

approach confuses us about who our friends are and who are our opponents. He points out that during the August phone worker strike at Verizon, the company tried to dampen working class support for the strikers by taking out ads saying that their relatively high pay made the phone workers "upper middle class".

Though the OWS approach is a breath of fresh air, it's a slogan not a science. **Part of class has to do with who is taking advantage of whom, who gets screwed and who does the screwing.** Steve Jobs was a smart guy, but he didn't gather his billions by working a hundred thousand hours of overtime. The Asian factory workers whose limbs withered from doing the same assembly motion over and over again made most of jobs huge fortune.

Yet it's more than the 1% who do the screwing (or to use a fancy word, the **exploiting**). It's more than the 1% who reap the benefits of the Wall Street rigged game. The capitalists who own corporations and own millions of shares of stocks and bonds are more than 1% of the population. Then there is the true middle class people:

the managers, administrators, judges, lawyers, newspaper editors, store owners, and such. They make their inflated incomes because they assist the capitalists. In elections and on the street they act as their allies.

Police are in a group all their own. They're employees like other workers, but they're so tied in with defending the current order they can never be depended on to stand with workers. And speaking of a group all their own, the heads of international unions are making outrageous salaries. Most get enough to put them in the 1%. What class are they in?

So let's keep with the 99% slogan, but get real, study up on class and figure out who our friends and foes really are.

**Replace the Capitalist Casino with  
Something that Works for All of Us**

Steve Early wrote a fine piece on Counterpunch on November 15, 2011. It's called "A Lesson for Labor From Occupy Wall Street". It praises the Occupy Wall Street approach, showing how it's the 1% vs. the 99%. He criticizes the misleading "defend the middle class" slogan that the Democratic party geniuses have been pushing for years.

He quotes Professor Michael Zweig who reminds us that your class is not how much money you make. He says, "the real basis of social class lies in the **varying amounts of power** people have at work and in the larger society"

For instance there are school principals who make less than some technical workers, but the principals evaluate, hire and fire. They are in the real middle class. Teachers and other school workers are working class.

Airline pilots make more than a lot of mom and pop store owners, but the pilots are workers who get treated like other workers. Store owners have their own very different problems.

As Early points out the muddled "defend the middle class"

# It's Not Just The 1%

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