ARMACOST RESIGNS

Dr. Milton Froyd Named Interim

$300,000 Mabee Challenge Announced

Conditional Grant to provide outdoor recreation facilities and improvements for fire safety

Ottawa University has been selected to receive a $300,000 Mabee Foundation "challenge grant" for physical improvements on the condition that $375,000 in matching funds be raised in 120 days, Ottawa President Peter H. Armacost announced August 3.

The grant had been sought as a catalyst to obtaining the necessary funds for meeting improvements mandated by the Kansas State Fire Marshall and for providing an outdoor recreation facility including tennis and handball courts and a multi-purpose area.

Estimated cost of both projects is $675,000. Under the terms of the grant by the J. E. and L. E. Mabee Foundation, Inc., of Tulsa, Oklahoma, the University must raise the additional $375,000 by December 1 to qualify for receipt of the $300,000 in Mabee funding.

In announcing the award, Dr. Armacost noted that "This is a great opportunity which we have worked hard to achieve. We have already initiated the major gift fund-raising process. We have one firm commitment of $20,000 and several proposals for larger gifts are now under consideration. If we are to be successful in meeting this challenge, Dr. Armacost said, "we will need the cooperation and help of all who know and love Ottawa University."

In light of the urgent need for fund-raising in the next 120 days, the Board of Trustees has extended the recently-completed Venture Campaign solicitation period by that amount of time. In addition, the Board recommended the renaming of the Administration Building as the J. E. and L. E. Mabee Hall if the challenge grant requirements are met.

Other action taken to revise the Venture Campaign goals included increasing the goal for safety improvements from $100,000 to $364,200 and the goal for the outdoor recreation project from $253,000 to $301,200 (because of increased building costs), decreasing the goal for endowment from $1,151,500 to $765,141 and deferring to a later date proposed theatre/class-room and landscaping projects.

Dr. Armacost noted that in addition to the urgency of funding requirements, there is an urgency to getting work underway, particularly in light of the Fire Marshall's deadlines for improvements in residence halls and academic buildings. The University has been given ninety days to complete residence hall safety measures (at a cost of $102,725) and until February 25, 1978, to complete safety improvements in academic facilities (costing $261,475). "The continued use of all of our major classroom facilities and several key residence halls is at stake," Dr. Armacost said.

While not mandated by duly constituted authority, the value of an outdoor recreation facility to student morale cannot be overstated, Dr. Armacost believes. "Our Plan of Education calls for us to be actively concerned about the physical well-being of the student as well as the intellectual, moral and cultural facets of life. In a similar vein, Ottawa emphasizes life-long learning. Thus, sports which can be pursued for many years after graduation — like tennis, volleyball, handball — are enjoying a great increase in popularity which should be encourged and aided," Dr. Armacost said.

The University family has been blessed by the tenure of Peter and Sue Armacost and expresses gratitude and best wishes as they move to a new field of service.

Dr. Peter H. Armacost, president of Ottawa University since 196 has submitted his resignation to accept the presidency of Eckerd Co lege in Florida. Dr. William K. Cober, chairman of the Executive Co mittee of the Board of Trustees, has announced the appointment of D Milton C. Froyd to serve as interim president for one year or until successor to Peter Armacost takes office.

Board Chairman W. J. Coppoc commended Dr. Froyd for his w lingness to serve the University during the time that the search co

mittee is seeking a new president. Dr. Coppoc stated that "Dr. Froyd is an excellent choice, and I am extremely confident that he will provide very capable leadership to assure the continuing success of Ottawa University. The successor to Dr. Peter H. Armacost must fill very big shoes, indeed. Dr. Armacost has been an educational leader who has helped Ottawa to develop a nationally recognized and respected program of top quality. And he has strengthened our constituency support in such a way that our gift and grant income are now several times greater than at any previous time in our history."

