

BUSINESS

O'Malley Joins Top Indian Business Group, Announce Plans for Maryland-India Center

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

India-based Jasco Nutri Foods announces plans for Maryland location, potential for 100 new jobs; Maryland companies Electro-Media Design and CyberPoint International announce joint ventures

NEW DELHI, INDIA (December, 2011) – Wrapping up a six-day trade mission to India in the Indian capital of New Delhi, Governor Martin O'Malley addressed the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) – the oldest and largest business organization in India – and joined in the signing of an agreement that would create an India-Maryland Center in Maryland. The Center would be operated by FICCI and seek to boost trade between Maryland and India. FICCI officials also announced that the business organization would lead a delegation to Maryland in April 2012 and focus on establishing partnerships in biotechnology, renewable energy and infrastructure.

"Our mission to India has been a great success in terms of the new partnerships we've established, the new doors we've opened for job creation, trade and investment, and the many Maryland companies who have signed deals with our Indian partners," said Governor O'Malley. "We look forward to moving forward on a Maryland-India Center to

increase imports and exports between our two regions, strengthen ties in shared industries like biotechnology and IT, and welcome an Indian delegation to Maryland next year."

"The signing of the agreement with FICCI and Maryland will foster greater cooperation between the private sectors of our two regions," said Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Secretary General of FICCI. "FICCI also plans to set up an India Center in Maryland which will be a place for businesses from India and Maryland to interact and offer connectivity and facilitation for networking for joint ventures, tech transfers and co-production across sectors."

As part of today's events, Governor O'Malley announced that Jasco Nutri Foods, an India-based manufacturer and exporter of organic food products, plans to invest \$10 million in opening a facility on a 1,500 acre location yet to be determined in Maryland. The plans for the location will be finalized over the next two months, but the new facility could generate up to 100 jobs when operational.

CyberPoint International, LLC, a Baltimore-based global provider of cyber security products, solutions, and services, and Appin Security Group, a leading global information security solutions and training provider in New Delhi, announced today they have signed an agreement to jointly develop new enterprise-level security solutions for mobile devices. Building on the collec-

issues discussed during today's event was the impact that sequestration would have on the Pentagon budget and our national security as a whole. The main concern was the failure of the Joint Select Committee to put forward a plan for deficit reduction, and there was broad agreement that across-the-board reductions that may take place in 2013 would have serious consequences to our nation. Congressman Hoyer continues to work with the Administration and Members of

Hoyer from A1

ensuring that our military has every resource it needs to support our national security efforts both at home and abroad. I want to commend these community leaders for their commitment to our military through their support of these very critical installations. Without their partnership outside the gate, the mission of all our men and women in uniform would become much more difficult."

One of the most pressing

Bars from A1

while the liquor board developed regulations for the new permits.

The requirement for beefed up security plans could force some venues to hire off-duty police officers and install extra security cameras in parking lots.

"If someone has a security plan and they follow it, the hope is that it will ensure all the people who are impacted by the establishment will feel more secure because it will create a more stable environment," said county liquor board chairman Franklin D. Jackson. Vaughn said he hopes the new measures will prevent future violence at nightclubs and bars, but said he did not "have a crystal ball."

"What I am confident in is that we are taking steps and

measures to that goal, to try to provide a safe environment for people who want to be entertained at night," he said.

Music, Sports & Games (MSG) closed after 20-year-old Jasmine Banks was shot and killed on Aug. 8, 2011. College Park's Thirsty Turtle closed for business in November 2010 after the stabbing of three University of Maryland students. The liquor board revoked the Thirsty Turtle's liquor license.

The county stands to benefit financially from the new permits. Approximately 120 restaurants in the county will be required to obtain a permit if they want to continue providing nighttime entertainment, according to a state analysis of the measure. If all apply and are approved, the permits would bring in \$180,000 each



PHOTO BY E
Governor Martin O'Malley addressed the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry – the oldest and largest business organization in India – and joined in the signing of an agreement that would create an India-Maryland Center in Maryland.

tive strengths of their existing products and services, CyberPoint and Appin will collaborate on critical research and development aimed at filling some of the critical enterprise-level security gaps in the commercial mobile marketplace. The deal is expected to create new jobs in both Baltimore and New Delhi, and generate new revenue opportunities valued at \$10 million.

