



STANDING ROOM ONLY AT NEW YORK GRADUATION / HOLIDAY PARTY

New York's Fall Semester concluded with a standing room only gathering at 121 East 30th Street, with the crowd exceeding the capacity of the ground-floor auditorium. Over 110 persons attended, 84 of whom received certificates of completion.

Director George Collins opened the ceremonies with a stirring summation of the message of economic justice which underlies all the classes at the school. Then, as master of ceremonies, he introduced each class and instructor, who in turn called on each one of their graduates to come up and receive their certificate packet (which also included a copy of *Land & Liberty* and next semester's schedule). The instructors included Mr. Collins for two classes in *Fundamental Economics*, Mark Sullivan for *Fundamental Economics* and *Classical Analysis*, Manuel Felix for *Progreso y Miseria* (Fundamental Economics in Spanish, and the largest class of the semester), Lindy Davies for *Understanding Economics*, Fryda Ossias for *Great Decisions '89*, and Sydney Mayers for *Practical Writing*. Total number of graduates of our ten-week courses this Fall were 125, out of which 109 took economics courses. Our two Saturday seminars were attended by fifty-two, split between *How Wall Street Works* and *Economics Simplified*.

Several students volunteered to come up front and share with the others what they got out of their course of study. These were: Fay Cynthia Renwick (*Fundamental Economics* on Tuesday), Frank Mayo (*F.E.* on Wednesday), Leona Cyphers (*F.E.* on Thursday), Nibaldo Aguilera from Chile (*Progreso y Miseria*), Marion Rita Monachelli (*Classical Analysis*), Herbert B. Lowe (*Understanding Economics*), and Menashe Shaul (*Practical Writing*).

There was also an award given -

a copy of Henry George's *Social Problems* - for all those who attended all ten sessions: Alexander Burns, Hubert Kenneth Dickey, and Maria Romero (for Tuesday *F.E.*); Ann Marie Horgan, Myra Rudin, Menashe Shaul, and Arthur L. Wolf (*F.E.*, Wednesday); Mary B. Holloway, Marion Monachelli, and Adam Richard Nelson (*Classical Analysis*); Herbert B. Lowe and Julie Sutton (*Understanding Economics*); and Lillian Marus, Carl Edward Nicholas,

a festive affair, with students and friends supplying a lavish array of favorite dishes and snacks. The school itself was decorated in holiday style complete with holly branches, garlands, and colorful lights. A delightful party atmosphere prevailed well into the evening, until the last conversation and farewell after midnight.

SEEING GREEN

Perhaps the fastest-growing new political movement in the world is the Green movement. Officially it began with the West German ecology party, Die Gruenen, and has spread in one short decade throughout Europe and beyond -- westward to the United States and eastward to the Soviet Union. As such, it is beyond the traditional left/right political spectrum. Perhaps this is one reason increasing numbers of Greens are beginning to endorse Henry George's economic analysis, which is also beyond left

and right. A leader of the UK Green Party, Jonathon Porritt, writes in his book *Seeing Green*: "...the Liberals have given up trying to get across the ideas of Henry George. And that's a pity, for it strikes me that the only way to break the monopoly of landownership would be... some form of land tax... instead of our present rating system, a Community Ground Rent, assessed according to the value of the land, should be paid annually to the community." [Since this book was published in the mid '80s by Basil Blackwell, the Thatcher government has shifted away from the rating system (property tax) -- not toward a Community Ground Rent, but toward a poll tax under which everyone, rich and poor, pay the same amount.]

Back in the USA, an introduction to The Green Party by Julie Geanakakis in
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Henry George School of Social Science

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This Certifies that

has completed the ten-lesson course in FUNDAMENTAL ECONOMICS, using the text *Progress and Poverty* by Henry George, which is the first part of a three-part study in Principles of Political Economy.



"The great work of the present for every man, and every organization of men, who would improve social conditions, is the work of education -- the propagation of ideas... And in this work every one who can think may aid -- first by forming clear ideas himself, and then by endeavoring to arouse the thought of those with whom he comes in contact... Let no man imagine that he has no influence. Whoever he may be, and wherever he may be placed, the man who thinks becomes a light and a power."

