

“On the simplistic wings of our hopeful dreams
We lift up and up
And take off
In a demonstration of how society
Should be reshaped
In order for it to better
Protect
Aid
Educate
Feed
Address
And—yes—Respectful include
All citizens
Remembering that all people alive have souls
And are born
With natural rights
And we should not have to choose between the two”



WHY?

SO AN OCCUPY FREDERICK?



Yes We're Occupy Frederick. We all have reasons why we are here. We all come from different backgrounds, identities, and experiences. We share some common visions, similar dreams and aspirations. We do not occupy to cause trouble for Frederick, we occupy because we are Frederick. —Frederick's 99 percent.

REASON 11

17.

I am seventeen years old. Many people would say that I am too young, thus too inexperienced, to openly express my feelings about issues relating to the Occupy movement. But I find it necessary to voice my opinions because what I see in America is not what I want for my parents, my friends, or myself in the future.

I see adults who feel powerless, workers who are overworked, and beautiful individuals who don't have time to nurture what makes them different. For Americans who can get a job, it is common for them to work over 40 hours per week. Some workers, such as teachers, are not even paid for the extra time they spend working. In such an environment, time becomes a commodity. People have less time to focus on important aspects of their lives, such as their family, friends, and health. And what's worse is that we generally believe that this is how everything has to be because it is how everything is. It's no wonder that so many Americans consistently emphasize convenience over quality. We are swimming in a TV-dinner universe guys! This is horrible and not good for our mental health...

Meanwhile, bankers on Wall Street continue to follow the practices that led to the current recession, and the interests of corporations have a greater influence in congress than the interests of working people. Is this fair? Is it right that the majority of us can barely afford a college education, while an elite minority has access to millions of dollars that are used to fund corporate propositions?

I am disillusioned, America. We are not free anymore. And we can't rely on politicians to help us; we need to take this into our hands. These are our lives, and our passions. America needs to wake up. The world needs to wake up.

REASON 1

How Much Do You Love Frederick?

I love Frederick
She is my hometown haven

I love the willow tree in Baker Park
I love petting all of the statue dogs downtown
I love getting my Frederick Coffee CO coffee
On crisp mornings

I love explaining the spite house to newcomers
I love arguing over which cupcake business is better
I love suggesting restaurants to tourists
And then deciding which delicious one to eat at myself!

I love Frederick Community College
I love buying from my local farmers
I love walking up and down Market Street
Just for kicks

In fact,
I love Frederick so much that I don't want the rezoning
I love Frederick so much that I want Fort Detrick to better
dispose of their waste
I love Frederick so much
That I don't want *Frederick people* evicted
From Frederick houses
By **WALL STREET BANKERS**
Who don't know where Frederick is on the map

How much do you love Frederick?

REASON 10

I don't want to just suck it up, cause sucking it up has never ended the desperation of our past, current or present generation's emotional problems. And I don't want to be statistical victim; we have to many of those. Last week someone I graduated high school with committed suicide. They had a heroin addiction, and were homeless while the movement wasn't there and neither was the state. The person was 21 years old. That person had friends, loved ones and families.

The European Liberal Democracies have collapsed. The European model of managing capital/crisis, has been inadequate at meeting people's needs as the U.S. model on managing capital/crisis. The continued growth of the state by burdening debt has become impossible. The lovely sounding European social systems of free health care, higher education and over all stronger safety net is disappearing. The crisis of the 21st century was caused by the wealthiest individuals, has working people paying for it.

The Occupy movement is for everyone who believes that they can be happier.

“¡Que se vayan todos!” They all must go,

—A south street occupationists

REASON 2

It Seemed Very Exciting

When I first heard about Occupy Wall Street back in September, it seemed very exciting but I didn't really get it. I had only a vague idea of how banks even worked, and the economic crisis and the recession sounded bad but I didn't really see how they affected me, or what the 1% had to do with it. Moreover, I didn't really see what the occupiers wanted— and whatever it was, again, I thought it wouldn't really affect me. New York is far away, and whatever problems New York businesspeople were causing must also be far away, I naively thought.

“New York is far away, and whatever problems New York businesspeople were causing must also be far away, I naively thought.”