And, Electro-Media Design Ltd., a Gaithersburg-based company that specializes in consulting and design services in event technology and acoustics for meeting and entertainment facilities, is partnering with ITC Hotels, one of India's premier hotel chains, to provide contemporary design services for TC's conference, event, and entertainments venues for their new properties and existing hotels, supporting ITC's sustainable and green

Congress to urge a plan for deficit reduction, rather than allowing sequestration to take effect.

In his remarks, Congressman Hoyer also recognized that this year marks the 100th anniversary of naval aviation: "All three of the facilities represented here today touch naval aviation. Pax River is now the center for naval aviation, with the NAVAIR systems command headquarters located there – the premier center for buying, researching, testing and developing naval air-

craft. Andrews, while well known for the important role it plays in supporting the Air Force for executive transport, houses a Navy component which plays a vital role in supporting our national security. Finally, Indian Head plays an important role in ensuring the safety of every military pilot flying in combat today. I am proud of the very significant roles this region has played in naval aviation, and the role these alliances outside the gate play which are crucial to their success."

are unnecessary for bars that are already following the rules.

"There's a lot of bars that have been maintaining themselves and keeping things calm and correct themselves," Ketter said.

Before the new law, some restaurants and bars were required to submit security plans to the liquor board for review.

"This law is probably more comprehensive in that all businesses that have special entertainment have to submit the security plans. Before, not everyone had to," Jackson said.

Vaughan said the expansion was necessary to put a stop to violence outside of restaurants and nightclubs. "Any time an act of violence breaks out, one time is too many," Vaughan said. "It's never okay."

But Renee Ketter, manager of Hideaway, a bar-restaurant in Clinton, said the new rules

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Business Exchange
by William Reed



Let's Stop Saving Africa

The way America has been "saving Africa" is racist, heavy-handed and condescending. When will African Americans put a stop to practices that carry all the tenor and tone of an "imperialist power" taking locals to the cleaners?

We need a reset from the paradigm put in place over the last 15 years by predominately White Christian and Jewish coalitions. Their practices have resulted in more than 3 million lives lost and a formal division of Africa's largest country into what is now Sudan and Southern Sudan. Leading up to Southern Sudan's secession, President Barack Obama offered the North: full diplomatic ties, lifting of economic sanctions, and removal from the list of countries listed as sponsors of terrorism for compliant in the referendum. Helping to farther the world's 193rd country may come back to haunt President Obama.

After the South's vote, Sudan's Foreign Minister Ali Karti sought out U.S. officials to lift the sanctions. "We have delivered what we promised ... and want all sanctions to be lifted," Karti said. But it seems that he is going to find it difficult collecting on the Obama promise. The North's problem is the image it has allowed the people "saving Sudan" to spawn for them. The Khartoum government has been accused of every evil atrocity against mankind, including slavery practices, ethnic cleansing and genocide; now, the Obama team is saying that Khartoum is the source of bombings of refugees and camps in South Sudan; so, it's no surprise that Obama and his staffers trot out the same old tripe. "Khartoum's practices have not yet improved enough to warrant their removal."

Sanctions are "an act of war", and Obama has shown he plans to continue that haughty attitude with the Sudanese. The debate is an old one; a result of two civil wars between the North and South for all but 15 years of Sudan's independence. Ostensibly to "save" starving Africans, coalitions of predominately White humanitarian and religious groups have engineered numerous "interventions" in Sudan. These "interventions" have mostly involved getting lots of land with oil on it. Sadly, many African Americans bought into the flim flam. Before being proven fraudulent, the Sudan Slave Redemption Industry

deception garnered millions of donations "to obtain freedom for fellow human beings." The "slave redemption" trick mobilized a "pariah" public opinion status for Sudan and billions of dollars and legislation to continue the conflicts in its borders. The Congressional Sudan Caucus has had great success passing legislation benefiting rebels in the South.

For Black Americans, there are two conflicting currents in the issue of Southern Sudan. Many African-American Muslims espouse a religious solidarity with the government of Omar Hassan al-Bashir and say, "Western forces are conspiring to undermine Islam." On the opposite side is mainly Black Christian leaders like the Rev. Al Sharpton and talk-show host Joe Madison, who've advocated the overthrow of the North since the 1990s. So who among us is going to push the Obama administration to lift sanctions? Even Southern Sudan officials want the U.S. to remove the economic sanctions so that the south's oil exports won't suffer financially when they move through northern Sudan's oil pipelines. Obama's current order maintains several sets of U.S. sanctions imposed since 1997 which restrict trade and investment with Sudan. As would be expected, Sudan's foreign ministry condemns the extension of the sanctions. Foreign Minister Karti said he'd hoped the peaceful conduct of the secession vote would provide an opening for economic opportunities for his country. "The sanctions imposed by the U.S. administration are political sanctions and are aimed at damaging Sudan's vital interests by hindering development ambitions," said Karti.

