

Poor Regional Planning Blamed By Baldinger In Opening Lecture

By MICHAEL CALLAHAN

Checkerboard regional planning, an obsolete system that has led to poverty-stricken mountain farms, problems of swollen and congested traffic, and blighted slum areas, was blamed last night for much of America's present economic hardships.

Dr. Wallace Baldinger, associate professor of art in the University, opened the "Currents of Creative Thought" lectures series in the University library with this summary of the effects of poor city and regional planning upon our daily lives.

"The entire nation has been laid out in rigid checkerboard patterns," Dr. Baldinger asserted, "and as a result even our houses are simply planted mechanically on grid patterns of streets, with no regard for such vital factors as sunlight, winds, or privacy."

Street planning has also suffered from the geometric concept of planning, according to Dr. Baldinger. Instead of being laid out with the greatest width where the heaviest traffic occurs, he said, the "even-

width lanes" have been wasteful in some quieter residential areas and have created fantastic traffic problems in business and campus areas. City blocks, under the same planning scheme, are cut up to yield as many street-frontage lots as the land will sustain. This has resulted in narrow, dark houses, perfect breeding areas for slums.

"It is possible for a city to be laid out artistically," Dr. Baldinger declared. "A striking example of this is Washington, D. C., as planned by Pierre L'Enfante. Our national capitol was designed to be just that, and is beautifully organic in its classical lines."

Central park, in New York City, was given by Dr. Baldinger as another example of art breaking the "cold mechanical grid canyon-streets."

Chicago, in its long lakeside drives, and surrounding park belt illustrates the "halfway efforts to insure spaciousness and beauty," he said. The great architect of Chicago, Daniel Hudson Burnham, laid out these zones in a test of his theories of organic compactness surrounded by spacious natural areas.

As a remedy to the grid plan, Dr. Baldinger offered the "biomorphic plan," which calls for three basic and balanced elements in every community. First of these elements is a surrounding region of natural scenic beauty. Inside this undeveloped area would be the second "element," a spacious rural community. This in turn would border on an "organic" suburban and commercial section, evolved only after consideration of the local geographic structures.

"The ideal of planners is to achieve compactness of design with no hint of predetermined spacing," Dr. Baldinger said. "This has been achieved during the last two decades in the development of the Wil-

Music Honorary Installs Officers

Mary Margaret Dundore, sophomore in music, was installed as president of Nu chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon, Tuesday night at Gerlinger hall.

Other newly installed officers are Faye Schick, vice president; Helen McFetridge, recording secretary; Shirley Gay Williams, corresponding secretary; Althadel Johns, treasurer; Lucretia Prentiss, historian; Dorothea Schaefer, warden; Virgene Lindley Roffe, chaplain; Helen Hudson, chorister; and Janet Kelsey, alumni secretary.

Entertainment was presented by several members. Beverly Howard played two Shostakovitch Preludes, Jerine Newhouse sang and played "Laddie," an old Scot melody, and Faye Schick played Cyril Scott's "Lento."

Rushing to Start

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lamette valley with its network of rivers and towns."

Three specific developments of the biomorphic plan were outlined by Dr. Baldinger. The English "garden city plan," which has been approved by the British government as the plan for 20 new cities now under construction, calls for a balanced community. The flexible areas of the garden cities will support a population of 32,000 apiece on 1,000 acres of city property and 5,000 acres of agricultural land. These cities will have the added feature of being nearly self-supporting communities.

The German "Bauhaus" school of architectural planning is the second major development of the biomorphic plan, Dr. Baldinger said. This outstanding engineering program would abandon city blocks as such and substitute varying widely spaced traffic ribbons. Chicago now has this plan under consideration for a possible cure for its ventilation problem, according to Dr. Baldinger.

Henry Wright and Clarence Stein are the American city planners who have adopted a version of the biomorphic plan. Their projects, at Radburn, New Jersey, and in Pittsburgh's Chatham village, are "progressive suburban communities designed for the motor age." The functionally-laid streets of these communities, according to Dr. Baldinger, have completely eliminated traffic problems, light and air obstructions, and overcrowding in a way that is well worth study by other American towns.

Dark horses are in such demand this year that the saliva test will be waived.

Emerald Classifieds

All classified is payable in advance at the rate of four cents a word the first insertion, two cents a word thereafter at the Emerald Business Office. Classified deadline is 4:00 p.m. the day prior to publication.

UO Professor To Examine Boards

Professor C. L. Kelly of the school of business administration has been appointed a member of the committee on the uniform certified public accountant's examination.

Composed of a representative from eight of the leading business schools of the nation, this committee will appraise recent examinations and procedures used in their preparation and grading.

They have been requested by the board of examiners of the American Institute of Accountants to use this study as a basis for presenting recommendations on the present CPA examinations.

Kelly has stated that he intends to work for a uniform certification procedure to modify the existing regulations which differ in almost every one of the forty-eight states.

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FOR SALE: Men's bicycle. H. K. iversity men. 2691 Harris. Phone 5B. (110).

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ROOMS: Accommodations for University men. 2691 Harris. Phone 6877-R. (105)

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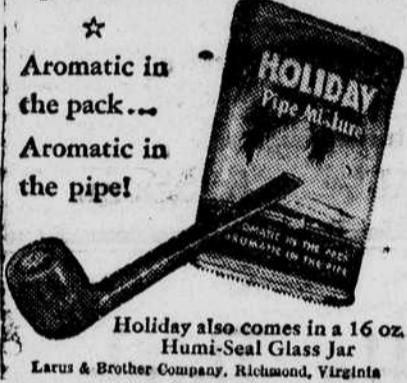
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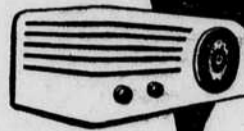


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