HUMOR — from high-brow wit to screw-ball slick, through good times and bad, it lifts our spirits and lightens our stress load. In literature, film, television, clubs, classrooms, and conversations, humor helps provide perspective on ourselves and others.

"Human beings are the only species who laugh, but there is no physiological reason why," says Kay Caskey, a 1988 graduate of Western Michigan University's specialty certificate program in holistic health. But Caskey and Laurie Morris Young, M.A., '70, another graduate of the specialty certificate program, believe so strongly in the therapeutic importance of laughter that they've based a business on it. Through their company, Laughter Works, Caskey and Young present workshops on stress management that emphasize the use of humor as a coping device. The two also teach Health and Humor, a graduate-level class in WMU's Division of Continuing Education.

"In a society where stress is so prevalent, it's hard for people to get along," says Caskey, who with Young presented a paper at the Tenth International Humor Conference held this July in Paris, France. "That's where laughter comes in; when you're laughing, it's impossible to fight or flee. Laughter forges a bond between people: it's how we survive with ourselves and others."

Humor has long been a subtle art form, spawning respected genres of literary writing such as hyperbole, satire, irony, and parody. In recent years, though, many academicians, health professionals, and others have taken a closer look at the role humor plays in maintaining an healthy spirit and lightens our stress load. In literature, film, TV, and in a tool belt, gruntling like a pig, and sending his wife on television sitcom, 'Home Improvement's' success, Allen says he has always been able to spot trends, and attributes the show's appeal to America's rediscovery of the value of the nuclear family.

"Our show doesn't try to glorify the family. It just illustrates certain traits that have gotten kind of lost — like camaraderie," he says. "It shows that there are still families out there who do get along, who like having fun with each other. They're not all dysfunctional. There's some legitimate family caring between (my TV wife) Patricia and the boys and myself."

There are lots of laughs as well. In the tradition of Roseanne Arnold and Jerry Seinfeld, Allen has parlayed his stand-up comic persona (a man's man who views his family's "Tool Time" as a hardware Mecca and his tool pegboard as an altar) into a sitcom that has captured the collective heart and imagination of his audience. Allen plays Tim Taylor, a sort of Billy the Kid in a tool belt and the star of a do-it-yourself home improvement show, "Tool Time." A macho kind of guy, Taylor thinks a hard hat and safety goggles are a turn-on. He's "a Bob Vila on acid," says Allen, who as ego-sensitive Taylor, humbly knocks the know-it-all home repair icon out cold when Vila guests on his television show.

At home the "handy man from hell" is an affable, though slightly befuddled, family man with a penchant for rewiring his household appliances to the max, usually with disastrous results. One of last season's highlights was a show in which Taylor soups up his riding lawn mower and transforms into a suburban Easy Rider, complete with crash helmet.

As a male prototype of the 1990's men's movement, the guy is desperately struggling to find a balance between his sensitive, liberated side and his self-important, prideful side. The confusion that ensues provides many of 'Home Improvement's' finest introspective moments as he

Continued on page 11
Three receive honorary degrees

Congressman Howard Wolpe, balletmaster Jürgen Schneider, and medieval specialist Dr. Hans-Erich Keller are all recent recipients of honorary degrees from Western Michigan University.

Congressman Howard Wolpe received an honorary doctor of public service degree June 27 at WMU's commencement exercises. A member of WMU's Department of Political Science from 1967 to 1972, Wolpe has represented Michigan's 3rd Congressional District since 1978. He has announced plans to retire after his current seat was eliminated by redistricting.

His congressional activities have included opposing apartheid; supporting environmental protection, energy, and research and development issues; and advocating policies that improve business competitiveness and encourage regional investments in infrastructure, education, and worker training and retraining programs. Wolpe has also been instrumental in helping WMU secure several federal grants and has donated three congressional pay raises to the University, creating the Howard Wolpe Fund for the Study of Politics and supporting the University's Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations.

Schneider, the founder of WMU's annual ballet seminar and student conference in the Russian method, received an honorary doctor of fine arts degree August 8. Schneider was presented with the degree at the concluding event of this year's seminar and student conference, which was celebrating its tenth anniversary. A native of what is now Germany, Schneider was a principal dancer with two East German ballet companies before studying in the Soviet Union, where he later trained with the Bolshoi Ballet and the Vaganova Chorographic School. He joined the American Ballet Theatre in New York in 1974 as a coach and teacher. He became balletmaster two years later and held this position until 1991. Schneider was the private coach to Natalia Makarova and Mikhail Baryshnikov, among others. He also performed with the American Ballet Theatre and served as balletmaster in the popular movie, Turning Point. He currently conducts teacher training programs and master classes in ballet throughout the United States as well as abroad.

At a special convocation May 7, WMU presented its honorary doctor of humane letters degree to Keller, professor of Romance literatures and Linguistics at Ohio State University. The convocation was conducted during the University's International Congress on Medieval Studies, which is sponsored by the Medieval Institute.

Keller has provided strong support for the institute's efforts to encourage research and to advance knowledge of medieval culture. For the last four decades, in both Europe and the United States, he has made essential contributions to the understanding of medieval and modern Romance languages and literatures. He is one of the world's foremost authorities on the medieval epic, The Song of Roland, and has taught at the University of Michigan in addition to universities in Switzerland, Austria, and the Netherlands.

Below: The term "book learning" has a special meaning for medieval scholars visiting Kalamazoo. Each year, thousands of medieval specialists from around the globe gather on Western Michigan University's campus to compare notes on the Middle Ages at the International Congress on Medieval Studies, the world's largest and best known gathering of medieval studies specialists. "My colleagues around the world refer to Kalamazoo as 'Mecca for annual pigrimage by medivalists,'" says Dr. Otto Gründler, director of WMU's Medieval Institute, the congress sponsor. This year's event marked the thirtieth anniversary of the congress, which was first convened in 1962 with 150 participants. The congress with fitful every other year until 1970 when it became an annual event. In 1979 the word "International" was added to the congress title to reflect its standing in the world community. This year participants came about from twenty-three countries.

Right: On April 29 WMU celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of its master of business administration degree in Grand Rapids with a reception at the Grand Rapids Regional Center. Participants included, from left, President Dether H. Heimsoeth; Susan Sherman, M.B.A. '87, executive director of the Grand Rapids YMCA; Grand Rapids Mayor John Logie; and Dr. Darrell G. Jones, retied dean of the Western Michigan University College of Business. Jones, who returned to the fac-

Scultures installed

As part of year-long exhibition

Eleven sculptures by professional artists from seven states and Canada were installed on the Western Michigan University campus this summer as part of a year-long, outdoor exhibition. The Sculpture Tour Program is intended to be an annual exhibit that will offer an invitational exhibit that will offer a diversity of approaches and content while enhancing the campus environment.

