mological sense of the word (liturgies = “work of the people”).

Amplification
The human microphone goes up to eleven. Or rather, it doesn’t go up — it goes across, horizontally, radiating in concentric circles, or fanning out in a wedge-shaped pattern. In this medium, speech skips away and comes back to mirrored but also transformed by the crowd. Through collective speech, the people’s mic shifts away from unified, solitary personhood. There is “something inherently pluralistic about the human mic,” writes Kim, for “it exudes solidarity over ego.” It also marks a shift away from the idea that our speech belongs to us, as if it were a commodity, and the idea that when others reiterate it, it is somehow used up or stolen rather than bolstered and enhanced. The mode is not appropriation, but rather forwarding, reposting, making bigger and better. The human mic not only amplifies; it also enacts. It is related to what J. L. Austin calls a performative utterance: a statement that actualizes what it invokes. Each use of the people’s microphone carries with it an implicit enactment of the very thing being demanded: This is what democracy looks like. Kim calls this a “prefigurative politics...living in the conditional tense.” Each fragment of speech amplified by the people’s mic expresses a desire for, and also models and genuinely creates, a pluralistic process.

[Part one of two. Continued in Occupy Philly: Machete Issue Four. – ed.]

-By Homay King
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To the “They Have No Message and/or They Haven’t Accomplished Anything” Crowd of Naysayers:

1: The message is crystal clear and easy to comprehend - the distribution of wealth in the United States has become extremely lopsided. This distribution has allowed the top 1% of individuals and the largest corporations to buy and sell almost all of our politicians. We think this has had dire consequences for America. End of message.

2: The accomplishments so far:

- ABC news reports that 1 million people have closed their bank accounts and switched to credit unions and local banks since Occupy announced bank transfer day!

- A Bank of America spokesman admitted that they abandoned their $5 ATM fee plan due to complaints from their customers “and the atmosphere created by the ongoing protests.”

- A leaderless movement shut down one of the largest ports in the US, proving the effectiveness of the model.

- In six weeks Occupy has called attention to the long-ignored issues of economic inequality and the hoarding of our nation’s monetary and physical assets by a tiny minority of our citizens. Previously, no one was talking about how this allows for the political process to be rigged by those at the top to insure they continue to receive government favors in exchange for their massive campaign contributions to politicians. They give those donations not out of the kindness of their corporate hearts but because they know they will be able to call in those favors when they need to receive corporate welfare for the businesses they have run into the ground through their poor practices, i.e. socialist bailouts for failed banks. No one was debating any of this in the mainstream media two months ago. Now those issues have been forced back into the national conversation.

- The increasingly militarized police forces around America have been exposed, including their expensive new control technology. They have no effective oversight and have been extremely eager to arrest unarmed, nonviolent American citizens seeking to “assemble and petition the government with their grievances” as stated in the first amendment. Their willingness to violate their own codes of conduct as well as the law of the land has been exposed and will not soon be forgotten.

- Though they continue to claim we have no message, politicians on both sides of the aisle have already publicly attempted to address the issues occupiers have raised. Again, this is something absent from the national stage two or three months ago.

Because the corporate media conglomerates and the obscenely wealthy board members who control it realize that the majority of Americans of both parties could easily get behind the message that the political process is currently bought and sold by campaign contributions, and that they have no decent arguments against this message, they continue to attempt to follow the policy of “repeat a lie long enough and it becomes the truth.” Therefore: “they have no message - they have no message - they have no message...”

-Matt