

HGS HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM MARCHES ON

New York City's Current Fiscal Crisis was the timely topic of the twenty-second annual High School Urban Workshop held at the New York HGS on April 23rd. Fifty students from high schools all over the city listened to presentations on NYC's struggle to pay its bills and how they might be affected. Jesse Benjamin, Deputy Regional Director of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, discussed the entry-level labor market in a shrinking economy. Then, in a panel discussion, two experts discussed the ways in which priorities are determined in a city's deficit budgeting. They were Lowell Harriss, Professor Emeritus of Economics at Columbia University, and Rae Rosen, Vice President of the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York. Unfortunately, M.T.A. Budget Director Gary Caplan was also scheduled to appear, but he couldn't make it.

After they were served lunch, the students returned to a thoughtful discussion on the ways in which the fiscal crisis would affect their lives. Responses from students and their teachers were appreciative.

Results are in from the High School Program's Economic Essay contest. As reported in the Jan.-Feb. *Newsletter*, the contest explored the most fundamental question of *Progress and Poverty*: the cause of poverty, and the remedy for it. Students were invited to write a one-to-two thousand word essay, comparing Henry George's views on the question of poverty with those of one of four other economists: Adam Smith, Karl Marx, J.M. Keynes, or Milton Friedman. Fifty-five entries were received from students across the country. Essays were judged by High School Program Director Stan Rubenstein, HGS Trustee Connie Weinstein, and HGS Assistant Director Lindy Davies.

Eric Shaeb, of Randolph H.S., Randolph, New Jersey, won the first prize, a \$750 U.S. savings bond, for his essay on George and Keynes. Second prize, a \$500 savings bond, went to David Schauer, from Rio Americano H.S. in Sacramento, California. The three writers whose papers were chosen for honorable mention, who each received a six-volume boxed set of George's works, were Jason Kamras, also of Rio Americano, Brenda Larsen, from Blackfoot H.S. in Blackfoot, Idaho, and Deven Patel, from Seton Hall Prep, in West Orange, NJ.

Prize money for this contest was provided by the Arnold Weinstein fund, which was set up by Connie Weinstein in memory of her late husband, the former HGS Presi-

EDITOR'S NOTES

Vandana Chak, HGS part-time faculty member, received notice on May 1st that she passed the New York Bar exam at the high grade level, giving her an automatic entry on the Washington DC Bar. Vandana previously practiced law in India. She represented the HGS at the recent U.N.D.P. forum on Global Development Challenges. Congratulations!

What They Won't Tell You About Your Taxes is the title of a fascinating 25-page booklet of Pulitzer Prize-winning editorials originally published in *The Birmingham News*. The essays describe the deplorable state of public financing in Alabama, as well as a historical overview of how things have turned out this way. The pieces are about Alabama -- but they detail processes and forces that are at work, more or less, in all fifty states. Although the proposals for reform are "mainstream" in nature, the state's inequitable property tax system is a major focus. Copies can be obtained by writing: Ron Casey, *Birmingham News*, P.O.B. 2553, Birmingham, AL 35202-2553.

Earth Ethics is a very attractive journal that promotes "Evolving Values for an Earth Community." Its Fall 1990 issue has an article and a forum on sustainable development, an essay by Mikhail Gorbachev on "The Ecological Imperative," and one by John Haught on "Cosmic Homelessness: Some Environmental Implications."

I found Haught's article especially



interesting, treating the way many religious traditions emphasize our ultimate homelessness in the universe (both Jesus and Gautama led their disciples in a life of wandering, and the Jews were told that they are sojourners, not landowners.) "How can we hold together a feeling of fully belonging to nature, while at the same time embracing the insecurity of a genuine religious movement into mystery?... The key to such a synthesis lies in the notion that the universe is itself an adventure. The idea of a cosmic adventure is able to integrate the biblical and other religious ideals of homeless searching with the environmental need to feel totally at home in nature."

Back copies of *Earth Ethics* cost \$2.50, and may be ordered from Public Resource Foundation, 1915 H Street, NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006.

The Georgist Journal this Spring gives an excellent report on the recent 19th International Conference on Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, held in London on March 21-27. David Richards's report occupies nine pages in the *Journal*. Other pieces in this issue include a review of Godfrey Dunkley's new book, *That All May Live*, and an essay on "Henry George & Free Will" by Ian Lambert. The *GJ* is edited by Robert Clancy and published by the Henry George Institute, 121 East 30th St., New York, NY 10016. Membership in the Institute is \$10/year and includes four issues of the *Journal*. It's well worth it!

The Geonomist rides again with its Spring issue (Vol. 2, No. 1). It includes a wealth of news about new and old Geonomists, progress on various public dialogue/action fronts: the Greens, Eastern Europe, Denmark, Australia, and Pennsylvania. Also included is a two-page outline on "What is Geonomics, Briefly?" The four basic imperatives are: "I. Share Earth by sharing her economic value; II. Sharing Earth makes confiscation of wealth unnecessary as it is immoral -- let producers keep earnings; III. Sharing Earth requires us to protect and collect her value -- users must pay rent, *degraders must pay extra*; and IV. Sharing Earth reduces need for government and diffuses control over government -- to fund social services, put the *budget on the ballot* and let voters decide." Amen!

The Geonomist is published by the Institute for Geonomic Transformation, headed by Jeff Smith and Gary Flo, at PO Box 157, Santa Barbara, CA 93102 (805-969-7024). They are now soliciting membership, and offer several different grades, based on different amounts of dues. Basic membership is \$15, which includes *The Geonomist* and a slogan button.

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