Above left: "Sky Grinder" by Glenn Zweigardt, professor of sculpture at Alfred University in New York.

Above center: "Big House, from the Domestic Series" by Norman Taylor, professor of art at the University of Washington at Seattle.

Above right: "Oh Myopia!" by Glenn Dasher, associate professor of art at the University of Alabama at Huntsville.
New deans take the helm in four areas

Dr. Lowell E. Crow has been named interim dean of the College of Business. Crow has been associate dean of the college since 1989. Previously, he has served as assistant dean of the college since 1979. An associate professor of English, he replaces Dr. Darrell G. Jones, who returned to the faculty after a long and distinguished career at the college’s helm.

Dr. Rolll G. Douma has been named interim dean of the Graduate College. Douma has been associate dean of the Graduate College since 1989. An associate professor of English, he replaces Dr. Laurel G. Trotzinger, who retired from the faculty after thirteen years as dean.

Dr. Joseph G. Reish, a professor of French, has been named interim dean of the Lee Honors College. Reish, who returned to the helm, was an assistant dean from 1987 to 1988. He replaces Dr. Fath Gabeheiek, who has accepted the position of professor and dean of the division of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Barrett, a director of minority affairs since 1988, replaces Dr. Theresa A. Powell, who has been named to the faculty of the College of Business in Oakland, California.

University sets eighth straight grant record

Grants awarded to WMU reached a record of nearly $31.4 million at the close of the 1991-92 fiscal year. The total reflects a $1 million or 9 percent increase over the previous fiscal year. This marks the eighth consecutive year of record growth in external support for University projects. The 1991-92 figure is nearly $10 million more than the grant total for 1984-85, the year WMU began its move toward becoming a more research intensive institution.

Using the 1984-85 total of $3.5 million as a benchmark, President Diether H. Haenicke challenged the faculty in 1986 to double research awards within five years. The 1991-92 figure is $13.4 million, well above the $6.8 million 1986-87 total and $11 million 1987-88 total. The record total reflects a $1 million or 9 percent increase over the previous fiscal year. This marks the eighth consecutive year of record growth in external support for University projects. The 1991-92 figure is nearly $10 million more than the grant total for 1984-85, the year WMU began its move toward becoming a more research intensive institution.

Program aids financially strapped students

WMU’s newly created Job Opportunity Bank program, similar to the national work-study program, will assist new students this fall who are feeling the pinch from recession-induced financial aid problems. Three vice presidents have set aside $250 million in student wages. This year’s 20 percent increase in student wages will provide $4.35 an hour for ten-hour-a-week jobs for up to thirty weeks during the regular 1992-93 academic year.

Programs in history and political science are being offered in the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Greg J. Barrett, dean of the college, has emphasized the comparative study of political systems, and chairs the college’s National Fellowship Program.

Hood, Wolpe join race, ethnic relations board

State Rep. Morris Hood (D-Detroit) and U.S. Rep. Howard Wolpe (D-Lansing) are the two persons who have been named to the advisory board of the Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations in the College of Arts and Sciences. The institute, one of the first of its kind in the nation and the first to be announced in Michigan, was established to promote academic inquiry into the causes and solutions of ethnic and racial tension. It offers programs that contribute to public understanding of racial and ethnic issues. In 1989 Hood was instrumental in providing state support to establish the institute and in 1990 Wolpe donated his congressional pay raise to the institute.

Other advisory board members are: Joyce A. Brown, president of the Battle Creek Urban League; Dr. Douglas P. Ferraro, dean of WMU’s College of Arts and Sciences; Linda Giral, executive director of the Hispanic Commission of Western Michigan in Grand Rapids; the Rev. Dr. Otha Giliard, pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Kalamazoo; Beverly A. Moore, M.S.W. ’82, mayor of Kalamazoo; Linda Mah, staff writer at the Kalamazoo Gazette; Dr. James Rudder, superintendent of the Benton Harbor Public Schools; Dr. Luis H. Toledo, transplantation surgeon at Borgess Medical Center in Kalamazoo; Dr. Valora Washington, vice president-president of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, who is currently also a visiting assistant professor at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek; and Carolyn H. Williams, associate director of the Lee Honors College.

Belleville wins prestigious MASEA Award

Gary L. Bellchere, director of the WMU Student Employment Referral Service, was named one of Midwestern America’s best young student employment administrators at the Sixth Annual Academy of Volunteers Recognition Dinner and Dance. Waging was inducted as a member of the Academy of Volunteers and currently chairs the board of directors. Waging’s mother, Susan, was a member of the Academy of Volunteers and currently chairs the board of directors.

College creates physician assistant department

The College of Health and Human Services now has a combined with growth in other areas, has resulted in a new department of Physician Assistant Administration and maintains a long-term planning committee. The department has been established to lead to a master’s degree in public administration.

WMU offers two new doctoral programs, adds two specialty programs in Muskegon

Beginning this fall, new doctor of philosophy degree programs in political science and health care administration are being offered in conjunction with the addition of the two new specialty programs in conjunction with a graduate degree. The ten programs are being offered in conjunction with the addition of the two new specialty programs in conjunction with a graduate degree. The health program seeks to improve the effectiveness of health care services through advanced practice in selecting areas, while the alcohol and drug program seeks to train substance abuse professionals in a variety of important areas.

Foundation honors two outstanding volunteers

The Foundation recognized Willard "Bill" Brown, Jr., B.S. ’53, of Chicago and Patrick F. Waring, B.S. ’65, of Grand Rapids, as the 12 for their outstanding contributions as fund-raising volunteers. The two were inducted at the annual University of Volunteers Recognition Dinner and Dance. Warring was inducted as a member of the University of Volunteers and currently chairs the board of directors.

Southwest Regional Center moves to new offices

The University of Volunteers has relocated its regional center from Western Michigan College to St. Joseph High School under a five-year lease agreement for use of a wing at the high school. The college’s regional center campus will complete its Mandel Center for Arts and Technology, combined with growth in other areas, has resulted in increased support of the center’s programs.

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Library group launches charter membership drive

Individuals wishing to strengthen and support the activities of WMU’s libraries are being offered the chance to do so. The Friends of the University Libraries has launched a charter membership drive directed at individuals and organizations outside the University and WMU faculty, staff, and students. The group’s goals are to offer an opportunity for interested individuals to come together with a common interest in the literary and cultural activities of the University libraries, to encourage gifts and bequests for the libraries, to take part in special projects, and to aid in the development of special collections.

WMU’s Military Force Research and Development Institute in Chicago and the University Libraries may obtain membership information by calling (616) 387-5152.

