

# THE OLIVE BRANCH

Weekly Newsletter  
October 12—19, 2011

## PROTESTS AGAINST WALL STREET SPREAD ACROSS THE U.S.

**By: Associated Press**

NEW YORK — Protests against Wall Street entered their 18th day Tuesday as demonstrators across the country show their anger over the wobbly economy and what they see as corporate greed by marching on Federal Reserve banks and camping out in parks from Los Angeles to Portland, Maine.

Demonstrations are expected to continue throughout the week as more groups hold organizational meetings and air their concerns on websites and through streaming video.

In Manhattan on Monday, hundreds of protesters dressed as corporate zombies in white face paint lurched past the New York Stock Exchange clutching fistfuls of fake money. In Chicago, demonstrators pounded drums in the city's financial district. Others pitched tents or waved protest signs at passing cars in Boston, St. Louis, Kansas City, Mo., and Los Angeles.

A slice of America's discontented,

from college students worried about their job prospects to middle-age workers who have been recently laid off, were galvanized after the arrests of 700 protesters on the Brooklyn Bridge over the weekend.

Some protesters likened themselves to the tea party movement — but with a liberal bent — or to the Arab Spring demonstrators who brought down their rulers in the Middle East.

"We feel the power in Washington has actually been compromised by Wall Street," said Jason Counts, a computer systems analyst and one of about three dozen protesters in St. Louis. "We want a voice, and our voice has slowly been degraded over time."

The Occupy Wall Street protests started on Sept. 17 with a few dozen demonstrators who tried to pitch tents in front of the New York Stock Exchange. Since then, hundreds have set up camp in a park nearby and have become in-

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### **Quote of the Week**

"Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding."

— Albert Einstein

## PROTESTS AGAINST WALL STREET SPREAD ACROSS THE U.S. (CONT.)

creasingly organized, lining up medical aid and legal help and printing their own newspaper, the Occupied Wall Street Journal. About 100 demonstrators were arrested on Sept. 24 and some were pepper-sprayed. On Saturday police arrested 700 on charges of disorderly conduct and blocking a public street as they tried to march over the Brooklyn Bridge. Police said they took five more protesters into custody on Monday, though it was unclear whether they had been charged with any crime.

"At this point, we don't anticipate wider unrest," Tim Flannelly, an FBI spokesman in New York, said. "But should it occur the city, including the NYPD and the FBI, will deploy any and all resources necessary to control any developments."

Flannelly said he does not expect the New York protests to develop into the often-violent demonstrations that have rocked cities in the United Kingdom since the summer. But he said the FBI is "monitoring the situation and will respond accordingly."

Wiljago Cook, of Oakland, Calif., who joined the New York protest on the first day, said she was shocked by the arrests.

"Exposing police brutality wasn't even really on my agenda, but my eyes have been opened," she said. She vowed to stay in New York "as long as it seems useful."

City bus drivers sued the New York Police Department on Monday for commandeering their buses and making them drive to the Brooklyn Bridge on Saturday to pick up detained protesters.

"We're down with these protesters. We support the notion that rich folk are not paying

their fair share," John Samuelsen, Transport Workers Union president, said. "Our bus operators are not going to be pressed into service to arrest protesters anywhere."

The city's Law Department said the NYPD's actions were proper.

On Monday, the zombies stayed on the sidewalks as they wound through Manhattan's financial district chanting, "How to fix the deficit: End the war, tax the rich!" They lurched along with their arms in front of them. Some yelled, "I smell money!"

Reaction was mixed from passers-by.

Roland Klingman, who works in the financial industry and was wearing a suit as he walked through a raucous crowd of protesters, said he could sympathize with the anti-Wall Street message.

"I don't think it's directed personally at everyone who works down here," Klingman said. "If they believe everyone down here contributes to policy decisions, it's a serious misunderstanding."

Another man in a suit yelled at the protesters, "Go back to work!" He declined to be interviewed.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a billionaire who made his fortune as a corporate executive, has said the demonstrators are making a mistake by targeting Wall Street.

"The protesters are protesting against people who make \$40- or \$50,000 a year and are struggling to make ends meet. That's the bottom line. Those are the people who work on Wall Street or in the finance sector," Bloomberg said in a radio interview Friday.

Some protesters planned to travel to other cities to organize similar events.

## PROTESTS AGAINST WALL STREET SPREAD ACROSS THE U.S. (CONT.)

John Hildebrand, a protester in New York from Norman, Okla., hoped to mount a protest there after returning home Tuesday. Julie Levine, a protester in Los Angeles, planned to go to Washington on Thursday.

Websites and Facebook pages with names like "Occupy Boston" and "Occupy Philadelphia" have also sprung up to plan the demonstrations.