In making the announcements, Dr. Cober stated, "There are times when we have the privilege of being a part of a historic and timely event. Dr. Armacost's outstanding educational skills have provided this setting for our Ottawa adventure. His decision to use these skills and his Ottawa experiences at another school opens new adventures because he is not starting over. He is going to a school already oriented in the directions in which he has led us.

"Sometimes I think Ottawa people do not realize the extent of Ottawa's reputation and the privilege we have of offering such a rich educational opportunity to our youth. We have an outstanding faculty. The nature of the educational program is far superior to most schools. Our commitment to be a Christian college of quality education makes us unique. We can build on this solid foundation.

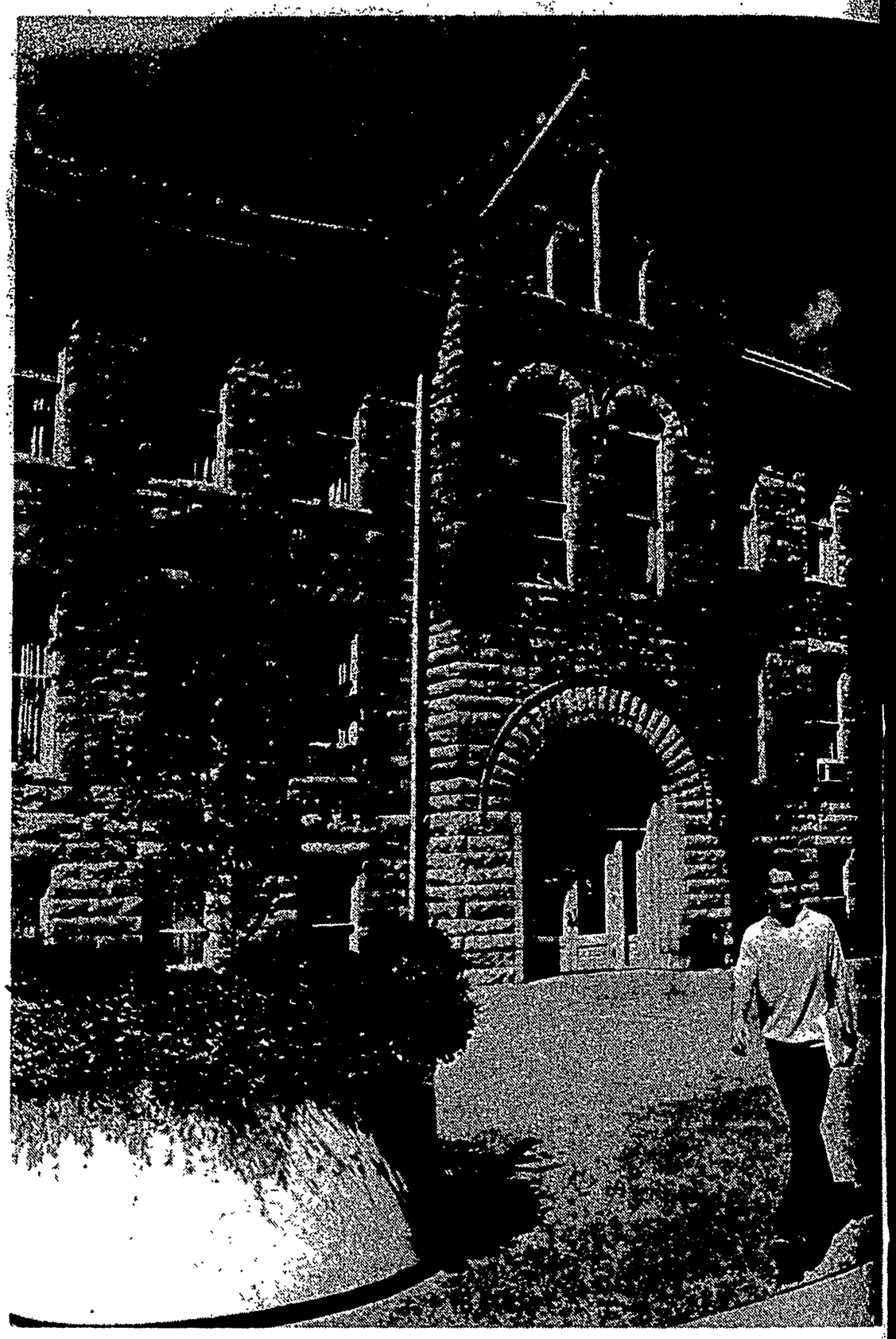
"Now is the time for all good Ottawa people to expect great things. The future is very bright. The determination of faculty and Board to make this school strong is impressive. Dr. Milton Froyd, our interim president, will provide great educational skills and motivation."

