

CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS ADDRESS ECOLOGICAL ISSUES

San Francisco: the Bay Area Socially Responsible Investment Professionals teamed up with Earth Day sponsors to present the Northern California Environmental Achievement in Business Awards on March 29th at San Francisco's War Memorial. The Northern California Henry George School served as a member of the Awards Ceremony Host Committee, thanks to the initiative of new Board President Cathe Smeland.

The purpose of the awards are "to encourage more companies to be friendly to the environment," according to Frank Tsai, president of Working Assets Money Fund, another cosponsor. Nominees were considered in areas such as environmentally sensitive products, recycling programs, energy efficiency, financial support of environmental organizations, and several others. Winners were chosen from four areas: large corporations, medium-sized corporations, small businesses, and individuals promoting change at work or in the larger community. "Dishonorable Mentions" went to companies with poor environmental records.

Hollywood: the Southern California Henry George School held its Final Friday dinner on April 27th and examined "The Case for Nuclear Power" as part of a series on the environment. Speakers were Roy Bedgley, top speaker on the subject and manager for the US census, and Sheldon Plotkin, engineering consultant, member of the Southern California Federation of Scientists, and an activist who recently helped prevent North American Rockwell from installing a local nuclear reactor.

"Designated Hitters" (lead-off questioners) were Michael Green, founder of the Albert J. Nock Supper Club in Long Beach; (not *the*) Jerry Rubin, Director of The Alliance for Survival, currently on a 102-day fast "from Chernobyl to Hiroshima"; Dennis Bottom, an architect and Green activist; and Bob DeTolve, printer/manufacturer and Henry George School senior teacher.

Harry Pollard, LA-HGS director, characterized the meeting as a "continuous battle between the two speakers." Rubin called for a moment of silence for those killed by Chernobyl. Harry pointed out that there is more radioactivity in the 30,000 truckloads of coal waste than in one truckload of nuclear (for which the same amount of energy is produced) and added that coal particles in the air are responsible for 50,000 to 80,000 deaths a year in the U.S. How (and where) to get rid of nuclear waste was the crucial issue for the participants.

For May's Final Friday, Harry promised a "blanket debunking of current ecological pop-dread" - and to point out that the way to really stop ecological destruction is Georgist land reform.



PRISON PROGRAM

(continued from first page)

Delaware's other state prison, the Gander Hill facility in Wilmington.

In spite of the official kudos, however, there have been some stormy spots in the program's relationship with prison management. Classes have been unexpectedly called off because no guards were available. They were restricted to two

meetings per month for more than a year, apparently because of shortages in guard staff. Courses were continued by correspondence when they were unable to meet in person. However, there have been bright spots too--some of the guards, compelled to be present in the classes, actually started studying and ended up completing the study! One such "captive" recruit presented Mike with a plaque.

In 1988, a group of economics majors at nearby Delaware State College agreed to debate the DCC economics students on basic political economy issues. The college students withdrew after viewing the questions which the Henry George-trained inmates were prepared to discuss.

His students at the State Prison have learned more from these classes than simply George's ideas, Mike says. They have also gained skills in teaching, public speaking, and conceptual thinking--the ability to read and understand *Progress and Poverty* is a complex skill, with far-reaching applications, which they would have gotten nowhere else. But more importantly, these classes have enabled students to rise above self-defeating provincial thought and begin to identify the deeper social causes of racism and exploitation. In his statement, Joseph Walls concludes, "It is amazing to witness the rehabilitative results achieved with this realization of the source of our economic enslavement." The courses have made a profound difference in many lives. Many members of Mike's HGS classes are also part of another movement that has given prisoners a sense of dignity and purpose--the Black Muslims. Mike cannot help wondering how history would have been changed had Malcolm X enrolled in a Henry George School course when he was in prison.

-- Lindy Davies

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