Little did I know that some grievances I had always had with the financial system, the government, and society were intimately connected to this 1% up on Wall Street. And little did I know just how corrupt and unjust the actions of the nation's top banks were and how they contributed to those grievances.

I am 19 years old and have been out of high school for two years, but while I am a curious individual with a love of learning, I have refused a college education, due in no small part to the outrage I felt the first time I looked at admission prices into a standard four year school. It is impossible for me to get a bachelor's degree without putting my family into debt for the next 20 years and my parents are already in debt from my three older sisters. My dad assures me that if I choose to go, they would be able to pay off whatever debt I may incur. That's most peoples' attitude toward higher education: it sucks that it costs so much, but you just gotta bite the bullet and take

and my back has always been up against the wall. We need a new definition of the proletariat that isn't just the traditional Marxist definition, “of those who have to sell their time for money,” but all people who have no power of their lives in a emotional, spiritual, or physical way.

This occupation, isn't a protest, but a vortex. It's not about the possibility of a political future but social future. When I occupy, I am hanging out with friends, my loved ones and my family. Many of us came from a working class family's that worked their butt's off to end up with no dreams, I don't want that future. I don't want to live off of some one else's labor, I don't want to make some one rich off of our labor either, I want our loved ones to be able to spend their time freely, let their passion drive their lives, and let them control their lives. I want this for all people, because right now no one is enjoying their lives, we are either working for a boss to make the boss rich or working for the economy to make the economy rich. This is why I say we want to “abolish work.”

“Many of us came from a working class family's that worked their butt's off to end up with no dreams”

“The future offers no way out.” — The Coming Insurrection.

I feel like there is no other alternative than to resist— occupations as of late are the most visible form of resistance— since there is no alternative in the political process. I want to explore the possibilities of relying on the people not politicians or capitalism to meet my needs. If the future is just the Democrats and Republicans—I feel doomed. At least with the possibility of a movement “for the people and by the people,” we're relying on each other to build social relationships worth living rather than just continuing a failed system.

This is a Vortex not a Protest

M.L.K. Day I recall that Robert F. Kennedy asked the Freedom riders to not continue their rides. R.F.K. thought he could use the justice department to desegregate our country. The solution was the struggle, not politicians, the direct action struggle against white supremacy ended segregation because they did more than cast a ballot, hold mass demos, and appear at public meetings. The movement was bold and beautiful, I want this movement to be just as bold and beautiful.

The solution then was the struggle and today is the struggle.

We have no power in our lives. The narrative of the crisis does not give the crisis justice. It is more than just foreclosures, and the loss of wages, and loss of work. Suicide rates are at an all time high, eating disorders are rampant, and divorce rates are skyrocketing. In short, everyone that I've ever known has hated their body and their loved ones. In this definition, we're not in crisis, we are crisis.

Our struggle for happiness against those who alienate us, is our greatest strength. I only ever wanted to be happy, that is something the system cannot give me. This is why I propose we demand nothing, because I want everything.

“Our struggle for happiness against those who alienate us, is our greatest strength.”

For me, this is not about the movement, or causes. Some vague notion of right and wrong. This is about my friends, my loved ones and my families. I'm a working class hoodlum

out a loan. But that's a shortsighted view of the problem. See, the fact that we would have to take out a college loan does not reflect one isolated incident of a lack of funds. Nobody can afford a college education. I come from an upper-middle class family and am aware of my privilege. Today, privilege doesn't allow you to afford education- only banks can afford that education! Today, it is a privilege to be able to tie yourself to a bank for a significant chunk of your life, so they can send you to university. To take out a 20 year loan you have to be confident that your job will be stable for that long. But lots of people aren't confident in the stability of their jobs for the next 20 years; lots don't even have jobs to begin with. When a struggle like that is so all encompassing, it ceases to be a personal problem, and becomes a systemic problem.

So from the get-go I already had a bone to pick with the financial system. The more I learned, the more I figured out just how deep this problem ran. Higher education is in the hands of the banks- that's bad enough. What's worse is having a government that takes their side over the side of the people. In 2008 Bush/Obama gave a \$700 billion bailout to American banks and big businesses. That's five times the entire federal budget for education. Everyone knows the rest of the story: after being paid for their irresponsible use of money, the CEOs of banks and large corporations continued to give their top executives big bonuses.

