

## **TWENTY YEARS AFTER: HENRY GEORGE INSTITUTE GOING STRONG**

*...the Henry George Institute holds that all persons have the right to the use of the earth and that all have a right to the fruits of their labor. To implement these rights it is proposed that the rent of land be taken by the community as public revenue, and that all taxes on labor and the fruits of labor be abolished.... The Institute pledges itself to bring this philosophy to the attention of the public by any suitable means.*

In September 1970, a group of Georgists met in Freedom House, New York, to discuss the formation of a new organization to promote the Georgist philosophy. The outcome was the Henry George Institute, incorporated in New York State as a non profit organization on February 23, 1971.

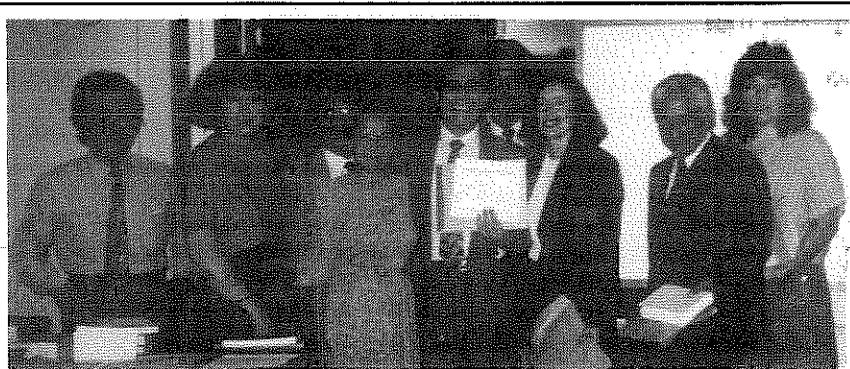
The Institute was conceived as a democratic membership group. It has a rotating board of directors of twelve members, one-third of which is elected by the general membership each year for a three-year term. An office was secured at 55 West 42nd Street in Manhattan. Invitations to join the Institute were sent out and membership has gradually increased to nearly three hundred. Dues were set at \$10, and remain so today. Members sign a statement of agreement with basic Georgist principles.

Meetings and Dinners for HGI members have been held over the years, on an annual basis. Guest speakers over the years have included luminaries such as Perry Prentice, Mildred J. Loomis, David Hapgood, V. G. Peterson, Rev. Wylie Young, Fr. James Gilhooly, Roger Starr, Gurney Breckenfeld, Phil Finkelstein, Jack Schwartzman, Oscar B. Johannsen, C. Lowell Harriss, Richard Noyes, and several others.

The Institute depends upon active participation of its members for its operation. Although it is true that Bob Clancy does most of the work, he also depends upon the volunteer efforts of several HGI members. Joe Jespersen has served from the beginning as the Institute's Treasurer; Neva Bianco volunteers secretarial services; and Syd Mayers keeps up with membership renewals.

HGI's main teaching activity is a three-part correspondence course in the *Principles of Political Economy*, using the works of Henry George as texts updated with supplements. President Robert Clancy reports that over three hundred have completed the basic course in *Fundamental Economics* using George's *Progress and Poverty*. Of these, about 15 per cent go on to study the following two advanced courses. Mr. Clancy feels he has developed over the years a "sustainable program" for the correspondence course. Students find out

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Lucy De Silfa (4th from left) with graduates of the New York Hispanic Affairs Division

## **NEW YORK HGS FINISHES EVENTFUL SCHOOL YEAR**

With its spring term graduation on June 22nd, the New York HGS completed a busy and eventful year of classes, seminars and programs. The evening represented the end of a long, rewarding effort for staff and students alike. New programs had been successfully instituted in 89-90, and old programs were revitalized. The tone of Director George Collins's address to the graduates was that of gathering momentum for the work of the School and the furthering of Henry George's message.

Revitalization: A group of fourteen students, for the first time in many years, has completed the three-part economics program based directly on the works of Henry George. George Collins taught the third class in the series, *Economic Science*, and proudly presented the students with certificates naming them graduates of *Principles of Political Economy*. Twenty-four students in the Spanish division completed the second course of the three-part study under Manuel Felix. And all told, one hundred thirty-five students completed the spring term, in ten courses.

New programs: On the initiative of the students themselves, a new alumni association has been formed for the Spanish Division. Called the *Centro Internacional de Alumnos y Exalumnos del Henry George School*, the group held its first program at the School on June 14th. The symposium on the economics of Latin America featured five speakers, including, as a special guest, Lucy de Silfa, Santo Domingo Henry George School Director.

So, students and staff gathered on the evening of June 22nd in a welcome sort of weariness. A great deal had been begun, and considerable steps had been taken. A surprising number of students, in fact, had taken three classes in one term! But that doesn't mean that they're finished with the school. The most frequent parting words that Friday night were, "See you in September!"

## **SANTA FE IS HOT...**

*Georgists are converging on the right city for their annual conference, at which the nation's housing problem will receive much attention. West Side Spirit, a New York neighborhood newspaper, in a story called "Manhattan Monopoly," asked co-op converter Francis Greenburger, "What's working in Manhattan real estate?" Greenburger quipped, "Well, Santa Fe, New Mexico is really hot."*

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## AN OPINION: WHAT IS OUR MESSAGE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY?

