

'Repealing' Congress

Save the Middle Class

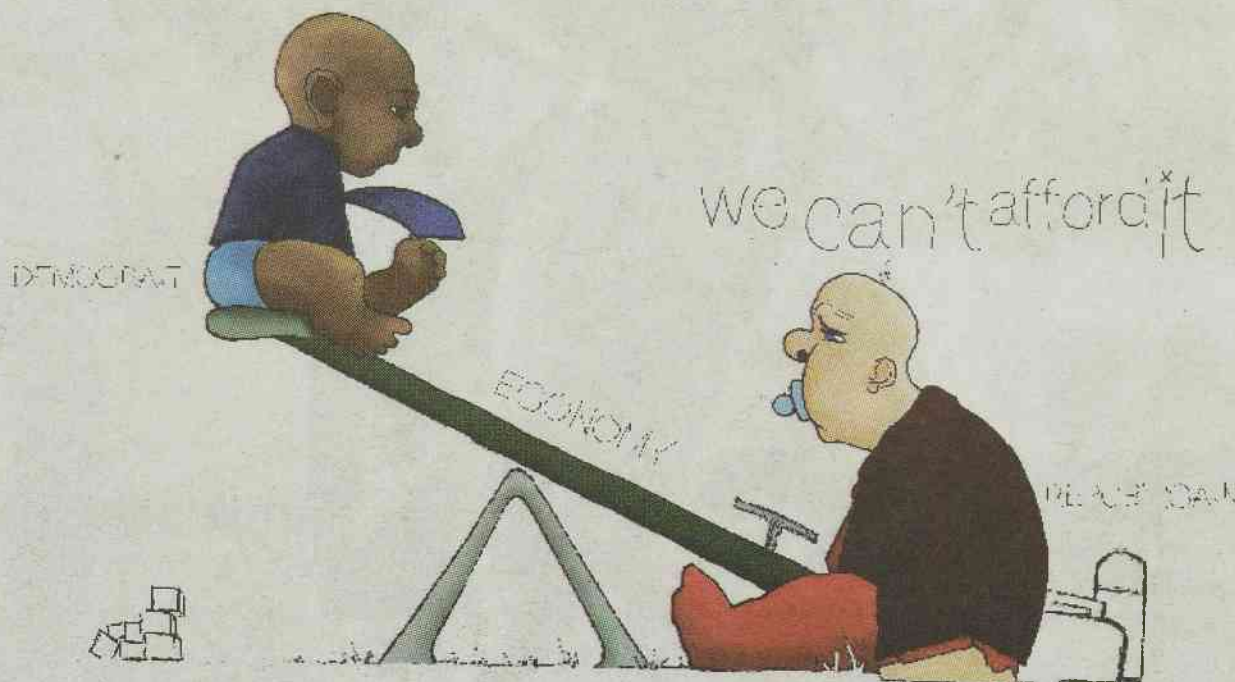


illustration by Jovian Turnbull

Partisanship fosters playground spats in D.C.

"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves."
Abraham Lincoln

As a nation, we have been through dozens of wars and conflicts with other countries that have garnered the United States world-wide resentment, and yet the only group of people who truly have the power to end us all are those who "serve" us, our own government.

Bills that are usually made into law by both Democrats and Republicans are no longer being passed for the benefit of the American public. The lines have been drawn and sides have been chosen. In order to succeed in this political climate, you have to pick, one or the other. But is this the method that will bring our nation social, financial and political stability?

There are many reasons why our government is not operating to its full potential.

People do not know how our government really works

People are so quick to blame the President when things go wrong. However, the president doesn't have as much impact on the laws and regulations as people think. It

is on the shoulders of those who serve in Congress (i.e. House of Representatives and the Senate) to battle it out about what goes into law and what does not. Congress is in charge of the budget and they decide whether or not we go to war. They are also able to pass bills into laws over the President's veto with a two thirds majority vote.

Ultimately, Congress is by far the most powerful branch in government.

Partisanship to the extreme

Whatever happened to working together to get the job done? America is evenly mixed of Republicans and Democrats, throw a few Libertarians, Independents and Tea Partiers in the mix and there we have it. While they spend time and money fighting over fickle notions like the President's birth certificate and bills that have already been passed, we as Americans should pressure them to work on something else that pertains to our more pressing and present issues.

Who's working for whom?

As tax-paying citizens, we elect people to office to work for us, the citizens, not the other way around.

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We should start holding our state lawmakers accountable for the decisions they make that affect our lives and welfare. The local elections in which we elect our state representatives and senate leaders are far more important and crucial to our daily lives than the presidential elections.

Religion and politics don't mix in the United States

This country was created with the intent that all beliefs and faiths would be welcomed here. However, the U.S. has thrived because of a notion that we perfected that many other nations have yet to try, a separation of church and state. To this day, the U.S. does not have an official national religion like many other countries. Due to the fact that our nation's founders understood over 200 years ago that once we mixed religion with our government, we would be making the same mistakes the European countries made in the 17th

and 18th centuries, which was the very reason why the United States of America was settled in the first place. However, centuries later, we still mix the two for political gains. President Barack Obama had to prove he wasn't Muslim during the 2008 presidential elections, while Republican presidential candidate, Mitt Romney, is being slandered and accused of being a member of a cult because he is a Mormon. What does this have to do with their job capabilities and/or qualifications?

Millions of people are out of work, with no prospects. In a few years, young people will no longer be able to afford school, houses are being foreclosed on, our government almost shut-down twice (Dec. 2010 and again in March) in less than two years all while trying to avoid several major conflicts overseas. What we need is a government that understands what we are going through and builds our nation up to make it more durable

and dependable for the generations that have yet to come.

The bills and initiatives that have been pushed by the President, for the most part, were attempts to give the American public a few of the things they have been asking for from the government like affordable health care, financial equality, small business security and someone to keep an eye on those in the big banks and Wall Street who handle our money. While all proposals weren't perfect, ideas for the nation's benefit are being shut down because it has an air of "Big Government" or it's "Too Conservative". Has it ever occurred to Congress that what's best is a little bit of both? The art of compromise is lost to our government simply because they refuse. Such a refusal will prove costly for the American people. At this point in time, that cost is much too high.

While those in power are calling for the "repeal of the president", we as tax-paying American citizens should be calling for a repeal of those in congress, until they start doing what we elected them to do which is to serve us and our needs, and not their respective parties.

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