

Next CGO Conference

The 2001 North American Conference of the Council of Georgist Organizations will be held in Pittsburgh, PA, and will run from Wednesday, August 29 (evening) through Labor Day, September 3.

This year's conference theme will be *Land and Labor: America's Lost Legacy*. The events will focus on the relationship between land monopoly and:

- ◆ Local tax Policy
- ◆ The Erosion of Wages
- ◆ Distortions in Trade
- ◆ The Birth of the American Labor Movement



The "golden triangle,"
Pittsburgh's business district

The conference will be held at the Pittsburgh Airport Holiday Inn. This year's local conference host will be Dan Sullivan.

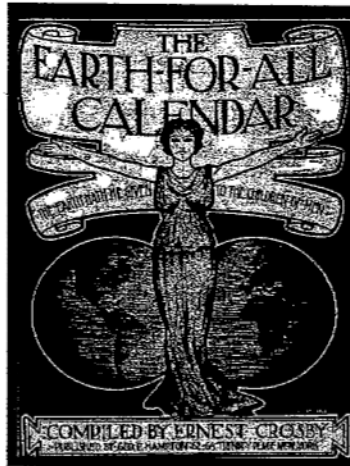
A full conference schedule is being prepared and will soon be made available.

For more information contact Sue Walton at swalton@interaccess.com. Sue advises that a number of discounted, limited time airfares are available through various airlines.

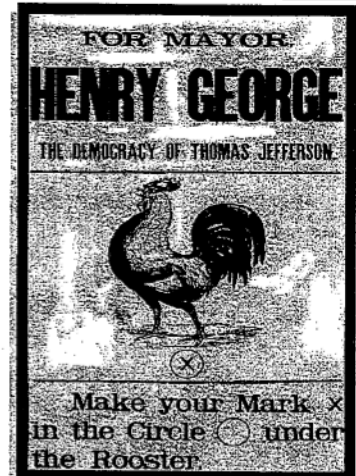
The annual conference is attended by Georgists from around the world and each conference focuses on a major theme. Last year's annual conference was held in Des Moines, Iowa, and focused on sustainable urban renewal.



From the Archives



Advertisement from the National
Single Taxer, 1900



Henry George Campaign Poster
1886

Continued from p. 1

Harvard Professor Richard Lewontin has gone so far as to say of this book: "Shulman does a superb job of showing how knowledge is turned into property and how the drive to maintain property rights over knowledge has invaded and indeed taken over in both agriculture and health to the public detriment. [The public should] understand the way in which the drive to control property for private profit works against the general welfare."

And Tufts Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy Sheldon Krinsky calls it an "elegantly argued and well-researched book that shows how the appropriation and privatization of scientific knowledge and medical procedures has taken market mania to its absurd limits. The patent system has turned the limits of publicly funded science into great wealth for a few. *Owning the Future* is a sober expose of a U.S. patent system run amok."

Early in Chapter 1, *Gold Rush in the Idea Economy*, he asks: "Is owning rights to a concept really akin to owning a piece of real estate, as the phrase 'intellectual property' implies? Are there some types of know-how that

shouldn't be bought and sold?" He goes on to refer to "the fundamental fallacy of a system that lavishly rewards the incremental innovations of individuals but ignores our collective stake in society's accumulated wealth of know-how." In another chapter entitled *The Most Precious Asset*, Shulman asks, "What can be done to preserve some categories of knowledge — raw data, essential techniques, and cultural treasures — so that they can be shared by all of us rather than by a few for private gain?" He goes on to emphasize sanctuaries, zoning and antitrust solutions as curbs to the growing infrastructure monopolies.

Any Georgist knows that stolen goods bought at a high price are still stolen. Throughout this book, Shulman chronicles the new stolen goods of human genes, natural processes, and public information and how their commodification has led to a rich and legal "black market" in these stolen items. The analogy to the real estate market is hard to miss. All the corporation lawyers and entrepreneurs must surely realize their complicity in this theft unless they really believe the unqualified value of buzz words like

Continued on p. 8

OWNING THE FUTURE

Inside the Battles to
Control the New Assets —
Genes, Software, Databases,
and Technological Know-how —
That Make Up the Lifeblood
of the New Economy