It's no secret that the U.S. government and big businesses have a very close relationship. With the Supreme Court's decision to let "corporate personhood" mean that corporations can spend unlimited money on campaign advertisements, super PACs have begun swaying the public's political opinions by bombarding the airwaves with said ads. To me, it is no exaggeration to say that this allowing of copious amounts of money to flow into political discourse undermines our very freedom to make our own decisions, indeed our very freedom to think reasonably and make independent judgments as to the

course this country should take. When the only choices are put forth by big business and big money, the freedom to choose between them is no freedom at all.

While all these millions and often billions of dollars are flowing freely between business and government, 99% of the nation suffers for it, never seeing any of those dollars work toward their benefit. For me, that manifests itself in unaffordable college education - how many millions of dollars wasted on campaign advertising could be spent making higher education free and available to all?—But for many, the outlook is even worse. Many face home foreclosure. Many die, not from disease but from a lack of affordable health care. And, sure, these problems might not affect me directly, but how dare we be so selfish as to say when an issue doesn't affect us directly we forfeit our right to protest it? These problems affect our friends, our families, our neighbors, our communities, and I stand in solidarity with them. That's what Occupation is all about.

So what does camping out in a park in the middle of our fair city of Frederick have to do with changing the unjust system I've just described? To me the idea is to form a welcoming, model community based on the principles of equality and mutual respect. When all decisions are made by consensus with people you know and meet with daily face-to-face, the idea of trying to sway peoples' opinions using money just seems ridiculous and pathetic. The idea of kicking someone out of their tent due to their lack of money seems equally ridiculous. And imagine, for a minute, if one of the occupiers got sick or injured and another occupier had the skills to help her but refused to help unless he got paid. That notion doesn't get any less ridiculous just because the federal government supports it.

REASON 9

“To me the idea is to form a welcoming, model community based on the principles of equality and mutual respect.”

treats or not. I don't see how I could possibly care. *But people tell me to be grateful I have a job at all.*

I don't want to live in a world where that is acceptable, let alone normal behavior. I want to help put an end to this cycle of abuse. I don't know how to end these ways of interacting. Voting, petitioning, and protesting are the acceptable ways of voicing dissent but has shown time and time again to be ineffective. I don't know if occupy is the best way for me or anyone else to spend their time fighting the system. I do know that it is a movement that strives to bring peoples discontentment into the light with a diversity of tactics.

An occupation is a microcosm of what society at large could be. If we can take complete responsibility for the actions in this little camp in this little Maryland town, then we can take the reins on this state and this country, and not watch passively as they run head first into crisis after crisis.

But, setting all this political hoopla aside, any reason should be good enough reason to go camping with all your friends! If I pitch my tent for no other reason, I will pitch it out of a love for them.

REASON 3

Why occupy?

“There's no denying some things wrong, when I was born into a world with an atom bomb.” - The max levine ensemble

I'm not content with the culture I live within. A culture that values production over interpersonal relationships. A culture that encourages abusive behavior to reach maximum profits. A culture of alienation. A culture of exploit or be exploited. A culture that will crush you if you don't become apart of it.

I work my minimum wage job to eat and live in this culture. My boss's job is to get as much out of me for as little as possible. To me that seems

to not be a fair trade. I work very hard to keep a doughnut shop busy and clean and more or less he counts the money and drives to franchise business conventions in his Lexis. While I ride my bike to work to keep his business profitable.

And I don't believe my boss is a bad person. I understand the chain of command. That my boss answers to someone else who answers to someone else etc. But at some point he chooses to pay as little as possible for as much as possible. And that's fine for him, he's good at it. He makes his money, business as usual. For me and my coworkers, not so much. We work very hard and are on our feet all day to provide our area with sugary treats and sandwiches and coffee. Some of these products may contain cancer. We go home tired with hours lost to a business we don't care about, doing work we don't care about. I don't care if these people get their sugary

“To me that seems to not be a fair trade. I work very hard to keep a doughnut shop busy and clean and more or less he counts the money and drives to franchise business conventions in his Lexis.”