The African American impact on Africa should be better and more positive. The African-American U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice has been biased against Khartoum for decades, and is a well-known opponent of President al-Bashir. Rice and Obama head a racist American practice towards Africans that deploy a coercive type of diplomacy, one full of threats, unrealistic demands and promises of incentives that revive images of old colonialists.

(William Reed is available for speaking/seminar projects via BaileyGroup.org)

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

"Friends with Benefits"

FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS
Grade: B+
Rating: R
pervasive harsh profanity and graphic sexual dialogue, a lot of sexual situations, some nudity
1 hr., 48 min

Mila Kunis plays Jamie, a corporate headhunter described by her ex-boyfriend as "emotionally damaged." Justin Timberlake is Dylan, described by his ex-girlfriend as "emotionally unavailable." Miss Damaged and Mr. Unavailable meet when Jamie recruits Dylan for a top position at GQ Magazine, and this professional interaction -- and the fact that Dylan doesn't know anyone else in New York -- leads to an easy friendship.



PHOTO COURTESY ROTTENTOMATOES

Dylan (Justin Timberlake) and Jamie (Mila Kunis) think it's going to be easy to add the simple act of sex to their friendship, despite what Hollywood romantic comedies would have them believe. They soon discover however that getting physical really does always lead to complications. -- (C) Sony

When they do finally sleep together, it's only after the movie has established a friendship between them that feels remarkably authentic. Their jokey rapport resembles that of the 30-year-olds in your own life, with the fresh aroma of natural, unscripted camaraderie. Do you have any Generation-Y age friends who are funny? Then they probably converse the way Dylan and Jamie do.

This is crucial to the film, which would be a disaster otherwise. We believe Dylan and Jamie are friends, and we believe that neither wants a romantic relationship with the other (or with anyone), and we believe that they believe they can really have casual sex without strings becoming attached. What sounded like a cheap and shallow premise on paper is actually a fleshed-out and convincing story.

Timberlake and Kunis are marvelous together, both absurdly good-looking and

charming, yet somehow also down-to-earth and accessible. The movie not only makes you feel like you're hanging out with a couple of fun friends for two hours, it also makes you feel like you could actually be friends with Justin Timberlake and Mila Kunis, which of course you cannot.

They are aided immeasurably by three supporting performances. Patricia Clarkson is a whirlwind of comedy as Jamie's flaky and free-spirited sexpot mother. Woody Harrelson is Dylan's enthusiastically lascivious gay co-worker who defies most of the "gay best friend" rom-com stereotypes. And the indispensable Richard Jenkins manages to bring real heart to a treacherous role: Dylan's father, his role model, now suffering from Alzheimer's.

Certain things are required in a movie like this, even one that's savvy enough to know that it's a movie like this. That means Dylan and Jamie's friendship must be imperiled by their intimacy, that they must have a fight, that one must rush to reconcile with the other in a public place. You can't avoid every cliché, and maybe you don't need to. Most romantic comedies are based on the premise of keeping two people who are obviously in love from realizing they're in love. In this case, we can buy Dylan and Jamie's reluctance to face facts, and we get a lot of laughs in the process of seeing them figure it out.

[Reprinted from Film.com.]

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

NBA Lockout Ends and Players Get Played

The news blared with the electric intensity of a Black Friday taser. The NBA is back, baby! A 66 game season! Returning on Christmas Day, no less! As former journalist and current NBA talking-head Michael Wilbon cheered, "The league couldn't stage a more satisfying comeback. Even if those games are all moved to TNT, I'll feel the same way about the Christmas Day return."

