Michigan Gov. William Milliken Addresses Commencement

Honorary degree awardees at WMU April commencement were, L to R: Dr. Jack L. Hough, Mich. Gov. William Milliken, and WMU alumnus, the Rev. Joseph H. Evans.

A throng estimated at almost 11,000 persons, including 1,724 graduates, jammed Read Field House for Western's April 19 commencement. The commencement speaker, Michigan's Governor William G. Milliken, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

Two other recipients of honorary doctorates were the Rev. Joseph H. Evans, a 1939 Western graduate, and Dr. Jack L. Hough, a noted geologist.

Gov. Milliken said he agrees with those who advocate dissent from the past, because the past has not been very satisfactory, and dissent sometimes from the majority, when you decide that the majority is wrong. “But I hope that you will never dissent from the enduring principles that have withstood the test of history—honesty with yourself and with others, toleration for the ideas of others and freedom for others to pursue their destinies,” he told the graduates.

“Freedom to dissent cannot survive in any context—academic or otherwise—if a reasonable majority falls under the tyranny of an unreasonable minority,” Gov. Milliken said. He said no adequate substitute has been found for the rule of the majority, which is one of the most painful lessons of history.

He said the younger generation has shown strong feelings about equality, brotherhood and democracy. “They have displayed, as no other generation, a genuine sensitivity to the sham and false values of our society,” he added. However, he said, some of today’s young people are willing to sacrifice principle in return for power, that “the idealism of some young radicals, their impatience to right society’s wrongs, their righteous indignation over poverty, racism and inequality, is often marred by a fanaticism and rigidity that violates the whole concept of freedom.”

Gov. Milliken, who was elected lieutenant governor in 1964 and 1966, became Michigan’s governor this year when George Romney was named to President Nixon’s cabinet.

Rev. Evans is national secretary of the United Church of Christ and has served as pastor of churches in New York, Cleveland and, most recently, in Chicago, where he has been involved in much civic work, having served as president of the Chicago Urban League.

Dr. Hough, a professor of oceanography at the University of Michigan, has done extensive research and writing on the geology and origins of the Great Lakes, particularly Lake Michigan.

Among the graduates were 85 who received their degrees with honors: six summa cum laude (grade average between 3.9 and 4.0 on a 4.0 scale), 26 magna cum laude (3.7 to 3.89) and 53 cum laude (3.5 to 3.69).

The summa cum laude graduates were: Brenda L. Broome of Grand Rapids, Betty J. Diekema of Holland, Carl A. Mack and Calvin G. Wallace of Battle Creek, Earl L. Peterson of Hart, and Charles D. Ream of Three Rivers.

The total of graduates included 232 receiving advanced degrees, with 10 of these receiving specialist (6th year) degrees, the remainder master’s degrees.

Throng of near 11,000 jammed Read Field House.
The first rumblings of WMU student disruptive action came on March 24 during one of WMU President James W. Miller's regular bi-weekly late afternoon informal conferences open to all students in the Student Center. At one of the largest turnouts ever for these conferences, a group of students presented a list of “grievances” to Dr. Miller. These had been listed in a handbill distributed on campus that day.

The disruptions began the night of April 1st when a student “stay-in” was held in the University Student Center snack-bar after the 11 p.m. normal closing hour. The “stay-in” was a continuation of an orderly rally for “student rights,” held in the snack bar, along with music and entertainment.

The rally centered on three demands listed in a document signed by most all of the Student Association officers and presented to President Miller in the previous week.

These demands included (1) Switching the Student Services Council from Faculty Senate control to Student Association jurisdiction with students also being represented on the Educational Policies Council and the Campus Planning Council of the Faculty Senate; (2) Changing the makeup of the Western Herald Advisory Board so students would be in the majority and faculty and administration in the minority; (3) Eliminating all regulations or restrictions of students which are not directly necessary for the functioning of the university.

Several hundred persons were in the snack bar at 11 p.m. and refused to leave. This number had dwindled to between 50 and 100 by about 2:30 a.m. the following morning, when student spokesmen told the group to leave, but not before they had cleaned up the snack bar area. Although city police and sheriff’s officers were on standby in Kalamazoo, they were not called to the campus.

Earlier in the afternoon during the rally in the snack bar, several hundred students walked to the Administration Building and staged an orderly 10 minute sit-in, blocking corridors adjacent to President Miller’s office, before returning to their Student Center rally.

The second incident, following another snack bar student rally, was primarily a confrontation between demonstrators and officers from Kalamazoo and the state police, who were seeking to clear a city street. Many non-WMU students were present during this disorder, which lasted nearly three hours, resulting in 34 arrests, including 12 non-students.

This disorder began after 11 p.m., when some 2,000 persons left the Student Center snack bar at the insistence of university administrators, and began to mill about outside the Student Center, blocking traffic on Michigan Ave.

Kalamazoo city and county officers and state police began to disperse the throng in front of the Student Center about an hour later. A state police officer then announced via loud speaker that those present were guilty of “unlawful assembly” and they would “be arrested if they remained in the area. The time to go is now.” This was about 12:30 a.m.

