PLAZA IMPROVEMENTS UNDER WAY — The plaza near Miller Auditorium and the Dalton Plaza is expected to be complete by late summer. Work is under way on a landlscaping project designed to provide a practical as well as aesthetic

solution to the problem of pedestrian traffic, and numerous trees, bushes and flowers are being planted. An outdoor classroom is being developed near the Dalton Center, and an underground sprinkling system is being installed. The $235,454 project is by Solutions Unlimited of Kalamazoo. The work is expected to be completed by this fall.

Jaksan named to position in faculty development

James A. Jaksan, communication, has been named to a two-year term as associate director of the Office of Faculty Development, effective immediately. He will be responsible for the planning, coordination and operation of the office and its programs. Created seven years ago in a WMU-American Association of University Professors agreement, the office aids faculty members in their pursuit of greater competence and effectiveness in their roles as teachers, researchers, providers of professional and public service and participants in the university government.

In the past, the office has been involved in such projects as professional development workshops, interinstitutional exchanges and a faculty development fund. "We are very pleased that Dr. Jaksan has agreed to assume this important responsibility," said L. Michael Moskovis, associate vice president for academic affairs. "His background and experience at WMU will enable him to be highly effective in this role." Jaksan has been a faculty member since 1967. He has served as president of the Faculty Senate for two terms, from 1985-87. He has also been active in the Speech Communication Association as chairperson of its Communication Ethics Commission, as a member of its Executive Committee, and chairperson and member of several other committees.

An associate with the Danforth Foundation since 1979, Jaksan also has been president and vice president of the Michigan Association of Speech Communication. He is the author of numerous articles in the speech communication field and has written two books: "Communication Ethics," published earlier this year; and "Voices from Silence: The Trafigurs Speak," published in 1980. Much of his recent research has focused on communication ethics and has included such topics as the Chernobyl nuclear accident in the Soviet Union, the space shuttle Challenger disaster and ethical issues in business, academic and governmental organizations.

Women's Center search extended

The national search for a new director of the Women's Center at Western has been extended. "After interviewing three candidates on campus, the search committee has determined that it is in its best interest to extend the search," said Yoelma E. Copes, vice president for student services and chairperson of the committee. He said the time period for which the search is being extended will be flexible. The committee will be undertaking additional measures to attract more applicants, such as contacting leading women's organizations in the country.

Kellogg Foundation continues survey fund

Western has received a $99,941 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek to continue a groundwater survey begun three years ago. The Michigan Groundwater Survey, conducted by WMU's Science for Citizens Center, is aimed at safeguarding public health by increasing the ability of local health departments to manage and protect Michigan's groundwater resources.

Originally funded with a $418,571 grant from the foundation in 1985, the survey is a joint effort by WMU, local health departments, state agencies and consultants that can serve as a model for the state.

Through the program, local health officials have access to computerized information about the size and location of underground water systems known as aquifers, groundwater quality information based on an extensive sampling program and training in the maintenance and application of the system to groundwater concerns.

Donald J. Brown, project director and head of the Science for Citizens Center, says the new funding from the Kellogg Foundation will support 1988 survey work that is focused on interpretation of the data compiled during the initial three years of the program. The funding will also fund support of several other studies, advanced training for local government professionals and other educational activities including publishing periodic reports of both a technical and general newsletter.

The funding extends the program through Dec. 31, 1988, and brings total amount the Kellogg Foundation has committed to the project to $518,512.

Originally initiated by the Southwest Michigan Groundwater Survey and Monitoring Program, the survey is being done from initial efforts in five counties to work in 19 Michigan counties. Central, eastern and northern Michigan counties are now involved in the program.

Tentative contract reached

Tentative settlement on a new three-year collective bargaining agreement has been reached between negotiators for the University and Local 1668, Michigan Council 25, of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

Contract talks began June 15 and were concluded Tuesday afternoon. When tentative agreement was reached on across-the-board wage increases and a variety of other issues. Both parties have agreed to not disclose details of the tentative agreement until after ratification by the membership.

AFSCME is planning its ratification vote for its membership for Monday, July 25; the Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet Friday, July 29.

"Our problem-solving approach to bargaining has enabled us to reach a fair and sound agreement," observed Dinah Rank, collective bargaining and contract administration, who was the University's chief negotiator.