Sky Broncos take second place in safety contest

WMU’s precision flying team, Sky Broncos, took second place in the National Organization of School Safety Conference April 29 through May 2 in Louisiana. The Sky Broncos finished two points behind the No. 1 team, Embry-Riddle of Daytona, Florida, despite placing first in first flight events. They were still nine points ahead of the third-place team, the U.S. Air Force Academy. WMU also hosted Ohio State University, the University of Illinois, the University of North Dakota, and twenty-two other teams that had qualified for the national competition.
Six athletic standouts named to hall of fame

Six outstanding athletes who competed from the 1950s through the 1970s were the newest inductees into WMU's Athletic Hall of Fame during ceremonies September 18.

Pat Asbury B.S., M.A. 67, played field hockey and women's basketball at the University of Northern Iowa. Asbury was a three-time All-American and was one of the nation's premier steeplechase runners. He was a University of Notre Dame graduate and was later associated with Assumption College in Ohio. Asbury was one of the nation's premier steeplechase performers. He is the creator and owner of Leather, Etc. stores and lives in California.

John Cook B.A., '66, is one of only two Mid-American Conference players to win the top three singles titles. He was both All-American in cross country and a track All-American. He was also a member of the Olympic Team and was one of the nation's top athletes. He was a university coach and athletic director, and a member of the American Swimming Coaches Association. He is the co-author of "Evaluating Textbook Use in Business Education" and "A Guide for Managers and Evaluators," and "Management: Principles and Practice." He is the president of McKinley Financial Services, Incorporated in Florida, one of the nation's largest minority-owned insurance agencies. He has been a university coach and athletic director, and a coach for the USFL's Oklahoma Outlaws.

Fred Orlofsky has been WMU's only head coach for men's gymnastics, having started the program in 1967. When competing in the 1960s, he was a member of the U.S. squad for the Olympics, World Championships, and Pan-American Games. In 1976 he received a WMU Alumni Association Teaching Excellence Award.

Department builds popular teaching tool

Everyday citizens in classrooms, nature centers, libraries, and museums from Oregon to New York are getting a peek at the principles of groundwater flow and contamination by viewing working models developed and produced at WMU. The acrylic models, which look like small aquariums, are designed to teach elementary and secondary school teachers and students about groundwater. They have proven to be a popular and effective tool for teaching about groundwater and how to protect Michigan's leading source of drinking water. Passengers began looking at groundwater models during a three-week tour of the country and found all of the models had problems and were too expensive for most teachers and their institutions. Most models previously available sold for $200 to $500. The WMU Groundwater Simulator II sells for $89.90, making it affordable for teachers and non-profit organizations. The models are custom-built and cost $1,000, while small customized models cost $200.

Engineer uses math to project AIDS spread

By reducing the number of AIDS cases to a manageable model, Dr. Azim Houshyar, associate professor of industrial engineering and a specialist in operations and systems engineering, is trying to help public officials with the guidance they need to combat the spread of the disease in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible. Houshyar has spent the past four years applying mathematical models to his study of the progression of AIDS in various populations. His work has been published in the AIDS and Public Policy Journal, in an invitation from Yale University to join a March 1992 trip to Eastern Europe to take part in a series of technical exchanges on the AIDS epidemic. Modeling the effectiveness of HIV screening for high risk populations has been the focus of much of his work to date. His current research focuses on risk factors in the general population. His models can predict the percentage of risk per sexual contact and the percentage of risk per number of sexual partners as well as the risk of infection over time. They also can predict the effect of changing the sexual activities of infected persons by identifying them through screening and counseling them about how to avoid infecting others. Houshyar says his research shows that voluntary, confidential testing and screening of high risk groups, followed by counseling of those found to be HIV positive, is the most effective method of slowing the spread of the disease where it is most prevalent. But, he says, prevention through education and by public health policy approach needed for the general population.

New equipment enhances scientific research

The newest addition to WMU's Department of Biological Sciences, the Biological Imaging Center in McCracken Hall, is allowing the University to expand its biological research activities. The center's new light and electron imaging facilities consists of three new microscopes, an image analysis computer system, and cable hookup to the Department of Biological Sciences' scanning electron microscope. This equipment will be heavily used for the department's work in medical pathology, toxicology, and molecular biology. It also can be used for educational and industrial applications in such fields as ecology, geology, geography, and engineering, particularly in the area of materials development.

A new laboratory in Road Hall is helping other centers analyze the state's watershed. The Stable Isotope Mass-Spectrometer Laboratory improves WMU's ability to assist in economic development, aquatic management, water and wastewater-quality management, and pollution assessment management decisions by providing data on Michigan's subsurface geology, water supply, and water quality. The facility features a $200,000 state-of-the-art spectrometer—the only one of its kind in West Michigan. The Institute for Water Sciences' scanning electron microscope is allowing the Department of Biological Sciences' scanning electron microscope. This equipment will be heavily used for the department's work in medical pathology, toxicology, and molecular biology. It also can be used for educational and industrial applications in such fields as ecology, geology, geography, and engineering, particularly in the area of materials development.

Researcher investigates insulin alternatives

Research being conducted by Dr. Susan R. Stapleton, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, and her research associates, Dr. Richard N. Passero, professor of philosophy, and Dr. James R. Cooley, professor of religious studies, has been the focus of much of his work to date. His current research focuses on risk factors in the general population. His models can predict the percentage of risk per sexual contact and the percentage of risk per number of sexual partners as well as the risk of infection over time. They also can predict the effect of changing the sexual activities of infected persons by identifying them through screening and counseling them about how to avoid infecting others. Houshyar says his research shows that voluntary, confidential testing and screening of high risk groups, followed by counseling of those found to be HIV positive, is the most effective method of slowing the spread of the disease where it is most prevalent. But, he says, prevention through education and by public health policy approach needed for the general population.

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Kendall gift is largest from an individual in WMU’s history

Beulah I. Kendall, a prominent Battle Creek business leader and philanthropist, has provided direct and indirect support to Western Michigan University valued in excess of $2 million. She has contributed approximately $1.6 million to the University to support a series of endowed scholarships and more than $400,000 to the Cereal City Development Corporation to be used for the relocated WMU regional center in downtown Battle Creek.

"Beulah Kendall is a dear personal friend and one of the most generous supporters of WMU in the University’s history," President Diether H. Haenicke said. "Her gifts enable untold numbers of students in their pursuit of a good education. She will forever be thanked by all those who benefit from her unusually generous gift."

Kendall’s gift is the eighth contribution of $1 million or more received during the $55-million Campaign for Excellence, begun in 1988. Her $1.6-million direct contribution is the fourth largest overall and the largest from an individual in WMU’s eight-year history. Other larger contributions have been made by the Haworth family and Haworth, Incorporated, of Holland, Michigan; the Irving S. Gill Foundation of Kalamazoo; and the Upjohn Company of Kalamazoo. The $1.6-million direct contribution will support four academic programs, each named for Kendall and her late husband. They include the Roy and Beulah Kendall Medallion Endowed Scholarship Fund. Medallion scholarships are the most competitive and most prestigious merit-based scholarships at WMU. The Kendall Medallion Scholarship Fund is designated for a qualifying high school graduate from Calhoun County, which encompasses Battle Creek.