There were those bitter adversaries, NBA Commissioner David Stern and National Basketball Players Association Executive Director Billy Hunter, grinning ear-to-ear, discarding their suit jackets and wearing bunched, seasonal sweaters from the Heathcliff Huxtable collection. Stern was smiling so wide, it appeared that if you poked his middle, he'd giggle like he was Poppin' Fresh. Hunter, no doubt feeling relieved that he at least fought off a "hard cap" and other demands from ownership, was clearly in the holiday spirit as well. Only NBPA President and LA Lakers co-captain Derek Fisher, wearing a suit, not a sweater, his eyes bleary from the marathon bargaining session, resembled someone who'd just endured one of the more bitter sports/labor negotiations in history. He looked like he'd just emerged from a Turkish prison.

Judging by facial expressions alone, I'm going to stand with Fisher on this one. Forget the cuddly sweaters. Ignore President Obama's personal "good deal" thumbs up. Disregard the avalanche of tweets from your favorite star player about how excited they are to get back to work. The players were dunked on and Stern is wagging his tongue while hanging from the rim. If you ignore the bells and whistles and wipe away the confetti, we have what at the bottom line is a massive transfer of wealth from players to owners: three billion dollars over the next decade to be more precise. Three billion extracted from those we pay to see, to those who have spent the last twenty years treating fans and taxpayers like the cowering abused partners we are.

For those interested in the finer points of the proposed "amnesty provision" for releasing players or the "stretch clause", please search elsewhere although I will say that giving teams the right to invalidate guaranteed contracts is a severe concession for the union to make. It also will do more to help big-market teams that spend carelessly than the much discussed poor, small markets squads. In other words, there is nothing in this Collective Bargaining Agreement that changes the basic contours for reaching a championship: teams that draft well and manage their cap will thrive no matter the size of their region (see San Antonio and Oklahoma City), and teams that spend blindly (the Knicks and Nets) or are owned by people proud to be stupid (the Kings or the Suns) will suffer. The deal won't make LeBron's sphincter unclench in the playoffs and it won't make Carmelo play defense. It won't make Kobe any younger or Bynum any healthier. The league will still be The League. There are no promises that the owners will plow this newfound lucre into their teams. In fact, there are now greater restraints on spending than before. There are no assurances that any funds will be earmarked for coaches or scouts. There are no announcements that any of these savings will translate into lower ticket prices or NBA Package discounts for fans. All it means is that the owners have received a financial windfall because they own and we don't. Now Donald Sterling, owner of the LA Clippers, can buy some more slums. Now Phil Anschutz, minority-boss of the Lakers, can keep fighting the teaching of evolution in schools. Now Dick Devos of the Orlando Magic can give even more generously to Focus on the Family. Now every shadowy Koch Brothers/Karl Rove political outfit that takes unlimited contributions will get a serious windfall just in time for the 2012 elections. Break out the bubbly.

This should sting every player because coming off a year with record revenues, they should have been getting more and instead they took historic cuts. Instead their contracts are now not fully guaranteed. Instead they are weakened. They are weakened even though they are the game. For the millions who paid good money to watch the Chicago Bulls player Michael Jordan soar, no one ever paid a cent to see the Charlotte Hornets owner Michael Jordan molt. Athletes are different than typical workers and not just because their paychecks tower over our own. They are different because they fulfill the roles in production as both workers and product. They are the shoemaker and the shoe. Or as former Washington football great Brian Mitchell said to me, "In a restaurant, a chef cooks a steak. In sports, we are the chef and we are the steaks."

For 15 years, young stars picked in the draft's first round have seen their salaries constrained. Derrick Rose, the NBA's 21-year-old MVP, has the 126th highest salary in the league. On an open market, he would make maybe five times his current income. There are also new provisions, still to be finalized, on raising the age of eligibility and whether owners will have the power to send players to their developmental league, along with dramatic salary reductions. Still, expect the players to approve it, because in the end, players average six years in the league. Giving up 1/6 of the expected earnings for your entire life, was not an option.

I understand that, but it didn't have to be this way. This deal is just all so very pre-Occupancy Wall Street. I wish more players had spoken out and not let David Stern's PR machine define them as "greedy millionaires, insensitive to the public's suffering in these hard economic times." I wish more had directly raised the issues of Occupancy Wall Street, like 11 year veteran Etan Thomas who wrote, "While the issues raised by the Wall Street occupiers differ from the issues of this lockout, aren't there obvious parallels in power imbalance? Who is in the same position of power as the 1 percent? Who wants a bailout for their own mismanagement decisions? Who is more closely aligned with the corporate interests from which the Wall Street occupiers are looking to reclaim the country?"

