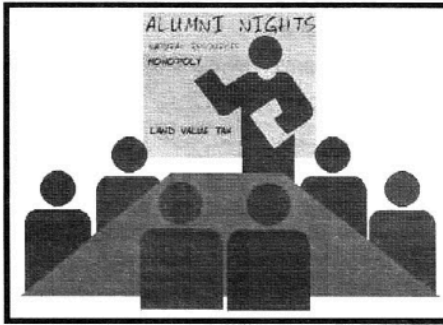


Alumni Nights

Graduates of Progress and Poverty are invited to join us for analysis, discussion and debate on contemporary economic and social issues on Alumni Nights.

Alumni Nights, to be held on the third Thursday of each month in the Student Lounge from 6-8 pm, will be led by an HGS staff person and/or instructor and each evening will be dedicated



A Living Wage continued from p.4

do not have the benefit of those interventions. And because of this all other workers in the U.S. enjoy higher wages than equally productive workers in more *laissez-faire* market countries. Now, there's a new wave of support in favor of increasing the Minimum Wage termed: *A Living Wage*.

Were such a policy implemented, what would be the effects upon the economy, unemployment and the business cycle, and how best could it be instituted? Some economists assert that any increase in wages will equally increase prices, yielding no net gains to labor (of course it would increase the cost of production) but this hypothesis totally ignores the rent of land. Many politicians say that an increase in the Minimum Wage will make the least productive workers unprofitable. The unemployed will require subsidies, and the increase in wages will be off set by an increase in taxes. And again, here again there is no cognizance of the rent of land.

It is true that Production, minus wages and interest, equals rent. Rent is definitely the surplus, but the speculative price of land is a capitalization of the expected future income. Those who want to buy, keep on bidding up the price until some land owners decide it will be more profitable not to sell. When the population increases and machines replace workers, more land should come into production. When it doesn't unemployment begins, demand diminishes and the selling price which is offered for land begins

to a special topic. Such topics may include: the ownership of natural resources, monopoly privilege and competition, free trade versus tariffs and protection, among others. From the attendees of these Alumni Nights, the School hopes to gather a core group of interested and dedicated people to form an Alumni Association. This association of Alumni might assist the School in special promotions, the creation of seminars and special projects. Please join us!

to fall. At this point rational owners of idle land would sell, and a recession would be averted.

A significant increase in the Minimum Wage would diminish the rent and the price that was offered for land that people work on. However, when the land owners don't accept the lower offers, downsizing becomes the order of the day. That is to say, a recession ensues. One solution is to peg the increase in the Minimum Wage to the increase in the G.D.P. The workers would share in the future increases in production. But there would be no reduction in the unearned income, and therefore the purchase price being offered for land.

There is already much unemployment in our cities. Without going into the long history which brought about their distressed communities, it is fair to say that the total cost of taxes already exceeds the benefits that are left in the worst of our urban areas. That's why there is no renewed investment and no jobs at many of the least desirable locations.

If we raise the Minimum Wage, other areas that are just barely profitable will become unprofitable and unemployment will increase. However, if we raise the Minimum Wage as Dan Sullivan suggests, while shifting some of our urban taxes to the value of land, the employers in distressed areas would be compensated for higher wages with lower taxes.

So, increasing the Minimum Wage in this way would definitely be an improvement in the lives of those who work, but only the Georgist program can guarantee full employment and give them the full benefits of material progress.

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UPCOMING SEMINARS



Free Trade

Mike Curtis

Friday, Sept. 14 6:30pm

What are the dynamics of international trade? Does the World Trade Organization represent workers & consumers or the largest corporations? Explore the concept of true free trade advocated by Henry George.

Friday Film Forum

Mike Curtis

Friday, Oct. 5 6:30pm

Grapes of Wrath - Classic film adaptation of the John Steinbeck novel about a family in Oklahoma during the dust bowl days. The family is uprooted from its land and forced to confront the larger economic forces of corporate finance and concentrated political power.



Zimbabwe

Dr. Nibaldo Aguilera

Friday, Nov. 2 6:30pm

In many post-Colonial African nations, the problems of land distribution are only now being addressed. HGS Trustee Dr. Nibaldo Aguilera returns from a recent trip to Zimbabwe and reports on his experiences. **To be given in Spanish on Oct. 19 at 6:30 pm.**

Noche Literaria

Ramon Alvarez

Friday, Nov. 16 6:30pm

Literature as a force for social change. A reading of poetry focusing on social concerns and economic development.