

Henry George Newsletter

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HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS LOOK TO THE '90s

High school juniors and seniors from New York City will gather at the New York Henry George School from June 26th through 30th to study "The Student's Stake in the Economy." Along with the School, sponsors of this year's summer Economics Institute for high school students are the United Federation of Teachers and the New York City Council on Economic Education. Coordinators from the three organizations, respectively, are Stan Rubenstein, Charles Cogen (Past President), and Dr. Albert Alexander (Executive Director). The program will include lectures, guest speakers, films, field trips, and discussions. Students are selected from nominations submitted by local Assistant Principals of Social Studies. Enrollment is limited to thirty.

The Institute's program begins at 9 AM on Monday, June 26th, with introductions by Mr. Rubenstein, Dr. Alexander, and Mr. Cogen. The theme of the morning's session is "Economic Policy Issues for the '90s." Speakers are Gus Tyler, International Ladies Garment Workers Union, on "Facing National Issues." Dr. Heather Dillenbeck, U.S. Trust Co., and Vincent Massaro, The Conference Board, will then address "Business and Manufacturing" issues from the consumer and service industry points of view. The next day, Tuesday, will be a field trip to the Federal Reserve Bank.

The theme of Wednesday's session is "Economic Issues in the Mayoralty Campaign." Samuel M. Ehrenhalt, Regional Commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, will address the Job Outlook in New York City. Edward Dodson, President of the HGS and economist at the Federal National Mortgage Association, will analyze the Homeless and Housing situation. Transportation will be discussed by Gary Caplin, Budget Director of the Mass Transit Authority, and the Environment will be looked at by Alan L. Smith, from Brooklyn Union Gas. Students will then form small groups for discussion. A field trip to IBM headquarters follows on Thursday, to view "The Business World of the Future."

"The Pacific Basin and the United States" is the theme of Friday, the final day. An overview will be presented by Dr. John Hein, Director of International Economics at The Conference Board. Hon. Mikiyo Mori, Vice-Consul from the Japanese Consulate, and Jeff Ge from the Chinese Information Service, will talk about Japan and Taiwan, respectively. This will be followed by a student debate on whether or not international free trade benefits the United States. Moderator for the debate will be Joseph Vincenzino, Sr., economist from Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.

Before the conclusion of the week's program, seven winners of an essay contest will be chosen from among the thirty participants, and announced. The winners will receive \$100 each and a tuition-free course in basic economics to be given at the Henry George School from July 5th to 11th. Funds for this special contest and awards were donated by School Trustee Constance Weinstein. As in years past, the School looks forward to introducing young students to the not-so-dismal science of economics.

School Notes

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THE HENRY GEORGE KNOWLEDGEBASE

Jersey City, New Jersey, has more computer systems per square mile than anywhere else in the country—1,739. New York is next with 1,185, followed by Orange County, California, with 700 per square mile. More than 5,000 Computer Bulletin Boards are installed in the US. Relay networks speed messages across country and lively debates are being waged even as you read this. Brooklyn talks to San Francisco, Chicago argues with Fairhope, Stockholm (Sweden) questions San Diego. Brisbane complains to Paris. (Already, debate networks gird the world.)

You enter your arguments on a local Board. They are placed in a packet sent across country automatically in the midnight hours when costs are low. Next morning, your comments are read in Poughkeepsie, or Edmonton, or Cucamonga.

Databases of everything can be found by your telephone. Large subscription services, such as Compuserve, Genie, and the Source, are joined by a proliferation of governmental operations offering economic and scientific data. Local libraries and school districts have built up extensive networks. Many of these provide free access and contain a wealth of information.

Latest arrival is the Henry George KnowledgeBase in Southern California. LA Director Harry Pollard is the System Operator (SYSOP) Co-sysops are D'Artagnan Phares, Dale Neff and Gina De Tolve. Operating at 2400 baud on an 80286 IBM AT compatible, the system will be online 24 hours a day. Members of the system will be able to download excerpts from Henry George, articles by well-known Georgists and an abundance of economic and political information. High school teachers will get lesson plans and teaching programs. Their students will be able to 'download' supplementary material in history, civics and economics to buttress Stan Rubenstein's 'Land and Freedom' series.

You can contact The KnowledgeBase through your modem at (818) 353-2242. Further information can be obtained from the Henry George School—Box 655 Tujunga CA 91042—or call (voice) (818) 352-4141.

You'll need a modem to communicate by telephone with other computers. The computer's signal must be 'mo-dulated' to travel the line, then 'dem-odulated' when it reaches the remote computer (hence 'modem'). You should be able to get one for little over \$100. My 2400 baud I got for \$99 so they are within range of most of us. Do not get a 300 or 1200 baud. They are too slow.