*Behind the problems of social life lies the problem of individual life. - Henry George*

*Imagine all the people sharing all the world. - John Lennon*

As we converge on the College of Santa Fe for the Annual North American Conference of the Council of Georgist Organizations, I have been considering our announced theme. What is our message? How do we get it across? The principles underlying Henry George's message have not changed: Abolish all taxation save that upon land values. But... conditions in the world have changed. Did not Albert Einstein say that the introduction of the atom bomb changed everything except our way of thinking?

Wealth is still produced by labor exerting itself upon land using some wealth as capital -- that has not changed. But... scientists now know that land, the earth, is much more like an organism, of which we are a part. The Gaia hypothesis holds that Earth is much more than "raw materials" and "natural resources" to be exploited by humanity. It is ancient wisdom that the modern industrial world forgot: Earth is our mother, and fellow species our brothers and sisters. Seems to me our message must address this paradigm shift if we are to survive into the 21st century: the shift towards being interconnected, instead of being over and against, all that lives.

For centuries our "way of thinking" told us we had a mandate from The Man Upstairs (created by men in their own image) to increase, multiply, fill, and subdue the earth -- and to smite other tribes, cultures, peoples and species that got in our way. Now we wait as more and more nations, some of whom imagine a similar mandate from their "Man Upstairs", join (get?) the nuclear club.

Having once disposed of nature, the earth, as something "other" to be conquered and exploited, it is but a short step to regard fellow human beings as "other"--also to be conquered and exploited. This "way of thinking" holds that Man (i.e., the white males of the human species) was given dominion over the earth and all therein; and that among Man, as within nature, only the strongest survive. Human history is a record of the consequences of this disastrous misperception: the caste system, the burning of witches and heretics, the slaughter of native peoples in the Americas and Africa, genocide against the Jews, atom bombs exploded in hundreds of "tests" to prove something to someone, the mindless destruction of animal and plant species, the glorification of male/male violence and persecution of male/male love, the drive to make "other" people "just like us" - or dead, the riot police sent in to evict squatters from public parks and empty buildings in New York City, the murder-by-neglect of homeless people dying of AIDS as outcasts and untouchables in "the land of the free"...

Hey! What about the Single Tax? Are we not in Santa Fe as guests of the Intermountain Single Tax Association? Yes, indeed! And is not the Single Tax the practice of justice? Is not justice the idea that no one should profit at the expense of an "other"? George's *Progress and Poverty* showed how cooperation benefits human survival, just as Peter Kropotkin's *Mutual Aid* showed how this is also true for other species in nature. "Social Darwinism" was shown to be a "way of thinking" that justified the established order.

A synthesis of George's Single Tax and what is called "deep ecology" offers a way out for our brutalized world, demonstrating how freedom, justice and compassion are not incompatible, but in fact depend upon each other. Georgists understand that freedom requires equal access to the use of the earth. Ecologists understand that survival of humanity depends upon giving room for other species to survive as well. In the past, western culture has regarded concern for other species as a luxury. Now we know, as our tribal ancestors knew: We are, with all other beings, both the weavers and the web of life, and what we do to the web we do to ourselves. Deep ecology, like Taoism, Buddhism, and Native American traditions, holds that we are not self-existent entities but that we are with all things living in a dynamic interdependence or "interbeing".

It is time to restore harmony and balance to the human community; and, further, to restore balance to the ecological community upon which we depend for our welfare. Does not the Single Tax prevent the cancer-like expansion of suburbia into the wilderness, in its flight from the rotten urban core? Restore the core to health, and the wilderness will thrive.

If we are saying, with George, we must make land common property, then we not only have a responsibility to socialize the rent of "domesticated" land for the benefit of the human community, but also to hold in trust the wild lands for the benefit of the larger community of all beings, all species, human and non-human. If we can extend our Single Tax message to embrace a Single Earth message, we may find the key to how we can get our message across--because we will be responding to the crisis of our time.

Even now, as the politics of the much-vaunted/much-dreaded "one world" becomes

## BASHING THE POOR

*Ed. Note: The Spring/Summer issue of The Illinois Georgist is hot off the press. It includes several items of interest including an oral history interview with Audrey Little by Adam Monroe, Jr., the Chicago School 1990-91 schedule, and a major opinion piece, "Bashing the Poor", by Chicago HGS President Sam Venturella, excerpted below. Contact Chicago HGS for a copy.*

There's a new game around. It's called "bashing the poor." It's played in the public policy research think tanks. The players have never felt the pinch of poverty. One of the qualifications to be a player is superficiality. You see if you're not superficial you might look beyond appearances. That would be an error; for then you might begin to ask real world questions. It helps if you are muddleheaded.

One variation of the game is "Here is how I would live if I were poor." "A cardinal rule of the game is to ignore the logic of language. You must ignore the fact the words rich and poor are comparatives -- that they have meaning only in relation to each other. That way you can imagine (step one) a time and place where population is sparse, and technology is limited to human-powered machines. These are conditions which do not permit much production of wealth; nor much variety. Then you can call these people "poor" if you compare them to an Illinois farmer or a LaSalle Street stockbroker.

Step two, in this instance, is to imagine you are forced by some mysterious circumstance to live in such a community. Again ignoring logic, you begin... by bringing capital, knowledge and skills from your own time and circumstances. The capital would enable you to buy some land to work. You see, without land of your own to work you would have to


work for one of your new neighbors at wages he would be willing to pay. Then you say, "see, being poor isn't so bad."