REASON 8

The History of Any Country.

“The History of any county, presented as the history of a family, conceals fierce conflicts of interest (sometimes exploding, most often repressed) between conquerors and conquered, masters and slaves, capitalists and workers, dominators and dominated in race and sex. And in such a world of conflict, a world of victims and executioners, it is the job of thinking people, as Albert Camus suggested, not to be on the side of the executioners! (Zinn, Howard. *A People’s History of the United States: 1492-present*. Originally Published: New York, 2003. 10. Print)”

In a society where we need to take pills to just be okay living in our environment.

In a society where parents work two or more jobs to sustain a family; not being able to spend time with their kids unable to pass on traits and ideas.

In a society where you are valued based on how successful you are in a career path. In a government that does not like your race, religion, or sex. In a government that will not teach your children what they need to know. In a government that will keep its secrets. In a government and society that is falling fast.

REASON 4

the bankers and the U.S. government and come to recognize the justness when the so-called illegal aliens return to this country to reclaim resources stolen from them.

As the situation intensifies ask yourself why people haven't been coming out to demonstrate when a young African man was tasered to death in a community here in Frederick or why there was no outcry over the state sanctioned murder of Troy Davis whom FBI Director, William Sessions said shouldn't even be in jail; where was the outcry over the public murder of Oscar Grant and hundreds of other young black and brown youth murdered by police forces in this country. Perhaps the slogan "*I don't support the war but I support the troops*" has something to do with it. Do you know there has been more young black men murdered by police in the US than soldiers killed in the Afghanistan war? Yes, we are starting to feel the pinch. But why haven't we been coming out in droves to demonstrate as black teenagers have been shot down by police all over the U.S.? The wealth gap between white and black families in this country has widened to a point where white people have 20 times the wealth of black people.

Where is the outcry about the mass roundups of African people in this country that now have more black men in prison than in college? *There is a war going on inside these borders, but we walk right over the African community to get to Wall Street.* Where are the demonstrations calling for genuine peace, saluting the right of the African, Afghani, Iraqi, Palestinian and Indigenous peoples to have their land, resources and self-determination back in their own hands?

"The crisis we see around us marks an unjust system coming full circle as oppressed peoples worldwide rise up against U.S. war and plunder in the struggle for freedom, self-determination and liberation". Omali Yeshitela

Who are the real 99%

holding the public hostage at the gas pumps to say nothing of the destruction of millions of acres of land, coastal waterways and the ocean itself. This crisis is what capitalism looks like and it can't be changed or reformed because this is exactly what capitalism is supposed to do. The world system of capitalism—for which the U.S. is the leading state power and Wall Street its economic epicenter—was built on the enslavement of African people and the genocide of the Indigenous peoples of the Americas and the theft of their land.

As white people begin to experience the effects of the economic crisis they are just experiencing what African, Indigenous and “Mexican” people have been experiencing for too long. With that said white people still have the highest standard of living in the world at the expense of the real “99 percent” inside this country—African, Mexican and Indigenous people who live behind an invisible wall of colonial oppression right here in America. But I want to seriously and sincerely call on the Wall Street protesters and all progressive minded North American people everywhere to look deeper at the problem and recognize that capitalism is not “broken”—it was born this way. It cannot be reformed...

Millions of oppressed peoples around the world are rising up to prove that the entire capitalist system must be overturned. The protesters must not be satisfied with just having their student loans reduced or even paid off. The government will ease or even remove the burden from the students but recoup their loss by oppressing someone else. I'm convinced that if the middle class were suddenly returned to its “former” position in society they would continue to support government aggression against the less fortunate of this country and the world. Among the thousands upon thousands in the occupy community are honest forces that will not be bought off for the crumbs from the table or for a high paying corporate job but instead see this beast for what it really is and seek to bring in a new way. We must refuse the loot stolen by

The End of Our Empire

Did you hear
That Rome is falling again?
The descent painfully displays itself
In the form of pain-stricken children
Tumbling through the land of plenty,
And turning crisp from the heat of debt
As they are unable to sink their burning feet
Into the cool green ocean of cash
Reserved for double-tongued assassins
Father government?
None other than Agrippa
The banks and corporations?
They carry the face and body of Nero
The cancer growing within our own society
How bad does notoriety
Have to be to wake you up?
Have to be to make you act?

