

## **Media Union**

### **Welcome to the future**

To the dedication of the Media Union

A marvelous new facility,

funded by the state of Michigan

that will enable the University not only

to meet the changing needs of its students and faculty

but to serve the people of the state of Michigan

in new ways enabled by the powerful and evolving

tools of information technology.

We are honored that the Governor of the State

of Michigan, Governor John Engler, is present to

dedicate this facility.

What could be more appropriate,

since it was his strong support of higher education in general

and his vision for linking together the state's universities

to better serve Michigan that was key to this project.

I will introduce the Governor for some remarks in

a moment, but first let me make some other introductions...

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

#### **JJD OBSERVATIONS**

What is the Media Union

It is many things.

It is

...the electronic library of the future

...a place where we can teach the powerful

new tools of information technology

...multimedia

...virtual reality

...the Internet

...the site of our efforts to build virtual universities

institutions that transcend the constraints of space and time  
and deliver educational services directly to people  
in the workplace  
and in the home.

But it is more. To quote our prospectus

Our new Media Union merges the creative aspects of disciplines  
across the entire campus,  
ranging from art, psychology and architecture  
to engineering, philosophy and biology.

Inventive scholars and students will come together  
with powerful resources, entering a free-wheeling space  
where both ordinary and extraordinary people  
can do exceptional things.

The State of Michigan's portal to the rest of the world,  
the Media Union will reach out to the hugh storehouses of  
knowledge,  
growing daily on the Web, while drawing national and  
international scholars and students into our campus  
conversations.

New information technology will create a "virtual" community of  
thinkers,

allowing face-to-face dialog and collaboration across the state,  
the nation, and about the globe.

Two days ago we had the opportunity to dedicate another facility,  
a conference room in the oldest academic building on the campus,

the University Observatory, named for a former Regent, Alfred Connable.

This facility, built in 1854, is of immense historical importance, since it is among the first research facilities on any American college campus.

It symbolizes the extraordinary character and impact of the research university, which has served America so well throughout the past century.

Today we dedicate another facility destined to create a new future, and perhaps a new kind of university.

The Media Union represents the first facility of its kind in the world designed to break the constraints

...of disciplines

...of barriers between the University and the society it serves

...indeed, of space and time itself.

In dedicating the Media Union today,

we are dedicating a laboratory where

the future of education itself will be determined.

**And now it is my great pleasure to introduce**

the Governor of the State of Michigan,

the Honorable John Engler.