



# Kicking Ass

April 2006

Issued by the  
**Baltimore County  
Young Democrats**

## Upcoming Events

### **BCYD General Meeting:**

Wed. April 19, 7:30pm  
at the Carver Center,  
Towson.

### **Earth Day Clean-up Project:**

Sat. April 22, 9am,  
Patapsco Valley State  
Park. We will be  
joining the Southwest  
Baltimore County  
Democratic Club and  
the Democratic Service  
Coalition to help keep  
our community clean  
and to show that  
Democrats make good  
neighbors.

### **Picnic for Andy Barth for Congress: Sun.**

April 23, 4-8pm. Andy  
Barth and his wife  
Toba would like you to  
join them for a picnic  
for campaign  
volunteers at their  
home at 7123 Pindell  
School Road in Fulton,  
rain or shine. There'll  
be food and drink,  
(political) party games,  
and lots of interesting  
people to talk to.

### **Young Democrats for Maryland 2006:**

Fri. April 21, 4:30-  
6:30pm Pickles Pub  
(across from Camden  
Yards), 520  
Washington Blvd.,  
Baltimore 21230.

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## Young Democrats Run in the 42<sup>nd</sup>

BY STEPHANIE DRAY

### **Andy Belt**

Running for office is not a lifelong dream for Andy Belt. No, the two sparks that ignited the campaign are his young sons, Pete and Gus. As the father of two small children who he plans to send to public schools, Belt says he has a vested interest in the quality of Maryland education. It's his *raison d'être* for seeking a seat in the Maryland House of Delegates.

#### **Priorities**

Belt worries about the almost 40% increase in college tuition at state universities over the past few years. If elected, he says he intends to fight hard to keep college education costs under control and ensure that the American dream is still in the grasp of middle class families. In the lower grades, he intends to reduce class size and see that teachers have the resources they need to give every student a quality public education. *(continued on p. 2)*



### **Dom Cirincione**

Twenty-three year old Dominic (Dom) J. Cirincione, Jr. brings an Eagle Scout's Earnestness to his campaign for the Maryland House of Delegates. "I will not be a representative that says one thing and does another. This is why politics, in my opinion, has been so detested of late, and my campaign is running on a platform of trust and commitment," he says.

#### **His Hot Buttons**

"Our current representatives have abandoned our district to act as a rubber-stamp for the current administration. We do not need another four years of ineffective representatives and partisan rhetoric," says Cirincione. Even so, he won't disparage the Republican party as a whole and points out that it's their focus that has gone wrong—elevating concerns about the individual and the present to the exclusion of the community and the future. It's this focus on the future, perhaps, that makes the Environment one of Cirincione's biggest issues.

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## What We Care About

### **Election Reform**

Fair and accurate elections are too important to politicize. We demand safeguards to protect and sustain the integrity of the democratic process. The legislature must act to verify votes and prevent fraud.

### **Environment**

Maryland needs to keep our air, water and land clean for future generations. We support Program Open Space and laws that require owners of power plants to reduce polluting emissions.

### **Education**

We want fully funded schools at all levels, from primary through higher education, for the good of all Marylanders.

### **Fiscal Responsibility**

Governor Ehrlich has squandered \$3 billion tax dollars on election-year giveaways. We urge lawmakers to spend within Maryland's means.

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Upcoming Events (Cont.)	See Young Democrats Run In the 42 <sup>nd</sup> District (Cont.)	What We Care About (Cont.)
<p>Food, drink, great music. Contact Stephen Knable at (410) 812-5406 for more information.</p> <p><b>Elect Belt:</b> Andy Belt's Fundraiser, April 25, 6:30-8:30pm, Recher Theatre, Towson. Tickets \$10 for Young Dems and students, \$35 for all others.</p> <p><b>Blood Drive: Get the Red Out!</b> May 6 10am-4pm, we will be holding a blood drive with the Battle Grove Democratic Club and the American Red Cross at the Battle Grove Democratic Club's hall, 5400 St. Augustine Lane in Dundalk (21222). We need volunteers to donate blood, help out the day of the event, and to help promote the event.</p> <p><b>BCYD General Meeting:</b> Wed. May 17, 7:30pm at the Carver Center, Towson.</p> <p><b>BCYD General Meeting:</b> Wed. June 21, 7:30pm at the Carver Center, Towson.</p> <p>For more information: <a href="http://www.bcyd.org">www.bcyd.org</a></p>	<p><b>Andy Belt (Cont.)</b></p> <p><b>Party and Beliefs</b> In his eagerness to emphasize that he's not an ideologue, Belt sometimes gives the impression that he's running away from the party, but when asked why he's a Democrat, the answer comes easily enough. "Because I care about people. I believe in an even playing field, and keeping alive the spirit of opportunity. The Democratic Party is the party that best represents those values."</p> <p><b>Tough Issues and Personal Style</b> Belt doesn't shy away from tough topics. At one point during the interview, he challenges in an 'is that the best you've got?' tone, "Aren't you going to ask me about gay marriage?" He's ready for the question and his answer is direct and unapologetic. "I oppose an amendment to prohibit gay marriage in Maryland. Doing so would violate the Equal Protection clause. For better or for worse, Maryland is in the marriage business. Maybe the term marriage should be a religious one, but the rights that come along with it come from the state. We give out the piece of paper." Then he asks a more basic question about who we are as a country. "Besides, when was the last time we amended the Constitution to take away rights? Prohibition?"</p> <hr/> <p><b>Dom Cirincione (Cont.)</b></p> <p>"Maryland is one of the luckiest states in the continental US. We're called 'America in Miniature' because we have the Appalachian mountain range, the Piedmont Plateau of central Maryland, the great Chesapeake Bay, and the ocean. Environmentally, we are truly a unique state, but with that uniqueness comes a responsibility to protect and preserve these natural treasures for future generations. It's a crime to allow Maryland's natural resources to become polluted or buried by urban sprawl," he says.</p> <p><b>Party and Personal Style</b> Cirincione is an energetic member of the community. In the 42<sup>nd</sup> district, you might run into him at Bill Bateman's in Towson, or at another favorite restaurant, Liberatore's in Timonium.</p> <p>As for why he's running as a Democrat, Cirincione explains, "As for the Democratic Party, I know it to be a party of progressive ideas, passionate leaders, and strong-willed voters that believe in the future. I think what the Democratic Party does best is that it always reminds itself how a current policy decision will effect the future citizens of the State of Maryland and the United States. I think this is a fundamental quality that all Democrats share, and I think it is what ultimately distinguishes us from Republicans."</p>	<p><b>Transportation</b> Baltimore-area commuters are worse off today than when Governor Ehrlich took office. Transportation costs and conditions are an increasing drag on Maryland businesses and citizens. We support transportation solutions that will make Maryland more accessible to all.</p> <p><b>Health Care</b> With the second-highest concentration of Senior Citizens in the country, the highest cancer rate in the nation and thousands of citizens who have lost their health insurance, Maryland needs a state-wide solution to the problems of affordable health care.</p> <p><b>Civil Liberties</b> Our civil liberties have been compromised nationally and here in Maryland such as when Gov. Ehrlich began a policy of penalizing reporters who give him unfavorable coverage. We believe that freedom is the key to security in our nation and our state.</p>



**To Our Readers:** We welcome your letters. E-mail letters to Stephanie Dray at [communications@bcyd.org](mailto:communications@bcyd.org). Letters should include your name and address, along with day and evening telephone numbers. All letters become the property of Kicking Ass, the Baltimore County Young Democrats Newsletter, which reserves the right to edit them.