

Quid Est Veritas



Robbing Peter To Pay Paul

By Patrick Weadon

The time to fix the roof is when the sun is shining.

-John F. Kennedy

Well folks, the season of light is over; it's time to head back to reality. With this in mind, I would like to start this year's first column off by asking a few questions.

Namely, how many of you are in favor of getting rid of government programs like Social Security and Medicare? On the local level, are you in favor of having our kids continue to attend class in broken down buildings like Severna Park High School?

Well, like Mrs. Nancy on the 1960 TV show Romper Room, I can ask questions but I can't really see you. I would, however, guess that not too many of you are raising your hands.

Now, for one last question: Would you be willing to pay more in taxes to keep Social Security and Medicare solvent and our wonderful high school in good shape? If you said no it is obvious you have no understanding of the financial fix we are in as a nation. The recently released "Financial Report of the United States Government" notes the gap between what U.S. government social insurance programs cost and the money on hand to pay for them is \$45 trillion over the next 75 years. That's "T" for trillion.

Throw in other commitments and the shortfall comes to a whopping \$53 trillion – and things are not much better on the local level.

The fact is Uncle Sam has been spending money like a drunken sailor. The analogy is not quite apt because drunken sailors almost never spend money they don't have. Uncle Sam on the other hand likes to use his credit card.

What about spending? Yes, spending is a problem. The last Congress passed billions of unnecessary earmarks. Do the math; there is no way we can ever close the aforementioned gap with spending cuts alone. With this in mind, it strikes me as odd that many supposed responsible political and corporate leaders still believe "tax cuts" can get us out of this mess.

The classrooms and hallways of Severna Park High will never be improved as long as those who hold the purse strings believe we can tax cut our way to prosperity and educational excellence.

This brings me to Governor Martin O'Malley. Last year in a special session, our Governor, in an effort to close a massive gap in the state budget raised taxes. For this he was called among other things, a communist, a socialist, and an enemy of the business community.

The deficit was by no means O'Malley's fault. In truth, the gap was the result of a tax cut passed by Paris Glendenning during his time as Governor. Paris once told Marylanders "if they wanted lower taxes they should move

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County Council

Council Hits The New Year Running

By Councilwoman
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While some politicians are busy this new year running for new political offices, your County Council will start the year looking at development, schools, cost of development, and policies for coming years. BRAC is looming as we look for funds to address development, infrastructure and schools in what is quickly becoming the fastest growing part of the County.

I indicated in last month's column that the Council would vote on a new chairman, and they did at the December meeting. For the next year, the Council will be chaired by your representative with Councilman Ed Reilly (District 7) serving as Vice Chairman.

As most of you know, the Board of Education will hold several public meetings regarding the 2009 school bud-



get in January. As a result of the holiday schedule, they are holding regular meetings on January 9th at 10:00am and the 23rd at 7:00pm. Public hearings specifically for the budget are set for January 17th and 22nd at 7:00 pm at Glen Burnie High School and Riva Road, respectfully. Please attend these hearings and let Board members know where you stand. Now is the time to be vocal!

Throughout January and February, I will again be touring all the schools in District