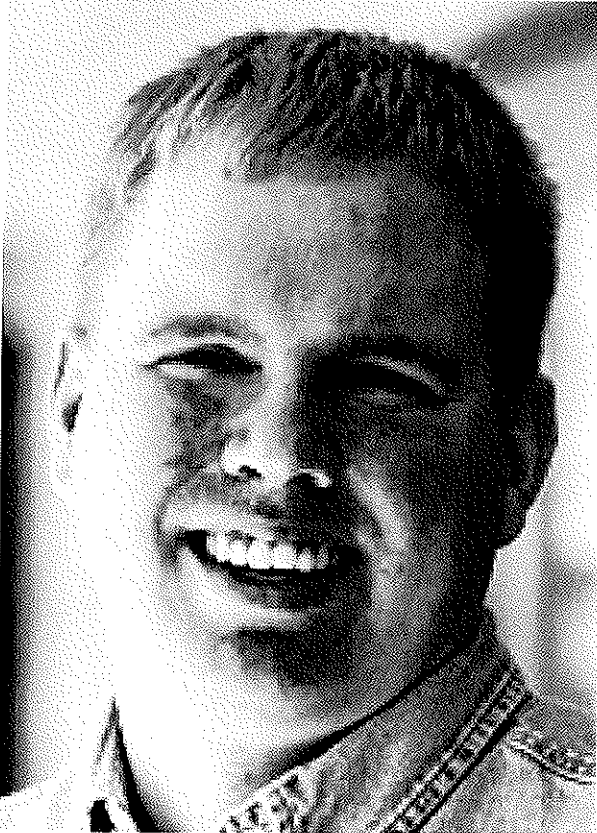


HIS VIEW You have to earn opportunity to get it



Henry Johnston mug

Johnston

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[You have to earn opportunity to get it](#) By Henry D. Johnston Moscow-Pullman Daily News | [2 comments](#)

Recently, there has been a lot of coverage in the media about Occupy Wall Street and the rallying of the movement, said to be 99 percent of the population, against “the man” who protesters claim is the top 1 percent of wage earners. Protests have extended across the country and across the Internet with websites popping up daily to preach their cause.

The Occupy Wall Street website claims they’re a “leaderless resistance movement with people of many colors, genders and political persuasions” and that they wish to see a

“general assembly in every backyard, on every street corner because we don’t need Wall Street and we don’t need politicians to build a better society.”

Intrigued by their reference to the general assembly, I followed the link provided to the New York City General Assembly, an organization that meets daily at 7 p.m. to voice issues and attempt to “bring about change.” Meetings are led by facilitators who aren’t deemed “leaders” but are only there to facilitate the process and pretty much anyone can voice any concern during the assembly.

Basically these folks want to live in an era of free love, man. We don’t need no stinking politicians to tell us how to live our lives. We don’t depend on the government to provide public parks for us to express ourselves in. Just go with it, bro. Power to the people!

However, the flaws with their concept can be found simply by reading the minutes of their meetings that read a little bit like the later chapters of “Animal Farm.”

Recently everyone at the assembly was told that any actions on behalf of the movement need to be cleared by the legal team and that any statements to the press should be run by the public relations committee. There was much discussion, but in the end they were basically told that “this is how it will be” and somehow a consensus was reached.

Dare I say it? Are 1 percent of these hippies trying to control the remaining 99 percent?

How ironic.

Perhaps the biggest thorn in my side about this whole “occupy” movement is a phone call to a Boise-based radio show I read about. This young man, let’s call him Bobby, was upset that businessmen and other executives drive fancy cars that he can’t afford because he works as a cart pusher at Walmart. He wanted to know when he would get “his” Bentley.

Well, you know what, Bobby? You’ll get “your” Bentley when you work hard and earn it and quit being an sniveling, entitled little punk. Despite our tough economic times America is still the land of opportunity, and unlike myself who has worked hard to create my own opportunities, you want yours to be handed to you on a silver platter by Uncle Obama the minute you walk off the college graduation stage.

Guess what? That’s not going to happen.

I started working at the local radio station when I was in high school, a job that helped establish a work history to land me a similar job in college. The summer after my first year of college I began assembling trophies for six bucks an hour. Over the last 10 years I’ve slowly worked my way up in different industries that have cumulatively had a positive impact on my wages and benefits.

Along the way I've bought new cars, a house and gotten married. I pay my bills, save some money and pay my fair share of taxes. But most of all I work for my money. And unlike these self proclaimed occupiers — leaders of the people's movement who are doing nothing but looking for a handout — none of it was handed to me, nor did I expect it to be.

I have, like Richard Nixon said "earned everything I've got." I wish these occupy whiners could say the same thing.

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