Both Dr. Coppoc and Dr. Cober have expressed appreciation for the understanding and dedication with which members of the Board and of the Executive Committee are facing the task ahead of them.

Dr. Froyd served 21 years at Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, 12 of those as Dean, and also as Director of Educational Research and Professor of Religion and Higher Education. He served as Director of Educational Research of the Baptist Board of Education and Director of Development at Ottawa University. Most recently he has been Director of Intitutional Research and Planning at Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

He earned his baccalaureate degree from Gordon College (Massachusetts) in 1930, and master's and doctoral degrees from Columbia University in 1939 and 1945, respectively. Keuka College (New York) awarded him an honorary degree as Doctor of Laws.

In accepting this opportunity, Dr. Froyd said that he believes he has major responsibility for "galvanizing the Trustees, faculty, students, staff and supporting constituencies and drawing forth the latent energies, concerns, and loyalties into a major thrust of action to deal with the enormous tasks facing private liberal arts colleges today."



Tauy Talk Interviews President Armacost

Prior to his decision to accept the Eckerd presidency, Dr. Armacost had been working with the Mabee Foundation on a possible grant which was approved the day prior to Dr. Armacost's resignation. The award to Ottawa of a $300,000 matching grant from the Foundation presents a significant challenge. It was Dr. Armacost's desire to share with the University community his faith in the future of Ottawa even before the announcement of the Mabee grant, which requires the raising of $375,000 in matching gifts by December 1. That award added a sense of urgency to his remarks in an interview in conjunction with the Mabee award announcement. In the interview which follows, Dr. Armacost reviews the accomplishments of the past decade and his faith in the ability of the Ottawa community to unite to meet the challenges of the future.

Dr. Armacost, the announcement of the Mabee grant must seem to you a fitting capstone to your 10 years at Ottawa. What are your feelings right now?

Armacost: I'm enormously pleased about the grant, of course. Our number one building priority has been an outdoor recreation facility on campus because we feel that is something students want and will appreciate. — And it is much needed for our educational program. After the state fire marshall's visit in the fall, it was clear that a total safety package was imperative. The Mabee Foundation has consistently taken a strong stand in support of church-related education. Their response to our needs for physical plant improvements could not have come at a more welcome time. Of course, the December 1 deadline for raising matching funds of $375,000 puts us under the gun. But I am optimistic about our ability to do what is necessary to capitalize on the Mabee funding opportunity.

I might just add, too, that when we accomplish the financial goals that will bring the Mabee grant to Ottawa, the total of foundation grants awarded to Ottawa over the past eight years will exceed $3 million. That's something we can all be pretty proud of.

oking back over the past 10 years, students — in fact, the whole rld — has changed dramatically. What kind of perspective has your ure here given you on that period?

