

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The past year was characterized by considerable change at the Henry George School, change that brought both excitement and expansion. Our product is knowledge, and the School provides important opportunities for individuals to acquire new knowledge by engaging in the public dialogue. George Collins, Stan Rubenstein and the School's staff have proven this to be so by the successes they achieve daily in reaching and affecting people near and far.

Personally I am increasingly optimistic that the insights the School offers into human behavior and our socio-political arrangements are finding their way into mainstream thought after a long period of absence. Not in a very long time has the socio-political thinking of people everywhere been focused so intensely on the guiding principles of *democracy*--not merely as a mechanistic system of participatory government, but as part of a value system that secures the dignity and *liberty* of the individual. Events within and outside the social democratic societies suggest that people recognize the futility and danger of delegating too much responsibility for individual or collective wellbeing to government.

As students of the *great ideas*, masterfully presented to us by Henry George and others of similar vision, we have acquired what our reason tells us is certain knowledge about human behavior. We see in history and in contemporary society how the quest for monopoly privilege (by individuals, corporate entities or the State) has eroded individual liberty from our socio-political arrangements. Unfortunately, this perspective is still shared by only us few and is not among the truths emerging as self-evident even to scholars working in history, law, political science or economics. People of all ethnic origins, religious and educational backgrounds, and socio-economic levels *do* recognize that things are not as they should be; and, many devote their lives to helping others or to working for changes they believe will pull us toward a more *just society*. Their efforts are largely unproductive or counterproductive, because they function without the benefit of the perspective provided in the works of Henry George and in the School's discussion courses.

What Georgists have to offer others is knowledge that lifts the just society from the realm of the abstract and brings it into the realm of experience. Henry George explained and substantiated historically that privilege dominated the socio-political arrangements of virtually every society, and that the form of privilege most destructive to the human experience was contained within the existing system of private titleholdings to nature. Similar, though secondary, privilege has flourished in the form of monopoly licenses, restraints on trade and the displacement by nation-states of sound money with a monetary system built on *legal tender* and the self-creation of credit. We bring this message to people by means of discussion courses, seminars, workshops, videos and written materials.

For now, we Georgists and the various organizations with which we are associated, remain only minor players in the public dialogue. Nevertheless, our message is spreading, and an understanding of the principles we espouse is finding an increasingly receptive audience. The work has been going on now for over a century (and for over fifty years under the auspices of the School). Our commitment continues. History's lesson is that liberty, seldom secured, is never secure. Our challenge in 1990 and beyond is before us. We know our cause is just and our reasoning sound. We need your support. We need your involvement. Help us expand the public dialogue to include the Georgist perspective.

--Edward J. Dodson
President, Henry George School



Cyril Keene Harvey

CYRIL HARVEY MEMORIAL LECTURE

A program to honor the life and work of Cyril Keene Harvey, sponsored by the New York Henry George School, is being held on Monday, February 26th, 6:00 PM, at the Taino Center for the Performing Arts, Touro College, 240 East 123rd Street, Manhattan. Featured speaker will be HGS Executive Director George L. Collins.

Cyril Harvey (8/2/15 - 4/17/89) was a faculty member at the New York Henry George School where he taught *Classical Analysis* until December, 1988. In addition, Mr. Harvey was a Harlem community activist for jobs and housing, Chairman of the Harlem House of Commons, member of the National Committee for Independent Political Action, and member of the National Tenants Organization.

The lecture by Mr. Collins will introduce the audience to the economic philosophy which Mr. Harvey taught so well at the School, and brought to his work for social justice outside the School. The program is presented in conjunction with Touro College *Black History Month* Series.

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

New York's winter term of classes began on Tuesday, January 23rd with an ambitious schedule of eleven ten-week courses, three Friday night forums, and two Saturday seminars covering topics ranging from basic Georgist economics to homelessness in our land and Perestroika in Eastern Europe. At the close of the first week 425 students had attended classes.