Another of the scholarship endowments will be used to support professional development programs at the WMU regional center in Battle Creek.

The two remaining endowments, each named the Roy and Beulah Kendall Kellogg Community College Scholarship endowment, will support students attending WMU. Kendall’s generosity is based on financial need; one on academic merit. Kendall is a longtime major benefactor of WMU. Her past gifts include funding for two Medallion Scholarships; a $130,000 contribution in 1986 to the University’s printing management center; and a $100,000 unrestricted gift in 1989 to the President’s Fund.

Western Michigan University’s student recreational and intercollegiate athletic facilities are undergoing a $50 million renovation and expansion.

President Diether H. Haenicke recommended the project after it was recommended to him by a design committee made up of students and faculty and staff members. The project, which has been in the planning stages for the past seven years, will complement new academic buildings and "provide the missing link for quality of life amenities at this institution," Haenicke said.

The work is expected to be completed by December 1994 and is being financed by tax-free bonds supported by student fees. Resembling a "sports village," the improvements in concept, the improvements are taking place in four phases. An emphasis is being placed on developing high visibility areas and inviting spaces, creating a festive image, providing handicapped access, meeting the exercise and recreational needs of males and females equally, and limiting the disruption to on-going programs.

Parts of the project’s first phase already have been completed. For instance, alumni coming back to campus for Homecoming will find a remodeled Oliver Street entrance off of Stadium drive, as well as ten new tennis courts in Goldsworthy Valley and major improvements, such as lighting, to the valley’s intramural fields.

In addition, the Homecoming game will be played on a newly installed natural grass surface. The new artificial turf track that had been used for football games was worn out and matted down, while the cushion underneath had deteriorated to the point where the hard surface was dangerous for players. Compared to artificial turf, the new Prescription Athletic Turf is expected to be more "player friendly," absorb less heat, last longer, and be more economical in the long run. To help save on wear and tear, the WMU-owned property along Davis Street in front of East Hall has been upgraded to serve as a football practice field.

Track and field enthusiasts will no doubt notice the improvements at Kanley Track, which feature a new, lighted 400-meter Olympic model polyurethane track. As part of a separate $170,000 fundraising effort, the track is also getting a new building. The fifty-by-fifty-square-foot, two-story structure will provide storage and work areas for media, coaches, officials, and trainers. George Dales, fund drive chairman and a former men’s track and cross country coach, said the drive’s organizers also want to establish a "support group of our former athletes to provide help for our men’s and women’s programs in other future undertakings."

Honorary chairpersons for the fund drive are Ira Murchison, ’58, an Olympic gold medal winner sprinter, and former WMU track coaches J. Towner Smith and Clayson Maus.

On-going and planned work includes renovating the thirty-year-old Gary Center and repairing and renovating Read Fieldhouse and Oakland Gymnasium. Athletics work at the Gary Center will allow the University to better meet the needs of all of the 24,800 on-campus students it now enrolls. The center was originally built to serve 5,000 male students. Female students of the era used Oakland Gymnasium.

Plans for the Gary Center include replacing the swimming pool with a new recreational pool and adding academic laboratories, classrooms, and offices for the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation; Office of University Recreation Programs and Facilities; Zest for Life; and University Wellness Programs. The center’s existing asphalt area and intramural gym also will be renovated, and ten new racquetball courts, two multipurpose gymnasium spaces, and an elevated jogging track will be constructed.

To make room for the Gary expansion, the police station and Hillside East and Hillside West have been demolished, along with portions of the existing Gary Center. Offices in the demolished buildings have been relocated. (Refer to the story on page 8 for information about the McKee Alumni Center’s relocation.)
Three receive Western Michigan University's 1992 Distinguished Alumni Award

Dr. C. Bassett Brown, B.S., M.D., retired esthetic and reconstruction facial surgeon. Brown returned to his hometown to serve in the 92nd Infantry Division. Following the game, he was awarded the 11th Star, world's highest decoration for valor, the United States Distinguished Service Cross and the French Legion of Honor.

Brown received the award because of his dedication to his community, his involvement in the arts and cultural events, his commitment to education, and his leadership in civic matters.

While at WMU, Brown majored in psychology and served as a member of the basketball team. After completing his medical degree at the University of Michigan, he returned to Kalamazoo to practice medicine.

Brown's dedication to education and his contributions to the community are the reason he was selected for the award.

The three recipients are:

- Dr. C. Bassett Brown
- Dorothy Dalton
- Dorothy Dalton

These recipients were chosen based on their significant achievements and contributions to the community. They were selected for their dedication to education, their involvement in cultural events, and their leadership in civic matters.
Youth Projects

Lori Belden Robbins, B.S., ’89, receives the 2002 Alumni Award in Oak Park.

N.Z. Bryant, B.S., ’71, is president of Patterson- Brown & Company and incorporated, an insurance and financial services firm in Pontiac.


Ed Gordon, B.S. ’ ’, was formerly vice president at the City of Lansing.

Ellen M. Harvath, B.S., ’89, received the 2002 Alumni Award in Washington, D.C.

John S. Van Alstine, M.B., ’91, marketing director of Solvay Pharmaceuticals in Troy.

Sheryl L. Vander Linden, B.A., ’92, assistant vice president, consumer services for Old Kent Financial Corporation in Grand Rapids.

Julia Watson, B.A., ’67, was appointed as a 1990 Fiftieth-year Fulbright lecturer at Osaka University, Osaka, Japan.

John Paulus, B.A. ’93, is affiliated with the Louisiana State Board of Education in Louisiana, San Francisco, CA.

Dick Griswold, B.S., ’92, to March was appointed director/customer satisfaction for Michigan. A product group manager of American Sprint.

Larry A. Adams, B.S., ’93, was named manager and chief operating officer, Harbor Industries, Inc., Grand Rapids, MI.

Nya Schullerich Ryma, B.S. ’91, was named supervisor of fine arts, San Diego City College, San Diego, CA.

Philip Brouse, B.A., ’99, was recently named to the Huntington High School faculty, Huntington, W.V.

Patricia Connor Hadley, B.A., ’95, was named marketing director, Denver Public Schools, Denver, CO.

Richard E. Todd, B.S., ’95, MS, ’96, in 1992 was named associate professor of fine arts, San Diego City College, San Diego, CA.

Phillip Brouse, B.A., ’99, was recently named to the Huntington High School faculty, Huntington, W.V.

James Grace, B.A., ’96, in May was elected to the board of trustees of Haskell College, Adrian, MI. Grace is a partner in the law firm of Dean & Furhman, Troy, MI.

Stewart Smith, B.B.A. ’97, in March was appointed manager of the Phoenix division, the school district.

