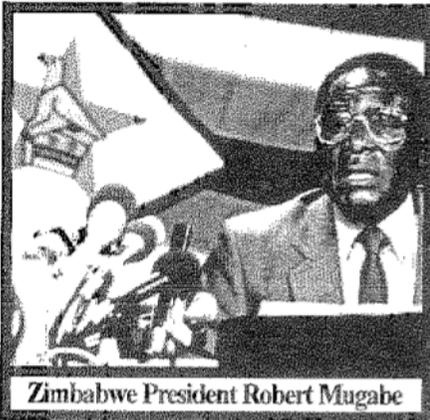


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tion is behind the redevelopment problems of most countries undertaking the struggle to throw off the yoke of colonial legacy." He further pointed out that "mere land reform itself is not the solution" and that the only real solution will come about "when land rent becomes a part of society" through its appropriation by the whole community. "It is typical of land reform historically that when land is redistributed, the peasants most often get the worst land" on which to work and eke out a living. The result



Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe

"How ridiculous is it that they have to pay to work the land?"

of that is that the peasants become sharecroppers on their own land. "How ridiculous is it that they must pay to work the land?" Dr. Aguilera asked. He added that this would also solve the problem of absentee ownership. "The absentee landowners would rush to the country in order to make the land they own more productive, in order to pay the land rent." Indeed, 200 of the farms in Zimbabwe remain unoccupied.

Dr. Aguilera further noted that he does not believe that Mugabe lacks the political will to make such a radical reform. "He only lacks the knowledge of how to go about initiating a lasting reform that would truly solve that nation's economic crisis." Dr. Aguilera hopes to return to Zimbabwe and "acquaint Mr. Mugabe" with the ideas behind true land reform.

Fall Graduation 2001

David Domke

On Friday, November 30, the School held its Fall graduation ceremony, celebrating those students who have advanced through our 3-part major course of study, the *Production and Distribution of Wealth*, comprised of the classes *Fundamental Economics*, *Applied Economics* and the *Science of Political Economy*.

This semester, there were 25 students who qualified to receive their completion certificates.

Henry George School Director of Education Mike Curtis began the proceedings by remarking, "You are to be congratulated. I'm sure that those of you who have been impressed by the power of these ideas, as I and thousands before me have, these ideas that have revealed to us the real causes behind unemployment, poverty and slums, have understood that while the road to truth is straight and narrow, the road to its implementation at times seems long and perhaps circuitous.

"For that reason, you are also to be consoled. It's ain't exactly like calling 911 or Crime Stoppers - with information leading to the ar-



Mike Curtis & Silvia Prado

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rest and conviction of a landlord."

As each of the graduates were called up to the podium and individually presented with their diplomas, they were asked to say a few words.



Pablo Salazar

Luis Avila said, "I would like to thank the staff and the School for helping us learn about the causes of the social problems that continue to plague our society." This received a strong round of applause.

Rosemary English remarked, "I have worked in the peace and social justice movement for many years but now I feel for the first time I understand economics. Reading Henry George led me to grasp the concept of economic rent."

Pablo Salazar, in his remarks in Spanish, deemed Henry George "a great philosopher, sociologist and one of the great thinkers in the field of Economics."

In conclusion, Mike cited Aristarchus of Samos (c. 270 b.c.), Copernicus and Gallieo as harbingers of truths it took a long time to accept. But he added, "one day people will wake up and no one will believe in unconditional private property in land. Congratulations and -- good luck!"

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