A line of officers abreast from curb to curb began to move up and down the street to clear it. The crowd had by then been reduced to about 500 and was later estimated at 200 when the officers reached Vande Giessen Rd., where traffic had been detoured. Most of the arrests were made during this period.

In retrospect, some witnesses said the happening had a carnival-like atmosphere, much like the old pantry raids. By far, the great majority of WMU students did not take part.

There was no violence, little property damage, and no disruption of WMU’s academic schedule.

President Miller issued a statement which was presented to the Faculty Senate April 10 meeting, regarding the April 3 incidents at Western’s campus:

“During the week past there were happenings on our campus which resulted in the arrest of 34 persons, including 22 students.

"Any consideration of the Thursday confrontation, when the arrests were made, must be viewed in the light of the Tuesday (April 1) event when several hundred students refused to leave the University Student Center until 3 1/2 hours after the regular closing time.

"In any community there must be reasonable restraints, and this university is a rather sizable community.

"Regulations are developed so that they will serve the greatest number. They are not made to be broken.

"I have stated on many occasions that we cannot have freedom without some measure of order. In the academic area we must have freedom.

"This implies we must have order.

"The presence of law enforcement officers Thursday night was not the result of precipitous action. There had been repeated statements, beginning Feb. 13, that the university “would protect with all appropriate means the rights and safety of all students, faculty, and staff and will resist with all appropriate means the seizure of any of its facilities or flagrant abuse of its rules.”

"Forewarnings were given freely and often.

The president further told the Faculty Senate that “it is heartening to note that the Faculty Senate has instituted certain actions which will lead to greater student involvement in university affairs.”

"It is even more heartening to note that these actions were started prior to any presentation of grievances” (by the students).

Student Center Office Hit By Arson; Damage Total Less Than $1,000

The major cost damage in an April 12 fire bombing incident at the office of WMU Housing Director Thomas Carr in the University Student Center was the large plate glass window, but furnishings, important papers, and personal items of Carr were damaged. Apparently a rock
was used to shatter the window and two gasoline-filled bottles with burning wicks were thrown through the window into the office.

Carr could give no reason for the attack. He said his major loss was in a compilation of records and programs for the upcoming annual national meeting of the American College and University Housing Officers, which he will chair. There was little damage to the small office other than the furnishings and smoke and water damage to the office walls, ceiling and floor, which totaled less than $1,000.

As of press time, there had been no evidence as to who had thrown the fire bomb or if it was connected in any way to the student demonstration incidents at WMU, more than a week earlier.

**ROTC Offices Damaged By Fire**

Fire damage was estimated at about $3,000 in the May 5 arson at ROTC headquarters on WMU’s campus. Fire was confined to an office used by ROTC faculty to prepare military science class materials but heavy damage was done to desks, typewriters, reference books, personal teaching aids and manuals, which were piled on the floor and ignited.

However, furniture and band instruments set in a pile in the basement drill room were not ignited.

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Speakers at the recent conference on “Student Unrest and Confrontations” for key administrators at nine junior or community colleges in southwestern Michigan held at WMU were, left to right: Dr. Paul Griffeth, WMU vice president for student services; Dr. Paul Misner, professor of school services at WMU; and Dean Floyd Ogelby of Kellogg Community College, Battle Creek. Dr. L. Dale Faunce, professor of school services at WMU, chaired a morning session, while Robert Stout, Michigan Department of Education, Lansing was afternoon chairman.

Dr. Griffeth took the university viewpoint, Dr. Misner took the university viewpoint and Dean Ogelby took the community college viewpoint.

**Pres. Miller Notes Anniversary of Tragic Death of Martin L. King**

On the occasion of the observance of the tragic death in April, 1968 of Dr. Martin Luther King, WMU President James W. Miller this April issued a statement which said the memory of Dr. King must not be honored simply by re-living the grief brought on by his assassination. Pres. Miller urged that such honor come through going forward in efforts to overcome racism and prejudice.

He quoted Dr. King’s own words: “The nation has waited until the black man was explosive with fury before stirring itself even to partial concern. Confronted now with the interrelated problems of war, inflation, urban decay, white backlash and a climate of violence, it is now forced to address itself to race relations and poverty, and it is tragically unprepared.”

Dr. Miller said that “it is proper and salutary for us to recognize that the task of making us face up to these truths has been carried on in this university community primarily by the black students, and for this we owe them a debt of gratitude.”

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**CALENDAR-PANORAMA of alumni events**

Charles H. Ludlow, vice president and treasurer of the Upjohn Co., Kalamazoo, and a member of the WMU Board of Trustees, was the banquet speaker for the 4th annual Alpha Kappa Psi “Career Day” at Western this spring. He is a 1950 Magna Cum Laude graduate of WMU and joined Upjohn that same year as an accounting trainee. He steadily moved up through the executive ranks of the firm and was named treasurer in 1964 and vice president in 1965.

Representatives of 63 business firms were on hand to discuss career potentials with WMU students, several thousand of whom turned out. School of Business officials termed it the most successful career day ever held at WMU.

