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The temptation to rest is enticing after prolonged effort and significant accomplishment. I finished recently a book about the Civil War entitled *Battle Cry of Freedom*. I was impressed again by the opportunities lost by Union armies to crush the Confederate forces after winning a battle because they did not pursue and persevere. We Grand Valley University Foundation trustees have reached an objective this past April established at the time the Foundation came into existence. The L.V. Eberhard Center plants the blue, white, and black flag of Grand Valley firmly in downtown Grand Rapids, a presence that stands for service to people, that means education for engineers and teachers, business managers and social workers, nurses and computer experts. You have done good work. You have asked and you have given. You have succeeded. Is it time now to rest?

I cannot blame you if you say "Give me a break," and so we have. There has been a seven month break between April and November. As we pick ourselves up to get on with University building, we should remember why it is so important to keep on the move. First, our part of western Michigan put a comprehensive public college into the field late in the
race. There is a degree of catch-up for Grand Valley as we attempt to provide education opportunities for our citizens. Our applications outstrip our ability to accept them. Our state appropriations are inadequate to appoint the Professors we need. The supply is not equal to the legitimate demand. Second, west Michigan shines with an economic glow, brighter than most regions in our state and the upper midwest. We, here, have a positive sense of the future. Our growth is steady and of good quality; our loyalties to the region are deep and well founded. The development of our own indigenous University is as natural and necessary to that climate as water is to life, and must move at a pace as steady as the growth of the region itself. Third, achievement is more than wishing it so. Resting on laurels is heady stuff, but finally it is like a mental quicksand. Let's keep our engines running. Let's keep our enthusiasm for our quest. William McFee in his work *Casuals of the Sea* said, "The world belongs to the enthusiast who keeps cool." That's what we must do. Keep our enthusiasm and work in a systematic, steady way toward our quest, the making of a University that will enrich the life of our region for the indefinite future. We can take short breathers in the process, but we can't take a vacation.
What will this University look like? How will it mesh with other institutions? How will it ascertain what its clientele needs from it? How will it go about its task of education and research in the 21st century? You have given ideas, public support, and money to bring it to its present place. I ask you now to help us decide how we will position the University for the 21st century. I recommend that the Foundation Board transform itself into "Commission 2,000." Commission 2,000 will consider what Grand Valley should be by the year 2,000. Faculty and administrators will participate with Foundation Board members to make recommendations to the Faculty Senate and finally to the Board of Control on academic matters, buildings for the future, political action, private support, and public service. I propose that all Foundation Board members participate, that the commission be organized into three committees, "the Allendale Campus Committee," "the Grand Rapids Campus Committee," and "the Public Service Committee." If there is some overlapping in discussions and similarity in recommendations coming from these groups, I see no problem. Each group will submit its findings and recommendations to a "Resolutions and Implementation Committee" comprised of representatives of each of the
standing committees. From this committee a final report will emerge for the Foundation Board to consider and place before the University. I see this process beginning in January 1989, culminating in final recommendations from this Board next fall. If you respond favorably to my suggestion, I will ask Vice President Ron VanSteeland, a person noted for efficiency and clarity, to put together the staff and timetable for the Commission's work, and I will ask Paul Johnson, our President, and the Executive Committee to consider the committee assignments and leadership roles. Our University, business and government must ride off together on the same trail. We are partners in this big ranch. I see Commission 2,000 as a place where the partners get together; a roundup before we set off into the future.

At the same time we put this into action, I think the time is at hand to look over the crop of upcoming leaders in our midst. Some of them are you. Still others are out there, and we will need them in here with us, building our university. I recommend to you that you create a Development Committee to study categories of membership on the Foundation Board and suggest to you names of those who we want to invite to join us in adventure.
Before I close I want to comment on two topics. The first is our endowment. One of the two original objectives of our Foundation was to increase the endowment of the University. The value of that fund has now exceeded 6 million dollars - modest but coming along. Endowment isn't always exciting, but it is the muscle of the academic body. It makes things move. The President of the University of Michigan told me the other day they were considering a $2 1/2 billion dollar fund raising effort to build their university of the future. They don't see public dollars as enough. The amount staggered me. Perhaps it is a vision beyond reach - perhaps not. I am sure that what we must have here requires our continued public-private partnership. I know that a large private endowment can move us along toward our goals of high quality engineering and technical education, better teachers in our schools, adequate supply of people in health professions, a business program that staffs our businesses and helps stimulate our entrepreneurs, programs that provide the best for public and social service, and research to make our water resources safe and plentiful for the future of our region and state. Please think endowment. Because someone was, Mrs. Zukaitis of Spring Lake just added
$200,000 to it last week.

The second comment deals with our development work during the time we do our planning. For me, values are as important as knowledge. In some respect, values have their origin in a deep intuitive knowledge, but they are more than learning. Religion is the nurturer of values, and in our society we respect varied ways of nurturing. On our Allendale campus there has been, for many years, an unusually successful campus ministry working with hundreds of students who are so inclined to focus on values, study of theology, and worship. I believe it is time for us to have a chapel on our Allendale campus to assist those engaged in this growing ministry.

Two days ago we received a check for $187,600 as the first installment of a half million dollar grant from the Kellogg Foundation to do research and to educate people about the water resources of west Michigan. The grant is timely as we in this area confront the sewer and ground water problems. These problems too will require public and private partnership if we are to solve it, and Grand Valley will be in on the solution. Some efforts toward this end should be made during the coming year. We will keep you posted.
In closing I want to return to the word enthusiasm. There is so much to do in west Michigan. It boggles the mind. Think of it this way. There is so much to be enthusiastic about. The sense of the word among the Greeks affords the noblest definition of it: enthusiasm signifies "good in us." I like that, and I know it is true. When we are enthusiastic we make things happen that others thought impossible. We appear to work miracles. This Foundation has done it before. Let's keep doing it!