I know it's easier to sleep and dream
About Colosseum days long gone
But those moments are dust under the feet
Of Bank of America
Who is shackling you as I write

Fight.

Become a thread in a new society
Weaved together by trust and equality
And, here, on this public ground
Strive with us to turn sand into marble
When the only solution is revolution
Then you have one,
—Spartacus

REASON 5

Reparations.

FROM WALL STREET AND WHITE AMERICA
FOR 500 YEARS OF COLONIALISM, SLAVERY,
GENOCIDE AND IMPERIALISM!

WHITE PEOPLE LIVE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE
OF THE REST OF THE 99%.

It's not just Wall Street that I oppose for I surely stand against the thieving bankers on Wall Street. I oppose the gentrification of Saints Street in Frederick; I oppose the imposition of a drug economy rather than economic development, I oppose the prison industry complex, a recent newcomer to the stock market; I oppose the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan but not as much as I oppose the war on Drugs that targets the African and Hispanic communities.

I'm encouraged by the spirit and energy of the occupiers seeking to expose the injustice of this government and system that have soiled the entire planet. It is a sign of the ever increasing and deepening crisis of imperialism that has finally revealed itself inside the borders of US. At a time when students can't see a future better than that of their parents; the middle class scurrying about watching their slice of the American pie get smaller and smaller we are witnessing thousands upon thousands of North American/white people taking to the streets to express dissatisfaction with the current state.

The crisis manifested itself in the sub-prime housing debacle; the financial bail-out of the country's major lending institutions using tax payers money; the Enron crisis of a few years ago; the Madoff-Abramoff's of the corporate world being given smacks on the wrist for massive theft; and major oil executives rewarding themselves millions in bonuses while

REASON 7

If you're reading this, the dirty leftist hippy-Dems have probably already invaded Frederick and set up a tent village demanding free government handouts and inter species marriage equality.

I'm only kidding. What happens between certain members of our county government and their four legged friends should remain personal and private; in other words, Don't ask, don't tell. The reality is that what we'd like to accomplish here is well beyond the talking points and labels that are force fed to us from every direction. I'm pretty hesitant to even stamp this action with the OCCUPY WALL ST. trademark, if I can call it that. It's true, everyone camped out here agrees with the spirit of the Occupy movement that's spread worldwide. The influence of money in our politics is despicable, and corporations shouldn't be given the legal rights of people, and everything I needed to know to convince me of that I learned from watching Disney movies. Some of us have even participated in the occupation at Zuccotti Park in New York

City, but the fact is that occupation of space isn't exclusive to the "Occupy" movement; occupation is a tactic, and a means to an end.

The reason I'm here, in a tent, during the coldest part of the year in Maryland is not to eliminate corporate personhood, or get money out of politics (though both are some of the worthiest of causes). I'm here because I see an epidemic of apathy in this country that's magnified at the local level. Here in Frederick, MD, and nationwide, our socioeconomic system has divided us and alienated us from our communities. We're divided by labels like "liberal-conservative," "left-right" and "Occupy-Tea Party." We're divided by color and divided by class and divided by faith, while those in power pursue an agenda of profit and exploitation/excluded at our expense.

The decisions that affect us most as citizens are very much local ones. The communities we live in, whether examined on a county, city or neighborhood level determine how well we live more than any federal election cycle, but somehow that's where the spotlight on our elected leaders is the weakest.

Ask 20 people my age in this town who Blaine Young is and you'll likely be faced with a lot of blank stares, and at least one query as to which character he plays on Jersey Shore. This isn't some inexplicable political phenomenon; this is by design. Our sitting Board of County Commissioners takes active measures to make sure it's hearings are publicized as

"We're divided by labels like "liberal-conservative," "left-right" and "Occupy-Tea Party." We're divided by color and divided by class and divided by faith, while those in power pursue an agenda of profit and exploitation/excluded at our expense."

#Occupy is more than a movement for debt relief.

