

SCHOOL NOTES

NEW YORK

Springfest '85 was the latest in a series of successful events sponsored by the Graduate Research Committee.

More than 100 people packed the Arnold A. Weinstein Auditorium on April 21st for a unique program which combined a piano recital, an economic discussion and a buffet dinner.

Pianist Estelle Parnas Oringer performed selections from Scarlatti, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Chopin and others during the early portion of the affair. Her crisp, sensitive renderings were extremely well-received. Particularly surprising was the room's fine acoustics, prompting the event's chairwoman, Fryda Ossias, to begin planning similar festivities.

The recital was followed by an examination of international competition in the piano-making industry. The panel included George Collins, director of the Philadelphia HGS; Judith Oringer, author of the recent book "Passion for the Piano"; and William Davidson, NY school trustee.

A buffet dinner followed in the school's lounge.

Panelist Judith Oringer summed up Springfest '85: "The Henry George School was a perfect backdrop for this event: from the elegant hall and building, to the casual dining room, to the hard-working staff."

Contact Elizabeth Reeves, coordinator, to find out more about the Graduate Research Committee (212 697-9880).

PHILADELPHIA

"Understanding Economics", the 12-part television series co-produced by the Philadelphia school, has livened up the classrooms this semester at the birthplace. It joins Fundamental Economics as a basic course, and board-member Ed Dodson is teaching.

Another videotape figures prominently in Philadelphia-area activities this spring. "A Tale of Five Cities", the documentary produced by the Center for Public Dialogue, has been shown "to great effect", according to director George Collins.

The mayor and city council of Chester, PA saw the film and were "highly impressed." In New Castle, Delaware, County Executive Rita Justice was "very receptive" to the LVT message and predicted further attention at the county level.

Significantly, the city of Wilmington, Delaware appointed a Tax Study Commission with a specific mandate to study the implications of LVT. City Council President Jim Baker, who also chairs the commission, saw the film and was "strongly in favor" of the proposal. Furthermore, he declared that the commission would not "drag its feet and then issue a report that will be filed and forgotten." To that end he commissioned Steve Cord to perform an impact study in the city of Wilmington (which is now underway), and to report favorably on the proposal in the budget which is due in June.

Finally, 300 members of the Fairmont Taxpayers Association watched the film and applauded vigorously. Their president then urged them to join with similar groups and follow through in support of LVT as an alternative to assessment appeals and as a weapon against gentrification.

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LOS ANGELES - "Community or Individual -- Who's on First?" was the topic of last month's Final Friday session at the LA Press Club. City Managers Judy Weiss (Pasadena) and Donald H. Otterman (La Canada/Flintridge) joined with John McKenna, zoning administrator of Glendale, and various Georgists, free marketers and friends for a round table discussion on intercity cooperation and conflict.

ARDEN ACTIVITIES - Several Georgist presentations were made by director Mike Curtis to alternative groups through the efforts of HG alumni liason Jim Joiner. In addition, economics classes have recently been completed at Smyrna Prison.

SAN FRANCISCO - Has produced a beautiful full-color brochure describing their activities and the philosophy of Henry George, and which invites newcomers to send for course information, more information on George, arrange a talk for their organizations, or contribute. It is a fine piece of work.

CABLE TELEVISION - The 12-part series "Understanding Economics" is now appearing on Homeview Cable TV in these Pennsylvania areas: Doylestown, King of Prussia and Perkiomen. The series will air until July. Promotional announcements for UE were broadcast on WFLN Radio in the Philadelphia vicinity.

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