"The union's bargaining team is very pleased with the tentative agreement and will recommend ratification to the union membership," said Local 1668 President William Farmer, who was AFSCME's chief negotiator.

The current three-year contract expires Aug. 12. Local 1668 represents about 500 food service, custodial, grounds, skilled trades and miscellaneous service and maintenance workers at WMU.

Haenickc expresses relief after Bergman plea

President Haenickc expressed relief after the accused killer of Julie K. Cunningham pleaded guilty but mentally ill to the crime July 8 in Kalamazoo County Circuit Court. Cunningham, a freshman from Vicksburg, was murdered last Nov. 14 while jogging at Kanley Track.

"My feelings are of relief," Haenickc told the Kalamazoo Gazette. "This removes the last possible doubt as to who the perpetrator of the crime was. Clearly, this is the final point of a very tragic moment in the history of the University."

Bergman is to be sentenced July 25 to the mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole. The only difference between a plea of guilty but mentally ill and guilty is that the latter permits parole.

Surplus auction scheduled

University stores will conduct a public auction of surplus equipment and vehicles at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 30, at the H.O.L. Building on East Campus next to the Campus Services Building. Persons with questions about the auction should call 7-8806.
Student is aide to president

President Haenicke has selected a student, Andrew A. Rivers, to serve as his aide to him, effective June 6. Rivers, who is expected to complete his baccalaureate degree in computer science from WMU in April 1989, will assist President Haenicke in a wide range of administrative assignments.

This year the president will prepare quarterly reports to visitors; accompany the president on out-of-town business; prepare quarterly reports and budgets for major work with local agencies such as school districts, the city of Kalamazoo, the state, and the federal government; and review budgets; and summarize documents and reading materials.

Rivers, a graduate of River Rouge High School, will serve as a conference facilitator and assistant in the Division of Continuing Education.

He has been active in campus events and programs, serving as a coordinator for the Student Alumni Association and as president of his university group coordinator for Phi Beta Sigma fraternity. He received the 1986 WMU National Panhelenaic Council award for the most outstanding member of a fraternity.

Retirements of seven approved by Board

The retirements of two faculty members and five staff members were approved June 24 by the Board of Trustees.

The faculty members granted emeritus status, along with their prior retirement dates, are: Robert M. Condit, humanities, 23 years, effective April 22, 1989; and Charles W. Woodruff, instructional communication and academic services, 22 years, effective July 1, 1989.

The five staff members retiring are: Helen F. Baker, Draper dining service, 28 1/2 years, effective April 30; Helen M. Cummings, languages and linguistics, 23 years, was effective May 31; Robert L. Johnson, accounting; Vincent J. Minich, electronics; and E. Ponchilla, blind rehabilitation and mobility; Susan A. Stansdall, education and professional development.

Four faculty and staff members will be guests during the coming weeks on "Focus," a political conventions, July 16-17; and Tilman Rivers is a graduate of River Rouge High School.

Two faculty and staff members will be guests during the coming weeks on "Focus," a 5:00 minute radio interview produced by the Office of Public Information. "Focus" is scheduled to air at 6:10 a.m. on these Saturdays during the 1988-1989 school year. The program will be aired on WMU-FM (101.2) at 6:10 p.m. Monday, July 18, and on Kalamazoo Community Access Television, on the following political conventions, July 16-17; and Tilman Rivers is a graduate of River Rouge High School.

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"Newviews: Legislative Report," a 30-minute radio and television program featuring WMU-FM news director Tony Griffin and area state legislators, will be aired (102.1) at 6 p.m. Monday, July 18, and on WMUK-FM during the week of July 18-23. Produced by guest during the coming weeks on "Focus," a 5:00 minute radio interview produced by the Office of Public Information. "Focus" is scheduled to air at 6:10 a.m. on these Saturdays during the 1988-1989 school year. The program will be aired on WMU-FM (101.2) at 6:10 p.m. Monday, July 18, and on Kalamazoo Community Access Television, on the following speakers and topics: Chester B. Rogers, public relations; on the upcoming political conventions, July 16-17; and Tilman C. Cothran, sociology, on America's attitude toward minority equality among racial minorities, July 23-24.

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