HENRY GEORGE, *Social Problems*
George L. Williams
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE

TEACHER

and Menashe Shaul (*Practical Writing*). By far the largest class, *Progreso y Miseria*, also had the most who attended all ten sessions: Hubert Ballesteros, Albertico Bashvaldo, Eugenio Cossio, Lorgio Fernandez, Carmen Gonzalez, Thaly Guerrero, Adam Martinez, Franco S. Mena, Maximina Pomales, Jarmila Sandoval, Nils Sandoval, Elsa Santos, Joel Veliz, Rolando Wellington, and David Williams. These students will, of course, receive a Spanish translation of *Social Problems*.

After the speeches, certificates, and awards, folks filled the two library/classrooms on the second floor for refreshments and conversation. Among the group were a few out-of-town visitors including a Navajo leader, a guest of Doug Broyles (the actor/playwright of *Henry George, World Citizen*) and Mitch Chanelis, Green/Georgist activist from Boston. It was

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TO HELL IN A HANDBASKET...

To Hell In a Handbasket: The future of American Education - Why Johnny still can't read (and what might be done about it)... this was the theme of the Los Angeles School's Christmas dinner held at Michael's Restaurant at 6:30 on December 14th in Hollywood. Sponsored by the Alumni group, the gathering was preceded by a meeting of the LA chapter of Common Ground which included a discussion of split roll taxation and projects for 1990.

The Alumni Group's program began at 8:15 with graduation ceremonies for students completing the Fall semester. Eighteen adults completed Harry Pollard's class in *Classical Analysis (Part I)* in Burbank. This was followed by presentations on the theme by the speakers: Bret Barker, 9th grade teacher at Shurr High School in Montebello; Mason Gaffney, graduate school economics professor at University of California, Riverside; Virginia Rettinger, a professor who teaches teachers at Claremont Graduate School; and Tom Rosenstein, 12th grade teacher at El Monte High School. A "Round Table" discussion chaired by Frank Tilton followed the presentations.

Some of the items discussed included the unbroken decline in

Scholastic Aptitude Test scores; the superior performance of Catholic high school students; the (lack of) effectiveness of certain education reforms (such as lowering teacher/student ratios), and the cost-effectiveness of our system (West Germany spends 4.5% of their GNP on education, Japan spends 5.7%, and the US spends 6.7%. Yet US students do poorly in international competition.)

Mason Gaffney brought home a salient point when he asked Bret Barker to open randomly to any page of a university phone book on hand and then say how many of the first ten names listed were actual teachers. The answer: two. And it was pointed out that teachers often spend much of their time in non-teaching tasks. A message was also read from Fred Allen, TV and radio personality who could not attend the dinner. Allen is the author of "Dumph", a book on ignorance and illiteracy in America.

The festive gathering concluded at 11 PM - earlier than usual, due to being held on Thursday instead of the customary Final Friday. The theme of 1990's Winter/Spring Final Friday series will be environmental pollution. January and February will deal with inner pollution: *The "Controlled" Substances: Smoke and Drink* in January, and *The "Uncontrolled" Substances: Drugs* in February.

SEEING GREEN

(continued from first page)

Synapse, the Unitarian/Universalist Association Youth Newspaper, quotes Boston Georgist Mitch Chanelis, who is also a spokesman and delegate of the Eastern Massachusetts Greens: "95% of the privately owned land in the US is owned by 3% of the population, and the \$10 billion plus Rockefeller family fortune is greater than the net worth of all minority and poor white families combined." A flyer put out by The Eastern Massachusetts Greens states: "There is a deep human yearning with each new generation for a fair share of the earth's resources. Yet, we are all held in bondage by the invisible lines that divide the world up into political and real estate empires -- lines that may have been unjustly drawn many generations ago. Land is treated as capital, as if it were expendable." And in a forthcoming book by Sara Parkins called *Green Parties*, we find, in a chapter on "The Minimum Green Position", an endorsement of "a gradual shift in the

burden of taxation from labour... to taxes on land, such as land value taxation... making labour much more competitive with capital.... Derelict land held for speculative purposes in the inner cities would be released as land value taxation was applied..." *Green Parties* is being published by Inland Book Co., East Haven, Connecticut. The Eastern Massachusetts Greens can be reached c/o Mitch Chanelis, 21 Unity Court, Boston, MA 02113.

