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99 percent clarified

By Roger Farinha

I would like to clarify the significance of the 99 percent so famously heralded by the Occupy Wall Street protesters. For I consider myself one of these — protester, and global majority. The significance of 99 percent is two folded. First, it literally means anyone who is not among the 1 percent of our global population which holds a shamefully disproportionate sum of the wealth of our world. But there is another side to this which only some few might now glimpse — those few who are to arise as its visionaries.

Can a grassroots awakening ever be co-opted? I say definitely not. For “grassroots” refers to that fertile soil which is the human heart, out of which the shoots of discontent, of new hope, of new inspiration spring. Hence our New American Spring! Many visionaries must be given space to arise and to herald their hopes; and if they are true, the people will listen. So how then might I paint this other dimension of our 99 percent, one which I am confident will resonate in your grassroots’ heart?

The 99 percent is now to be understood as the lifeblood of humanity itself. All human beings are sacred and unique and no other person possesses the human wealth and creative potential of any other on earth. This is the miracle of life. Therefore the 99 percent, inverse to their brethren of the 1 percent, accordingly possess a disproportionate sum of the human wealth and creative potential of our world. This likewise is the irony of God.

Therefore from this day forward, as a member and herald of Occupy Wall Street, I call for a new celebration of life. While we the people (the 99 percent) mobilize into a powerful voting bloc to effect real change, let us also coagulate into new and joyful expressions of life.

Let us celebrate our musi-



— VIEWS FROM QCA —

...cians, our artists, our poets, our writers and community organizers; let us give outlet for one another and encourage one another in the exuberance of living. And dare I say that in virtue of their humanity, the 1 percent might also be invited to such shows — that they might even become convinced that their demise as the wealthy 1 percent regresses one of the most malignant cancers on the human body conglomerate?

Within the Occupy Wall Street spirit, I commit myself to seeking out my brethren in love and celebration of one another. I commit myself to getting involved in my community in the greater celebration of living.

I commit myself to unleashing the millions of Steve Jobs out there, who, unlike this one freak example of the convergence of circumstances which gave him outlet, have no such luck save this new awakening of consciousness which I hope to here spark. For while Jobs might have climbed to the ranks of the 1 percent holders of human material wealth, did he not share a rightful place in the 99 percent of human creative wealth?

Yet sadly, for every positive, there is a negative. There are some among us who sadly possess only a 1 percent portion of human creative wealth — the very ones who are incapable of, for whatever reason (the ones who will reject), this bright new vision. May it not be you!

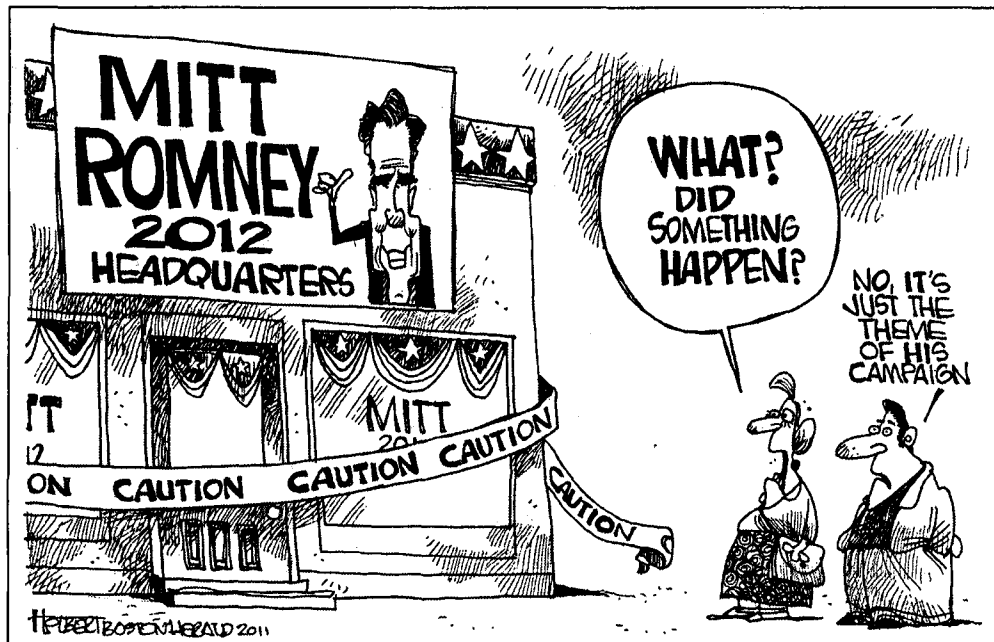
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viewpoints

