

Contested Ground: Collective Action and the Urban Neighborhood is a new book by John Emmeus Davis, published by Cornell University Press (368 pages, \$16.95 paper, \$45 cloth). An associate of the Institute for Community Economics, Davis makes a distinction between two kinds of "domestic property interests." There is an interest in "the use value of land and housing as a means of accommodation." And there is "an interest in the exchange value of land and housing as a means of accumulation." A detailed review of this new book on community land trust experience is found in the Summer issue of *Community Economics* (see above).

Realistic Living is a small journal "on ethics and religion" that looks at social, economic and political issues from a decentralist perspective that draws on ecology, feminism, and spirituality. The June issue includes reviews of several significant recent books: *The Conquest of Paradise* by Kirkpatrick Sale, *The Nature and Logic of Capitalism* by Robert Heilbroner, *Adam Smith's Mistake* by Kenneth Lux, *Befriending the Earth* by Thomas Berry, and many more. Sale, who has spoken at the Henry George School, offers a critical look at Christopher Columbus and his legacy. Heilbroner makes the case that capitalism is a transitional phase from feudal monarchy to a future "true democracy." We counted 28 books and 13 films reviewed in this one issue. Realistic Living Press also publishes books and other material. A \$10 tax-deductible contribution payable to Realistic Living keeps you on the journal's active mailing list for one year. The address is PO Box 140826, Dallas, TX 75214.

The Catholic Worker has been on the front lines fighting for the oppressed and outcast for decades. Its August issue updates previous reports on the problems of New York City's increasing homeless population. Some of these problems are caused or at least exacerbated by the City government, which recently forcibly expelled squatters from Tompkins Square, a Lower East Side Park. Jane Sammon on "Tompkins Square - Another Kind Of War," writes: "Should people be allowed to buy enormous pieces of land, let them lie fallow if the market isn't 'good,' or buy up and 'warehouse' empty apartments, while the poor can't afford the high rents for the few that remain?" This excellent eight-page tabloid is published eight times a year. It sells for one cent per issue, and 25 cents per year! We suspect larger donations would be appreciated, and the paper is certainly worth it. Contact *The Catholic Worker* at 36 East First St., New York, NY 10003 (212-777-9817).

THESIS, ANTITHESIS...

Now the Synthesis is a new collection of papers on the application of Georgist political economy to today's, and tomorrow's, world. The papers were originally delivered at the 1989 International Georgist Conference at the University of Pennsylvania. Richard Noyes is the anthology's more-than-qualified editor, being former editor of New Hampshire's *Salem Observer* and current president of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, chairman of the Council of Georgist Organizations, and editor of *Groundswell*, the organ of Common Ground USA.

As the book's subtitle indicates, the synthesis refers to "Capitalism, Socialism and the New Social Contract." And as the various papers reveal, they're talking about how land ownership is treated, or should be treated. The centerpiece of such a new approach is Henry George's single-tax on land values, which combines the best of the free market (rewarding hard work and entrepreneurship), democratic socialism (re-cognizing equal rights to natural and community resources), and ecology (encouraging wise stewardship of the earth). As contributor Fred Harrison puts it, the single-tax is "a holistic philosophy."

As state socialism collapses, the single-tax appears as an idea whose time may at last be coming. But, as contributors to this book warn, if the new democracies in Eastern Europe rush blindly to imitate the West, they may find that capitalism has problems of its own for which state socialism has not prepared them. Scholars James Busey and Jerome F. Heavey both examine the "third world" to see whether the synthesis applies there as well.

The papers are divided into five sections: A Holistic Philosophy, The Transformation of Property Rights, The Evolution of Social Systems, Ecology and Eco-Politics, and International Trade. The book concludes with an Open Letter to Mikhail Gorbachev endorsed by thirty economists including three Nobel prize-winners and 1992 President-elect of the American Economic Association, Professor William Vickrey (see our Jan-Feb. 1991 issue):

While there is no way to predict whether or not the message of this book will be heeded by public policy-makers, one can predict that if it is not heeded, the morning after the celebration of the resurgence of democracy will entail a whopping economic hangover.

Now the Synthesis is published by Shephard-Walwyn (London) and Holmes & Meier (New York) @ \$29.95. Copies may be purchased from the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, 41 East 72nd St., New York, NY 10021 (212-988-1680).

- M.A.S.

War's end? With the United States' bold unilateral cut-back in strategic nuclear weapons and the Soviet Union's similar response, the world is a safer place. In light of events these past few years in places like Latin America and the Middle East, perhaps we should at least ask: Is the world now also safer for conventional armed intervention on behalf of landed elites and natural resource monopolists? Let us hope a new era of world peace will be one of freedom and justice for all the earth's people (and earth herself), especially those who have already suffered so much at the hands of dictatorial regimes still heavily armed on behalf of earlier cold war strategies. [G]

Never doubt a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

- Margaret Mead

SCHOOL NOTES

Sacramento: Evelyn Friend, Director of the Sacramento extension, was published in the Letters column of the July 3, 1991 issue of *The Sacramento Bee*. In response to a letter by James Hays, Evelyn pointed out that the property tax is only half-bad: the bad part falls on buildings and improvements. "But the portion falling on the land is the most fair of taxes," she wrote, and explained why.

A similar letter, by Wayne Luncy, followed on July 8, who also defended the fairness of a land value tax by pointing out: "The desirability of a piece of property is a function of its location, its zoning, the growth of the surrounding community and provision of public services."