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Stewart Smith, B.B.A. ’97, in March was appointed manager of the Phoenix division, the school district.

Dave D. Stinson, B.A., ’97, was recently recognized as the support staff person of the year, Calhoun Intermediate School District, Battle Creek.

John Paulus, B.A. ’93, in May was appointed to chief state bookkeeper for the Illinois State School Board of Education, San Francisco, CA.

Dick Griswold, B.S., ’92, to March was appointed director/customer satisfaction for Michigan. A product group manager of American Sprint.

Larry A. Adams, B.S., ’93, was named manager and chief operating officer, Harbor Industries, Inc., Grand Rapids, MI.

Nya Schullerich Ryma, B.S. ’91, was named supervisor of fine arts, San Diego City College, San Diego, CA.

Philip Brouse, B.A., ’99, was recently named to the Huntington High School faculty, Huntington, W.V.

Patricia Connor Hadley, B.A., ’95, was named marketing director, Denver Public Schools, Denver, CO.

Richard E. Todd, B.S., ’95, MS, ’96, in 1992 was named associate professor of fine arts, San Diego City College, San Diego, CA.

Phillip Brouse, B.A., ’99, was recently named to the Huntington High School faculty, Huntington, W.V.

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Three notable graduates receive Distinguished Alumni Awards

Continued from page 7

Brown has been an active member of numerous professional organizations, has been a frequent guest lecturer at both national and international conferences, and has written more than fifty articles for various professional publications.

A life member of the NAACP, he has also been an active member of the Moscow Junior Chamber of Commerce, having served as chairman of the Benton Harbor Federal Housing Commission and as a member of the Governor's Comprehensive State Housing Advisory Council. In addition, he has been a member of his community, having served as chairperson of the Bartlett Elementary School Board.

In 1965, Karla M. Gray choose to attend WMU because she wanted to be a librarian or a teacher and, in her words, "Western was the library science school at that time."

Having grown up in Escanaba, Gray also enrolled at the University because she was "a small town girl and perhaps too introverted for one of the larger institutions." Gray, who majored in English and history, received her bachelor's degree in 1969. She remained at the university to pursue graduate studies and received a master's degree in African history in 1972.

"My educational experiences at Western gave me the self-confidence, the intellectual curiosity, and the balanced perspective which later enabled me to achieve success beyond my wildest dreams," Gray reflects, "in reflecting on her school days in Kalamazoo."

In 1980, she was appointed assistant professor in the Department of History and Government, and in 1986, she was promoted to associate professor. In 1990, she was appointed dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and in 1992, she was appointed dean of the College of Education and Social Work.

Gray began her legal career as a law clerk for a federal district court judge after graduating from the WMU Cooley Law School in 1976. During the next fourteen years, she practiced both corporate and private law.

She served as staff attorney for the Atlantic Richfield Company from 1971 to 1981. She then maintained her own practice in Butte, Montana, for three years before returning to the corporate sector as a staff attorney and legislative lobbyist for the Montana Power Company in Butte.

Gray has been actively involved in numerous professional organizations. She has served the State Bar of Montana in various capacities, including holding positions as chairperson of the Board of Editors for the Bar's publication, Montana Lawyer, and as a member of the corporate law revision committee. She is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and a member of the National Association of Women Judges and has been a member of the Montana Defense Trial Lawyers Association and the Montana Trial Lawyers Association.

When time permits, Gray enjoys studying family genealogy, playing piano, reading, and travelling.

David C. Smith has been associated with the Peat Marwick accounting, auditing, and consulting firm for nearly three decades. Currently he is vice chairman for KPMG Peat Marwick and serves as a member of its board of directors.

Smith was named to his current position six months after Peat Marwick merged with Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler (KPMG) in January 1992. Smith joined the firm immediately after graduation, taking a position with the Chicago, Illinois, office of Peat Marwick International. He was elected to the firm's partnership just seven years later. Smith served as international chairman of the Midwest region from 1974 to 1978, when he was transferred to the Denver office.

When living in Chicago, he was named Palatine Man of the Year, a 1974 honor, and Board Chairman of the Year for the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago in 1977-78. His community service continued in his role as chairman of the Houston Symphony Board of Directors and as a member of the editorial Board for the Houston Business Journal.
Gregory Houfley, BBA '83, in February was promoted to senior management tax department, Deloitte & Touche, Detroit, MI.

Michele Rome Barry, BBA '83, in February was awarded a CMA designation from the Institute of Certified Management Accountants. Barry is an associate with Miller, Ryder, Truax & Group, Inc., San Bruno, CA.

April was made a partner and officer for the Lenawee District of Society, North, Inc., Racine, WI.

January was named personal loan officer for the Fennville Schools, New Buffalo, MI.

Mark Dlugopolski, BBA '88, in February was recently named vice president of research for the Kellogg Center.

Geraldine G. Hopkins '26, in April 13, 1992, in Battle Creek, MI.

Walter A. Graff, TC '20, in September, 1940-1949.

Walter D. Dem minority elected to assistant vice president of branch administration, NMBB-West Michigan Division. Lansing resides in Grand Rapids, MI.

Mavis C. Stahl, BBA '83, in January was named personal loan officer for the Lenawee District of Society Bank, Adrian, MI.

1984—1985

Steve Chalson, BBA '84, in April was made a partner and named senior vice president of sales and marketing, Design Solutions, Inc., Racine, WI.

Mark Cou, BBA '84, in March was recently promoted to assistant vice president, First National Bank Central, Lansing, MI.

Darla Davis, BBA '84, in February was hired as a bilingual teacher for Ann Arbor Public Schools, Ann Arbor, MI.

Marge Hurst, BBA '84, in March recently published a collection of poetry entitled An Indelible Line. Goshen, IN.

Ellen Erickson Kremer, TC '84, February 12, 1984, in Norrey, MI.

Already was named as assistant secretary for the Plymouth Players in Freeport, MI.

JR.'84, in March was named as assistant director of the New Pine Knot Music Theatre, Milwaukee, WI.

Leslie L. Clark Taylor, BBA '84, in April was appointed assistant supervisor of internal auditing at the Bolletto Corp, Kalamazoo, MI.

1986—1987

Jennifer Albaa, BBA '86, in April was promoted to senior vice president of medical equipment, Society.

Pamela Carr, BBA '86, in April was named a vice president in the management of the Kellogg Center.

June 1989—1990

Joan M. Toney, TC '89, February 7, 1992, in St. Charles, MO.

Kraig Keppen, TC '89, in March was named assistant director of marketing, First National Bank—Grand Rapids, MI.

Mark Dlugopolski, BBA '88, in March was named as assistant director of personnel, Hastings Bank of Lenawee, Adrian, MI.

March was named assistant director of marketing, First National Bank—Grand Rapids, MI.