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The Dispatch & The Rock Island Argus

A4



Occupy Chicago's demands

While in Chicago last week, I dropped by the headquarters for Occupy Chicago, a protest group that wants to spread around some of the wealth the top 1 percent of American earners are piling up. They have a proposed set of demands, which haven't as yet been adopted by their daily “general assembly.” Some of them merit serious consideration.

Only about 20 protesters were at LaSalle and Jackson, across the street from the massive Board of Trade building, during my stop.

The protesters were a scruffy lot, with lots of hair and ruffled unkemptness, but the ones I chatted up were friendly and eager to talk. The sidewalk gathering place included a short feeding line where grub was available; hand-painted signs that decried the robber-baron class leaned against the adjacent office building.

I learned that most of the protesters, who number as many as 2,500 on the weekends, according to one of their group, are mostly unemployed, homeless, veterans and college students. The core group of protesters bunks overnight at a south Loop church. Food donations come in from sympathetic non-protesters.

College student Robert Reitz of Chicago was in a wheelchair, thin, lanky and with a try at a beard. Robert said they had been protesting for 32 days and that he had been there 27 days. Each day at 1p.m. the protesters hold a general assembly at Grant Park, site of protests



Associated Press

Occupy Chicago protesters gather in Chicago's Grant Park after marching through the Loop Wednesday.



— JIM NOWLAN —

financial instruments that to this day are hard to parse. I think of banks as quasi-public institutions. In return for their charters to operate, they have a responsibility to loan their savers' money prudently.

► Repeal Bush tax cuts for the wealthy, and return to the tax rates that existed before. Like it or not, Americans, including wealthy ones, are going to have to be taxed more if ever we are to balance revenues with expenditures. At present

television ads that will further weaken the sinews of our democratic process. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court cannot be overturned, except by a future court.

► Forgive student debt. As the protesters say, the government that gave trillions of dollars in bailouts to banks “can surely afford to forgive the \$946 billion in student debt. Not only does this favor the 99 percent over the 1 percent but it has the further practical effect of more citizens spending money on actual goods, rather than paying down interest.” I can sympathize with the argument but don't expect it to happen.

The protesters express a rage I share against the bankers who recklessly gambled with other people's money on the foolish bet that the housing bubble would never burst. They brought the economy to its knees,



— VIEWS FROM QCA —

Aisle of Flags again honors Geneseo vets

By Judy DeBoever

Veterans Day in Geneseo is full of patriotism. At 7 a.m. the Aisle of Flags will go up at our city parks, weather permitting.

At 11 a.m. the Don

Cherry VFW Post No 5083 will hold its services at the post hall with the salute



by the VFW firing squad and color guard followed by our guest speaker, Ret. Lt/Col Alan C. Anderson, U.S. Air Force, and retired president and CEO of Geneseo Communications.

All are welcome to attend.

Veterans Day, formerly know as Armistice Day, was originally set as a U.S. legal holiday to honor the end of WWI Veterans Day is always on Nov. 11 because that is when the Armistice was signed by the Germans signally the end of WWI back in 1918. It was signed on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

Legislation was passed in 1938 that Nov. 11 was “dedicated to the cause of world peace & to be here after celebrated & known as Armistice Day. The new legal holiday was to honor WWI veterans. After the U.S. had been through WWII and Korea. On June 1, 1954, Nov. 11 became the day to honor American veterans of all wars, Veterans Day.

I know Geneseo is proud of all our veterans who served in the armed forces, some coming home and some losing their lives and blood on foreign soil.

On this year of our 30th anniversary of the Aisle of Flags, we now will be flying 657 flags representing 665 veterans. On