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THINGS TO DO

Forum arranges cultural events

Aside from the educational advantages, there are many other reasons for attending a college or institution of higher education. For example, there is an important cultural aspect to University life, and various

By Carolyn Lamberson

campus organizations provide students with different options in cultural experiences.

One of the busier cultural organizations on campus is the Cultural Forum, which operates out of the ground floor of the EMU. The Cultural Forum consists of seven student coordinators in the areas of popular music, film, heritage music, small concerts, performing arts, contemporary issues, and events crew.

With the exception of the events crew coordinator, each coordinator is responsible for organizing cultural events within his or her own field and then bringing the idea before the forum for approval, said Debbie Martin, one of three EMU staff members who gives advice to the coordinators as necessary.

The events crew person is responsible for organizing volunteers to act as security, ticket takers and other person-

nel pertinent for running an event smoothly.

The Cultural Forum received \$64,000 in student fee money from the Incidental Fee Committee last spring. Martin said this money is used as "seed money" to initiate more than \$200,000 worth of student programming. The difference comes from money the forum raises with admission to other events.

Cheri Wicks, the performing arts coordinator, said there are a lot of things involved in bringing an event to the University.

"My job is to bring performance, especially dance, small theatre and maybe mime to the University," she said. This may entail knowing what types of performance will be well received, what space is available for such a performance, and how much money the performers will require, she added. Lack of money is her biggest frustration, she said.

"To bring an act in will take almost my entire budget," she said. "To get anyone with a name — forget it." But Wicks does not see this as an entirely negative position, she added.

"That's also a challenge. What's the best I can get for my money?"

Dance is of special interest to Wicks, she said. And although there has not been a lot of dance

brought to the University in the past, she would like to see that change.

"I think there is a potentially tremendous audience," she said. "It's a matter of exposure. People are really open to any kind of performance art, and dance is popular right now," she said.

The Cultural Forum sponsors about 50 films a term, said Clay Hutto, the forum's film coordinator. Like Wicks, he likes to get his money's worth, and tries to schedule a balance of films that will make money with those that won't, he said.

In addition to selecting, scheduling and arranging films, which are played in either Geology 150, 177 Lawrence or 180 PLC, Hutto also organizes volunteers to take tickets and run the films.

Hutto said he will tend to schedule the more recent and popular films, the ones more likely to make money, on the weekends. On Sundays he has scheduled foreign classics, and Wednesdays are the nights for American classics of the 1930s, 40s, 50s and 60s.

He added he will always take suggestions from students and look into getting a certain film. Some films are impossible to find, he said. Others, if found, are too expensive to bring to campus.

The crowds at the showings vary according to the films. Hutto tries to predict which films will be more popular and schedules the showing hall accordingly, he said. Films like "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" and "About Last Night..." are put in the bigger rooms, Geology and PLC, while a film like "Slaughterhouse Five" will sell-out Lawrence.

"My goal is to make the films both entertaining and educational," he said, but added, "It doesn't always work out that way."

The biggest annual event sponsored by the Cultural Forum is the Willamette Valley Folk Festival. Heritage Music Coordinator Frank Gosar has already begun preliminary work on the festival, although the official organization doesn't begin until winter term, he said.

Turn to Forum, Page 31C



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