In an area where all must work to live, there is no great disparity of wealth. Some may have a little more and others a little less than the average; but there are no rich and no poor. So long as all have access to land, and trade is not prohibited by custom or law, there can be no poor. It is whether one is prevented from laboring, or from keeping all that one produces, that determines if one is poor or not.

Poverty is relative. It can't be defined by a government clerk. The dollar income which purportedly defines poverty is meaningless. Ten thousand (1990) dollars cash income to a family who own a house, a few acres of fertile soil and some chickens is gravy compared to a family who have no land and must rent a few rooms.

To compare the poverty of an unemployed or lowpaid laborer in a high-tech society to a standard of living in a society where primitive technology is prevalent, is to compare apples and oranges. The lack of amenities [in a low-tech society] does not mean the people are poor. A hard life? Yes. But not poverty, not near starvation in the midst of plenty.

Then, there is "Pull yourself up by your own bootstraps." Here it is important to think of symptoms as being causes of poverty. The point of this game is to demonstrate that unemployment or low income is due to personal failure, not the economy or the market or politics.

With disconcerting frequency, the business sections of our daily newspapers carry reports of sudden loss of employment. Mergers, business failures, market changes, or a downturn in the economy means unemployment for any number of workers. Not all are lucky enough to have a 'golden parachute' to tide them over until the next job. Poverty is the fault of the poor. We all know that, don't we? 

*Not long ago Congress voted, with much patriotic rhetoric, for the imposition of severe penalties upon anyone presuming to burn the flag of the United States. Yet, the very Congressmen who passed this law are responsible, by acts of commission or omission, for burning, polluting, and plundering the territory that the flag is supposed to represent. Therein, they exemplified the peculiar and perhaps fatal fallacy of civilization: the confusion of symbol with reality.*

--Alan Watts

*Wealth versus Money (1968)*

## OPINION

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reality; as the "free market" triumphs on the frontiers of Eastern Europe while it rots in the urban and rural heartland of America... we can become the goddess of liberty who lifts her lamp again to lead the world toward a new vision: A transformed and sustainable world political economy that "liberates production from taxation, the earth from monopoly, and humanity from poverty" -- a "Geocracy" that offers justice to humanity, compassion to our mother earth and all her offspring, and freedom to create not only material abundance, but... a new way of thinking about "self" that is not defined or imagined as at the expense of the "other."

--Mark A. Sullivan

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA: THE MERCURY RISES AGAIN

The Newsletter of the Northern California HGS, *The Mercury*, has been just sent out to its associates. This issue, simply dated 1990, features an article and photo of Cathe Smeland on the front page. Ms. Smeland was recently elected as President of the School's Board of Directors (as reported in our April issue).

Other features in this *Mercury* include an article by Paul Johnson on "LVT for a Greener Future." Mr. Johnson, a Board member of the San Francisco School and a Green activist, took his case for better land use via the land value tax to a Green conference in Eugene, Oregon.

*The Mercury* also reports on how HGS-SF is working with CALNET (California Network of Economics Teachers) to develop a new curriculum which stresses an ethical approach to economics. Workshops were held in October, December and March by an ad hoc group of teachers concerned about the lack of ethics in their high school programs. HGS-SF Executive Director, Bob Scrofani, moderated the sessions.

The workshops were convened, *The Mercury* reports, after a report on the California Economic Centers revealed that a majority of teachers found the teaching of economic history, distribution of wealth, and roles of labor, agriculture and government either "unimportant" and/or "uncomfortable" to teach.

An outline of the curriculum proposed by the group is now being revised and will be reviewed by educators and economics professors. Land tenure and ownership are discussed as controversial issues in the materials. For further information and/or an outline of the curriculum, send a self-addressed envelope and \$2 to *Ethics and Economics* c/o the Henry George School in San Francisco.

"George's Compassionate Economics" is another major article in this issue, featuring a detailed outline of a seven-point program from Matthew Fox's book on Compassion. Rev. Fox is a Dominican priest who has recently been silenced by the church hierarchy in Rome for teaching "Creation-Centered Spirituality," which

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## NY SEMINARS POSE HARD QUESTIONS

### Nicaragua--What Next?

The June 7th seminar on the future of Nicaragua featured two knowledgeable observers of Central American politics: Enrique Soria, Managua correspondent for the New York newspaper *El Diario/La Prensa* during Nicaragua's recent election process, and Mike Curtis, Director of the Philadelphia HGS.

Mr. Soria's presentation focused on the geopolitical realities of Central America. "It was not the political ideology of the Sandinistas that made them unacceptable to the U.S. It was the kind of precedent that would have been set, had their revolution achieved any kind of real success. The Sandinistas were a threat to North American hegemony in the region," Soria said. If revolution were to be "exported," it would spring from the region's poverty, not from the march of Marxism-Leninism.

Thus, the victory of the UNO coalition was not an ideological one. Ravaged by war, earthquake, and runaway inflation, the Nicaraguan people cast their votes for whatever change in direction was being offered. Observing Managua's mood after the votes were counted, Soria was struck by the lack of celebration. "The assembly is now in the control of a coalition of seventeen different parties. A clear mandate is very hard to discern." Indeed, many Nicaraguans remain sympathetic with the goals of the Sandinista leadership, although there is a widespread feeling that an already dire economic situation was made worse by their mismanagement.

