OMNI OCCUPY WALL STREET MOVEMENT
NEWSLETTER #6, JANUARY 20, 2012, Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace.

Here is the link to all OMNI newsletters:

http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/

Don’t let corporations and the corporate mainstream media keep you uninformed. See OMNI Newsletters on US Capitalism, US Corporations, Corporate Personhood, and related newsletters.

Noam Chomsky: “Any good capitalist democracy needs to keep the rabble in line. To make sure that they are atoms of consumption, obedient tools of production, isolated from one another, lacking any concept of a decent human life. They are to be spectators in a political system run by elites, blaming each other and themselves for what’s wrong.” [Dick: This statement is printed on the cover of the January 2012 no. of Z Magazine and concludes the editorial by editor Lydia Sargent, “What Will It Take To No Longer Tolerate the Intolerable?” I highly recommend this magazine.]

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**Occupy the Courts Jan. 20\textsuperscript{th} FLYER (by Druding and Prime)**
END CORPORATE RULE. LEGALIZE DEMOCRACY.
Corporations are NOT People. Money is NOT Speech.
Friday, January 20, 2012 Occupy NWA locally
with Move to Amend nationally demonstrate to
Occupy the Courts
meet on the Square in Fayetteville at noon
short march to the Fed. Bldg. at 35 E. Mtn. St
our action from 12 noon to 2pm will include speakers, musicians, and signs to express our demands:
END CORPORATE RULE. LEGALIZE DEMOCRACY.

**JANUARY 20 IN FAYETTEVILLE AND ARKANSAS**
from Abel Tomlinson
…I formed a Move to Amend Arkansas chapter on Facebook, and also an event page for the January 20th national "Occupy the Courts" demonstration. Our group will be working with the various Occupy groups in Arkansas on this issue. Our plan after these demonstrations is to ask our respective city councils to pass corporate personhood resolutions, as Los Angeles recently passed unanimously. If city councils will not introduce and pass directly, we will begin plans for the initiative process. After passing a few city resolutions, we will work to pass a state resolution.

And our Fayetteville demonstration has been added to the national MTA Occupy the Courts website and map, and a press release will be written and sent to local media this week.
http://movetoamend.org/occupythecourts
Take care, Abel Tomlinson

Occupy the Courts in Fayetteville event:
https://www.facebook.com/#!/events/276398205751318/
Move to Amend Arkansas:
https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/257041707680520/

Event Description:
On January 20th, 2012, Move to Amend, the national movement to end corporate personhood and corporate rule, is coordinating demonstrations at Federal Courts in cities all across the country. Move to Amend Arkansas, OccupyNWA, and the OMNI Center for Peace, Justice and Ecology are organizing our local demonstration at the John Paul Hammerschmidt Federal Building on College Avenue. We will meet at The Fayetteville Town Center with signs at noon and march to the Federal Building.

Danny Schechter, "Where Were the Wall Street 'Perp Walks' in 2011?"  
*Al Jazeera*, January 1, 2012, RSN
As every media critic learns, the worst sin of our press is not its blatant biases, or crimes of commission, but rather the pervasive patterns of omission; what's left out! ... It has yet to happen and most media outlets are not focusing on why. I am referring to the lack of any real investigation of Wall Street crimes, and the indictments of wrongdoers. I am talking about 'perp walks' by guilty Wall Street CEOs on their way to joining Bernie Madoff in some institute of incarceration."

READ MORE  http://readersupportednews.org/opinion2/277-75/9215-focus-where-were-the-wall-street-perp-walks-in-2011

