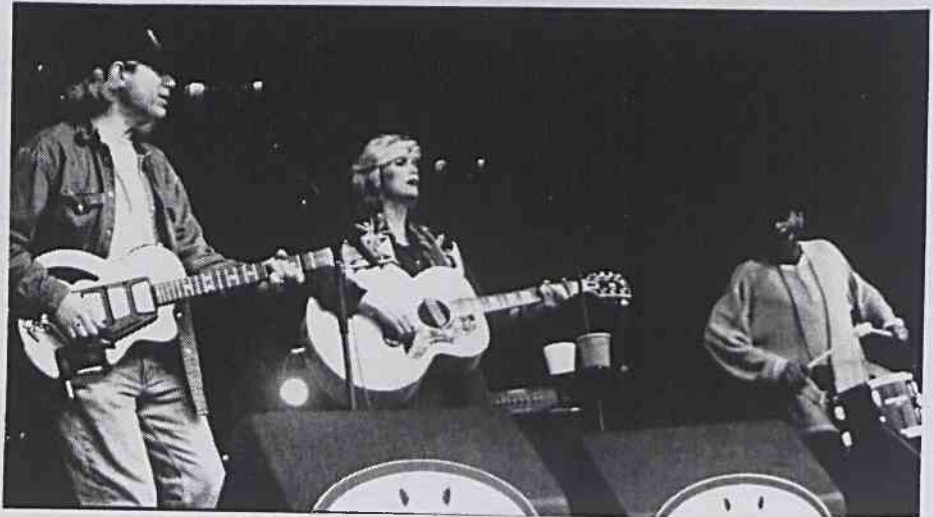


MerleFest '97 Comes To WCC

By Brandon Marley

On April 24-27, Wilkes Community College was invaded by bluegrass lovers from all over. People came from as far away as Europe to come to MerleFest '97. MerleFest is a festival that brings different kinds of people together for fun, food, and, of course, the famous bluegrass music.

I talked to a couple from Finland about how they were enjoying the festival, and they responded by saying, "We love this music and we really enjoy this festival. We



EmmyLou Harris



(Above) Pickin' and Grinnin'

have met many people and we enjoy the good food here. We come here every year."

This year's musical attractions included such stars as Ricky Skaggs, Alison Krauss and Union Station, Marty Stuart and Doc Watson. There were many other attractions that the whole family could enjoy and participate in. Those activities included face painting and a petting zoo for the kids. For the parents there were arts and crafts and line dancing to the

(Below) Big crowd, big fun

traditional bluegrass music that defines the tradition of the Merle Watson Festival.

I thoroughly enjoyed the Merle Watson Festival, and I encourage everybody to attend the festival next year. Even if you aren't a fan of bluegrass music, there are many different arts and crafts that anyone can enjoy looking at and participating in. The Merle Watson Festival is fun for the entire family.