Asked about the influence of the Sandinista-controlled armed forces in the new administration, Soria stressed the unique character of the Nicaraguan Army as a people's army. He agreed that forces would certainly be reduced, but added that the army retained a large measure of popular support. "Violeta Chamorro has no choice but to cooperate with the army, for now."

Mike Curtis traveled to Managua with a group of Georgists in 1985, to see the country, and to present their views on land reform to a council of economic advisors. (Sadly, the Georgist program was never enacted.) Mike observed that Nicaragua's economic prospects, at least for the near future, are brighter at this juncture than they have been for a long time. "With no more Contra war, and American economic aid, and most-favored trading status," Mike asked, how can the Nicaraguan people not think Chamorro is doing a great job? However, the prospects of long-range peace and stability, Mike warned, depend on the land issue. He is particularly concerned with the fate of the approximately three million acres of land that was seized from the Somozas and other immensely wealthy landowners during the revolution. "There will be great pressure to return that land to its former owners," Mike said, "but to do that would re-polarize the country."

### Drugs in America - Legalization or War?

The final Saturday Seminar of the New York School's spring term tackled the controversial topic of "the war on drugs". Featured speakers were New York State Senator Joseph Galiber and Michael Sehested, Program Coordinator for ADAPT, an agency which provides treatment and counseling to drug abusers. The program was ably moderated by Joseph Partansky, who brought years of hands-on experience in counseling and rehabilitation.

Senator Galiber is the chairman of the New York State Subcommittee of Hard Drugs, and a member of the Governor's Commission to Evaluate Drug Laws. His position in favor of the decriminalization of various illegal drugs places him in a politically dangerous position, but one that has been gaining support recently. The so-called war on drugs, he said, is simply not working. "Ten

## A JAPAN INDEX

*Much has been said recently about the fantastic rise in land prices in Japan. The following statistics were taken from the following publications: The Wall Street Journal, March 23, 1990; The New York Times, March 25; The Christian Science Monitor, March 8; and The Japan Times, June 11-17.*

- Price of a prefabricated house an hour's commute from downtown Tokyo: \$500,000
- Percentage of Tokyo land designated as farmland: 12%
- Acres of farmland in Tokyo: 88,000
- Price of the world's costliest land, in downtown Tokyo, per square meter: \$200,000
- Price of the "Mini-Bar" a 6-by-18 foot club in Tokyo's Ginza district: \$3.6 million
- Number of applicants to purchase each unit of public housing in Tokyo, 1989: 80
- Portion of national net wealth of Japan comprised of land values: 2/3
- Portion in United States: 1/4
- Increase in residential property value in Kyoto in 1988: 68%
- Number of dollar millionaires in Japan, 1989: 1.3 million
- Amount of outstanding real-estate based loans by Japanese banks: \$325 billion

billion dollars a year has been spent, with little results. We can't afford any more time." What makes the drug trade so violent, Galiber said, is mainly a matter of dealers fighting for turf—for markets. The most urgent need is to "take the profit out" by legalizing and regulating the supply of drugs.

Legalization is by no means enough, however—Galiber stressed that treatment is vital. He said that one of the gravest faults of U.S. drug policy has been the pittance allocated for treatment programs, compared to the billions spent on interdiction.

It is bad enough that the "drug war" is failing to significantly cut the supply, but Galiber warned that it may pose grievous long-term dangers to civil liberties. Many surveys indicate that a majority of Americans would be willing to give up certain privacy rights to stop the flow of illegal drugs. "The real war," Galiber said, "is a war on civil liberties. No matter how vital the need might seem now, we'll never get our rights back once they are taken away."

Although he does not support legalization, Michael Sehested said, with some surprise, that he agreed with Senator Galiber on almost every issue. However, Sehested, a former heroin addict who has spent many years working in drug treatment programs, stressed that the drug problem must be viewed as a medical, not a legal issue. Sehested said the most important problem is addiction, and unless that is addressed, the market for drugs will go on and on, whether drugs are legal or illegal.

Furthermore, Sehested criticized the way the drug war is being waged: too much time and money being spent arresting small-time users and dealers, while the big players make millions with virtual impunity. "The drug war is a war on poor people only," he said. "As the cold war winds down, people place gays, drug users, and people with AIDS in the slot of enemy that society seems to need." What we need to legalize, Sehested concluded, is hope, and the war we must fight is against addiction.

*Note: the Reverend Dino Woodard, of Abyssinian Baptist Church, was to be on the program. But, regrettably, he was under the impression that the seminar was a week later. He said that he had been eager to participate, and would be willing to be involved in any future events concerning this topic.*

## CONSERVATIVE JOURNALIST "SEES THE CAT"

Cartrell Gore, a journalist and a Republican district leader in Brooklyn, enrolled in Fundamental Economics this spring at the New York School. Mr. Gore was sufficiently persuaded by Henry George's ideas to write and publish a two-part series of articles on Georgist economics in the *New York Tribune* in May.

The first part, titled *Henry George's Theory of Economics a Boon to Cities*, gave an overview of the basic tenets of George's economic theory: the factors of production and their returns, the source of unearned land rent, its destructive effects on the economy, and George's remedy.

