

Letters

Let's make our message heard, now!

Last September's attacks in New York and Washington are reverberating throughout the world. What the destruction of the World Trade Center did to me personally was nothing less than to stimulate my conviction that Georgists around the world have to go out into the community to talk about the morality of Land Value Taxation. It is the morality which we have to emphasize and not the technicality. We have to invite other community groups to our meetings, go into high schools, colleges; offer talks to immigrant groups, be familiar with Georgist activities in other countries; instigate an international platform.

I feel that corporate business, the captains of capitalism, are open to transformation, more so today than ever before. If one of those captains understand that bloodsucking by the big spider is no good, another captain will follow, and then another. They will change.

This new millennium distinguishes itself by the figure "2" of 2,000 years, and that "2" stands for "we" — as opposed to the "1" of the past 1,000 years which represents "I" — I work for myself. "We" — the whole world — are bound by a disaster to cooperate in repairing the damage. We have to accept fundamental changes. For our part, we Georgists must loosen our purse strings — for money in the bank is as useless as land lying idle, except for the interests of the corporate spider. The earth, our home, is under attack. The destruction on September 11, 2001 is only a symbol of what happens when we mindlessly exploit the earth, for the sake of profit. I hope that this tragic lesson will guide Georgists to transform themselves into a power group and with that to create a better society.

— Stephen Cantor, Artarmon, NSW, Australia

We need new energy and ideas

I believe that one of the biggest impediments to more meaningful action and collaboration with a larger, more influential public is the use of the terms "Georgist" and "Georgism". I try not to use them, especially in describing myself; they seem to me to be too limiting.

They seem limiting to me because they suggest a capitulation to everything George said, leaving too little room for innovations or variations of belief. Although I believe he had a great many worthwhile ideas, I do not believe everything he said; nor do I wish to follow him so fervently as to use his name to describe myself.

I believe our challenge is to take the best of his ideas and find places where they can be implemented without staunch resistance. Calls for a more subtle and perhaps gradual approach that builds (*continued on page 42*)