Bessie M. Rothrock Kipp, '23, April 15, 1992, in Battle Creek, MI.

Walter Dmytro, TC '83, in February was named as assistant director of development, Michigan State University, and was recently awarded a fellowship by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Battle Creek, MI.

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1989—1990

Joseph Cook, BBA '89, in February was promoted to specialist in the marketing department, State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, Springfield, IL.

Anthony Maxwell, BBA '88, in January was appointed as assistant vice president in charge of Eastern division of the National Bank of Michigan.

Timothy Murphy, BBA '86, was recently named manager of branch operations for WKLZ, Port Huron, MI.

Richard J. Dobres, BBA '86, in June was named assistant vice president of credit operations, AT&T, Williamsville, NY.

July Schedelbauer, BBA '86, in March was appointed assistant director of computer services, Developmental Disabilities Program, Lansing, MI.

June 1991—1992

Robert C. Gore, BBA '91, in January was appointed assistant professor of management, Traver and Associates, Battle Creek, MI.

Mark R. Bontziger, BBA '91, in January was named financial analyst in the Commercial Development Department, Bank One, Lansing, MI.

Kevin Boyton, BBA '91, in March was named branch manager, First National Bank—Grand Rapids, MI.

Curtis G. Everts, BBA '91, in March was appointed assistant director of personnel, Hastings Bank of Lenawee, Adrian, MI.

Mark R. Bontziger, BBA '91, in March was named city manager of Platte and Moran, Kalamazoo, MI.

Barbara Charlette Slates, BBA '91, in May was recently promoted to assistant sales manager, Western Temparary Services, Kalamazoo, MI.

June 1992

Donald R. Blake, BBA '92, in June 1992, in Lansing, MI.

Steve W. Haas, BBA '92, in January was named as a research associate, Duff & Phelps, Inc., Chicago, IL.

Death

Bessie M. Rothrock Kipp, TC '83, February 16, 1992, in Marshall, MI.

Herman G. Schumacher, '15, April 24, 1992, in Kalamazoo, MI.

Ellen Erickson Kremer, TC '84, February 12, 1984, in Norrey, MI.

James Borgert, BBA '84, in May was recently named assistant director of research and development for the Saginaw Bay Resource Conservation and Development Area, Saginaw, MI.

Douglas S. Nags, BBA '84, in May accepted a position as program director, Horizon Rehahilitation, Inc., Bozor, CO.

Darla Davis, BBA '84, in March was promoted to the rank of corporal, St. Joseph County Sheriff's Department, Constantville, MI.

Kris Johnson, BBA '83, in January was named director of the Fennville Schools, New Buffalo, MI.

Mark Dlugopolski, BBA '88, in March was appointed as assistant director of personnel, Hastings Bank of Lenawee, Adrian, MI.

Scott Macay, BBA '87, in May was appointed chairman of the Board, First National Bank—Grand Rapids, MI.

Nina McClintock, BBA '85, in February was appointed as assistant director of the Federal Credit Union, Fennville, MI.

Dennis Rau, BBA '97, in March accepted a position with the physical therapy program at the John F. Kennedy Health Systems, First Floor, Grand Haven, MI.

Joanne M. Smith Sharp, BBA '88, in April, 1990, in Alton, IL.

Janice L. Manes, BBA '90, in April, 1990, in Alton, IL.


Guy Douglas Pound, Jr., TC '69, February 7, 1992, in Kalamazoo, MI.

Irene N. Here Whitis, BBA '90, March 13, 1992, in Kalamazoo, MI.

1990—1991

Barbara R. Bird, BBA '90, February 26, 1992, in Marshall, MI.

Robert H. Carlson, BBA '90, May 18, 1992, in Kalamazoo, MI.

Anita C. Keeler, BBA '90, March 12, 1992, in Kalamazoo, MI.

Norah K. Krebs, BBA '90, March 12, 1992, in Kalamazoo, MI.

Anita C. Keeler, BBA '90, March 12, 1992, in Kalamazoo, MI.

Joseph Cook, BBA '89, in February was promoted to specialist in the marketing department, State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, Springfield, IL.

Debra Krell, BBA '89, was recently hired as an account executive for the Lenawee District of Society, North, Inc., Racine, WI.

Curtis C. Everts, BBA '88, in January was appointed assistant director of personnel, Hastings Bank of Lenawee, Adrian, MI.

Burt E. Waltzer, BBA '88, in January was recently commissioned to the ranks of Second Lieutenant, Michigan National Guard, Kalamazoo, MI.

Bart E. Waltzer, BBA '88, in January was appointed marketing specialist by the Kellogg Center.

Samantha R. Reeder, BBA '88, was promoted to assistant branch manager, First National Bank—Grand Rapids, MI.

William W. Bowerman IV, BA '84, in February was promoted to data processing department, Kalamazoo, MI.

Bart E. Waltzer, BBA '88, is currently vice president/trust manager, Battle Creek National, Kalamazoo, MI.

Samantha R. Reeder, BBA '88, in March was named as assistant manager of the Kellogg Center.

Jennifer Alban, BBA '86, in February was elected to the board of directors of the Kellogg Center.

Lynn A. Lawrence, BBA '86, in February was elected to the board of directors of the Kellogg Center.

Natalie B. Rice, BBA '86, in February was elected to the board of directors of the Kellogg Center.

Elizabeth DeMont, BBA '86, in February was elected to the board of directors of the Kellogg Center.

William W. Bowerman IV, BA '84, in February was promoted to assistant vice president, First National Bank—Grand Rapids, MI.

Robert D. Host, BBA '86, in April was promoted to assistant director of Personnel, Hastings Bank of Lenawee, Adrian, MI.

Carla P. Cline, BBA '86, in April was promoted to assistant director of Personnel, Hastings Bank of Lenawee, Adrian, MI.

Steve W. Haas, BBA '92, in January was named as a research associate, Duff & Phelps, Inc., Chicago, IL.

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1992

Steve W. Haas, BBA '92, in January was named as a research associate, Duff & Phelps, Inc., Chicago, IL.

Kathy Reed Sherwin, BBA '74, in September, 1990.

James D. Haase, '77, May 22, 1992, in Royal Oak, MI.

James A. Mertes, '77, January 31, 1992, in Amherst, NY.

Linda L. Grunega, BBA '72, March 11, 1992, in Kalamazoo, MI.

Clifford C. Jaggs, BBA '74, February 27, 1992, in Three Rivers, MI.

Gertrude Ann Van Syke, TC '25, January 10, 1992, in Three Rivers, MI.

Sarah K. R. Bailey, TC '25, February 26, 1992, in Comstock Twp, Kalamazoo, MI.

May 1992

Devon Peterson, BBA '92, in April was promoted to personnel manager, WKLZ, Petoskey, MI.