Mr. Gore is a conservative writer, writing for a conservative paper. His remarks on ideology were revealing, and show how Henry George's ideas cut across fixed political positions: "Does any of this sound socialist to you? Perhaps it does. However, when supply-side economics was first advocated, it was the British Labor (Socialist) Party that championed the cause....Regardless of your political perspective, economics is the science of allocating limited resources to unlimited demands. Both the left and the right originate at the same point."

The second article, titled *Theories of Henry George Go Far to Explain Property Tax Repercussions*, brings theory into the real world, spicing it with pertinent statistics: "The Japanese boast that they are the wealthiest nation because of their soaring land values. Of course their land values are soaring. They have half the population of the United States crammed into a land mass only the size of Montana. The total value of Japanese land is estimated at \$14 trillion. Though 25 times larger, the total value of American land stands at about \$7 trillion. See how population increases land values?"

There is little else but good news to report, as Mr. Gore turns his attention to property tax reform in Pennsylvania. Discussing Pittsburgh: "To help things along, the city adopted a three-year exemption of all new buildings but not the land. [an old supply-side trick!] Slums disappeared as construction continued. Why were builders building so much? Because they were saving money."

Clearly, Cartrell Gore's series shows how, unavoidably, the cat is still the cat, whether seen from the right or the left.

*The School now has available for its friends a card which offers you another means of spreading our name, acknowledging your friends, and adding to your contributions, all at the same time. It is an attractive note card with a line drawing of Henry George on the front, and on the back the popular quotation from his book Social Problems which ends "...whoever he may be and wherever he may be placed, the man who thinks becomes a light and a power."*

*The card may be used to inform friends, relatives, co-workers, neighbors, or just anyone whom you need to recognize, that you have made a contribution to the Henry George School in their name. This may be done in memory, honor, or celebration, as the occasion requires. The donation you make is, of course, tax deductible.*


*For information on how you may obtain a supply of these useful cards, please call Marissa De Luna at the New York School, (212) 889-8020.*

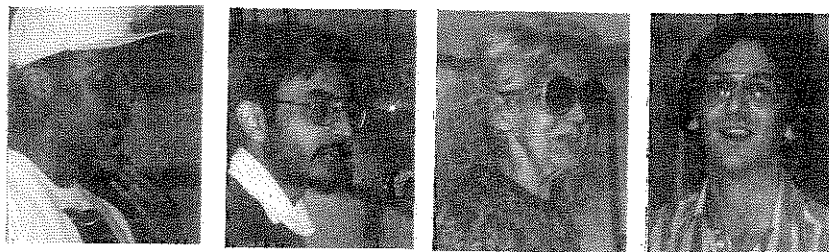
## OUR TOWN PUBLISHES SERIES ON PROPERTY TAXES

Editor Kalev Pehme first read *Progress and Poverty* more than twenty years ago. Recently, his memory was jogged when the New York HGS began running a series of display ads in his newspaper. He met with director George Collins, who brought him up to date on the School's current projects, and presented him with a sheaf of information on land value taxation and a current edition of *P & P*. Mr. Pehme responded with a series of articles about the mess of property tax policy in New York City, entitled "Untimely Thoughts About Real Estate Taxes."

The first article, which appeared in the June 24th issue of *Our Town*, analyzed "The Chaos of Assessments". It has long been known that real estate assessment in New York, as in many other cities, is extremely inaccurate. Pehme cites numerous cases of wildly incongruous assessed values. In particular, he cites a 1988 study by Douglas W. Henkin which proves false the city's contention that all properties are assessed at 45% of market value. In reality, Henkin discovered, "the properties fall into two quite distinct groups; the majority of the properties had the ratios of their assessments to their sales prices fall far below 30%. The majority of the rest...had ratios far above 100%." According to Henkin, the average price-to-assessment rate is 18.8%. But many properties, writes Pehme, particularly on the East Side of Manhattan, are overassessed, effectively subsidizing the rest of the city.

The second article details the disincentive effects of conventional property taxes and their effects on markets, consumers, and the homeless. This is more familiar territory for Georgist readers, but Pehme does cite some sobering facts. A typical apartment dweller, making \$30,000 a year gross income and paying 40% of that, or \$1000/month, in rent, is actually paying 10% of gross annual income in real estate taxes! The effect of this situation is that without massive subsidies, there is no market for low- or middle-income housing construction. And the effect on the poor is devastating. With regulated rents, building owners in marginal neighborhoods have no incentive to maintain their buildings. "The social cost of the lack of housing development," Pehme concludes, "is then heaped on the financial cost."

The third installment in the series, in which Pehme plans to discuss the real solution to the property tax mess, is due in late July. 



On Friday, May 18th, four poets read from their works before a receptive audience at the New York School: (l. to r.) Jamal Joseph, Sanjoy Bhattacharyya, Jane Isabel Springer, Lindy Davies. Their diversity of backgrounds and variety of styles made it a most memorable evening. Another Poetry Night is planned for next Spring.



**HENRY GEORGE INSTITUTE**

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about it through modest advertisements placed in selected journals that appeal to the socially-minded. Ads in the international edition of *The Economist*, for example, bring in students from all parts of the world, especially Africa. Correspondence course teachers are volunteers chosen from members who have graduated (or otherwise studied) the courses, and today include: Hanno Beck, Neva Bianco, Richard Blansky, Nan Braman, Bob Clancy, Lindy Davies, Gil Herman, Joe Jespersen, Matthew Ossias, Bob Robinson, Mark Sullivan, and Tony Thomas. There have been others, too, over the past years. These thirteen teachers each have a number of individual students whose answers they read, correct, and comment upon. At present there are about one hundred twenty-five students taking the Institute's courses through the mail.

