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Friday, September 19, 1975

Malls no Xenia threat

Some Xenians are probably horror stricken over recent announcements of impending developments that one might logically assume to be in direct competition with anything planned for the city's downtown.

We speak, of course, about the \$100 million mall being planned for the southern edge of Fairborn and the Dayton-Sugarcreek Ltd. development along Sugarcreek Twp.'s western edge.

Neither, we feel, should pose a threat to Xenia, though many are quick to say they will, adding that a mall development in Beaver Creek Twp. could kill off this still-rebuilding city.

The fact is, none of the three is similar to what is being planned for Xenia. City Manager Bob Stewart and Community Development Director Bill Korte have been trying to eliminate the word "mall" from the city's collective vocabulary for some time, and now may be the time.

Xenia is going to build a "shopping area" downtown, just as it had a shopping area prior to the tornado. It will be new, it will be exciting and, hopefully, it will

be larger and more diversified than the pre-tornado downtown.

But it will be downtown, and it should serve the needs of people who used to leave the old downtown for a variety of reasons.

To be sure, new supermalls will take some business away from Xenia since there exists a breed of shopper who thrives on massive parking lots, large crowds and a dazzling array of stores compared to the leisurely friendly atmosphere of a city's center section.

But, Beaver Creek and Fairborn malls will not be that convenient to Xenians and people in the eastern half of the county, and Xenia still will be.

The Dayton-Sugarcreek project will be primarily office space with some retail establishments and should be welcomed as a boon to Sugarcreek Twp.

Another point made by the recent announcements of multi-million dollar developments, we feel, is a simple and reassuring one. Namely, it shows there are people willing to invest money in new commercial and office construction in spite of today's economy.

IRA GLASSER:

Badge of support

NEW YORK—By now nearly everyone knows about the Danes' resistance to Nazi anti-Semitism during World War II, and how their resistance spared almost all Danish Jews from the barbarism that took the lives of six million other Jews.

The Danish resistance was perhaps best symbolized by the reported willingness of King Christian X to appear in public wearing a yellow Star of David as a sign of fellowship with the persecuted minority.

Yet while this brave stand was being made to save the Jews of Denmark, another segment of the population was systematically hunted down and sent to the death camps: Denmark's homosexuals.

AND DENMARK was not unique: Many thousands of German, French, Polish, Hungarian and other European homosexuals were also interned and executed.

In the concentration camps where the Jews were compelled to wear yellow stars, the homosexuals were forced to wear pink triangles, and were treated as the lowest of the low by the Nazis.

Nearly a quarter of a million homosexuals were executed by the Nazis between 1937 and 1945, along with the six million Jews.

TODAY, THE moral revulsion against the

holocaust remains strong, though perhaps not strong enough. Many know about the yellow star, but the pink triangle still lies buried as a virtual historical secret.

As a result, there is a

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tolerance among good people of discrimination against homosexuals that is similar to the tolerance of anti-Semitism that was so pervasive in Europe before the holocaust and that, at least according to some scholars, created a hospitable climate for the destruction of European Jews.

Today, such discrimination based on religion—or race or sex or creed or national origin—is not officially tolerated. Though it still occurs, it is outlawed by federal and local laws, and is thus discouraged.

IN NEW YORK City, for example, discrimination in employment, housing or public accommodations based on race, religion or sex is illegal. But the same kind of discrimination against homosexuals is permitted.

Four years ago a civil rights bill to bar discrimination against homosexuals in employment, housing and public accommodations was

introduced in the City Council.

If the bill had been passed, official tolerance for bigotry based on people's sexual preferences would have been ended. But the bill did not pass. Five times it has been introduced, and five times it has failed.

Just as the Jews of Europe had to hide or perish, so many homosexuals today must hide in New York City to avoid the penalties of "coming out" in the open: Loss of job, harassment and abuse, even rejection by family and friends.

Now the bill has been introduced for a sixth time in City Council.

Today, and every day until the bill is passed, the pink triangle is being worn not only by homosexuals, but also by those who believe that the tolerance of good people is what permits bigotry to persist. The City Council, it is hoped, will get the message this time.

YEARBOOK ON SALE

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — "Ohio 1776-1803" is the theme for the Ohio Year Book 1976 to be published by the Martha Kinney Cooper Ohioana Library Association.

Copies of the calendar which shows Ohio's historic role through pioneer days to statehood can be purchased from the Ohioana Library.



KEVIN P. PHILLIPS:

New social policy?

WASHINGTON — After all the buffeting that the traditional building blocks of American culture — family, church, neighborhood and ethnic group — have suffered over the last decade, it is good to know that the White House is thinking about a new policy aimed at reinforcing them.

An outline of what could be involved was spelled out by Presidential Assistant William Baroody Jr., in a speech before the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco.

It seems that a study is being prepared by Prof. Peter Berger of Rutgers University and Worldview Magazine Editor Richard Neuhaus which advocates orientation of federal educational and welfare policy to give new emphasis to "mediating structures" — the family community; the church community; the neighborhood community; the ethnic community; and the voluntary association of whatever variety.

IN HIS SPEECH, Baroody noted that American society has always relied on these

institutions, and 19th century French commentator Alexis de Tocqueville enthused that such private bulwarks were the key to successful American democracy. But the White

should function as an urban equivalent of the small town or village community. It is good public policy, therefore, to protect, not to damage, neighborhoods.

And regarding the family, he said, "public policy . . . can at the very least refrain from further harming family structures."

JUST SO. Moreover, it is cheering to see the White House getting input from Peter Berger, who has disconcerted Established Liberalism with several penetrating sociological analyses.

