

# HENRY GEORGE NEWSLETTER

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## MASSACHUSETTS, CALIFORNIA PUBLICATIONS GIVE PAGE-ONE COVERAGE TO HENRY GEORGE, LAND VALUE TAXATION

Recent publications in the Boston and Sacramento areas devoted generous space to the Georgist movements in Massachusetts and California.

The April 9 - 16 issue of the Boston Business Journal featured an article entitled, "By George, Tax the Land, Not the Buildings", on page one. Staff writer Sue Reinert presented a thorough picture of the development of an LVT effort in the state, pausing to acknowledge the impact of the Henry George Schools, to give brief background of George's life, and to relate the LVT experience in Pennsylvania.

But the major thrust of the article was the lobbying efforts of Incentive Taxers Howard Thomson and Mitch Chanelis. Thomson, a Georgist for 40 years, sent off a letter to Massachusetts Representative Joseph Hermann in 1978 urging a higher tax on land than improvements. Hermann, unfamiliar with George and seemingly uninterested, nevertheless grasped the logic of the idea and has introduced such a bill annually ever since.

Chanelis has been trying to drum up support for Hermann's legislation, netting 25 co-sponsors last year. The bill has gone as far as a second reading, but is "unlikely" to get further this year, according to Hermann. There is also new interest in the concept in the state Office of Economic Affairs.

Neighbors, a supplement to The Sacramento Bee, titled its April 5th lead story, "One School of Thought on Land-Tax Reform". Written by Catherine A. Warren, the article emphasized the role of the HGS in Sacramento and its environs in keeping George's land tax ideas vital.

It also reported that Assemblyman Lloyd Connelly, who spoke at the school's recent graduation dinner, announced his support for an LVT bill sponsored by Marin County Assemblyman Bill Filante.

A two-page sidebar offered a biographical sketch of George and a somewhat more thorough explanation of the Single Tax.

## MONSIGNOR GIVES TALK ON FATHER MCGLYNN

Father Edward McGlynn, founder of the anti-poverty league and supporter of Henry George in the 1886 mayoral election, retains the aura of a renegade within the Catholic Church nearly 100 years after his excommunication and eventual reinstatement. This according to Monsignor Byrne of New York's Epiphany Church, who recently gave a seminar on Dr. McGlynn and his contemporary, Father Richard Burtzell.

The priests were pastors of adjacent Manhattan parishes, St. Stephen's and Epiphany. Both ran afoul of Archbishop Michael Corrigan -- McGlynn for his continued support for George, his active involvement in political and social life, and a number of "rather radical ideas within the 19th Century Church", Burtzell primarily for his counsel to McGlynn during the controversy. Both were eventually sent "up the river" to parishes in upstate New York.

"The episode reflects arguments still raging within the church," Monsignor Byrne said, "primarily, how active should priests be in political and secular matters."

Fifty people attended the session.

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## GUEST EDITORIAL

### EMBRACING THOSE "OUTSIDE THE FOLD"

By Mildred J. Loomis

How aware are we Georgists of the counter-culture? Do we recognize the thousands who are unhappy with their life-styles, who read and write books expressing this dissatisfaction and what they are doing about it?

Much is being done, you know: cooperating in neighborhood ventures (including patrolling and policing their areas); forming food cooperatives; sharing tools and education; installing solar power to replace gas and electricity are only a few.

Available directories of alternative groups list up to 10,000 such groups and leaders. At the School of Living, we regularly scan and study more than 200 such groups a month.

Few of them know the basic economics which Henry George clarified.

Some have journals which are oriented to particular regions, such as Ozarkia, Northwest Passage, Southern Libertarian. More and more, their titles show a wholistic trend, like Life Options, Overthrow, Coalition. Here is an audience with energy and questions.

Couldn't a committee of Georgists study and work with them?

Advertise in their pages?

Exchange journals and mailing lists?

Exchange speakers at conferences and workshops?

Uncover the benefits, the justice and peace resulting from community use of community-developed land values?

Describe results from areas taxing land values and adapting the process in Community Land Trusts?

In short, couldn't we Georgists become more at home with networking, alternative and counter-culture seekers?

Shouldn't we?

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Mildred J. Loomis is the Director of Education for the School of Living. The school, founded in 1934 by Ralph Borsodi, is active in decentralization. Mildred's 1982 book, Alternative Americas, describes nine alternative groups.

# 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 economic 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.

CAROL BELLAMY SPEAKS AT PACE UNIVERSITY'S  
HENRY GEORGE RESEARCH PROGRAM LECTURE

New York City Council President Carol Bellamy was the guest speaker at the Henry George Research Program Lecture held at Pace University on April 24.

Ms. Bellamy discussed public finance alternatives for New York City. She was joined at the podium by Edmund H. Mantell, Henry George Professor of Economics at Pace's Lubin Graduate School of Business and by Professor Bill Vickrey of Columbia University.

The Henry George Research Program in Business, Economics and Taxation was established in 1981 through a grant from the Schalkenbach Foundation. It is primarily concerned with inter-disciplinary studies involving the application of George's social and economic theories to local, national and global problems.

Research reports, monographs, working papers and case histories developed through the program are published and distributed by the University's Center for Applied Research.

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DEATH OF ROMA BIANCO ANNOUNCED

Memorial services were held on April 21 for Roma Bianco, a long-time New York Georgist. Ms. Bianco was active in the movement for more than 40 years. The Henry George School extends its sincerest sympathy to her family.

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