Occupy is more than a movement for TRULY universal healthcare. Occupy is more than a movement for the reinstatement of glass stegall. Occupy is more than a movement for the repeal of the citizens united v. federal election commission supreme court decision. Occupy is more than a movement for the reclamation of the commons. Occupy is more than a movement demanding people over profits. Occupy is more than a movement for a non hierarchical, democratic and consensual way of life.

#Occupy is a movement for anyone who wants to occupy themselves. No, i don't mean it's for people who are bored and need something to do. what i mean is its a movement for people who are sick of being shells occupied and controlled by the 1%. robots who make the 1%'s pockets fat until we get rusty and thrown out onto the scrap heap. occupy is for those of us who want to kick the 1% out of the control room inside us and take the controls back into our own hands. to occupy our own lives. to be alive. thats what i want.

How bout you? What do you want?

###

8 hours a day 5 days a week i'm expected to be a mannequin, to keep my real thoughts and feelings to myself. I'm dressed up by my company in khaki slacks and a polo shirt with a plastic smile crazy glued to my face. there is no such thing as freedom or democracy at work. a great portion of my life, and many others,' is spent at work. In fact we are spending more and more of our "free time" working and not getting paid for it. Even on the internet we have to make sure to maintain the company image since big bro is surfing the web too. He's surfing on the back of a shark that's ready to eat up the last bit of autonomy we have. For those of us "lucky" enough to be employed, as well as those who are not, freedom and democracy appear to be limited to the function of voting for politicians to make decisions for us.

They make decisions like the one to give banks my and your money while the banks throw people out of their homes.

They make decisions like the one to cut programs that working and unemployed people rely on, due to alleged lack of funds, while they cut taxes for rich people so they can buy more mansions.

They make decisions like the one to knock down as many trees as possible so sprawl, like manifest destiny, can indiscriminately fill the pockets of politicians and developers who won't have to live in it themselves.

#Occupy is more than a movement against wealth inequality.

#Occupy is more than a movement against a system that uses debt to grease the wheels on the limousines of banks, businessmen and bureaucrats. Occupy is more than a movement against a government wielded by wall street, banks and corporations like a police baton.

little as possible in attempts to pass legislation that most of its constituents would likely oppose. The agenda of unfettered development the BOCC is pursuing now can only lead to gentrification of working class neighborhoods, destruction of our farmland and worsening environmental conditions for the city and the county, but we allow these things to happen when we fail to unify and stand up for ourselves and each other as a community.

I want this newly occupied space to become an example of how we should be living, not a mirror of the partisan divisiveness that's killing us. I want it to become a place where people in Frederick can talk to each other and function the way we should be functioning; as a community that looks out for one another and protects itself against the levers of power that would divide us and exploit us for personal gain. And I hope that after all is said and done at our makeshift village, that spirit of community proves to be infectious and the people of Frederick become stronger for it. Wu-Tang forever.

REASON 6

Work//Angry Mannequin (who like Pinocchio wants to be a real boy)

The alarm screamed at me, GET THE F__K UP! there was a few inches of snow on the ground that morning. the reasonable thing to do would have been to stay at home and go back to sleep, but our economy doesn't listen to reason. I got in my car and drove. as i commuted along 270 there were cars stuck on either side of the snow-covered interstate. I was lucky I got to work, but i wondered, am i lucky?

The alarm screamed at me, GET THE F__K UP!! It was really windy that morning. I looked at the weather and it said there was a tornado watch in effect. I called my job, "hi, there is a tornado watch this morning maybe I should come in late.....oh okay, I'll be in on timem" I waited at the stop light which swung violently due to the intense wind, when suddenly, BOOM! the stop light on Baughmans Lane exploded shooting sparks all over the side of the Red Horse Restaurant. I was lucky, I got to work, but I wondered, am I lucky?

The alarm screamed at me, GET THE F__K UP!!! I hoped that morning when I got into the car and headed down the road that i'd be able to breathe and drive without the feeling that my head's in a vise. i had a panic attack in my car the day before. I have to make money like everybody else. I got bills to pay like everybody else. I know others, friends and family, would have helped me if I decided to give my two weeks' notice so i could have gotten myself together, but I didn't want to burden them. so i got in my car and drove.