Kent Steiner, BBA '86, was recently hired as a reporter for the Berrien County Record, St. Joseph, MI.

Shelly L. Vidales, BBA '92, in May was hired as an administrative assistant for the Ford Motor Company, Dearborn, MI.

Jon C. Walter, '92, in May was promoted to engineering director, Cunningham-Pettier, Tecumseh, MI.
HUMOR

A funny thing happened on the way to the Westerner meeting...

We were gathering for our morning Westerner committee meeting, ambling down the hall to the conference room, coffee and muffins in tow. "Is this gonna be a short one?" the graphic designer asked loudly, smirking as he pointed down toward the vertically-challenged "editor" leader discussion area. "Maybe," the editor replied without turning around, "it all depends on whether you can stifle the short jokes long enough for us to come up with theme ideas for the next few issues."

"Outstanding!" I thought, visions of hot national issues dancing in my head. "Somebody get on the state of education in America, the political ramifications of genetic engineering?"

"You know, things seem so difficult these days, so nega-
tive" a voice said as we neared the conference room. We all got a little quiet, each of us feeling the pressure of our own personal lives and the issue at hand.

"Why don't we lighten up and do a fun issue?" someone else suggested. "We can talk about what keeps people going through tough times like wars, recessions, and other tough times."

And that, folks, is how you come to be reading humor- ous anecdotes about life at Western Michigan University. As I walked away from the meeting, I realized my rem- edy for getting through blue days is to think about stories that make me laugh. I work in the world of sports and, as those highly popu- lar video tapes of sports blooper reels prove, sports can be hilarious.

Of course, it's important to learn to laugh at yourself, too. Trust me, I know about this. There was the time I didn't wear my boots to the hockey rink, just dress shoes. I slipped on the ice outside the arena and the Ferris State assistant coach had to pick me up—three times. I fell three times! I still can't look that straight in the eye. And he can't look in the eye either.

Another memory guaranteed to perk up my spirits reminds me of Abbott and Costello's "Who's on First?" routine. Then hockey assistant coach Tom Newton and assistant athletic trainer Bob Hap Zawor, M.A., were having an ani- mated discussion while pass- ing out turkey sandwiches to a bus load of fanatical hockey fans. Tom hands Hap a white container of sliced tomatoes. Hap hands it to me. I hand it back to Hap who answers absentmindedly back to Tom. Still gabbing, Tom hands Hap another white container, this time filled with lettuce. Hap hands it to me and I hand it back to Hap who hands it back to Tom. Suddenly they get quiet and both men look at me.

"What the heck are you doing?" Hap shouts. "Why don't you pass them back to the guys?"

And just where should they put their tomato slice and lettuce leaf until they get their sandwich? I respectfully ask. "Slap it on their palms!"

The musical container story has such deep sociological significance that I use it when teaching University 101, a class that helps freshmen get acclimated to the mysteries of college life. The moral is: Once in a while, there's a logical order for at least a few things in this world. For instance, one should already have the sandwich before dealing with the condiments. One should also have a sense of humor. Learning to chuckle about some of our worst moments can help us survive all those inevitable brushes with the unexpected and the embarrassing. After all, none of us is perfect. Whether we're presidents or plumbers, our best laid plans occasionally go awry.

Dr. Lewis Walker, professor and chairman of the Department of Sociology, laughed when I repeated some of the stories. "The thing about tough times is they don't last forever. Neither do the good times, I guess," he said. "History repeats itself in a cyclical fashion, but people are so resilient. They find ways to get through until the good times come back around." We hope our stories of campus life give you a break from some of your trials and tribulations, even if we've disguised a name or two to protect the guilty.

Did I just see what I thought I just saw? I was working a gymnastics meet and we were watching a good performance by one of the Colonials when a guy, a jaunty, "streaks" across the floor exercise mat. Now, I'm a student of the 1980s. We didn't have streakers in my college. All of us at the scoring and announc- ing table were in shock, our mouths hanging open.

"Can you believe that Judge? He must be blind," Coach Fred Orlofsky says approaching the table unconcerted. "How can he give Mark that score? Where's one of my protest sheets?"

"We talked in utter confusion, wondering if the man who started WMU's gymnastics program in 1967 might be needing a rest."

Fred, said some with a yawn, "Fred probably figured a guy over his head just streaked across the floor exercise mat, doing cartwheels and roundoffs. I squeaked out, thinking that he must have somehow missed this event while watching Mark's."

"Oh him," Fred said with a shrug. "He never could do a proper roundoff even back when he was coaching."

And off the coach went to protest the score.

Hey coach, should it be snowing in the van? If a former team member can streak a gymnastics meet without turning Coach Orlofsky's head, what would get his attention? "Well, we were about to break up in a van to meet Northern Illinois and some of the guys fell asleep,"

Orlofsky confided.

"Mike Roland, B.B.A. '91, hit the fire extinguisher with his foot in his sleep and within seconds the whole van was filled with white powder. There was powder everywhere. We were rolling down the windows as I started to pull off to the shoulder of the expressway and there was white stuff flying out of the van. But the funniest part is that Mike just kept on sleeping. One of the other guys had to actually take his foot off the handle to get the thing to shut off."

Where do you go for a quiet drive? "I was working on a research project with a professor from the College of Education," Dr. Stan Robin, professor of sociology, says. "We were working late at night in Sangren—our cars were the only two in the parking lot. So we parked side by side and when we'd finished for the night, he jumped into his car, grinned up at me, put his head on his seatbelt and drove off with his tail lights twinkling like a Christmas tree. The car was never right after that. He had to sell it."

Wow, when did Western do all that? One staff member says he's finally able to talk about the hazards of not previewing video tapes in their entirety before assigning them at events. He'd only been on the job a short while when he found himself conducting an event in South Bend, Indiana. Wanting everything to go smoothly and look good, he'd planned every detail and arrived early to get organized.

emotionally, psychologically, and physically fit society. People are up until late in the evening, often related to fitness. People in Western cultures thought their disposition was determined by four basic bodily fluids—blood, black bile, yellow bile, and melancholy (black bile). Over the years, humor gradually came to refer to our general mood or state of mind, as well as our ability to deal with the ludicrous, absurd, incongruous, or comical events.

Being funny back then wasn't necessarily good. It was often viewed as unseemly, bawdy, morally damaging, and downright evil. Few people today argue that humor and laughter don't have their drawbacks. After all, laugh- ing can be a powerful stress reliever that can help people get away from the difficulties of living, or, as when we tell ethnic jokes, an abusive way of pumping up our egos and feelings of superiority at the expense of others. But these days more and more people from all walks of life tend to agree with theorists like George Miller, who contend that even our sense of humor can be_valuable. "Human nature," he says, "is not peerless and angelic, and one needs to get rid of a certain amount of meaning, so why laugh if offensives jokes are better than the least aggressive wars?"