http://corporationsarenotpeople.com/author/jeffclements/

Corporations Are Not People

Challenging unchecked corporate power, restoring republican democracy

About Jeff Clements

Jeff Clements, an attorney and author, is the co-founder of Free Speech for People, a national, non-partisan campaign to challenge the creation of Constitutional rights for corporations, overturn Citizens United v. FEC, and strengthen American democracy and republican self-government. He is the author of the Corporations Are Not People (Berrett-Koehler, 2012). Mr. Clements also is the founder of Clements Law Office, LLC, and has represented and advocated for people, businesses and the public interest since 1988. Mr. Clements served as Assistant Attorney General and Chief of the Public Protection & Advocacy Bureau in the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office from early 2007 to 2009. As Bureau Chief, he led more than 100 attorneys and staff in law enforcement and litigation in the areas of civil rights, environmental protection, healthcare, insurance and financial services, antitrust and consumer protection. Mr. Clements also served as an Assistant Attorney General in Massachusetts from 1996 to 2000, where he worked on litigation against the tobacco industry and handled a wide range of other investigations and litigation to enforce unfair trade practice, consumer protection and antitrust laws. In private practice, Mr. Clements has been a partner in the Boston law firms of Clements & Clements, LLP and Mintz Levin. He also has practiced in Maine, where he has represented clients in a variety of appeals and litigation, and in investigations and prosecutions by the U.S. Attorney’s Office and Maine Attorney General’s Office. In the 1990s, Mr. Clements was elected as a Trustee and President of the Board of Trustees of the Portland Water District, a public agency responsible for protecting and delivering safe drinking water and ensuring proper treatment of wastewater for 160,000 people in Portland and South Portland, Maine and several surrounding communities. He was a co-founder, officer, and director of Friends of Casco Bay, an environmental advocacy organization focused on protection and stewardship of Maine’s Casco Bay. He also has served as a Trustee and President of the Board of The Waldorf School in Lexington, Massachusetts. Mr. Clements graduated with distinction in History and Government from Colby College in 1984, and magna cum laude with a concentration in Public Law from the Cornell Law School in 1988. He lives in Concord,
Massachusetts with his wife and three children.

Bill Moyers’ Foreword to Corporations Are Not People

Photo Credit: PBS Bill Moyers’ foreword to my book, Corporations Are Not People, is on AlterNet today. Check it out, as Bill packs a punch: Rarely have so few imposed such damage on so many. When five conservative members of the Supreme Court handed ... Continue reading →

MORE:

http://corporationsarenotpeople.com/author/jeffclements/

Tuesday, Oct 25, 2011 6:20 AM 07:15:35 CST

Book excerpt: With Liberty and Justice for Some By Glenn Greenwald

How Ford's treatment of Nixon launched a new era of elite immunity -- and pervasive, limitless corruption

Following is an excerpt from Glenn Greenwald’s new book, With Liberty and Justice for Some: How Law is Used to Destroy Equality and Protect the Powerful; this is from the section of the book examining how the Ford pardon of Nixon entrenched the corrupt precepts of modern elite immunity:

As multiple episodes demonstrate, a belief that elite immunity is both necessary and justified became the prevailing ethos in the nation’s most influential circles. In countless instances over recent years, prominent political and media figures have insisted that serious crimes by the most powerful should be overlooked— either in the name of the common good, or in the name of a warped conception of fairness according to which those with the greatest power are the most entitled to deference and understanding.

This is what makes the contemporary form of American lawlessness new and unprecedented. It is now perfectly common, and perfectly acceptable, to openly advocate elite immunity. And this advocacy has had its intended effect: the United States has become a nation that does not apply the rule of law to its elite class, which is another way of saying that the United States does not apply the rule of law. . . .

If the threat of real punishment for criminality is removed, for many rational people there will be little incentive to abide by the law and much incentive to break it. Alexander Hamilton, in Federalist 15, explained why.

It is essential to the idea of a law, that it be attended with a sanction; or, in other words, a penalty or
punishment for disobedience. If there be no penalty annexed to disobedience, the resolutions or commands which pretend to be laws will, in fact, amount to nothing more than advice or recommendation.

For the nation’s most powerful elites, the law has indeed been whittled down to “nothing more than advice or recommendation.” Although there have been episodes of unpunished elite malfeasance throughout American history, the explicit, systematic embrace of the notion that such malfeasance should be shielded from legal consequences begins with the Watergate scandal— one of the clearest cases of widespread, deliberate criminality at the highest level of the U.S. government.

By the scandal’s conclusion, few contested that not only Nixon’s top aides but Nixon himself had committed serious felonies— either in authorizing the break-in and related illegalities, or in obstructing the ensuing investigation. Nonetheless, Nixon was ultimately shielded from all legal consequences thanks to the pardon granted by his handpicked vice president, Gerald Ford— who, it was widely believed, secured his appointment by agreeing to protect Nixon from prosecution.