Moving further west, the Los Angeles HGS reports hosting ongoing meetings with regional Greens in Ventura and Santa Barbara with the help of Jeff Smith, *Geonomics* advocate from San Diego. Similar contacts with Greens in the San Francisco Bay Area have been reported previously in this Newsletter. Nor should it be forgotten that one of the earliest Green organizations, created long before Die Gruenen, is the *School of Living*--founded by Ralph Borsodi and Mildred Loomis. The SOL carries on with its journal *Green Revolution* which has
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YOUTH & NEW YORK'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

Your Economic Future in New York was the theme of the 19th annual High School Urban Workshop cosponsored by the Henry George School and the New York City Council on Economic Education. Over 90 students participated from all five boroughs, more than filling the School's auditorium, on the morning of December 14th. The program opened at 9 AM with a welcoming statement from George Collins and introductions to the program by Stan Rubenstein, Director of the HGS High School Program, and by Dr. Albert Alexander, Executive Director of the NYCCEE.

The first invited speaker was Samuel M. Ehrenhalt, Regional Commissioner of Labor Statistics, on Youth and the Future of the New York Economy. He stressed over and over again that future jobs in the city will require better-educated workers: "How you shape up - whether you succeed - will depend on if you're on the right (educational) track: if you're learning the skills to make it." He presented various graphs and statistics to bring his viewpoint home. For example, from 1979 to 1988 manufacturing jobs in the city dropped from over 500,000 to less than 400,000. During the same period jobs in finance, business and professional services, education, cultural, media and communication activities rose from under 750,000 to about 1,000,000. Other figures reflected the fact that more women (171,000) entered the NYC workforce than men (83,000) between 1979 and 1988; and that the non-white racial minority (Black, Hispanic, Asian, etc.) now constitutes

49.5% of the NYC population, and will soon become the majority.

Students then heard three experts on Persistent problems facing the new administration. Gary Caplan, Director of Budget, Metropolitan Transit Authority, addressed the problem of Transportation. According to Mr. Caplan, 15% of the active fleet of subway cars are always under repair. All needed and wanted improvements to the system make the new subway-fare increase (from \$1.00 to 1.15 a ride) "absolutely necessary."

Taxation was tackled by C. Lowell Harriss, Professor Emeritus, Columbia University. Professor Harriss, a political economist, stressed the theme: "If you want service, you must pay for it." The earliest taxes were on property, he said, other taxes followed. New Yorkers are taxed more than anyone else in the country, paying a greater percentage of our income than other Americans. Of the city's 8.25% sales tax, one half goes to the city, one half to the state. Real estate taxes are underassessed and undercharged, especially on one- and two-family homes in the city: "They do not cover the cost of the services which the occupants receive." Prof. Harriss advocated a higher tax on land to pay for the creation and maintenance of housing. "Revenue raising problems facing the new mayor are not insuperable," he concluded, "but they are unpleasant."

Roger Starr of The New York Times gave the last presentation on Housing and the Homeless. Housing in New York City is so expensive for several

reasons: astronomical construction costs (\$140,000 to build one new apartment); high wages for unionized workers; high maintenance costs (water, electricity, heat, cleaning, repairs, etc.), and high taxes: "Henry George had the right idea: We should tax the land heavily and the buildings less as an incentive to build and create housing for people."

The Workshop concluded with a combined lunch/wrap-up session which included feedback from the students and comments by Dr. Alexander and Mr. Rubenstein.

SEEING GREEN

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featured a brand of Georgan decentralism since its inception. Its Fall '89 issue contains a feature article by Pittsburgh's land-tax/land-trust activist Dan Sullivan. Dan criticises certain left-over ideas still held by some Greens, such as protectionism: "While the Green movement is focused on transcending national boundaries, protection makes it difficult to even cross boundaries.... Free trade is a natural process that would work quite well in the absence of manipulative central authority. Free trade presents problems only because other perversions of the marketplace have not been remedied." Dan also points out how our tax system has fostered this centralized, monopolized economy at the expense of small-scale producers. And, since "small is beautiful" in Green eyes, we can expect increasing Green support for fundamental tax reform. For a copy of *Green Revolution* write to *School of Living*, RD1 Box 185A, Cochranville, PA 19330.

FORGET A FRIEND THIS HOLIDAY SEASON? Invite them to the Henry George School!



Redeem this coupon for one free course in Fundamental Economics.
The textbook, Progress and Poverty by Henry George, is included.

It's good economics! It's free!