Comedians Steve Allen and Sid Caesar probably would agree. They've trained their audiences to humor their mental and psychological benef- its. And numerous studies back them up. Research has shown that sustained laughter can produce the same types of physiological changes in respiration and circula- tion that aerobic exercise can produce. In addition, laughter can slow the pulse rate and increase blood flow, reduce tolerance, and reverses the harmful effects of stress and anxiety.

Laughter really is good medicine, Young emphasizes. "Its healing powers can improve physical, as well as men- tal health. Since stress and lifestyle figure as major factors in our nation's leading causes of death, educational programs that incorporate health and humor into the university curriculum can make a difference. The (Humor and) Humor) class helps people to call out on general topics and look at a different perspective on life when the going gets tough," she says.

Dr. Thomas Pagel, associate professor of communica- tion, concur.

"The psychological impact of humor is to release ten- sion and reduce stress," Pagel says, using stand-up com- edy as an example. "It's like blowing up a balloon. With each laugh, you're increasing the air pressure until the punchline comes laughter and the release of tension, accompanied by a feeling of pleasure and satisfaction."

"As sociologist Robert Fuqua has pointed out, humor allows us to safely broach touchy subjects and contributes to social commentary, often by making fun of our anxieties and prejudices. People today have trouble conveying what they really feel. Humor allows their anx- ieties to be brought out in the open and makes them real to laugh at them," he says.

Recognizing that humor can serve as an escape valve, helping us to forget our worries if only for a while, has helped bring notoriety to comedian Henny Youngman, who alumni may remember as Stuart Mitchell, a humorous folk singer when he attended WMU in the late 1960s. He has performed on MTY's "Half Hour Comedy Hour" and A&E's "An Evening at the Improv."

"Banks says he uses humor "to take his audience to another place." He says he thinks his brand of inventive humor draws audiences because "the economy's bad, and people need something to take their minds off it."

In all, Americans tend to try and find the lighter side. Dr. Brad Hayden, associate professor of English, observes. "For the most part, Americans are an optimistic, funny people. "We don't mind if people laugh at us because we have always been able to laugh at ourselves."

The American type who has been with us almost from the begining."
Allen and his "masculinist" screen wife, Jill aren't very much alike. I'm not physically her kind of guy; around the makes men tick and emancipating those things that have tive when virtuous Tim butts heads with caveman Taylor. To live a man's life so that the women watching would
remember Allen's early days in comdy. Even then his delivery was always professional. He could walk into a room full of strangers and immediately take command," Brady says, "Tim has this incredible charisma. His stage presence is really quite remarkable. He's got a great look and a good comedy voice and kind of timing. Tim is actu-
ally much funnier than his material. Alumni may recall Allen's budding talents when he and his creative cohorts banded together to write and perform "Five Finger Salute," a half-hour comedy on the stu-
dent radio station WDR. Allen describes the show as "long on concept, short on humor--"strange cow, Dr. Science' kind of stuff. It was really very inventive," he says, "probably overly so for the late '70s and the state of mind we were in." Yet even back then, his friends knew his potential. "There were seven of us, and we got together a couple nights a week to write and record the show," recalls Richard "Russ" McPdad, B.S. '80, now a reporter for WJRRC Radio in Indianapolis, Indiana.

"We record about eighteen miles of tape for a half-
hour program. We were all an amusing bunch of guys, but Tim was that much quicker, always one step ahead of us bursting off ideas and con-
ceptualizing at seventy miles an hour. He had the per-
sonal face and did double takes even then. Now when I'm watching his show, I'll say to myself, 'I've seen that look before.' He was the sharpest guy we had; we knew he had a real future. And what a future it's turned out to be. Maga-
tine covers fea-

uring his
impress mug and zanefacesouting his com-

ments are piling up nearly as fast as the sawdust around his work-
bench.

Interviewers from such prestigious publications as People magazine, the Los Angeles Times, and Westermer are hammering at his door. If all that weren't enough, Allen took his stand-up routine on to a thirty-city sell-out tour this summer and began a massive Builder's Square advertising campaign that in one television spot shows him dreaming of painting the Washington Monument red.

But the sudden ascent to high-profile celebrity hasn't been without its more stressful moments. Just before Home Improvement began this summer, he was impressed many people by taking the offense against tabloid journalists who were ready to break a story about the twenty-eight months he spent in a Minnesota, federal correctional facility for a 1979 drug conviction. His honest, forthright approach and Middle-American like-
ability won Allen the support of his fans and "Home Improvement's" parent company, Walt Disney Television. This September the hit series will be moving to Wednesday nights at 9 p.m. on ABC, and chances are good that the show will retain its high-voltage appeal. After all, Allen may have hit the big time, but he and his crew have constructed a comedy classic with a foundation so solid that it should stand for many seasons to come.

Don't make me laugh, comedy study breaks?

"There's a very big market for comedy today, much more so than in the past," says Kimberly Sykes, assistant direc-
tor of Western Michigan University's student life office. To fill that need on campus, student life created the comedy club Bernie Allen's Hours. "We bring national tal-
ent to campus," Sykes says, "you've seen on TV and HBO. It's a great release for students. Bernie's gives them a chance to take a break from college life and get an hour for an hour or two. And it's cheap—admission is only $1."

Last year students packed the North Ballroom of the Bernard, home of A.J. and Taran, for 1991. This year the college followed suit by sponsoring an appearance by Martin Lawrence, popular stand-up comic and co-star of the hit movie, Boomerang.

Around town the big trend toward funny business is perhaps best illustrated up in lights in front of the State Theatre, where the marquee has announced visits to Kalamazoo by such headliners as Allen Tim, B.S. '76, George Carlin, Paula Poundstone, Mayne Boosser, Paul Shore, Steven Wright, Jay Leno, the late Sam Kinison, and Heywood Banks, who attended WMU in the '60s. Tim Allen filmed his 1990 Showtime comedy special, "Tim Allen Rewires America," at the State Theatre.

A funny thing

"First I set up the television and video tape in the room where we were having the social hour," he says. "We had a company put together a program about WNE. The tape rewound itself continuously, so I didn't have to tend and people could watch it while they were socializing. I went off to greet people and take care of last-minute details, you know, arrange the name tags, set up the dis-
play table, verify the menu count." All through the social hour, swed participants kept saying things like, "you know, that tape of campus, things sure have changed."

"I know," our industrious staff member kept repeating, "you really should come back for a visit and see."

"When the social hour was over and we were ready for dinner, I went back to the room, the music was about to hit the button, I heard the commentator say, 'and here at Penn State, we also offer. . . .'

"Somehow, at the end of the show, the company had tacked on a program they'd done for Penn State University. No wonder people couldn't believe how differ-
ent we looked! What do you think of this stuff? Why do you think that happens? When we started dinner, I just said, 'On behalf of Penn State, welcome.'"