Ford first explained his decision to pardon Nixon in a speech to the nation on September 8, 1974. The new president began by paying lip service to the rule of law: “I deeply believe in equal justice for all Americans, what ever their station or former station. The law, whether human or divine, is no respecter of persons; but”— and here he tacked on a newly concocted amendment designed to gut that phrase’s meaning—“the law is a respecter of reality.” Ford then proceeded to recite what have by now become the standard clichés our political class uses to justify immunity. Watergate, he intoned, is an American tragedy in which we all have played a part. It could go on and on and on, or someone must write the end to it. I have concluded that only I can do that, and if I can, I must. . .

The facts, as I see them, are that a former President of the United States, instead of enjoying equal treatment with any other citizen accused of violating the law, would be cruelly and excessively penalized either in preserving the presumption of his innocence or in obtaining a speedy determination of his guilt in order to repay a legal debt to society.

During this long period of delay and potential litigation, ugly passions would again be aroused. And our people would again be polarized in their opinions. And the credibility of our free institutions of government would again be challenged at home and abroad. . .

My conscience tells me clearly and certainly that I cannot prolong the bad dreams that continue to reopen a chapter that is closed. My conscience tells me that only I, as President, have the constitutional power to firmly shut and seal this book. My conscience tells me it is my duty, not merely to proclaim domestic tranquility but to use every means that I have to insure it.

Remarkably, Ford explicitly pointed to Nixon’s lofty status as a reason to exempt him from the accountability applied to ordinary Americans— a complete reversal and rejection of the central covenant of the American founding. Ford’s signature line—“Our long national nightmare is over”—put a heroic spin on the betrayal of the rule of law: we end the “nightmare” of high-level criminality by sweeping it under the rug, protecting the wrongdoers, and pretending their crimes never happened.

Upon Ford’s death in December 2006, prominent figures rushed forth to consecrate his pardon of Nixon as an act of great nobility, magnanimity, and self-sacrifice, and thus to glorify its underlying premises. Leading the charge, not surprisingly, was Dick Cheney, Ford’s former chief of staff and the then-vice president. By 2006, Cheney himself had been accused of involvement in a wide variety of illegal acts, from establishing a worldwide torture regime and spying on Americans without warrants to outing a covert CIA agent and obstructing the resulting investigation.

Cheney’s own interests were thus clearly served by exploiting Ford’s death to bolster the
propagandistic notion that elite immunity is dispensed not for the benefit of the powerful but rather in patriotic service of the common good. At Ford’s funeral, Cheney eulogized his former boss by heralding the pardon as an act of national salvation. . . .

In fairness to Dick Cheney, we heard the same message from others, almost note for note. The Washington Post’s David Broder— the so-called dean of the Washington press corps— spoke for many journalists, past and present, when asked what would have happened had Nixon not been immunized.

My guess is that there would have been strong public pressure for prosecution of Richard Nixon, since several of his White House associates were already facing criminal charges. A lengthy trial would have been a difficult ordeal for the country, something President Ford wanted to spare Americans.

The actual beneficiary of the pardon, of course, was not “Americans” but Richard Nixon. Thanks to Ford’s act, Nixon himself was shielded from the kind of punishment that, as a “law-and-order” Republican, he had devoted his career to imposing on ordinary Americans when they broke the law, no matter how petty the offense. Yet this grant of immunity to the nation’s most powerful figure was endlessly cast as a generous gift to the American public, which—we were repeatedly told—had been spared the agony, acrimony, and shame of seeing their leader held accountable for his crimes as any other citizen would be.

The Nixon pardon, and the way it was sold to the country, became the template for justifying elite immunity. Nowadays, with only rare exceptions, each time top members of the nation’s political class are caught committing a crime, the same reasons are hauled out to get them off the hook. Prosecuting public officials mires us in a “divisive” past when we should be looking forward. It is wrong to “criminalize policy disputes”— meaning crimes committed with the use of political power. Political elites who commit crimes in carrying out their duties are “well-intentioned” and so do not deserve to be treated as if they were common criminals; moreover, politicians who are forced out of office and have their reputations damaged already “suffer enough.” To prosecute them would only engender a cycle of retribution. Political harmony thus trumps the need to enforce the rule of law.