I wish they had taken their fight out of the boardroom and into the public sphere. Make no mistake, I'm an NBA junkie and I'm thrilled to be watching ball sooner rather than later. But with every game of this warped, bastardized 66 game season, I'll remember that we had a lockout where the rich got richer, the players got played and the fans didn't get a damn thing.

Firefighters Help to Distribute 300 Coats for Kids

By MARK BRADY
PGC/EMS Press Information

Members of the Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department joined with the County Homeless Education Office, Department of Social Services, students from the University of Maryland, and Operation Warm today, Wednesday, November 30, in distributing 300 new coats designated for underprivileged children. Career, civilian and volunteer members of the Department worked side-by-side with staff and volunteers from the other organizations to fill requests for the new coats. The event was held at Heroes Hall at the Branchville Volunteer Fire/EMS Department in College Park. Career and volunteer firefighter/medics from Branchville, College Park, Berwyn Heights and Greenbelt assisted at the charitable event. Three hundred pre-identified public school children will receive a winter coat this year through the Operation Warm program. Staff from the Homeless Education Office pre-identified the families in need of these coats and selected the coats at

today's event and then delivered them to the children. This event will be the distribution of new coats to staff to deliver to children at various locations throughout Prince George's County. Operation Warm, Inc. is one of the nation's largest nonprofit providers of new winter coats to children in need. Operation Warm melds its core values of accountability, excellence, integrity, innovation, respect and teamwork with the strength of its community network to reach children across the country. Our vision is that every child wearing a new winter coat is healthy, able to attend school regularly and develop a strong self-esteem. Since its inception, more than 775,000 children have received the gift of warmth, a new winter coat. Along with Coats for Kids Foundation (Combined Federal Campaign #52316), a service of Operation Warm, Inc. we will serve our MILLIONTH child by year's end-a momentous milestone.

Fire Chief Marc S. Bashor was among those today helping to fill the bags with orders for boys or girls coats with the requested size. He stated, "We are excited to work with Operation Warm and assist in

the selection and distribution of coats. This is our first year working with this generous organization and I look forward to this becoming an annual event."

1-800-Boardup helped to start the event by donating \$300

to Operation Warm. Hugh Owen made the presentation on behalf of his company and looks forward to an even bigger donation next year. Three Brothers Restaurant donated ten pizzas for the workers and the Branchville Bingo donated soda and snacks.



Calendar of Events

December 15 - December 21, 2011

25th Annual Winter Festival of Lights

Dates & Times: Friday, November 25, 2011 through Sunday, January 1, 2012 5-9:30 pm (daily)

Description: You won't want to miss this season's spectacular drive-through displays! Featuring more than a million twinkling lights, the 25th Annual Winter Festival of Light is a joyful event for everyone. Please bring a canned good with you for donation to local food banks.

Cost: \$5/cars and vans; \$15/mini-buses and limos; \$25/buses; \$10/multi-visit passes for cars and vans. The festival is FREE on December 25.

Ages: All ages

Location: Watkins Regional Park
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20774
Contact: 301-699-2456; TTY 301-699-2544

PUBLICLY PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES 2011-2012 DANCE SEASON

CHEVERLY, MD—The Publicly Playhouse 2011-2012 season includes national and international dance performances, beginning with The Philadelphia Dance Company's PHILADANCO on Friday, November 18 at 8 pm, in a leggy jet-propelled performance with soul that celebrates the company's 40th anniversary. On Friday, January 6, at 8 pm, the Playhouse hosts the international tour of the Russian National Ballet Theatre in a classical full-length presentation of "Cinderella" that is full of humor and features a large Russian company trained in the Bolshoi and Kirov traditions.

Saturday, February 4 at 8 pm, Nimbaya! Women Master Drummers and Dancers of Guinea make the Playhouse the only Washington area stop on their first American tour in several years. Formerly called "Amazones", these exciting, energetic artists are celebrated throughout Africa for breaking social barriers to women's independence by performing the dances and playing the instruments that for centuries were restricted to men.

In April, Dallas Black Dance Theatre returns for their annual Playhouse residency with a new program of feisty, fearless and fiery modern dance performances on Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28 at 8 pm and Sunday, April 29 at 4 pm.

Tickets to each of the four dance companies in this series are \$20, or \$15/seniors, students, DancePass, and groups of 15 or more. There's also an advance ticket savings of half price for one dance company when buying all four prior to November 18.