There are 255 first-time students taking initial courses in *Fundamental Economics*, *Understanding Economics*, *Classical Analysis I*, and *Progress & Poverty* (in Spanish). Ninety-nine enrolled in advanced courses, *Applied Economics*, *Classical Analysis II*, and *Third World Issues* (in Spanish) for which a class from the foregoing list is a prerequisite. *Money & Banking*, another course open to new students without prerequisite, and given in the afternoon, had fourteen students at the start. *Great Decisions 1990*, the

Foreign Policy Association's program on U.S. foreign relations offered as an advanced course, attracted twenty-five previous students.

As enrollments increased and classrooms became full, additional sections of *Fundamental Economics* and *Progress & Poverty* classes have had to be organized. The first Friday Night Forum, *The Income Tax and You*, drew an attendance of thirty-two. Some were current and past students, but the majority were attracted to the school for the first time.

Reorganization of the research library is now going on, so that the library will be separate from classrooms. Originally, two of the classrooms also served as library rooms, which inhibited the functioning of the library. Additional shelving, which will provide space for more volumes than the previous arrangement allowed, will be installed soon, enabling library services to resume in the spring.

-- George L. Collins

PHILADELPHIA SCHOOL GETS MORE PRESS COVERAGE

A new major article on the Philadelphia Henry George School appeared in the January 8-14 issue of *Philadelphia Business Journal*. The story graces the front page of its real estate section with a color photograph of Director Mike Curtis in front of the bust of Henry George at the George Birthplace on 10th Street. Several associates of the School are mentioned and quoted along with Mr. Curtis, including City Councilman James Tayoun, City Finance Director Betsy Reveal, stock analyst Sam Gray, School President Edward Dodson, and Lucia Cipoloni, assistant to Mr. Curtis, who said: "I took a course [at HGS] in 1937, just out of high school.... Democracy is a wonderful thing, it's just awfully hobbled by land monopoly." According to the article, President Dodson discovered the School while researching a book he wanted to write on social theory. Mr. Dodson is now working on a liberal arts Master's degree at Temple University in addition to his work at the Philadelphia office of the Federal National Mortgage Association. It was at the HGS that he discovered that slums and inadequate hous-

ing is "largely because of the tax structure." [Note: See Mr. Dodson's Letter, also in this issue.]

Focus in the story is placed on the School's efforts to teach the ideas of Henry George and to restore his birthplace to its 19th-century style. Philadelphia's political debate over taxing land is also covered. Councilman Tayoun's proposal is to change the ratio of building to land assessment from 3.1-to-1 to 2.5- or 2-to-1. Tayoun projects that in 80% of eight out of ten districts, property assessments would drop immediately. "What goes up are the corner properties, the properties with large lawns.... where you have homes sitting on big plots of ground, they go up. The (gas) refineries go up drastically." According to the article, Tayoun's proposal failed last year because Mayor Goode tied it to a millage hike.

The immediate success or failure of educational and political efforts may be beside the point, according to the concluding remark by Mike Curtis: "It just sort of feels good working for something that's ultimately going to do some good in the world."

"TO SMOKE, TO DRINK, TO DIE IN L.A."

Or rather, "Freedom is the Right to Choose" to do so - according to the theme of January's Final Friday Dinner/Meeting of the Alumni Group of the LA School, held at Michael's Restaurant on Los Feliz Boulevard in Hollywood. Three invited speakers addressed the issue of abusing uncontrolled substances, i.e., nicotine and alcohol: Jack Dean, Executive Director of Reason Foundation and former State Chair of the Libertarian Party; Jack De Camp, from MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving), and pilot for 31 years with United Airlines; and Roy Begley, retired advertising promoter now recruiting for the US census.

According to LA School Director Harry Pollard, it was a crowded hall and lively discussion. A new twist was introduced to the evening's proceedings: "designated hitters." These are individuals whose role is to open the question-and-answer period with "nasty opening questions" - to "go for the throat early." But, Mr. Pollard added, "it's really all great fun." This evening's designated hitters were David Byrne from Riverside, the owner of a printing firm; and Samuel E. Konkin III from Long Beach, publisher of *New Libertarian* magazine and head of the Agorist Institute.

