

HENRY GEORGE NEWSLETTER

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HENRY GEORGE, LVT, LAND AWARENESS IN MEDIA

News articles, features and analysis dealing with Henry George and Georgist matters proliferated in recent months. What follows is a brief rundown of some that have come to our attention.

The Wall Street Journal, long a closet advocate (judging from the frequency with which it printed excerpts from George's work in its "Notable and Quotable" space), ran a November 26 column entitled, "Free Trade Is in Danger of Losing the War."

The article, by Lindley H. Clark, Jr., begins and ends with quotations from Protection or Free Trade. In between Mr. Lindley describes the thought behind a more recent publication, Trade Talks: America Better Listen, published by the Council on Foreign Relations.

"Protectionism still is mean-spirited, just as it was in Henry George's day," Mr. Lindley writes. He also imparts the Georgist message that "efforts need to be made not only to show the public and others that they have a major stake in the success of trade liberalization, but... to get out front and push for it."

From the "Retrospect" department of Sacramento magazine, a slick citymag from California, comes "Henry George: The Sacramento Years." This well-documented piece by historian Willard Thompson appears in the December issue. It combines a detailed biographical account of George's struggling years as a Sacramento typesetter with a brief rendering of his ideas. Especially fascinating is the author's attempt to tie particular events during George's Sacramento days to the formation of his philosophy.

A semi-weekly out of Raleigh, The Carolinian recently published a page one story on the plight of minority residents from the Shiloh community losing their land holdings. Gerry Schleicher, head of the Henry George School in North Carolina, explained the Shiloh phenomenon this way: "You have people who say they have owned that land for generations and don't want to be displaced... you probably have some that don't want to lose their roots, and... some that want to sit on the land until they get a better price. These people are using the roots issue as a smokescreen."

Schleicher went on to advocate "fair assessment and fair taxation" as the answer to the local displacement problem.

"Tax Reform for Business and Homeowners" was a recent feature in Long Island Business, a weekly newsmagazine. A homegrown report written by Stan Rubenstein and Michael Gavaghan of the New York School, it recounts the recent Center for Local Tax Research surveys on Long Island and presents the case for local option LVT.

(Continued on p. 4)

HENRY GEORGE IN THE NEWS
(continued from p. 1)

From the LI Business article: "Four out of five homeowners gain. Needed development occurs where it is best suited. Business expansion is rewarded rather than penalized. Taxes on commerce are reduced or ultimately replaced. Advocates claim the impossible has happened: A tax reform businesses and homeowners can agree on."

The Montgomery County, Pa. Times Herald ran a page one article entitled, "Norristown Should Revolt, But Quietly, For Land Value Taxation, Expert Says." The expert, Jacob Himmelstein of the Incentive Tax League of Southeastern Pennsylvania, is quoted extensively in the piece, which details his recent presentation in the Norristown Public Library.

"With home rule in effect, Norristown can look to a broader spectrum of taxation than before," Himmelstein was quoted. "Our organization is interested in taxes that are equitable and will increase economic activity in southeastern Pennsylvania."

Other Georgist items of note in our nation's newspapers include a recent letter from Professor James L. Busey to the Colorado Springs Sun regarding urban sprawl and the land-value tax as its remedy. And Edward Miller, former board member of the Henry George Schools of Northern California, recently penned an op-ed piece entitled, "Protectionism Costs U.S. Consumers."

Henry George School of Social Science
5 East 44 Street
New York, NY 10017

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Jacob Himmelstein
137 Union Avenue
Bala Cynwyd PA 19004
