

Baltimore Sun Op Ed

Tom Riley
May 27, 2015

To: commentary@baltsun.com

Subject: New Ideas on addressing Civil Unrest

Dear Sun,

When you can hear the gun fire from your computer terminal, it must be time to do something.

I am a technical designer specializing in big-picture issues. I can clearly see that a big-picture discussion on how to address this civil unrest is both missing and that there is new, good science to serve as the basis of new approaches. I have posted an essay on my Web page covering a number of high-level possibilities:

“Baltimore’s Future, New Science, New Ideas”
<http://bigmoondig.com/Essays/BaltimoreFuture.pdf>

New ideas are admittedly difficult to work with. It is the very devil to tell good ones from bad ones. Still a lot of old ideas have been already tried with very limited success and I am sure that these are not the only new ideas out there.

My approach is unusual in that it uses some new science and some science that is simply not popularly known to distinguish:

1. What can happen (a sustainable Earth), from what cannot (growth forever).
2. What cannot now be effected (population peaking), from what can be worked (the population level of a sustainable Earth).
3. Where the great forces of history are pushing us (high technology), from where they are not (racism).
4. How the human brain works (Buy-In), from how it does not (action from fear).

New approaches will require input from all Baltimore’s communities:

The high-tech community will have to deal with the new science. Where there are problems, there are opportunities but you must look with new eyes.

Our academic and humanities communities have a critical part to play in this approach. Much of it is about stories; new, beautiful stories; and how stories work in the human brain.

The gay community has a key part to play in that the winds of history are currently at their backs and we need a gay Jane Austin. Why we need a gay Jain Austin that is not readily obvious but we do.

A great advantage is available to us through involving all our communities of Baltimore.

Currently my essay is only a big-picture outline. To apply these ideas directly to Baltimore will require input from a great many people. Please get back to me if you would like a more detailed exploration on how you can apply this new vision to your efforts.

How then can we expose new ideas to a new light?

Thanks,

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Suggestion:

Local author
650 to 760 words. (420 words)