As an introduction to the evening's topic, the Alumni Group's invitation included several interesting points: "Relatively few people die directly from controlled 'substance abuse.' It's the uncontrolled, socially acceptable (?) substances that slaughter both innocent and the guilty.... Each year, as we 'just say no' to hard drugs, close to 25,000 people die and some 500,000 are injured in alcohol related accidents. The deaths and illnesses from smoking soar into the hundreds of thousands.... More important are the thousands of deaths caused by 'second-hand' smoke - people who don't smoke but must breathe it involuntarily. May smokers invade the space of another with their smoke? Who owns the air?"

Next Final Friday will be February 23rd, again at Michael's Restaurant. The theme will take up where January left off: Hard Drugs, should they be de-criminalized?

CHICAGO BOARD RE-ELECTED

Officers and directors were re-elected at the annual meeting of the Chicago HGS Board of Trustees. Officers are: Sam Venturella, President; George Menninger, Jr., Vice-President; Robert Jene, Secretary; and Charles Metalitz, Treasurer. Directors are James W. Frederiksen and William O. Ranky.

In addition to classes held at headquarters (which began January 8th, this term), the Chicago School offers a correspondence course in Fundamental Economics and classes within a 30-mile radius to those who can bring together students and provide meeting space.

L.A. SCHOOL ANNOUNCES 1990 \$4000 ESSAY CONTEST

Undergraduates in Southern California are eligible to enter this year's essay contest sponsored by the LA HGS. \$4000 in prize money will be divided among the top three winners: \$2500 for first, \$1000 for second, and \$500 for third prize.



Managing the Earth's Limited Resources: Henry George's Policies as Tools is the announced topic on which entrants must submit a twenty-to thirty-page double-spaced typewritten essay. Optional subtopics are: Can land be created or is it distinctive? How can we foster equitable and efficient use of the limited land supply? How can we accommodate growing populations and living standards with fewer demands on limited natural resources and with less pollution and insult to the environment?

Entrants will receive a packet of materials and a free copy of *Progress and Poverty* through their department or faculty sponsor. Essays must be postmarked no later than April 15th, and winners will be notified by May 15th. For more information, contact the LA school in Tujunga.

NEW DISSERTATION ON TAXING LAND VALUES

The Economic Effects of Taxing Land Values by Mary E. Edwards is an important addition to land value taxation literature. Although Edwards omits mention of George, she analyzes theories of land value taxation preceding his, from Petty and Ricardo through current economists. She does the same for taxation of improvements, which she terms "reproducible capital." The dissertation concludes with a study of Australian data to determine the effects of both tax methods on home prices, private housing rental value, consumer price indexes, and wage rates. The author finds neither method superior and recommends a combination of both. A glossary and twenty tables are included in this 171-page book. Mary E. Edwards has also been published twice in the *American Journal of Economics and Sociology* including October, 1984: "Site Value Taxation in Australia: Where Land Is Taxed More and Improvements Less, Average Housing Values and Stocks Are Higher." *The Economic Effects of Taxing Land Values* can be ordered from University Microfilms, 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. Cost including shipping is \$53.75.

-- Pat Aller

Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

LONG ISLAND WINTER/SPRING TERM BEGINS

Beginning February 27th, there will be two follow-up classes (for those who have taken *Progress and Poverty*) in *Issues and Alternatives*. This course is comparable to *Applied Economics*, but with more weight given to the themes in George's *Social Problems*. Charles Ellinger will be teaching this course at Newfield High School, and Dave Norflus at Hicksville High School.

Long Island director Stan Rubenstein continues to make regular visits to high schools, to introduce and train teachers in the use of Henry George School teaching materials. Stan, who is also Director of the HGS High School Program, spends a whole morning at a school, meeting with teachers during their free periods, with the goal of being as responsive as possible to teachers' individual concerns.