acost: It certainly has been a time of tremendous change, growth d real accomplishment both here and elsewhere. I look back to the ly part of my work here and students had different priorities than y have had in the last five years. I think a tight economy — and I'm aking of the general economy — causes students and their parents become more career-oriented. In the late 60s students were pretty ch assured of jobs on graduation and were more concerned about ticipating actively in the life of the college and the decision-making cess. I see the University as a living organism that has basic comments which must be expressed in varied means appropriate to the entation of the students we are currently serving. In the 60s we ponded to the fact that students were pointing out weaknesses in her education that had existed for decades. Ottawa's mission has ays been to help students fulfill their God-given potential and to ume positions of leadership as citizens and church persons. From t base, we said "Let's develop a plan centered on the idea that leges with the courage and vision to deal with valid criticisms of ucation would have a bright future." We knew it was a risk to commit both financial and human resources to a major restructuring of ucation based upon our knowledge of how students learn and how culty members should contribute to this process. One of the real ks of my experience here was the moment when 90 per cent of the culty voted in secret ballot to accept and act on that challenge by opting our new educational program.

Basic to that plan was the idea that one must begin with students here they are. That guarantees change if you follow through on it. the last several years, I would say that we have continued our commitment to our historic mission and to our renewed pledge to the development of individual potential. As times change, the strategies for ccomplishment must change too.

eturning to your remark about difficult economic times, how do you el about the impact of the recent recession on Ottawa?

Armacost: There's no doubt that the achievements we have made ave been *despite* financial problems. I spoke of the peak the faculty commitment to a new program represented for me. The real valley I ook back on is the enrollment drop in the Fall of 1970 which came hen we raised our tuition and then experienced the impact of a national economic recession. We had to tighten down at every conceivable oint in order to balance the operating budget and develop a program multaneously. That is very difficult to do; it would have been impossible without the total, wholehearted co-operation of the faculty, staff nd students. The overall toll of the 1970 drop was the increasing difficulty of implementing all the good ideas and valuable opportunities hat we would have liked to develop. We have been trying to work our ay out of our budget problem ever since 1970. I believe that we have he budget turned around now. We have balanced the budget each ear for the past two years (even though it took a major gift to do so st year) and we have projected a conservative budget for next year. s long as any organization lives within its income, it will survive. The urning question for us is not survival but "What can we do educationally within the available resources? That is why I think new program velopment that is consistent with the basic mission of the institution nd is financially sound is crucial to the continued strength of the hole. Survival *per se* is no goal at all. But, significant survival—life—is.

ay we assume that you're referring to areas of new growth like the ollege Without Campus and the proposed graduate program?

Armacost: Certainly! Those programs fit our determination to see out opportunities consistent with financial stability and the extensio of our educational mission. The advent of the College Without Campu is one of the startling new directions to emerge in the last few year: Its success in its second year was more dramatic than we ever dare hope. That represented a peak for me because I knew that the prograr grew out of what we are, that it had integrity and quality. Anythin undertaken in that spirit will, I think, be a key ingredient in the futur strength of the institution. We served 1829 students in CWC last yea who earned as much credit and paid as much tuition as 453 student on campus for the entire year.

Dr. Armacost, you've spoken of two "peaks" — the development of th new program and new directions like the College Without Campu: Are there other accomplishments that stand out for you?

Armacost: In my own mind, I list three categories of real accomplisl ment. As you have suggested, program developments are first on m list. Before leaving them, I'd like to note that an outgrowth of ou programatic efforts has been the development of a national reputatio for the quality of the Ottawa program. We deserve that reputation, an we ought to be proud of it. A key ingredient in the program is, c course, faculty. In conventional measures, we've moved from a facult composed of 20-25% Ph.D.s to one of almost 70% Ph.D.s. More in portant, though, the faculty really knows what it is about. It views th teaching role broadly and doesn't limit that role to the classroom. Ou faculty professional development program serves as a model nationwic More important, it works. The Board of Trustees has become truly ou standing, too. We have strengthened our ties with the business con munity and the Kansas Baptist Convention. And each of these area is vital.