Evelyn also contributed one of two articles on land taxation which were published in the May '91 (continued on pg. 6)

NEW YORK HGS: UPCOMING EVENTS

ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LAND RIGHTS

Saturday, Oct. 19th, 10 AM - 4:30 PM
Ms. Pauline Juckes, CSW, and Mr. Lindy Davies. *A one-day intensive seminar focusing on the connections between land tenure and poverty.*

MAKING THE CITY WORK

Saturday, November 9th, 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Prof. William Vickrey
The President-elect of the American Economics Association looks at the dilemma of modern cities that are strapped for revenue, and choked with traffic. Let's see how academic analysis balances with New Yorkers' perceptions of what makes a good city.

TIBET IN EXILE

Friday, November 15th, 7:00 - 9:00 PM
Mr. Rinchen Dharlo
A videotape and discussion on China's forty-year occupation of Tibet and its consequences, by the head of the New York Office of Tibet.

THE INCOME TAX & YOU

Friday, December 6th, 7:00 - 9:00 PM
Mr. Fred Kahn, CPA
How changing federal tax regulations will affect you this year. Vital information for your 1991 returns.

SCHOOL NOTES (from page three)

issue of *Sacramento Housing Advocate*, entitled "Did Henry George Have the Answer to Property Taxes?" The other article, by Cliff Cobb, dealt with "Why a Land Tax Makes Sense Here."

Also in May, a reception for Assemblyman Bill Filante was held at the home of Glenn Weeks, HGS board member. Glenn was also interviewed by Frank McPeak of "We Seniors" cable group, which was aired on Channel 17.

San Francisco: *The Mercury*, the upbeat newsletter of the Northern California HGS, features a generous array of photos and short articles in its Summer issue. An article especially worthy of note is by Dana Richards and E. Robert Scrofani, and deals with transforming the economic paradigm in the 90s. It reviews a new book by Herman Daly (World Bank) and John Cobb, Jr. (theologian) entitled *For the Common Good*. Cobb and Daly introduce Alfred North Whitehead's concept of *misplaced concreteness* to economics.

According to Richards and Scrofani, Daly and Cobb see *misplaced concreteness*

Editor's note: We thank Rosemary DuBois of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation for bringing the following incident to our attention.

Catholic New York reported in its July 25th issue that a chalice once belonging to Father Edward McGlynn, "a colorful and controversial figure in the Archdiocese of New York" had been stolen and now returned to Our Lady of the Scapular and St. Stephen's Church on East 29th Street (not far from the HGS).

McGlynn served as pastor of St. Stephen's (as it had been called until being turned over recently to the Carmelite Order) in the 1880s, when its 28,000 parishioners made it the largest Roman congregation in the country. According to *Catholic New York*, "Father McGlynn, an outspoken opponent of Catholic schools, supported the single-tax theory of economist and mayoral candidate Henry George.... When he refused to cease his political activities and failed to report to Rome as directed by the Vatican, Father McGlynn was excommunicated on July 1, 1887. The excommunication was lifted five years later."

In *Rebel, Priest & Prophet*, Stephen Bell explains McGlynn's actual position on the teaching of secular subjects by parochial schools (he thought it a misplaced pri-



teness in the tendency of economists "to see land in terms of matter and space rather than in the more animate terms of energy and biosphere. When land is viewed as more or less dead matter, it becomes a commodity to buy and sell and to exploit for short term resource utilization."

Daly and Cobb see George's tax on land value in a positive light, and write: "If land were taxed at or near its full rental value, its price would be very low.... Land would be acquired for its use-value only, not for speculation on its increasing scarcity value."

Chicago: Sam Venturella has announced that the Chicago school has relocated to a new address: 1772 West Greenleaf Avenue, First Floor, Chicago, IL 60626. The new phone number is (312) 338 - 6698.

Los Angeles: "Is a driving licence a privilege?" Students at one L.A. high school are tackling with economic issues that directly impact their lives. According to HGS-LA Director Harry Pollard, "The students are engaged in something that has never happened before: an eighteen-week study of the basic ideas (continued on page eight)

A NEW McGLYNN AFFAIR



ority, especially at that time). And it seems McGlynn was excommunicated not for simply taking sides in a mayoral election, but in taking the side opposed by the New York Roman hierarchy. In lifting the excommunication, Rome declared McGlynn's (Georgist) opinions on economics to be not opposed to Roman Catholic doctrine (See our back page). McGlynn died in 1900 in Newburgh, New York, where he had been assigned as pastor of St. Mary's Church after his reinstatement.

The chalice, with the date March 25, 1887 engraved on it, is considered of mainly historic value. It was found on the corner of Broadway and Canal Street in Manhattan by an unidentified Brooklyn man on July 17. The chalice was in a plastic bag along with other altar objects including four more chalices, which the man took to the police, who notified the churches involved. *Catholic New York* reports that McGlynn's chalice had been stolen a while ago, but that the four chalices and ciborium found with it had been taken from the Upper East Side Byzantine-Hungarian Rite Catholic church only days before, on July 14. It seems likely that the thief had trouble finding anyone to buy the obviously stolen goods.

We must resist the new proletarianization which is at work in our own nation and in our world as a whole. On the eightieth anniversary of *Rerum Novarum*, Paul VI noted that "New proletariates are born. They install themselves in the cities sometimes abandoned by the rich; they dwell on the outskirts, which become a belt of misery besieging in a silent protest the luxury which blatantly cries out from the centers of consumption and waste."

- Archbishop John R. Quinn
San Francisco Catholic, May 1991

Since man can live only on land and from land, since land is the reservoir of matter and force from which man's body itself is taken, and on which he must draw for all that he can produce, does it not irresistibly follow that to give the land in ownership to some men and to deny to others all right to it is to divide mankind into the rich and the poor, the privileged and the helpless? - *The Condition of Labor*, 1891