Area dancers are also part of the season. On Sunday, February 26, at 4 pm, the annual liturgical dance festival PRAISE! features gospel singer Cora Harvey Armstrong of Richmond and exceptional dance troupes from area churches. Saturday, March 17 at 8 pm, the 10th annual World Dance Showcase highlights the broad cultural richness and talent found in our nation's capitol. Tickets for each of these programs are \$12; \$10/seniors and students.

Young dancers are on stage at Bust a Move with Café Groove on Friday, March 2 from 7-10pm, when teens battle for cash prizes and the title of "Prince George's Best Dance Crew", with teen-only admission for \$3. And Sunday, March 4, at 4 pm, the Love 2 Dance Teen Showcase presents hot talent from area schools and studios. Tickets: \$12; \$10/seniors and students

Dance Classes with visiting artists include Nimbaya! workshops on Saturday, February 4, with a Drum Workshop at 10 am and an African Dance Workshop at 12 noon for drummers and dancers age 13 and up; fee: \$15/class. On April 25 and 26 from 7:30-9 pm Dallas Black Dance Theatre offers their annual Master Classes in Modern Dance for advanced dancers on Wednesday, and Liturgical Dance Workshop for intermediate and advanced dancers on Thursday; fee \$15/class or observer. Also, Big Girls Dance Workshops are being held during National Fitness Month, with an African dance workshop on Tuesday, May 8 from 6:30-8 pm, and a Belly Dance Workshop on Thursday, May 10 from 6:30-8 pm; free/one workshop per person, with advance registration required.

The Playhouse is a facility of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Department of Recreation, Arts and Cultural Heritage Division.

For more information, call 301-277-1710 or visit arts.pgpc.com

Annual Festival of Trees Celebration

Date and Time: Through Monday, January 2
Gallery hours: Monday-Thursday 9 am-9 pm; Friday 9 am-7 pm; Saturday 9 am-5 pm; CLOSED Sundays

Description: Once again, Huntington takes the time to honor the environment through creative recycling. This winter exhibition showcases handmade trees and recycled arts by various community artists.

Cost: FREE Ages: All ages

Location: *Huntington Community Center*
13022 8th Street, Bowie 20720
Contact: 301-464-3725; TTY 301-218-6768

Concert: Donna's Dance

Date and Time: Saturday, December 17, 8 pm

Event Description: Donna's Dance, a fabulous long-time studio training ground for young people in the Southern Maryland area, will present a slate of current young dancers in a holiday dance recital. Using music familiar to all, the dancers will showcase various styles of dance. Don't miss out on this festive holiday special!

Ages: All ages

Fee: \$20/general admission; \$15/seniors & students

Location: *Arts/Harmony Hall Regional Center*
10701 Livingston Road, Ft. Washington 20744
Information: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-203-3803

1st Annual Winter Wonderland at Harmony Hall

Date & Time: Saturday, December 17, 1-3 pm

Description: Join us for this fun and festive holiday event. Spend an afternoon exploring and learning about the holiday traditions of Kwanzaa, Hanukkah and Christmas. Enjoy games, music, photo ops, and much more!

Cost: Resident \$5; Non-Resident \$6

Ages: 5-12

Location: *Harmony Hall Regional Center*
10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington 20744
Contact: 301-203-6040; TTY 301-203-6030

EARTH TALK ... Slow money."

Dear EarthTalk:

I've heard of the slow food movement, but what is "slow money" all about?

-- Phil Nimkoff,
New York, NY

"Slow Money" is the name for a movement started by socially conscious investing pioneer and author, Woody Tasch, who essentially borrowed the conceptual framework of "Slow Food"—whereby participants eschew convenience-oriented "fast" foods, instead filling up their plates with traditional, unprocessed and, ideally, locally produced foods—and applied it to personal finance and investing. As such, Slow Money is dedicated to connecting investors to their local economies by marshaling financial resources to invest in small food enterprises and local food systems.

Tasch's vision for Slow Money, now not just a concept but also a non-profit organization, seeks nothing less than a complete overhaul of the way we think about and spend our money, channeling much more of it into producing healthy local food, strengthening local communities instead of multinational corporations, and restoring our flagging economy in the process. Instead of venture capital bankrolling far flung high tech start-ups, Tasch hopes to see "nurture capital" funding local merchants and producers who, in turn, plug half of their profits back into their communities, ensuring one small local virtuous circle that values soil fertility, carrying capacity, a sense of place, care of the commons, diversity, nonviolence, and cultural, ecological and economic health as

much as financial return. Tasch hopes to get there by persuading a million Americans to invest at least one percent of their assets in local food systems by 2020.

