debate. Personal agendas and sets of baggages of each juror are exposed and hurled back and forth as they struggle to make sense of the facts.

Intensity heightens as the characters engage in heated discussions, form alliances, steadily reevaluate opinions and experience personal revelation.

Hailed by her cast, L.B. Hamilton, guest director for the play, used extensive experience and expertise to whip these most-ly calm, non-confrontational jurors, eyeing each other warily, enters the deliberating room, and the fun begins.

The committee felt it would be hard to say which was really the best.