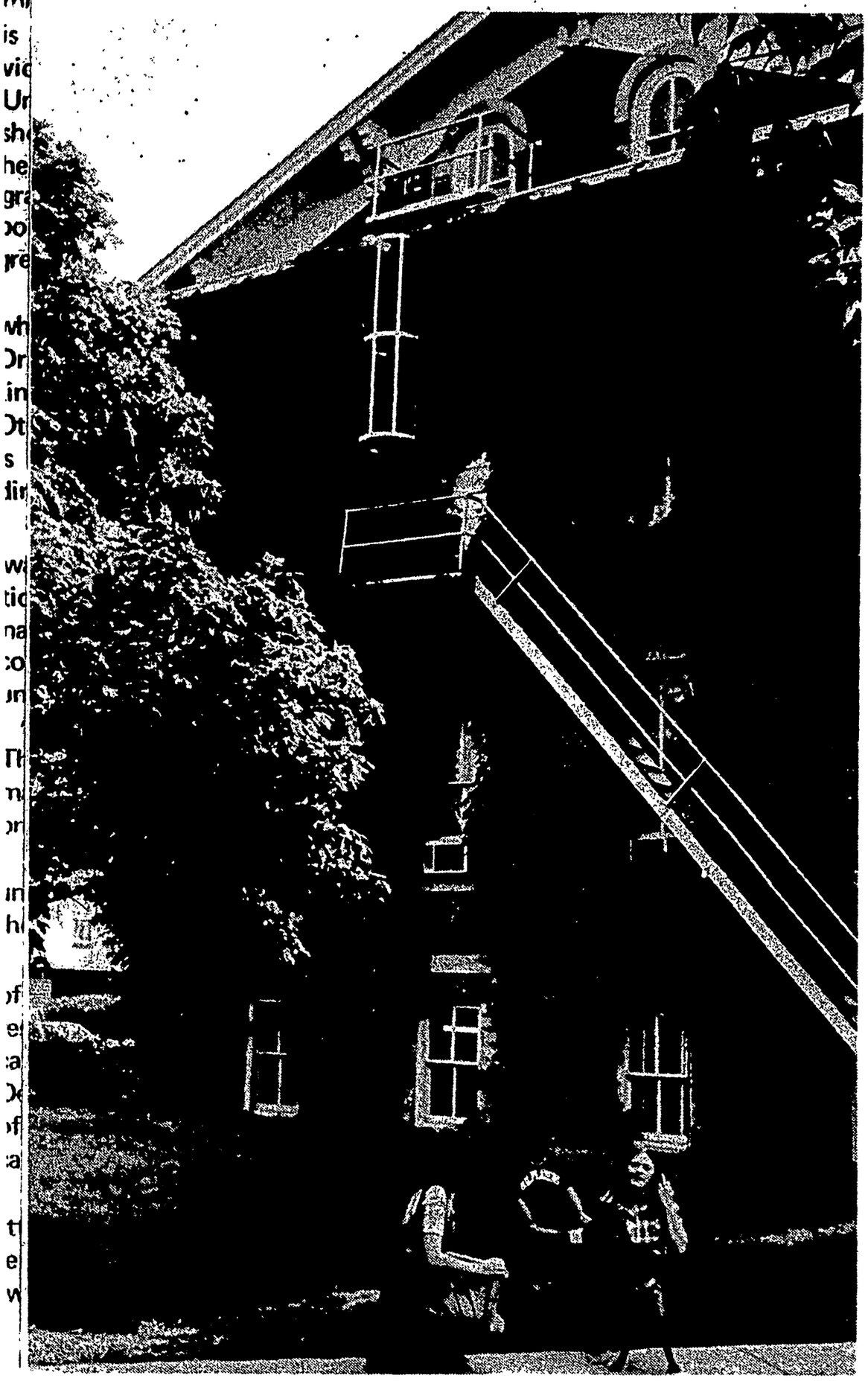
I think we can also take pride in our accomplishments in raisir gift and grant income. We were one of 48 institutions picked from ove 2,000 applicants for a Ford Foundation Venture grant. When you hav a list of foundation supporters like Danforth, Ford, Kresge, Lilly Mabee, William Penn, plus FIPSE, AIDP and NEH (government) grant that is a strong statement of support for the institution. That listir represents $2.7 million in investment from people who know abou education. Along with these major gifts, we have seen a substanti increase in giving by the Ottawa "family." Gift income was $142,00 per year on the average in the years 1957-67. Since then, the averag has increased to $1.1 million yearly during the past four years, and was $1.5 million last year.