Tasch started Slow Money in November 2008 after the publication of his book, *Inquiries into the Nature of Slow Money: Investing as if Food, Farms and Fertility Mattered*. Hitting the road to promote the book and the nascent movement in 2009, he was able to attract 450 intrigued investors, farmers and other entrepreneurs to Santa Fe, New Mexico to trade ideas at a three-day gathering. "We just wanted to see who would show up, but four of the small food enterprises that presented raised an aggregate of \$260,000," says Tasch. Tasch then organized another event for some 600 attendees the following June in Shelburne, Vermont. Investors there poured \$4.2 million into 12 more producers, and that's when Tasch knew he was really on to something. More than 1,000 people converged in San Francisco for the third event in October 2011, and Tasch expects untold amounts of "slow capital" to be changing hands for the better as a result.

Whether or not you have money to invest in Slow Money's virtuous circles, you can show your support by visiting the group's website and electronically signing the organization's Principles, a list of six core beliefs shared by the Slow Money community. Or if you have just \$25, you could park it with the organization's Soil Trust, which will seed small food enterprises that promote soil fertility in locales from coast to coast. Tasch sees the Soil Trust as key to opening up the Slow Money concept to all of us and achieving the



CREDIT: TAMMY GREEN, COURTESY FLICKR

Woody Tasch, socially conscious investing pioneer, founder of the Slow Money movement, and author of the book, *Inquiries into the Nature of Slow Money: Investing as if Food, Farms and Fertility Mattered*.

group's goal of getting a million Americans involved in the movement over the next decade.

Another key to achieving Tasch's goal is growth of leadership at the local level. To that end, a dozen autonomous local chapters have sprung up nationwide, with more sure to come as word gets out. The local groups have already gifted or lent hundreds of thousands of dollars to entities working to improve their own community "foodsheds." Now we all have a

way to truly put our money where our mouths are.

CONTACTS: Slow Money, www.slowmoney.org.

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Statement of Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III on Change of Prince George's County Council Leadership

Upper Marlboro, MD – Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, released the following statement on the leadership change of the Prince George's County Council:

"One year ago today, I along with the County Council took an oath to serve this County. We have a lot to be proud of and I believe that we established a great working relationship. A working relationship that enabled us to make history together. From the Hospital MOU to the recent passing of the Economic Development Investment Fund, we have taken bold steps together that will help to move this County forward.

I am excited to welcome new Council Chair Andrea Harrison and congratulate Vice Chair Eric Olson on his reelection. I am confident that by taking the lessons of last year and combine them with the hope of tomorrow we will continue to create opportunity for this County.

I also want to add that it was a pleasure working with Chair Ingrid Turner and Vice Chair Eric Olson over the past year. I am convinced that we are stronger now because we focused on working together. The citizens benefited and the County as a whole benefited from our collaboration."

Medical from A1

legalization. Instead, the law created the Maryland Medical Marijuana Model Program Work Group and tasked it with making recommendations for new legislation.

"It's still a crime to possess marijuana for medical use," said Debbie Miran, a chemist, work group member, and Leukemia survivor.

The law passed in the spring also does not address what proponents believe to be the greatest requirement of medical marijuana legislation - access.

"There's no way for a patient to get the marijuana other than a drug dealer, and it's a felony to grow it," said Karen O'Keefe, a member of the work group and director of state policies at the Marijuana Policy Project in Washington.

Members of the work group set out to create a model that would allow for further research of medical marijuana and create more comprehensive legislation than the current law.

The alternative models that emerged overlap considerably. Both outline conditions for enforcement, regulation and accountability in great detail. Neither is without possible setbacks.

The key to the first piece of

legislation is that the distribution of medical marijuana would occur only through academic institutions. Those institutions, such as Johns Hopkins University or the University of Maryland, would control distribution to patients.

But the institutions would take on the risk of losing federal funding because distribution would still violate federal law.

The second drafted bill is modeled after earlier proposals in Maryland, as well as other state laws. It would allow doctors to apply for permission to recommend medical marijuana and require those physicians to participate in a rigorous training program.

But physicians could not physically handle or distribute the drug, and patients would still require a legal avenue of access.