The best communication programs are probably shareware. GTPower, Telix, Qmodem, and Procomm are very good. Send \$10 to the Henry George School at the above Tujunga address and we'll send you a program ready to run on a standard 5 1/4" disk. We'll also provide some follow-up support, if you need help.

—Harry Pollard

School Notes

ARKANSAS

Ben Russell of Mountain Home has been working diligently this past year to introduce adults and high school students to the economics of Henry George. A Council for Economic Inquiry has been set up "to work with teachers and school administrators to promote the study of history, government and economics" said Mr. Russell in the January 27th issue of *The Baxter Bulletin*, a local newspaper. One of the Council's activities is sponsoring a high school essay contest. Four \$25 prizes were awarded to the winning essayist who first viewed the video-series "Understanding Economics." The Council is headed by Waco Sutterfield, superintendent of schools at Cotter High School. "Understanding Economics" has also aired on Home Cable TV. In addition, adult classes in economics have been held at Cotter High School and classes for high school juniors and seniors at Cotter and Yellville-Summit high schools.

PHILADELPHIA

Preparations continue for the grand celebration of the Sesquicentennial anniversary of Henry George's birth, highlighted by the International Conference to be held at the University of Pennsylvania from July 29th to August 6th. Classes concluded this Spring were: *Fundamental Economics* taught by Marcia Murphy, *How Wall Street Works* by Sam Gray, and *Understanding Economics* with Mike Curtis using the video series. *Applied Economics*, a follow-up to *Understanding Economics*, is now nearing completion, with students studying George's *Social Problems* and *Protection or Free Trade*. Mr. Curtis also completed another course in *Fundamental Economics* at Smyrna Prison, with student teachers Mike Kirby and Charles Williams. The Delaware Department of Corrections honored Mr. Curtis, Lindy Davies, and other teachers at an afternoon banquet on April 13th. Mr. Davies also teaches English at the University of Delaware, and recently invited Mr. Curtis to be a guest speaker and explain how the public collection of the potential rent of oil land would lower the price of petroleum products.

CHICAGO

The Illinois Georgist, newsletter of the Chicago HGS, continues to be published. Its recent issue, Volume 2, No. 1, includes many interesting items, including a "Proposal for the Improvement of Health Care Availability in the State of Illinois" in response to a move to mandate health insurance for all Illinois citizens. The Proposal advocates a minimal health insurance premium of about \$1000 financed by a land value tax: "There are about 5 million people in the State. Therefore, the cost of this program would be about \$5 billion per year. The total value of land in Illinois is about \$500 billion. So a rate of 1% on land value would produce the needed \$5 billion. A homeowner whose home sits on a \$15,000 lot would pay \$150." This issue also includes several illustrations, and a new logo based on the Chicago skyline.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Two recent classes in *Progress & Poverty* sponsored by outside groups were completed: one sponsored by a church in San Francisco, the other by a Democratic Club in Sacramento. Alanna Hartzok is teaching three classes in economics at Rose Academy, and gave a presentation with Bert Anderson at the Montclair/Greater Oakland Democratic Club. Ms. Hartzok has also been accepted as a member of the Economic Justice Subcommittee of the Episcopal Diocese of California, Department of Social Ministries, and will be facilitating economics courses throughout the diocese. Director Wendell Fitzgerald and Board Member Cathe Smeland co-authored an article published in the April edition of *Consensus*, organ of the San Francisco Greens. Entitled "Land Economics: To the Heart of the Matter", the article explains how "landowners don't create land value." In fact, "the owner of land per se does not provide anything to the economy which was not already in existence. . . Landowners do not make land available, they hold it for ransom!"

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Lucy De Silfa, Director of Escuela Henry George, has been writing a regular column since January on the editorial page of *El Liftin Diario* concerning such issues as education and the income tax. In a recent column on land reform, she cited that there is a 25 % unemployment rate in Santo Domingo, yet agricultural areas are empty since agricultural wages are only 2 to 3 pesos a day (at 6 pesos to a dollar!). This has led to much crime and begging in the city. This past year, Ms. De Silfa has also held over 15 classes in beginning and advanced economics in Santo Domingo, San Pedro, and other locations. A seminar was held for over 50 labor leaders, as well as a class for the leaders of the Partido Institucional Democratic, a new party that endorses a land value tax.

NEW YORK

Tom Wolfe's bestselling novel about New York City, *The Bonfire of the Vanities*, was the subject of a gathering at the New York School. Adult students were invited to a review of the book conducted by New York Trustee and teacher Fryda Ossias. Relating it to the theme of Progress & Poverty, Ms. Ossias focused on the pursuit of wealth as exposed by Mr. Wolfe in his social history. "It's not only about New York City," Ms. Ossias said, "it's about our society as a whole." Future book reviews of other current works of relevance have been suggested for the future.

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