To wit: Back in 1971, he wrote of "The Blueing of America," arguing that if upper-class young people at Harvard and Yale wanted to wear sandals and play "Greening of America" (a la Charles Reich) the children of Little Italy and East Texas would be happy to run General Motors and the Pentagon.

Then in 1972, his thesis of "The Assault on Class" argued that concepts like school busing and suburban distribution of low-income housing were unworkable

because they conflicted with the realities of U.S. class structure. To keep white middle-class parents from fleeing central city school busing, said Prof. Berger, would require legal measures akin to East Germany's offense of "Republikflucht" (leaving the country). Bravo, professor.

UNHAPPILY, THAT is where my cheering stops. Baroody means well, and Berger has good ideas, but the Ford administration has a clear record of implementing liberal sociology rather than re-ordering policy to reinforce traditional social institutions.

If public policy is to "refrain from further harming family structures," many Americans may suggest that Betty Ford save her opinions on premarital sex, ERA and abortion for the next reunion of her old Martha Graham dance troupe.

Neither is the Ford administration very credible to people who care about neighborhoods — not so long

as federal force is on hand to compel neighborhood-shattering cross-town busing in cities like Boston. Then there is the Department of Housing and Urban Development, with its ongoing record of neighborhood-busing through subsidy programs.

AND IF the President truly cares about "voluntary associations" — like those fighting to maintain ethnicity, decent textbooks and neighborhoods — then why doesn't he invite "Concerned Parents" to the White House along with Bella Abzug and Leonid Brezhnev?

Until the Ford administration changes its actions, oral commitment to reinforcing "mediating structures" is impotent. Such efforts can only be seriously pursued by an administration willing to lay down fighting principles and consider Constitutional amendments with regard to busing, prayer and non-public school assistance.

And the Ford White House is far from biting that kind of bullet.

DIANE RAVITCH:

Suggests CCC revival

WE HAVE in our cities today a curious combination of problems.

There are vast numbers of young people who are drifting aimlessly, whether they are in school or not; since there are few jobs, there is little they can do that seems meaningful or rewarding.

At the same time, our cities have urgent needs that go unmet because of a lack of adequate public resources.

A COMPARABLE set of circumstances in the 1930's led the New Deal administration of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to create youth programs that in their essentials were more innovative and bold than anything that currently exists.

Perhaps it is time to reconsider these programs to determine whether they offer models for the present.

The Civilian Conservation Corps recruited in its 10-year history over three million young men to live in camps and work on outdoor public-service projects. While engaged in conservation work, those enrolled in the CCC had the advantages of a varied educational program: not only on-the-job vocational education, but also a wide range of remedial and academic courses.

MOST OF the CCC enrollees came from poor backgrounds; almost half had not completed grade school, and fewer than 15 per cent had graduated from high school. Most of

these young men had rejected or been rejected by the traditional schools.

The CCC camp-schools were able to accomplish for many of these young people what traditional

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schools had not. Within five years of the agency's inception, 62,000 were taught to read and write; others received high school diplomas and even college diplomas.

Another New Deal innovation was the National Youth Administration, which paid young people to perform public-service work in their own communities.

NEEDY STUDENTS in high schools, colleges and universities received small salaries in exchange for work, either on-campus or in the community. Students did research, ground-keeping, clerical work, maintenance, or assisted in laboratories, shops and libraries. The federal stipend enabled NYA students to remain in school.

Another NYA program provided jobs and income, as well as guidance, counseling, training and job placement to more than two million out-of-school youth. These young people, paid with federal money, worked in a wide range of jobs that met two criteria: They were

of value to the community and useful to the development of the young person's occupational skills.

THESE WORKERS could be found full-time in such places as nursery schools, day-care centers, libraries, museums, public recreation programs, parks, community centers and school cafeterias. There was one important restriction on NYA jobs: A worker could never be used to put a regular employe out of work.

Imagine an Urban Conservation Corps today.

There are thousands of abandoned buildings scattered around inner cities that might be converted into dormitories for such a program.

Young people could live in these centers under the supervision of group leaders (who might be out-of-work teachers); in their dormitories they could receive remediation and informal instruction from their leaders and circuit-riding teachers, as well as the opportunity to attend courses at no charge in nearby schools.

THE CORPS might be employed by cities to clean up the environment; to work in parks and playgrounds; to organize after-school clubs and expeditions for young children; to assist in museums, libraries, community centers and recreational programs.

The corps might be complemented by an NYA-

type program to subsidize young people who want to stay in school; in exchange for their scholarships, they might assist teachers, tutor younger children, work in the libraries or cafeterias or wherever their help was needed.

Such programs are not utopian; they worked well in the 1930's and were disbanded only when the

VOTES ARE OPPOSING

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ohio Sens. Robert Taft Jr. and John Glenn cast opposite votes Thursday as the Senate rejected 53-39 a resolution that would have given federal employees, including members of Congress, an 8.66 per cent pay raise rather than the 5 per cent recommended by President Ford.

Taft voted for the higher raise while Glenn opposed it.

Glenn said later he voted against the proposal because the 8.66 per cent hike would have cost an

war made unemployment programs unnecessary.

ALL THE YOUNG people involved would be engaged in work experiences where they were really needed and those in corps dormitories would have a fresh chance to improve their skills in a nonschool setting.

Not only the young people themselves, but our cities and all their public institutions would be the direct beneficiaries.

additional \$1.4 billion, which was not within the financial limits set by the Senate.

"It's critical that we get a handle on federal spending and avoid budget-busting that will inflate the economy, create more red ink on the federal budget and drive interest costs even higher," Glenn said.

CONVICTED

DENVER (AP) — A U.S. District Court jury Thursday convicted two Ohio men and a Florida resident on charges of possession of cocaine with intent to deliver.

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