The third broad area of accomplishment is the long-term strategie outlined to guide future growth in ways that capitalize on our strength We have worked very, very hard to continue building on the histori ties with the American Baptist Churches. We have tried to develop ne strategies, as I remarked before, to fulfill our mission as a Christia college in ways appropriate to current student needs. We have talke about program extensions like the College Without Campus. The ver fact that we are moving ahead with the plan to extend a similar oper tion to Phoenix is tangible evidence of the institution's taking actio now to assure its future.

Those are my three peaks—the program developments, the stride we've made in financial stability, and the same game plan we have d veloped for the future. If I did not feel the future was solid here, could not leave.

Even though your peak experiences allow you to look back with sense of accomplishment, there must have been valleys.

Armacost: Always. We've talked about the deepest one already. Ther were others. I think my chief regret is the extensive personal contac



with faculty and students alike that I missed during my two years as President of the American Baptist Convention. I discussed that opportunity with the Board fully, but none of us really realized the extent to which that commitment would remove me from the daily activities of the institution. I missed the eyeball-to-eyeball communication. It gave me the pulse of the University that I needed. I have other small regrets on leaving, too. I wish the Phoenix CWC were a *fait accompli.* I would have liked to have seen the successful completion of t Venture Fund campaign. Our advisors told us $5.7 million was a dre Upon completion of the Mabee Challenge we are actually going to co out at about the figure they projected as more possible — $4.7 millio I take pride in knowing we've started, however, and built support for t future. But I regret the dream didn't happen. We have been so hap here that it would have been easy to remain until retirement in 2 years. Thus, it took a very extraordinary opportunity to prompt us leave Ottawa, and we are truly excited about the challenge and pr spects awaiting us in Florida at Eckerd College.

Could you tell us a bit more about your new opportunity at Ecke College:

Armacost: First, let me say that when we came to Ottawa I promise the Board of Trustees that I would stay at least five years, but I pr dicted a change in leadership within ten years. In general, I believe suc changes are good for both the individual and the institution. Thus, am implementing an earlier commitment. In recent years there hav been many excellent opportunities to move, but none that excites m as much as the situation at Eckerd College. I personally respond t challenges and I want to be in a Christian college of liberal arts com mitted to an educational philosophy which focuses upon the optima individual development of that God-given potential possessed by eac student. I also want to be in a setting where there is a strong financia support and where I know that my leadership will make a difference- just as I dare to believe has been the case for the past decade here a Ottawa. In that context, Eckerd is a very attractive situation; far mor so than a prestigeous institution with a large endowment and an en trenched educational program.

Throughout its relatively brief history Eckerd College has been com mitted to educational excellence, to individualized educational pro grams and to innovation. It has compiled an amazing record since i was founded in 1958. Eckerd is one of the few colleges in the country other than Ottawa, where the faculty is already committed to the edu cational philosophy and the understanding of what it means to be Christian college that I have been working to implement here at Ottaw during the past decade. And it is now moving to a CWC type program too. The college is located on 282 acres in St. Petersburg, Florida, an has a new campus of 64 buildings completed since 1960. And the finan cial potential is indicated by the over $37 million raised in recent years

Dr. Armacost, you get a shot now at answering any question you wis had been asked but has't been.

Armacost: The thing I would most like to say to the Ottawa communi ty is thank you and we believe in you. We love you. The people o Ottawa have brought to us many deeply meaningful relationships. W could not leave without expressing our deep appreciation for all you have been to us and done for us.