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Russell L. Bearss ’50, on the left, is shown receiving the “Governor’s Award” from Ohio governor James A. Rhodes at the recent annual meeting of the Ohio Newspaper Association in Columbus. Given annually to outstanding citizens “who have contributed invaluably toward enhancing the State of Ohio’s prestige throughout the world,” the award is the highest that Ohio can bestow.

Bearss, who is plant manager of Chrysler Corporation’s Toledo Machining Plant, was recognized for his efforts to further education in Ohio and for his role during 1968 as a member of Gov. Rhodes’ task force on vocational education.

**ALUMNI—Remember the WMU Alumni Association European Tour Aug. 3-24 to Holland, Germany, Austria, Italy, France and England. The fee of $869 includes round trip jet fare from Detroit, hotels, most meals, and side visits.**

Western’s student singing musical entertainment group—the noted Varsity Vagabonds—were presented a legislative resolution in mid-March in the Michigan House of Representatives chambers by a number of legislators in honor of the student group’s recent eight week trip to entertain U.S. servicemen in the Pacific command area.

Shown in the photo, left to right are: Rep. Lucille McCollough; House Speaker William Ryan; Rep. William Weber; Rep. John P. Smeekens; Dr. Elwyn Carter, WMU faculty member and director of the Varsity Vagabonds; and Rep. Don Pears. Rep. Weber is a former WMU political science faculty member while Reps. McCollough, Smeekens and Pears are former WMU students.

The Vagabonds presented a short concert before the House membership during the ceremony.
Mrs. Helen Hoekje

Passes Away

Mrs. Helen P. Hoekje, widow of John Hoekje who served as Western's Dean of Administration for a number of years, died in early February at her Kalamazoo home at the age of 74. Mrs. Hoekje had served as a housemother in University residence halls for several years.

SPORTS REFLECTIONS

WRESTLING

Roy Wietz has stepped down as head wrestling coach at WMU ending a 27 year coaching affiliation with Western. Roy will retire from teaching in June of next year.

George Hobbs, who has been assistant wrestling coach for four years, will assume the reins of the Bronco wrestling squad, and continue as head golf coach as well.

Wietz began Western's wrestling program in 1957 after serving as head golf and track coach and an assistant in football. He joined Western's faculty in 1942 as assistant football coach after coaching at a Toledo high school, Miami University and the University of Vermont. Roy is a University of Illinois graduate, having played on Illini Big 10 titlist football teams, (1926-27-28), earning All-America honors in 1928 as a guard.

BASEBALL

Bronco hard luck hurler Ken Brather-ton won his first game of the season against Ball State for a 1-3 mark and in the process lowered his earned run mark to a tiny 0.62 per game, one of the best collegiate ERA marks in the nation. Bronco errors have been Ken's undoing.

Kalamazoo soph Scott Kemple failed to hit in WMU's doubleheader win over Kent State but still managed to score five runs, getting on base four times on walks and once on an error.

Miami's win, 4-3, in the April twin-bill at WMU was Miami's first over WMU in 16 games.

TRACK

Tom Randolph won his heat in the NCAA indoor track championships at Detroit in late March but finished third in time in the 440 yard dash.

Warren Converse set a new WMU hammer throw mark of 59 feet 5 inches in the Michigan Indoor Championships at WMU's Read Field House in late March.

In the Ann Arbor Federation Relays in mid-April, WMU's six first places and nine seconds dominated the meet, as Broncos set three new meet records. Paul Olmstead's :53.7 time in the 880 yard event, Tom Randolph's :21.6 in the 220 yard dash and Bill Nobles' :49.5 in the 440 yard dash were the new meet marks.

BASKETBALL

Gene Ford, second all-time Bronco cage scorer, was presented a Kalamazoo Gazette plaque for "setting an example for the youth of the Kalamazoo area for outstanding sportsmanship and playing ability," following this past season.

Ford became the first bonafide WMU All-American when he was named to the Helms Foundation All-American team this spring.

FOOTBALL

WMU 1968 co-captain Jerry Collins was signed as a free agent by the AFL Buffalo Bills for a nice bonus and was up to 225 pounds as he aided in WMU's spring practice.

SCHOLAR ATHLETES

A record 74 Bronco athletes earned "B" grade averages or better during the fall semester, including 18 who made the Dean's List (3.5 grade average or better for at least 14 hours of classwork) and five who earned all "A" grades (4.0). These five were Larry Grimm, Harry Hrdlicka, Tom Wing (all trackmen), John Nordberg (swimming), and Del Mackie (baseball). Among the most outstanding scholastic marks by athlete's on the Dean's List were John Schukebir's 3.77 (baseball), Bill Heward's 3.76 (baseball), Larry Haddock's 3.75 (baseball), Gary Brown's 3.79 (track), Keith Volk's 3.75 (football), and Bill Latshaw's 3.73 (swimming). In 1967 only one athlete had perfect grades and 15 were included in the Dean's List, as Bronco athletes continue to improve their academic performances at WMU. Every varsity sport at WMU was represented on the select "B" grade list, headed by baseball with 23, football with 19, and track with 11.

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER and alumni events

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Robert G. Rubom, Editor

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