Hundreds of demonstrators marched from a tent city on a grassy plot in downtown Boston to the Statehouse to call for an end of corporate influence of government.

"Our beautiful system of American checks and balances has been thoroughly trashed by the influence of banks and big finance that have made it impossible for the people to speak," said protester Marisa Engerstrom, of Somerville, Mass., a Harvard doctoral student.

The Boston demonstrators decorated their tents with hand-written signs reading, "Fight the rich, not their wars" and "Human need, not corporate greed."

Some stood on the sidewalk holding up signs, engaging in debate with passers-by and waving at honking cars. One man yelled "Go home!" from his truck. Another man made an obscene gesture.

Patrick Putnam, a 27-year-old chef from Framingham, Mass., said he's standing up for the 99 percent of Americans who have no say in what happens in government.

"We don't have voices, we don't have lobbyists, so we've been pretty much neglected by Washington," he said.

In Chicago, protesters beat drums on the corner near the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. In Los Angeles, demonstrators hoping to get TV coverage gathered in front of the court-

house where Michael Jackson's doctor is on trial on manslaughter charges.

Protesters in St. Louis stood on a street corner a few blocks from the shimmering Gateway Arch, carrying signs that read, "How Did The Cat Get So Fat?," "You're a Pawn in Their Game" and "We Want The Sacks Of Gold Goldman Sachs Stole From Us."

"Money talks, and it seems like money has all the power," Apollonia Childs, organizer of Occupy St. Louis, said. "I don't want to see any homeless people on the streets, and I don't want to see a veteran or elderly people struggle. We all should have our fair share. We all vote, pay taxes. Tax the rich."

*This article was printed in The Daily News on October 5, 2011.*

## SPREAD THE WORD!

- **The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies is looking for interns for the Spring Semester! If you are interested in being an intern, or know of someone who would be interested, please contact the center at 765-285-1622 or [peacecenter@bsu.edu](mailto:peacecenter@bsu.edu). The interns will be selected by October 21.**
- **ID 301: Introduction to Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution will be offered again in the Spring of 2012! The class will cover the “methods of achieving peace within communities and among nations; history of peace movements and the causes of conflict; and analysis of principles to resolve conflict using case studies.” More course information is listed below. For additional information, please contact Gerry Waite ([gwaite@bsu.edu](mailto:gwaite@bsu.edu)), Research Fellow, BSU Center for Peace and Conflict Studies.**

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS— ON CAMPUS

### Wednesday, October 12

- *Journey of Hope with Laura Ling*: 7:00-8:30 PM at Pruis Hall — Free to the Public  
Laura Ling recounts her time in captivity, from moments when she feared she might never see her family again, to glimmers of humanity and compassion directed towards her by her captors, to the ways in which she fought to win back her freedom. She talks about what sustained her throughout that terrifying period of isolation and how she was able to maintain hope. Her story provides a unique window into the so-called “Hermit Nation” and what happens when people from “enemy” nations get a chance to interact and communicate face-to-face.

### Monday, October 17 and Tuesday, October 18

No Class — Fall Break

### Wednesday, October 19

- Last day to register for the Conference on Multiple Aspects of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Advocacy: Finding the Road in Indiana. For more information, please see the upcoming events section on page 4.
- *Amnesty International Meeting*: 4:00 PM in Bracken Library Room #301

**DISCLAIMER: The events described in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies.**

If you would like for your events to be included in this newsletter, please contact Lacey Lord at [lglord@bsu.edu](mailto:lglord@bsu.edu).

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS— OFF CAMPUS

### Wednesday, October 12

- [Bloomington] *Hoosiers for a Commonsense Health Plan* will hold their general monthly meeting at 5:30 pm First United Methodist Church, 219 E. 4. For more info, visit [hchp.info](http://hchp.info) or email Robert Stone or Karen Green Stone at [rstone@hchp.info](mailto:rstone@hchp.info).
- [Indianapolis] There will be a *gathering to practice Nonviolent Communication* based on the book "Speak Peace in a World of Conflict: What You Say Next Will Change Your World" by Marshall Rosenberg at 7 pm at Irvington Friends Meeting, 831 N. Edmondson. For more info, contact Lisa Boyles at 372-6983 or [lisamboyles@yahoo.com](mailto:lisamboyles@yahoo.com)

### Thursday, October 13

- Storyteller Noa Baum, an Israeli who began a heartfelt dialogue with a Palestinian woman while living in the United States, weaves together their memories and their mothers' stories in a moving testimony illuminating the complex and contradictory history and emotions that surround Jerusalem for Israelis and Palestinians alike in her talk "A Land Twice Promised" at 7 pm in the Krannert Room at Indiana Interchurch Center, 1100 W. 42, sponsored by the Center for Interfaith Cooperation. For more info, contact Dorothy Mack at or 926-0665 or [mackda@att.net](mailto:mackda@att.net)

