

"TO SMOKE, TO DRINK, TO DIE IN L.A."

Or rather, "Freedom is the Right to Choose" to do so - according to the theme of January's Final Friday Dinner/Meeting of the Alumni Group of the LA School, held at Michael's Restaurant on Los Feliz Boulevard in Hollywood. Three invited speakers addressed the issue of abusing uncontrolled substances, i.e., nicotine and alcohol: Jack Dean, Executive Director of Reason Foundation and former State Chair of the Libertarian Party; Jack De Camp, from MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving), and pilot for 31 years with United Airlines; and Roy Begley, retired advertising promoter now recruiting for the US census.

According to LA School Director Harry Pollard, it was a crowded hall and lively discussion. A new twist was introduced to the evening's proceedings: "designated hitters." These are individuals whose role is to open the question-and-answer period with "nasty opening questions" - to "go for the throat early." But, Mr. Pollard added, "it's really all great fun." This evening's designated hitters were David Byrne from Riverside, the owner of a printing firm; and Samuel E. Konkin III from Long Beach, publisher of *New Libertarian* magazine and head of the Agorist Institute.

As an introduction to the evening's topic, the Alumni Group's invitation included several interesting points: "Relatively few people die directly from controlled 'substance abuse.' It's the uncontrolled, socially acceptable (?) substances that slaughter both innocent and the guilty.... Each year, as we 'just say no' to hard drugs, close to 25,000 people die and some 500,000 are injured in alcohol related accidents. The deaths and illnesses from smoking soar into the hundreds of thousands.... More important are the thousands of deaths caused by 'second-hand' smoke - people who don't smoke but must breathe it involuntarily. May smokers invade the space of another with their smoke? Who owns the air?"

Next Final Friday will be February 23rd, again at Michael's Restaurant. The theme will take up where January left off: Hard Drugs, should they be de-criminalized?

CHICAGO BOARD RE-ELECTED

Officers and directors were re-elected at the annual meeting of the Chicago HGS Board of Trustees. Officers are: Sam Venturella, President; George Menninger, Jr., Vice-President; Robert Jene, Secretary; and Charles Metalitz, Treasurer. Directors are James W. Frederiksen and William O. Ranky.

In addition to classes held at headquarters (which began January 8th, this term), the Chicago School offers a correspondence course in Fundamental Economics and classes within a 30-mile radius to those who can bring together students and provide meeting space.

LA SCHOOL ANNOUNCES 1990 \$4000 ESSAY CONTEST

Undergraduates in Southern California are eligible to enter this year's essay contest sponsored by the LA HGS. \$4000 in prize money will be divided among the top three winners: \$2500 for first, \$1000 for second, and \$500 for third prize.



Managing the Earth's Limited Resources: Henry George's Policies as Tools is the announced topic on which entrants must submit a twenty-to-thirty-page double-spaced typewritten essay. Optional subtopics are: Can land be created or is it distinctive? How can we foster equitable and efficient use of the limited land supply? How can we accommodate growing populations and living standards with fewer demands on limited natural resources and with less pollution and insult to the environment?

Entrants will receive a packet of materials and a free copy of *Progress and Poverty* through their department or faculty sponsor. Essays must be postmarked no later than April 15th, and winners will be notified by May 15th. For more information, contact the LA school in Tujunga.

NEW DISSERTATION ON TAXING LAND VALUES

The Economic Effects of Taxing Land Values by Mary E. Edwards is an important addition to land value taxation literature. Although Edwards omits mention of George, she analyzes theories of land value taxation preceding his, from Petty and Ricardo through current economists. She does the same for taxation of improvements, which she terms "reproducible capital." The dissertation concludes with a study of Australian data to determine the effects of both tax methods on home prices, private housing rental value, consumer price indexes, and wage rates. The author finds neither method superior and recommends a combination of both. A glossary and twenty tables are included in this 171-page book. Mary E. Edwards has also been published twice in the *American Journal of Economics and Sociology* including October, 1984: "Site Value Taxation in Australia: Where Land Is Taxed More and Improvements Less, Average Housing Values and Stocks Are Higher." *The Economic Effects of Taxing Land Values* can be ordered from University Microfilms, 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. Cost including shipping is \$53.75.

-- Pat Allen
Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

LONG ISLAND WINTER/SPRING TERM BEGINS

Beginning February 27th, there will be two follow-up classes (for those who have taken *Progress and Poverty*) in *Issues and Alternatives*. This course is comparable to *Applied Economics*, but with more weight given to the themes in George's *Social Problems*. Charles Ellinger will be teaching this course at Newfield High School, and Dave Norflus at Hicksville High School.

Long Island director Stan Rubenstein continues to make regular visits to high schools, to introduce and train teachers in the use of Henry George School teaching materials. Stan, who is also Director of the HGS High School Program, spends a whole morning at a school, meeting with teachers during their free periods, with the goal of being as responsive as possible to teachers' individual concerns.