Miran said she turned to medical marijuana after medications following her bone marrow transplant kept her from being able to eat, causing her to lose 40 pounds.

"That was a horrible decision for us to make," she said. "It wasn't legal."

But she didn't have any other options.

"I was a walking skeleton," she said.

The most common diagnoses in which medical marijuana

may be recommended include certain cancers, AIDS and severe ongoing, chronic or neuropathic pain conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

"The goal of the legislation, from my point of view, is to have medical marijuana be available to those folks who would benefit," said Delegate Dan Morhaim, D-Baltimore County, the only licensed physician in the General Assembly, and a member of the work group.

By Friday, Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, secretary of the state Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and a work group member, is scheduled to present the group's findings to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, the House Health and Government Operations Committee and the House Judiciary Committee.

During the 2010 session, the Maryland Senate passed a bill that would protect patients from arrest for possession of medical marijuana and establish licensed centers to cultivate and distribute. Opposition from Sharfstein and state delegates prevented passage in the House.

The primary legal stipulation in the amended bill that did pass last spring was the establishment of an affirmative defense for the use or possession of marijuana for medical purposes by

patients with severe conditions resistant to conventional treatments.

The law does not protect patients from arrest. It merely provides a defense in court if the patient can prove medical necessity.

Once the legislation prepared by the work group becomes available, it will be up to state lawmakers to decide whether to pass a more comprehensive bill.

"I would imagine that at least one of the members of the legislature would introduce at least one piece of [medical marijuana] legislation," O'Keefe said.

A 2011 poll found that 72 percent of Maryland voters support a bill that would allow patients with serious illnesses to purchase and use medical marijuana with their doctors' approval after the use of conventional treatments. The poll, conducted February 18 -20, by Public Policy Polling, surveyed 1,076 registered voters.

Sixteen states and the District of Columbia have legalized medical marijuana. The federal government has not legalized the use of marijuana, classified by the FDA as a Schedule I drug, under any circumstances.

The current Maryland law does not protect defendants charged with marijuana use in public or those in possession of more than a single ounce.

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ule an appointment.

Blood is often used to treat those undergoing treatment for all types of cancer, including breast cancer. Cancer treatments such as chemotherapy can kill red blood cells and platelets, and these patients rely on blood transfusions throughout their treatment to remain strong and recover.

According to the American Cancer Society, over 1.5 million people are expected to be diagnosed with cancer in 2010 in the United States.

Child Watch from A4

denial of public education lasted for the next five years. As the fight dragged on it received national attention. In a March 1963 speech marking the centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation, Attorney General Robert Kennedy said: "We may observe with much sadness and irony that outside of Africa, south of the Sahara, where education is still a difficult challenge, the only places on earth known not to provide free public education are Communist China, North Vietnam, Sarawak, Singapore, British Honduras—and Prince Edward County, Virginia. Something must be done about Prince Edward County." It took another Supreme Court decision to finally force the county to reopen its public school system with desegregated schools in 1964.

Sixty years after the students' strike, the former Moton School is now a newly-renovated and expanded museum and center for the study of civil rights. Barbara Johns's parents sent her to live with relatives in Montgomery, Alabama to finish

high school. She then attended Spelman College and Drexel University, raised five children with her husband Reverend William Powell, and became a librarian in the Philadelphia Public Schools before passing away in 1991. We need to remember and our children need to know stories like these and the cloud of witnesses like Barbara Johns Powell who sacrificed so much for a more just America. Her legacy of struggle for a quality education for every child is still the unfinished business of the Civil Rights Movement and of America. Our public schools are resegregating, and many of the 73 percent of Black students and 78 percent of Hispanic students who still attend predominantly segregated schools continue to suffer with tattered books, missing supplies, crumbling school facilities, and too many teachers with low expectations for them. And many White segregated academies across the South are offering a second rate education to their young charges to preserve the false notion that being White is superior. Children of all races are being hurt and unprepared to thrive in a nation

and world of diverse peoples. State and local budget cuts have negatively impacted inadequate public education, forcing school closings, teacher layoffs, larger classes, fewer school days, and less recess, and proposed federal cuts will compound cascading cuts in state funding for urgently needed education which is the human right of every child. America's dream is dim indeed for countless children we relegate to.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to www.childrensdefense.org.

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Mrs. Edelman's Child Watch Column also appears each week on The Huffington Post.