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#### EDITORIAL

Between Cuba and Puerto Rico lies the island of Hispaniola, shared by Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Since the time of Columbus, the Dominicans have witnessed surges of domination and intervention by foreign powers, be it the lasting impact of Spain, the onslaught of Haitian troops, or the economic influence of the United States. Because of this, and the dictatorial rule of Rafael Trujillo, Dominican society has suffered extensively and fought desperately to overcome severe handicaps.

It is little wonder, then, that communist ideology poses a real threat to this island and others like it. The country shows the classic signs of a "progress and poverty" society, signs portending change — radical change.

Having recently visited the Dominican Republic, I was awed by the abject poverty of most of the people in contrast to the isolated pockets of affluence. Children begging in the streets of Santo Domingo (the capital city which contains about 30 percent of the population) are among the images that will last forever. Shacks along the waterways that are mere shells of homes. People sitting in the street with nothing to do.

And at the same time, vast acres of untilled, unworked land.

Recognizing the urgency for change, thousands of students have flocked to classes of the Henry George School during the last 15 years. Hungry for alternatives to the familiar programs of austerity and governmental influence, these students recognize the essentials of a healthy economy. They know that George's approach can help them shed the burdens of poverty and starvation and escape from the vise-like claws of the International Monetary Fund.

As land remains untaxed and the few buildings taxed, revenue obtained falls heavily on the poor and the middle class. As a healthy agricultural base continues to stall, tens of thousands flock to the capitol, worsening the problem.

Time is running out in this part of our hemisphere, even as it becomes evident that the Georgist alternative offers the best hope of survival.

It is a testament to the validity of Henry George's theories that more people than ever are looking to his solution in this troubled Caribbean nation. We salute Escuela Henry George director Lucy de Silva for her continued efforts to inform and educate. Those who learn may save the country.

--Stan Rubenstein