Bob Clancy emphasized that the correspondence course produces results: it finds Georgists. Among the more active individuals who came into the Georgist world via the c.c. are Hanno Beck who is now working for Common Ground USA, Charles Ellinger now teaching for the Long Island HGS, Gib Halverson in Wisconsin, Robert Willis in Iowa, and Stuart Mockford in Oregon. Notable c.c. graduates active in Georgist work outside the US include Carlos Deltell de la Fuente and Alfredo Talarawitz in Spain, and Juan Zucotti in Argentina.

*The Georgist Journal* is another of the Institute's projects. Begun in October 1973, the Journal is published quarterly and is edited by Bob Clancy. It features news of Georgist activities and articles of comment by readers. The Journal also serves the members of the London-based International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade. The circulation of the Journal is now about six hundred, with readers in six continents. While most of the non-US readers are members of the Union, about fifty are members of the Institute.

The Institute also distributes Georgist literature—generally inexpensive material not readily found elsewhere. HGI actively supports the Council of Georgist Organizations, which organizes the Annual Conferences in North America. HGI President Clancy has served as CGO Chairman from 1980 to 1988, and President of the International Union from 1977 to 1982.

In 1980 the Institute was obliged to move out of its 42nd Street office due to extensive renovations being undertaken there. At the same time, the Henry George School was moving from 50 East 69th Street (where Mr. Clancy had served for two decades as Director until 1968) to 5 East 44th Street. The trustees of the School invited the Institute to take up quarters at 5 East 44th Street. The Institute's directors agreed, and HGI moved in at the end of July of that year.

The invitation was renewed when the School moved to its present quarters at 121 East 30th Street. HGS Director George Collins also serves as a member of the Institute's Board, and this year's HGI dinner was co-sponsored with the School. (See accompanying story.)

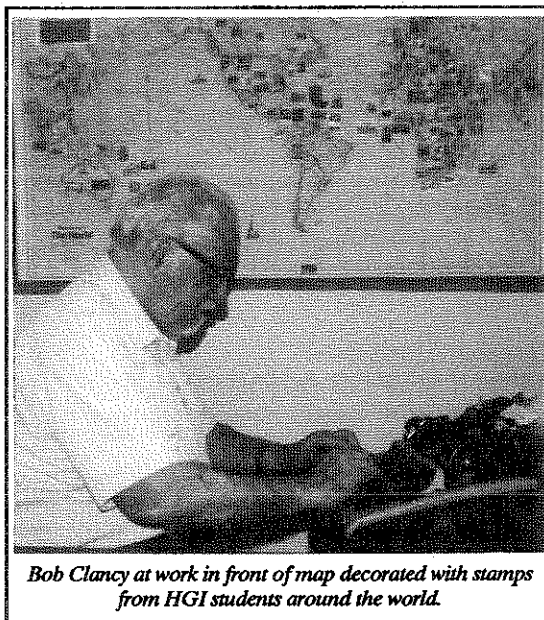
What are the Institute's hopes for the future? Bob Clancy would rather not speculate about what the future holds for HGI. He did hint that more work with Spanish-speaking people, especially in Latin America, was called for. Perhaps a revived and revised

correspondence course in Spanish? What about the possibility of further upgrading *The Georgist Journal* using state-of-the-art desktop publishing techniques? Perhaps... but so long as HGI members realize that the GJ still belongs to them and is open to their homestyle literary contributions. With its office located at a revitalized Henry George School, we can expect students of the School to discover, join, and participate in the work of the Henry George Institute.

*Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of Profiles of various groups and individuals active in promoting Georgist theory and practice.*

**HGI & HGS COMBINE FORCES... AND FORKS**

On the evening June 15th, about forty New York Georgists, members of the Henry George Institute and/or associates of the Henry George School, wine, dine, and converse together on the eighteenth floor dining room of the City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate School on 42nd Street. This has been the location of the Institute's Annual Meeting and Dinner for several years now, and despite rising costs, it still serves as a convenient and attractive location for this affair.



*Bob Clancy at work in front of map decorated with stamps from HGI students around the world.*

This year the Institute was joined by the Henry George School as co-sponsor, as the program reflected: HGS Director George Collins (who is also a member of the HGI Board), Hispanic Affairs Director Manuel Felix, and associate Norman Horing, Professor from Stevens Institute of Technology, joined Robert Clancy to address "World Challenges Today."

Prof. Horing spoke on "Developments in Eastern Europe" and speculated on the redivision of the world into three economic/power blocs: Europe and Saudi Arabia, Japan and Southeast Asia, and the rest of the world. People in Eastern Europe want what we have, said Prof. Horing. And they will unfortunately get both the good and the bad, including the unemployment and inflation of market economies. On the other hand, several

East-European countries, including the Soviet Union, are in a good position to institute a rational system of land tenure, without the pitfalls of private land monopoly and speculation.

Manuel Felix addressed the question: "Which Way for Latin America?" Mr. Felix pointed to the dismal statistics, such as 68% unemployment in the Dominican Republic, a country rich in natural resources, and whose land is owned by a mere eighty families. In El Salvador all the land is owned by four families! In Panama, three or four military leaders control production. Taxes are rampant in Latin America, he said, but not on land. Only Costa Rica has a land tax. In the Dominican Republic, political organization is needed to overcome strong resistance.

