School Notes

NEW YORK

Fifteen graduates met on May 1 to develop a series of seminars to be held during the 1984 - 1985 school year. They broke into groups of three to plan separate afternoon sessions on a wide-range of economic topics. Each group will arrange for speakers, visual aids, and whatever the given sessions require.

The Graduate Research Committee, under the guidance of Elizabeth Reeves, will coordinate all such extra-curricular activities.

LONG ISLAND

An all-day seminar was held on Saturday, May 5, at the Plainview / Old Bethpage Library. About 25 graduates attended the five-hour session, the second economics seminar sponsored by the Long Island Extension this year.

Dave Norflus presented a section called "Subtraction by Addition", which examined whether corporate mergers are good for the nation.

The second section, "Advisors or Armies?" explored the roots of the crisis in Central America and our heretofore misguided attempts to deal with it. Stan Rubenstein was the presenter.

Al Fink spoke on the feasibility of a coordinated national industrial policy. He weighed the benefits and drawbacks of an organized drive among labor, business and government to spur industrial growth.

Harris Davis delivered the day's final lecture, which analyzed ways of paying for the restoration of our nation's deteriorating public works.

All presentations were followed by a question and answer session.

SAN FRANCISCO

Because of the success of the recent four-week basic course in Berkeley (from which 30 students were graduated), another section of Economics for a Peaceful Planet was recently conducted at the Institute for Quality Living.

The eight-hour mini-course is offered on Saturday mornings -- a departure from Georgist programs which seems to suggest a previously-untapped reservoir of weekend students.

An advanced seminar on George's Social Problems was also offered on Saturday mornings during April.

LOS ANGELES

Director Harry Pollard will present a paper at the June meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. It is to be called, "Price Mechanism Anomalies -- Why the market allows the business cycle to occur."

He plans to explore how the usual negative feedback control of the price mechanism actually becomes positive in the exchange of collectibles. Land, too, Pollard asserts, acts as a collectible. It appreciates over time, especially where econmic activity is strong. But in so doing, it may seriously impair the well-being of the economy.

CHICAGO

Follow-up on the April 8 showing of "For the Land is Mine":

John Kelly, of the Peoria Community Development Commission, is trying to interest the county assessor and other public officials in taxing land at a higher rate than improvements. A major obstacle is in reassuring agricultural communities that LVT would be beneficial. He has also raised the possibility of putting the film on video tape.

Cary Cohen, a freelance writer who attended, is interested in researching the Arden, Delaware experience with land taxation for a magazine article.