Classes meet one evening per week, starting the week of January 23rd,
and there are three sections to choose from:

Tuesday 5:30-7:30

Wednesday 6:00-8:00

Thursday 6:30-8:30

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"BY GEORGE" PRESS COVERAGE CONTINUES

We have received several items of interest from Stan Frederiksen, Executive Secretary of the Public Revenue Education Council in St. Louis, including three letters by PREC Board Member Tom Lehmann, published in the *Alton Telegraph* on 8/30, 9/15, and 10/16/89. Each letter is a reply to a specific article or editorial. Mr. Lehmann quotes former Mayor of St. Louis John Poelker as a Site Value Tax advocate, and adds his own selling point: "Property owners will be able to compare taxes with their neighbors, eliminate much legal quibbling and expose errors of assessment." He cites other supporters of the site-value tax: Sam Venturella, retired head of Chicago's planning commission who now heads the Chicago HGS, and Jack Kemp, Secretary of HUD: "Property taxes could profitably be revised to fall more heavily on land, rather than as at present, penalizing property improvements."

Also received from Mr. Frederiksen is an article from the St. Louis Sun of October 24 by a former political editor of *Congressional Quarterly*, Neal Pierce. Pierce proposes a Puget Sound Land Trust strategy to save land near Mt. Ranier in Washington from inefficient and destructive over-development: "America's familiar land-use game would be stood on its head. The economic muscle and political pull of landowners and speculators would no longer determine who gets to develop and realize monetary windfalls." A letter to the editor by Neal S. Frederiksen appeared in the October 28th edition, and draws the connection to land value charges as a complementary way to return location value to the community.

Yet another article, this one

from the *Belleville News-Democrat* of November 15th, was sent to us by Mr. Frederiksen. Land taxes promoted is by John Cuniff, business writer with The Associated Press. Cuniff considers that a stigma, attached to Henry George by the academic establishment of his day (who he antagonized,) may be responsible for its lack of large-scale adoption. "George, nevertheless, has advocates, including academics. His philosophy is expounded by the Henry George School in New York, and by the non-profit Center for the Study of Economics, based in Columbia, MD..."

Finally, we received from Edward A. Hall, former student of HGSNYC now in Washington DC, a major article - on the front page of the *Money* section of *The Washington Times* on December 11th. It appears under a striking collage featuring Henry George and the New York skyline over the headline: *By George: Economist's tax theory lands in District*. Written by David R. Sands of the *Times*, the article considers upcoming hearings by the DC Council's Finance and Revenue Committee. The Committee will consider a proposal to cut the city's property taxes on four classes of residential and commercial buildings to as low as three cents per \$100 of assessed value, coupled with a steep increase in the tax on the land up to as much as 221%. "The idea makes sense," according to Peter Farina, spokesman for the Pro-Housing Tax Coalition, composed of 20 non-profit city organizations promoting the idea. "Mr. Farina [says that] 5,993 of the District's nearly 8,000 commercial properties would pay lower taxes under the coalition's proposal, while homeowners in the city's poorest neighborhoods would get

a major tax break." The two-page article is rich in history and data supporting land value tax, including comments by Steven Cord and Walter Rybeck. For more information on these articles, contact the New York school.

BECOME YOUR OWN ECONOMIST AT THE CHICAGO HGS

Learning how to become your own economist is the promise of this semester's course offerings by the Chicago Henry George School. "What can be done about the homeless? What causes the increasing concentration of wealth? Why are taxes so high? What causes unemployment? We won't give you the answers; but we will give you the tools to answer these and other perplexing questions about the economy," reads the School's flyer. Classes begin the week of January 8th and meet once a week for ten weeks. Fundamental Economics and Social Philosophy [Mon. & Wed., 7 PM; Tues., 1 PM]. Applied Economics [Tues., 7 PM]. And a new course on The Role of Land in History and Economics [Wed. & Sat., 1 PM; Fri., 7 PM] will use the School's video and study material on American Heritage - Story of the Land and Fred Harrison's book, *The Power in the Land*. A \$25 fee is required for this advanced course, in addition to the regular \$10 registration fee.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

We hope you enjoy the new look of the *Henry George Newsletter*, which was designed "in-house". Special thanks to Lindy Davies, our man at the keyboard. We intend to continue improving the quality and variety of content with every issue. Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

--Mark Sullivan

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