"An Opening in South Africa" was George Collins' theme, especially relevant in light of the New York visit of Nelson Mandela. Mr. Collins gave historic background on apartheid and the struggle against it. It is not surprising, said Mr. Collins, that Mandela and many Blacks, have turned to socialism and nationalization for solutions. The irony is that although many South African communities benefit from land-value-only taxation, the Black majority live in wretched conditions. This demonstrates that in order to exclude groups within society from enjoying the benefits of LVT, they have

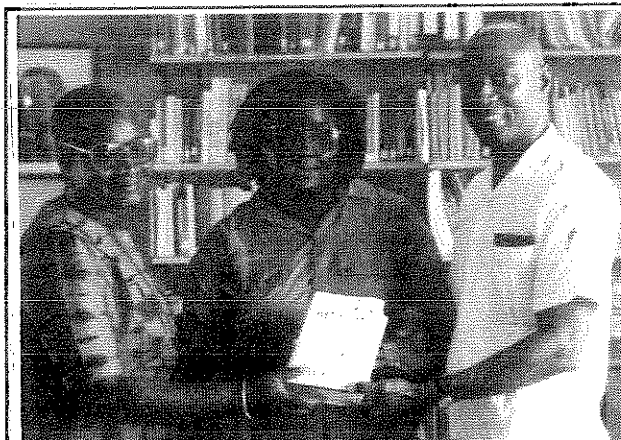
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**FORCES...AND FORKS** (continued)

to be excluded from participation in the economic life of the country.

Bob Clancy was the last speaker with a talk on "The Awakening of the Third World." The Third World is a place, said Mr. Clancy, where elites run the whole show in order to put ill-gotten millions of dollars into Swiss bank accounts and New York real estate. In Ethiopia, the elite looked on with contempt on famine victims - victims of a deliberate policy that had exiled them to the poorest land in the country. There are no poor countries, as such, but rather there are poor people. One African HGI student reports that many in his country don't even make \$100 a year! Many, uprooted from the land, live in urban slums. Africans need Georgist policies which are in line with their own traditions, not Western aid and religions that attempt to force Africans to "be like us."

Each presentation was followed by a question-and-answer period, which included several thoughtful and insightful comments. The gala affair was also the occasion to announce the results of this year's annual election to the HGI Board of Directors. Elected for the 1990-93 term were incumbents Robert Clancy and Sydney Mayers, Neva Bianco, and Mark Sullivan.



*Dr. Ermina Osoba, Resident Tutor of the University of the West Indies Centre, Antigua, and library assistant Jacqueline Mussington, receive a complete set of the works of Henry George, and the School's American Heritage videotape, from HGS Executive Director George Collins on June 11th, 1990.*

**WILLIAM O. RANKY**

News was received at press time that William O. Ranky passed away in his sleep during the night of June 30/July 1. Mr. Ranky was a member of the Board of the Henry George School in Chicago. He was born in Hungary, September 29, 1905. Besides his wife Klara, he leaves behind a brother in Budapest and a nephew in London. - *The Illinois Georgist*

**LEONARD NITZ**

It is with great sadness that the Sacramento Branch reports the death, on May 26, of their long-time active member, Leonard Nitz.

Len taught classes in Chicago before he was married, and continued for most of his active life. He and his wife, Maxine, served on the first board of directors when the Sacramento school was established.

An engineer by profession, Len was a man of many talents. He built his family's home outside Chicago, kept the family cars running. Len and Maxine raised six children. They were always supportive of their children's activities and took great pride in their achievements. In his later years Len found much joy in his grandchildren.

Len had a wonderfully positive attitude as shown by the following incident told by Evelyn Friend. "On the way home from a frustrating class, Len said, Sometimes people say things like: How can you keep doing this with all the hassle? But, you know, I don't think of it like that. I enjoy it. It's fun."

We miss you, Len.

Henry George School Extension  
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Sacramento, CA 95841

**LINDA NEAL JOINS L.A. BOARD**

On July 16th, a new member of the board of the Southern California School will be welcomed and take office. Linda Neal is a young accounting manager for a private airline (which has about thirty aircraft). Ms. Neal is a graduate and teacher of the School's Classical Analysis course.

Other members of the LA-HGS board are: high school teacher Bret Barker, assessor Ted Gwartney, patent lawyer Dave O'Brien, CPA Ray Kornfeld, high school teacher Tom Rosenstein, and physicist John Wiggins. Officers of the board are: Chairman Margil Wadley, chief of labs of the air quality management district; Vice Chairman Chuck Haughey (pronounced "Hoy"), patent lawyer; and Secretary-Treasurer Frank Tilton, financial planner.

**HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL & ROBERT SCHALKENBACH FOUNDATION SPONSOR SYMPOSIUM ON SOVIET ECONOMY**

*Inspired by the dramatic political changes that have taken place in the Soviet Union and responding to the need for guidance in constructing a truly "free market" economic system, twelve noted economists, appraisers and legal experts are scheduled to present papers focusing on "Concepts and Procedures for Social Collection of Rent in the Soviet Union" at a land value tax symposium on August 22nd, 23rd, and 24th in New York City. Co-sponsored by the Henry George School and the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, and organized by Fred Harrison, Editor of Land & Liberty, and Nicolaus Tideman, Professor of Economics at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, the symposium will bring together, in closed working session, Georgist and non-Georgist thinkers.*

*The papers are intended to outline methodologies for avoiding the private usurpation of land rent which has distorted Western economies. They include Moral and Efficiency Arguments for the Social Collection of Rent, by Prof. Mason Gaffney, Univ. of California; Principles for Collection of Rent from Exhaustible Natural Resources, by Prof. Anthony Clunies-Ross, Univ. of Strathclyde, Scotland; When Should Government Entities Be Charged Rent for the Land They Hold, by Alexander Meyendorff, Moscow, USSR; and A Simple and Practical Protocol for Assigning Rental Value to Land, by Ted Gwartney, Appraiser, Orange County, California.*

*Among the discussants for various papers are: Prof. C. Lowell Harriss, Emeritus Columbia University, and President of Robert Schalkenbach Foundation; Dr. Gene Wunderlich, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture; Prof. Dick Netzer, New York University; and Prof. Robert Dorfman, Harvard University. Four Soviet economists, plus one from Czechoslovakia, and Dr. Karoly Ravasz of Hungary, Vice-President of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, have been specially invited to the symposium. The papers from the symposium are expected to be published and made available to the public.*

## POP GOES THE DREAD!

Southern California's Henry George School held its last two Final Friday dinners of the school year on May 25th and June 29th at the usual place, Michael's Restaurant in Hollywood. "Pop Dread! How to Scare the Masses" was the May theme, while "Solving Problems! Dealing with the Real Reality" was presented in June.

"Pop Dread!" was coined by LA-HGS Director Harry Pollard as a catch-all label for what he sees as an alarmist approach to today's ecological problems such as global warming, ozone-layer depletion, and deforestation. Bret Barker chaired the meeting and guest speakers were Mindy Lorenz and Jack Jennings. Mindy Lorenz is environmental activist and Green Party congressional candidate. She has also been a radio producer and, for twenty years, a college professor. Jack Jennings is a retired rocket scientist who was involved with the Saturn booster for the Apollo program. He is now a leading member of the Southern California Federation of Scientists and author of *Nuclear War in Los Angeles*. Harry Pollard joined Drs. Lorenz and Jennings in addressing the issues.

There was much disagreement which made for an "awfully good meeting," according to Harry. Designated hitters who opened the question period were David Byrnes, Professor Mason Gaffney, Michael Green, and Bob De Tolve (all known to readers of this Newsletter). Most participants, including the speakers, stayed for more than five hours, until after 11:30, even though Frank Tilton closed the meeting at 11.

"Solving Problems!" saw Mason Gaffney and Jack Jennings switch roles as speaker and designated hitter. Prof. Gaffney (who teaches economics at University of California in Riverside) was joined by two other speakers: Ted Gwartney and Jon Myhre. Gwartney has been described as "perhaps the foremost land appraiser in the country, with particular expertise in computerized assessment." He has served as assessor in Hartford, Connecticut, the Province of British Columbia, and (currently) Orange County, California. Jon Myhre is an iconoclastic landscape architect who has been involved with a variety of projects including the Van Norman Dam and Richard Nixon's Western White House. His second book looks ahead seventy-five years and asks "What if...?" Joining Dr. Jennings as designated hitters were Toni Churg, Michael Green, and John Vernon. Ms. Churg is a biologist and producer of a TV show on science and social science; Mr. Vernon is the former Chairman of the California Libertarian party.

How best to save the environment was the subject of the evening. The role of land speculation as the major factor causing premature development of rural land was examined, as well as the land value tax solution.

A special touch was added by the presence of Eduardo Cabral, who was on hand with his parents to receive a special \$500 award for his entry in the School's high school essay contest on Henry George's environmental policies. Mr. Cabral is fifteen years old and has just completed the ninth grade.

Next Final Friday will be in October, and will have politics as its theme.



## Next Year In Jerusalem

March 18th to the 27th are the dates for the upcoming conference of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade. Hebrew University's Maierdsdorf Faculty Club on Mount Scopus in Jerusalem will be the site of this conference, held one weekend before the Easter/Passover weekend. "War and Peace" will be the theme of what may prove to be a unique and very memorable international conference. Those interested in attending are urged to immediately contact the office of the International Union at 177 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 1EU, England.

## THE MERCURY RISES AGAIN

(continued from page 2)

seeks to heal the split between the humanity and the earth, and to find the divine in nature (see Mark Sullivan's essay on page two).

"The relationship we have with land is a sacred one," Fox writes, "none of us created it, and all of us will return to it. And yet much land in America goes unused, abused or becomes reduced to the status of one more object possessed... A land tax would tax all land but not improvements... It would run the speculator and the absentee landlord out of town... George's... starting points are impressively compassionate." Rev. Fox's book is published by Winston Press, 430 Oak Grove, Minneapolis, MN 55403.

*The Mercury* is edited by Bob Scrofani, who concludes this issue with a critical review of Frances Moore Lappe's book on *Rediscovering America's Values*. The book, he writes, "is a series of readable and animated dialogues in which Lappe speaks with two voices... the classical liberal who views government as a necessary evil, and her own voice... the modern liberal who sees the government's role as one that must serve all the people in society." To receive a copy of *The Mercury*, contact the San Francisco Henry George School.

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