### Friday, October 14

- [Indianapolis] The *weekly vigil protesting warfare* will take place, 4:30-5:30 pm, in front of the Federal Building, North and Pennsylvania, sponsored by the Indianapolis Peace and Justice Center. Bring an appropriate sign or have one provided. For more info, phone Gilbert Kuhn at 926-3068 or email Ron Haldeman at [ronjane@igc.org](mailto:ronjane@igc.org)
- [Indianapolis] *The film "Gasland,"* which portrays the danger of "fracking" natural gas, will be shown at 7 pm at Epworth United Methodist Church, 6450 Allisonville Road, sponsored by its Green Team and the Sierra Club. For film info, visit [www.gaslandthemovie.com/about-the-film/](http://www.gaslandthemovie.com/about-the-film/). For more info, email Bowden Quinn at [bowden.quinn@sierraclub.org](mailto:bowden.quinn@sierraclub.org) or contact Epworth at 251-1481 or [epworthgreenteam@gmail.com](mailto:epworthgreenteam@gmail.com)

### Saturday, October 15

- [Indianapolis] *Bread for the World* will hold a monthly meeting at 10 am in the board room in the A Wing of the Main Building at Robin Run Village, 5354 W. 62. For more info, phone Marjorie Hill at 291-7150 before attending.
- [Indianapolis] *Two overlapping free events will occur at Earth House, 237 N. East, with good food for free or as much as you can pay, 2-4 pm, and a Really, Really Free Market, 2:30-5:30 pm.* For more info, contact Ed Stites at 965-2466 or [stitesed@gmail.com](mailto:stitesed@gmail.com)
- [Nashville] *The weekly Peace Vigil on the theme "War Is Not the Answer!"* will begin at 6:00 pm at the Brown County Courthouse, Main and Van Buren Streets, sponsored by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Brown County Branch). For more info, contact Tom Hougham at 878-4210 or [annntom@hotmail.com](mailto:annntom@hotmail.com).

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS— OFF CAMPUS (CONT.)

### Saturday, October 15

- [Indianapolis] *Carrie Newcomer will give a concert benefiting Interfaith Hunger Initiative* at 7:30 pm at Second Presbyterian Church, 7700 N. Meridian, sponsored by Indianapolis Global Gifts, 1300 E. 86, #17 (Cost: \$18, tickets only through Global Gifts). For more info, contact Kelly Trimble at [Kelly@globalgiftsindy.com](mailto:Kelly@globalgiftsindy.com) or 917-1836

### Sunday, October 16

- [Indianapolis] *SNAP, Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests*, will meet at 1:30 pm at Crestwood Village Community Room, E. 91 at the Monon Trail. For more info, phone Cecilia Shelpey at 844-2993

### Monday, October 17

- [Indianapolis] *Citizens lobbying for consideration of community concerns* in the city-county budget will occupy the seats and halls of the City-County Council at 6:30 pm on the second floor of the City-County Building, Market and Alabama. For more info, email Becky Smith at [bsmith@unitehere.org](mailto:bsmith@unitehere.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ON-CAMPUS

- October 26: Continuum Brown Bag Series 12:00-1:00 PM in Student Center 306
- October 28: A Conference on Multiple Aspects of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Advocacy: Finding the Road in Indiana Sponsored by the SAFE-ZONE Project at Ball State University and Indiana Equality: Check-in and coffee from 8:30-9:30. Conference begins at 9:00 AM in Cardinal Hall in the LA Pittenger Student Center. Registration ends October 19. The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies and many other campus organizations will have a booth at this event.
- November 9: Falling Whistles at Emens Auditorium 7:00-10:00 PM. Come out and hear the founder of Falling Whistles speak. This is a FREE event and open to everyone, not just students! Through: COMM CLUB Sponsored by: SGA, WLBC 104.1, Cool Cayenne, Ball State Federal Credit Union. Twitter : #1000whistles. Falling Whistles gives a small window into our world's largest war. Originally just a journal written about boys sent to the frontlines of war armed with only a whistle, readers forwarded it with the same kind of urgency in which it was written and demanded to know – what can we do? The Falling Whistles campaign launched with a simple response – make their weapon your voice and be a whistleblower for peace in Congo. Read the story and buy the whistle. Together we partner with local leaders to advocate and rehabilitate for those affected by war. Share their story and speak up for them. Together, we'll become the voice of a growing coalition for peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo. For more info, visit [www.fallingwhistles.com](http://www.fallingwhistles.com) .
- November 15: A documentary called "Invisible Children— The Rescue" will be shown from 7:00-10:00PM in the Student Center Ballroom. There will be a guest speaker, merchandise, and on-campus organizations.