

## The Harbour League Articles



### Maryland's Desperate Need for Dialog

By: Eli M. Gold

In a local newspaper article highlighting *The Harbour League* I was quoted accurately criticizing Governor Ehrlich for not promoting conservatism enough in Maryland. Not only did he not promote the cause, but rather once he lost the re-election, the governor was quoted as saying something along the lines of "*Given the trend lines here ... there's not a place for someone with my views in political life in Maryland*".

How Defeatist!!!

Here is an e-mail I received from a Harbour League member following a press release from *Americans for Tax Reform* President and *THL* Board Member, Grover Norquist, regarding the democrat's and their proposed tax increases at the federal level.

I sent out the press release with the following header:

*"The following affects all Marylanders as well and every other tax paying citizen in the country."*

And this is what I received in return:

*"Eli, WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO!!! I've called our senators and even written to the President. The senators ignore me and I received a form letter from someone who works for the President. I didn't vote for Democrats in Maryland or national government.*

*My husband and I are moving out of Maryland soon and going to Bedford, PA. At least Pennsylvania still doesn't tax retirement income.*

*This state is HORRIBLE and it's because of the Democrats. I can't fight the stupidity of the average voter any longer."*

What I have found to work in other states, which is why I am certain it will work here in Maryland, is to *educate* the public. It will take time and effort from all conservatives and free market minded people here, but it can be done.

What I have come to realize is not that people *want* to stay home from the polls, but rather it is so ingrained in them that Maryland is liberal state, that there is this feeling of futility. Hence the quote from Former Gov. Ehrlich "*Given the trend lines here ... there's not a place for someone with my views in political life in Maryland*".

If we take the time to educate people about the issues in a personal manner, then when they get to the polls they *will* at least make an educated decision when voting and they will make certain to actually get out to vote.

Here in Maryland all people are hearing are the left side of the issues. All they hear is that rather than thinking up a solution on how to accommodate everyone, we just make new law that expand Government and inconvenience citizens.

Because there of a few who are offended by second hand smoke we must ban smoking in bars and restaurants rather than figuring out a way to accommodate all. To quote John Stossel: "*When both owners and customers are okay with it, can't it be their choice? Can't smokers have their own bars?*" And I add, "Without having to win a government lottery or paying a fee to the city or state?"

...And do we really have to raise taxes by \$1 on an already overtaxed legal product?

-Or-

Rather, Baltimore city banning Air and BB guns because, according to City Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke,

They're being used in a disruptive way, in a dangerous way, they're also being used as ... a weapon to someone being robbed. It appears to be a real gun, but it's not. But it has the same effect.

...And just one more example,

I recently heard on the radio an ad regarding health care for the uninsured. In the ad you hear a conversation between a man and woman discussing the Health Insurance tax of about \$1000/annually per policy. Our premiums have to cover for those who are uninsured. So what is the answer given in the ad?

Talk your state legislators about expanding Medicaid for those 800,000 uninsured Marylanders. That will certainly reduce our quote unquote "health insurance tax".

That is absurd, people need to stop for minute and ask, and who ultimately pays for expanded Medicaid?

Now I understand it is a hard job, especially now that our governing body is pretty much all democrat from governor on down.

What I and *The Harbour League* would like to see is the creation a constant forum in our Maryland communities to educate people. Not to point at the liberals and say "they are idiots". But rather to say "hey you know those tax increases (i.e. Gas Tax, or sales tax on services) that are being proposed, we can actually, accomplish the same by cutting taxes. ...and explain how it can be done. Show examples of the Bush tax cuts...

Due to the Bush tax-cuts, during the period from 2001-2005, there has been a tax savings totaling \$8.733 billion. This translates into average annual tax savings per Maryland tax-filer of \$1,744.19. What is vital to remember, is that even after these tax cuts, there was a total increase in federal tax revenue of \$6.25 billion since 2003 alone.

Even in "Liberal" NYC Mayor Bloomberg got a \$1 billion tax-cut package passed that would reduce property taxes, eliminate the sales tax on clothing and footwear and slash some business taxes.

There was an article recently in the *Baltimore Sun* saying that it is because of what this state spends on Health Care (Medicaid) and on Education, in conjunction with Glendening's Tax cuts, that there is this "Structural Deficit". Why not educate the public on exactly how much this state spends on education per pupil (\$10,773) or that 40% (according to the *Baltimore Sun*) of the budget is spent on education or why we need health care reform and show that we do not need tax increases, but rather *reform* to cover any deficit.

*The Harbour League* recently had an event featuring well-known columnist and Hoover Institute fellow, *Deroy Murdock*. The topic of his talk was racism in politics. The idea was to highlight the many ways that special programs

geared to minorities are nothing more than racist. One example Deroy used was the following:

Perhaps the most pernicious treatment blacks get from liberals and Democrats is the patronizing way we are treated when it comes to racial preferences.

Look, for example, at the entrance exam for the Lowell Academy in San Francisco. This selective government high school's admissions test had a perfect score of 69 points. Students of Chinese descent needed at least 62 points to pass. Whites and "other Asians" required 58 points for admission. Meanwhile, blacks and Hispanics could gain entrance with just 53 points.

How degrading.

How condescending.

How racist.

Who the Hell were San Francisco's liberal educrats to judge blacks and Hispanics intellectually inferior to other students? And were all these Chinese applicants brilliant? Surely a *few* of them were average, or worse.

This unconstitutional abomination was ditched in the 2000 - 2001 academic year after Chinese students sued and won their claim that their 14th Amendment equal-protection rights had been violated.

This talk was just about the time when our legislature started discussing the possibility of issuing an apology to African Americans for Maryland's role in slavery.

Here is a sample e-mail I received from a young woman following this last event.

Last weeks talk was great, I appreciated his discussion of the large ways in which hidden and not so hidden racism has such a negative impact, and how important it is to think through the consequences of policy...

The need for dialog is there, we just have to grab hold of it and utilize it to our advantage. That is how Governor Ehrlich got elected and had an unbelievably high approval rating when leaving office. It can be done, but not

without persistence and the help of each and conservative and free-market Delegate, Senator and citizen of this potentially great state.

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