

# SCHOOL NOTES

## NEW YORK

The New York State Council for the Social Studies will hold its annual meeting at the Nevele Hotel, April 2 - 4. The New York School will offer a seminar entitled, "Henry George, the Working Man and Taxes." Faculty members Barry Smith and Dave Norflus will conduct the seminar, which deals with George's ideas as they relate to the working class, homeowners and taxpayers.

## LONG ISLAND

As a result of the response the New York School has received from an outreach program which sent Georgist materials to more than 200 religious leaders, the Long Island extension has targetted a number of influential clergymembers in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Al Fink will be coordinating these activities, which will include mailing literature now being developed for this purpose in New York, as well as the information packets sent out in the first November mailings.

The Long Island program differs from previous religious outreach efforts in that it is attempting to connect with individual clerics, with an eye toward eventually focusing on the land question from the pulpit.

## BOSTON

Director Mitch Chanelis recently participated in a week-long conference sponsored by the Institute for Community Economics. The conference focused on community land trusts. Chanelis was a panelist during the conference's most important presentation, Housing: The Need for Reform, responding to a paper presented by Chester Hartman, the well-known advocate of housing reform.

## LOS ANGELES

The initial "Final Friday" debate, on the rights of animals, attracted more than 100 people to the Los Angeles Press Club last month. Plans have been announced to continue the series throughout the spring. The next program will be held on March 30, at 7:15. Call (213) 352-4141 for further details.

## PHILADELPHIA

Board member Edward J. Dodson published an article in the January 4th issue of Focus. Entitled "Creating a Better Model to Solve Urban Ills," the article examined alternative urban strategies in our current "zero sum" economic environment.

"The clear zero sum strategy for the urban center," Dodson writes, "is to greatly reduce tax levels to a point where they have a comparative advantage over suburban competitor communities."

Dodson contends that the location values of urban land offers a viable tax base for needed revenue. Moreover, it further tilts the scales away from the suburbs.

Owners of centrally-located sites, Dodson writes, would realize substantial benefits by putting their land to intensive use. In addition:

- New employment opportunities would be created.
- Land taxes would be capitalized into lower land prices.
- The cost of tax collection would drop significantly.
- Properly-assessed land would attract development based on its best economic use.