Of course, all criminal prosecutions are, by definition, exercises in looking to the past rather than the future. All prosecutions impose substantial burdens on the accused, cost enormous amounts of time and money to resolve, and are plagued by numerous imperfections. The nation always faces pressing challenges and urgent problems from which headline-grabbing prosecutions will distract attention. All individuals accused of serious crimes suffer in multiple ways long before—and completely independent of—any actual punishment. And while it is true that criminal proceedings involving politicians who commit crimes in office inevitably engender partisan divisions and undermine political harmony, citing these circumstances as just cause for legal immunity is, by definition, creating a license to break the law. . . .

That dynamic expresses the underlying motive of the political and media classes’ general defense of elite immunity: by protecting the lawbreaking license for other powerful individuals, they strengthen a custom of which they might avail themselves if they too break the law and get caught. It is class-based, self-interested advocacy. That is why belief in this prerogative and the devotion to protecting it transcend political ideology, partisan affiliation, the supposed wall between political and media figures, and every other pretense of division within elite classes. It is in the interest of every member of the privileged political and financial class, regardless of role or position, to maintain the vitality of this immunity. And what we have seen over the last decade is the inevitable by-product of elite immunity: pervasive, limitless elite corruption and criminality.

For more on the book, see here. Continue Reading
NEW ORGANIZATION:  THE OTHER 98%

[Let me know what you hear about its work as described below. Dick]

Great movements plan and execute great actions. Lots of them. That’s what The Other 98% is all about.

So what kind of big plans do we have prepped for the new year? Plans like a brand-new campaign that will mark 2012 as the year we started to end corporate personhood for good, launching on the 2nd anniversary of the Citizens United decision nationwide in three weeks.

Plans like a training program that will reach not just thousands, but hundreds of thousands of new activists inspired by the Occupy movement.

Plans like taking aim at the Big Money takeover of the Supreme Court, forcing bought-and-paid-for corporate puppets like Clarence Thomas to defend their actions or face the legal consequences.

Plans like making Tax Day 2012 a day that will live in infamy for corporate tax cheats.

Plans like shaming Goldman Sachs and Bank of America at their shareholders meetings, getting on the news like we did in 2011 with the Yes Men and US Uncut.

And that’s just for starters. But we can’t execute on any of it without your support, today, before 2012 is upon us.

Help us lay the groundwork this winter, so that come spring, the 99% movement can hit a whole ‘nother level — and change America.

Take this moment to support The Other 98% today.

Why give to us, of all the groups that are asking for your year-end contribution? Because we set high goals and then *achieve* them with your support: we pledged 18 months ago to push the Koch Brothers from obscurity into the national spotlight, threatening their bottom line - and we did just that.

We aimed this spring to push the national conversation away from ‘austerity’ and towards economic inequality - and we joined with a coalition of do-gooders and young revolutionaries to make that happen.

And now we’re aiming to make 2012 the year that we definitively turn the tide against corporate dominance of our political system, where we Occupy not just our streets, but our democracy itself.

We are a nimble, action-oriented, near-zero-overhead outfit. If it’s economic justice you’re after, your dollar simply cannot be better spent this holiday season.

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for making this movement real each and every single day.

Sincerely,

John Sellers, and the Other 98% team:

Andrew Boyd, Andy Menconi, Chuck Collins, Ericka Taylor, Josh Bolotsky, Samantha Corbin

The Other 98% is making democracy work for the rest of us. Like what we do? You can
Who Rules America? Power, Politics, & Social Change

1. [Who Rules America?](http://www2.ucsc.edu/whorulesamerica) by G. William Domhoff. Who Rules America?, the book upon which this website is based, presents detailed original information on how power and politics ...

2. [Who Rules America: Wealth, Income, and Power](http://www2.ucsc.edu/whorulesamerica/power/wealth.html) by G. William Domhoff. Who Rules America? is a controversial 1960s bestseller ...


5. [Who Rules America? Challenges to Corporate and Class Dominance](http://www.amazon.com) by G. William Domhoff. Who Rules America? Challenges to Corporate and Class Dominance ...

6. [G. William Domhoff - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G._William_Domhoff) by George William (Bill) Domhoff (born August 6, 1936) is a research professor in ...

7. [Who Rules America?](http://faculty.ccc.edu/abeger/Who%20Rules%20America.pdf) by GW Domhoff. Who Rules America?, was a controversial 1960s bestseller ...

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You have 3 new messages.

END OCCUPY NEWSLETTER #6