INTERMOUNTAIN SINGLE TAX ASSOCIATION TO HOST 1990 CONTINENTAL CONFERENCE IN SANTA FE

Every year the Council of Geogrist Organizations (CGO) sponsors a North American Geogrist Conference. Last year's was held in Philadelphia in conjunction with the London-based International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, with the Philadelphia Henry George School as local host.

This year's host will be the Intermountain Single Tax Association (ISTA), with President James L. Busey in Manitou Springs, Colorado, and Executive Secretary Earl A. Hanson in Cedar City, Utah. Prof. Busey and his wife, Marion, have been doing much of the on-site liason work with the College of Santa Fe in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where the conference will be held from Wednesday evening July 25th to Monday midday July 30th. A pre-conference for Common Ground USA is scheduled from Sunday evening July 22nd to Wednesday afternoon July 25th.

A varied program is promised by ISTA and CGO officers (Chairman Sam Venturella in Chicago and Secretary/Treasurer Mark Sullivan in New York). Included will be a festive mid-week reception, a one-day trip to Taos (known for its American Indian pueblo architecture) on Friday, and the annual banquet on Saturday. Presentations will include a look at the Spanish land grant system in the new world, how the US acquired the Southwest (by Stan Rubenstein), a debate between Colin Bonner and Steven Cord over the merits of the capital gains tax, and more. Papers presented at the conference will be published by CGO Deputy Chairman Richard Noyes in New Hampshire. We will have more conference information, including costs (under \$50/day for room & board) and how to register, in our next *Newsletter*.

SACRAMENTO ACTIVITIES

Evelyn Friend, who directs the Sacramento extension of the Northern California HGS, hosted a potluck dinner at her home on January 25th. The eleven school associates who attended heard former NY school trustee Glenn Weeks speak on "The Future of the Henry George Movement." The extension's board of directors also met a week earlier on the 18th.

LUCY DE SILFA REPORTS FROM SANTO DOMINGO

In a communication to New York Headquarters, Lucy De Silfa, Director of the School's branch in the Dominican Republic, reports that "Things are quite well here," in spite of the fact that this is an election year - which usually lowers student enrollment somewhat.

Several winter classes (in Spanish, of course) are being held: two *Progress & Poverty* classes in San Pedro de Macoris, three *P&P* and two *Applied Economics* classes in Santo Domingo, and one *Land Reform* class also in Santo Domingo.

Other activities, such as conferences, and speeches in clubs and schools, are continuing. Fifteen seminars are scheduled in different institutions, as well as a special course for members of the Energetic Commission, a governmental institution, and a seminar for HGS teachers.



NEW SPANISH LANGUAGE SUPPLEMENT TO BEGIN

Beginning with the next issue of the Henry George Newsletter, a supplement written for our Spanish-speaking students will be included on a regular basis. Those who do not receive the supplement with their March issue, but would like to, should contact the Editor of this Newsletter or Manuel Felix, Head of the Hispanic Affairs Division, at New York Headquarters.

LETTERS TO THE DIRECTOR

It's always gratifying to both teachers and directors at the various branches of the Henry George School to have students express appreciation of their studies with the school. Here are two excerpts from letters received by the New York Director:

I've recently completed an economics course entitled "Progress and Poverty" last Fall taught by Charley Ellinger at Smithtown East High School. The course was a tremendous brain teaser, as it opened my mind to thinking how land price oriented our society is and how Henry George's theories apply to us so effectively.

Mr. Ellinger convinced many of us skeptics of the benefits of applying Henry George's theories to our money-obsessed society....Keep up the Renaissance!!!- St. James, New York

Not only was Mr. Sydney Mayers a fine Gentleman, he is a perfect teacher, who knows how to keep his writing classes interesting and how to convey his knowledge to his students.

This was a class of different nationalities! Each contributed to the pleasure of being there.

Special thanks to the administration and its staff members for giving us the chance to... learn a lot and to enjoy the nice company of people there....- New York, New York

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